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No. 7

WEEKLY REPORT

August 22, 2025

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review in-season assessment data on Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

Test fishing and stock identification information

Sockeye catches in marine areas have been declining with the majority caught in Area 12, indicating a shift in migration through Johnstone Strait rather than through Juan de Fuca Strait, a typical behaviour for sockeye this late in the season. The estimated 5-day average diversion rate of sockeye through Johnstone Strait is 78%. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 12 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye compositions of 83% Summer run and 17% Late run.

Pink salmon catches in the marine area have been variable but increased again in the Strait of Juan de Fuca in comparison to recent years as well as historical averages. These catches are expected to be about 70% Fraser pinks. Fraser River pink salmon continue their migration primarily through the south, resulting in a 5-day average diversion rate of 18%.

Daily in-season test fishing catch updates, both for sockeye and pink salmon, are available on the PSC website in an interactive visual application ([Fraser Panel Data Application](#)).

In-season Assessment Information

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon

The current adopted run size of Fraser sockeye salmon is 9,075,000 which is the largest run size observed since 1997, excluding the dominant 2022 cycle years.

Most Early Summer run have passed through the marine and in-river test fisheries. As of August 21, 332,500 Early Summer-run sockeye have passed Mission.

Summer run continues to be the dominant component in marine test fisheries. A total of 4,271,000 Summer run are estimated to have passed Mission through August 21. At Tuesday's meeting, the Panel adopted a Summer-run run size of 7,750,000, with an associated Area 20 timing of August 13. At the Friday meeting, the Panel adopted a lower run size of 6,900,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of August 11. Even with this decrease to the Summer-run run size it exceeds the preseason forecast of 2,749,000 and is the largest run size for the Summer run since 2014, or when excluding the dominant 2022 cycle years, the largest run size since 1997.

Late run abundances have increased in the marine test fisheries, but observations in river test fisheries have been limited as some of the Late run may be delaying their entry into the Fraser River. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 21 is 276,300 fish, while 311,000 sockeye are estimated to be delaying their upstream migration. At the Tuesday meeting, the Panel adopted a Late-run run size of 1,300,000 with an associated

Area 20 timing of August 19. At the Friday meeting, the Panel reduced the run size to 1,050,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of August 15.

Fraser River Pink Salmon

Pink salmon catches in in-river test fisheries have increased substantially in the last week and they have also been observed at Hells Gate. The estimated escapement of pink salmon past Mission through August 21 is 453,800. The pre-season forecast for Fraser River pink salmon was 27 million and test fishing catches to date continue to be in line with this prediction.

Migration Conditions in the Fraser River

On August 21, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,548 cubic meters per second (cms), and approximately 12% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on August 21 was 18.9°C, which is 0.5°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to 19.9°C, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 2,372 cms over the next 6 days.

The extreme low discharge and high temperatures are expected to negatively impact migration conditions for Fraser River sockeye. High-water temperatures have persisted in the Fraser River over the last several weeks exposing the Summer run to less than ideal migration conditions. Based on current short term temperature predictions, the 19-day average water temperature for Summer-run sockeye is expected to exceed the 19.4°C temperature threshold. As a result, the Panel adopted a proportional Management Adjustment of 0.54 for the Summer run.

At the Chilcotin River, daily salmon counts of salmon in the 50 to 64 cm in length range continue to increase with a peak count of 39,024 on August 18. No concerning turbidity spikes have been reported recently.

Escapement Update

Visual surveys for the Early Stuart spawning escapement assessment program were completed August 20 and indicate that sockeye have passed peak spawning and die-off is nearly complete. Visual surveys began on the Upper Chilliwack River August 5 and sockeye have entered peak spawning. The Scotch Creek fence has been operational as of August 14 and six sockeye have been counted past the fence. Visual surveys started on the North/South Thompson system and sockeye have been observed migrating into the upper Barriere River. The hydroacoustic program on the Nadina River has counted 10,403 sockeye as of August 16. As of August 19, the hydroacoustic sonar program on the Stellako River has counted 21,581 sockeye and most of these fish are assumed to be Nadina sockeye. The Quesnel River and Chilko River hydroacoustic programs have counted 31,890 and 68,268 sockeye passed these sites, respectively. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) became operational on July 30 and as of August 19 three sockeye have been counted.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

The Panel announced the following regulations for commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Pacific Fishery Management Areas 29-3, 29-4, 29-6: Open for Area H troll ITQ sockeye fishery to no later than 23:59 on August 27. Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 26. Weekly reports in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission every Friday during the in-season management period to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run. Weekly reports and regulatory announcements can be obtained via [Fraser Panel In-Season Information - Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](http://psc.org) or by subscribing to our eNews [Pacific Salmon Commission \(list-manage.com\)](http://list-manage.com). Regulations and resources for fishing schedules, test fishing catch and DFO's environmental watch program can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Regulations & Resources

Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources	Phone Number/ Website Links
United States fishing schedules (Treaty Tribes)	1-800-562-6142
United States fishing schedules (All Citizen)	1-800-662-9825 Option 1
Canadian fisheries opening and closures	604-666-2828 1-866-431-3474 (toll free)
PSC Daily Test Fishing Catch (recorded message)	604-666-8200 Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org)
DFO's Environmental Watch program	Fraser River environmental watch Pacific Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Note: For species other than sockeye or pink salmon, consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

Contacts

Canada: Adam Keizer, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Jason Gobin, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2025 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Aug. 22, 2025

Week of: Aug. 17 - Aug. 23, 2025	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	731,900	332,500	4,271,000	276,300	5,611,700	453,800
Catch downstream of Mission	3,900	31,700	699,200	107,800	842,600	787,800
Accounted run-to-date	735,800	364,200	4,970,200	384,100	6,454,300	1,241,600
Run size adopted in-season ¹	725,000	400,000	6,900,000	1,050,000	9,075,000	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	116,000	221,000	2,136,000	468,000	2,941,000	26,965,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	6-Jul	1-Aug	11-Aug	15-Aug		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	8-Jul	3-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug		21-Aug

¹ Run sizes are usually not adopted until after the peak of the run has passed through marine test fishery areas in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone straits.

2025 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Aug. 22, 2025

Week of: Aug. 17 - Aug. 23, 2025		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		684,556	677,714	151,853	50,611
	Commercial	158,462	157,797	55,916	27,020
	B Purse Seine	96,152	95,601	44,352	18,171
	D Gillnet	24,036	23,938	3,508	1,485
	E Gillnet	35,137	35,137	6,447	6,447
	F Troll	0	0	0	0
	G Troll	0	0	0	0
	H Troll	3,137	3,121	1,609	918
	First Nations	512,170	505,994	84,634	22,824
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	486,082	479,906	84,634	22,824
	Marine	229,332	223,311	83,821	22,011
	Fraser R.	256,750	256,595	813	813
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	26,088	26,088	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	26,088	26,088	0	0
	Recreational	0	0	11,301	764
	Marine	0	0	11,301	764
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
	Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)	447	447	2	2
	Other**	13,477	13,477	0	0
United States		298,728	298,587	991,064	732,362
	Commercial	296,181	296,047	991,064	732,362
	Treaty Tribes (TRB)	217,388	217,380	665,094	486,583
	All Citizen (AC)	78,793	78,667	325,970	245,779
	Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)	2,547	2,540	0	0
	Other**	0	0		
	All Citizen Recreational	0	0	0	0
	Alaska *	na	na	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		28,433	27,689	9,211	4,827
	Panel Waters	20,729	20,470	7,704	4,558
	Non-Panel Waters	7,704	7,219	1,507	270
Total		1,011,717	1,003,990	1,152,128	787,800

* Alaska catch is processed post-season and so is unavailable in-season.

** May include unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species