



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
MARCH 18, 1985

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**No. 5**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Aug 07, 2015**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data for Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon. The migration of sockeye through the marine approach areas remains less than expected for the time of year relative to pre-season expectations of abundance and arrival timing. The catches of Pink salmon in marine approach area purse seine test fisheries have decreased relative to catches in late July. Levels of sockeye salmon escapement past lower river assessment areas are also tracking less than pre-season expectations. The observer at Hells Gate continues to report steady sockeye migration past that site.

DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately, 13% Early Summer-run, 86% Summer-run, and 1% Late-run sockeye. Analyses of recent DNA samples collected from the Area 12 test fishery indicate that 17% of the pink salmon encountered are of Fraser River-origin, 12% are from Puget Sound, and 71% are from South Coast stocks.

The estimate of diversion rate through Johnstone Straits was increased to 54% based largely on recent seine and gillnet test fishery catches in the two approach areas.

At the meeting on Tuesday, the Fraser River Panel adopted an Early Stuart run-size estimate of 32,000 sockeye with estimated median timing thru marine areas of July 6<sup>th</sup>. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past Mission through August 6<sup>th</sup> is 32,200 fish. Future changes to Early Stuart run sizes are unlikely.

Early Summer-run sockeye have been represented in samples from marine test fisheries since they began operation in mid-July. At today's meeting, the Fraser River Panel adopted an in-season estimate of 424,000 (p25 forecast) for this group with an estimated median timing thru marine areas of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Within the Early Summer aggregate, the Early miscellaneous group's run size, which includes all stock components except Early Thompson, is consistent with median forecast abundance (321,000 fish). However, the Early Thompson component appears to be significantly less abundant than its median forecast level (516,000 fish). Further changes to run size estimates for this group are anticipated as the migration through assessment areas continues. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 6<sup>th</sup> is 202,000 fish.

Summer-run sockeye continue to be the dominant management group in marine area samples. Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in mid-August, after their expected peak migration through marine areas. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 6<sup>th</sup> is 267,700 fish.

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,530 cms, which is approximately 36% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 18.7°C on August 6<sup>th</sup>, approximately 0.7°C higher than average for this date. River conditions continue to be less than ideal for successful upstream migration, causing concerns for the survival of migrating sockeye. Current modeled predictions of the expected difference between estimates for Early Summer-run are consistent with the precautionary management adjustment factor adopted by the Fraser River Panel for this group in late June in response to observed and expected rising river temperatures. Coupled with lower than expected daily abundances, the management adjustment factor adopted for the Early Summer-run has guided the Panel's decisions to constrain harvest levels relative to pre-season expectations. There were no changes in management adjustments today. Management adjustments are additional fish that are removed from identified allowable harvest levels and instead allowed to escape upstream to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The Pacific Salmon Commission reports daily test fishing catches of sockeye salmon on its recorded message at 604-666-8200 and on the internet at: [http://www.psc.org/info\\_testfishing.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm).

Environmental data collected in the Fraser River watershed through DFO's Environmental Watch program will be included in weekly in-season news releases from the Pacific Salmon Commission (<http://www.pac.dfo->

[mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html](http://mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html)). River discharge level is forecast to drop to 2,339 cms by August 12th. Fraser River temperatures are forecast to stabilize at 18.7°C through August 12<sup>th</sup>, as a result of weather forecasts for more moderate air temperatures for parts of the Fraser watershed. Fraser River discharge levels and water temperatures will be monitored closely this summer to guide specific Panel management actions that may be required during the in-river sockeye migratory period to help achieve escapement goals.

The Early Stuart spawning escapement assessment program has begun. All sockeye observed to date are either holding or migrating with only a few reports of sockeye spawning in the nearly 20 streams visited during the first surveys. Sockeye are reported to be in generally good condition on the spawning grounds with no pre-spawn mortalities observed to date.

United States fishing schedules during the season will be available for Treaty Indian fisheries through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission at 1-800-562-6142. Non-Indian fishing schedules will be available through the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hotline in Seattle at 1-800-662-9825. Canadian commercial fishing regulations will be announced on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada recorded message at 604-666-2828 (from the lower B.C. mainland), and toll free from outside the lower B.C. mainland at 1-866-431-3474, and via fishery notices. Consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations pertaining to species other than sockeye and pink salmon in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

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

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

**UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C:

As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 5, 2015 through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 8, 2015.

Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 8, 2015 through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

Areas 6/7/7A:

Open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Sunday, August 9, 2015 through 9:00 a.m. Tuesday August 11, 2015.

**ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:**

Areas 7/7A:

Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 8, 2015.

Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 8, 2015.

Open to drift gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Saturday, August 8, 2015.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>. News releases 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 runs. News releases and regulatory announcements can be obtained via [http://www.psc.org/news\\_frpnews.htm](http://www.psc.org/news_frpnews.htm) or by subscribing to our eNews <http://tinyurl.com/PSCeNews>.

**2015 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon**

Date: Aug. 10, 2015

Week of: Aug. 9 - Aug. 15, 2015	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	32,200	202,000	267,700	1,500	503,400	0
Catch downstream of Mission	200	10,700	37,100	1,100	49,100	31,700
Accounted run-to-date	32,400	212,700	304,800	2,600	552,500	0
<b>Run size adopted in-season <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>424,000</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
Run size forecasted pre-season	16,000	837,000	4,675,000	1,236,000	6,764,000	14,455,000
<b>Area 20 timing adopted in-season</b>	<b>6/Jul</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>		<b>na</b>
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	8/Jul	1/Aug	7/Aug	17/Aug		28/Aug

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 2015 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Aug. 7, 2015

Week of: Aug. 2 - Aug. 8, 2015		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>18,400</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	B Purse Seine	0	0	0	0
	D Gillnet	0	0	0	0
	E Gillnet	0	0	0	0
	F Troll	0	0	0	0
	G Troll	0	0	0	0
	H Troll	0	0	0	0
<b>First Nations</b>		<b>18,200</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	18,200	17,700	300	0
	Marine	8,000	7,600	300	0
	Fraser R.	10,100	10,100	0	0
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
<b>Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R. *	0	0	0	0
<b>Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>United States</b>		<b>22,100</b>	<b>21,400</b>	<b>168,700</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>21,100</b>	<b>20,700</b>	<b>146,500</b>	<b>24,600</b>
	Treaty Indian (TI)	15,000	14,700	101,400	17,900
	All Citizen (AC)	6,100	6,000	45,200	6,700
<b>Treaty Indian Ceremonial &amp; Subsistence (C&amp;S)</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>22,200</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>All Citizen Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Alaska *</b>		<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Panel-approved Test Fisheries</b>		<b>20,400</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>5,700</b>
	Panel Waters	13,400	9,900	25,200	4,200
	Non-Panel Waters	7,100	6,500	9,300	1,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>61,000</b>	<b>55,600</b>	<b>203,500</b>	<b>31,700</b>

\* Recent LFA Recreational catches may be projected based on a scalar applied to Mission Escapement.

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