



# 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**

**August 9, 2013**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and environmental conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River have worsened over the past week with water temperatures reaching record highs for the date on some days. These record high water temperatures are above levels proven harmful to migration of Fraser River sockeye in past years. Although the passage of Fraser sockeye through the marine assessment areas has increased slightly since last week, the current estimated total in-season run size of Fraser sockeye is slightly higher than the pre-season forecast distribution (25% probability level of 2.66 million), which indicates that some of these stocks experienced below average total productivity relative to the historical time series. The lower total abundance of Fraser sockeye is currently attributed to the lower return of Summer-run sockeye to-date, which were expected to contribute almost 80% of the total Fraser sockeye abundance this season. In contrast earlier-timed stocks' returns (Early Stuart and Early Summer-run) are near or at the higher end of the pre-season forecast distribution (greater than 50% probability levels), which indicates these stocks experienced higher than average total productivity relative to the historical time series. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is presently estimated to be 62%. DNA analysis of samples collected from recent test fisheries in Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits indicate contributions of approximately 8% Early Summer-run sockeye, 78% Summer-run sockeye, and 14% Late-run sockeye. The migration of sockeye past the Mission hydroacoustic site has been steady in recent days. The observer at Hells Gate has reported steady sockeye migration over recent days.

At the meeting on August 6, the Panel approved a run size estimate of 452,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 22, which is one day earlier than expected. The run size and marine timing estimates for Early Summer-run sockeye were unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 8 is 401,000 fish.

At the meeting today, the Panel approved a run size estimate of 2,000,000 Summer-run sockeye, which is slightly over half of their median forecast level of abundance with an estimated 50% migration timing through Area 20 of August 8, which is five days later than expected. The low return of Summer-run sockeye thus far has severely constrained harvest opportunities that were expected during pre-season planning. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 8 is 533,000 fish.

It is too early to provide an assessment of Late-run sockeye abundance this season. DNA analyses of sockeye sampled from recent marine test fisheries indicates that Late Shuswap sockeye comprise most of the Late-run sockeye currently migrating through the marine approach routes. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 8 is 27,000 fish.

The total passage of pink salmon to date through the assessment areas has been strong relative to past years. DNA analyses indicate that Fraser River pink salmon continue to comprise a small proportion of the pink salmon migrating through the marine approach routes. This is consistent with their later

marine timing compared to co-migrating Washington and Canada South Coast (non-Fraser) pink salmon stocks which at this time comprise the majority of the pink salmon currently in the marine assessment areas. An in-season estimate of the abundance of Fraser River pink salmon will not be available until late August, which is when their peak migration through the assessment areas is expected to occur.

On August 8, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 3,230 cms, which is approximately 20% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 8 was 21.3 °C, which is 3.5 °C higher than average for this date, and a record high temperature for this date. Sustained exposure of sockeye to Fraser River water temperatures in this range has been shown to cause severe stress and early mortality. Thus, in addition to the low return of Summer-run sockeye, the Panel is also concerned about the adverse river migration conditions being experienced by sockeye that are currently migrating upstream to spawning areas. In response to these concerns, at the meeting on August 6, the Panel approved a further increase in the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye from 0.54 to 0.57 and at the meeting today it was increased to 0.58. Also at the meeting today, the Panel approved an increase in the management adjustment factor for Summer-run sockeye from the pre-season value of 0.09 to 1.76 based on current observed and forecast river conditions. Management adjustments are additional fish that are allowed to escape upstream to improve the probability of achieving spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

*(Post-season review of this news release indicated that the pMA of 1.76 should be replaced with 1.56. The pMA of 1.76 was for Summer-run sockeye without Harrison.)*

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on August 8 noted that Early Stuart sockeye are in good condition and past the peak spawning period in most tributaries. The enumeration fence on Scotch Creek was operational on August 7 and one sockeye has passed through it to-date. A total of 11 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence to-date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remains closed to 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 7, 2013, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 10, 2013.

**ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:**

Remain closed to fishing.

(Note: U. S. All Citizen fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

Updates on the run status and catches of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon are included in the attached tables.

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) . In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye catch and escapement data and sockeye and pink salmon stock status reports will be available on this website.

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>). 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.

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 next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 13, 2013. 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 and pink 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>.

### 2013 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Aug. 9, 2013

Week of: Aug. 4 - Aug. 10, 2013	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total Fraser	Total Fraser
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	179,900	401,300	532,800	27,200	1,141,200	na
Catch downstream of Mission	1,900	26,400	123,500	14,200	166,000	22,700
Accounted run-to-date	181,800	427,700	656,300	41,400	1,307,200	22,700
<b>Run size adopted in-season<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>182,000</b>	<b>452,000</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>2,634,000</b>	<b>na</b>
Run size forecasted pre-season	211,000	253,000	3,718,000	583,000	4,765,000	8,926,000
<b>Area 20 timing adopted in-season</b>	<b>2/Jul</b>	<b>22/Jul</b>	<b>8/Aug</b>	<b>na</b>		<b>na</b>
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	5/Jul	23/Jul	3/Aug	12/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.

## 2013 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Aug. 9, 2013

Week of: Aug. 4 - Aug. 10, 2013		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>162,100</b>	<b>160,700</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>1,100</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
	G Troll	0	0	0	0
	H Troll	0	0	0	0
<b>First Nations</b>		<b>161,900</b>	<b>160,400</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>1,100</b>
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	161,900	160,400	16,200	1,100
	Marine	62,600	61,100	16,200	1,100
	Fraser R.	99,300	99,300	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>900</b>	<b>0</b>
	Marine	0	0	900	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
<b>Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>United States</b>		<b>5,300</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>36,800</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>400</b>
	Treaty Indian (TI)	1,600	1,500	3,000	400
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	0	0
<b>Treaty Indian Ceremonial &amp; Subsistence (C&amp;S)</b>		<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>27,400</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>All Citizen Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Alaska *</b>		<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Panel-approved Test Fisheries</b>		<b>63,100</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>159,200</b>	<b>16,600</b>
<b>Panel Waters</b>		<b>21,600</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>39,400</b>	<b>4,600</b>
<b>Non-Panel Waters</b>		<b>41,400</b>	<b>39,800</b>	<b>119,800</b>	<b>12,100</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>230,500</b>	<b>226,200</b>	<b>208,500</b>	<b>22,700</b>

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