



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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NEWS RELEASE

August 16, 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. Daily Fraser River water temperatures have been at record high levels over the past week, which is expected to cause considerable en route and pre-spawning mortality of Fraser sockeye. There have been recent observations of some sockeye holding in the mouths of cooler tributaries of the Fraser River. The number of floating sockeye carcasses in the Fraser River has increased, although most sockeye are reported to be in good condition thus far. The abundance of Fraser River sockeye migrating through the marine approach routes has been strong over the past week. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is presently estimated to be 71%. DNA analysis of samples collected from recent test fisheries in Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits indicated high proportions of Summer-run sockeye with lower proportions of Late-run sockeye. The migration of sockeye past Mission and Hells Gate has been strong over recent days.

At the meeting on August 13, the Panel increased the run size estimate of 452,000 Early Summer-run sockeye to 475,000 fish and at the meeting today it was increased to 520,000 fish. Their estimated 50% marine timing through Area 20 is July 24, which is one day later than expected. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 15 is 477,000 fish.

The Panel approved an increase in the run size estimate for Summer-run sockeye from 2,000,000 to 2,300,000 fish at the meeting today with an estimated 50% migration timing through Area 20 of August 9, which is six days later than expected. However, the current estimated marine timing of August 9 for Summer-run sockeye is just one day later than their long-term average marine timing of August 8. Quesnel sockeye were expected to comprise approximately one-third of the Summer-run sockeye return this season, however their estimated abundance to-date is less than 10% of the total Summer-run sockeye return. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 15 is 994,000 fish.

Recent DNA samples from the marine approach areas indicate that Late Shuswap sockeye are contributing most of the return of Late-run sockeye to-date. The return of Birkenhead sockeye has been far lower than the median (p50) forecast of 282,000 fish and below the lower end of the forecast range of 100,000 fish (p10). An assessment of the abundance of Late-run sockeye should be available next week. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 15 is 65,000 fish.

Marine purse seine test fishing catches of pink salmon have continued to be strong over the past week. Recent DNA analyses indicated that the proportion of Fraser River pink salmon migrating through the marine approach routes has been building over the past week. The migration of Fraser River pink salmon through the marine assessment areas is tracking abundance levels exceeding the median forecast run size, assuming their 50% migration timing through Area 20 is approximately August 28. Assessments of the abundance and marine timing of Fraser River pink salmon will be conducted over the next several weeks.

On August 15, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 3,010 cms, which is approximately 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 15 was 21.0 °C, which is 3.3 °C higher than average for this date. Water temperatures are forecast to decrease over the next several days, which should improve migration conditions for Fraser sockeye. At the meeting on August 13, the

Panel approved an increase in the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye from 0.58 to 0.65 and at the meeting today it was increased to 0.72. At the meeting today, the Panel approved an increase in the management adjustment factor for Summer-run sockeye from 1.76 to 2.35 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 15 reported that Early Stuart sockeye are in good condition and past the peak spawning period in most tributaries. The escapement enumeration program on Scotch Creek has counted 17 sockeye past the fence to-date. Visual surveys have recently begun on North and South Thompson and lower Fraser stocks. The Gates Creek spawning channel operator reported that sockeye entered the creek above the channel on August 11 and 340 sockeye have been counted into the creek above the channel to-date. The Nadina River spawning channel operator reported that 840 sockeye were counted into the channel by the morning of August 12 and they appeared to be in good condition. The Chilko DIDSON enumeration system was operational on August 9. A total of 32 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:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Remains 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 . 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 20, 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 or by subscribing to our Enews <http://tinyurl.com/PSCeNews>.

2013 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Aug. 16, 2013

Week of: Aug. 11 - Aug. 17, 2013	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	179,900	477,200	993,800	64,900	1,715,800	na
Catch downstream of Mission	1,900	32,300	210,700	30,400	275,300	33,900
Accounted run-to-date ¹	181,800	509,500	1,204,500	95,300	1,991,100	1,630,000
Run size adopted in-season ²	182,000	520,000	2,300,000	na	3,002,000	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	211,000	253,000	3,718,000	583,000	4,765,000	8,926,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	2/Jul	24/Jul	9/Aug	na		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	5/Jul	23/Jul	3/Aug	12/Aug		28/Aug

¹ For pink salmon the accounted run-to-date is a reconstruction-based estimate.

² 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. 16, 2013

Week of: Aug. 11 - Aug. 17, 2013		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
Canada		286,200	283,700	51,100	3,300
Commercial		0	0	0	0
	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
First Nations		285,900	283,400	24,000	2,600
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	285,900	283,400	24,000	2,600
	Marine	126,000	123,600	23,900	2,500
	Fraser R.	159,900	159,800	100	100
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0	0	0
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
Recreational		0	0	27,000	700
	Marine	0	0	27,000	700
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)		300	300	0	0
United States		7,500	7,400	38,400	4,700
Commercial		3,500	3,500	5,400	600
	Treaty Indian (TI)	3,500	3,500	5,400	600
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	0	0
Treaty Indian Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)		3,900	3,900	26,700	4,000
All Citizen Recreational		0	0	6,400	100
Alaska *		na	na	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		94,200	91,200	223,100	25,900
Panel Waters		31,300	30,200	62,600	7,100
Non-Panel Waters		62,800	61,100	160,500	18,800
Total		387,900	382,300	307,600	34,000

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