



# PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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**No. 11**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**September 13, 2013**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and discuss fisheries management plans. The abundance of Fraser River pink salmon migrating through the marine approach routes has declined considerably since early September and the marine migration of Fraser sockeye is nearing completion. Marine area test fisheries that were assessing Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon have now concluded for the season, while Fraser River gillnet test fisheries are ongoing. The migration of pink salmon past Mission has been very strong over the past week while the sockeye migration has declined.

At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 550,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged. 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 September 12 is 515,000 fish.

The run size estimate of 2,400,000 Summer-run sockeye was unchanged today. Their estimated 50% migration timing through Area 20 is August 10, which is seven days later than expected. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through September 12 is 2,206,000 fish.

Assessments indicate that remaining Late-run sockeye in marine areas are continuing to migrate directly into the Fraser River without delaying in the Strait of Georgia. As noted in past News Releases, migration without delay into the river has resulted in high en route mortality rates for Late-run sockeye in previous years. At the meeting today the run size estimate of 600,000 Late-run sockeye was unchanged. Their estimated 50% marine timing through Area 20 is August 17, which is five days later than expected. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through September 12 is 551,000 fish.

Based on the current run size assessments noted above (as well as a return of 182,000 Early Stuart sockeye) the estimated total return of Fraser River sockeye salmon this season is 3,732,000 fish, which is over double the very low Fraser sockeye return in the parent brood year (2009). However, the Fraser sockeye return this season is lower than the median (50p) pre-season forecast of 4,765,000 fish, which is primarily due to the lower than expected (p50 median forecast) return of Summer-run sockeye. The Quesnel component of the Summer-run sockeye return was substantially below the median forecast and Chilko, Late Stuart, Stellako returns were also less than their median forecasts.

The run size estimate for Fraser River pink salmon of 26,000,000 fish is unchanged. The current run size estimate for Fraser pinks greatly exceeds the pre-season median forecast run size of 8,926,000 fish. Marine survival rates for Fraser river pink salmon are highly variable and run size assessments conducted to-date suggest that their survival rate is substantially higher than was expected this season. Approximately 519,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon fry were produced from the 2011 brood year when an estimated 12,800,000 pink salmon spawned in the Fraser River watershed. A return this season of 26,000,000 Fraser pinks would imply a marine survival rate of approximately 5%, which exceeds the long-term average marine survival rate of 3.4%. The current run-size estimate for Fraser Pink salmon is based on assessment models that use the data from marine purse seine test fisheries. During the post-season period, a revised run size estimate for Fraser River pink salmon will be generated that will be based primarily on the estimated total catch of Fraser pinks, plus hydroacoustic estimates of pink salmon escapements past Mission.

The estimated 50% marine timing of Fraser River pink salmon through Area 20 of August 28 is consistent with their average marine timing. Recent DNA analyses of pink salmon sampled from purse seine test and commercial fisheries in the marine approach areas indicate that Fraser River pink salmon comprise approximately 74 – 94% of the pink salmon currently migrating through these areas. Fisheries targeting Fraser River pink salmon are being constrained by conservation concerns for Fraser River sockeye.

Fraser River discharge and temperature measurements are currently unavailable. Management adjustment factors for Fraser River sockeye were unchanged at the meeting today. Management adjustments are additional fish that are allowed to escape upstream to improve the probability of achieving spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on September 12 reported that the escapement enumeration program on Scotch Creek has counted 27,322 sockeye past the fence to-date. The Gates Creek spawning channel operator reported that 42,546 sockeye have been counted into the creek above the channel to-date and 9,430 sockeye have been counted into the channel. The Nadina River spawning channel operator reported that 7,013 sockeye have been counted into the channel to-date. A total of 6,617 sockeye have been counted into the Horsefly River spawning channel to-date. Visual surveys are ongoing on the Bowron River, North and South Thompson rivers, as well as the Quesnel system and lower Fraser River tributaries. A mark-recapture tagging program is being conducted on Late Stuart sockeye. DIDSON enumeration programs are ongoing on the Chilko, Stellako, and Birkenhead Rivers. A total of 816 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence to-date and 137 sockeye have been retained for broodstock. Sockeye salmon escaping to these areas appear to be in good health, and there have not been observations of substantial pre-spawn mortality thus far.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

#### **CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Area 29-4, 29-6, 29-7 and 29-9: Open to Area B seine ITQ fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily on Sunday, September 15, 2013 until further notice. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

#### **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, September 11, 2013 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 14, 2013. Sockeye salmon may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 14, 2013 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 18, 2013. Sockeye salmon may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Saturday, September 14, 2013 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, September 17, 2013. Sockeye salmon may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

##### **ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:**

Area 7: As previously announced, open to reefnets with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 11, 2013, Thursday, September 12, 2013, and Friday, September 13, 2013.

Area 7: Open to reefnets with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily from Saturday, September 14, 2013 until further notice.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2013.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to gillnets with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 8:20 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Friday, September 13, 2013.

(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. 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.

A small-group meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, September 17, 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\\_frnews.htm](http://www.psc.org/news_frnews.htm) or by subscribing to our Enews <http://tinyurl.com/PSCeNews>.

## 2013 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Sep. 13, 2013

Week of: Sep. 8 - Sep. 14, 2013	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	180,500	514,600	2,206,200	551,100	3,452,400	na
Catch downstream of Mission	1,900	32,500	222,600	38,500	295,500	4,817,100
Accounted run-to-date <sup>1</sup>	182,400	547,100	2,428,800	589,600	3,747,900	45,630,000
<b>Run size adopted in-season <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>182,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>3,732,000</b>	<b>26,000,000</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>24/Jul</b>	<b>10/Aug</b>	<b>17/Aug</b>		<b>28/Aug</b>
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	5/Jul	23/Jul	3/Aug	12/Aug		28/Aug

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

<sup>2</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: Sep. 13, 2013

Week of: Sep. 8 - Sep. 14, 2013		Sockeye		Pink	
		Total	Fraser	Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>382,700</b>	<b>380,200</b>	<b>2,277,200</b>	<b>1,945,500</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,205,000</b>	<b>1,928,000</b>
	B Purse Seine	1,900	1,900	2,204,900	1,927,900
	D Gillnet	0	0	0	0
	E Gillnet	0	0	0	0
	G Troll	0	0	0	0
	H Troll	0	0	100	100
<b>First Nations</b>		<b>380,100</b>	<b>377,600</b>	<b>45,100</b>	<b>16,300</b>
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	379,900	377,500	37,000	8,300
	Marine	125,800	123,400	31,500	2,800
	Fraser R.	254,200	254,100	5,500	5,500
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	200	200	8,000	8,000
	Marine	0	0	0	0
	Fraser R.	200	200	8,000	8,000
<b>Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>1,100</b>
	Marine	0	0	27,000	1,100
	Fraser R.	0	0	0	0
<b>Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)</b>		<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>United States</b>		<b>19,800</b>	<b>19,700</b>	<b>3,611,400</b>	<b>2,838,900</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>3,578,400</b>	<b>2,834,300</b>
	Treaty Indian (TI)	4,300	4,300	1,414,300	1,107,700
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0	2,164,100	1,726,600
<b>Treaty Indian Ceremonial &amp; Subsistence (C&amp;S)</b>		<b>15,400</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>26,700</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>All Citizen Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Alaska *</b>		<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Panel-approved Test Fisheries</b>		<b>102,100</b>	<b>99,200</b>	<b>230,900</b>	<b>34,800</b>
	Panel Waters	37,600	36,400	69,500	17,600
	Non-Panel Waters	64,500	62,800	161,400	17,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>504,600</b>	<b>499,100</b>	<b>6,114,500</b>	<b>4,819,200</b>

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