



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

600 – 1155 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 1B5
TELEPHONE: (604) 684-8081
FAX: (604) 666-8707

Our File:

Your File:

No. 5

NEWS RELEASE

August 3, 2012

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon, plan fisheries and discuss sockeye migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Marine test fisheries indicate a moderate marine migration of Fraser sockeye through the marine assessment areas over the past few days. Recent DNA analyses indicate that the stock composition of Fraser River sockeye in Area 20 is approximately 10% Early Summer-run, 80% Summer-run, and 10% Late-run sockeye. The diversion rate of Fraser River sockeye through Johnstone Strait is presently estimated at 18%. Estimates of sockeye passage in the Fraser River past the Mission hydroacoustic site have been higher than expected over the last several days. The estimated total Fraser sockeye catches to-date are provided in the attached table.

The migration of Early Summer-run has been protracted this season with several pulses in their migration through marine assessment areas, which has increased the uncertainty in run size assessments. At the Panel meeting on July 30 the Panel increased the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye from 420,000 fish to 450,000 fish. At the Panel meeting on July 31, the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 460,000 fish and at the meeting today the run size estimate was increased to 510,000 fish. The estimated 50% marine timing of Early Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be July 15, which is one day earlier than expected. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 2 is 418,000 fish.

The estimated daily migration of Summer-run sockeye through marine assessment areas is consistent with either later than expected timing through Area 20 or smaller than forecast level of abundance. An estimate of their run size should be available next week after their peak migration through marine assessment areas has likely occurred. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 2 is 241,000 fish.

Birkenhead and Weaver sockeye comprise most of the Late-run migration through marine assessment areas to-date, with much smaller contributions from other Late-run sockeye stocks. Run size assessments for Late-run sockeye will not be available until approximately mid-August when their peak migration period through marine assessment areas is expected to occur. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 2 is 25,000 fish.

The Panel manages fisheries to provide additional Fraser sockeye above the spawning escapement targets through application of management adjustments. The management adjustments help ensure that the escapement targets are met, which off-sets en route mortality and other factors that could affect meeting spawning escapement targets. At the Panel meeting on July 30, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel approved an increase in the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run

sockeye from 1.12 to 1.27. At the meeting on July 31, it was reduced to 1.05 and at the meeting today it was reduced to 0.58.

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:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 4, 2012, through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Open to net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 4, 2012 through 9:00 a.m. Sunday, August 5, 2012.

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).

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

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 salmon in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Monday, August 6. News releases in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon runs.

2012 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Jul. 29 - Aug. 4, 2012

Date: Aug. 3, 2012

Area	Gear	Catch				
Commercial Catch						
Canada						
A & C Areas 1-10	Net	0				
F Areas 1-10	Troll	0				
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll	0				
B Areas 11-16	PS	0				
D Areas 11-13	GN	0				
H Areas 12-16	Troll	0				
H Areas 18-29	Troll	0				
B Area 20	PS	0				
B Area 29	PS	0				
E Area 29	GN	0				
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo		0				
Canadian Total		0				
United States						
Alaska	Net&Troll	0				
Washington						
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	3,990				
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	22,880				
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	23,530				
Washington Total		50,400				
U.S. Total		50,400				
Non-commercial Catch						
PSC Panel Area Test		15,840				
PSC non-Panel Area Test		3,790				
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)		50,880				
Marine Aboriginal		2,810				
Recreational		0				
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)		420				
U.S. TI Ceremonial		960				
ESSR		0				
Non-comm. Total		74,700				
Catch and Escapement						
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Total	
Catch Accounted-to-date	6,470	37,650	73,410	7,610	125,100	
Potential Spawning Escapement to date*	177,610	404,880	221,270	24,510	828,270	
Total Accounted-to-date	184,080	442,530	294,680	32,120	953,370	
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target **	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
Early Stuart		180,000	181,700	500	182,200	101%
Early Summer		438,900	417,700	6,800	424,500	97%
Summer		1,265,500	240,600	6,600	247,200	20%
	Quesnel/Chilko/N.Thompson		57,000	1,300		
	L.Stu./Stel.		130,300	3,900		
	Harrison		53,300	1,400		
Late		158,000	24,900	400	25,300	16%
	Birkenhead		21,000	300		
	Adams/L.Shuswap		300	0		
	Weav/L.Misc.		3,600	100		