



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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No. 8

NEWS RELEASE

August 30, 2012

The marine migration of Fraser River sockeye is complete. The final in-season run size and marine timing estimates are: 185,000 Early Stuart sockeye, with 50% migration timing through Area 20 of July 4, which is five days later than forecast; 530,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, with 50% migration timing through Area 20 of July 15, which is one day earlier than expected; 1,300,000 Summer-run sockeye, with 50% migration timing through Area 20 of August 2, which is one day later than expected; and 260,000 Late-run sockeye, with 50% migration timing through Area 20 of August 5, which is six days earlier than expected.

The total Fraser River sockeye run size estimate this season is currently 2,275,000 fish, which is slightly higher than the mid-point pre-season forecast of 2,119,000 fish. Early Stuart, Early Summer-run, and Late-run sockeye exceeded their mid-point forecast level of abundance while Summer-run sockeye returned below forecast. Current assessments indicate that approximately 78% of the returning adult Fraser sockeye in 2012 were four year old fish, which is similar to the pre-season expectation of 75%. Most of the remaining adult Fraser sockeye that returned this season were five year old fish.

The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait averaged 23% this season, which was within the range that was expected from several pre-season forecasting models (22% to 50%). Environmental conditions are generally satisfactory for the migration of Fraser sockeye presently en route to their spawning grounds. DFO's spawning ground enumeration programs are ongoing at several sites in the Fraser River watershed.

Estimated catches and escapements of Fraser River sockeye salmon this season are provided in the attached table. Commercial fishing in Panel Area waters remains closed for the balance of this season. This is the final in-season news release of the Fraser River Panel in 2012.

2012 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 26 - Sep. 1, 2012

Date: Aug. 30, 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						
	TI Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			13,760	
	TI Areas 6/7/7A	Net			58,850	
	AC Areas 7/7A	Net			32,240	
Washington Total					104,850	
U.S. Total					104,850	
Non-commercial Catch						
	PSC Panel Area Test				26,150	
	PSC non-Panel Area Test				7,570	
	Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)				399,000	
	Marine Aboriginal				50,960	
	Recreational				50	
	Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)				2,220	
	U.S. TI Ceremonial				6,010	
	ESSR				0	
Non-comm. Total					491,960	
Catch and Escapement		E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Total
Catch Accounted-to-date		9,130	76,940	463,990	46,740	596,810
Potential Spawning Escapement to date*		175,710	453,380	749,100	194,030	1,572,220
Total Accounted-to-date		184,840	530,320	1,213,090	240,770	2,169,030
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target **	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
Early Stuart		185,000	182,500	600	183,100	99%
Early Summer		454,400	497,300	12,800	510,100	112%
Summer		1,094,000	989,400	73,900	1,063,300	97%
	Quesnel/Chilko/N.Thompson		472,000	37,800		
	L.Stu./Stel.		375,600	27,400		
	Harrison		141,800	8,700		
Late		260,000	202,300	14,200	216,500	83%
	Birkenhead		131,700	9,200		
	Adams/L.Shuswap		3,000	300		
	Weav/L.Misc.		67,600	4,700		