



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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NEWS RELEASE

September 9, 2011

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon runs. Assessments indicate that migration of Fraser pink salmon through marine approach areas has decreased over the past week with increased catches on September 9th. The marine migration of sockeye salmon is nearly complete. Historical patterns of test fishing catches suggest that in most years, the marine migration of Fraser Pink salmon is completed near the end of the first week of September.

The Panel adopted the following sockeye run sizes earlier this week: Early Summer-run 570,000, Summer-run 1,550,000, Birkenhead 325,000 and 1,000,000 Harrison. The estimated escapements for Early Summer and Summer-run sockeye past Mission through September 8 are 471,000 and 1,022,000 sockeye, respectively. At the current adopted run-sizes, the gross escapements have exceeded the target levels (Mission escapement plus management adjustment plus allocations for in-river fisheries) for both groups. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through September 8 is 1,288,000 fish, of which 778,000 are Harrison. Of the estimated 1,000,000 total return of the Adams/Weaver sockeye, 280,000 have migrated upstream to date. Surveys from the gulf troll test fishery conducted this week in Georgia Strait indicate that some of the returns of the Late-run group are delaying prior to their upstream migration. Later upstream migration timing should improve the in-river survival of this group. There were no changes to the management adjustments this week.

DNA analyses of pink salmon samples collected in Johnstone Strait test fisheries indicate that Fraser River origin fish currently account for 75% of fish in the samples. The diversion rate of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone Strait has remained similar to last week and is currently estimated at 46%. A significant abundance of Fraser River pink salmon have migrated upstream over the past week. At the meeting today the Panel adopted an in-season run size for Fraser River pink salmon of 16,000,000 fish. Fisheries targeting Fraser River pink salmon are being constrained by conservation concerns for Fraser sockeye stocks.

Refer to the table at the end of the news release for a summary of current catches and escapements of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon.

DFO provided a spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on September 8. Early Summer-run sockeye assessments continue and fish are past the peak of spawn in most systems. In the lower Fraser, a survey was completed of Chilliwack Lake last week. A mark recapture program began at the Upper Pitt River on August 17 and tagging operations were completed on September 2; 2,687 tags have been applied to date. Carcass recovery surveys are ongoing. In the Mid-Fraser areas, 32,659 sockeye are estimated to have passed the Scotch Creek fence and the migration into Gates Creek spawning channel is complete at 18,330 fish. The channel was closed on August 28 to allow additional sockeye into the Gates Creek where one survey has been completed. Sockeye in both the North Thompson and South Thompson systems are reported to be near the end of peak spawning and beginning die off. In the upper Fraser, the Nadina River spawning channel operator reports that 4,195 sockeye have entered the spawning channel to date and some pre-spawning mortality has been observed. The second

aerial survey of the Bowron River was conducted on September 7 with follow-up ground surveys scheduled for yesterday.

For Summer-run sockeye, the relative abundance of fish passing acoustic systems at Chilko River has remained steady over the past week. A roving visual survey program is underway for the Horsefly River and other tributaries in the Quesnel lake system. The Horsefly River spawning channel began loading on September 7 and 928 sockeye have passed into the channel to date. A mark recapture program began on the Stellako River on September 3, and 21 tags have been applied to date. Sockeye appear to be in the early stages of arrival and are reported to be in good condition. For Late-run stocks, the Birkenhead River enumeration fence was completed and began operation on August 31. Migration has increased substantially since the last report with 55,995 sockeye estimated to have passed through the fence to date. Reports from the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence for Cultus Lake sockeye indicate that 105 sockeye had passed it as of September 7 and an additional 45 sockeye have been retained for broodstock.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29-3, -4, -6, 29-7, 29-9, and 29-10: Portions of these subareas open to Area B seine from 06:00 am to 9:00 pm daily from Saturday, September 10, 2011, through Tuesday, September 13, 2011 for the retention of pink salmon only. (Note: This fishery will be monitored closely and could close on short notice, **please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details**).

As previously announced:

Area 29 – 1 to 6: Area H troll continues until further notice. (**Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details**).

Area 18-1, 18-4, 18-11: Area H troll continues until further notice. (**Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details**).

Area 29-3, -4, -6, 29-7, 29-9, and 29-10: Portions of these subareas open to Area B seine from 06:00 am to 9:00 pm Friday, September 9, 2011, for the retention of pink salmon only. (Note: This fishery will be monitored closely and could close on short notice, **please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details**).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty 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 and pink salmon on its recorded message at (604) 666-8200 and on the internet at: http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_collections_2011.htm In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye and pink catch and escapement data and sockeye and pink 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 and pink salmon in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on September 12. 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.

2011 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Sep. 4 - Sep. 10, 2011

Date: Sep. 9, 2011

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	91,460			
D	Areas 11-13	GN	98,040			
H	Areas 12-16	Troll	10,830			
H	Areas 18-29	Troll	1,100			
B	Area 20	PS	0			
B	Area 29	PS	70			
E	Area 29	GN	158,440			
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo			70,310			
Canadian Total			430,250			
United States						
<u>Alaska</u>		Net&Troll	0			
<u>Washington</u>						
	T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	20,620			
	T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	156,300			
	N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	84,320			
Washington Total			261,240			
U.S. Total			261,240			
Non-commercial Catch						
PSC Panel Area Test			24,720			
PSC non-Panel Area Test			14,030			
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)			533,970			
Marine Aboriginal			256,070			
Recreational			26,640			
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)			3,840			
U.S. TI Ceremonial			9,890			
ESSR			0			
Non-comm. Total			869,160			
Catch and Escapement						
Catch Accounted-to-date			1,560,650			
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. minus FN, sport & TF catch above Mission)			2,387,250			
Total Accounted-to-date			3,947,900			
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	25,000	24,800	200	25,000	100%
ESum	Early Summer	416,720	471,000	27,700	498,700	120%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,097,900	898,000	89,700	1,125,100	102%
	L.Stu./Stel.		124,100	13,300		
Late	Birkenhead	1,730,500	230,200	15,200	1,364,700	79%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		154,900	8,500		
	Weav/L.Misc.		124,900	8,800		
	Harrison		778,100	44,100		

2011 Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: Sep. 4 - Sep. 10, 2011

Date: Sep. 9, 2011

Area	Gear	Catch
Commercial Catch		
<u>Canada</u>		
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 2,108,430
D+E	Areas 11-16	GN 9,970
H	Areas 12-16	Troll 27,380
H	Areas 18-29	Troll 1,110
B	Area 20	PS 0
B	Area 29	PS 51,130
E	Area 29	GN 80,180
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo		2,740
Canadian Total		2,280,940
<u>United States</u>		
<u>Alaska</u>		Net 0
<u>Washington</u>		
	T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net 9,550
	T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net 964,920
	N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net 1,503,850
Washington Total		2,478,320
U.S. Total		2,478,320
Non-commercial Catch		
PSC Panel Area Test		8,340
PSC non-Panel Area Test		1,510
Fraser River Aboriginal		38,190
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal		18,560
Canadian Recreational		100
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)		410
U.S. Ceremonial		13,900
U.S. Recreational		1,100
Non-comm. Total		82,140
Catch and Escapement		
Catch Accounted-to-date		4,841,400
Potential Net Escapement (run size minus catch-to-date)		11,158,600
Total		16,000,000