



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

REVISED

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NEWS RELEASE

August 12, 2011

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon runs and to discuss fishery planning. Purse seine test fishing catches of Fraser River sockeye in Johnstone Strait have increased substantially over the past week. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated to be approximately 73%. DNA analyses indicate that the stock composition of Fraser sockeye in the marine approach areas is presently about 5% Early Summer-run, 45% Summer-run, and 50% Late-run sockeye. The tendency of more Harrison sockeye to migrate via Juan de Fuca Strait has resulted in higher proportions of Late-run sockeye in samples taken from the southern approach areas. The proportion of four year old Fraser sockeye migrating through the marine assessment areas has been building over the past week along with the increasing proportion of Summer-run sockeye and Late-run. Substantial increases in sockeye passage at Mission have also been observed over recent days. The above patterns in the assessment data are consistent with the later than expected marine migration timing of Summer-run sockeye and increasing daily abundance of Summer-run and Late-run management groups.

At the meeting today, the Panel approved an increase to the run-size estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye to 480,000 fish with an estimated marine timing of August 1, one day later than expected. Future changes to the in-season abundance estimates and timing of this group are still possible, and will depend on the run strength of the Scotch/Seymour and North Thompson stock-groups which are later timed components than the Early Miscellaneous group. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 11 is 301,000 fish.

At the meeting today the Panel approved an in-season run-size estimate of 2,000,000 Summer-run sockeye for use in management planning with an associated marine timing of August 11. DNA analyses indicate that Chilko sockeye comprise most of the Summer-run sockeye abundance this season as was forecast during pre-season planning. Future changes to the in-season Summer-run abundance estimates and timing are likely as further assessment data are collected next week. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 11 is 337,000 fish.

At the meeting on August 9, the Panel approved a run-size estimate for the Harrison sockeye of 640,000 fish, which exceeds the forecast of 372,000 fish. This estimate was unchanged at the meeting today. The 50% marine timing of Harrison sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to be August 5. It is too early in the migration to provide an accurate assessment of the total abundance for the other Late-run stocks, but current daily abundances are larger than expected. At the meeting today, based on the previous change to the Harrison estimate and current abundance levels of the other Late-run stocks to date, the Panel adopted an in-season run-size estimate of 1,475,000 fish for the total Late-run Management group which exceeds the pre-season forecast of 1,207,000 fish.

Commercial sockeye fishery catches in Panel Waters this past week were consistent with the relatively small harvestable surpluses that were identified. Refer to the table at the end of the news release for a summary of current catches and escapements of Fraser sockeye.

The migration of pink salmon through Johnstone Strait has been higher over recent days. DNA analyses of pink salmon samples collected in Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait test fisheries indicate that Fraser pinks currently comprise about 20-30% of the samples. The estimated proportion of

Fraser River pink salmon is expected to increase over the next few weeks as they near their expected peak marine migration period near the end of the month. Fisheries targeting Fraser River pink salmon will be constrained by conservation concerns for Late-run Fraser sockeye stocks.

On August 11, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 5,335 cms, which is about 37% higher than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 11 was 16.9 °C, which is 1.1 °C cooler than average for this date. While river temperatures have increased over the past week, they have historically peaked in mid-August and declined thereafter as a result of shorter days and cooler evening air temperatures. At the meeting today, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel approved a decrease in the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye from the current estimate of 0.46 to 0.39. Management adjustments are additional fish that are allowed to escape upstream to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on August 11 indicated that ground and aerial surveys of Early Stuart sockeye stocks have observed low numbers of sockeye in or near spawning creeks. Acoustic systems were installed and operational at Chilko River and the first fish were observed on August 6. The Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence for Cultus Lake sockeye was operational on July 21 and 19 sockeye had passed it as of August 10.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29: Subareas 29-11 to 29-17 and portions of Subareas 29-3, 29-4, 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10: Open to Area E gillnets from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 16, 2011. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

The previously announced opening for Area H Troll was incorrect, consult DFO Fishery Notices or 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 for further details.

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 13, 2011 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, August 16.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A:

Open to gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Sunday, August 14, 2011.

Open to purse seines from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, August 15, 2011.

Open to reefnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, August 13, 2011, and from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, August 14, 2011.

(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 Monday, August 15, 2011. 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: Aug. 7 - Aug. 13, 2011

Date: Aug. 12, 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	0			
D	Areas 11-13	GN	52,680			
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	36,940			
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo			0			
Canadian Total			89,620			
United States						
<u>Alaska</u>		Net&Troll	0			
<u>Washington</u>						
T.I.	Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	12,750			
T.I.	Areas 6/7/7A	Net	94,080			
N.I.	Areas 7/7A	Net	35,280			
Washington Total			142,110			
U.S. Total			142,110			
Non-commercial Catch						
PSC Panel Area Test			15,000			
PSC non-Panel Area Test			8,480			
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)			118,560			
Marine Aboriginal			126,190			
Recreational			0			
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)			1,160			
U.S. TI Ceremonial			0			
ESSR			0			
Non-comm. Total			269,390			
Catch and Escapement						
Catch Accounted-to-date			501,120			
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. minus FN, sport & TF catch above Mission)			988,650			
Total Accounted-to-date			1,489,770			
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	25,000	24,300	300	24,600	98%
ESum	Early Summer	368,580	301,200	13,700	314,900	85%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,287,000	279,700	13,300	354,200	28%
	L.Stu./Stel.		57,600	3,600		
Late	Birkenhead	1,158,900	20,400	1,000	414,200	36%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		23,600	600		
	Weav/L.Misc.		8,800	300		
	Harrison		346,200	13,300		