



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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NEWS RELEASE

August 26, 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 declined over the past week. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait has remained stable at approximately 81%. DNA analyses indicate that the stock composition of Fraser sockeye in the marine approach areas is presently about 5% Early Summer-run, 14% Summer-run, and 80% Late-run sockeye. Assessments indicate that marine migration of Fraser sockeye is nearing completion.

At the meeting today, the run size estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 25 is 379,000 fish.

The proportion of Summer-run sockeye in marine samples has been decreased substantially over the past week. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of Summer-run sockeye was unchanged at 1,600,000. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 25 is 837,000 fish.

At the meeting on August 23, the Panel approved a run size estimate for the Late-run aggregate of 2,090,000 fish. Run sizes and marine timing estimates for the component stocks are as follows: for Harrison sockeye 850,000 and August 5, for the Adam/Weaver group 1,000,000 sockeye and August 16 and for the Birkenhead group 240,000 sockeye and August 16. At the meeting today, the Panel approved the run size estimate for Harrison River sockeye of 950,000 sockeye with an associated marine timing of August 6. The estimates for the remaining Late-run stocks were unchanged. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 25 is 956,000 fish, of which 692,000 are Harrison. Surveys from the gulf troll test fishery conducted this week in Georgia Strait indicate that some of the returns of the Late-run group have been delaying prior to their upstream migration. An assessment model is projecting a median upstream migration date for the Adams/Weaver group of September 9. Later upstream migration timing should improve the in-river survival of this group.

At the meeting on August 23, the Panel adopted a decrease in proportional management adjustment for Adams/Weaver/Birkenhead group from 0.69 to 0.46. There were no changes to the management adjustment today. Management adjustments are additional fish that are allowed to escape upstream to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

DNA analyses of pink salmon samples collected in Johnstone Strait test fisheries indicate that Fraser River origin fish currently account for the majority of fish in the samples. The diversion rate of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated to be 28%. The peak in the marine migration of pink salmon is expected to occur about August 31. The first in-season update of return abundance should be available next week. Fisheries targeting Fraser River pink salmon are being constrained by conservation concerns for Late-run 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.

On August 25, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 4,286 cms, which is about 42% higher than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 18 was 17.3 °C, which is 0.1 °C warmer than average for this date.

DFO provided a spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on August 25. Surveys of Early Stuart sockeye stocks are now complete. Early Summer-run sockeye assessments are well underway and fish are reported to be in good condition. Nearly 18,000 sockeye are estimated to have passed the Scotch Creek fence and a further 17,500 sockeye have entered the Gates Creek spawning channel as of mid-August. The Nadina River spawning channel operator reports that sockeye are holding in the river downstream of the channel. The water was turned on in the channel yesterday in preparation for loading. Sockeye are being observed during visual surveys in the North Thompson, South Thompson and Lower Fraser systems. A mark recapture program began at the Upper Pitt River on August 17 and approximately 1,500 tags have been applied to date. The abundance of fish passing acoustic systems at Chilko River has increased over the past week. Reports from the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence for Cultus Lake sockeye indicate that 50 sockeye had passed it as of August 24 and an additional 24 sockeye have been retained for broodstock.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29-11 to 29-17 and portions of Area 29-9: Open to Area E gillnet from 09:00 hr Tuesday, August 30, 2011 until 3pm with a possible extension of 4 hrs. (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Portions of Area 29-6, 29-7, 29-9: Open to Area B seine ITQ fishery from 06:00 am to 09:00 pm daily from Saturday August 27, 2011 to Tuesday, August 30, 2011. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

As previously announced:

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

Area 29 – 1 to 6: Area H troll continues until further notice. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices 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 27, 2011 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, August 30, 2011.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 27, 2011, Sunday, August 28, 2011, and Monday August 29, 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 August 29. 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. 21 - Aug. 27, 2011

Date: Aug. 26, 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	39,650			
D	Areas 11-13	GN	98,040			
H	Areas 12-16	Troll	8,900			
H	Areas 18-29	Troll	800			
B	Area 20	PS	0			
B	Area 29	PS	0			
E	Area 29	GN	119,180			
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo			38,090			
Canadian Total			304,660			
United States						
<u>Alaska</u>		Net&Troll	0			
<u>Washington</u>						
	T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	19,820			
	T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	110,010			
	N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	76,920			
Washington Total			206,750			
U.S. Total			206,750			
Non-commercial Catch						
PSC Panel Area Test			21,500			
PSC non-Panel Area Test			11,930			
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)			388,690			
Marine Aboriginal			234,370			
Recreational			11,070			
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)			2,930			
U.S. TI Ceremonial			7,130			
ESSR			0			
Non-comm. Total			677,620			
Catch and Escapement						
Catch Accounted-to-date			1,189,030			
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. minus FN, sport & TF catch above Mission)			1,924,510			
Total Accounted-to-date			3,113,540			
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	366,680	378,800	26,100	404,900	110%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,117,900	728,100	60,400	909,100	81%
	L.Stu./Stel.		108,900	11,700		
Late	Birkenhead	1,639,240	135,800	10,400	1,021,500	62%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		75,800	7,600		
	Weav/L.Misc.		52,100	6,400		
	Harrison		692,300	41,100		

2011 Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: Aug. 21 - Aug. 27, 2011

Date: Aug. 26, 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 135,310
D+E	Areas 11-16	GN 9,350
H	Areas 12-16	Troll 12,020
H	Areas 18-29	Troll 470
B	Area 20	PS 0
B	Area 29	PS 0
E	Area 29	GN 13,670
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo		80
Canadian Total		170,900
United States		
<u>Alaska</u>		Net 0
<u>Washington</u>		
	T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net 9,690
	T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net 82,080
	N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net 215,950
Washington Total		307,720
U.S. Total		307,720
Non-commercial Catch		
PSC Panel Area Test		2,730
PSC non-Panel Area Test		830
Fraser River Aboriginal		10,140
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal		14,450
Canadian Recreational		0
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)		60
U.S. Ceremonial		13,500
U.S. Recreational		1,200
Non-comm. Total		42,910
Catch and Escapement		
Catch Accounted-to-date		521,510
Potential Net Escapement (run size minus catch-to-date)		16,973,490
Total		17,495,000