



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

**July 23, 2010**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs and to discuss fishery planning. The abundance of Early Summer-run, Summer-run, and Harrison sockeye migrating through Juan de Fuca Strait has increased considerably over recent days. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated to be less than 10%.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is nearly complete. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 90,000 Early Stuart sockeye was unchanged. The marine migration timing of Early Stuart sockeye this season is currently estimated to be about two to three days later than forecast.

Recent assessments suggest that the marine migration of Early Summer-run sockeye may be later than expected. An in-season assessment of how the run size of Early Summer-run sockeye is tracking relative to their forecast (783,000 fish at the 50% probability level) should be available next week. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 22 is 39,000 fish.

Summer-run sockeye (Chilko, Quesnel, Stellako, and Late Stuart) are forecast to comprise approximately 25% (2,612,000 fish at the 50% probability level forecast) of the total Fraser River sockeye run in 2010. An in-season assessment of the abundance of Summer-run sockeye will likely not be available until about mid August. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 22 is 6,000 fish.

In recent years, Harrison sockeye have exhibited earlier marine timing than other Late-run sockeye stocks. Recent assessments indicate that Harrison sockeye are tracking above their forecast level of abundance (195,000 fish at the 50% probability level) or their marine timing is earlier than expected. An assessment of their run size will likely not be available until late next week.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. On July 22 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was about 3,600 cms, which is approximately 30% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 22 was 17.3<sup>0</sup> C, which is half a degree above average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are projected to exceed 20<sup>0</sup> C by late July due to the low discharge and warm weather that has been forecasted. Water temperatures exceeding 20<sup>0</sup> C may adversely affect upstream migration and cause en route mortality of some Fraser sockeye.

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\\_2010.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_collections_2010.htm) In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye and escapement data, and sockeye 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.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 27. 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.