



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

600 – 1155 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 1B5
TELEPHONE: (604) 684-8081
FAX: (604) 666-8707

Our File:

Your File:

No. 4

NEWS RELEASE

July 30, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, discuss fishery planning, and receive an update regarding migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Test fishing catches in the marine assessment areas have been fluctuating recently but have generally been good for this time of year. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated to be approximately 30%. There was a strong migration of sockeye observed at Hells Gate yesterday and the fish have been reported to be in good condition over the past week.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is complete and at the meeting on July 27 the Panel approved a run size estimate of 105,000 Early Stuart sockeye. A 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of July 5 was also approved. The abundance of Early Summer-run sockeye currently migrating through the marine approach areas is tracking above expectations and later than expected. For management purposes, the Panel adopted a provisional run size estimate of 950,000 Early Summer-run sockeye at the meeting today. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 29 is 241,000 fish.

Based on the migration of Summer-run sockeye through the marine approach routes that has been observed to-date, assessments of their abundance are less than expected if their arrival timing is similar to pre-season expectations. Higher marine area test fishing catches of sockeye yesterday may indicate that a stronger migration of Summer-run sockeye is beginning, although DNA analyses will be required to verify expected stock contributions. Summer-run sockeye run size assessments should be available by approximately mid August depending on the date of their peak migration timing through the marine assessment areas. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 29 is 105,000 fish.

The 50% probability level forecast for Late-run sockeye (Late Shuswap, Cultus, Portage, Harrison, Weaver, and Birkenhead stocks) is 8,003,000 fish. Late-run sockeye returns are forecast to originate primarily from the Late Shuswap stock group. The expected 50% migration timing of Late-run sockeye through Area 20 is approximately mid August. For management purposes, the Panel adopted a provisional run size estimate of 400,000 Harrison sockeye at the meeting today. Assessments of Late-run sockeye timing, abundance, delay in the lower Strait of Georgia and in-river entry behavior will be conducted over the next several weeks. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through July 29 is 122,000 fish.

On July 29 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was about 3,500 cms, which is 23% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 29 was 18.6 °C, which is 1.2 °C above average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are projected to reach approximately 21 °C by early next week. Sustained water temperatures in this range can cause severe stress to migrating sockeye and may lead to significant en route mortality. Migration conditions for Fraser sockeye will be monitored closely over the next several weeks and appropriate management actions will be taken. At the Panel meeting on July 27, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel approved a decrease in the management adjustment factor for Early

Stuart sockeye from 0.12 to 0.08. There was no change in the management adjustments at the meeting today. Management adjustments are employed to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remains closed to fishing

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, July 31, 2010, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 4, 2010.

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 salmon on its recorded message at (604) 666-8200 and on the internet at: 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.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 3. 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.

2010 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Sockeye_Review

Week of: Jul. 25 - Jul. 31, 2010

Date: Jul. 30, 2010

| Area | Gear | Weekly Catch | %Fraser | Fraser Sockeye | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | Weekly | Cumul. | |
| 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 | | | | 0 | |
| D Areas 11-13 | GN | | | | 0 | |
| H Areas 12-16 | Troll | | | | 0 | |
| H Areas 18-29 | Troll | | | | 0 | |
| B Area 20 | PS | | | | 0 | |
| E Area 29 | GN | | | | 0 | |
| FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo | | | | | 0 | |
| Canadian Total | | | | | 0 | |
| <u>United States</u> | | | | | | |
| Alaska | Net&Troll | | | | 0 | |
| <u>Washington</u> | | | | | | |
| T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C | Net | | | | 0 | |
| T.I. Areas 6/7/7A | Net | | | | 0 | |
| N.I. Areas 7/7A | Net | | | | 0 | |
| Washington Total | | | | | 0 | |
| U.S. Total | | | | | 0 | |
| Non-commercial Catch | | | | | | |
| PSC Panel Area Test | | | | | 20,090 | |
| PSC non-Panel Area Test | | | | | 3,030 | |
| Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC) | | | | | 8,380 | |
| Areas 12-124 Aboriginal | | | | | 6,920 | |
| Recreational | | | | | 0 | |
| Charter (Albion & Qualark TF) | | | | | 333 | |
| U.S. TI Ceremonial | | | | | 100 | |
| Non-comm. Total | | | | | 38,850 | |
| Catch and Escapement | | | | | | |
| Catch Accounted-to-date | | | | | 38,850 | |
| Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. less FN, sport & Qualark TF catch above Mission) | | | | | 567,000 | |
| Total Accounted-to-date | | | | | 605,850 | |
| Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye) | | | | | | |
| Run | Stock/Group | Adjusted Target * | Mission Esc. | FN Below Mission | Gross Esc. | % Complete |
| EStu | Early Stuart | 105,000 | 100,300 | 100 | 100,400 | 96% |
| ESum | Early Summer | 738,200 | 240,600 | 3,500 | 244,100 | 33% |
| Summ | Quesnel/Chilko | 1,480,040 | 88,700 | 1,800 | 106,900 | 7% |
| | L.Stu./Stel. | | 16,100 | 300 | | |
| Late | Birkenhead | 4,755,920 | 0 | 0 | 124,000 | 3% |
| | Adams/L.Shuswap | | 4,200 | 100 | | |
| | Weav/L.Misc. | | 100 | 0 | | |
| | Harrison | | 118,000 | 1,600 | | |