



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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**No. 7**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 20, 2010**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, plan fisheries, and discuss sockeye migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Purse seine test fishing catches of sockeye have been very strong in Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait over recent days and in particular through Johnstone Strait. These large catches and other assessment data have translated into higher run size estimates for the Fraser River sockeye runs presently migrating through marine areas. Late Shuswap sockeye are the dominant stock-group in marine areas as was expected for this time period. DNA analyses indicate that the stock composition of Fraser sockeye in the Areas 12 and 20 marine approach routes to the Fraser River are averaging about 8% Early Summer-run, 16% Summer-run, and 76% Late-run sockeye. Based on current assessments, the marine timing of the Fraser sockeye runs are later than was expected during pre-season planning. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated at approximately 75%. The migration of sockeye past Mission and Hells Gate over the past several days continues to be strong. The estimated total commercial catch of Fraser sockeye to-date is 2,002,000 fish, while non-commercial catches (from test, First Nations FSC, Charter, and recreational fisheries) total 632,000 fish.

The return of Early Summer-run sockeye has been very strong and protracted this season. At the meeting on August 15 the run size estimate of 2,000,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 2,400,000 fish and at the meeting on August 17, it was increased to 2,600,000 fish. At the meeting today, the Panel increased the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye to 2,900,000 fish, with 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of August 7. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 19 is 1,898,000 fish.

At the meeting on August 15 the run size estimate of 2,600,000 Summer-run sockeye was increased to 3,000,000 fish and at the meeting on August 17, it was increased to 3,300,000 fish. At the meeting today, the Panel increased the run size estimate for Summer-run sockeye to 4,000,000 fish, with 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of August 11. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 19 is 1,769,000 fish.

DNA analyses indicate that Late Shuswap sockeye are contributing over 90% of the total Late-run sockeye abundance presently migrating through the marine approach routes. The gulf troll test fishery started on August 16 and it will provide data used in assessing the delay behavior of Late-run sockeye in the lower Strait of Georgia. Preliminary assessments indicate that a significant proportion of Late-run sockeye are delaying in the Strait of Georgia. At the meeting today the run size estimate for Harrison sockeye was increased from 700,000 fish to 900,000 fish with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 6. Although there is still uncertainty in run size assessments of Late-run sockeye, at the meeting today, the Panel approved a total run size estimate for Late-run sockeye (including Harrison sockeye) of 12,141,000 fish for fisheries planning purposes. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 19 is 1,371,000 fish.

On August 19 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,540 cms, which is 25% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 19 was 19.0 °C, which is 1.5 °C above average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are forecast

to vary from 18.5 °C to slightly over 19 °C during the next several days. At the meeting on August 15, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel decreased the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye from 1.0 to 0.8. At the meeting on August 17, the Panel decreased the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye from 0.8 to 0.71 and for Summer-run sockeye the management adjustment factor of 0.24 was decreased to 0.22. At the meeting today the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye was decreased to 0.39. Management adjustments are employed to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on August 19 reported that sockeye arriving on their spawning grounds throughout the watershed are generally in good condition. The escapement enumeration program on Scotch Creek has counted approximately 65,000 sockeye past the fence through August 18. Visual surveys of North and South Thompson streams noted spawning activity in Yard and Fennel Creeks. Visual surveys of Dolly Varden Creek (tributary of Chilliwack Lake) have been initiated. Approximately 9,000 sockeye have been passed into the Nadina River spawning channel to-date. A mark-recapture program on the Seymour River began on August 17. DIDSON hydro-acoustic units are enumerating the migration of Chilko and Horsefly sockeye. A total of 241 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence through August 18.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

#### **CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11 and Areas 29 – 1 to 6: As previously announced, open to Area H troll as of 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 8, 2010 and continues until further notice (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 20-1, 3, 4: Open to Area B purse seine, ITQ Demonstration Fishery, daily from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 22, 2010 to Friday August 27, 2010 (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 29: Portions of 29 – 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 to 17: Open to Area E gillnets from 12 p.m. noon to 8 p.m., Monday, August 23, 2010 (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

#### **UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

##### **TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Open for drift gillnets from 3:00 p.m., Friday, August 20, 2010 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 25, 2010.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Sunday, August 22 through 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 25, 2010.

##### **NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 11:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Saturday, August 21, 2010, in the area southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from Iwersen's dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, August 21, 2010.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Saturday, August 21, 2010.

(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](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 24. 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

Week of: Aug. 15 - Aug. 21, 2010

Date: Aug. 20, 2010

			<b>Fraser Sockeye</b>			
Area	Gear			Cumul.		
<b>Commercial Catch</b>						
<b>Canada</b>						
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			668,610		
D Areas 11-13	GN			364,120		
H Areas 12-16	Troll			57,470		
H Areas 18-29	Troll			5,530		
B Area 20	PS			92,770		
B Area 29	PS			0		
E Area 29	GN			223,950		
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo				133,310		
Canadian Total				1,545,760		
<b>United States</b>						
<u>Alaska</u>		Net&Troll		0		
<u>Washington</u>						
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			77,310		
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net			233,800		
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net			253,540		
Washington Total				564,650		
U.S. Total				564,650		
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>						
PSC Panel Area Test				44,360		
PSC non-Panel Area Test				13,710		
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)				344,030		
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal				208,880		
Recreational				8,200		
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)				2,929		
U.S. TI Ceremonial				10,100		
Non-comm. Total				632,210		
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>						
Catch Accounted-to-date				2,742,620		
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. less FN, sport & Qualark TF catch above Mission)				4,839,700		
Total Accounted-to-date				7,582,320		
<b>Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)</b>						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	105,000	91,500	100	91,600	87%
ESum	Early Summer	1,735,000	1,897,900	70,600	1,968,500	113%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	2,355,900	1,554,600	56,500	1,833,700	78%
	L.Stu./Stel.		214,700	7,900		
Late	Birkenhead	6,879,740	8,400	300	1,424,100	21%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		806,800	33,100		
	Weav/L.Misc.		32,900	1,200		
	Harrison		523,100	18,300		