



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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No. 11

NEWS RELEASE

September 17, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, consider harvest opportunities, and discuss sockeye migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. The marine migration of Fraser sockeye through the marine assessment areas is complete. The migration of sockeye past Mission has been variable but strong over the past several days, while the migration of sockeye past Hells Gate continues to be strong. The total run size estimate for Fraser River sockeye this season of 34,546,000 fish was unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated total commercial catch of Fraser sockeye to-date is 11,945,000 fish, while non-commercial catches (from test, First Nations FSC, Charter, and recreational fisheries) total 1,164,000 fish.

The run size estimates of 3,800,000 Early Summer-run and 5,200,000 Summer-run sockeye were unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated escapements of Early Summer-run and Summer-run sockeye past Mission through September 16 are 2,701,000 and 3,137,000 fish, respectively.

Present assessments suggest that approximately 9,000,000 Late-run sockeye are currently delaying in the lower Strait of Georgia. At the meeting today, the current run size estimates of 1,200,000 Harrison, 24,000,000 Late Shuswap/Weaver, and 241,000 Birkenhead stock-group sockeye were unchanged. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through September 16 is 6,887,000 fish.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are currently satisfactory and the management adjustments were unchanged at the meeting today. Management adjustments are employed to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on September 16 reported that sockeye arriving on their spawning grounds continue to be in generally good condition. Most Early Summer-run sockeye stocks are in their peak die-off period. Summer-run sockeye stocks are beginning to pair-up and spawn. The Stellako River enumeration fence has counted approximately 134,000 sockeye past it through September 15. The Birkenhead River enumeration fence has counted approximately 58,000 sockeye past it through September 15. A total of 1,199 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence through September 14 and an additional 272 fish have been retained for broodstock.

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: Area H troll will close at 11:59 p.m.
Saturday, Sept 18, 2010.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Thursday, September 16 through 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 18, 2010.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., from Saturday, September 11, 2010 through Friday, September 17, 2010.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 18, 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 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.

This is the last scheduled in-season news release of the Panel in 2010.

2010 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Sep. 12 - Sep. 18, 2010

Date: Sep. 17, 2010

		Fraser Sockeye				
Area	Gear		Cumul.			
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		4,409,250			
D Areas 11-13	GN		1,029,180			
H Areas 12-16	Troll		270,140			
H Areas 18-29	Troll		100,810			
B Area 20	PS		127,910			
B Area 29	PS		1,090,980			
E Area 29	GN		2,133,600			
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo			853,630			
Canadian Total			10,015,500			
United States						
<u>Alaska</u>	Net&Troll		0			
<u>Washington</u>						
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net		135,360			
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net		1,052,840			
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net		741,640			
Washington Total			1,929,840			
U.S. Total			1,929,840			
Non-commercial Catch						
PSC Panel Area Test			52,280			
PSC non-Panel Area Test			17,810			
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)			514,650			
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal			273,980			
Recreational			289,230			
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)			5,772			
U.S. TI Ceremonial			10,100			
Non-comm. Total			1,163,820			
Catch and Escapement						
Catch Accounted-to-date			13,109,160			
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. less FN, sport & Qualark TF catch above Mission)			11,906,620			
Total Accounted-to-date			25,015,780			
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	105,000	100,800	200	101,000	96%
ESum	Early Summer	2,168,900	2,701,200	116,900	2,818,100	130%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	2,729,100	2,833,100	162,000	3,314,100	121%
	L.Stu./Stel.		303,400	15,600		
Late	Birkenhead	14,015,240	158,100	8,600	7,243,800	52%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		5,777,700	307,300		
	Weav/L.Misc.		186,800	8,800		
	Harrison		764,500	32,000		