



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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NEWS RELEASE

September 4, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser sockeye and pink salmon runs and discuss fisheries management plans for the harvest of pink salmon. The migration of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait is nearing completion while the marine migration of Fraser River pink salmon through these areas has been generally strong over the past two weeks. Large numbers of pink salmon have been observed passing Hells Gate over the past week en route to their spawning grounds. The estimated total non-commercial catch of Fraser River sockeye this season is approximately 95,000 fish, harvested in test fisheries and First Nations FSC fisheries. The estimated total catch of Fraser River pinks to-date is approximately 1,108,000 fish, harvested primarily in Canadian and U.S. commercial fisheries.

At the meeting today the run size estimates of 175,000 Early Summer-run, 650,000 Summer-run, and 60,000 Birkenhead sockeye were unchanged. Data collected by the gulf troll test fishery continues to suggest that over 100,000 True Late-run sockeye may be delaying in the lower Strait of Georgia prior to entering the Fraser River. At the meeting today, the run size estimates of 200,000 Harrison and 200,000 Weaver/Late Shuswap sockeye (for a total of 400,000 True Late-run sockeye) were unchanged. The estimated escapement of True Late-run sockeye past Mission through September 3 is 214,000 fish.

The estimated total Fraser sockeye return this season remains at 1,370,000 fish, which is less than half of the 90% probability level forecast of 3,556,000 fish. This total in-season run size estimate is based on the Fraser sockeye estimates noted above plus an estimated 85,000 Early Stuart sockeye.

Stock identification analyses indicate that Fraser River pink salmon comprised approximately 65% of the pink salmon migrating through Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait at the end of August. Historically, Fraser pink contributions in these areas at the end of August typically exceed 80% however; significant pink salmon runs are being observed returning to the terminal areas of a number of Washington and Canada South Coast pink salmon stocks. This has reduced the dominance of Fraser pinks relative to other co-migrating stocks even though the abundance of Fraser River pinks appears to be tracking near the forecast. The diversion rate of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone Strait is presently estimated at approximately 29%.

At the meeting on September 1, the Panel approved the 50% probability level forecast for Fraser River pink salmon of 17,535,000 fish for fisheries planning purposes and at the meeting today, this estimate was unchanged. The abundance of Fraser River pink salmon this season is sufficient to support commercial fisheries; subject to conservation needs for Fraser River sockeye salmon that are still migrating through areas where fisheries may occur as well as other species of concern.

On September 3 the Fraser River discharge at Hope was approximately 1,900 cms, which is about 30% lower than normal and slightly higher than the historic minimum discharge on this date. The water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 3 was 19 °C, which is 3 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are expected to decline as cooler, wetter weather is forecast for much of the Fraser River watershed.

DFO's spawning ground enumeration programs are underway at several locations throughout the Fraser River watershed. Observers at the enumeration fence on Scotch Creek have counted approximately 3,700 sockeye past the fence through August 30. Approximately, 1,800 sockeye have entered the Gates Creek spawning channel through August 30. Operators at the Nadina River spawning channel report that approximately 1,800 sockeye had passed through the counting fence and were in the channel as of August 30. Observers at Henry's Bridge report that counting conditions have improved and there has been a steady migration of Chilko sockeye since August 22. The enumeration fence on the Stellako River has had about 500 sockeye counted past it through August 30, while approximately 2,600 sockeye have been counted through the enumeration fence on the Birkenhead River to this date. Cultus sockeye migrating through the enumeration fence on Sweltzer Creek total 79 fish as of September 2.

The Panel announced the following regulations directed at the harvest of pink salmon in Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-4: As previously announced, open for Area H troll ITQ fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon until further notice (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2009 through 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 5, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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 6, 7, and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 5, 2009 through 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, open for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 2, 2009 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 5, 2009.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 5, 2009 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 9, 2009.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 4, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 7, 2009; and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to gillnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Friday, September 4, 2009 southerly and

easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, September 7, 2009; and 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Tuesday, September 8, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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: As previously announced, open to reefnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 4, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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 for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 5, 2009; 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 6, 2009; 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 7, 2009; and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the 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.

(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_2009.htm In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye and pink salmon 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 September 8. 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 and pink salmon runs.

2009 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 30 - Sep. 5, 2009

Date: Sep. 4, 2009

			Fraser Sockeye			
Area	Gear		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>						
<u>Alaska</u>	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 Test			19,600			
Other Test			11,210			
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)			49,240			
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal			10,020			
Recreational			0			
Charter			1,799			
U.S. TI Ceremonial			2,900			
Non-comm. Total			94,770			
Catch and Escapement						
Catch Accounted-to-date			94,770			
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. less FN, sport & Qualark TF catch above Mission)			1,088,770			
Total Accounted-to-date			1,183,540			
Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	85,000	82,500	300	82,800	97%
ESum	Early Summer	175,000	168,400	800	169,200	97%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	650,000	446,400	2,200	611,000	94%
	L.Stu./Stel.		161,700	700		
Late	Birkenhead	55,770	58,900	800	59,700	107%
	Adams/L.Shuswap	374,760	25,800	600	216,000	58%
	Weav/L.Misc.		19,400	900		
	Sub 1s		168,300	1,000		

2009 Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: Aug. 30 - Sep. 5, 2009

Date: Sep. 4, 2009

Area	Gear	Fraser Pinks	
			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		516,420
D+E Areas 11-16	GN		0
H Areas 12-16	Troll		4,530
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			520,950
United States			
Alaska	Net		0
Washington			
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net		0
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net		174,940
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net		388,300
Washington Total			563,240
U.S. Total			563,240
Non-commercial Catch			
PSC Test			7,050
Other Test			1,600
Fraser River Aboriginal			360
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal			8,020
Canadian Recreational			2,560
Charter			40
U.S. Ceremonial			500
U.S. Recreational			3,200
Non-comm. Total			23,310
Catch and Escapement			
Catch Accounted-to-date			1,107,510
Potential Net Escapement (run size minus catch-to-date)			16,427,490
Total			17,535,000