



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 15, 2008**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review the status of the sockeye salmon runs and migration conditions in the Fraser River. Recent test fishing catches of sockeye indicate that the marine migration of Fraser sockeye is declining rapidly. Summer-run and Late-run sockeye currently comprise most of the Fraser sockeye migrating through the marine approach routes. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait has averaged 9% this season and has averaged an estimated 20% over the past three days. The migration of sockeye past Mission and Hells Gate has generally been at low but steady levels over the past week.

Canadian catches of Fraser River sockeye to-date total 16,000 in commercial fisheries, 335,000 in First Nations FSC fisheries, and 17,500 in recreational fisheries. U.S. catches of Fraser sockeye total 46,000 in commercial fisheries and 1,400 in ceremonial and subsistence fisheries. Test and charter fishing catches of Fraser sockeye total 40,000 fish.

A low proportion of Early Summer-run sockeye continue to migrate through the marine assessment areas. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 440,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 450,000 fish. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 14 is 391,000 fish.

The Panel decreased the estimate of Summer-run sockeye abundance from 1,000,000 fish to 925,000 fish at the meeting today. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 14 is 750,000 fish.

At the meeting today the run size estimate for the Birkenhead stock-group of 30,000 fish was increased to 50,000 fish, however it is still far less than their 50% probability level forecast of 331,000 fish. The estimated escapement of Birkenhead sockeye past Mission through August 14 is 25,000 fish.

The run size estimate of 232,000 True Late-run sockeye was decreased to 200,000 fish (the sum of 47,000 Harrison sockeye and 153,000 Weaver/Shuswap sockeye) at today's meeting. Current assessments suggest that there is little delay of True Late-run sockeye in the Gulf of Georgia. The early migration of these fish into the Fraser River will likely result in them being subject to high pre-spawning mortality. Due to the very limited fisheries that have occurred this season, the current exploitation rate on True Late-run and Cultus sockeye is far below the maximum limit of 20% that was established during pre-season planning. The estimated escapement of True Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 14 is 109,000 fish.

On August 14, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 3,300 cms, which is slightly lower than average, while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 18.4 °C, which is 0.7 °C warmer than average for this date. Water temperatures exceeding 18 °C may decrease the swimming capability of Fraser sockeye.

The escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past the enumeration fences on Forfar and Gluske creeks is nearly complete and now totals approximately 4,100 fish, which is approximately triple the brood year escapement to these creeks. Three sockeye have passed through the enumeration fence on Scotch Creek. Approximately 1,700 Gates Creek sockeye have entered the spawning channel. The first Chilko sockeye was observed at Henry's Bridge on August 9 and through August 13 a total of about 3,200 fish have been observed. A total of 32 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence.

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

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\\_2008.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_collections_2008.htm). In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye escapement data, and stock status reports will be available on this website.

United States fishing schedules during the season are available for Treaty Indian fisheries through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission at 1-800-562-6142. Non-Indian fishing schedules are available through the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hotline in Seattle at 1-888-858-9319. 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 August 19. Periodic 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.

## 2008 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 10 - Aug. 16, 2008

Date: Aug. 15, 2008

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>					
<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				1,000
D Areas 11-13	GN				3,500
H Areas 12-16	Troll				100
H Areas 18-29	Troll				300
B Area 20	PS				11,200
E Area 29	GN				0
Canadian Selective					0
FRA Economic Opportunity					0
BC Interior FN Demo					0
Canadian Total					16,100
<u>United States</u>					
<u>Alaska</u>					
	Net&Troll				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				32,100
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				4,900
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				8,700
Washington Total					45,700
U.S. Total					45,700
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
PSC Test					35,400
Other Test					3,700
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)					316,500
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					18,300
Recreational					17,500
Charter					1,000
U.S. TI Ceremonial					1,400
Non-comm. Total					393,800
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					455,600
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					1,060,500
Total Accounted-to-date					1,516,100

### Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	40,000	39,100	100	39,200	98%
ESum	Early Summer	290,400	390,500	16,500	407,000	140%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,111,600	347,400	30,600	805,400	72%
	L.Stu./Stel.		402,200	25,200		
Late	Birkenhead	69,700	24,800	2,900	27,700	40%
	Adams/L.Shuswap	188,400	8,900	200	115,200	61%
	Weav/L.Misc.		65,300	3,800		
	Sub 1s		34,200	2,800		