



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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**No. 8**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 31, 2007**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review reports from the Pacific Salmon Commission staff on the status of the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon runs. The marine migration of Fraser sockeye is declining rapidly. The total return of Fraser sockeye this season is presently estimated to be slightly less than 25% of the pre-season forecast of 6,247,000 fish (50% probability level) due to the extremely low return of four year old Fraser sockeye this season. The migration of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits has also declined considerably over the past week. Observations of pink salmon migrating past Hells Gate have been strong in recent days with the fish reported to be in good condition.

The run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye was decreased from 170,000 fish to 155,000 fish at the meeting today. The 50% migration timing of Early Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to have occurred on August 4, which is four days later than expected. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 30 is 134,000 fish.

At the Panel meeting on August 27, the run size estimate of Summer-run sockeye was decreased from 825,000 fish to 700,000 fish and at the meeting today the run size estimate was decreased to 650,000 fish. The 50% migration timing of Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to have occurred on August 6, which is two days earlier than expected. The late marine timing of Early Summer-run sockeye and apparent early marine timing of Summer-run sockeye this season has resulted in highly overlapped marine migrations this season. The juvenile-to-adult marine survival rate of four year old Chilko sockeye this season (1.2%) is estimated to be the lowest since at least 1949. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 30 is 562,000 fish.

Assessments indicate that some Late-run sockeye are currently delaying in the lower Strait of Georgia while most have migrated directly into the Fraser River. At the Panel meeting on August 27, the run size estimate for true Late-run sockeye was decreased from 800,000 fish to 670,000 fish and at the meeting today the run size estimate was decreased to 510,000 fish (330,000 Late Shuswap/Weaver and 180,000 Harrison sockeye). The 50% migration timing of Late Shuswap/Weaver sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to have occurred on August 14, which is two days earlier than expected and for Harrison sockeye their peak timing through Area 20 is projected to be August 5. The Panel also reduced the run size estimate for Birkenhead sockeye from 150,000 fish to 100,000 fish at the meeting today. The 50% migration timing of Birkenhead sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to have occurred on August 13, which is two days earlier than expected. The estimated escapement of true Late-run sockeye and Birkenhead sockeye past Mission through August 30 is 318,000 fish and 75,000 fish, respectively.

The diversion rate of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone Strait is presently estimated at approximately 39%. Recent DNA analyses of pink salmon sampled from the marine test and commercial fisheries indicate average contributions of approximately 78% Fraser, 10% Washington, and 12% Canada South Coast (non-Fraser) stocks. The estimated total catch of Fraser River pink salmon thus far totals

247,000 fish, comprised of 185,000 fish from United States commercial fisheries and 62,000 fish from non-commercial fisheries including First Nations, test and sport fisheries. Due to the substantial decrease in assessed marine-area abundance of Fraser River pink salmon over the past week, the Panel adopted a run size estimate of 10,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon (close to the 90% probability level forecast). The estimated escapement of pink salmon past Mission through August 30 totals 820,000 fish.

Environmental conditions in the Fraser River continue to be satisfactory for the migration of sockeye. On August 30, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 2,500 cms, and the water temperature at Qualark Creek was 16.8 °C. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to decrease to approximately 15 °C over the next week.

DFO's spawning ground enumeration programs are underway at several locations throughout the Fraser River watershed. Almost 2,300 sockeye have migrated into the Gates Creek Channel through August 29. Observers at the enumeration fence on Scotch Creek have counted approximately 7,000 sockeye past the fence through August 29. Operators at the Nadina River spawning channel report that approximately 100 sockeye had passed through the counting fence and were in the channel as of August 30. Recent visual surveys of several Thompson River stocks resulted in counts of almost 1,300 sockeye in the Eagle River and about 6,200 sockeye in Fennell Creek. Mark-recapture programs on Chilko, Horsefly, and Pitt River sockeye are underway as well as helicopter surveys of Bowron River sockeye. Cultus sockeye migrating through the enumeration fence on Sweltzer Creek now total 65 fish.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to fishing.

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

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets for pink salmon from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 1, 2007 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 5.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing for pink salmon from 5:00 a.m., Thursday, August 30, 2007 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, August 31, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m., Saturday, September 1, 2007 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 3, 2007 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.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 1, 2007 and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Sunday, September 2, 2007 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 1, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 2, 2007 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for reefnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 1, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 2, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 3, 2007 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island 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 PSC 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\\_2007.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_collections_2007.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 1-888-858-9319. 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 and pink salmon in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on September 3. 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 and pink salmon runs.

## 2007 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 26 - Sep. 1, 2007

Date: Aug. 31, 2007

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	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				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
Canadian Selective					0
FRA Economic Opportunity					0
BC Interior FN Demo					0
Canadian Total					0
<b>United States</b>					
<u>Alaska</u>		Net&Troll			0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				0
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				1,500
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				0
Washington Total					1,500
U.S. Total					1,500
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
PSC Test					20,300
Other Test					11,900
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)					122,700
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					42,900
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. Tl Ceremonial					400
Non-comm. Total					198,200
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					199,700
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					1,008,700
Total Accounted-to-date					1,208,400

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

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	26,800	12,600	0	12,600	47%
ESum	Early Summer	198,700	134,400	2,700	137,100	69%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	894,300	493,300	13,400	577,700	65%
	L.Stu./Stel.		68,700	2,300		
Late	Birkenhead	0	75,000	2,800	404,100	n/a
	Adams/L.Shuswap		98,500	3,200		
	Weav/L.Misc.		65,800	500		
	Sub 1s		154,200	4,100		
3 sub 1s			0		0	

## 2007 Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: Aug. 26 - Sep. 1, 2007

Date: Aug. 31, 2007

Area	Weekly		Fraser Pinks	
	Gear	Catch	%Fraser	Weekly Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>				
<b><u>Canada</u></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			0
D+E Areas 11-16	GN			0
H Areas 12-16	Troll			0
H Areas 18-29	Troll			0
B Area 20	PS			0
E Area 29	GN			0
Canadian Selective				0
Canadian Total				0
<b><u>United States</u></b>				
<u>Alaska</u>	Net			0
<u>Washington</u>				
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			0
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net			91,700
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net			93,000
Washington Total				0
U.S. Total				184,700
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>				
PSC Test				17,500
Other Test				13,300
Fraser River Aboriginal				9,000
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal				5,900
Canadian Recreational				17,000
Charter				0
U.S. Ceremonial				0
U.S. Recreational				0
Non-comm. Total				62,700
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>				
Catch Accounted-to-date				247,400
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Missi				820,300
Total Accounted-to-date				1,067,700