



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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NEWS RELEASE

September 7, 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. Low numbers of Fraser sockeye have migrated through the marine assessment areas over the past week. The migratory abundance of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone Strait is presently at moderate levels while the migration through Juan de Fuca Strait has been declining over the past week. Large numbers of pink salmon have been observed passing Hells Gate over the past several days en route to their spawning grounds upstream of the Fraser Canyon in the Bridge, Seton, and Thompson River areas.

The run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye of 155,000 fish was unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through September 6 is 139,000 fish. The run size estimate of 650,000 Summer-run sockeye was also unchanged today. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through September 6 is 572,000 fish.

The run size estimates for true Late-run sockeye of 510,000 fish (330,000 Late Shuswap/Weaver and 180,000 Harrison sockeye) and 100,000 Birkenhead sockeye were unchanged today. The estimated escapement of true Late-run sockeye and Birkenhead sockeye past Mission through September 6 is 351,000 fish and 86,000 fish, respectively.

Recent DNA analyses of pink salmon sampled from U.S. commercial fisheries near the San Juan Islands (U.S. Area 7) and from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicate that Fraser River pink salmon comprise almost 90% of the pink salmon in these areas. The estimated total catch of Fraser River pink salmon thus far totals 385,000 fish. The run size estimate of Fraser River pink salmon was maintained at 10,000,000 fish.

Environmental conditions in the Fraser River continue to be satisfactory for the migration of sockeye and pink salmon. DFO escapement enumeration programs of Fraser sockeye stocks are continuing at numerous sites throughout the Fraser River watershed. Approximately, 2,800 sockeye have migrated into the Gates Creek Channel through September 3. Observers at the enumeration fence on Scotch Creek have counted approximately 7,600 sockeye past the fence through September 3. Operators at the Nadina River spawning channel report that 211 sockeye had passed through the counting fence and were in the channel through September 3. Recent visual surveys of several Thompson River stocks resulted in live counts of 7,800 sockeye in the Raft River, 5,500 sockeye in the Seymour River and about 3,900 sockeye in Fennell Creek. Visual surveys have also recently begun on Late Stuart sockeye. Mark-recapture programs on

Chilko, Horsefly, Stellako and Pitt River sockeye are underway as well as helicopter surveys of Bowron River sockeye. The Birkenhead River enumeration fence was installed on August 30 and through September 2, approximately 960 sockeye had passed through it. The migration of Cultus sockeye past the enumeration fence on Sweltzer Creek through September 3 totals 95 fish.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11: Closes to Area H troll for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon at 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2007.

Area 20: Relinquish regulatory control effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday, September 8, 2007.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Areas 4B, 5, 6C: Relinquish regulatory control effective 12:01 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 8, 2007.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets for pink salmon from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 1, 2007 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 8, 2007.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extended for net fishing for pink salmon from 5:00 a.m., Saturday, September 1, 2007 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 10, 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) Friday, September 7, 2007, and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, September 10, 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.

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. Friday, September 7, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 10, 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.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for reefnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 7, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 8, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 9, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 10, 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.

(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. 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 10. 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: Sep. 2 - Sep. 8, 2007

Date: Sep. 7, 2007

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	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				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
United States					
<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					20,500
Other Test					12,900
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)					135,600
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					42,900
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. Tl Ceremonial					3,900
Non-comm. Total					215,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					215,800
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					1,053,900
Total Accounted-to-date					1,269,700

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	138,900	2,700	141,600	71%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	894,300	501,100	13,400	587,400	66%
	L.Stu./Stel.		70,600	2,300		
Late	Birkenhead	0	86,200	2,800	447,700	n/a
	Adams/L.Shuswap		110,400	3,200		
	Weav/L.Misc.		80,800	500		
	Sub 1s		159,700	4,100		
	3 sub 1s		0		0	

2007 Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: Sep. 2 - Sep. 8, 2007

Date: Sep. 7, 2007

Area	Weekly Gear	Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Pinks	
				Weekly	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+E Areas 11-16	GN				0
H Areas 12-16	Troll				1,100
H Areas 18-29	Troll				0
B Area 20	PS				0
E Area 29	GN				0
Canadian Selective					0
Canadian Total				0	1,100
<u>United States</u>					
<u>Alaska</u>	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				0
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				187,400
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				132,500
Washington Total				0	319,900
U.S. Total				0	319,900
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					19,000
Other Test					13,500
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					64,400
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					385,400
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Missi					1,803,900
Total Accounted-to-date					2,189,300