



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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No. 10

NEWS RELEASE

September 14, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met today to receive information on the status of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon runs this season. The marine migration of Fraser sockeye is at low levels of abundance and low catches of pink salmon in the Johnstone Strait purse seine test fishery over the past week indicates that the marine migration of Fraser pinks is also nearing completion.

At the meeting today, the run size estimates for Fraser River sockeye salmon were unchanged: 155,000 Early Summer-run, 650,000 Summer-run, 100,000 Birkenhead, and 510,000 true Late-run sockeye. However, stronger than projected migration of sockeye into the Fraser River over the past several days will result in slightly higher estimates of abundance for some Fraser sockeye runs. The Panel will review additional sockeye migration, catch and escapement data available next week to determine whether the current run size estimates applied for management warrant upward adjustment.

As a result of higher than expected catches of Fraser River pink salmon in U.S. fisheries over the past several days, at the meeting today, the Panel approved an increase in the in-season run size estimate for Fraser River pink salmon from 10,000,000 fish to 11,000,000 fish, which is considerably below the pre-season 50% probability level forecast of 19,570,000 fish. The 50% arrival timing of Fraser River pink salmon is estimated to be August 23, which is nine days earlier than forecast. This is the third consecutive return year of adult Fraser River pink salmon where their marine migration timing has been considerably earlier than average. Although the current run size estimate of Fraser River pink salmon is far below the pre-season forecast, given the relatively low catches (approximately 443,000 fish), the spawning escapement goal of 6,000,000 fish should be exceeded.

Environmental conditions are satisfactory for the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon en route to their spawning grounds. DFO's spawning ground enumeration programs are ongoing at several sites in the Fraser River watershed; updates can be viewed at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/escapeupdate.htm>.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remains closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

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 14, 2007, 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 15, 2007, 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 16, 2007, 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 17, 2007, 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 18, 2007, 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, 2007, and 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, September 20, 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.

This is the final in-season news release of the Fraser River Panel in 2007.

2007 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Sep. 9 - Sep. 15, 2007

Date: Sep. 14, 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					20,700
Other Test					13,100
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)					139,100
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					42,900
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. TI Ceremonial					3,900
Non-comm. Total					219,700
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					219,700
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					1,186,600
Total Accounted-to-date					1,406,300

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	144,800	2,700	147,500	74%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	894,300	517,100	13,400	604,500	68%
	L.Stu./Stel.		71,700	2,300		
Late	Birkenhead	0	110,500	2,800	561,000	n/a
	Adams/L.Shuswap		159,500	3,200		
	Weav/L.Misc.		105,400	500		
	Sub 1s		175,000	4,100		
3 sub 1s			0		0	

2007 Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: Sep. 9 - Sep. 15, 2007

Date: Sep. 14, 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				1,400
H Areas 18-29	Troll				0
B Area 20	PS				0
E Area 29	GN				0
Canadian Selective					0
Canadian Total				0	1,400
<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				216,600
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				159,600
Washington Total				0	376,200
U.S. Total				0	376,200
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					19,500
Other Test					13,600
Fraser River Aboriginal					9,100
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					5,900
Canadian Recreational					17,000
Charter					0
U.S. Ceremonial					0
U.S. Recreational					0
Non-comm. Total				0	65,100
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date				0	442,700
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Missi				0	4,380,300
Total Accounted-to-date				0	4,823,000