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**No. 3**

## **WEEKLY REPORT**

**July 26, 2019**

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon. The landslide at Big Bar continues to be a major source of concern for the Panel as migrating sockeye salmon will need to pass this area to reach their spawning grounds. Controlled blasting operations were successful in removing dangerous overhanging rock on the face of the rockslide and rock scaling crews will begin manipulating rocks to create a natural fish passage. Fish transport via helicopters started earlier this week. Fish monitoring using hydroacoustic stations below and above the rock slide location have resumed following improved river conditions. Downstream of the site, salmon are captured for radio tagging by seining and on-shore angling. The radio tags will monitor the migration success past the partial blockage. Tagged salmon are also being moved upstream using helicopter transport to monitor their upstream movement. For further information on the landslide please see the web link in Table 1 at the end of this report.

### **Run Status**

The migration of sockeye through both marine and Fraser River assessment areas has been low to date, as indicated by the low sockeye catches in all areas which have been lower than observed on previous cycle years. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 gillnet test fishery indicated Fraser sockeye contributions of approximately 74% Early Summer run, most of which was from the Nadina/Bowron stock group, and 26% Summer-run.

The estimated diversion rate of 47 % of sockeye salmon through Johnstone Strait is very similar to pre-season expectations for this time of year. Purse seine fisheries in Area 12 and 20 started July 25 and July 26, respectively; however, due to continued low catches observed in the marine gillnet fisheries the Panel delayed the start of the Area 13 purse seine fishery as well as the Area 4B,5 gillnet fishery until further notice.

### **Management Groups**

The Early Stuart migration through the marine approach areas is winding down. No changes were made to the Early Stuart run size which remains at 27,000 sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 8. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart run sockeye past Mission through July 25 is 25,900 fish.

Most components of the Early Summer-run group are represented in samples from marine test fisheries. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 25 is 25,300 fish. The Early Summer run group is tracking below the p25 forecast of 221,000 and the run is likely to be later and/or smaller than expected pre-season. At this time, it is still too early to make a formal in-season run size estimate. There are currently no sockeye directed fisheries being planned by either country.

**Environmental Update**

On July 25, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 4,200 cms, which is approximately 11% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 25 was 18.2°C, which is 0.5°C higher than average for this date. DFO’s Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase to 18.6°C and discharge to decrease to 3,985 cms over the next 10 days.

**Regulatory Announcements & Resources**

The Panel announced the following regulations for commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

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

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 30. Weekly reports in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission every Friday during the in-season management period to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run. Weekly reports and regulatory announcements can be obtained via <http://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information> or by subscribing to our eNews <http://tinyurl.com/PSCeNews>. Regulations and resources for fishing schedules, test fishing catch, DFO’s environmental watch program as well as information on the Big Bar landslide can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Regulations & Resources

<b>Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources</b>	<b>Phone Number/ Website Links</b>
United States fishing schedules (Treaty Indian)	1-800-562-6142
United States fishing schedules (Non-Indian)	1-800-662-9825
Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from the lower B.C. mainland)	604-666-2828
Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from outside the lower B.C. mainland)	1-866-431-3474
PSC Daily Test Fishing Catch (recorded message)	604-666-8200 <a href="http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm">http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm</a> .
DFO’s Environmental Watch program	<a href="http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html">http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html</a>
Big Bar Landslide Incident	<a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/incident-summaries/big-bar-landslide-incident">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/incident-summaries/big-bar-landslide-incident</a> .

Note: For species other than sockeye salmon consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

**Contacts**

Canada: Jennifer Nener, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Lorraine Loomis, Vice-chair, Fraser River Panel

2019 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Jul. 26, 2019

Week of: Jul. 21 - Jul. 27, 2019	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total Fraser	Total Fraser
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) <sup>1</sup>	25,900	25,100	3,400	0	54,400	0
Catch downstream of Mission	0	200	0	0	200	0
Accounted run-to-date	25,900	25,300	3,400	0	54,600	0
Run size adopted in-season <sup>2</sup>	27,000	na	na	na	na	0
Run size forecasted pre-season	41,000	465,000	3,930,000	359,000	4,795,000	5,018,600
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	8/Jul	na	na	na		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	5/Jul	30/Jul	10/Aug	18/Aug		28/Aug

<sup>1</sup> Mission passage includes 1700 Early Stuart run assumed to have migrated past Mission prior to the start of the Whonnock test fishery.

<sup>2</sup> Run sizes are usually not adopted until after the peak of the run has passed through marine test fishery areas in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone straits.