



600 – 1155 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 1B5
TELEPHONE: (604) 684-8081
FAX: (604) 666-8707

No. 10

WEEKLY REPORT

September 15, 2023

This is the final Weekly Report for Fraser River Panel (Panel) this season.

Assessment results

As of September 14, 1,578,500 Fraser River sockeye salmon have passed Mission, which is close to the preseason median forecast of 1,564,000. In addition, 7,510,800 pink salmon have been observed migrating past Mission to date. On September 12, the Panel decreased the pink salmon run size to 15 million. Further updates of pink salmon run size will be dependent on additional confirmation of abundances at Mission.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

As of September 14, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,291 cms and remains similar to the historical minimum. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark has been declining given the time of the year but remains high and similar to historical maxima at 17.1°C. Over the next 10 days temperatures are however expected to decrease to 15.9°C.

Escapement Update

At Scotch Creek, an aerial survey and ground survey were conducted on Sept 7 and 8, respectively, and sockeye were reported to be at the beginning of peak spawning. Recent visual surveys in the North/South Thompson system indicate most sockeye in the system are just past peak spawning. Sockeye in the Upper Pitt River are primarily spawning. A boat survey of the Nahatlatch River on September 6 indicated most sockeye were in peak spawning. As of September 12, an estimated 97,561 sockeye have migrated past the Nadina hydroacoustic site and sockeye are nearing peak spawning throughout the system. As of September 12, 21,331 sockeye have been loaded into the channel and there is increased prevalence of the Ich parasite. Sockeye in the Upper Bowron River are reported to be in peak spawning. A visual survey of Gates Creek was conducted September 9 and sockeye are nearing the end of peak spawning.

At the Chilko River and Quesnel River hydroacoustic sites 286,734 and 52,793 sockeye have migrated past the respective sites as of September 12. Visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 23 and observed sockeye in Horsefly River are looking healthy and are nearing or in peak spawning. At the Stellako River hydroacoustic site, an estimated 135,000 sockeye have migrated past the site as of September 12 and sockeye are primarily holding. Visual surveys in the Late Stuart system indicated the sockeye are holding. Sockeye observed in the Raft River during visual surveys of the North Thompson system are past peak spawning. A survey of the Bridge River on September 12 indicates sockeye are primarily spawning.

The Birkenhead hydroacoustic site has been operational as of August 16 and 45,854 sockeye have passed as of September 12. A visual survey in the Harrison-Lillooet area indicated sockeye in Big Silver Creek approaching peak spawning. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) has been fish tight since July 25 and night video recording started July 27. Two sockeye has been counted through the fence and four sockeye have been retained for broodstock as of September 12. The water temperature is 20.0°C.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources

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

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Areas 29-3, 29-4, and 29-6: Open for Area H troll ITQ fishery not earlier than 00:01 Saturday, September 2, 2023. Non-retention of sockeye. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

Areas 29-3, 29-4, 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10: Open for Area B seine ITQ fishery not earlier than 06:00 Sunday, September 3, 2023. Non-retention of sockeye. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

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 [Fraser Panel In-Season Information - Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](https://psc.org) or by subscribing to our eNews [Pacific Salmon Commission \(list-manage.com\)](https://list-manage.com). Resources and contacts for fishing schedules, regulations, test fishing catch and DFO's environmental watch program can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Regulations & Resources

Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources	Phone Number/ Website Links
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 Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org)
DFO's Environmental Watch program	Fraser River environmental watch Pacific Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

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

Contacts

Canada: Adam Keizer, Chair, Fraser River Panel

United States: Jason Gobin, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2023 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Sep. 15, 2023

Week of: Sep. 10 - Sep. 16, 2023	Sockeye					Total Fraser
	Management Group					
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	40,900	322,700	905,100	309,800		1,578,500
Catch downstream of Mission	200	3,900	10,800	4,000		18,900
Accounted run-to-date	41,100	326,600	915,900	313,800		1,597,400
Run size adopted in-season ¹	41,000	335,000	950,000	280,000		1,606,000
Run size forecasted pre-season	23,000	186,000	1,167,000	188,000		1,564,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	2/Jul	26/Jul	13/Aug	17/Aug		
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	7/Jul	6/Aug	17/Aug	24/Aug		

¹ 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.

2023 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Sep. 15, 2023

Week of: Sep. 10 - Sep. 16, 2023		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
Canada		16,229	16,228
	Commercial	0	0
	B Purse Seine	0	0
	D Gillnet	0	0
	E Gillnet	0	0
	F Troll	0	0
	G Troll	0	0
	H Troll	0	0
	First Nations	0	0
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
	Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo)	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
	Recreational	0	0
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
	Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)	687	687
	Other**	14,220	14,219
United States		2,371	2,370
	Commercial	0	0
	Treaty Tribes (TRB)	0	0
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0
	Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S)	2,211	2,211
	Other**	160	159
	All Citizen Recreational	0	0
	Alaska *	na	na
Panel-approved Test Fisheries		17,134	16,599
	Panel Waters	11,563	11,275
	Non-Panel Waters	5,571	5,324
Total		35,734	35,197

* Alaska catch is processed post-season and so is unavailable in-season.

** May include unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species