



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

**No. 2**

**WEEKLY REPORT**

**July 19, 2024**

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) of the Pacific Salmon Commission adopted the 2024 Fraser River Panel Management Plan for the 2024 Fraser River sockeye salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters. The Panel met today to review in-season assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon.

### **Test fishing and stock identification information**

All marine and in-river test fisheries planned for 2024 are now operational. The majority of sockeye en route to the Fraser River are currently migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait route rather than through Johnstone Strait with a 25% northern diversion rate. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of 59% Early Summer and 41% Summer run.

### **Assessment results**

The 2024 season is the second return year of sockeye affected by the Big Bar landslide. For stocks upstream of Big Bar, escapements in 2020 were some of the lowest on record with Early Stuart experiencing near total in-river mortality. Consequently, the forecast for Early Stuart sockeye of 180 fish, is the lowest forecast on record for this management group. The Early Stuart management group is supplemented by a highly uncertain forecast of Early Stuart hatchery fish, perhaps totaling 1,400 fish. With the extremely low return for this management group, collection of broodstock will be challenging, and the captive broodstock will be heavily relied upon.

Due to the low return for Early Stuart it will not be possible to derive an in-season run size estimate for this management group. In addition, current extremely warm water temperatures are expected to negatively impact Early Stuart migration success to the spawning grounds.

The estimated escapement plus catch of Early Summer-run sockeye through July 18 is 60,900. The Early Summer run is currently dominated by Chilliwack and Nadina which are earlier-timed stock components of this management group. Early Summer-run sockeye run-size estimates should be available in late July after their peak migration through marine areas.

For Summer run sockeye, a limited number of fish have been observed in the marine and in-river test fisheries. The estimated escapement plus catch of Summer-run sockeye through July 18 is 13,100.

### **Migration conditions in the Fraser River**

On July 18, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,470 cms, which is below historical mean discharge levels and approximately 33% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 18 was 20.1°C, which is 3.1°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will increase, while discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,049 cms over the next 10 days. Observers at Hells Gate continue to see sockeye salmon migrating into the fishways. Current

reports from Big Bar similarly indicate no concern with salmon passage. A total of 270 sockeye thus far has made it passed the Churn sonar site.

Given the current in-river temperatures, the Panel adopted the recommended pDBE for the Early Stuart management group. This results in an increase in the pMA to 1.94. This change has no implications for management but highlights the Panel’s concern for the extremely low run of Early Stuart sockeye and the extreme in-river environmental conditions.

**Escapement update**

Visual surveys for Early Stuart will begin on July 20. The upper Chilliwack River hydroacoustic site became operational on July 10 and a total of 126 sockeye have been estimated into the river through July 16. Water temperature in the upper Chilliwack River is 10°C.

**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 23. 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 and DFO’s environmental watch program 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 Tribes)	1-800-562-6142
United States fishing schedules (All Citizen)	1-800-662-9825
Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from the B.C. Lower Mainland)	604-666-2828
Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from outside the B.C. Lower Mainland)	1-866-431-3474
PSC Daily Test Fishing Catch (recorded message or website)	604-666-8200 <a href="#">Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org)</a>
DFO’s Environmental Watch program	<a href="http://www.pac.dfo-rfo/index-eng.html">http://www.pac.dfo-rfo/index-eng.html</a> <a href="http://mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw/">mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw/</a>

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

**Contacts**

United States: Mickey Agha, Chair, Fraser River Panel

Canada: Adam Keizer, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2024 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Jul. 19, 2024

Week of: Jul. 14 - Jul. 20, 2024	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) <sup>1</sup>	200	60,300	12,900	0	73,400
Catch downstream of Mission	0	600	200	0	800
Accounted run-to-date	200	60,900	13,100	0	74,200
<b>Run size adopted in-season <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
Run size forecasted pre-season	180	159,000	379,000	29,000	567,180
<b>Area 20 timing adopted in-season</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	7-Jul	19-Jul	30-Jul	7-Aug	

<sup>1</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.

2024 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Jul. 19, 2024

Week of: Jul. 14 - Jul. 20, 2024		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	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
<b>First Nations</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	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
<b>Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	0	0
<b>Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery)</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Other**</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>United States</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Commercial</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Treaty Tribes (TRB)	0	0
	All Citizen (AC)	0	0
<b>Treaty Tribes Ceremonial &amp; Subsistence (C&amp;S)</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other**</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>All Citizen Recreational</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Alaska *</b>		<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
<b>Panel-approved Test Fisheries</b>		<b>955</b>	<b>829</b>
<b>Panel Waters</b>		<b>629</b>	<b>616</b>
<b>Non-Panel Waters</b>		<b>326</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>972</b>	<b>846</b>

\* 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