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No. 3

## WEEKLY REPORT

July 26, 2024

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review in-season assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon.

### Test fishing and stock identification information

Marine test fishing catches have remained low throughout the past week and substantially below preseason expectations. 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 31% observed on the northern route. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of 26% Early Summer, 74% Summer run and 1% Late run.

### Assessment results

The estimated escapement plus catch of Early Summer-run sockeye through July 25 is 93,100. The Early Summer run is dominated by Chilliwack and Nadina, earlier timed stock components of this management group. Early Summer run abundances have been below preseason expectations. Additional information about the strength of the later-timed stock components of this management group is needed to confirm in-season run size estimates.

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 25 is 35,700. Thus far, Late Stuart, Stellako and Harrison, early-timed stock components, have dominated this management group.

Similarly for Late run, limited numbers of fish have been observed in the marine and in-river test fisheries. The estimated escapement plus catch of Late-run sockeye through July 25 is 300.

### Migration conditions in the Fraser River

On July 25, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,250 cms, which is 3.2% below the historical mean discharge level for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 25 was 20.1°C, which is 2.2°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease in the near term and discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,005 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 8,127 sockeye thus far has made it past the Churn Creek sonar site, upstream of Big Bar.

### Escapement update

Visual surveys for Early Stuart began July 20, but no sockeye have been observed in the system. The Upper Chilliwack River hydroacoustic site became operational on July 10 and a total of 214 sockeye have been estimated

into the river through July 23. Water temperature in the upper Chilliwack River is 9°C. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) will begin operations July 29.

**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 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="http://www.psc.org">Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org)</a>
DFO’s Environmental Watch program	<a href="http://www.pac.dfo-rpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html">http://www.pac.dfo-rpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html</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. 26, 2024

Week of: Jul. 21 - Jul. 27, 2024	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) <sup>1</sup>	200	92,200	34,800	300	127,500
Catch downstream of Mission	0	900	900	0	1,800
Accounted run-to-date	200	93,100	35,700	300	129,300
<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. 26, 2024

Week of: Jul. 21 - Jul. 27, 2024		Sockeye	
		Total	Fraser
<b>Canada</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>29</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>6</b>	<b>6</b>
	Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC)	6	6
	Marine	0	0
	Fraser R.	6	6
	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>23</b>	<b>23</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>2,119</b>	<b>1,954</b>
<b>Panel Waters</b>		<b>1,179</b>	<b>1,142</b>
<b>Non-Panel Waters</b>		<b>940</b>	<b>812</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,983</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