



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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NEWS RELEASE

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The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. The abundance of sockeye salmon migrating through Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait has been low over recent days. This is a fairly common pattern since there is often a decrease in the migratory abundance of Fraser River sockeye through marine assessment areas during the transition period between the peak of the Early Stuart sockeye migration and the build-up of the Early Summer-run and Summer-run sockeye migrations.

DNA analysis of sockeye samples recently collected in Area 20 indicates that Early Stuart and Early Summer-run sockeye comprise the majority of Fraser sockeye migrating through this assessment area. At the meeting today, a run size estimate of 90,000 Early Stuart sockeye was adopted by the Panel. The 50% marine migration timing of Early Stuart sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to be July 4, which is normal timing for these sockeye, but two days later than the pre-season forecast. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past Mission through July 15 is 76,000 fish.

The early-timed component of the Early Summer-run sockeye stock group (Fennell, Bowron, Raft, Gates, Nadina, Pitt, and several South Thompson stocks) are currently contributing approximately 20% of the sockeye migrating through Juan de Fuca Strait. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye run size should be available later in July after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through July 15 is 12,000 fish.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. On July 15 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 4,500 cms, which is approximately 19% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 15 was 16.5 °C, which is 0.6 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are projected to increase to approximately 17.5 °C by July 24. At the Panel meeting on July 13, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel approved a decrease in the management adjustment factor for Early Stuart sockeye from 0.40 to 0.17 and at the meeting today the Panel approved a further reduction to 0.12. Management adjustments are employed to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The Pacific Salmon Commission 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_2010.htm In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye and escapement data, and sockeye 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 1-800-662-9825. 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 salmon in the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 20. News releases in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon runs.