



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
MARCH 18, 1985

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**No. 10**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**September 10, 2010**

The Fraser River Panel met today to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, consider harvest opportunities, and discuss sockeye migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. The marine migration of Fraser sockeye through the marine assessment areas has declined rapidly over the past week and the sockeye purse seine test fisheries in Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait have ended for the season. The migration of sockeye past Mission has been steady over the past few days, while the migration of sockeye past Hells Gate has been variable but strong. The total run size estimate for Fraser River sockeye this season was increased from 34,046,000 to 34,546,000 fish at the Panel meeting on September 7, and it was unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated total commercial catch of Fraser sockeye to-date is 10,824,000 fish, while non-commercial catches (from test, First Nations FSC, Charter, and recreational fisheries) total 987,000 fish.

At the Panel meeting on September 7, the run size estimate of 3,700,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 3,800,000 fish and the run size estimate of 4,800,000 Summer-run sockeye was increased to 5,200,000 fish. At the meeting today, these run size estimates were unchanged. The estimated escapements of Early Summer-run and Summer-run sockeye past Mission through September 9 are 2,712,000 and 3,158,000 fish, respectively.

Present assessments suggest that approximately 14,500,000 Late-run sockeye are presently delaying in the lower Strait of Georgia. At the meeting today, the current run size estimates of 1,200,000 Harrison, 24,000,000 Late Shuswap/Weaver, and 241,000 Birkenhead stock-group sockeye were unchanged. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through September 9 is 3,966,000 fish.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are currently satisfactory and the management adjustments were unchanged at the meeting today. Management adjustments are employed to help achieve spawning escapement targets for Fraser River sockeye.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on September 9 reported that sockeye arriving on their spawning grounds continue to be in generally good condition. The escapement enumeration program on Scotch Creek has counted approximately 510,000 sockeye past the fence through September 8. The peak spawning period in most North and South Thompson streams has ended. The Gates Creek spawning channel had about 10,500 sockeye counted into it through September 6, while approximately 8,200 sockeye have passed upstream into spawning areas in the creek. Sockeye are in their peak spawning period in the Gates system. A mark-recapture program for sockeye is underway on the Seymour River and peak spawning is occurring. DIDSON hydro-acoustic units are enumerating the migration of Chilko and Horsefly sockeye. Sockeye are beginning to pair-up on the Horsefly spawning grounds and they are continuing to arrive at major tributaries and lake-shore spawning areas around Quesnel Lake. Due to the higher than expected abundance of Mitchell sockeye this season, a mark-recapture program has been implemented on the Mitchell River to estimate escapement. The Stellako River enumeration fence has counted approximately 81,000 sockeye past the fence through September 8. The Birkenhead River enumeration fence has counted approximately 11,500 sockeye past it through

September 8. A total of 850 Cultus Lake sockeye have passed the Sweltzer Creek enumeration fence through September 8 and an additional 228 fish have been retained for broodstock.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11 and Areas 29 – 1 to 6: As previously announced, open to Area H troll as of 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 8, 2010 and continues until further notice (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 29: Portions of Subareas 29-3, 4 and 6 (seaward of the 45 meter depth contour): As previously announced, open to Area B purse seine ITQ daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2010 and Friday September 10, 2010.

Area 29: Portions of Subareas 29-3, 4 and 6 (seaward of the 45 meter depth contour): Open to Area B purse seine ITQ daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Saturday, September 11, 2010 through Monday, September 13, 2010.

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

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 8, 2010 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, September 11, 2010.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Thursday, September 9, 2010 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 11, 2010.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 11, 2010 through 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., from Wednesday, September 8, 2010 through Friday, September 10, 2010.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., from Saturday, September 11, 2010 through Friday, September 17, 2010.

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

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](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.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, September 14. 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.

**2010 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review**

Week of: Sep. 5 - Sep. 11, 2010

Date: Sep. 10, 2010

		<b>Fraser Sockeye</b>				
<b>Area</b>	<b>Gear</b>		<b>Cumul.</b>			
<b>Commercial Catch</b>						
<b>Canada</b>						
A & C Areas 1-10	Net		0			
F Areas 1-10	Troll		0			
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll		0			
B Areas 11-16	PS		4,359,050			
D Areas 11-13	GN		1,017,990			
H Areas 12-16	Troll		267,360			
H Areas 18-29	Troll		50,010			
B Area 20	PS		127,910			
B Area 29	PS		334,500			
E Area 29	GN		2,133,600			
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo			683,780			
Canadian Total			8,974,200			
<b>United States</b>						
<u>Alaska</u>	Net&Troll		0			
<u>Washington</u>						
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net		135,300			
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net		980,210			
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net		734,270			
Washington Total			1,849,780			
U.S. Total			1,849,780			
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>						
PSC Panel Area Test			50,780			
PSC non-Panel Area Test			17,810			
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)			472,610			
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal			275,320			
Recreational			155,080			
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)			5,492			
U.S. TI Ceremonial			10,100			
Non-comm. Total			987,190			
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>						
Catch Accounted-to-date			11,811,170			
Potential Spawning Escapement (Mission esc. less FN, sport & Qualark TF catch above Mission)			9,180,080			
Total Accounted-to-date			20,991,250			
<b>Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)</b>						
Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Gross Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	105,000	101,100	200	101,300	96%
ESum	Early Summer	2,189,800	2,712,400	117,100	2,829,500	129%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	2,795,900	2,853,800	162,000	3,335,300	119%
	L.Stu./Stel.		304,200	15,300		
Late	Birkenhead	14,061,740	64,900	3,400	4,197,800	30%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		3,186,100	195,900		
	Weav/L.Misc.		51,200	3,400		
	Harrison		663,700	29,200		