



## PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

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

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

Our File:

Your File:

No. 6

NEWS RELEASE

August 10, 2012

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon, plan fisheries and discuss sockeye migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Marine test fisheries indicate declining migration of Fraser sockeye over recent days. DNA analyses indicate that the stock composition of Fraser River sockeye in the marine approach routes is currently approximately 5% Early Summer-run, 80% Summer-run, and 15% Late-run sockeye. The diversion rate of Fraser River sockeye through Johnstone Strait has been increasing recently and is presently estimated at 37%. Estimates of sockeye passage in the Fraser River past the Mission hydroacoustic site have been strong over the last several days. The observer at Hells Gate has reported a large migration of sockeye over the past few days. The estimated total Fraser sockeye catches to-date are provided in the attached table.

Early Summer-run sockeye continue to display a broad, multi-peak marine migration profile, which has resulted in numerous run size increases this season. At the Panel meeting on August 6 the Panel increased the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye from 510,000 fish to 530,000 fish. At the Panel meeting on August 7, the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 550,000 fish and at the meeting today the run size estimate was unchanged. The estimated 50% marine timing of Early Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be July 16, which is the timing that was expected during pre-season planning. The estimated escapement of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 9 is 477,000 fish.

At the meeting on August 7, the Panel agreed that Summer-run sockeye run size estimates were consistent with the pre-season forecast of 1,585,000 fish. At the meeting today the Summer-run sockeye run size estimate was unchanged. The estimated 50% marine timing of Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be August 5, which is four days later than expected. DNA analyses indicate that Chilko sockeye are continuing to contribute a large portion of the Summer-run sockeye abundance migrating through marine assessment areas. The estimated escapement of Summer-run sockeye past Mission through August 9 is 613,000 fish.

At the meeting today, the Panel approved a run size estimate of 200,000 Late-run sockeye. A large portion of the Late-run sockeye return this season is expected to be comprised of five year old Birkenhead and Weaver sockeye and assessments conducted to-date are consistent with this expectation. The estimated escapement of Late-run sockeye past Mission through August 9 is 101,000 fish.

On August 9 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 4,700 cms, which is approximately 18% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 8 was 19.4 °C, which is 1.5 °C higher than average for this date. The Panel manages fisheries to provide additional Fraser sockeye above the spawning escapement targets through application of management adjustments. The management adjustments help ensure that the escapement targets are met, which off-sets en route mortality and other factors that could affect meeting spawning escapement targets. At the

Panel meeting on August 6, after reviewing environmental and stock assessment information, the Panel approved a decrease in the management adjustment factor for Early Summer-run sockeye from 0.58 to 0.54. At the Panel meeting on August 7 it was reduced to 0.49 and at the meeting today it was unchanged.

The DFO spawning escapement update for Fraser sockeye on August 9 reported that visual surveys on Early Stuart sockeye stocks began on July 26 and the first Early Stuart sockeye were observed in terminal areas on July 30. Early Stuart sockeye in terminal areas are reported to be in good condition and nearing their peak spawning period. The Scotch Creek enumeration fence was operational on August 8 and no sockeye have passed through the fence to-date. A DIDSON hydro-acoustic unit for enumerating Chilko sockeye escapements was operational on August 5 and the first sockeye-sized targets were observed on the same day. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek was operational on July 30 and three sockeye has passed through the fence to-date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to fishing.

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

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Please note change to previously announced Treaty Indian fishery below:

**Areas 4B, 5 and 6C:** The previously announced fishery to extend drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 8, 2012 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 11, 2012 has been modified. This fishery will now close at 6:00 p.m., Friday, August 10, 2012.

**ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:**

**Areas 7 and 7A:** As previously announced: open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, August 11, 2012.

(Note: U. S. All Citizen 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](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_collections). In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye catch and escapement data and sockeye and 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, August 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.

## 2012 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 5 - Aug. 11, 2012

Date: Aug. 10, 2012

Area	Gear	Catch				
<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 0				
D	Areas 11-13	GN 0				
H	Areas 12-16	Troll 0				
H	Areas 18-29	Troll 0				
B	Area 20	PS 0				
B	Area 29	PS 0				
E	Area 29	GN 0				
FRA Econ. Opp. + BCI FN Demo		0				
Canadian Total		0				
<b>United States</b>						
Alaska		Net&Troll 0				
Washington						
	TI Areas 4B/5/6C	Net 13,640				
	TI Areas 6/7/7A	Net 55,280				
	AC Areas 7/7A	Net 27,920				
Washington Total		96,840				
U.S. Total		96,840				
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>						
PSC Panel Area Test		18,840				
PSC non-Panel Area Test		5,470				
Fraser River Aboriginal (FSC)		146,900				
Marine Aboriginal		19,370				
Recreational		0				
Charter (Albion & Qualark TF)		990				
U.S. TI Ceremonial		2,080				
ESSR		0				
Non-comm. Total		193,650				
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>						
	<b>E.Stuart</b>	<b>E.Summer</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Late</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Catch Accounted-to-date	9,150	57,750	202,610	20,980	290,490	
Potential Spawning Escapement to date*	175,670	448,610	545,000	99,870	1,269,150	
Total Accounted-to-date	184,820	506,360	747,610	120,850	1,559,640	
<b>Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)</b>						
<b>Run</b>	<b>Stock/Group</b>	<b>Adjusted Target **</b>	<b>Mission Esc.</b>	<b>FN Below Mission</b>	<b>Gross Esc.</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
<b>Early Stuart</b>		<b>180,000</b>	<b>182,500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>183,100</b>	<b>102%</b>
<b>Early Summer</b>		<b>465,700</b>	<b>476,500</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>486,800</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>Summer</b>		<b>1,265,500</b>	<b>613,200</b>	<b>29,200</b>	<b>642,400</b>	<b>51%</b>
	Quesnel/Chilko/N.Thompson		229,200	11,800		
	L.Stu./Stel.		277,700	13,700		
	Harrison		106,300	3,700		
<b>Late</b>		<b>200,000</b>	<b>101,300</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>104,600</b>	<b>52%</b>
	Birkenhead		70,100	2,500		
	Adams/L.Shuswap		600	0		
	Weav/L.Misc.		30,600	800		