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No. 8

WEEKLY REPORT

August 30, 2024

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met today to review in-season assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon. This is the final Weekly Report for the Panel this season.

On July 31, a significant landslide event occurred in the lower Chilcotin River, approximately 28 km upstream from the confluence with the Fraser River. Recent updates on the slide can be found here: [Communications - T̓silhqot'in National Government \(tsilhqotin.ca\)](https://www.tsilhqot'in National Government (tsilhqotin.ca)).

Assessment results

As of August 29, a total of 456,800 Fraser River sockeye have passed Mission, consisting of 140,500 Early Summer run, 291,400 Summer run and 24,700 Late run. The Mission hydroacoustic program will terminate after September 2 and the Whonnock test fishery is expected to continue until September 10. The current in-season run size estimate for total Fraser River sockeye based on adopted run size estimates is 456,000, which is the second lowest run size on record. This run size exceeds the 2020 brood year (396,000) which is the lowest on record since 1893. Further minor changes to total sockeye run size estimates may occur later in the season following the completion of the salmon's migration into the Fraser River.

There have been no sockeye directed fisheries this season with the exception of a small limited participation Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) fishery in Fraser Lake, 112 sockeye. However, there has been approximately 10,300 sockeye caught and kept in "other" catch. Other catch is associated with unauthorized, directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

Migration conditions in the Fraser River continue to be worse than average as a consequence of the Chilcotin River slide and above average temperatures. Within the Chilcotin River, there is evidence of sockeye successfully migrating past the slide. Sonar counts at Hanceville saw 113 sockeye pass between August 24-29. Downstream of the slide, small groups of fish have been observed holding and it is anticipated that the numbers of salmon successfully migrating past the slide will start to increase. While it is clear at this point that the landslide has had an impact on the time it takes for the Chilko sockeye to reach the spawning grounds, it remains unclear to what extent this delay will decrease survival. In 2019, peak migration past the Chilko hydroacoustic site was 2 weeks later than normal due to the Big Bar rockslide and the mortality associated with the migration conditions was about 15%. Sediment levels in the Chilcotin River are variable but trending to lower concentrations. Smaller slides continue to add sediment to river; sediment levels have not yet returned to pre-slide concentrations. Observers at Hells Gate continue to report active fish passage.

On August 29, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 1,941 cms, which is 23% below the historical mean discharge level for this date while the temperature was 18.4°C, which is 1.0°C higher than average and

is expected to increase to 19.5°C by September 4.

Escapement update

Surveys for Early Stuart concluded August 24 and sockeye are assumed to be past peak die-off. At Scotch Creek, 202 sockeye have passed the counting fence to date which has been operational since August 16. Visual surveys of the North/South Thompson system began on August 21. Sockeye in the Upper Barriere River are in the early stages of spawning whereas they are primarily holding in the Seymour River. The Upper Chilliwack River hydroacoustic site has been operational since July 10 and a total of 24,549 sockeye have been estimated into the river as of August 27 and most sockeye are nearing the end of peak spawning. August 8 was the first visual survey on the Nahatlatch River and sockeye are primarily holding. The second visual survey of Gates Creek was conducted on August 24 and sockeye are primarily holding and appear to be vigorous and healthy. The Nadina River hydroacoustic site has been operational since July 26 and as of August 27, 91,802 sockeye have been estimated. Sockeye are holding and some pre-spawn mortality is being observed which is not unexpected based on previous years. The Stellako River hydroacoustic site has been operational since July 25, and 102,722 sockeye have been estimated as of August 26. Most of the sockeye salmon estimated at the Stellako site in August are assumed to be Nadina River sockeye. The Chilko River hydroacoustic site has been operational since July 31 and as of August 27, 530 sockeye have been estimated. Visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 22 and sockeye in the Horsefly River are holding. A visual survey in the North Thompson on August 27 indicates that sockeye in the Raft River are holding. The Birkenhead hydroacoustic site was operational on August 20 and an estimated 670 sockeye have been counted as of August 27. Visual surveys in the Harrison-Lillooet area started August 22 and no sockeye were observed at Sampson Creek or the Green River. No surveys were conducted at Big Silver Creek due to high water. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) has been operational since July 29 and four sockeye have been counted through the fence.

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:

TREATY TRIBAL and ALL CITIZEN FISHERIES:
Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Relinquish regulatory control effective
11:59 p.m., Monday, September 2, 2024.

TREATY TRIBAL and ALL CITIZEN FISHERIES:
Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59
p.m., Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

This is the last in-season meeting of the Panel. Weekly reports in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission every Friday during the in-season management period to report on 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: [eNews Registration - Pacific Salmon Commission \(psc.org\)](#). 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

| Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources | Phone Number/ Website Links |
|--|---|
| 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 Test Fishing Results - Pacific Salmon Commission (psc.org) |
| DFO’s Environmental Watch program | http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html |

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: Aug. 30, 2024

| Week of: Aug. 25 - Aug. 31, 2024 | Sockeye | | | | Total Fraser |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | Management Group | | | | |
| | E.Stuart | E.Summer | Summer | Late | |
| Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹ | 200 | 140,500 | 291,400 | 24,700 | 456,800 |
| Catch downstream of Mission | 0 | 1,400 | 3,500 | 200 | 5,100 |
| Accounted run-to-date | 200 | 141,900 | 294,900 | 24,900 | 461,900 |
| Run size adopted in-season ¹ | na | 143,000 | 275,000 | 38,000 | 456,000 |
| Run size forecasted pre-season | 180 | 159,000 | 379,000 | 29,000 | 567,180 |
| Area 20 timing adopted in-season | na | 14-Jul | 1-Aug | 15-Aug | |
| Area 20 timing expected pre-season | 7-Jul | 19-Jul | 30-Jul | 7-Aug | |

¹ 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: Aug. 30, 2024

| Week of: Aug. 25 - Aug. 31, 2024 | | Sockeye | |
|---|--|---------------|---------------|
| | | Total | Fraser |
| Canada | | 10,642 | 10,624 |
| Commercial | | 0 | 0 |
| | 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 |
| First Nations | | 112 | 112 |
| | Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC) | 112 | 112 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 112 | 112 |
| | Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo) | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 |
| Recreational | | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 |
| Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery) | | 220 | 220 |
| Other** | | 10,310 | 10,292 |
| United States | | 0 | 0 |
| Commercial | | 0 | 0 |
| | Treaty Tribes (TRB) | 0 | 0 |
| | All Citizen (AC) | 0 | 0 |
| Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S) | | 0 | 0 |
| Other** | | 0 | 0 |
| All Citizen Recreational | | 0 | 0 |
| Alaska * | | na | na |
| Panel-approved Test Fisheries | | 5,904 | 5,696 |
| Panel Waters | | 3,446 | 3,395 |
| Non-Panel Waters | | 2,458 | 2,301 |
| Total | | 16,546 | 16,320 |

* 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