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No. 11

WEEKLY REPORT

September 23, 2022

The Fraser River Panel (Panel) met for the last in-season meeting earlier this week to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon.

Assessment results

Estimated abundances at the Mission hydroacoustic site have continued to remain relatively low but steady over the last week. The majority of sockeye passage through lower river assessment areas has consisted of Late run sockeye that initially delayed in the Strait of Georgia and have now been gradually moving into the river.

The estimated escapement plus catch of Early Summer-run, Summer-run and Late-run sockeye through September 22 were 606,300, 3,803,200 and 1,782,600 fish, respectively. The most recent Gulf troll survey executed from September 17 to 19 indicated there was still some amount of Late run sockeye delaying in the Gulf. The Panel did not adopt any further changes to the Late-run run size due to uncertainty in the data. It is anticipated that Late run sockeye will continue to move into the Fraser River during the upcoming week. The final catch plus escapement of Late-run sockeye will determine its final run size.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River

On September 22, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,830 cms, which is slightly below average for this date, while the Fraser River water temperature at Qualark decreased to 14.8°C, which is still 0.6°C above average for this time of year. Natural salmon passage through Big Bar continues but daily sockeye numbers have remained low over the last week indicating that sockeye migration past Big Bar is nearing completion. It is estimated that 2,769,304 sockeye have passed Big Bar to date.

Escapement Update

The counting fence at Scotch Creek has seen 64,024 sockeye pass through the fence and the fence was removed on September 18. As of September 16, the Eagle River hydroacoustic site estimated 63,693 sockeye, and sockeye are past peak die off. As of September 15, 30,707 sockeye were estimated past the hydroacoustic site on the Seymour River and sockeye are past peak spawning. In the North/South Thompson system, cyclic visual surveys began on August 17 and sockeye are past peak die off. In the Lower Fraser, cyclic visual surveys in the Upper Pitt River and Upper Chilliwack River are complete as sockeye are past peak die off. An aerial survey for the Nahatlatch River was cancelled due to poor weather and wildfire smoke. The Nadina River spawning channel has been operational as of August 27 and as of September 21, 36,391 sockeye have been loaded into the channel. The Nadina River hydroacoustic site has been operational since July 28 and as of September 20, 283,527 sockeye have migrated past the site. To date, 8,446 carcasses have been recovered, and the proportion of pre-spawn mortality among female carcasses recovered is slowly declining. A visual survey of Gates Creek was conducted and sockeye are past peak spawning.

The Chilko River hydroacoustic site has been operational since August 4 and as of September 20, an estimated 617,655 sockeye have migrated past the site. Sockeye in the river are in the early stages of spawning and sockeye in the northern portion of the Lake are past peak spawning. The Quesnel River hydroacoustic site has been operational since August 5 and as of September 20, 788,930 sockeye have migrated past the site. Visual surveys

in the Quesnel system indicate sockeye are approaching peak spawning in most areas. The Stellako hydroacoustic site, which has been operational since July 30, has estimated 416,895 sockeye past the site. Sockeye in the Stellako River are primarily holding. Cyclic visual surveys in the Late Stuart system indicate sockeye are approaching peak spawning in Tachie and Middle Rivers and in peak spawning in Kuzkwa River and Pinchi Creek. Cyclic visual surveys of Summer run in the North Thompson began August 16 and the second ground survey of the North Thompson River was hampered by poor water clarity. Sockeye in the Raft River are in peak die-off, while sockeye in the Bridge River are in peak spawning.

The Birkenhead River hydroacoustic site has been in operation since August 18 and 118,751 sockeye have been estimated as of September 20. Sockeye are entering peak spawning. Cyclic visual surveys of the Late run population in Harrison-Lillooet began on August 22. Sockeye in Sampson and Big Silver Creeks and Green River are past peak spawning. The Late run sockeye population has stated migration into the Eagle River and a total of 2,327 sockeye have been estimated between September 17-20. The Shuswap River hydroacoustic site started on September 14 and as of September 20, 5,757 sockeye have passed. The Adams River Late run population will be assessed using mark-recapture methods and 7 live sockeye have been encountered during the first survey on September 21. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) was fish tight as of July 25 and as of September 21, 40 sockeye have been manually counted or passively recorded on video through the fence. A total of 58 sockeye have been retained for broodstock to date.

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.

This is the final Weekly Report for the 2022 season. 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

| Fishing Schedule Contacts/Resources | Phone Number/ Website Links |
|--|------------------------------------|
| United States fishing schedules (Treaty Tribal) | 1-800-562-6142 |
| United States fishing schedules (All Citizen) | 1-800-662-9825 |
| Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from the lower B.C. mainland) | 604-666-2828 |
| Canadian commercial fishing regulations (from outside the lower B.C. mainland) | 1-866-431-3474 |

| | |
|--|---|
| PSC Daily Test Fishing Catch (recorded message) | 604-666-8200 https://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/test-fishing-results/ |
| DFO's Environmental Watch program | http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html |
| Province of B.C.: Big Bar Landslide Incident | https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/fish/fish-passage/big-bar-landslide-incident?keyword=big&keyword=bar&keyword=landslide |
| DFO: Salmon counts at the Big Bar landslide site | https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/big-bar-landslide-eboulement/smon-count-denombrement-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: Mark Baltzell, Chair, Fraser River Panel

Canada: Les Jantz, Vice-Chair, Fraser River Panel

2022 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Sep. 23, 2022

| Week of: Sep. 18 - Sep. 24, 2022 | Sockeye | | | | | Total Fraser |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
| | Management Group | | | | | |
| | E.Stuart | E.Summer | Summer | Late | | |
| Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹ | 243,300 | 565,200 | 3,261,200 | 1,261,600 | | 5,331,300 |
| Catch downstream of Mission | 1,200 | 41,100 | 542,000 | 521,000 | | 1,105,300 |
| Accounted run-to-date | 244,500 | 606,300 | 3,803,200 | 1,782,600 | | 6,436,600 |
| Run size adopted in-season ¹ | 244,000 | 607,000 | 3,800,000 | 2,050,000 | | 6,701,000 |
| Run size forecasted pre-season | 105,000 | 1,579,000 | 4,403,000 | 3,688,000 | | 9,775,000 |
| Area 20 timing adopted in-season | 6-Jul | 30-Jul | 15-Aug | 17-Aug | | |
| Area 20 timing expected pre-season | 4-Jul | 6-Aug | 10-Aug | 18-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.

2022 Catch-to-date by fishery

Date: Sep. 23, 2022

| Week of: Sep. 18 - Sep. 24, 2022 | | Sockeye | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| | | Total | Fraser |
| Canada | | 1,082,519 | 1,080,604 |
| | Commercial | 228,196 | 228,137 |
| | B Purse Seine | 213,162 | 213,103 |
| | D Gillnet | 721 | 721 |
| | E Gillnet | 0 | 0 |
| | F Troll | 0 | 0 |
| | G Troll | 0 | 0 |
| | H Troll | 14,313 | 14,313 |
| | First Nations | 838,793 | 836,938 |
| | Food, Social & Ceremonial (FSC) | 827,316 | 825,464 |
| | Marine | 327,930 | 326,103 |
| | Fraser R. | 499,386 | 499,361 |
| | Economic Opportunity (EO) & Demonstration (Demo) | 11,477 | 11,474 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 11,477 | 11,474 |
| | Recreational | 0 | 0 |
| | Marine | 0 | 0 |
| | Fraser R. | 0 | 0 |
| | Charter (Albion gillnet test fishery) | 986 | 986 |
| | Other** | 14,544 | 14,543 |
| United States | | 318,709 | 318,585 |
| | Commercial | 307,530 | 307,545 |
| | Treaty Tribes (TRB) | 232,054 | 232,098 |
| | All Citizen (AC) | 75,476 | 75,446 |
| | Treaty Tribes Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S) | 11,179 | 11,041 |
| | Other** | 0 | 0 |
| | All Citizen Recreational | 0 | 0 |
| | Alaska * | na | na |
| Panel-approved Test Fisheries | | 40,685 | 40,237 |
| | Panel Waters | 27,813 | 27,574 |
| | Non-Panel Waters | 12,872 | 12,663 |
| Total | | 1,441,913 | 1,439,426 |

* 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