

Fraser River Sockeye In-season Update – Tuesday, July 28, 2020

The below is a summary. If more specific details are required please refer to the attached Fraser Panel distribution for the call. If you have any questions or notice any errors in the summary please contact me jamie.scroggie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca so I can make adjustments.

Total In-season Catch and Escapement Accounted To-date

2020 Run status of Fraser sockeye salmon

Date: Jul. 28, 2020

Week of: Jul. 26 - Aug. 1, 2020	Sockeye					Total Fraser
	Management Group					
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late		
Mission passage (incls Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	13,600	45,000	20,400	200		79,200
Catch downstream of Mission	100	1,000	1,400	0		2,500
Accounted Run To Date	13,700	46,000	21,800	200		81,700
Run size adopted in-season ¹	na	na	na	na		na
Run size forecasted pre-season	13,000	218,000	611,000	99,000		941,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	na	na	na	na		na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	4/Jul	24/Jul	31/Jul	6/Aug		30/Jul
Johnstone Str. Diversion Rate					In-season 5-day average	35%
					Preseason forecast of annual rate:	35%

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.

- Total accounted to date is 79.2k Fraser sockeye of which 13.7k are Early Stuart, 46.0k, Early Summer, 21.8k are Summer run and .2k are Late run
- Mission escapement is decreasing. Test fishery catches indicate escapements will continue to be low.

In-season Data Flow

a) Acoustics

- **Qualark:** Daily passage estimates have been variable, 4.2k yesterday.
- **Mission:** Daily passage estimates at Mission have been steady in the 4-5k range, 3k yesterday. Daily passage is tracking the 2016 brood year passage estimates to-date.

b) Test fishing catch

- The experimental Alaska Twist test fishery added to the report.
- Water levels are dropping at Glen Bar and fish are being observed in other areas.
- Whonnock CPUE tracking 2016 observations but other test fisheries are lower
- Test fishery expansion lines seem appropriate.
- **Marine Area:** Catches have remained low in both approach areas.
- **Fraser River:** Catches have remained low with a light pick up in the Whonnock yesterday.

c) Stock Proportions

- **Fraser River:** Gn, low sample sizes, mostly Early Summer and Summer sockeye with some Early Stuart sockeye.
- **Marine Area:** A12 and A20 Gn and PSn A20, mostly Early Summer and Summer sockeye.
- Stock composition is transitioning away from early timed stocks to later timed stocks.

d) Environmental Conditions and Management Adjustments

- The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on Jul 27 was 16.4°C, which is 1.5°C below average for this date.
- The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 7214m³/s, which is approximately 58% above average for this date.

e) Big Bar Rock Slide Update Jul 15

- Discharge is trending downward but still high and impeding salmon passage.
- 15 sockeye have been captured in the fishwheel and 11 have been passed through the Whooshh system. There are plans to tag 20 sockeye that are moved through the Whooshh to assess possible fallback.
- Fish condition is mixed but appears better than last years observations at this time.
- Sockeye tagging has begun in the Lillooet area with 10 tags applied to fish that were caught by beach seine in that area. The plan is to tag 50 a week.
- Marine area tagging in Johnstone Strait scheduled to begin this week. The plan is to put 200 tags on.

f) Observations Throughout the Watershed

- Received data from the Qualark test fishery. Approximately 50 sockeye were inspected for bio-health condition. Overall sockeye were in good condition.

Reports From Other Areas

- None

Assessments and Recommendations

a) Escapement Projections and Run Size Assessment

- Projecting 51.0k sockeye to pass Mission over the next 6 days.
- Daily migration is increasing but not to levels expected this time of year.
- The return is now tracking below the p25 but it is too early to confirm later timing or weakness
- ***The PSC recommended and the FRP adopted an Early Stuart run size of 14k with July 7 A20 timing.*** This return is just above the p50 forecast (13k) and 3 days later than expected.

- Given the variable timing of stocks within the Early Summer run it is difficult to estimate the return at this time. The Chilliwack is the only group that is mostly complete and is well below p50 expectations.
- Given the Early Summer return to date and assuming the latest timing observed on this cycle (July 30) it appears that the return would be less than the p50 forecast (~152k) .
- There is no TAC expected at the p50 forecast return.

Current Fraser River Panel Adopted Values and Potential Harvest (Adopted Changes in Bold)

Management Group	In-season Run Size/ Forecast p50	Timing A20 50%date	Proportional Mngt. Adjust. ^a	Available Harvest ^b	Allowable Harvest ^c
Early Stuart	14,000	Jul 7	.69	0	1,400
Early Summer	218,000	Jul 24	.52	0	21,800
Summer	611,000	Jul 31	.16	0	61,100
Late	99,000	Aug 6	.41	0	9,900

^a Proportional Management Adjustment is multiplied by the escapement target to calculate the numerical management adjustment.

^b Available harvest after deductions. Harvest includes all catch from available TAC in all fisheries in Canada the United States. TAC will be assessed in-season.

^c Allowable harvest in an LAER scenario. Allowable harvest in a no TAC scenario is not a target and would be considered a maximum and includes catch in all fisheries in Canada and the United States and may include fishery induced mortalities. Most harvest in a LAER scenario is incidental harvest in fisheries directed at more abundant stocks or species.

b) Criteria for Fishing Decisions

- None

c) Fishery Recommendations

US Recommendations for Panel Waters:

- None

CA Recommendations for Panel Waters:

- None

d) Fishery Evaluation

- None

Other Business

- The Fraser Panel agreed to close the Gn test fisheries on Jul 28th in A12 and Jul 30th in A20 as discussed as an option at the last meeting. PSn test fishery end dates will be discussed in the near future.

Next Meeting

- Next Panel meeting Friday July 31