



WATERSHED TALK

NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser Salmon Management Council

AUGUST 26, 2022

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

2022 WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER UPDATE

By: Greg Witzky, FSMC Interim Executive Director

Today's issue of the WST contains the Fraser River Panel summary data below which includes important information to assist readers with better understanding the current fisheries management decisions made by the Fraser River Panel.

Fraser Panel Update August 26, 2022:

- Total Fraser sockeye accounted to date is 3.8 million and estimated 5.9 million.
- Total catch for Fraser sockeye fisheries is 908,838. In Canada nearly all catch comes from FSC fisheries with a total catch in Canada of 559,925. In US fisheries there is a split between Treaty Tribes Ceremonial and Subsistence (11,041), Treaty Tribal (231,724) and All Citizens (74,485) for a total of 317,250. Fraser panel test fisheries have caught 31,663 Fraser sockeye.
- Gulf troll test fishery is operational, with some preliminary information available today. The gulf troll test fishery is used to estimate late run abundance holding at the mouth of the Fraser.
- River temperature has increased to above 20c, some sign of heat stress in sockeye is being reported in the watershed. There is some potential for changes to the Management Adjustment (MA) to account for in-river mortality due to river conditions over the next couple weeks. The Panel didn't discuss changes to MAs today.
- The peak of Summer run sockeye has been observed, and in-season abundance estimates are getting more accurate. Currently, Summer run sockeye are coming in slightly below the p50 forecast of 4.4 million. Current Summer run size estimates are tracking close to last weeks adopted run size of 3.5 million.
- Current best estimate produced by the gulf troll test fishery for late run sockeye is 2.1 million. There is substantial uncertainty in the verification of this abundance, and PSC staff are working diligently to produce another set of gulf troll estimates next week. For now the PSC staff recommended 1.6 million Late run sockeye, until there is more confirmation of this abundance through the gulf troll test fishery program.
- Fraser Panel is proposing extension of the Area 20 purse seine test fishery, with the final decision next week.
- The Fraser Panel adopted an in-season run size of 1.6 million Late run sockeye.
- Last week the US proposed a suite of Treaty Tribal and All Citizens commercial fisheries based on preliminary Late run sockeye run size estimates. Canada unanimously disagreed and did not approve the proposed fisheries. Due to the Fraser Panel process, the US fisheries were approved. The catch in these

fisheries was much higher than expected and the US is unlikely to be implementing any more large fisheries this season unless a major abundance of Fraser sockeye is observed in the marine approach.

The Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is currently looking for community profiles to include in our weekly Watershed Talk Newsletter that is distributed on Fridays during the fishing in-season.

If you would like to highlight and share any community involvement, individuals or events please send us a message at administration@frasersalmon.ca. All submissions will be reviewed by management for approval before distribution.

If you are not signed up to be included in all the updates and events happening with FSMC and would like to do so, please click on the link to be included. <https://frasersalmon.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=52b75e17647b0b4460687b60d&id=d5bde22f9a>

The following Indigenous communities are current representatives in the 76 member Fraser Salmon Management Council, and it would great to receive community profiles from their designated fisheries member delegates. A few short descriptive paragraphs and a good quality picture is what we are looking for. Please remember to give photo credit as the WST newsletter gets distributed broadly.

If your community is not a signatory to the FSMC and you would like more information on becoming a mandated member please contact Greg Witzky at operations@frasersalmon.ca or executivedirector@frasersalmon.ca .

SCHEDULE "A"
FSMC Member Nations

The following First Nations comprise the Member Nations of the FSMC as of July 5, 2019:

Mid-Fraser

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Adams Lake | 2. Bonaparte |
| 3. Coldwater | 4. Cook's Ferry |
| 5. High Bar | 6. Little Shuswap Lake |
| 7. Lower Nicola | 8. Lower Similkameen |
| 9. Neskonlith | 10. Nicomen |
| 11. Nooaitch | 12. Okanagan |
| 13. Osoyoos | 14. Penticton |
| 15. Shackan | 16. Shuswap |
| 17. Simpcw First Nation | 18. Siska |
| 19. Skeetchestn | 20. Splotsin |
| 21. T'it'q'et | 22. Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc |
| 23. Tsal'alh | 24. Upper Nicola |
| 25. Westbank First Nation | 26. Whispering Pines/Clinton |
| 27. Douglas | |

Upper Fraser

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 28. Burns Lake | 29. Canim Lake |
| 30. Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation | 31. Esk'etemc |
| 32. Lhtako Dené Nation | 33. Lheidli T'enneh |
| 34. Nak'azdli Whut'en | 35. Nazko First Nation |
| 36. Saik'uz First Nation | 37. Soda Creek |

38. Stelat'en First Nation

40. Tl'azt'en Nation

42. Williams Lake

39. Takla Nation

41. Wet'suwet'en First Nation

43. Yekooche First Nation

Lower Fraser

44. Chawathil

46. Katzie

48. Kwaw-Kwaw-Apilt

50. Samahquam

52. Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation

54. Skawahlook First Nation

56. Soowahlie

58. Sts'ailes

60. Tsawwassen First Nation

62. Yale First Nation

45. Cheam

47. Kwantlen First Nation

49. Matsqui First Nation

51. Seabird Island

53. Shxwhá:y Village

55. Skowkale

57. Squiala First Nation

59. Sumas First Nation

61. Tzeachten

Marine Approach/Island

63. Campbell River

65. Cowichan

67. Ehattesaht

69. Halalt

71. Namgis First Nation

73. Penelakut Tribe

75. Quatsino

64. Cape Mudge

66. Ditidaht

68. Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw

70. Lyackson

72. Nuchatlaht

74. Qualicum First Nation

76. Tlowitsis Tribe

The next Fraser River Panel meeting is scheduled for 11AM Tuesday August 30th.

Fraser River Panel Schedule:

Tuesday and Friday 11am.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://psc-org.zoom.us/j/81888592927>

Or One tap mobile :

US: 8887880099,,81888592927# (Toll Free)

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Canada: 855 703 8985 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 818 8859 2927

International numbers available: <https://psc-org.zoom.us/j/81888592927>

Links

With Chinook and sockeye approaching and in the Fraser, these links may be of interest:

BC River Forecast Centre Website: <http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca>

Environment Canada's Water Office Website: http://www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index_e.html

Pacific Salmon Commission Website: www.psc.org

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries: http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission News and Regulatory announcements: <http://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/fraser-river-panel-regulatory-announcements/>

Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports: <http://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/fish-passage-past-the-psc-hydroacoustic-counting-station-near-mission-bc/>

Fraser River Environmental Watch Reports: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html>

The Albion Test Fishery information can be found at:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/docs/commercial/albionchinook-quinnat-eng.html>