



WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser Salmon Management Council

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2023 WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER UPDATE

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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.

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>

Fraser Panel Updates

Migration Conditions in the Fraser River

The extreme high temperatures and low discharge is likely going to impact migration conditions for Fraser River sockeye. As of July 20, the temperature of the Fraser River at Hope was 19.0°C, which is 1.8°C higher than average for this date. The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2479 cms, which is 50% lower than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease, and discharge is forecast to decrease to 2269 cms over the next 10 days. Despite the slight moderation in river

temperature, the upstream migration of Early Stuart sockeye is expected to be negatively impacted by these migration conditions. At Big Bar, the discharge is also below average and current reports indicate good passage of salmon.

EARLY STUART WINDOW CLOSURE DATES INCLUDED IN 2023-2024 IFMP

| Area | Start Date | 5-Week End Date | Management Actions ³ |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| Areas 111, 121, 123 to 127 | 26-Jun | 1-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Sn, Gn, Tr) |
| Area 11 | 26-Jun | 1-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) |
| Area 12 | 26-Jun | 1-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) |
| Area 13 | 26-Jun | 1-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) |
| Areas 14 to 16 | 26-Jun | 1-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr) or August 15 (Sn) ¹ |
| Areas 17, 19, 20 and 21 | 26-Jun | 1-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Sn, Gn, Tr) |
| Areas 18 and 29 | 1-Jul | 6-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 6 |
| Steveston-Mission Bridge | 1-Jul | 6-Aug | |
| Mission Bridge-Sawmill Cr | 3-Jul | 8-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 8 |
| | | | |
| Sawmill Cr-Texas Cr | 6-Jul | 11-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 11 |
| Texas Cr-Kelly Cr | 6-Jul | 11-Aug | |
| Kelly Cr-Deadman | 6-Jul | 11-Aug | |
| Deadman-Chilcotin | 12-Jul | 17-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 17 |
| Chilcotin-Quesnel | 12-Jul | 17-Aug | |
| Quesnel-Hixon | 12-Jul | 17-Aug | |
| Hixon-Prince George | 14-Jul | 19-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 19 |
| Prince George-Stuart R | 16-Jul | 21-Aug | No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 21 except for potential First Nations FSC allowable harvest in terminal areas |

**Joke of the Week:
Smoking is bad for you. But it cures
salmon.**

2023 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Jul. 28, 2023

The information presented in this distribution has been prepared by PSC Secretariat staff and should be considered preliminary until reviewed by the Fraser River Panel

| Week of: Jul. 23 - Jul. 29, 2023 | Sockeye | | | | Pink | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | Management Group | | | | Total | Total |
| | E.Stuart | E.Summer | Summer | Late | Fraser | Fraser |
| Mission passage (incls Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) | 39,900 | 129,900 | 12,100 | 300 | 182,200 | 0 |
| Catch downstream of Mission | 200 | 1,900 | 700 | 0 | 2,800 | 100 |
| Accounted Run To Date | 40,100 | 131,800 | 12,800 | 300 | 185,000 | 100 |
| Run size adopted in-season ² | na | na | na | na | na | na |
| Run size forecasted pre-season | 23,000 | 186,000 | 1,167,000 | 188,000 | 1,564,000 | 6,135,000 |
| Area 20 timing adopted in-season | na | na | na | na | na | na |
| Area 20 timing expected pre-season | 7-Jul | 6-Aug | 17-Aug | 24-Aug | 16-Aug | 24-Aug |
| Johnstone Str. Diversion Rate | In-season 5-day average | | | | 61% | na |
| | Preseason forecast of annual rate: | | | | 67% | 53% |

² 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.

Big Bar Update

- There have been no upstream migration problems reported at Big Bar.
- A total of 27,348 salmon have been observed 40 km upstream of Big Bar (Churn Creek).
- Using a length-based estimate (68 cm) to differentiate Chinook and sockeye, 9,918 sockeye have migrated past Churn sonars up until July 19. (Note: lengths of Chinook and sockeye at the fishwheel are still overlapping and there is lower confidence in species composition estimates this season relative to this time last year.)
- A total of 16,038 sockeye have been observed below Big Bar (Alfalpa).
- A total of 124 Sockeye have been tagged.
- A total of 55 sockeye have been collected for brood stock.

Fishery Notice - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The Fraser River Panel met July 28, 2023 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser Sockeye run to date and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. Additional information can be found at the following:

<https://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/fraser-river-panel-information-package/>

<https://www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/>

First Nations food, social and ceremonial (FSC) sockeye fisheries are closed for the 5-week window closure to protect Early Stuart and the earlier-timed Early Summer run stocks. Very limited fishing opportunities directed at Chinook salmon for ceremonial purposes have occurred to date with non-retention restrictions in place for Sockeye. Sockeye directed FSC fisheries are not anticipated to open until Fraser Sockeye total allowable catch (TAC) is identified. FSC harvesters in marine approach areas and the Fraser River are requested to check for the opening times and any restrictions in their local area.

Commercial and recreational fisheries directed at Fraser Sockeye remain closed at this time.

If You Catch A Tagged Fish

Researchers with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in partnership with First Nations and the Province of BC, are tagging Chinook, Sockeye, and Coho salmon with radio tracking transmitters. The numbers printed on the radio tracking transmitters uniquely identify individual salmon and will be used to evaluate adult salmon migration success associated with the Big Bar landslide.

Please report the tag numbers along with the date and location of capture or recovery to BigBarTag@gmail.com
Or turn the tags in with the above information through your local catch monitoring program.



The next Fraser River Panel meeting is scheduled for 11AM Tuesday August 1st.

Fraser River Panel Schedule:

Tuesdays and Fridays 11am.

You can also access the webinar for observing the Fraser River Panel meetings:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://psc-org.zoom.us/j/88416242194>

Mid- Fraser River attendees please text your questions during FRP calls to Greg Witzky at 778-694-9154. Can also email them to executivedirector@frasersalmon.ca

Links

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

BC River Forecast Centre Website: <http://bcrcfc.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>