



WATERSHED TALK

NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser Salmon Management Council

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2024 WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER UPDATE

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Today's issue of the WST contains the Fraser River Panel summary data which includes important information to assist readers with understanding the current conditions and factors under which fisheries management decisions are made by the Fraser River Panel. See the full version of the report here - [Fraser Panel in-season information](#)¹.

The Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is currently looking for community profiles to include in our weekly Watershed Talk Newsletter.

If you would like to highlight and share any community involvement, individuals or events please send us a message to 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 added [Fraser Salmon distribution list](#).

FRASER PANEL UPDATES

Fraser Panel Weekly Summary for July 26, 2023

Test Fisheries and Stock Identification¹ - Marine test fishing catches have remained low throughout the past week and substantially below preseason expectations. The majority of sockeye en route to the Fraser River are currently migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait route rather than through Johnstone Strait with 31% observed on the

northern route. DNA analysis of a fish sample recently collected from the Area 20 purse seine test fishery indicated Fraser River sockeye contributions of 26% Early Summer, 74% Summer run and 1% Late run.

Assessment Results¹ – The estimated escapement plus catch of Early Summer-run sockeye through July 25 is 93,100. The Early Summer run is dominated by Chilliwack and Nadina, earlier timed stock components of this management group. Early Summer run abundances have been below preseason expectations. Additional information about the strength of the later-timed stock components of this management group is needed to confirm in-season run size estimates.

For Summer run sockeye, a limited number of fish have been observed in the marine and in-river test fisheries. The estimated escapement plus catch of Summer-run sockeye through July 25 is 35,700. Thus far, Late Stuart, Stellako and Harrison, early-timed stock components, have dominated this management group.

Similarly for Late run, limited numbers of fish have been observed in the marine and in-river test fisheries. The estimated escapement plus catch of Late-run sockeye through July 25 is 300.

Migration conditions in the Fraser River¹ - On July 25, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was about 3,250 cms, which is 32% below the historical mean discharge level for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 25 was 20.1°C, which is 2.2°C higher than average for this date. DFO's Environmental Watch program projects that river temperature will decrease in the near term and discharge is forecast to decrease to about 3,005 cms over the next 10 days. Observers at Hells Gate continue to see sockeye salmon migrating into the fishways. Current reports from Big Bar similarly indicate no concern with salmon passage. A total of 8,127 sockeye thus far has made it past the Churn Creek sonar site, upstream of Big Bar

Escapement update¹ - Visual surveys for Early Stuart began July 20, but no sockeye have been observed in the system. The Upper Chilliwack River hydroacoustic site became operational on July 10 and a total of 214 sockeye have been estimated into the river through July 23. Water temperature in the upper Chilliwack River is 9°C. The counting fence at Sweltzer Creek (Cultus Lake) will begin operations July 29.

Regulatory Announcements & Resources¹ – Commercial fisheries in Canadian and United States Fraser River Panel area waters remain closed.

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Sign up for all the FSMC distributions here: <https://frasersalmon.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=52b75e17647b0b4460687b60d&id=d5bde22f9a>

Subscribe to the FSMC calendar by clicking the subscribe to calendar button found at the bottom, right under the calendar by clicking here: <https://frasersalmon.ca/events/>

The next Fraser River Panel meeting is scheduled for **11AM Tuesday, July 30th**
(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/89632608507>

One tap mobile:

8887880099,89632608507# US Toll Free

Telephone:

Dial In:

855 703 8985 Canada Toll Free

Webinar ID: 896 3260 8507

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://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>