

## Fraser River Sockeye In-season Update – Tuesday, July 21, 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](mailto: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 and pink salmon

Date: Jul. 21, 2020

Week of: Jul. 19 - Jul. 25, 2020	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (incls Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	12,400	26,800	5,900	0	45,100
Catch downstream of Mission	100	600	400	0	1,100
Accounted Run To Date	12,500	27,400	6,300	0	46,200
Run size adopted in-season <sup>1</sup>	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	Annual average to date				9%
	Preseason forecast of annual rate:				35%

<sup>1</sup> 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 45.1k Fraser sockeye of which 12.5k are Early Stuart, 27.4k are Early Summer and 6.3k are Summer run
- Early Stuart run size is ending up close to the p50
- No TAC is expected at a p50 run size
- Early Summer tracking p25 forecast

### In-season Data Flow

#### a) Acoustics

- **Qualark:** Daily passage estimates have continued to build but has dropped off.
- **Mission:** Daily passage estimates have increased. Prior daily abundances have now been corrected for sockeye missed on the right bank assessments due to high water. Daily passage is tracking the brood year passage estimates

#### b) Test fishing catch

- All planned test fisheries are now under way.
- There appears to be a lull in catch in marine test fisheries. This typically occurs between the Early Stuart and Early Summer returns.
- **Marine Area:** A12 Gn catch has remained very low while Area 20 Gn catches have been higher. A12PSn caught 42 sockeye the first day of operation.
- **Fraser River:** Cottonwood is now catching sockeye while Whonnock continues at low catches (<12 per day recently). Qualark Gn has dropped off recently.

**c) Stock Proportions**

- **Fraser River:** AB Gn (n=22), low sample sizes, ~23% Early Stuart and ~42% Early Summer and 34% Summer
- **Marine Area:** A20 Gn (n=237) 2-4% Early Stuart, 53-56% Early Summer; 38-42% Summer
- Stock composition is transitioning away from early timed stocks to later timed stocks. Harrison is being detected in-river (early).

**d) Environmental Conditions and Management Adjustments**

- The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on Jul 20 was 15.0°C, which is 1.9°C below average for this date.
- The Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 8498m<sup>3</sup>/s, which is approximately 71% above average for this date.
- Fraser salmon are likely altering their migration behaviour given high flows.
- *The PSC recommended no in-season changes to management adjustments at today's meeting.*

**e) Big Bar Rock Slide Update Jul 15**

- Discharge has increased since the last update and is currently above historical maxima
- Sonar systems above and below the slide needed to be removed but are now operational
- 215 salmon have been radio tagged none of which have been detected upstream of the slide. 19 radio tagged salmon have entered the slide site. No radio tags have been detected above the slide area.
- At least 62 salmon have migrated naturally above the slide to date.

**f) Observations Throughout the Watershed**

- Very few observations to date given concerns for Chinook and sockeye salmon and very limited Chinook fisheries to-date.
- We are now receiving bio-health data from the Qualark test fishery site. To-date ~50 sockeye have been inspected for condition and all seem in good condition (1 wound). Similar to Mission and reports from assessment upstream Qualark is also observing unusual migration behaviour likely due to high flows.

**Reports From Other Areas**

- a) None

**Assessments and Recommendations**

**a) Escapement Projections and Run Size Assessment**

- Projecting 38.9k sockeye to pass Mission over the next 6 days.
- Early Stuart: *The PSC recommended but the Panel did not adopt an Early Stuart Run size of 13k with Jul 6<sup>th</sup> A20 timing.* Given the return is near expectations and there are no management implications the Panel chose to wait adopting a run size.
- Too early to make recommendations on other return groups.

- The PSC noted that Chilliwack is well below forecast. Run Size Assessment Model 20k, July 11 A20 timing.
- Return is tracking near the p25 forecast at this time.
- 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. <sup>a</sup>	Available Harvest <sup>b</sup>	Allowable Harvest <sup>c</sup>
Early Stuart	13,000	Jul 4	.69	0	1,300
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

<sup>a</sup> Proportional Management Adjustment is multiplied by the escapement target to calculate the numerical management adjustment.

<sup>b</sup> Available harvest after deductions. Harvest includes all catch in all fisheries in Canada the United States and test fisheries. TAC will be assessed in-season.

<sup>c</sup> Allowable harvest in an LAER scenario. Allowable harvest is not a target and would be considered a maximum and includes test fishery catch and may include fishery induced mortalities.

**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**

- None

**Next Meeting**

- Next Panel meeting Friday July 24