



Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance

IN-SEASON SALMON UPDATE FOR UPPER FRASER FIRST NATIONS

SOCKEYE UPDATE

2025 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Aug. 8, 2025

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: Aug. 3 - Aug. 9, 2025	Sockeye				Pink	
	Management Group				Total	Total
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	Fraser	Fraser
Mission passage (inclds Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	731,900	206,400	995,900	30,700	1,964,900	8,100
Catch downstream of Mission	3,900	5,100	57,400	3,500	69,900	2,900
Accounted Run To Date	735,800	211,500	1,053,300	34,200	2,034,800	11,000
Run size adopted in-season ¹	725,000	390,000	4,800,000	na	na	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	116,000	221,000	2,136,000	468,000	2,941,000	26,965,000
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	6-Jul	1-Aug	11-Aug	na	na	na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	8-Jul	3-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	14-Aug	21-Aug
Johnstone Str. Diversion Rate	In-season 5-day average				42%	9%
	Preseason forecast of annual rate:				64%	36%

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.

This table shows the accounted run to date relative to forecast and adopted run sizes.

Early Stuart Run Sockeye:

- The Early Stuart return to date has been very positive. An in-season run size of 725,000 was adopted by the Fraser River Panel on July 18; this is significantly higher than the pre-season forecast of 116,000.
- The migration is now complete through the marine area and lower river test fisheries as indicated by stock ID sampling.
- Visual spawning surveys began July 20. DFO's Aug 7 Spawning Escapement Bulletin indicates sockeye have been observed spawning in many creeks within the Stuart system.
- Due to historic en route mortalities of Early Stuart sockeye in the Fraser River and the corresponding environmental conditions, there is no available harvestable surplus. Small FSC harvests have occurred locally under the LAER.

What is LAER? When a sockeye aggregate management group return falls below the spawning escapement goal, it is in a Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER) scenario. The LAER allows for some potential incidental mortalities of sockeye while targeting more abundant sockeye management units or in non-sockeye directed fisheries. LAERs for each management unit is up to 10% mortality in the 2025 Escapement Plan.

2025-26 Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP)

DFO's 2025-26 Southern Pacific Salmon IFMP was released in early July. The IFMPs outline DFO's management policies, specific management objectives, and decision guidelines for a wide range of fisheries and anticipated opportunities for First Nations, recreational, and commercial fisheries.

To view or download DFO's 2025-26 Southern Salmon IFMP, IFMP summary, and more information, please visit: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mplans/smon-sc-cs-ifmp-pgip-sm-eng.html

Please note: The documents are large (600+ pages) and may take a few minutes to download.

Early Summer Run Sockeye:

- Marine test fisheries indicate the Early Summer Run may be starting to tail off in marine area now.
- An increased run size of 390,000 was adopted during today's Fraser River Panel meeting (an increase from the pre-season forecast of 221,000, and former adopted in-season run size of 300,000).
- Stocks contributing to the overall increase in the Early Summer aggregate run size are the Nadina group, which includes Nadina, Bowron, Nahatlatch, Gates, and Taseko. To date the Nadina group has 116,400 estimated to have migrated past the Mission hydroacoustic site, and the in-season estimate for this group is 176,000.
- There is also early indication that the Early Thompson may return above the median forecast of 80,000.

Summer Run Sockeye:

- A Summer Run aggregate run size of 4,800,000 was adopted by the Fraser River Panel today, with a median Area 20 (Juan de Fuca) timing of Aug 11. This is significantly higher than the pre-season forecast of 2,136,000.
- Summer Run stock proportion in the marine test fisheries remains dominant at around 90% of the sample results in Area 12 (Northern Johnstone Strait) on Aug 4.
- Summer Run stocks, with the except of Harrison, are tracking above their median (p50) forecasts; however, the peak of the migration for the Summer Run has not yet been observed, which makes it challenging to confirm the overall abundance still to come. But all indications are for a positive return well above the aggregate forecast.
- It's still early in the migration for Quesnel. The current combined in-season run size estimate for Chilko and Quesnel is 2,568,000, which well above their combined median (p50) pre-season forecast of 1,188,000.
- The current combined in-season run size estimate for Late Stuart/Stellako is 2,180,000. This well above their combined median (p50) combined forecast of 889,000.
- The Summer Run management adjustment was updated today to 0.4. This means that an additional ~950,000 fish have been added to the escapement goal to account for potential en route mortality as a result of the high water temperatures and low discharge conditions currently in the Fraser River mainstem.

What is a MANAGEMENT ADJUSTMENT (MA)? A modification where additional fish are allowed to migrate for spawning to ensure escapement targets are met. The additional fish are to account for environmental risks (high water temperatures, low flows, etc.) and account for uncertainty or error in in-season assessments. The MA is a precautionary tool to avoid overharvesting and to ensure enough salmon survive to spawn. This is particularly important in years of high uncertainty and/or adverse migration conditions.

Late Run Sockeye:

- The late run pre-season forecast is 468,000. It is still early in the season for late run sockeye, but they are starting to find their way into the Fraser River. 34,200 are accounted for to date through the Mission hydroacoustic site, plus 3,500 in catch.
- There remains no available Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in the Late Run, which will constrain fisheries below the Upper Fraser area that target Early Summer and Summer Run sockeye as Lates begin to increase in the mix.

PINK SALMON UPDATE

- The 2025 Fraser River pink salmon forecast return at the p50 level is 27 million.
- The pink escapement plan at the p50 forecast has a fixed Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) cap of 70% resulting in a preseason plan scenario of over 18 million in harvestable surplus and an escapement goal of just over 8 million.
- Pink salmon are now present in marine test fisheries and abundance continues to increase. There have been relatively small numbers of pinks observed past Mission (8,100).

FISHERIES

- Food, social, and ceremonial fisheries are ongoing in areas where the rolling window closure to protect stocks of concern has lifted (see window closure table for dates). At the current run sizes, full FSC allocations are expected where abundance permits.
- The U.S. has available sockeye TAC at the current adopted run sizes, and will continue with planned fisheries supported by the available TAC and approved through the Fraser Panel process.
- In Canada, there is TAC available for limited commercial fisheries targeting pink and sockeye salmon. Specific fishery plans were not completed at the time of this release.

Sockeye Window Closure dates, if there are sufficient returns for Total Allowable Catch (TAC):

Area	Start Date	5-Week End Date	Management Actions ³
Areas 26-11, 27-4, 27-6, 111, 121, 123 to 127	23-Jun	28-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before July 28 (Gn, Tr, Sn)
Area 11	23-Jun	28-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before July 28 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ^{1,2}
Area 12	23-Jun	28-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before July 28 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ^{1,2}
Area 13	23-Jun	28-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before July 28 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ^{1,2}
Areas 14 to 16	23-Jun	28-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before July 28 (Gn, Tr) or August 15 (Sn) ¹
Areas 17, 19, 20 and 21	23-Jun	28-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before July 28 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ¹
Areas 18 and 29	28-Jun	2-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 2
Steveston-Mission Bridge	28-Jun	2-Aug	
Mission Bridge-Sawmill Cr	30-Jun	4-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 4
Sawmill Cr-Texas Cr	3-Jul	7-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 7
Texas Cr-Kelly Cr	3-Jul	7-Aug	
Kelly Cr-Deadman	3-Jul	7-Aug	
Deadman-Chilcotin	9-Jul	13-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 13
Chilcotin-Quesnel	9-Jul	13-Aug	
Quesnel-Hixon	9-Jul	13-Aug	
Hixon-Prince George	11-Jul	16-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 16
Prince George-Stuart R	13-Jul	18-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 18, except for potential First Nations FSC harvest in terminal areas.

See next page for notes....

Note: dates are based on pre-season Area 20 peak run timing forecasts. Exact dates are subject to change based on in-season run timing.

¹ Gear restrictions remain in place to protect Sakinaw Sockeye until July 25 (Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Straits - Areas 11 to 13) and August 15 (northern Strait of Georgia - Areas 14 to 16) unless the early-timed window extends beyond those dates.

² Additional sockeye closures will remain in place in portions of Areas 11 and 12 until late July in waters north of Lewis Point to protect Nimpkish Sockeye.

³ Management actions described here are just for Fraser River Sockeye-directed fisheries. Any fisheries directed on other stocks or species in the areas and times described may also have measures to limit impacts on Fraser-bound Sockeye (e.g., gear restrictions in licence conditions).

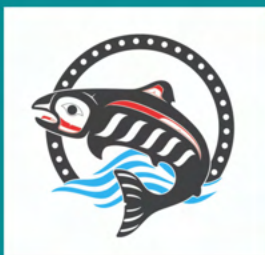
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS UPDATE (PSC information):

- Fraser River temperature measured at Qualark on Aug 7 was above average for this time of year at 20.6°C, and is expected to increase through the next week to 20.8°C (historic average from 1991 to 2020 is 18.5°C).
- Discharge (water flow) at Hope is below average for this time of year is quite low at 2,511 m³/s and expected to continue to decrease to 2,222 m³/s through the next week (historic average from 1991 to 2020 is 3,722 m³/s).
- Current daily mean temperatures in major tributaries to the Fraser River are above average. The Nechako River at Isle Pierre is currently 19.5°C, the Stuart River at Ft. St. James is 20.2°C, and the Quesnel River at Quesnel is 19.2°C.

If you catch a tagged fish:

Researchers with DFO, in partnership with First Nations and the Province of BC, are tagging Chinook, Sockeye, and Coho salmon with radio tracking transmitters. Numbers printed on the radio 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 number 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.



UFFCA Meeting Dates for the rest of this fiscal year:

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Thurs-Fri, December 11-12, 2025

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Meeting details and agendas are shared with UFFCA members via the UFFCA Tier 1 email list.

Nechako/Upper Fraser Aquatic Habitat Monitoring Update:

Endako River @ Shovel Creek (Chinook spawning area):

- Water temp (red) has cooled recently and is currently at 16°C. The temperature of this stream will likely warm in the coming days as the air temperatures warm up again.
- Streamflow (blue) is similar to that observed in 2023, but higher than 2024 for this date. Both 2023 and 2024 were drought years in the Nechako watershed.

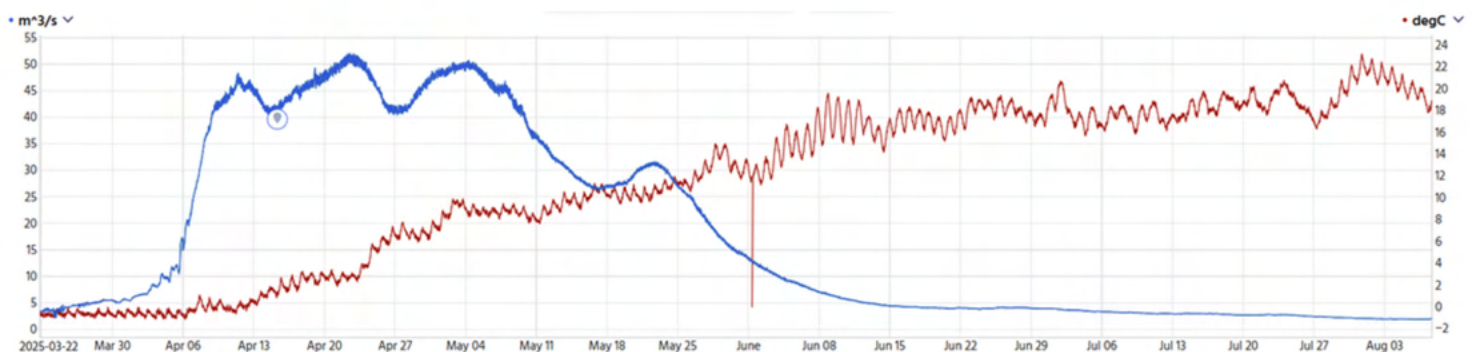
Figure 1. Temperature (red) and flows (blue) in the Endako River @ Shovel Creek, 2025



Upper Chilako River (Chinook spawning area):

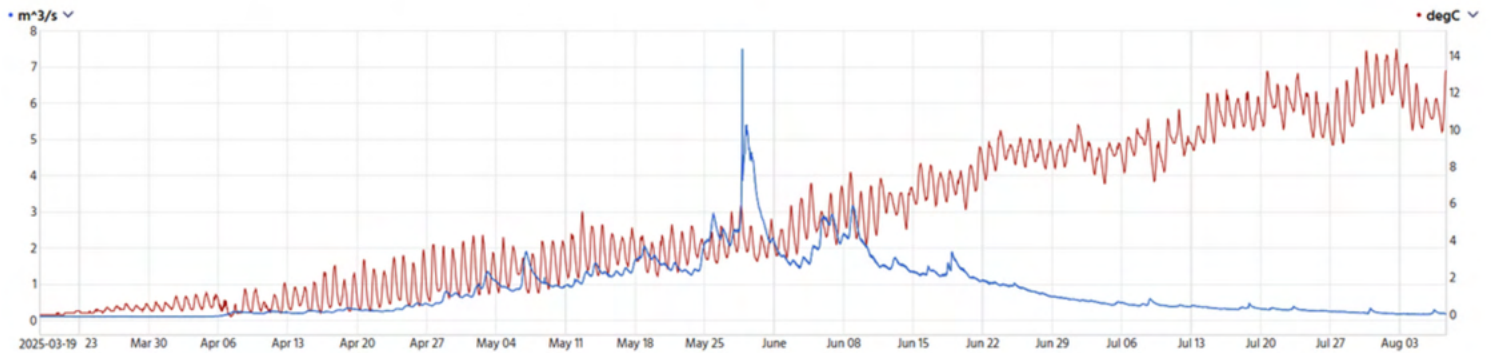
- Water temp (red) has cooled recently and is currently at 18.5°C. The temperature of this stream will likely warm in the coming days as the air temperatures warm up again.
- Streamflow (blue) is similar to that observed in 2023 and 2024. Both 2023 and 2024 were drought years in the Nechako watershed. Dewatered stream reaches have not been observed in this system.

Figure 2. Temperature (red) and flows (blue) in the Upper Chilako River, 2025



Forfar Creek (Early Stuart Sockeye spawning area):

- Water temp (red) remains around 12°C now. This is a much cooler system and this is similar to previous years.
- Streamflow (blue) is higher than last year at this time, but similar to that observed in 2023.

Figure 3. Temperature (red) and flows (blue) in Forfar Creek, 2025

Some other natal stream temperatures on Aug 7, 2025. All of these streams are cooler compared to the previous week due to cooler air temperatures.

Nazko River: 18°C
 Sowchea Creek: 14°C
 Sinkut Creek: 14°C

Baezaeko River: 14.5°C
 Nithi River in spawning reach: 16.5°C
 Slim Creek: 14.8°C

Walker Creek: 12.5°C
 Willow River: 14.9°C



BC Interior First Nations Salmon Season Calls:**Wednesdays 10:00am to 11:00am**

DFO hosts weekly calls during the salmon season (mid July to mid Sept) for BC Interior First Nations. Topics include:

- in-season technical information from the PSC Fraser River Panel
- DFO fishery management approaches and planning
- environmental conditions and salmon impacts
- info from and to DFO fishery officers and other staff

Join on MS Teams: shorturl.at/ac1eO

Meeting ID: **249 287 109 539 3**

Passcode: **AL2wg9cC**

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Dial in by phone: **1-647-484-5913**

Phone conference ID: **641 281 901#**

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Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: teams@dfo-mpo.video.canada.ca

Video ID: **119 444 574 8**

DFO also circulates weekly salmon bulletins on spawning progress and fishery openings. To subscribe please contact:

- **For Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Escapement Bulletins:** Sean Everitt - Sean.Everitt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- **For Fraser River Open Times Notices and Harvest Reports:** Cynthia Breau - Cynthia.Breau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Pacific Salmon Commission Fraser Panel Calls:**Tuesdays and Fridays 11:00am to 1:00pm**

These calls are held throughout the salmon season, from mid July to mid September.

First Nations in BC are welcome to join as observers.

Join on Zoom: psc-org.zoom.us/j/85284137826

Join toll free by phone (audio only): **1-855-703-8985**

Webinar ID: **852 8413 7826**

IN-SEASON INFORMATION LINKS**DFO's Southern Salmon IFMP and related info:**

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mplans/smon-sc-cs-ifmp-pgip-sm-eng.html

Regulatory Announcements and other in-season Fraser River Panel info:

www.psc.org/publications/fraser-panel-in-season-information/

Albion Test Fishery info for the assessment and management of Fraser Chinook and chum:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/albion-eng.html

DFO Salmon Stock Assessment and Research:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/science/research-recherche/index-eng.html

Province of BC wildfire information:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status

Province of BC drought information:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information

Chilcotin Landslide Updates - Emergency Salmon Task Force Situation Reports (Tsilhqot'in Nation):

www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications/