



WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

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Fraser Salmon Report

By Pete Nicklin,

FRAFS Fraser Fisheries Biologist

This is the first official 2016 Fraser Salmon Update in Watershed Talk.

For 2016, I will be summarizing the Fraser sockeye forecasts and the Fraser River Panel in-season adopted run sizes at the beginning of each update. This summary had good feedback from readers last year, so I have opted to continue with the format. The table will be updated throughout the in-season as information and decisions become available. (See table on page 2).

On the environmental conditions side of things, current Fraser River temperatures are above average but below 18 degrees Celsius (good news).

Discharge Flows are already very low for the time of year, which is good for upstream migration, although very low flows can also be a hindrance to migration in some areas. The downside to the low flow is the river is more sensitive to daily air temperatures (hot days can move the river temperature quickly).

Early Stuarts

The P50 pre-season forecast for Early Stuarts is 36,000. At today's Panel meeting, PSC staff recommended an in-season abundance estimate at the P25 abundance (22,000) with July 2nd timing. The Panel chose to not adopt the recommendation, and wait until the next Panel meeting on Tuesday July 19th to discuss a decision at that point.

Early Summers

Early Summers are forecasted at 447,000 (P50). It is still too early for an in-season run size estimate for this management group.

Summer Run

Summers are forecasted at 1,677,000 (P50). It is still too early for an in-season run size estimate for this management group.

Late Sockeye

Lates are forecasted at 111,000 (P50). It is still too early for an in-season run size estimate for this management group.

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FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

c/o Nicola Tribal Association • PO Box 188 • Merritt, BC • V1K 1B8
Tel: 250-378-4235 • Fax: 250-378-9119 | frafs15@gmail.ca • www.frafs.ca



Fraser Salmon Report *(continued)*

Fraser Salmon Update Table

Sockeye Management Group	Pre-Season Planning Forecast (P50)	In-Season Adopted Run Size	Area 20 Timing (for 50% of run)
Early Stuart	36,000	N/A	July 2
Early Summer	447,000	N/A (too early for run size update)	July 19
Summer	1,677,000	N/A (too early for run size update)	Aug 3
Lates	111,000	N/A (too early for run size update)	Aug 12
TOTAL	2,271,000	N/A (too early for run size update)	

Sockeye Closures

The Early Stuart window closure is still in place for the Fraser River and parts of the marine approach area. Although there is no Final IFMP from DFO at this time, it is expected either today or Monday.

Fraser River Conditions

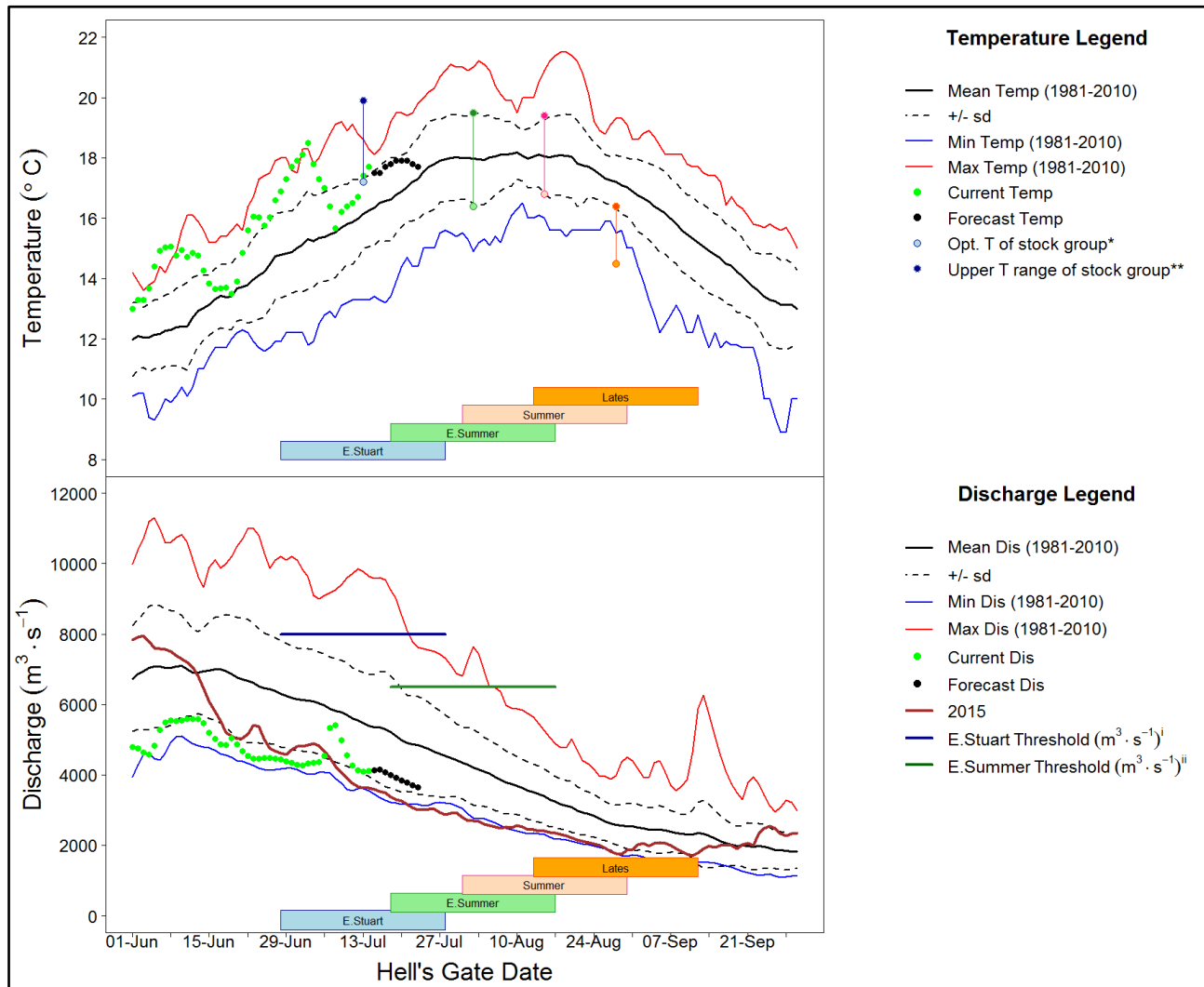
The main source of information for Temperature and Discharge data and forecasts is DFO's Environmental Watch Program (see link below).

The BC River Forecast Centre website (see links below) has information and links related to discharge and temperatures at various monitoring stations throughout the Fraser watershed, including snow pillow and melt updates.



Environment Canada's Water Office webpage provides access to real time hydrometric data at many locations throughout the Fraser watershed (see links below).

Fraser Discharge and temperatures at Hope and Qualark Creek (near Hope) respectively look like this (graphs from the Fraser River Panel Distribution July 15th, 2016):



The Fraser River water temperature is currently 17.7 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Celsius above average for this time of year), and is forecast to increase to a temperature of 17.0 degrees Celsius by July 20th. The Fraser River discharge continues to track at low levels for this time of year with a flow of 4,105 m³/sec at the Qualark water station on July 14th (24% below average for this time of year). The discharge is predicted to continue tracking below average, with a forecast discharge of 3,846 m³/sec by July 20th.



Fraser River Fisheries Information

Fraser First Nations Fisheries information can be found on the DFO website at:

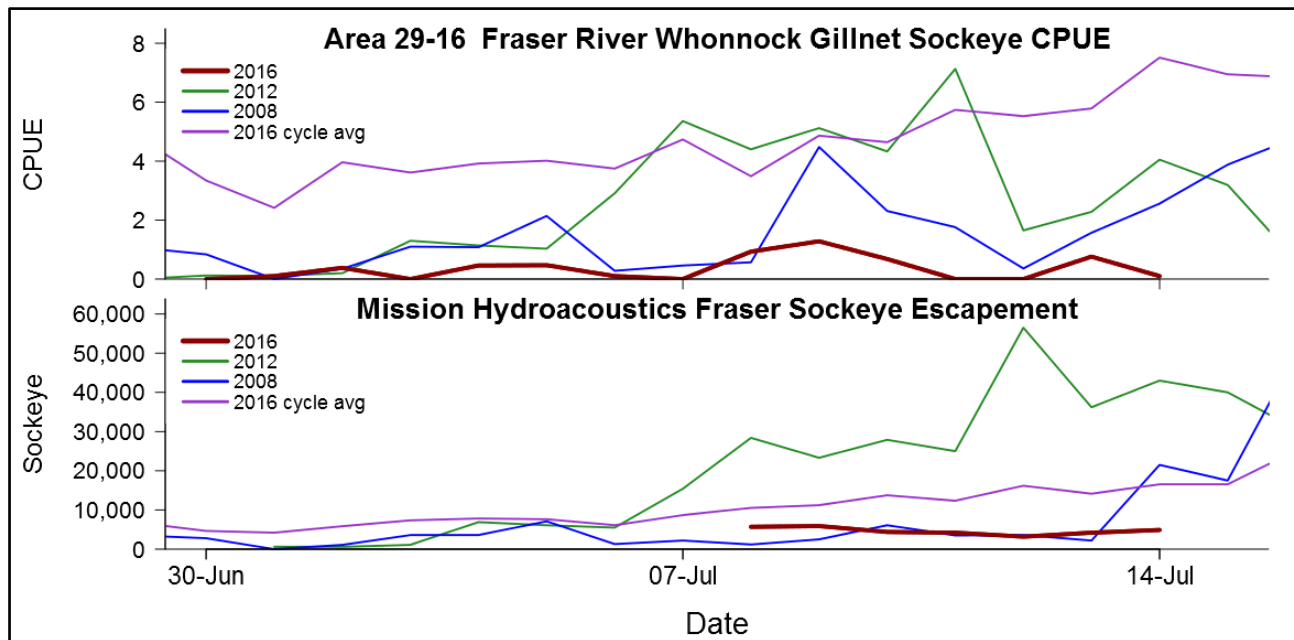
<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/index-eng.html>

Fraser Sockeye & Pink Salmon

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) distributes the Fraser River Panel meeting agenda and technical information for Panel members and observers to the process. The following information is a summary of key information from that document (July 15th, 2016) and the Fraser River Panel meeting from the same day.

Test fisheries (gillnet) are in place in the Fraser River and both marine-approach areas (Strait of Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Strait). Hydroacoustics programs are in operation at Mission and Qualark (Yale). A total of 48,400 Fraser sockeye have been accounted-to-date, comprised of almost 10,300 Early Stuart sockeye, 37,200 Early Summer run sockeye and 900 Summers.

Test fishing graphs and Mission hydro-acoustics information from the PSC distribution package look like this:





- The next Fraser River Panel meeting is scheduled for 11 A.M. Tuesday, July 19th.

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/news_frpnews.htm

Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports: http://www.psc.org/info_inseasonfraserescapement.htm

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>

For more information contact Pete Nicklin by email: pnicklin@telus.net