

FRASER SALMON UPDATE - By Pete Nicklin, FRAFS Biologist

GENERAL

As in the past couple of years, Watershed Talk will be distributed weekly on Fridays to provide an update of the latest in-season information for Fraser salmon assessment, management and Fraser watershed environmental conditions. The information in the Watershed Talk summarizes the information from the Thursday in-season teleconference calls and other sources of information relevant to Fraser salmon management.

WATER CONDITIONS

Water conditions in the Fraser are satisfactory for sockeye migration from a temperature and discharge point of view. Fraser River temperature at Qualark is currently above the mean, and forecast to rise to 17.5 degrees by the end of the current forecast period. Fraser watershed temperatures as recorded at 4 additional stations in the watershed range from 11 to 16 degrees, all suitable for migration and spawning for sockeye. The Fraser River discharge at Hope is currently tracking above the mean, but below levels normally considered to be difficult for sockeye migration.

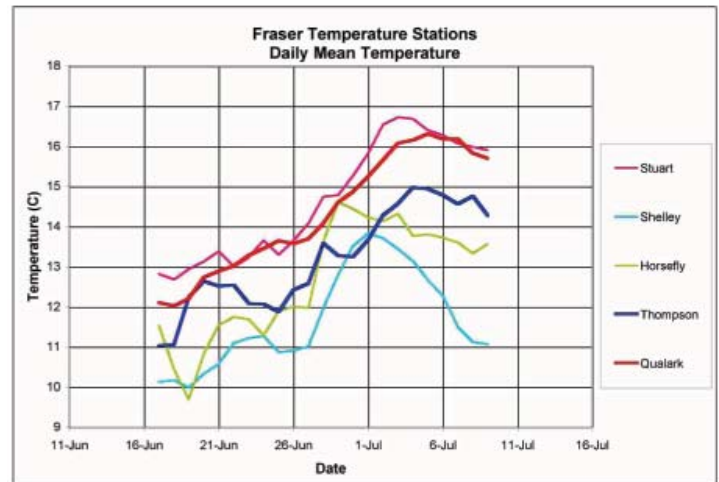


Figure 2: This graph shows the 2008 daily mean temperatures at various temperature stations throughout the Fraser watershed.

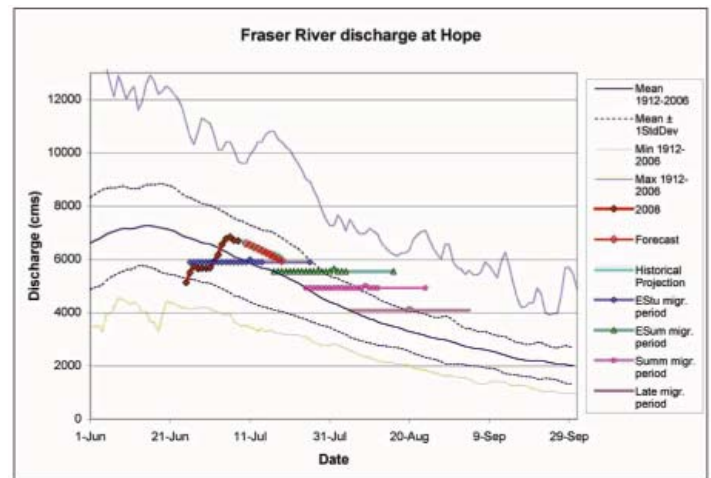


Figure 3: This graph shows the Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the solid red diamonds is the 2008 discharge, and the forecast discharge shows as unfilled diamonds.

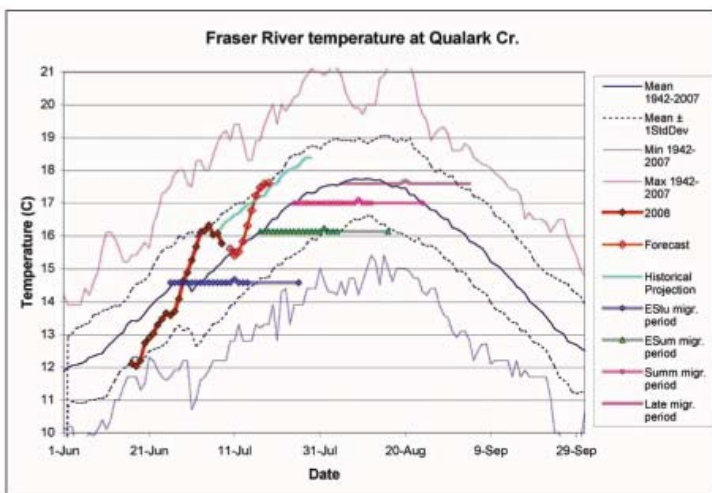


Figure 1: This graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the diamonds shows the 2008 temperatures. The unfilled diamond portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is tracking above the mean, and forecast to rise to approximately 17.5 degrees.

FRASER CHINOOK

To my knowledge 2008 is the first year that in-season management assessment and measures have been used to help achieve adequate escapements for spring and summer 5sub2 chinook in the Fraser. The Albion Chinook test fishery was used for most of May and up to mid-June to estimate spawning escapements of 5sub2 Fraser Chinook. The Albion information was used to guide management responses for approach and in-river fisheries.

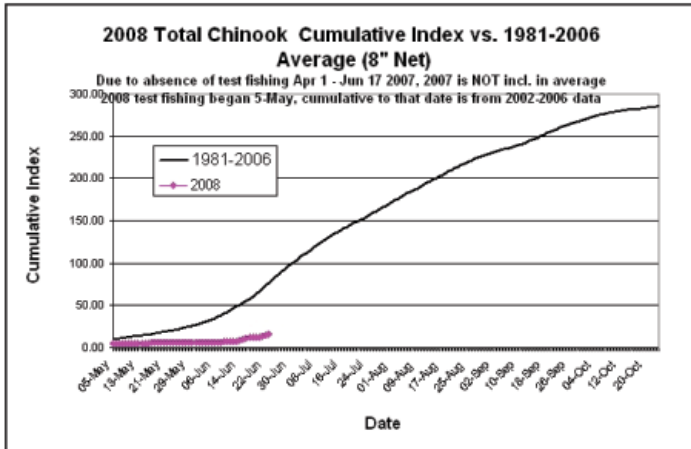


Figure 4: The cumulative test fishery catch at Albion for 2008 is the bottom line in this graph. The top line is the average from 1981 to 2006. A web link to the Albion Test Fishery page on the DFO website can be found in the General Information section of the Watershed Talk.

Fraser First Nations Catch 2008: Reporting period up to July 6th, 2008

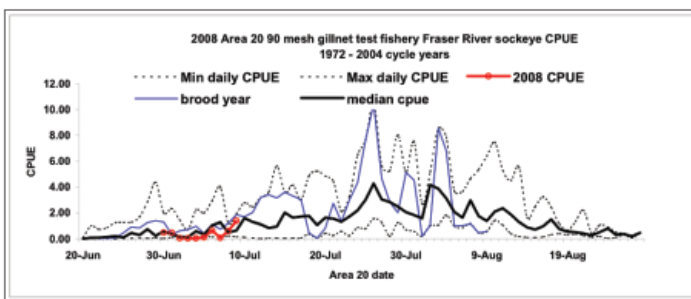
	Species		Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	
Lower Fraser	5,047	17	5,064
Mid-Upper Fraser	887	0	887
Total	5,934	17	5,951

This above catch information is available from the DFO website at the link provided under the General Information section.

FRASER SOCKEYE

Fraser sockeye are now approaching and migrating towards spawning grounds throughout the Fraser. Current assessment information shows that the Early Stuarts have peaked through Area 20 and Mission. Early Summer sockeye are building in abundance in the marine approach areas, and mid-Summer run sockeye are also showing in test fisheries. At present the Early Stuart sockeye migration appears to be going as expected according to the 50%P forecast (35,000), and a little earlier than forecast.

Fraser Sockeye Area 20 Test Fishery



This above catch information is available from the DFO website at the link provided under the General Information section.

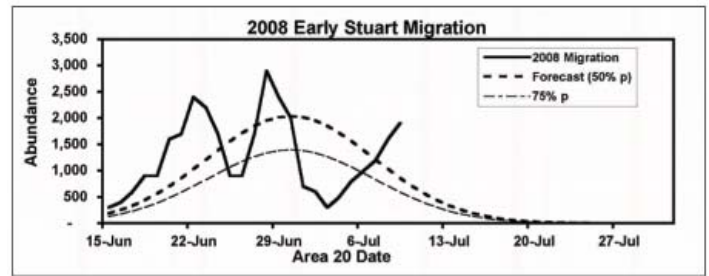


Figure 6: This graph shows the current information for the 2008 Early Stuart migration.

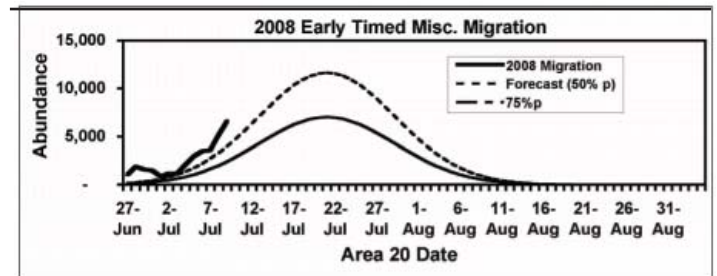


Figure 7: This graph shows the current information for the 2008 Early Summer Misc migration.

**For more information contact Pete Nicklin @ (250) 392-5888
or by email at indiseaent@shaw.ca.**

FIRST NATIONS IN-SEASON TECHNICAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Unless otherwise noted, the 2008 First Nations In-season technical conference calls will be at 4PM every Thursday until mid-September.

GENERAL INFORMATION

With Chinook and sockeye approaching and in the Fraser, these links may be of interest to many.

Albion Test Fishery – Chinook Gill Net:

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbi_onchnk_e.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission Website: www.psc.org

LGL Fishwheel Catch Updates:

http://www.psc.org/info_lglfishwheelcatch.htm

Escapement Updates: 2008 In-season sockeye (this link currently shows the 2007 information):

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/escapeupdate.htm>

Upper/Mid/Lower Fraser Catch and Openings:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/firstnations.htm>

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:

http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_summaries.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 Program:

http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fw/h/index_e.htm