

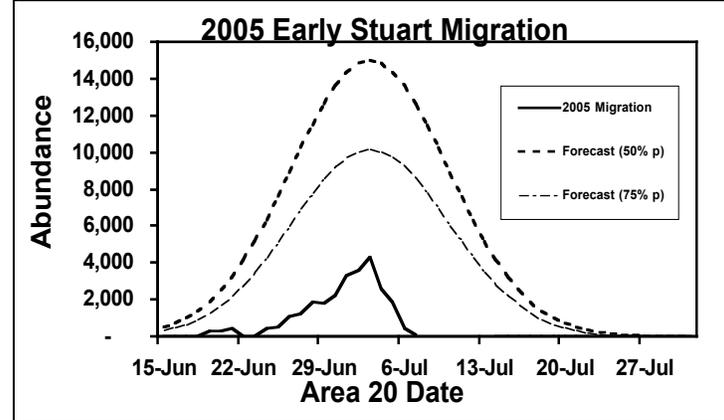
## TECHNICAL UPDATE

By Pete Nicklin, Assistant Stock Management  
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Well, the 2005 Fraser River sockeye season has begun. The first of the Early Stuart sockeye are showing up in the Area 20 test fishery (southern tip of Vancouver Island, Strait of Juan de Fuca) and the Whonnock test fishery in the Fraser River. Unfortunately, the number of Early Stuarts is much lower than anticipated, and it looks like there will be a substantial downgrade in the total run size projection for this run. The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) issued a news release on July 8<sup>th</sup>, which warns of an Early Stuart total run size thought unlikely to exceed 100,000 fish.

This is grim news indeed. The 2005 cycle of Early Stuarts is the dominant cycle year for this run, and a total run size around 100,000 is far below the number that should return to spawn. The average weight for Early Stuart sockeye caught in the test fishery is 4.9 lbs, which is lower than the long-term average, and may indicate later timing of the run. However, after reviewing the latest test fishery information (July 10), it does not appear that there will be very many more fish on the way. The one bright spot for the Early Stuarts is that Fraser River migration conditions are good from a discharge and temperature perspective thanks to the cooler temperatures and rain.

The following graph shows the 2005 Early Stuart migration past the Area 20 test fishery, compared to the 50% P forecast and the 75% P forecast.



The Mission echo-sounder estimate for total fish past is 10,200 according to the PSC website, but the “unofficial” total on July 8<sup>th</sup> was 13,000, the majority being Early Stuarts, with the first of the Early Summer run.

**At this point the Fraser River Aboriginal sockeye fishery is closed due to the conservation concern for the Early Stuart sockeye.**

No formal update has been provided on the Early Summers, and this probably won't happen until there is a better idea about run strength.

The first in-season teleconference call took place on Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>, which provides a technical update from the Fraser River Panel Technical Committee. The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) will host these weekly teleconference calls starting this Thursday at 4PM.

For more information contact **Pete Nicklin** at [indiseaent@shaw.ca](mailto:indiseaent@shaw.ca) or by phone at (250) 392-5888

## STOCK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR CONTACT INFO

**Ken Wilson** at [wilsonkh@telus.net](mailto:wilsonkh@telus.net) or by phone at (604) 301-0418.

## FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT CONTACT INFO

The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat is now being hosted and administered by the Nicola Tribal Association. Any information or inquiries regarding FRAFS should be directed to Neil Todd at [Neil.Todd@nwsfa.org](mailto:Neil.Todd@nwsfa.org).

**Marcel Shepert: FRAFS Executive Director** – email at [mars\\_shepert@shaw.ca](mailto:mars_shepert@shaw.ca)

## WEB LINKS

The FRAFS website is at [www.frafs.ca](http://www.frafs.ca).

The Pacific Salmon Commission's website is at [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org).

The BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission website is at [www.bcafc.org](http://www.bcafc.org).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Teleconference call for in-season technical update from the Fraser River Panel Technical Committee: **Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4PM**. Call in number will be announced prior to the call.