

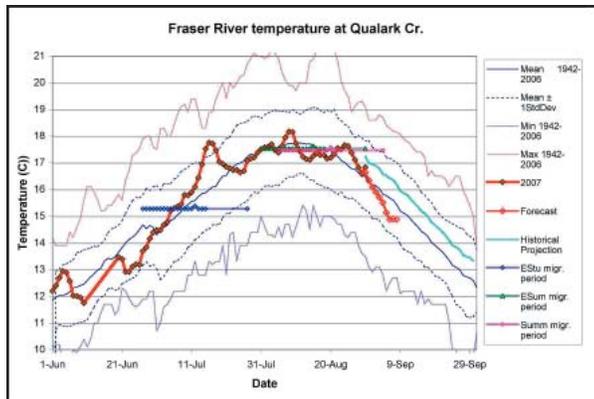
A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for  
fisheries representatives and their organizations

## FRASER SALMON UPDATE

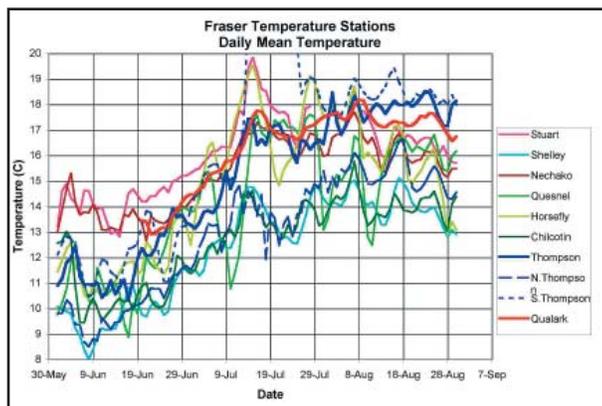
By Pete Nicklin, Watershed Stock Management Coordinator, FRAFS

### WATER CONDITIONS

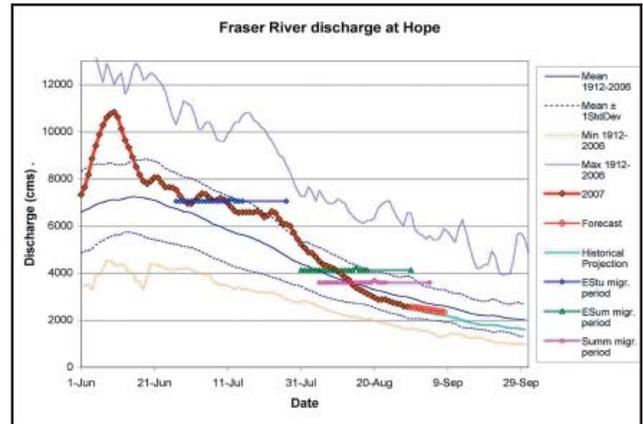
Water conditions in the Fraser continue to be satisfactory for sockeye migration from a temperature and discharge point of view. The Fraser discharge at Hope is now tracking below the historical mean. Fraser temperatures at Qualark are currently tracking at the long term average, and below 17 degrees. The following graphs show the 2007 conditions in comparison to other years.



This graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the diamonds shows the 2007 temperatures. The open diamond portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is below 17 degrees, and forecasted drop below the historical mean.



This graph shows the 2007 daily mean temperatures at various temperature stations throughout the Fraser watershed. Only the Thompson and the South Thompson Rivers remain at 18 degrees.



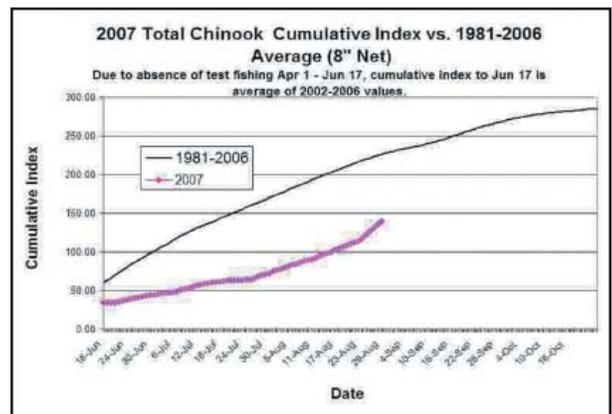
This graph shows the Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the diamonds is the 2007 discharge. Current discharge is now below the historical mean, and forecasted to track below the mean.

### FRASER CHINOOK

The Albion Test Fishery Cumulative catch results for 2007 continue at levels below the 1981 to 2006 average, but have increased over the past several days.

Aerial and stream counts for Chinook are now being conducted, and early indications show that many stocks in the Upper Fraser are returning at levels below brood, with some stocks at 50% or less compared to brood. More information will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

Based on what we have seen for returns for Interior Fraser Coho in fall of 2006 and the disappointing return of 4 year old sockeye in 2007, it would be prudent to start preparing for a potentially lower return for 5 year old Fraser Chinook in 2008. More on this topic in the next couple of weeks.



The cumulative test fishery catch at Albion for 2007 is the bottom line in this graph. The top line is the average from 1981 to 2006. The cumulative catch has increased over the past several days. 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 SOCKEYE

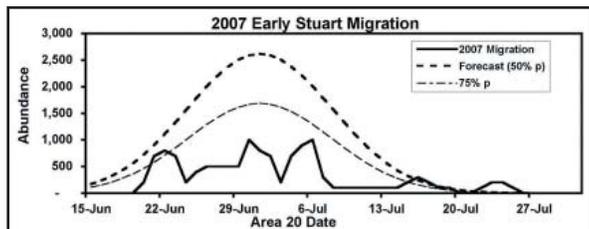
Well, it appears that the 2007 sockeye season is winding down, and what a challenging season it was. There will certainly be plenty to talk about in the post season, and the dust will hardly settle before talks focusing on the 2008 season will fire up. 2007 was a roller coaster of in-season management decisions and information, and overall a disappointing season due to the far lower than expected return of 4 year old Fraser sockeye.

The marine portion of the Fraser sockeye migration appears to be virtually complete, and the overall result is a return far less than pre-season forecasts. In-season run size estimates for Fraser sockeye are as follows: Early Summers – 155,000, Summers – 650,000, Birkenhead – 100,000, true Lates – 510,000.

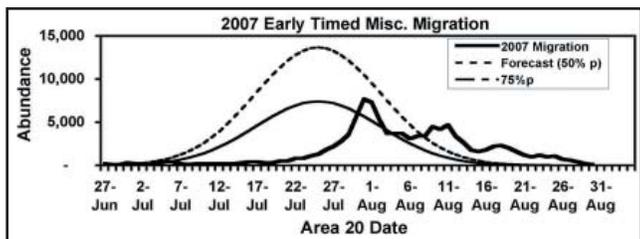
Early results of the enumerations for the Early Summers, Summers and Lates will be included in Watershed Talk in the next couple of weeks, but meanwhile a web link to the latest information has been included in the General Information section.

*Fraser First Nations Catch: Reporting period up to Aug 26, 2007*

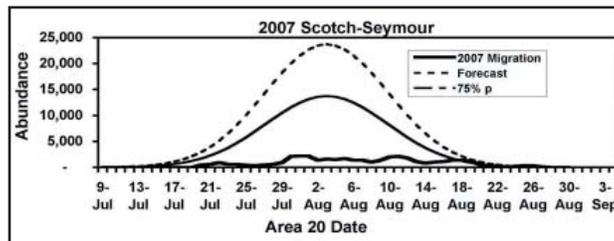
	Species			Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Pink	
Lower Fraser	10,590	68,312	8,981	87,883
Mid-Upper Fraser	3,215	54,403	N/A	57,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,807</b>	<b>122,715</b>	<b>8,981</b>	<b>145,503</b>



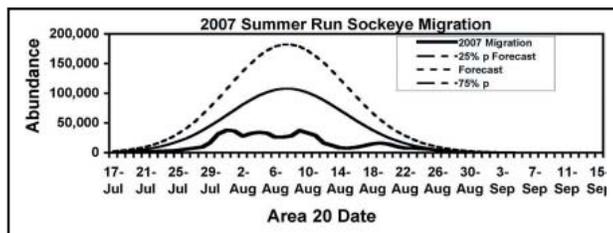
This graph shows the current information for the 2007 Early Stuart migration. The Early Stuarts have completed the marine portion of their migration, and the escapement enumeration program is now complete.



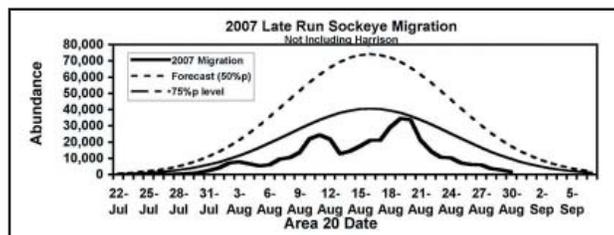
This graph shows the current information for the 2007 Early Summer Misc migration. The Early Summer run size remains unchanged from last week at 170,000. Early Summer sockeye continue to show in the marine test fisheries and the overall timing is later than pre-season expectations.



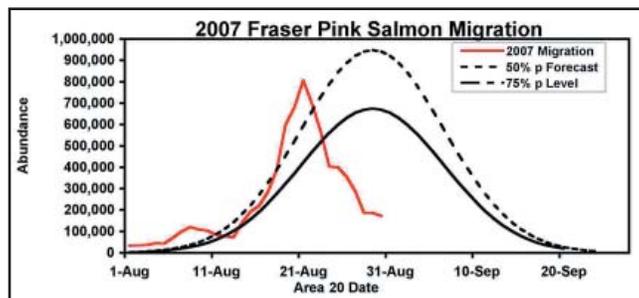
This graph shows the Scotch/Seymour portion of the Early Summer aggregate.



This graph shows the current information for the 2007 Summer Run migration.



This graph shows the current information for the 2007 Late Run (not including Harrison) migration. On August 27, the Fraser River Panel approved a reduced run size estimate of 670,000 true Late Run sockeye (Late Shuswap and Weaver), and 200,000 for Harrison sockeye.



This graph shows the current information for the 2007 Fraser Pink run. Although the pink migration had been tracking above the 50%P forecast level, there has been a significant drop in marine test fishery catch over the last week. The Fraser River Panel adopted an in-season run size estimate of 10 million, compared to the pre-season forecast of 19 million.

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for  
fisheries representatives and their organizations

## FIRST NATIONS IN-SEASON TECHNICAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Based on the in-season information presented on the August 30th conference call, it was decided that there is no need for any further weekly in-season technical conference calls.

### 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:

[www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk_e.htm)

Pacific Salmon Commission Website: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)

LGL Fishwheel Catch Updates:

[www.psc.org/info\\_lglfishwheelcatch.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_lglfishwheelcatch.htm)

Escapement Updates:

2007 In-season sockeye and pink: [www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/escapeupdate.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/escapeupdate.htm)

Upper/Mid/Lower Fraser Catch and Openings:

[www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/firstnations.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/firstnations.htm)

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:

[www.psc.org/info\\_testfishing\\_summaries.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_summaries.htm)

Pacific Salmon Commission News and Regulatory announcements: [www.psc.org/news\\_frpnews.htm](http://www.psc.org/news_frpnews.htm)

Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports:

[www.psc.org/info\\_inseasonfraserescapement.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_inseasonfraserescapement.htm)

Fraser River Environmental Watch Program:

[www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fwh/index\\_e.htm](http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fwh/index_e.htm)

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

**Watershed Talk available for  
download at [www.frafs.ca](http://www.frafs.ca)**

**NEXT ISSUE:  
Friday, September 14, 2007**

## INTER-TRIBAL FISHING TREATY: A TREATY OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

**CALLING ALL LEADERSHIP, COUNCIL CHAIRS, ORIGINAL  
SIGNATORIES UP AND DOWN THE FRASER:**

**OCTOBER 17TH AND 18TH @ JULIANNE  
HALL, LILLOOET B.C.**

All registration forms have been faxed to the appropriate councils. If we have missed anyone please do not hesitate to call, or email.

**Grand Chief Saul Terry  
Northern St'at'inc Fisheries Coordinator  
Bonnie Adolph - Assistant Coordinator  
Taya Rankin - Executive Secretary**

**Ph: 250.256.4332**

**Cell: 250.256.9140**

**Fax: 250.256.0445**

.....  
Please note that the Watershed Talk will soon return to its bi-weekly schedule, and we'll be looking for submissions from communities, fisheries organizations, etc. We're interested in community & project stories; historical, traditional & cultural stories; information about threats to fish; policy & legal issues; upcoming events; information about fish habitat; announcements, celebrations, workshops, public meetings, open houses; and anything else pertaining to fisheries that you think might be of interest to the Watershed Talk readership.

.....  
**To submit content, please contact  
Aimee Arsenault,  
FRAFS Communications Coordinator  
(see contact information below).**