



WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

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Pre-Season Report

Over twenty First Nations fisheries representatives from the Fraser Watershed and Marine Approach areas participated yesterday in Mike Staley's first conference call of the upcoming sockeye fishing season. Mike provided information from last week's Fraser River Panel meeting.

Key Themes

Attendees were given a look at some of the complex modelling and discussion that goes on at the Fraser River Panel as its members and PSC technical staff prepare for the upcoming sockeye fishing season.

Mike covered a number of themes: refinement of pre-season forecasts; Management Adjustments for the four different management aggregate groups; run timing for those groups expressed as the forecast day for peak (50%) passage of fish through key areas such as Area 20 (Juan de Fuca), Mission and Hell's Gate; and harvesting by the test fisheries (implementation of Section 10 of the new Fisheries Act by DFO).

Continued next page

Chinook Workshop at Squiala



Visions in Shared Management Workshop,
Southern BC Chinook
Strategic Planning Initiative

Squiala Community Hall
45005 Squiala Road, Chilliwack

[Google Maps](#)

Wednesday, July 9th
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Click this link for the [Agenda](#)

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Pre-Season Report *(continued)*

The Early Stuart Run



As people await news on the Early Stuart run, another key theme was brought into context: forecast environmental conditions which will affect the Management Adjustments (MA) when actual conditions become known in-season. For example: forecast river flows for the Early Stuart migration are predicted to be “normal” (i.e. near historical average); but river temperatures are predicted to be somewhat above normal. The Panel therefore adopted a Management Adjustment of 0.86 as compared to the pre-season pMA (proportionate Management Adjustment) of 0.66.

Mike also noted that the Area 20 test fishery is underway, and it is not yet indicating the build-up of numbers caught that would be expected if the Early Stuart run is returning on time and/or at the numbers in the pre-season forecast. The co-migrating Lake Washington numbers are also very sparse as compared to expectations. And there was one more piece of information: the Barkley Sound sockeye in-season run size estimate had just been downgraded from its pre-season forecast. This all adds up to uncertainty at this time about the size of this year’s Early Stuart run, but Mike cautioned that it is too soon in the migration to be drawing conclusions.

Fish Tech 101

The Management Adjustment (MA) is the number of fish that have to make it past Mission in order to account for en route mortality and still have enough fish reach the spawning grounds. For example: when the spawner target is 100,000 fish on the grounds and the pMA is 0.86, the MA is 86,000. Therefore to achieve 100,000 spawners on the grounds, 186,000 fish have to make it past Mission to account for en route mortality (this does not include any harvest mortality).

Continued next page



Next Teleconference: July 3rd

Mike's next teleconference will be **Thursday, July 3rd, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** He'll address questions brought about by the Fraser Panel meeting held earlier in the day.

To phone in:

Tel.: 1.866.512.0904

Participant code: 4954972#

Go To Meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/323812053>

Meeting ID: 323-812-053



Eddie Gardner with his new salmon drum.

Source: Stó:lō Nation Facebook page