

## Fraser Salmon Update - By Neil Todd, FRAFS Operations Manager

Mike Staley held his weekly Thursday afternoon update teleconference call at 4 p.m. on August 25, 2011.

### GENERAL:

Pink salmon catches in the outside test fisheries are now “overwhelming” the presence of sockeye. It is expected that the Mission hydroacoustic facility will cease operations very soon as the numbers of pink salmon, mixed with sockeye and chinook, result in species composition data becoming unreliable.

Regarding the sockeye that are being caught in the outside test fisheries, a very large majority are Late Run stocks, meaning that the Summer Run group migration into the river is drawing closer to an end. There was a brief period of time when the Salmon Commission was thinking that the Summer Run group might be as much as 2 million this year, but have since adjusted the in season estimate back down to the 1.5-1.6 million range (near forecast).

In-river test fishery catches (lower Fraser) are still made up of Summer Run stocks, and the Harrison sockeye, to a very large degree. This is considered to be an indication that good numbers of the Late Run stocks (Weaver/Late Shuswap) may be holding in the Gulf off the mouth of the Fraser – behavior that is typical of historical run timing that maximizes potential for in-river survival and survival to spawn.

Regarding the Late Run group, it is difficult to derive an in-season estimate but calculations from the outside test fishery indicate that the “true lates” (Weaver/Late Shuswap) numbers may be in the 700-900,000 range.

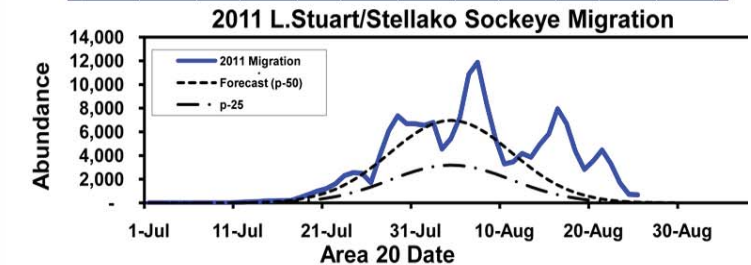
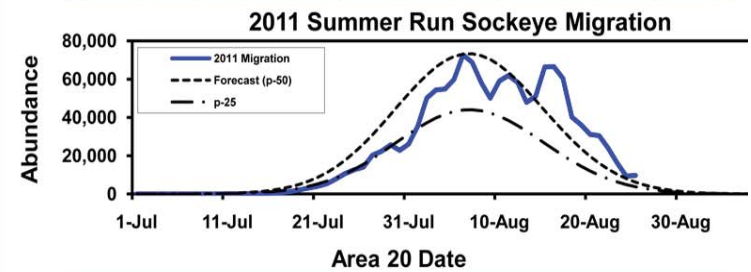
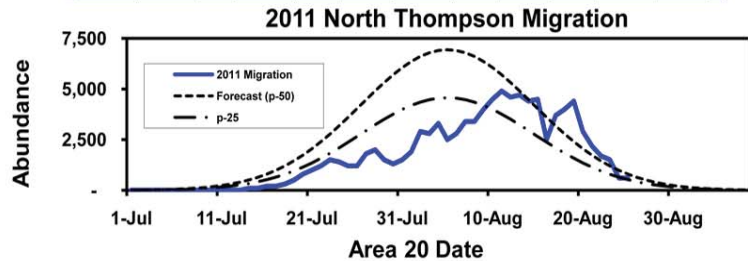
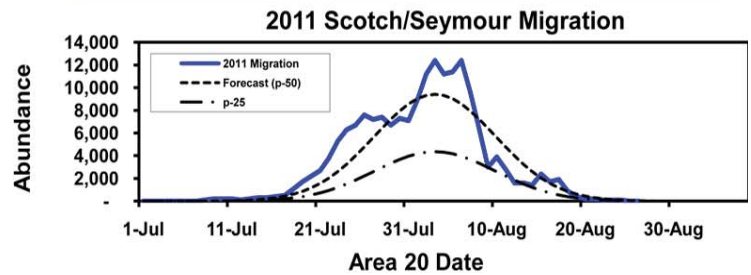
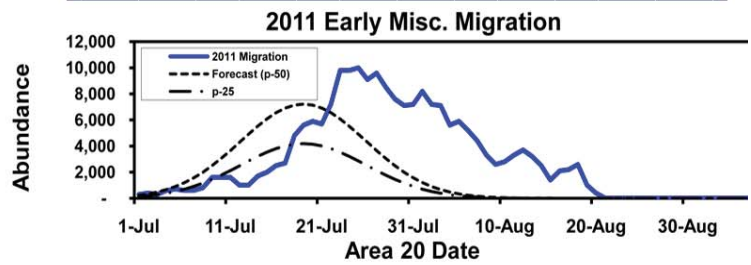
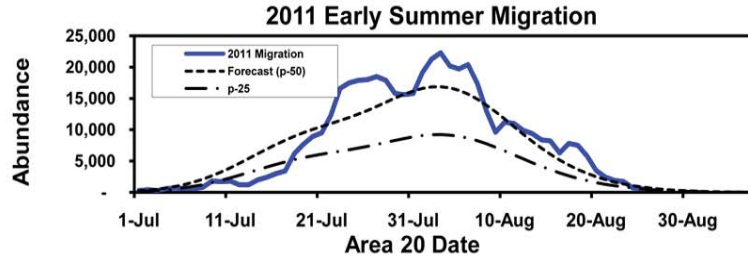
### IN-SEASON RUN SIZE ESTIMATES:

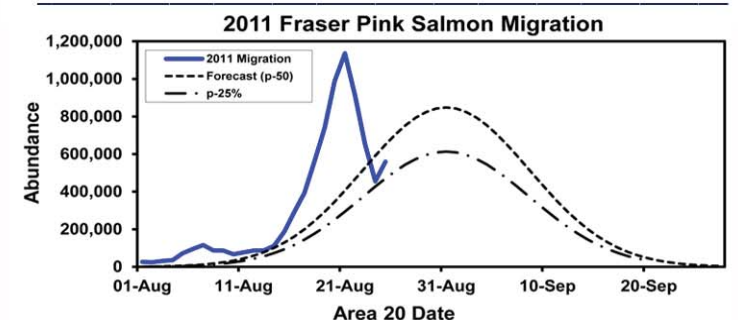
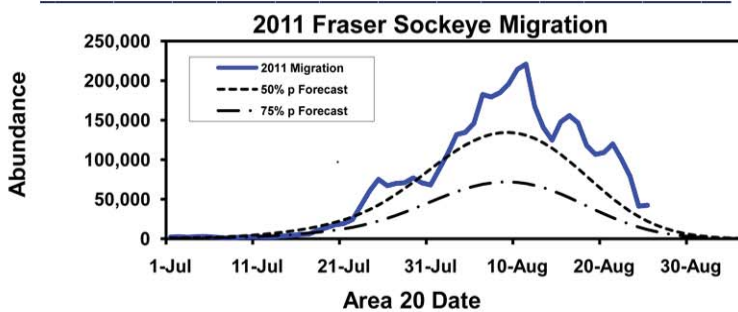
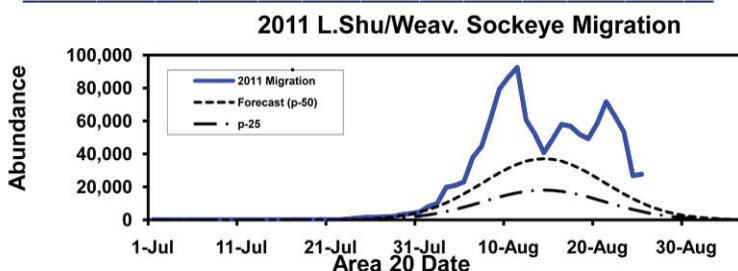
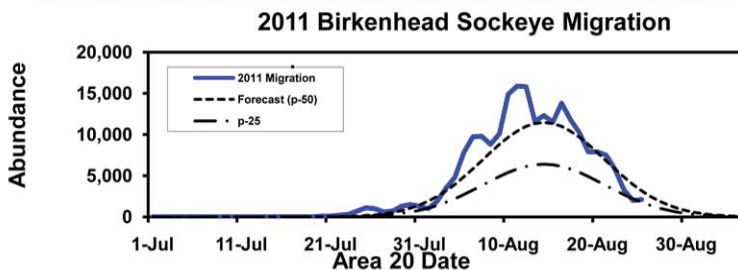
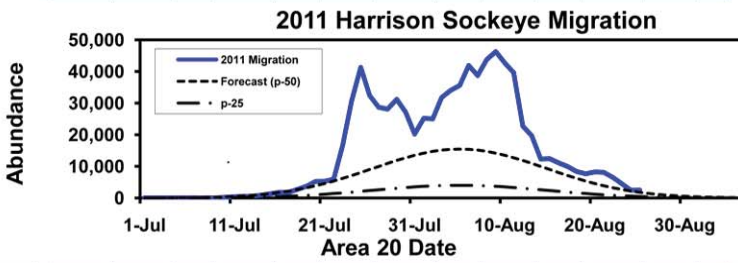
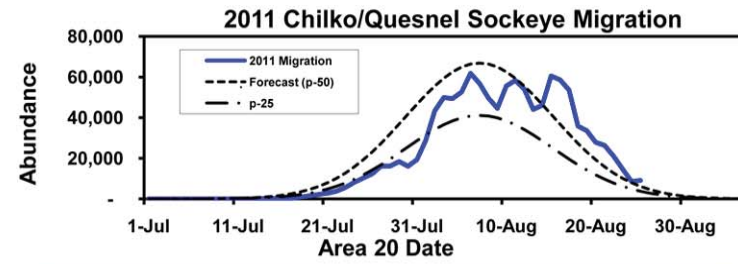
1. The Early Summer Run in season run size estimate has been set at 480,000, which is above the pre-season forecast of 453,000. Most of the stocks in this group are now in or near the natal streams.
2. The Summer Run stock aggregate in season run size estimate is 1.6 million. Pre-season forecast was 1.5 million,
3. The Harrison stock has in past years been considered to be part of the Late Run sockeye group. However, their timing has been very distinctly similar to that of the Summer Run group this year so the Panel is now accounting for them separately. This stock has peaked and numbers are now dropping. The total return is expected to be in the 800-850,000 range, well over twice the pre-season forecast of 345,000.
4. The Late Run group (consists mostly of Weaver Cr. and Shuswap stocks) appears to be returning at or above the forecast of 638,000. Based on outside test fishery data, the modeling is suggesting a return of about 780,000.

### ENVIRONMENT:

Temperatures in the Fraser River are remaining relatively cool and river discharge continues to drop, although it is still above normal for this time of year. Migration conditions for the Summer Run stocks are considered to be good, with no Management Adjustment needing to be factored in.

Early Stuart sockeye: spawning has just about finished, and the news is not good. The spawning number estimates have not yet been compiled but preliminary information is not encouraging. Spawning ground surveys have indicated that fish were scarce, and in most cases the regular sampling for sex ratios and female spawning success have not been able to be carried out.





## VISIONS 2011

The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat will be putting on our annual Visions Conference on October 5-7, 2011. This year's conference will be hosted by the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, and will be held at the Billy Barker Hotel in Quesnel. More information about this year's conference theme and agenda will be available in the coming weeks, as well as information about accommodations. As in previous years, participants will be encouraged to bring displays of their fisheries projects to share.

## First Nations Fisheries Council 2011 FALL FISHERIES ASSEMBLY

The First Nations Fisheries Council will be hosting their Annual Fisheries Assembly on November 8 and 9, 2011 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort in Penticton, British Columbia. More information regarding the theme, agenda, travel, and accommodations will be sent out by the Fisheries Council in early September. Please note that registration is required for the Assembly; information about how to register will be available soon. For more information please visit the First Nations Fisheries Council website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca).



## USEFUL WEB LINKS

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

**Albion Test Fishery – Chinook Gill Net:**

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

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

**Upper/Mid/Lower Fraser Catch and Openings:**

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

**Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:**

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

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

**Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports:**

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

**Fraser River Environmental Watch Program:**

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

.....  
**First Nations In-Season Technical Conference Calls**

Thursdays at 4:00pm unless otherwise noted

Hosted by FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley

Toll-free: 1-866-512-0904

Passcode/conference number: 4954972#  
.....

**The Watershed Talk is also available for download from the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat Website:**

**[www.frafs.ca](http://www.frafs.ca)**

**To subscribe or submit content to the Watershed Talk, email us at [info@frafs.ca](mailto:info@frafs.ca) or call 604-836-1909.**

## FRASER PANEL LISTEN-IN LINE FOR FIRST NATIONS

As in previous years, the Pacific Salmon Commission Fraser Panel will open a line for First Nations to dial in and listen to the calls (observer only). The dial-in information is sent out prior to each call on our email distribution list.

The PDF meeting package, as in previous years, will be distributed via email the morning of the call (probably just before the call begins).

The Fraser Panel calls are scheduled for Tuesday and Friday mornings at 11:00am, with the exception of the in-person meetings, which will be held on the following Fridays: July 29th, August 5th, August 12th, August 19th, and August 26th (might begin earlier on these dates – notifications will be sent via email).

Please note First Nations calling in on the observer line will be asked for their first and last name as well as their affiliation.

.....  
**UPCOMING ROADMAP WORKSHOPS:**

**October 12-13, 2011: Quaaout Lodge, Chase, BC**  
**December 6-7, 2011: Location TBA - Richmond, BC**  
**February 8-9, 2011: Tzeachten Band, Chilliwack, BC**

**FORUM MEETING DATES FOR 2012:**

**January 24-26: Lower Mainland, BC**  
**February 27-29: Kamloops, BC**  
**March 21-23: Tsawout First Nation, Saanichton BC**  
**May 8-10: Prince George, BC**

