



WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

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Looking ahead: Fraser Salmon Reports

By Pete Nicklin & Aidan Neill,
FRAFS Fraser Fisheries Biologists

The weekly Watershed Talk is back! FRAFS distributes the Watershed Talk (WST) weekly for most of July and all of August, usually winding up the in-season reports by mid-September. Salmon reports consist of written and visual information summarized from FRAFS teleconferences and Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) Fraser River Panel (FRP) meetings.

The weekly updates are summaries of technical information from numerous sources, most of which can be accessed online.

In general, the weekly updates will cover:

- Fraser River Temperature and Discharge at Hope and Qualark Creek;
- Fraser sockeye information:
 - Test Fisheries
 - Estimated abundance & timing
 - Fraser River Panel decisions
 - Spawning ground information
- Internet links to sources of information;
- Other key pieces of information related to Fraser salmon fisheries and returns.

Stay tuned for the first Report on Friday, July 14!

Weekly Technical Updates with FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley

Thursday afternoons at 4:00pm

Beginning Thursday, July 13th at 4:00 pm, FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley will host weekly in-season teleconferences for First Nations. Mike will provide updates on current discussions from both the Pacific Salmon Commission Fraser River Panel (FRP) and FRP Technical Committee. Participants are welcome to ask questions.

Phone in:

Tel: 1-866-512-0904 • Participant code: 4954972#

GoTo Meeting Link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/558627029>

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PSC FRASER PANEL SCHEDULE:

July 11, 14, 18, 21, 25*, 28,
August 1*, 4, 8*, 11, 15*, 18, 22*, 25, 29,
September 1, 5, 8

Most dates above are calls, start time 11:00am. **Dates marked in red** are in-person meetings and begin at 10:30am.

The PSC provides a listen-in line for interested First Nations:

Canada 1-888-299-2873 • USA: 1-888-585-9008
Conference ID: 902-802-337

FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

c/o Nicola Tribal Association • PO Box 188 • Merritt, BC • V1K 1B8
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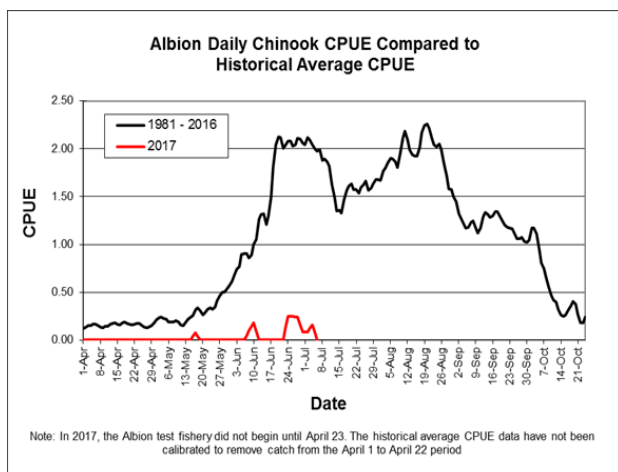


Fraser Chinook Update

By Pete Nicklin & Aidan Neill,
FRAFS Fraser Fisheries Biologists

As many are aware, we have landed in Zone 1 management for Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook this season. The zoned management decision is based on in-season information/catch at the Albion test fishery using the 8" mesh net (odd days April and May, even days June and July). This year the in-season forecast has a median 42,530 (range 27,000 – 68,000) for Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook.

Catch to date at Albion has been low compared to historic averages, as well as in-river catch. There are no other in-river chinook directed fisheries; recreational fisheries are closed on the Fraser mainstem. There are mark-selective and slot limits in place in marine recreational chinook fisheries in some areas in the Strait of Georgia, and Juan de Fuca.



New FRAFS Operations Manager

FRAFS has a new Operations Manager! Lita Gomez has taken maternity leave which will last until September 2018. The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) Executive Committee advertised the part-time term position (15 months) and selected Greg Witzky of Adams Lake Indian Band as the successful candidate. Greg started his term of employment on June 5. Many folks in the Watershed know Greg from various fisheries related meetings over the years.

The Executive is pleased to have Greg join the FRAFS organization and looks forward to working with him over the coming year.

FSMC: A Brief Update

The Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is pleased to report on their progress in working with DFO staff over the last few months. In mid-June, FSMC President Darren Haskell and Lead Negotiator Brenda Gaertner met with senior officials in Ottawa (from both INAC and DFO) to provide an update on the FSMC process and to discuss the importance of crafting a new arrangement in the relationship with government representatives at the highest levels. The negotiation teams have recessed for July and August, but will resume negotiations in September. We hope to arrive at a draft Management Agreement by mid-November 2017; once a draft has been developed, it will be taken to the FSMC membership for review.