

Watershed Talk

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

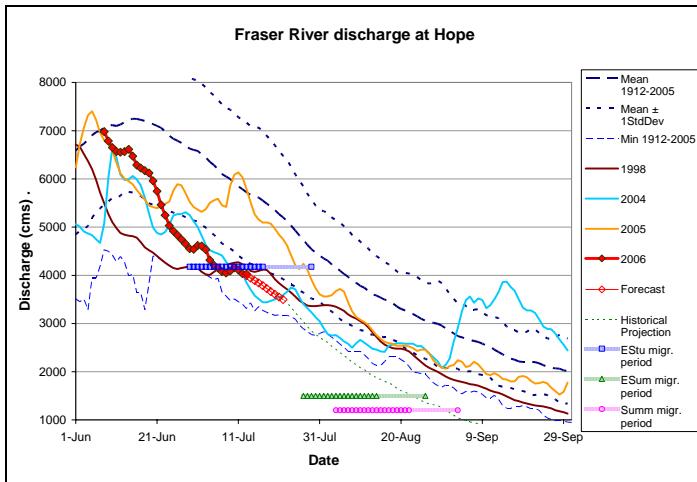
FRASER SALMON UPDATE

By Pete Nicklin, Assistant Stock Management Coordinator

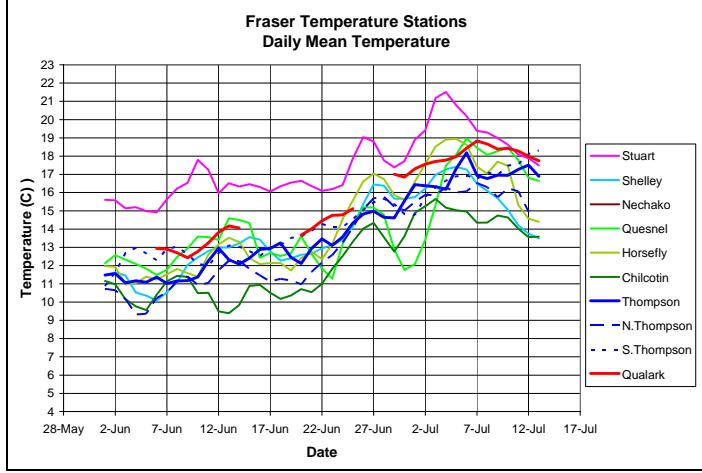
General Info

Sockeye test fisheries are now being conducted at Area 20, Area 12 (July 10), Cottonwood (July 12) and Whonnock. Seals continue to be a problem at the Whonnock test fishery because they are picking off the sockeye in the net. This is making stock id problematic for the Mission hydroacoustics program. Sockeye have been observed migrating through Hells Gate in modest abundance and in a steady pattern.

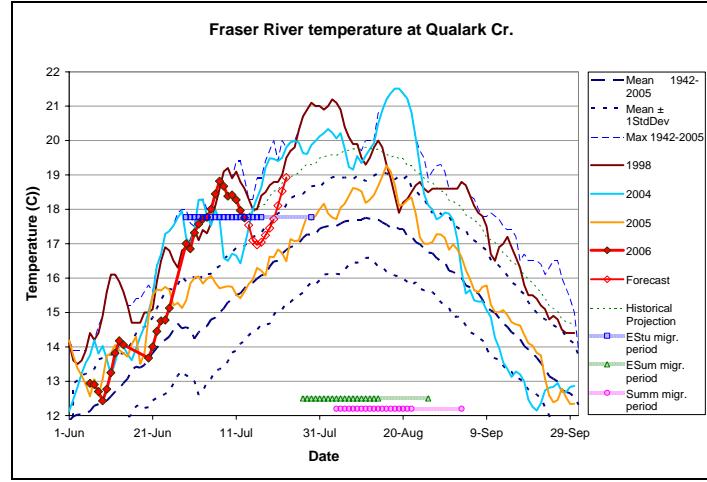
Water conditions in the Fraser are low (discharge) and warm (not record warm, but not too far off 1998 and 2004).



This graph shows the 2006 discharge (flow) at Qualark (Lower Fraser) compared to other years (the line with diamonds). The mean discharge is shown by the heavy dashed line. Note the Early Stuart travel time on the graph.



The top line on this graph is the temperature for the Stuart River. The temperature has dropped over the past week, and currently sits at about 18 degrees, good news for the returning salmon.



The line with the diamonds shows the temperatures at Qualark for 2006. The big dashed line is the mean temperature from 1942 to 2005. Temperatures are still above average, and projected to go higher next week.

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Fraser Chinook

Based on the Albion Test Fishery in the Lower Fraser, it looks like the chinook return, at least the early portion, continues to return far below the 1981-2005 average.

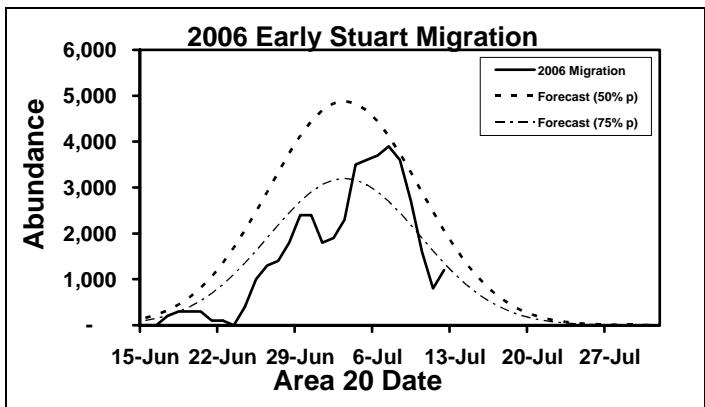


The cumulative test fishery catch at Albion for 2006 is the bottom line in this graph. The top line is the average from 1981 to 2005.

Fraser Sockeye

Early Stuarts

The projected Management Adjustment (MA) for the Early Stuarts is at 2.61 (July 13), and a 72% Difference Between Estimates (DBE), meaning that only 28% of the sockeye estimated at Mission are projected to be estimated at the spawning grounds. The Mission escapement to date is estimated at 28,400 fish.



The Early Stuarts appear to have peaked and are tracking at approximately the 75%P forecast level run size (55,000).

Early Summers

The estimated Mission escapement for the Early Summers is 1,400. The test fisheries are starting to show a shift towards the Early Summer sockeye component.

Summers

The Summer run sockeye have not begun to show up in the most current DNA/scale analysis of the test fisheries.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Upper/Mid/Lower Fraser Catch and Openings:
<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/firstnations.htm>

Albion Test Fishery (Chinook Gill Net):
http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk_e.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:
http://www.psc.org/info/testfishing_summaries.htm

Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports:
<http://www.psc.org/info/inseasonfraserescapement.htm>

Snow Survey Bulletin – Water Supply Outlook for BC:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/rfc/river_forecast/bulletin.htm

Fraser River Environmental Watch Program:
http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fwh/index_e.htm



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JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Employment Opportunity
Habitat Biologist & Mentor
(Prince George, BC)**

The Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) is a non-profit society, based out of Prince George, BC, working on behalf of First Nations and the fisheries resources of the Upper Fraser watershed.

The UFFCA is seeking the services of a contractor to lead this project. The position's primary focus is on **capacity transfer** to First Nations candidates/trainees working along side the habitat biologist. Candidate must have the ability to work closely with others including: Habitat trainees, First Nations bands and Tribal Councils, DFO, and other government regulatory agencies. Superior written and oral communication skills are required, as well as knowledge of the Species at Risk Act, Wild Salmon Policy, and other environmental regulations beneficial.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferred candidates will have a degree in biology, fisheries, ecology, or other closely related field (MSc preferred, BSc with extensive experience may also qualify).
- Knowledgeable of Upper Fraser First Nations and fisheries issues
- Knowledge of endangered/threatened species/issues as they relate to fisheries
- Knowledge of the federal Species at Risk Act
- Skills in effective verbal and written communication
- The ability to work in a mentors role
- Skills in using personal computers with knowledge of MS Office

SALARY: The position is based on 10-15 days per month (part-time) with a salary range of \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year depending on experience.

Applications (with cover letter) should be sent to your:

Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance
1041 Whenun Rd.
Prince George, BC
V2K 5X8

Application deadline is July 14, 2006, applications can emailed to
briantoth@shaw.ca, or indiseaent@shaw.ca