



# WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

August 2, 2013

Volume X, Issue 6

## "The River's Edge" on CTV First Story

*"This is part of who we are. This is our blood vein." Morgan Guerin (Musqueam)*

Ernie Victor (Sto:lo) and Morgan Guerin (Musqueam) are interviewed in this thought-provoking report.

Watch the video here: [The River's Edge](#).  
CTV's First Story airs Sundays at 12:30.

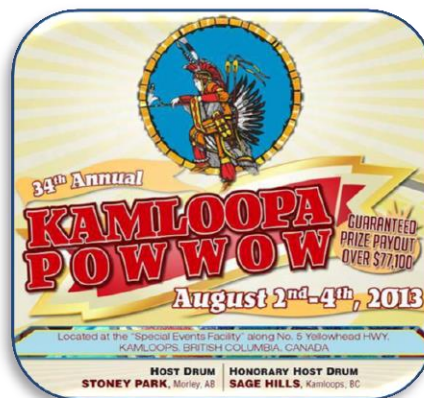


Join our on-line community at [FRAFS Facebook](#).

## Long weekend events



This year's **Tsawout Canoe Races** will be held on August 3rd & 4th at TIXEN (a.k.a Cordova Spit.)  
Click here for a map: [Tixen](#)



Just drive to Kamloops and follow the sound of the drumming.



## Fraser Salmon In-season Update

### General

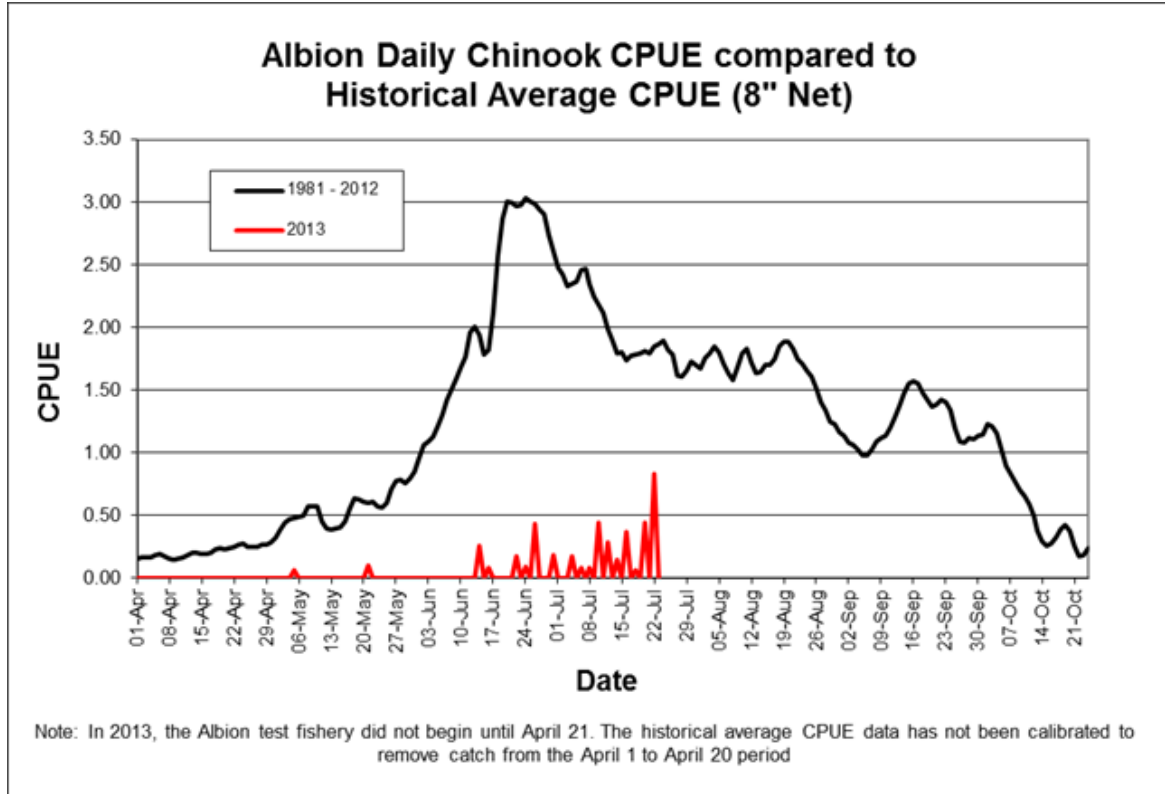
The information in this update summarizes the information from:

- FRAFS August 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in-season teleconference call,
- Fraser River Panel information distribution August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and
- Albion Chinook test fishery graphs from the DFO website.

Note that the Thursday in-season updates (presented by Mike Staley) will continue weekly throughout the sockeye season.

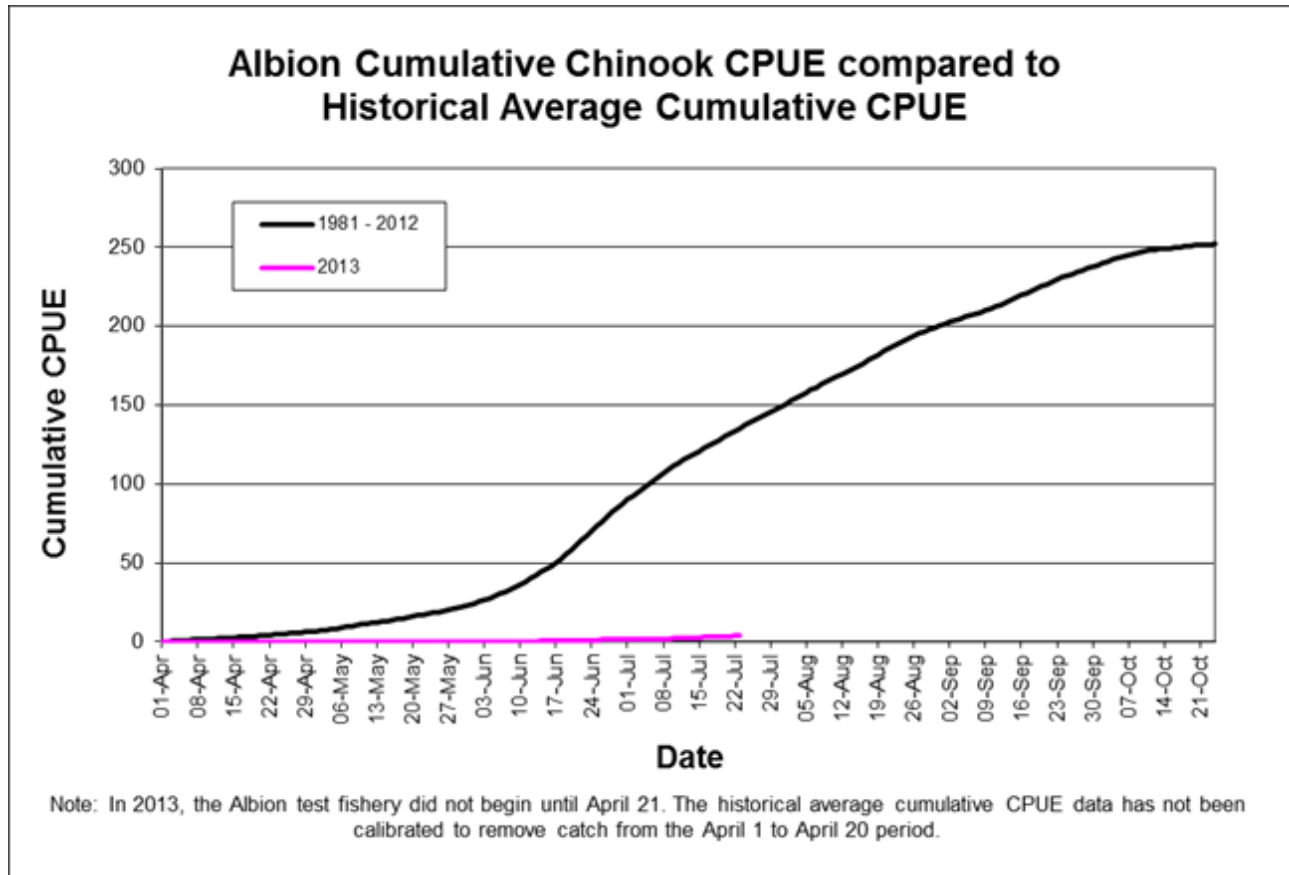
### **Fraser Chinook Albion Test Fishery** (Graphs from DFO website: Albion Chinook Test Fishery)

### Daily abundance





## Cumulative abundance



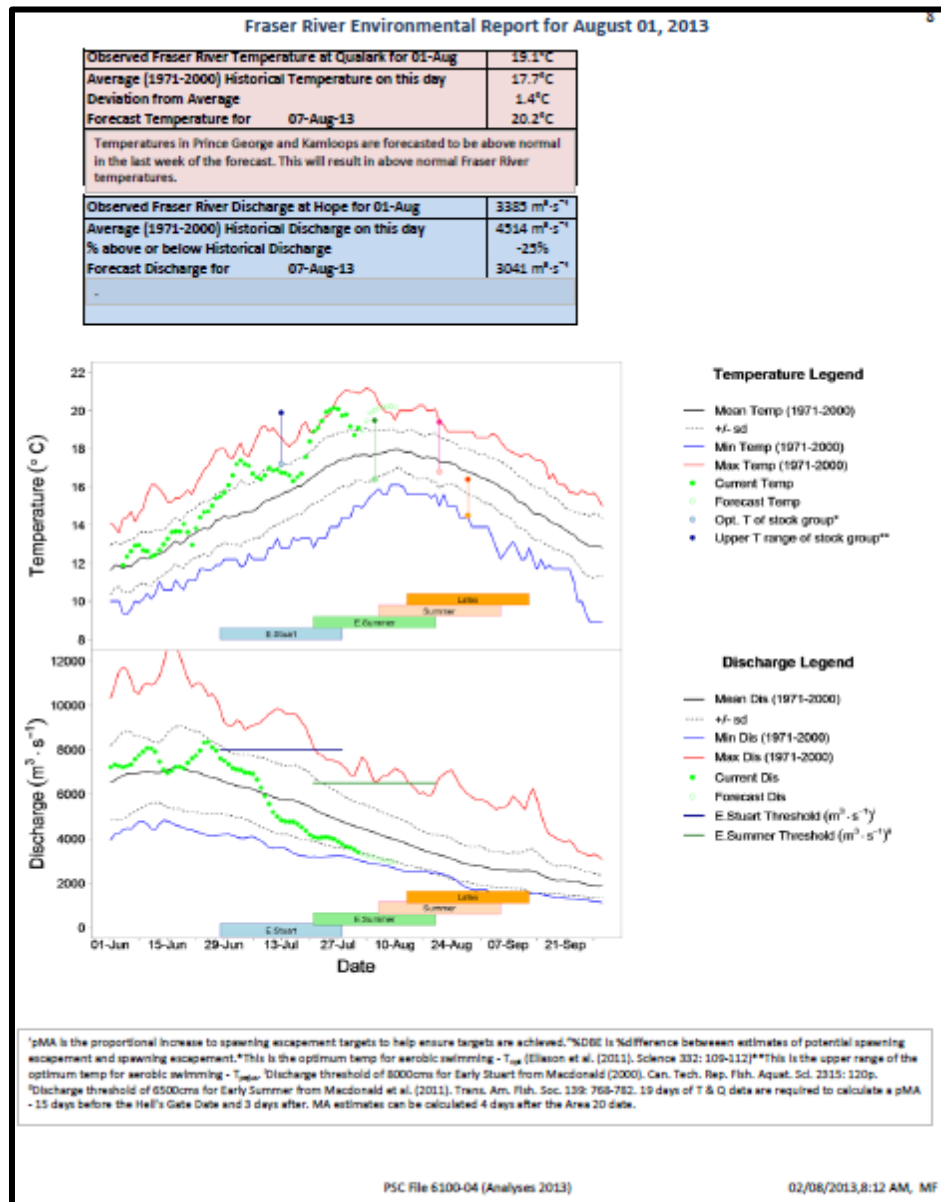
## Water Conditions

Fraser River discharge and temperature information is updated and distributed by the Pacific Salmon Commission. The graphs in this section are taken directly from that update.

Current Fraser River temperatures at Hope are above average for this time of year. They **hit record temperatures last week and are forecasted to climb back to record levels over the next few days**. These water temperatures are very stressful to migrating salmon and are currently above the upper temperature range for Early Summer sockeye. Water discharge in the Fraser continues to track below average for this time of year. The forecast is that this trend will continue.



## Fraser River Environmental Report



### Fraser River Temperature at Qualark

The first graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the solid green circles shows the 2013 observed temperatures. The unfilled green circle portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is approximately 19 degrees Celsius and forecast to increase to 20 degrees Celsius by August 8th. (*Continued next page*)



The vertical lines connected by circles show the Optimal and Upper temperature range of the sockeye aggregates. Current temperatures are above the Upper Temperature range for Early Summer sockeye.

### Fraser River Discharge at Hope

The second graph shows the 2013 Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the solid green circles is the 2013 observed discharge values, and the forecast discharge shows as unfilled green circles.

Fraser River discharge is below average for this time of year. The August 1<sup>st</sup> discharge was 3385m<sup>3</sup>/sec (approximately 25% lower than average for the date), and forecast to decrease to approximately 3041m<sup>3</sup>/sec by August 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fraser Sockeye**

Fraser sockeye are now in marine approach areas, migrating in the Fraser River and arriving on spawning grounds.

The estimated diversion rate through Johnstone Strait appears to be higher than expected pre-season thus far (35% expected pre-season & current estimate of >60%).

An estimated 180,400 Early Stuarts, 331,400 Early Summers, 249,900 Summers and 10,300 Lates have been estimated through the Mission hydroacoustics station to date (August 1<sup>st</sup>).

The Early Stuart migration is complete in marine areas and most of these sockeye are in the river upstream of Mission, with the first spawners arriving on July 19th. Early Stuart Area 20 timing is still estimated at July 2<sup>nd</sup>, three days earlier than expected pre-season. Based on a proportional Management Adjustment of 1.33 and an estimated run size of approximately 180,000 (lower than pre-season forecast), the escapement target of 108,000 will likely not be met. At the current in-season run size estimate, Management Adjustment and escapement goal there is no Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the Early Stuarts.

Early Summer sockeye are starting to decline in proportion to Summer sockeye in the mix of Fraser sockeye in both marine approaches, but, not as much as was expected pre-season. The pre-season 50% date for Early Summers is July 23<sup>rd</sup>; the in-season estimate adopted by the Fraser Panel is July 23<sup>rd</sup>. It appears the Early Summers are tracking above forecast in aggregate, mainly due to a much stronger than expected abundance of Pitt sockeye (pre-season forecast of 15,000 versus a current Catch and Escapement total of 162,000). As of August 1st (yesterday) the PSC models estimate a total of 477,000 Early Summers to Mission – 234,000 for lower Fraser tributaries and 243,000 destined for upper Fraser and Thompson tributaries.

The models are predicting escapement projections at Mission on August 7<sup>th</sup> an aggregate projection of 378,800, with lower Fraser tributaries (Pitt and Chilliwack) estimated to contribute approximately 212,000 of that projected total.



Although the model estimates for the Early Summer aggregate are estimating abundances higher than forecast, this is currently due to the extremely strong performance of Pitt. Model estimates for Nadina group and Early Thompson group components are 243,000. Very high temperatures in the Fraser river are now a significant concern for Early Summer stocks migrating to the mid and Upper Fraser (Nadina and Early Thompson groups).

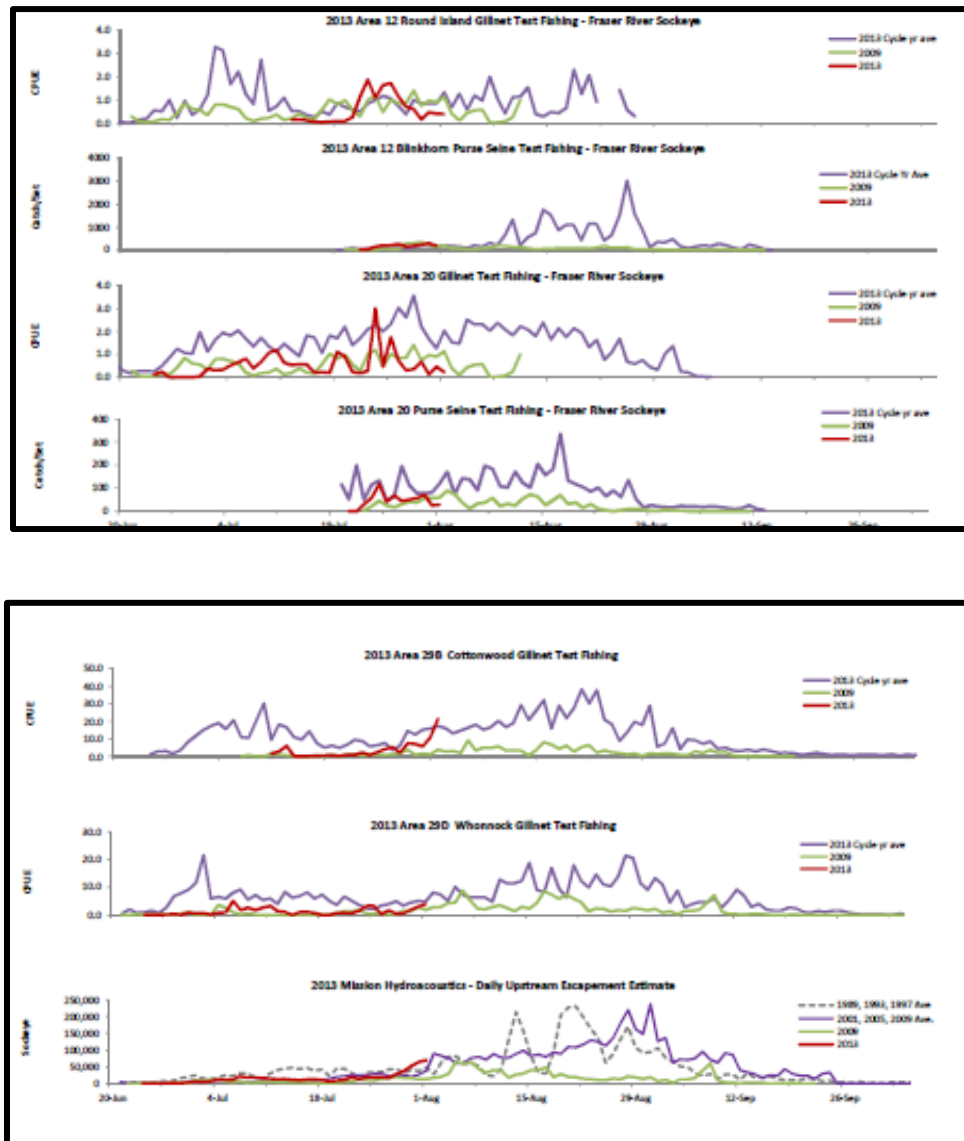
Summer Run sockeye are being identified in test fisheries, and although early in the season, appear to be tracking in abundances lower than expected pre-season (based on August 3<sup>rd</sup> timing) or later (or both) at this time. At its July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Fraser Panel adopted an in-season run size for Early Summers of 400,000 with a provisional Proportional Management Adjustment of 0.54. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Panel adjusted the Early Stuart Run size to 182,000 and left the Early Summer run and Management Adjustment unchanged to be review at the meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

The next scheduled Fraser River Panel meeting is August 6th.





### ***Fraser Sockeye Test Fishery Summary (to August 1<sup>st</sup>) (Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)***

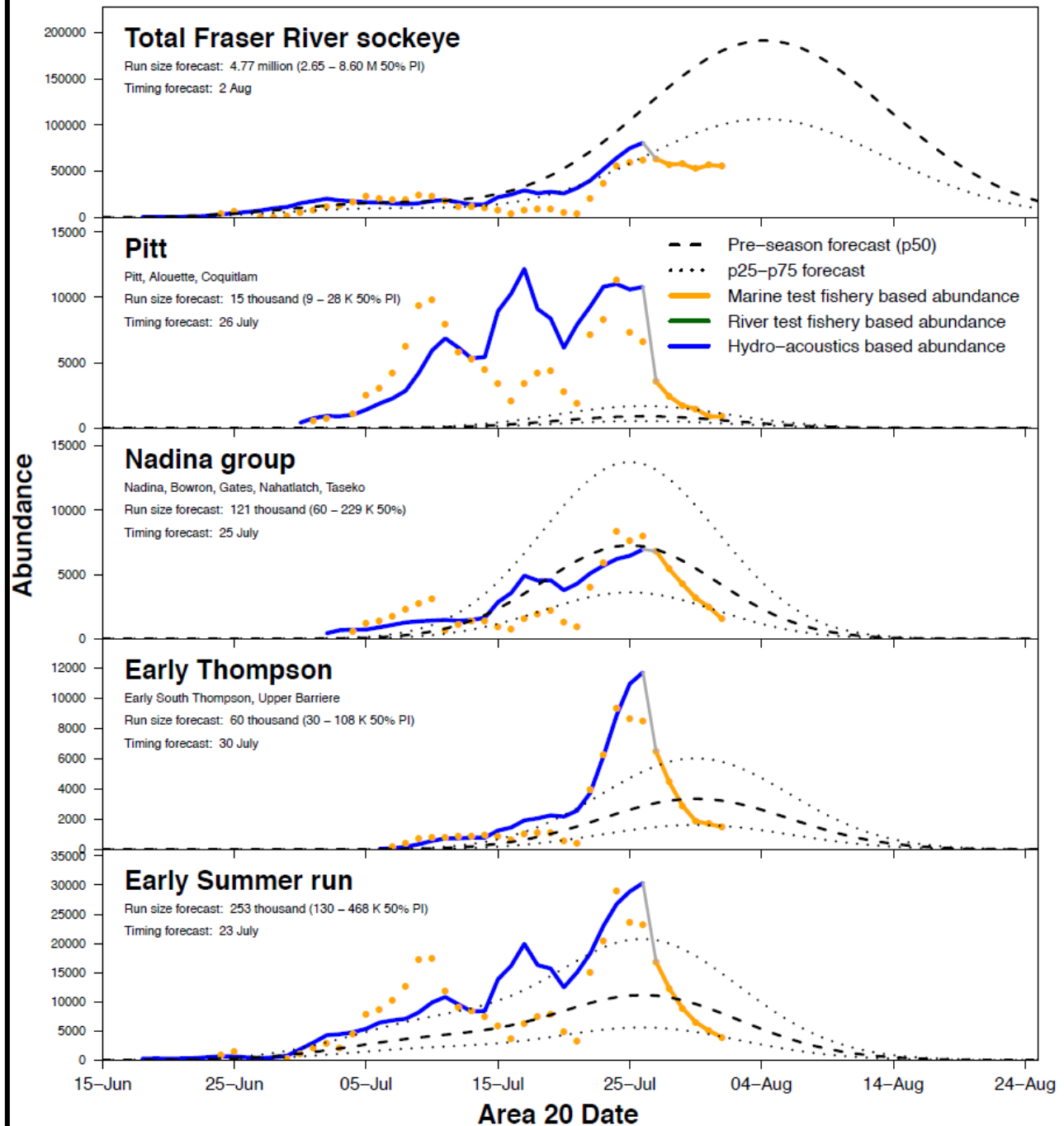


### ***Fraser Sockeye Area 20 sockeye passage Graphs (Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)***

The graphs on the following pages show the current (August 1<sup>st</sup>) information for the 2013 Fraser, Early Stuart, Early Summer and Summer sockeye migration.



## 2013 Fraser River sockeye daily migration abundance



### FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

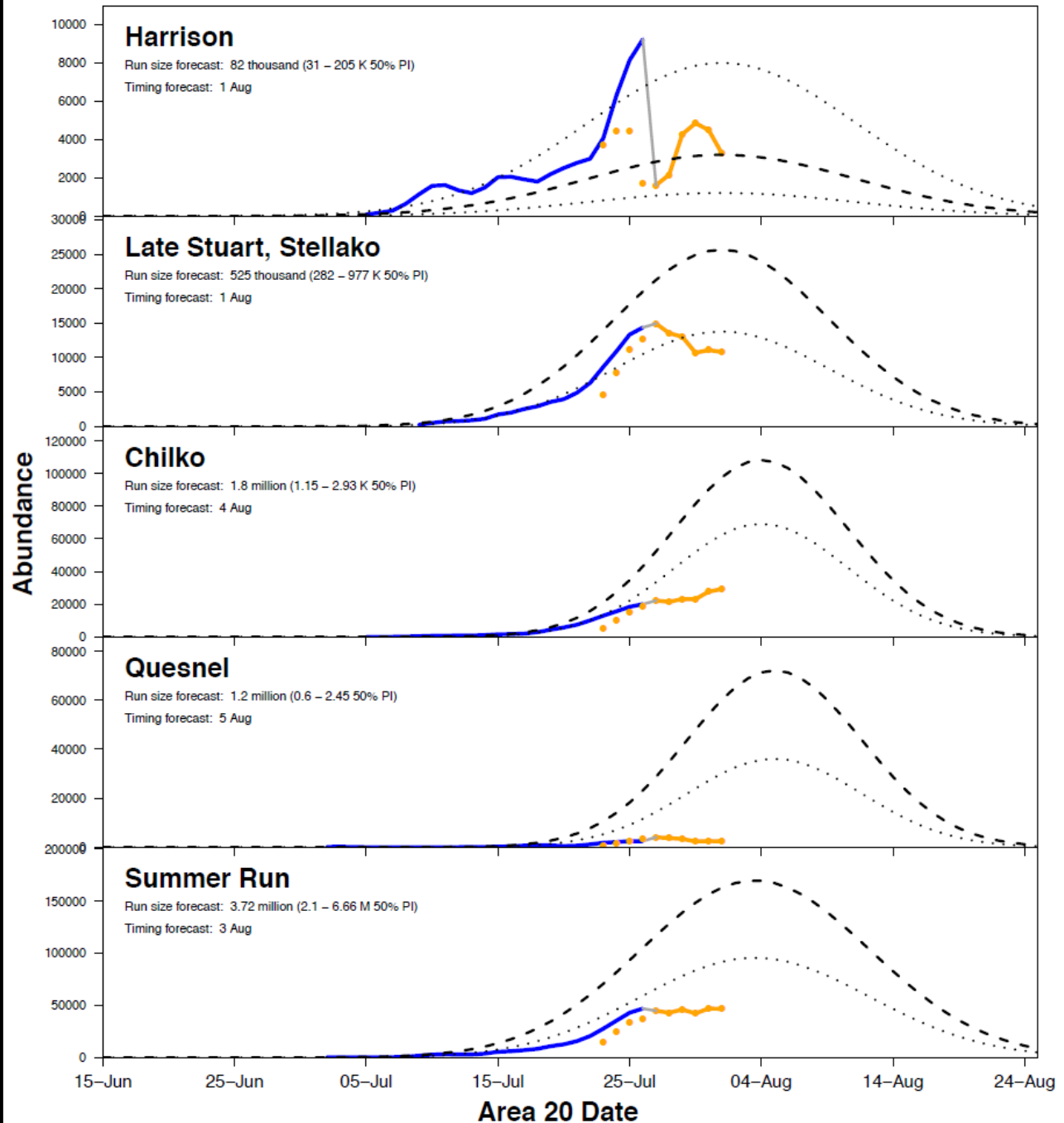
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## 2013 Fraser River sockeye daily migration abundance



- For more information contact Pete Nicklin by email: [pnicklin@telus.net](mailto:pnicklin@telus.net)

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## **FRAFS First Nations In-Season Technical Conference Calls**

- Thursdays at 4PM unless otherwise noted
- Hosted by FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley
- Dial in numbers:
- Toll-free: 1-866-512-0904
- Passcode/conference number: 4954972#

### **General Information**

With Chinook and sockeye approaching and in the Fraser, these links may be of interest:

Albion Test Fishery – Chinook Gill Net:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/docs/commercial/albionchinook-quinnat-eng.htm>

Pacific Salmon Commission Website:

[www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)

Fraser River Fisheries Information:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/index-eng.htm>

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:

[http://www.psc.org/info\\_testfishing.htm](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing.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 Reports:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/index-eng.html>