



# WATERSHED TALK NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

August 30, 2013

Volume X, Issue 10

## Ct'swunetkwe: To Dry Fish



*Simpchw youth gaffing sockeye  
on the Raft River.*

Simpchw First Nation's 9th Annual First Fish Ceremony was held two days ago at the Raft River Viewing Platform/Clearwater DFO office. We had just under 200 people attend our celebration.

My daughters, Rachael & Tiffany, took some of our younger people out and showed them how to gaff sockeye salmon. They speared about eight sockeye. For a few of the youth it was their first time fishing in this manner.

I then did a modernization of a pit cook with variety of root vegetables and salmon. Pat Matthew and Therese made two big pots of fish head soup, which we just called "soup." Everyone enjoyed the "soup."

Raft River is called Ct'swunetkwe: "to dry fish."

Thanks to: Tina Donald, Simpcw First Nation.  
For more photos, click: [First Fish at Simpcw](#)

*What says "family" more than  
salmon and swings?*



*See the story at: [Drying Tree](#)*

FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

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## Fraser Salmon In-season Update

### General

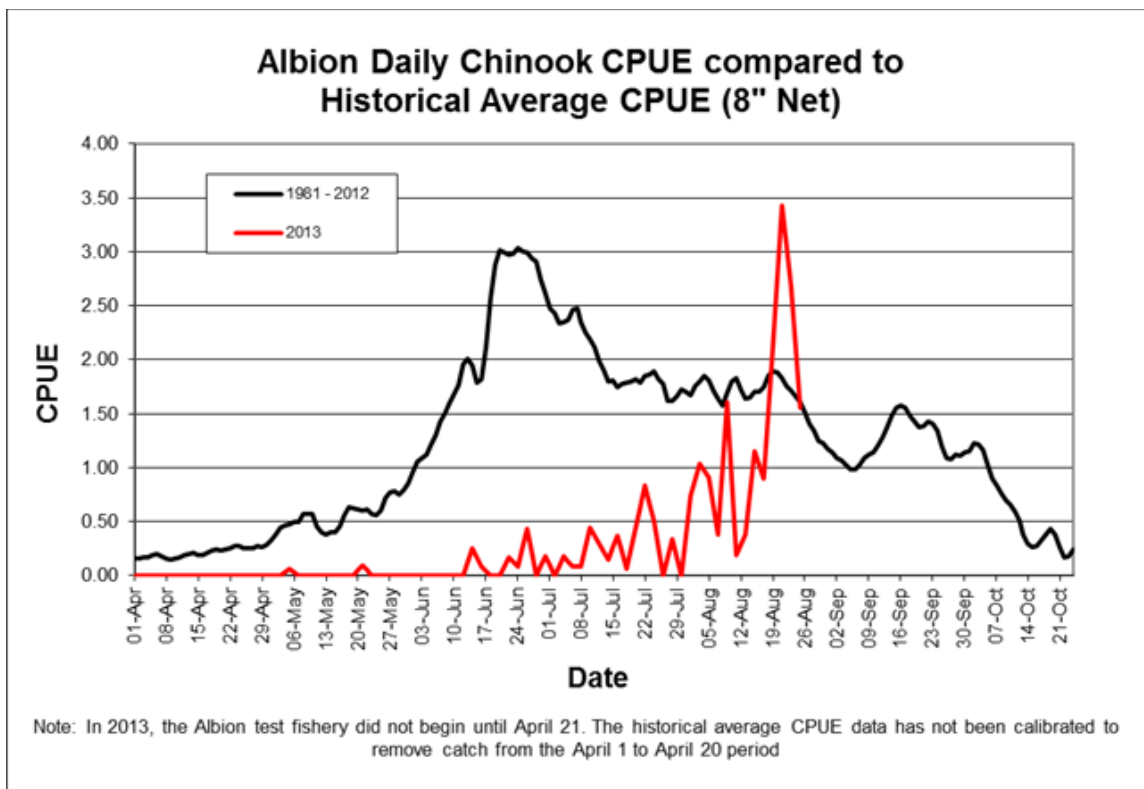
The information in this update summarizes the information from:

- FRAFS August 29th Thursday in-season teleconference call;
- Fraser River Panel information distribution August 29<sup>th</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.

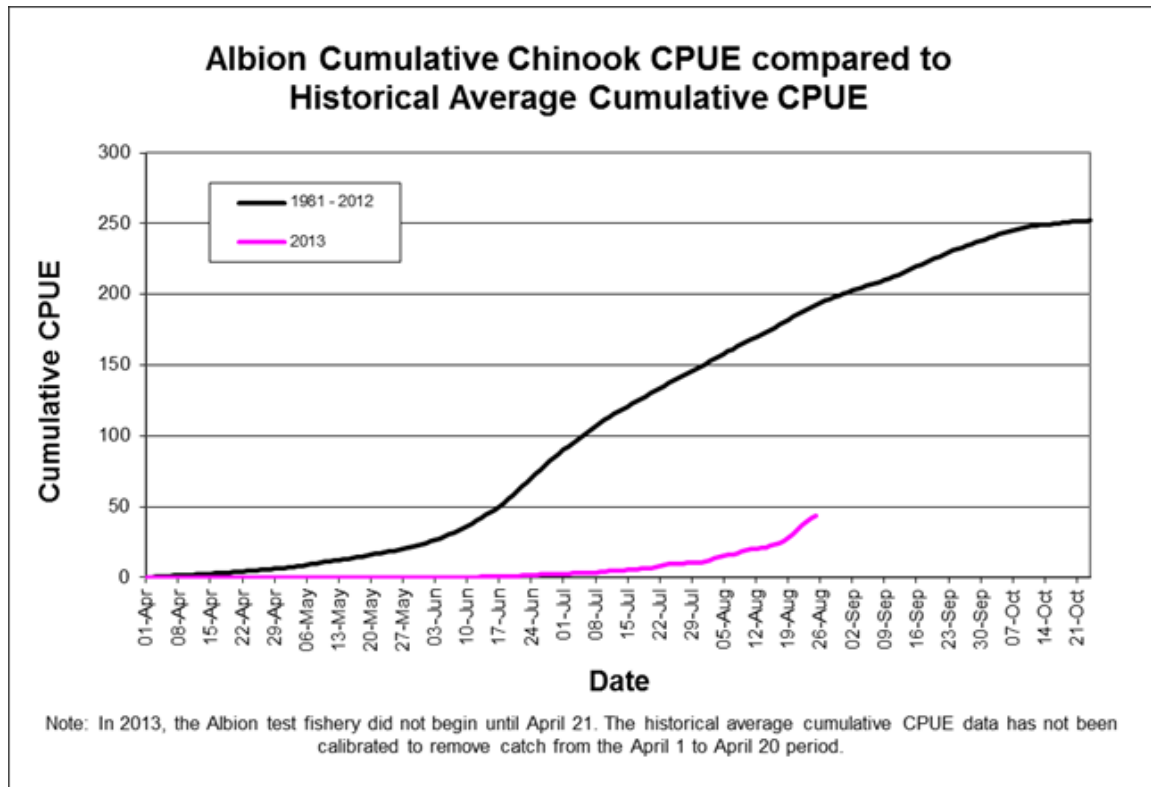
### ***Fraser Chinook Albion Test Fishery (Graphs from DFO website: Albion Chinook Test Fishery)***

### Daily





## Cumulative



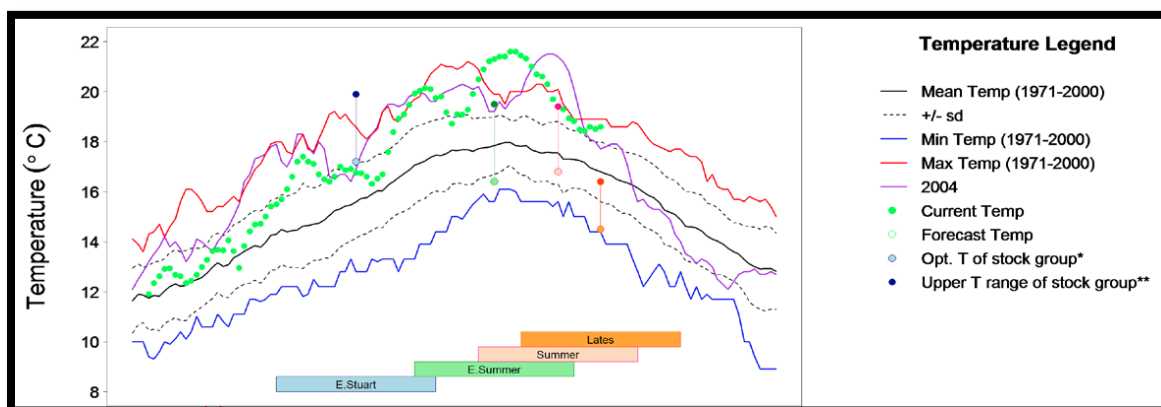
## Water Conditions

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, but have dropped rapidly from the record temperatures observed earlier in August. Current temperatures are below the Upper Temperature ranges for Early Summer and Summer sockeye, but above the Upper Temperature range for Lates. Water discharge in the Fraser continues to track below average for this time of year. The overall high Fraser temperatures in August have resulted in a very high Management Adjustment for Summer sockeye, which was previously adopted by the Fraser Panel (2.48). The in-season pMA for Lates is 0.91, an increase from the pre-season pMA of 0.67.

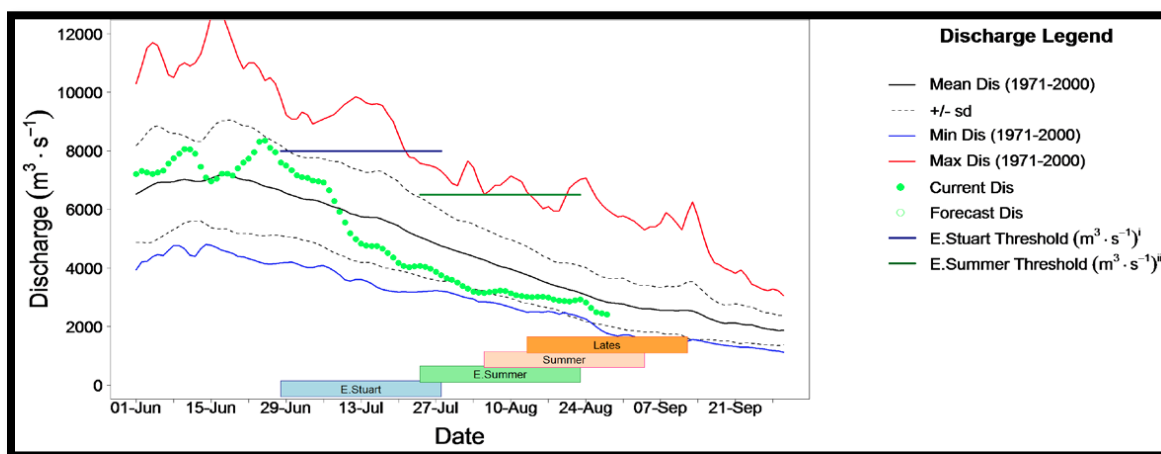


## Fraser River Temperature at Qualark



**Figure 1:** This 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 (Aug 28<sup>th</sup>) is approximately 18.6 degrees Celsius. The current temperature is above average by 1.8 degrees, and has remained below the record temperatures observed earlier in August. The vertical lines connected by circles show the Optimal and Upper temperature range of the sockeye aggregates. Current temperatures are below the Upper Temperature range for Early Summer and Summer sockeye but are still above the Upper Temperature range for Late sockeye.

## Fraser River Discharge at Hope



**Figure 2:** This 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 28<sup>th</sup> discharge was 2413 m<sup>3</sup>/sec (approximately 15% lower than average for the date).



## **Fraser Sockeye**

Summer and Late sockeye are dominating the sockeye marine test fishery catches. Early Summers are finishing the marine portion of their return migration and comprise only a very small part of the recent marine test fisheries in Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca.

The Summer run sockeye continue to show in marine test fisheries, and are showing later timing than expected pre-season (7 days later), but remain at lower abundance than pre-season expectations. Late sockeye are now estimated to have a timing 3 days later than expected pre-season.

An estimated 512,300 Early Summers, 1,829,100 Summers and 254,300 Lates have been estimated through the Mission hydroacoustics station to date (August 28<sup>th</sup>).

Early Summer sockeye are now at an accounted run-to-date of 544,800, which continues to climb from the pre-season expectation of 253,000. The adopted in-season run size is 550,000.

Summer Run sockeye continue to show some strength in marine test fisheries (mainly Chilko), but are on the decline. The adopted in-season Summer aggregate estimate is 2.4 million based on August 10<sup>th</sup> timing.

Current information indicates the Late Run sockeye are returning lower than pre-season expectations (P50 forecast), and the Fraser Panel adopted an in-season run size estimate of 500,000. Birkenhead and Weaver/Cultus appear to be returning lower than pre-season expectations, while Late Shuswap/Portage continue to be estimated at abundances higher than pre-season expectations.

## **Fraser Pinks**

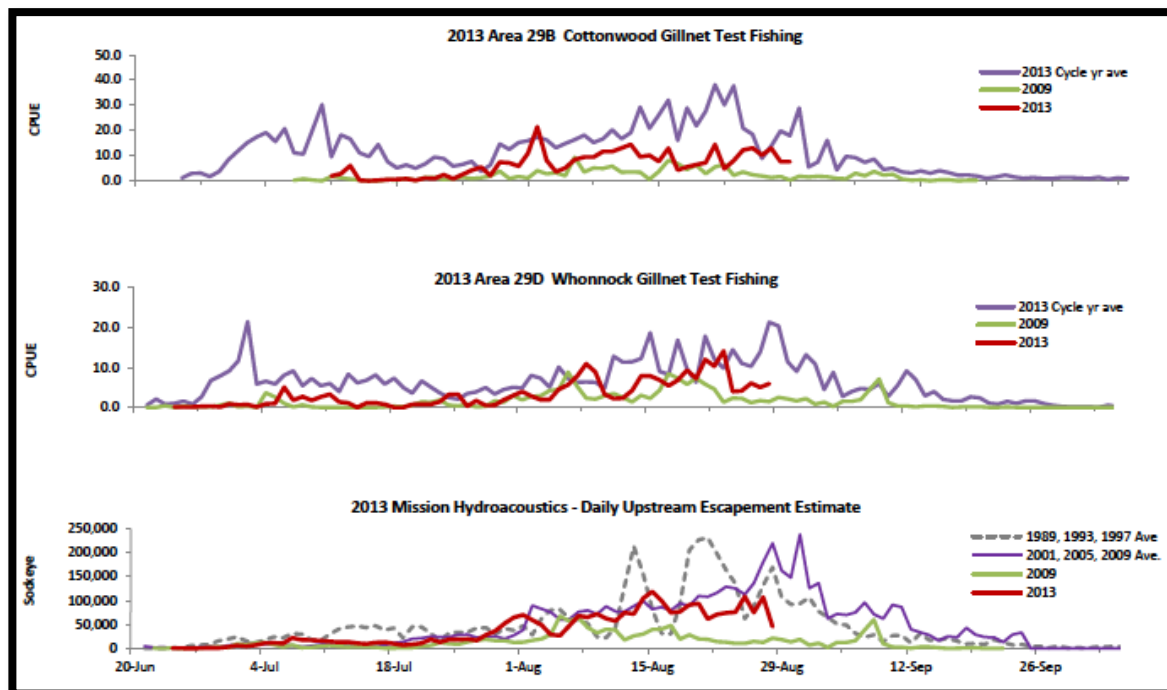
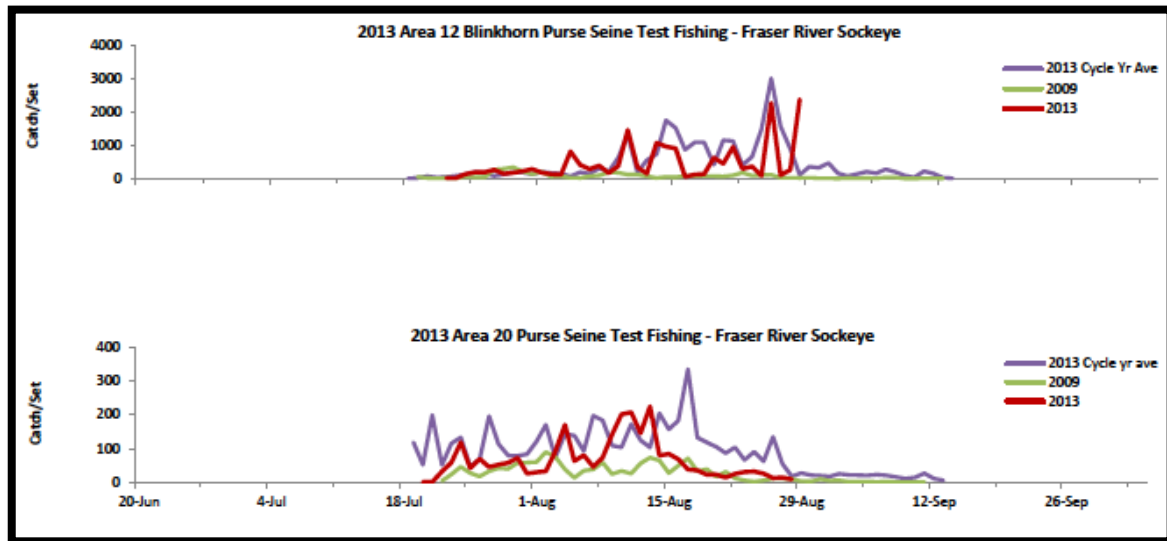
The Fraser pink salmon return looks much stronger than pre-season expectations. The in-season run size estimate for Fraser Pinks was increased to 16 million at the August 29<sup>th</sup> Fraser River Panel meeting, compared to a pre-season forecast of approximately 8.9 million, and up from the previous in-season estimate of 10 million. However, with such a strong pink salmon return, sockeye conservation concerns pose management challenges in trying to access the abundant pink salmon while limiting impacts to Fraser sockeye in the mix.

The next scheduled Fraser River Panel meeting is Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.



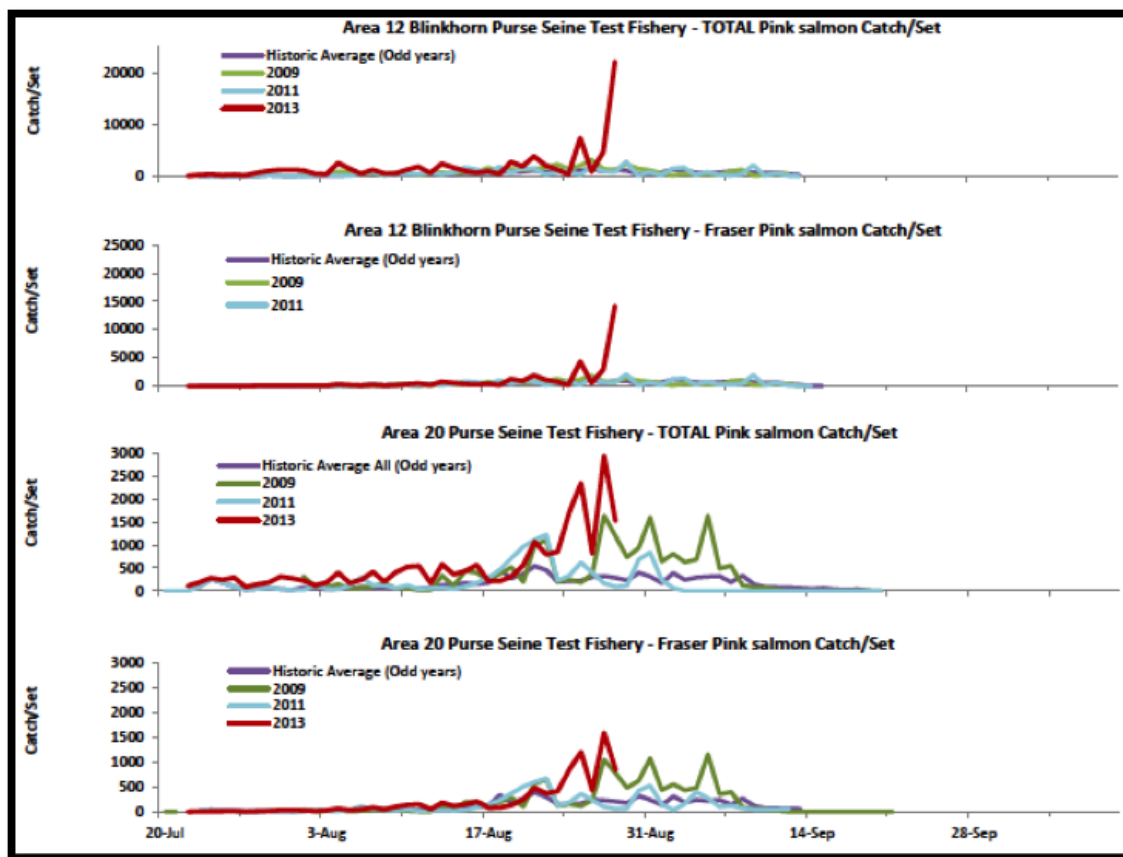


**Fraser Sockeye & Pink Test Fishery Summary, and escapement summary  
(Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)**



**FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT**

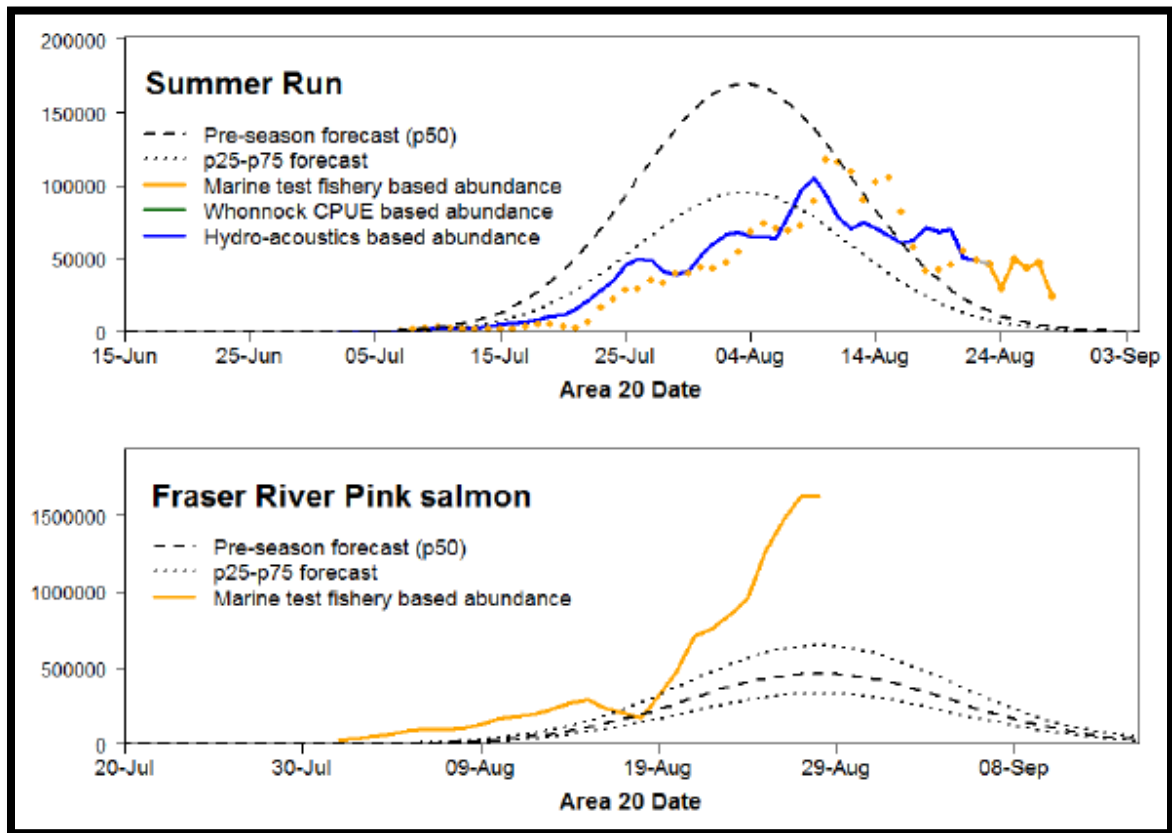
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**Figure 3: Pacific Salmon Commission 2013 test fisheries summary (to Aug 28<sup>th</sup>).**



**2013 Fraser Summer Sockeye and Pink Run Status  
(provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)**

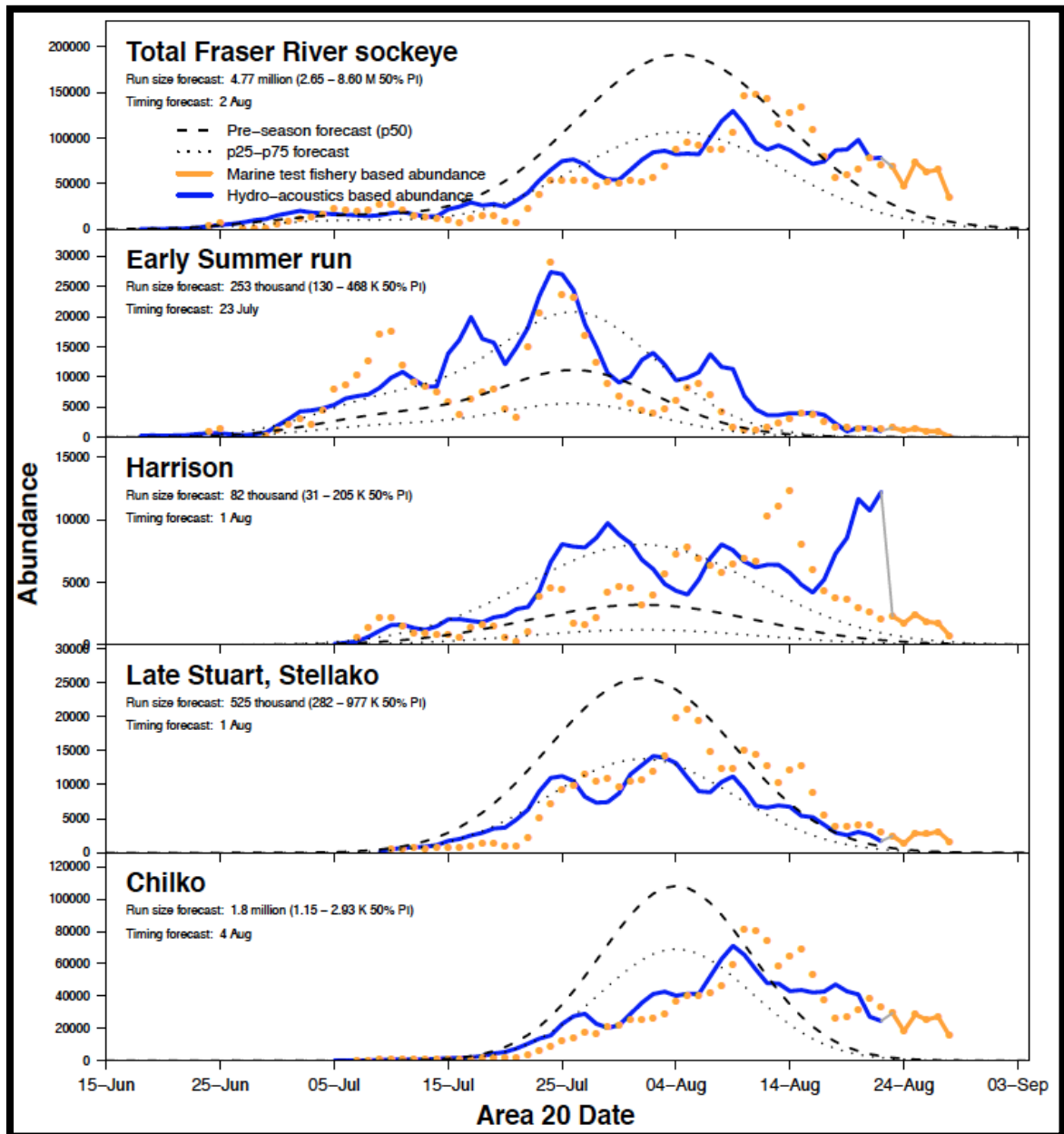


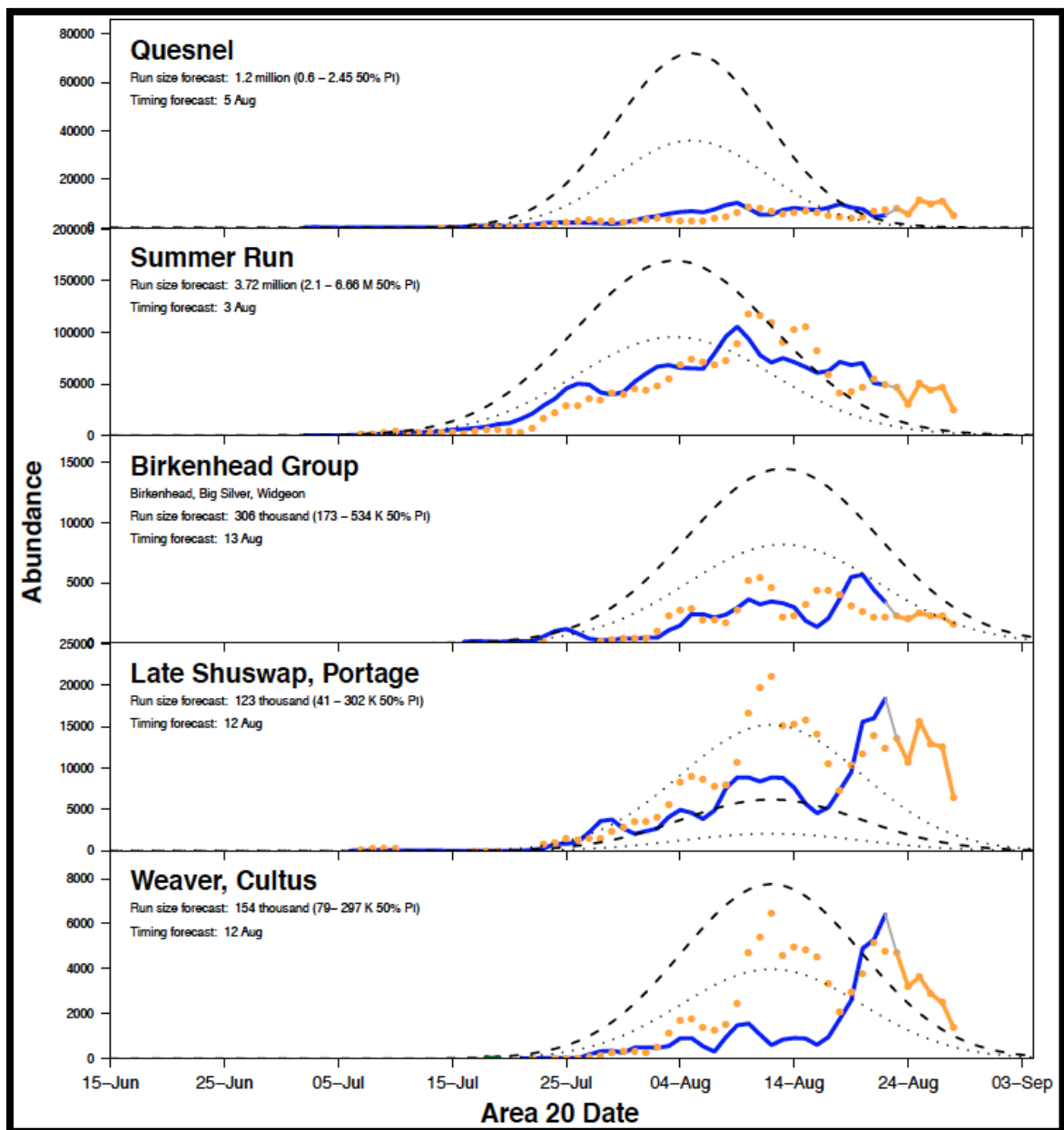
**Figure 4.** Fraser Summer Sockeye and Pink Run Status compared to pre-season expectations.





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





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

**Figure 5: These graphs show the current (Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>) information for the 2013 Fraser, Early Summer, Summer and Late sockeye migration.**

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>