



# WATERSHED TALK

## NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

AUGUST 10, 2012

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 8

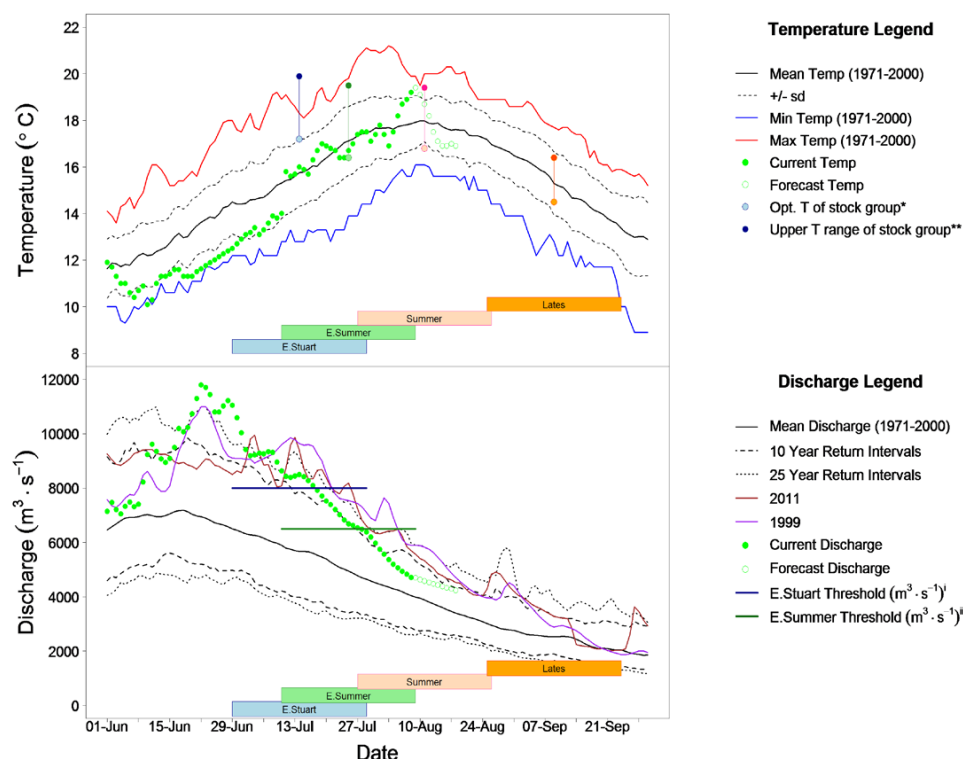
### FRASER SOCKEYE AND CHINOOK UPDATE

*By Pete Nicklin, FRAFS Biologist*

**General:** The information in this update summarizes the information from the FRAFS August 9<sup>th</sup> Thursday in-season teleconference call, the Fraser River Panel information distribution August 10<sup>th</sup>, and the DFO website.

**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, and forecast to peak and then drop to near average. Water discharge in the Fraser is higher than average for this time of year, but tracking near average.



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

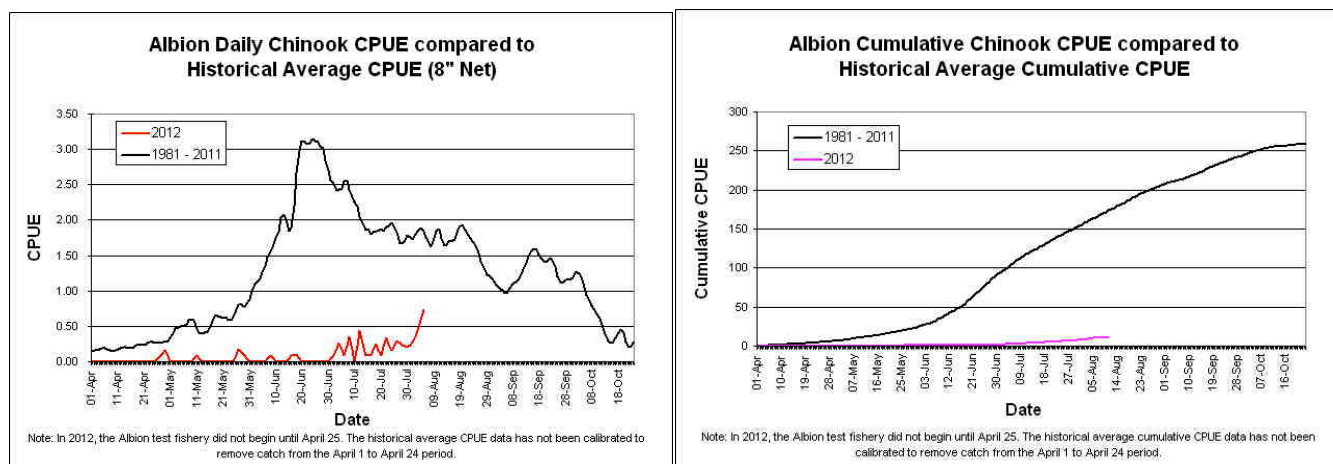
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**Figure 1:** The top graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the solid green circles shows the 2012 temperatures. The unfilled circle portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is approximately 19.4 degrees Celsius and forecast to decrease to approximately 17.1 degrees Celsius. The current temperature is slightly above average for this time of year (1.5 degrees Celsius – solid black line is the average). The vertical lines connected by circles show the Optimal and Upper temperature range of the sockeye aggregates.

The bottom graph shows the 2012 Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the solid green circles is the 2012 discharge, and the forecast discharge shows as unfilled circles. Fraser River discharge is higher than average for this time of year but tracking near average. The August 9<sup>th</sup> discharge was approximately 4700 cms (approximately 18% higher than average for the date), and forecast to decrease to approximately 4400 cms by August 14<sup>th</sup>.

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



### **Fraser Sockeye**

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

Early Summers, Summers, Birkenhead and Late sockeye continue to show in test fisheries conducted to date. In 2012, the Summer sockeye aggregate includes Raft, North Thompson and Harrison.

An estimated 182,500 Early Stuarts, 476,500 Early Summers, 613,200 Summers and 101,300 Lates are estimated to have passed the Mission hydroacoustics station (August 9<sup>th</sup>). Early Stuart Area 20 timing is July 4<sup>th</sup>, Early Summer Area 20 timing is estimated at July 16<sup>th</sup>, and Summer timing is estimated at August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is still too early in the migration to estimate the timing of Lates.

The in-season run size estimate for Early Stuarts is 180,000, which is greater than the P50 pre-

season forecast of 99,000, and this stock group is now in accounting mode with no further updates expected. The in-season estimate of 550,000 for Early Summers was unchanged at today's Fraser River Panel meeting. The in-season estimate for summers of 1,585,000 (adopted August 7<sup>th</sup> and consistent with pre-season P50 forecast) was also unchanged at today's FRP meeting.

The Fraser River Panel adopted an in-season run size estimate of 200,000 for Fraser Lates at today's meeting. This in-season estimate is an increase from the pre-season P50 forecast of 158,000. Birkenhead sockeye is currently the largest component of the 2012 late sockeye return, and stronger than pre-season forecast.

The next scheduled Fraser River Panel meeting is Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup>.



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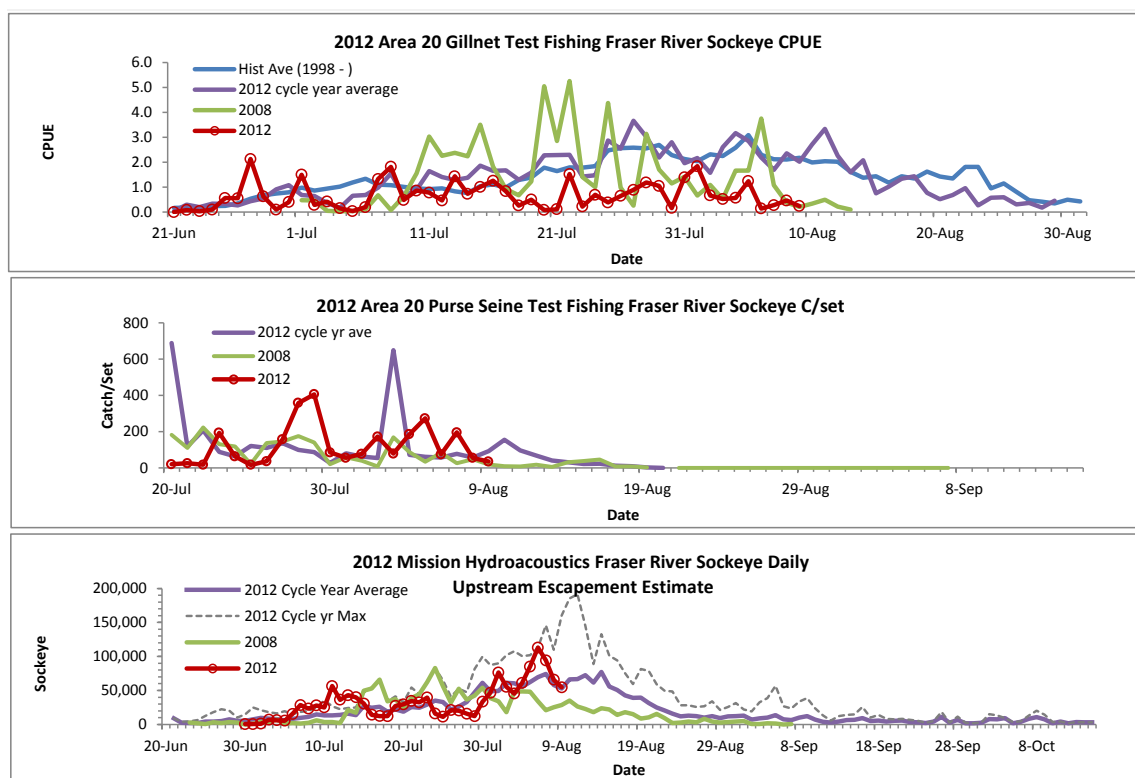
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### Fraser Sockeye Test Fishery Summary (Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)



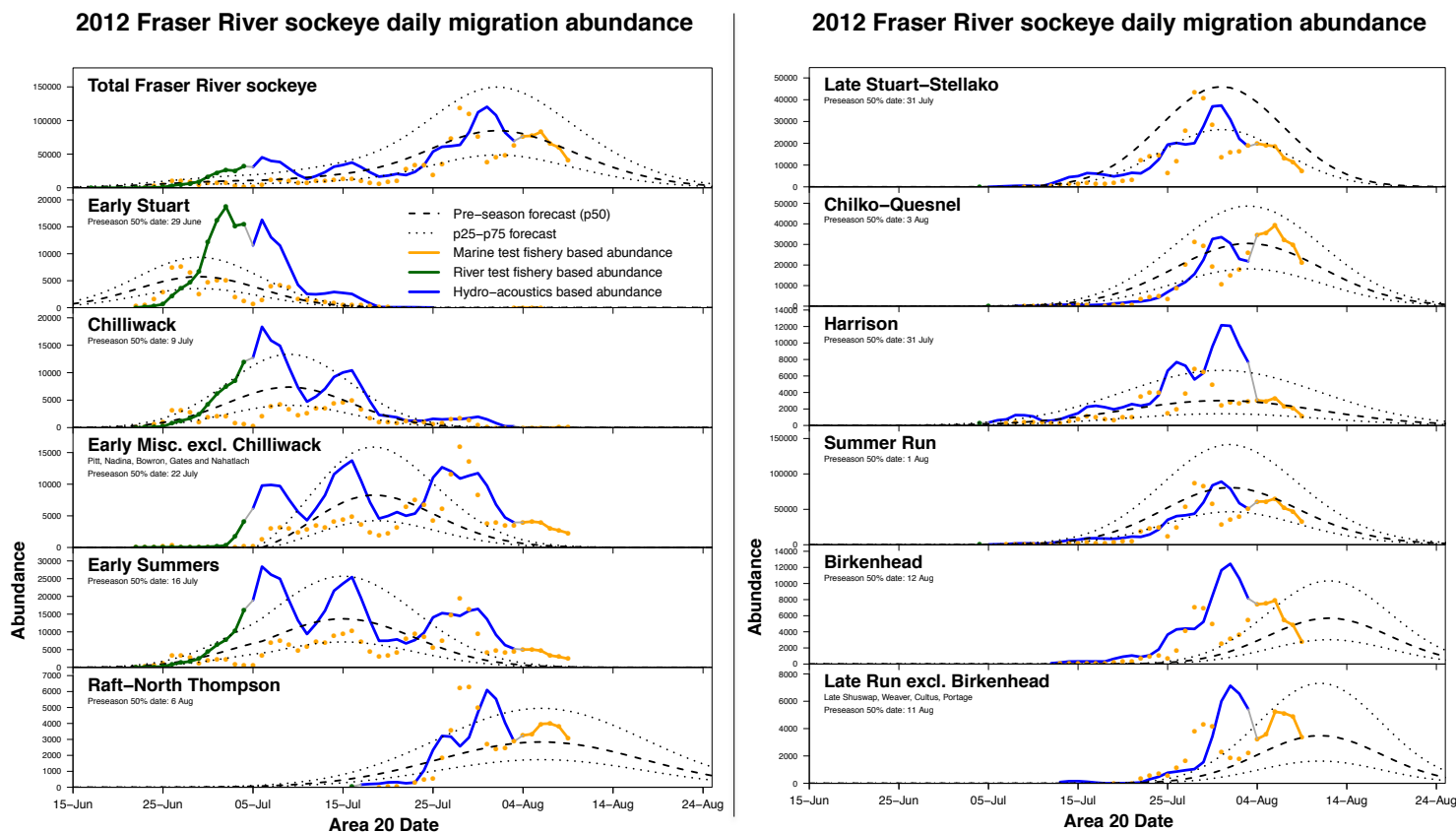
**Figure 2:** Pacific Salmon Commission 2011 test fisheries summary (August 10<sup>th</sup> distribution).

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### **Fraser Sockeye Area 20 timing passage graphs (Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)**



**Figure 3:** These graphs show the current (August 10<sup>th</sup>) information for the 2012 Early Stuart, Early Summer, Summer and Late Fraser sockeye migration.

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

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

**Thursdays at 4:00 PM unless otherwise noted**

Hosted by FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley

Dial in number: 1-866-512-0904; Passcode: 4954972#

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## **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/reports-rapports/2012/reports-rapports-12-eng.htm>