

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

Fraser Salmon Update - By Neil Todd, FRAFS Operations Manager

August 19, 2011

GENERAL:

The outside test fishery catches of sockeye had either been holding fairly steady, or dropping slightly, over the last 3 or 4 days prior to Friday, August 19.

Pink salmon catches in the outside test fisheries started to increase August 19 after being fairly flat for some time.

IN-SEASON RUN SIZE ESTIMATES:

1. The Early Summer Run in season run size estimate has been set at 480,000, which is above the pre-season forecast of 453,000. Most of the stocks in this group are now in or near the natal streams.

2. The Summer Run stock aggregate in-season run size estimate was set at 2,000,000 last week, significantly above the pre-season forecast of 1.5 million. However, the current model runs are suggesting that returns will be much closer to the forecast than to the in-season estimate. Countering the models, however, it appears that perhaps a portion of the Summer Run is holding off the mouth of the Fraser along with an unknown number of Late Run sockeye; so it appears that the Fraser Panel will not change the in-season estimate until they have a few more days of data. This group is currently making up the bulk of the fish now migrating up the Fraser.

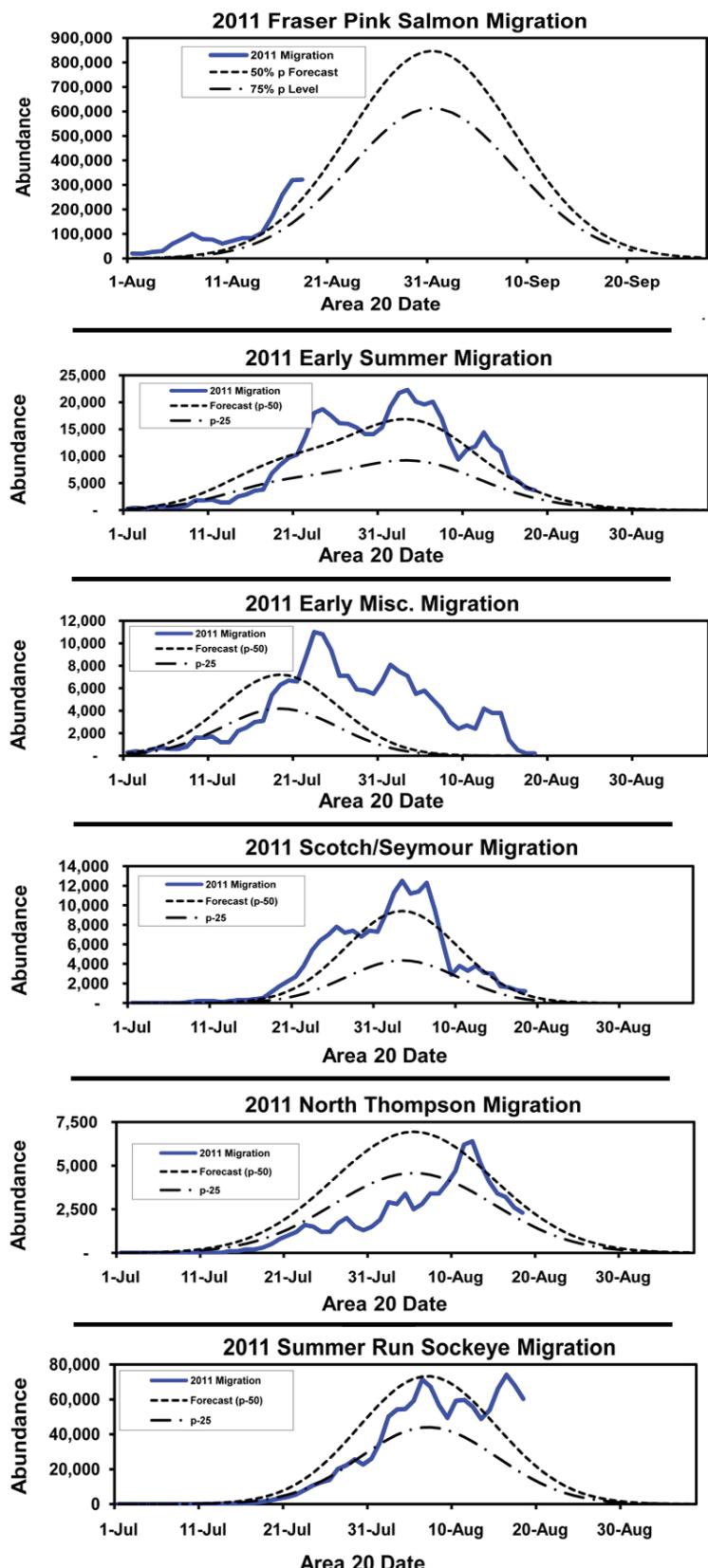
3. The Harrison stock has in past years been considered to be part of the Late Run sockeye group. However, their timing has been very distinctly similar to that of the Summer Run group this year so the Panel is now accounting for them separately. This stock has peaked and numbers are now dropping. The total return is expected to be close to 800,000, over twice the pre-season forecast of 345,000.

4. The Late Run group (consists mostly of Weaver Cr. and Shuswap stocks) appears to be returning at or above the forecast of 638,000. Based on outside test fishery data, the modeling is suggesting a return of about 780,000. The good news is that at least some of these fish appear to be exhibiting more normal behavior by holding off the mouth of the Fraser for a while. Past years' data shows that if the peak of migration into the Fraser is around September 10, the en route and pre-spawning mortality is significantly lower than if the mid-point of the migration is around the end of August.

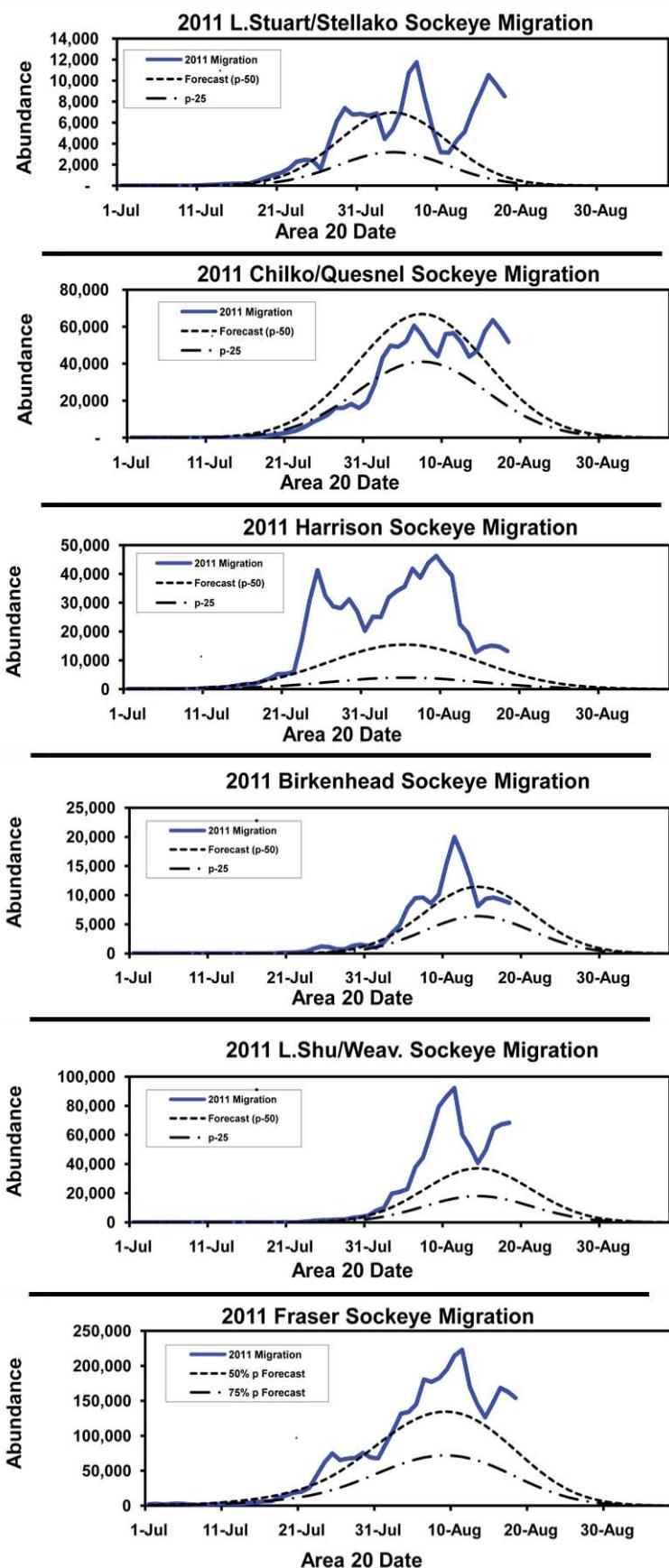
ENVIRONMENT:

Temperatures in the Fraser River are remaining relatively cool and river discharge continues to drop, although it is still above normal for this time of year.

(Graphs provided by the PSC Fraser Panel)



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2011 VISIONS CONFERENCE

The Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat will be putting on our annual Visions Conference on October 5-7, 2011. This year's conference will be hosted by the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, and will be held at the Billy Barker Hotel in Quesnel. More information about this year's conference theme and agenda will be available in the coming weeks, as well as information about accommodations. As in previous years, participants will be encouraged to bring displays of their fisheries projects to share.



USEFUL WEB LINKS

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

Albion Test Fishery – Chinook Gill Net:

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk_e.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission Website: www.psc.org

Upper/Mid/Lower Fraser Catch and Openings:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/firstnations.htm>

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:

http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_summaries.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission News and Regulatory announcements: http://www.psc.org/news_frpnews.htm

Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports:

http://www.psc.org/info_inseasonfraserescapement.htm

Fraser River Environmental Watch Program:

http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fwh/index_e.htm

First Nations In-Season Technical Conference Calls

Thursdays at 4:00pm unless otherwise noted
Hosted by FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley

Toll-free: 1-866-512-0904

Passcode/conference number: 4954972#

The Watershed Talk is also available for download from the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat Website:

www.frafs.ca

To subscribe or submit content to the Watershed Talk, email us at info@frafs.ca or call 604-836-1909.

FRASER PANEL LISTEN-IN LINE FOR FIRST NATIONS

As in previous years, the Pacific Salmon Commission Fraser Panel will open a line for First Nations to dial in and listen to the calls (observer only). The dial-in information is sent out prior to each call on our email distribution list.

The PDF meeting package, as in previous years, will be distributed via email the morning of the call (probably just before the call begins).

The Fraser Panel calls are scheduled for Tuesday and Friday mornings at 11:00am, with the exception of the in-person meetings, which will be held on the following Fridays: July 29th, August 5th, August 12th, August 19th, and August 26th (might begin earlier on these dates – notifications will be sent via email).

Please note First Nations calling in on the observer line will be asked for their first and last name as well as their affiliation.

UPCOMING ROADMAP WORKSHOPS:

October 12-13, 2011: Quaaout Lodge, Chase, BC

December 6-7, 2011: Location TBA - Richmond, BC

February 8-9, 2011: Tzeachten Band, Chilliwack, BC

FORUM MEETING DATES FOR 2012:

January 24-26: Lower Mainland, BC

February 27-29: Kamloops, BC

March 21-23: Tsawout First Nation, Saanichton BC

May 8-10: Prince George, BC

