



WATERSHED TALK

NEWSLETTER

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FRASER SALMON UPDATE

By Pete Nicklin, Fraser Fisheries Biologist, FRAFS

General

The information in this update summarizes the information from the FRAFS July 19th Thursday in-season teleconference call, the Fraser River Panel information distribution July 20th, and the DFO website.

The first 2012 FRAFS in-season teleconference (hosted by FRAFS Biologist Mike Staley) took place at 4PM Thursday July 12th, and these calls will continue weekly throughout the sockeye season, unless otherwise specified.

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. Water discharge in the Fraser is higher than average for this time of year.

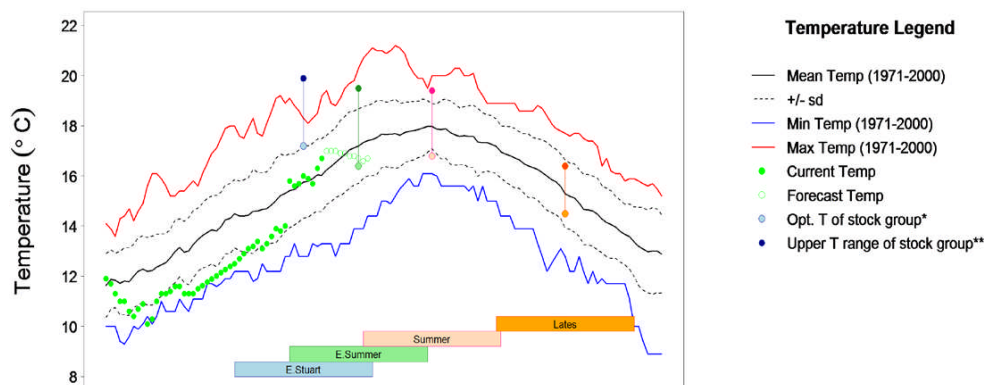


Figure 1: This graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the solid green circles shows the 2012 temperatures. The unfilled circle portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is

approximately 16.7 degrees Celsius and forecast to increase slightly to approximately 16.9 degrees Celsius. The current temperature is slightly above average for this time of year (0.6 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.

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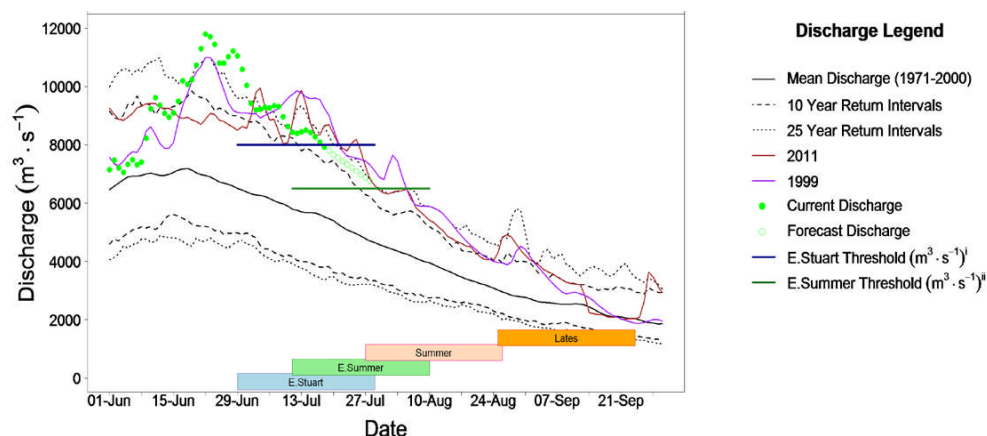
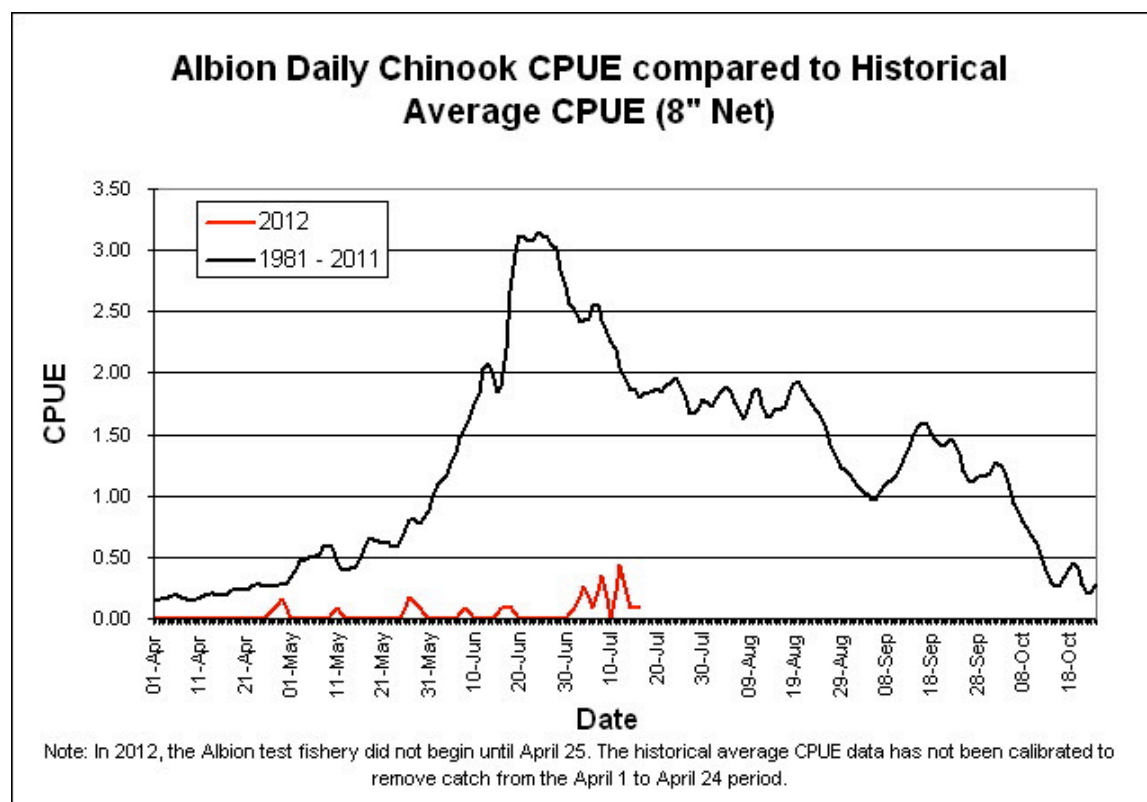


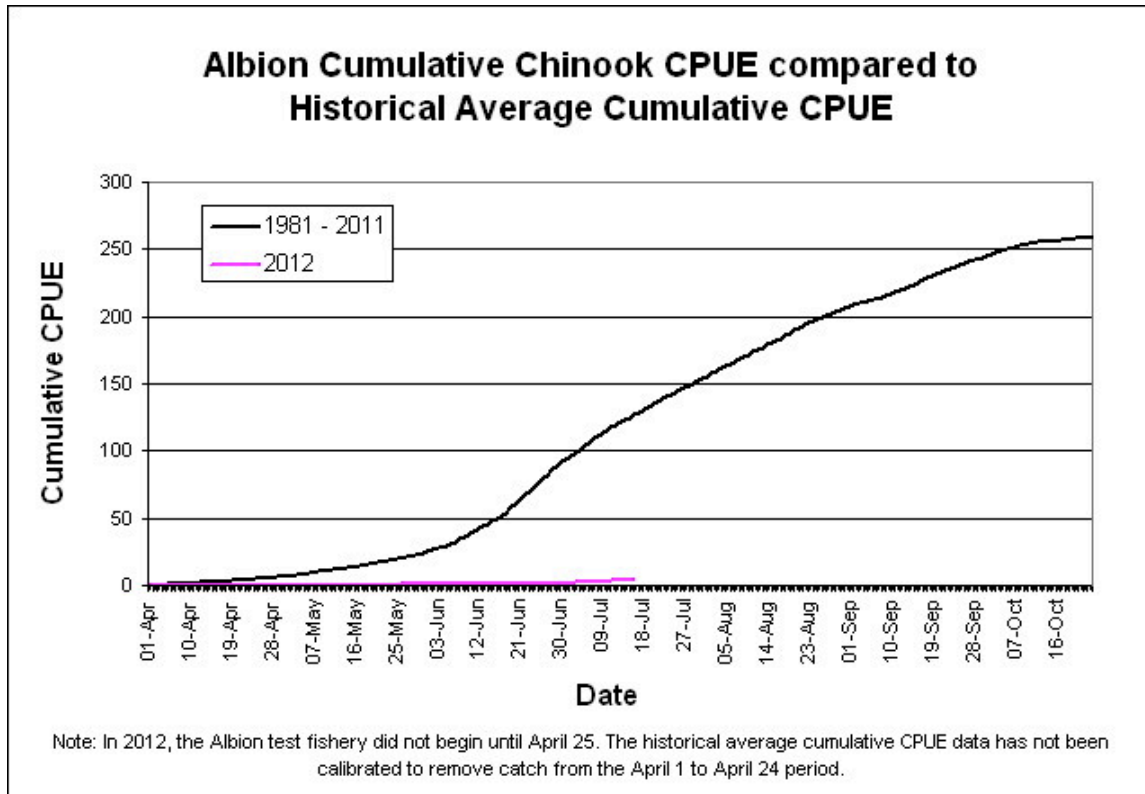
Figure 2: This graph shows the 2012 Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the solid green circles is the 2012 discharge, and the forecast discharge shows as unfilled circles. Fraser River discharge is high for this time of year, and well above average. The July 19th discharge was approximately 7900 cms (approximately 43% higher than average for the date), and forecast to decrease to approximately 7300 cms by July 23rd.

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



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Fraser Sockeye

Fraser sockeye are in marine approach areas and migrating in the Fraser River. Early Stuarts, Early Summers, Summers and some Birkenhead sockeye have showed in test fisheries conducted to date. In 2012, the Summer sockeye aggregate includes Raft, North Thompson and Harrison.

An estimated 172,400 Early Stuarts, 226,500 Early Summers, and 13,700 Summers are estimated to have passed the Mission hydroacoustics station. Early Stuart Area 20 timing is July 3rd, while the Early Summer Area 20 timing appears to be tracking earlier than expected pre-season, but more information will be available next week.

The current in-season run size estimate (July 20th) for Early Stuarts is 180,000 (July 3rd Area 20 timing), which is greater than the P50 pre-season forecast of 99,000. The proportional Management Adjustment (pma) for Early Stuarts based on that timing is 3.79. The pMA is high mainly due to the high Fraser River discharge.

The in-season estimate for Chilliwack is 170,000 based on July 6th Area 20 timing.

**The next scheduled PSC Fraser River Panel meeting is
Tuesday July 24th at 11:00AM.**

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

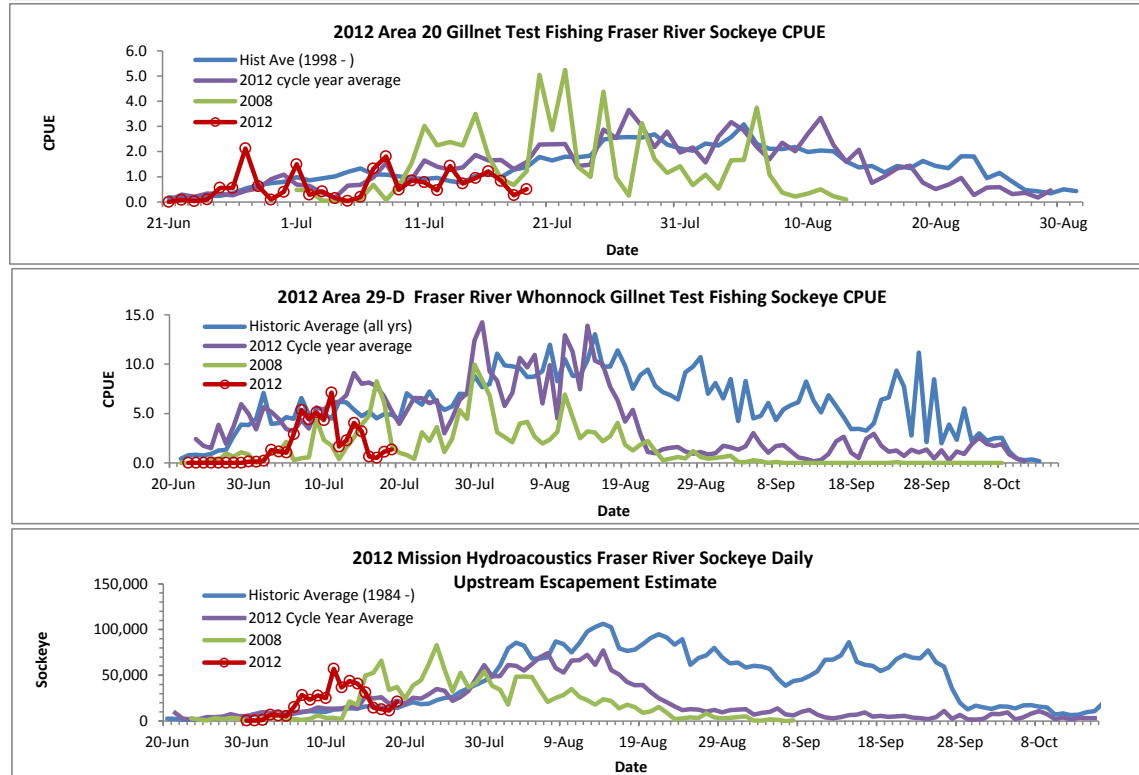


Figure 3: Pacific Salmon Commission 2011 test fisheries summary (July 20th).

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



2012 Fraser River sockeye daily migration abundance

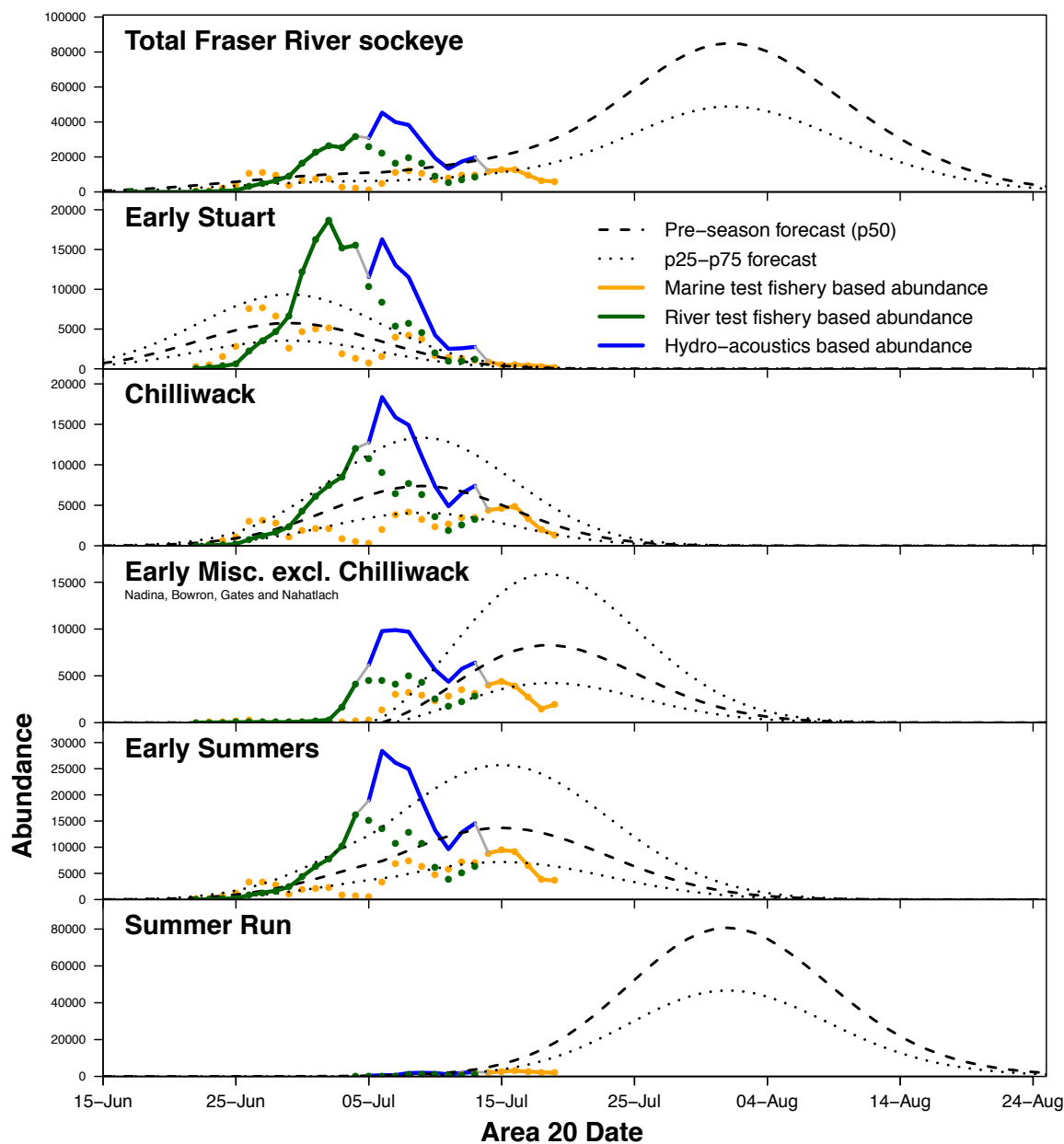


Figure 4: These graphs show the current (July 20th) information for the 2012 Early Stuart, Early Summer and Summer Fraser sockeye migration.

For more information contact Pete Nicklin by email: 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: 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

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

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 Reports: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/habitat/frw-rfo/reports-rapports/2012/reports-rapports-12-eng.htm>