

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for
fisheries representatives and their organizations

Fraser Salmon Update - By Pete Nicklin, Fraser Fisheries Biologist, FRAFS

GENERAL

The information in this update summarizes the information from the FRAFS July 21st Thursday in-season teleconference call, the Fraser River Panel information distribution July 22nd, and the DFO website.

The first 2011 FRAFS in-season teleconference took place at 4PM Thursday July 21st, 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.

Water discharge in the Fraser is very high for this time of year. Fraser temperatures at Hope are below average for this time of year.

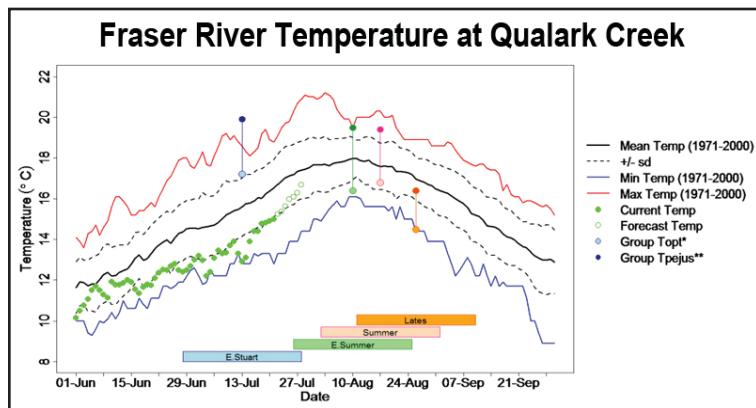


Figure 1: This graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the solid green circles shows the 2011 temperatures. The unfilled circle portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is approximately 15 degrees Celsius and forecast to increase to approximately 16 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are below average for this time of year (approximately 1.5 degrees Celsius lower than historic average for the date). Fraser sockeye are approaching and migrating in the Fraser. The in-season abundance estimate of Early Stuarts (22,000) is higher than the P50 pre-season forecast of 17,000.

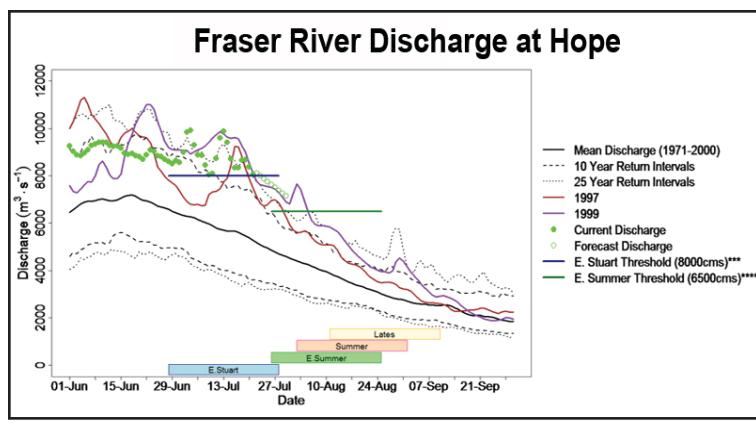
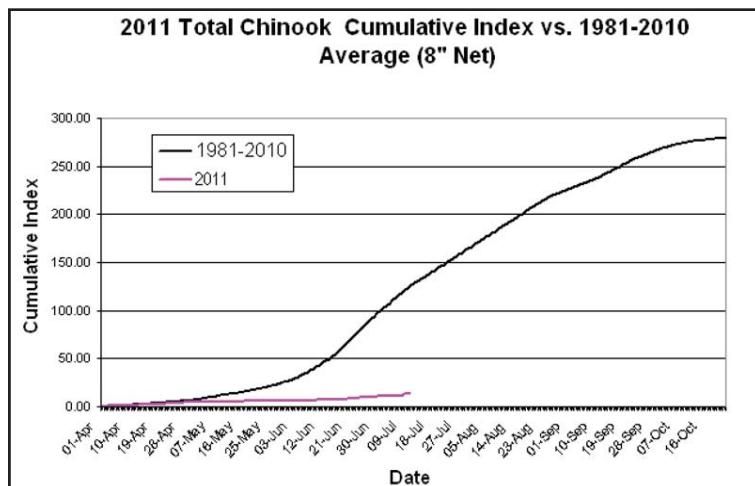
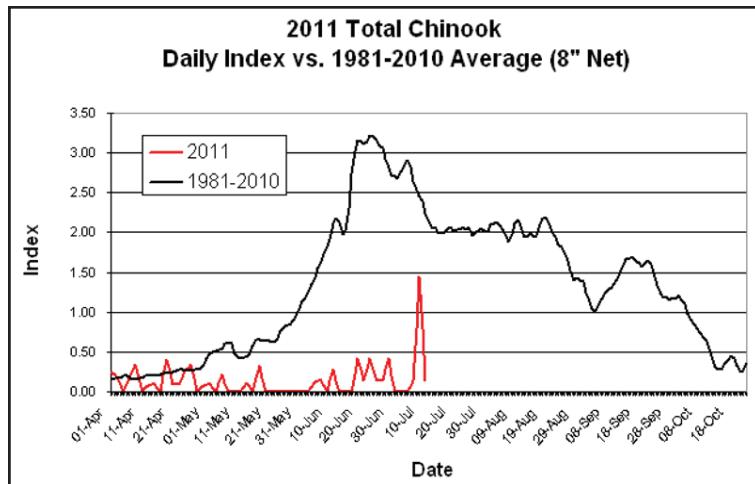


Figure 2: This graph shows the 2011 Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the solid green circles is the 2011 discharge, and the forecast discharge shows as unfilled circles. Fraser River discharge is very high for this time of year. The July 20th discharge was approximately 8100 cms (approximately 53%

higher than average for the date), and forecast to decrease to approximately 7600 cms over the next 5 days.

FRASER CHINOOK - ALBION TEST FISHERY

(Graphs from DFO website: Albion Chinook Test Fishery)



FRASER SOCKEYE

Fraser sockeye are approaching and migrating in the Fraser. The in-season abundance estimate of Early Stuarts (22,000) is higher than the P50 pre-season forecast of 17,000.

Early Stuarts, Early Summers, Summers and Late sockeye (mainly 3sub1s) have showed in test fisheries conducted to date. An estimated 21,110 Early Stuarts, 17,100 Early Summers, 1,000 Summers and 4,300 Lates (mainly Harrison 3sub1s) have passed the Mission hydroacoustics station. Early Stuart Area 20 timing is July 2nd, while the Early Summer Area 20 timing (July 31) is tracking approximately 3 days later than expected. Age composition in Area 20 for the last few days of samples shows approximately 12% age 4sub2 sockeye.

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The current in-season run size estimate (July 22nd) for Early Stuarts is 22,000 which is greater than the P50 pre-season forecast of 17,000. The Management Adjustment (MA) for Early Stuarts is currently 90,200. The Management Adjustment is high mainly due to the high Fraser discharge and below average river temperatures.

Fraser Sockeye Test Fishery Summary

(Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)

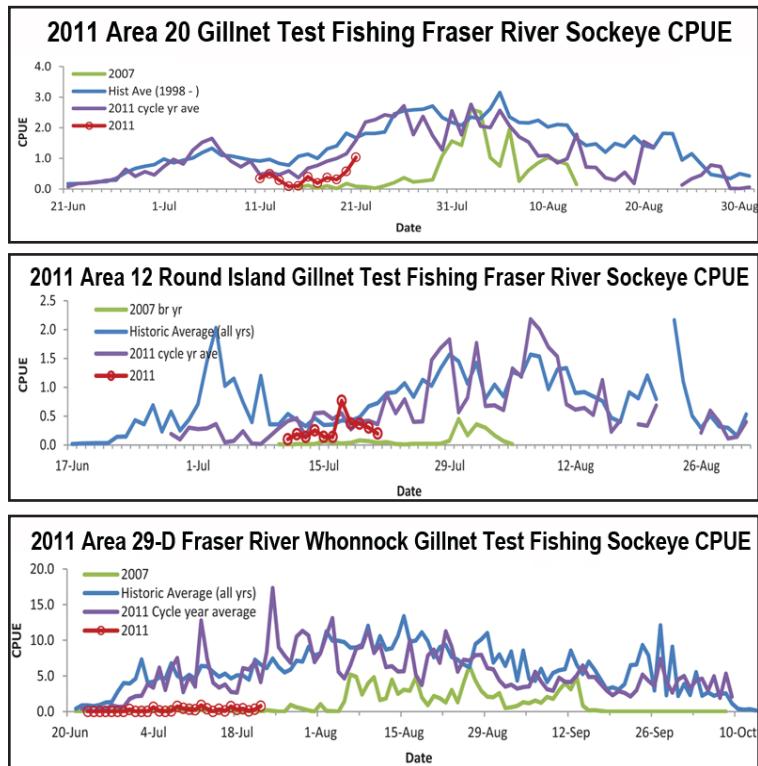


Figure 3: Pacific Salmon Commission 2011 test fisheries summary (July 22).

Fraser Sockeye Area 20 Sockeye Passage Graphs

(Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)

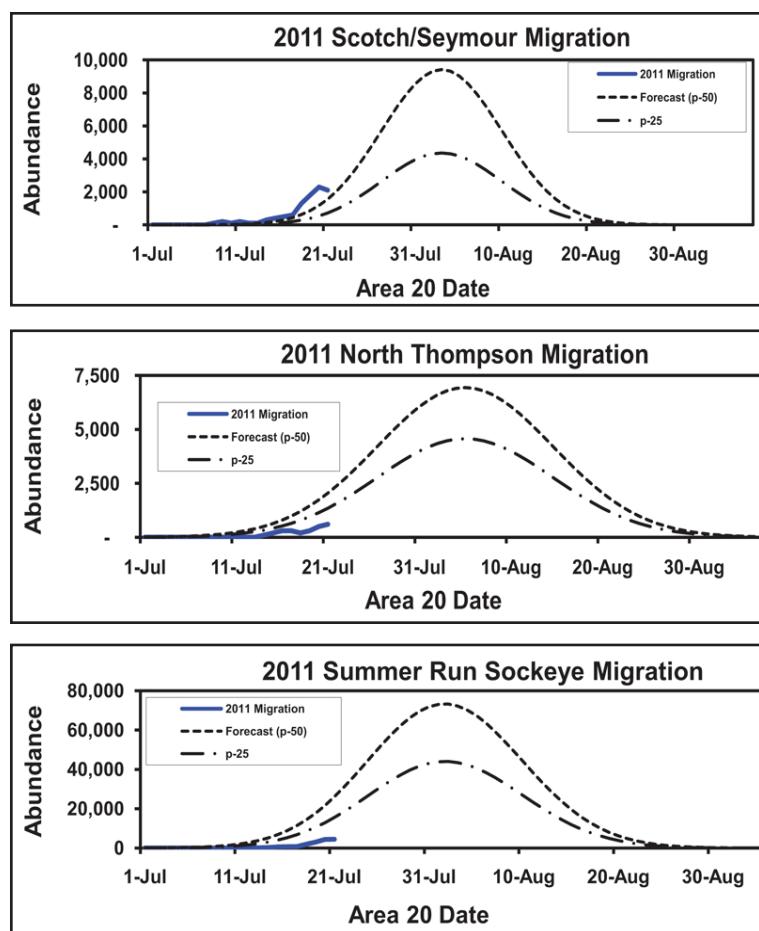
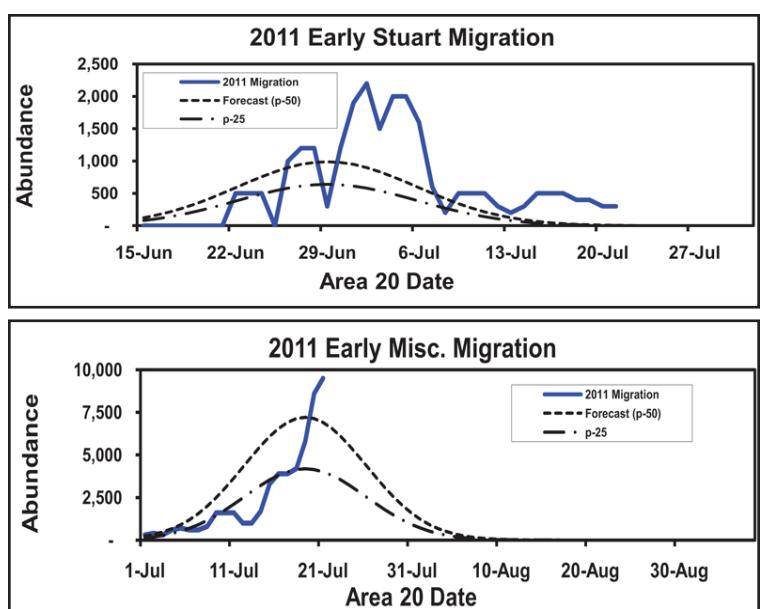


Figure 4: These graphs show the current (July 22nd) information for the 2011 Early Stuart, Early Summer and Summer Fraser sockeye migration.

For more information contact Pete Nicklin
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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, 2012: 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

