

A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for  
fisheries representatives and their organizations

## Fraser Salmon Update - By Neil Todd, FRAFS Operations Manager

Mike Staley held his weekly Thursday afternoon update teleconference call at 4 p.m. yesterday (Thursday, September 1).

### GENERAL

The Mission hydroacoustic facility has ceased operations as pink and chinook salmon numbers over-whelm the migrating sockeye. The Whonnock test fishery is being used to estimate daily passage of sockeye; it appears that approximately 20,000 sockeye per day are migrating through the lower river.

The majority of in-river sockeye still appear to be Summer Run stocks; the Late Run stocks being identified are primarily the tail end of the Harrison and Birkenhead sockeye.

It is still being assumed that the "true Lates" – i.e. primarily Weaver and Shuswap – are for the most part delaying off the mouth of the Fraser. There is cautious optimism that they are displaying historical migration behavior; if so, their chances for survival to spawn are increasing as the days go by.

### IN-SEASON RUN SIZE ESTIMATES

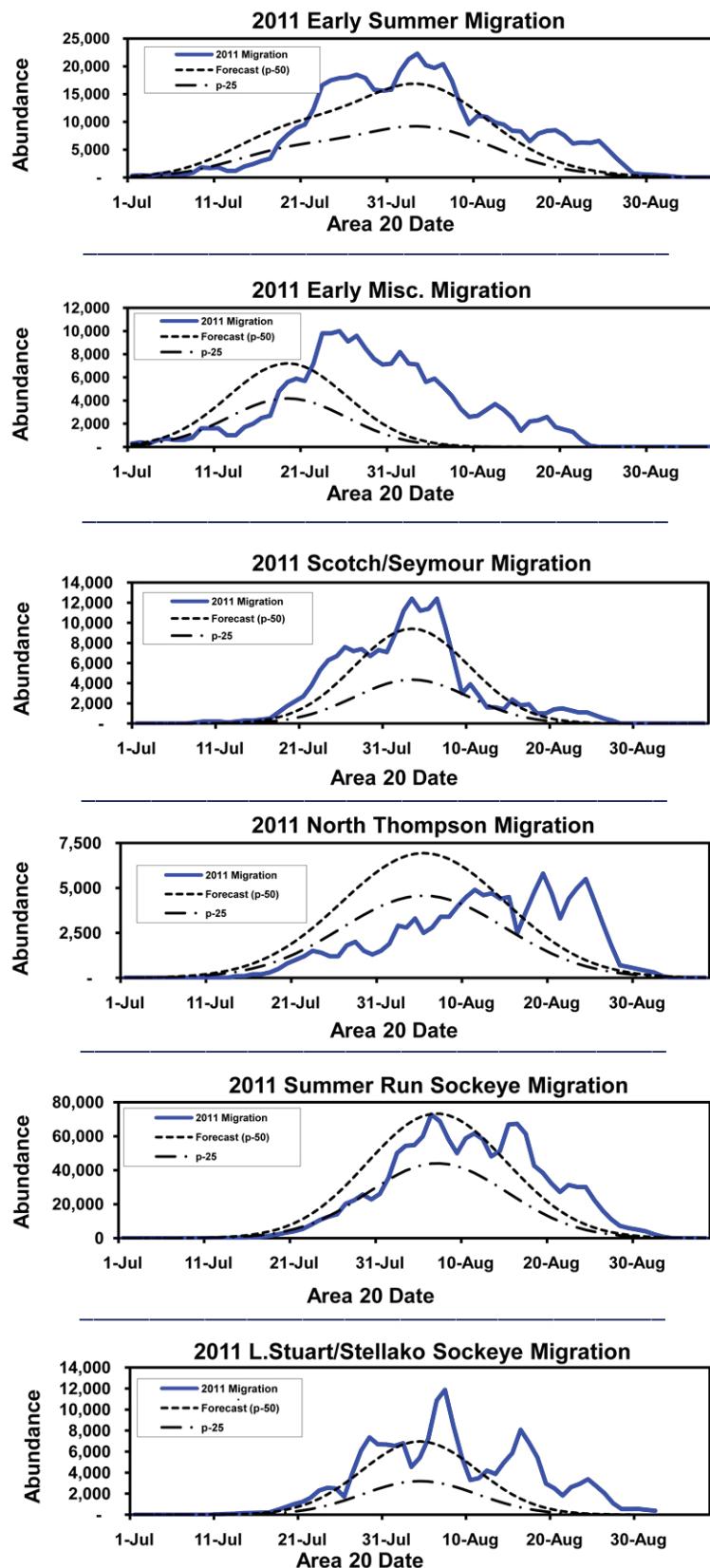
1. The Early Summer Run in season run size estimate has been set at 520,000, which is above the pre-season forecast of 453,000. Most of the stocks in this group are now in or near the natal streams; a few stragglers are still being picked up in the main stem Fraser.
2. The Summer Run stock aggregate in season run size estimate is 1.5 million. Pre-season forecast was 1.5 million.
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 similar to that of the Summer Run group this year so the Panel is now accounting for them separately. The in season run size estimate is 950,000, well over twice the pre-season forecast of 345,000. Birkenhead sockeye in season run size estimate is 300,000. The Birkenhead is part of the Harrison system so that watershed has enjoyed higher than expected productivity this year.
4. The Late Run group (consists mostly of Weaver Cr. and Shuswap stocks, but also includes the endangered Cultus Lake stock) appears to be returning well over the forecast of 638,000. The current in season run size estimate for the aggregate is 1,000,000.

### PINK SALMON (and sockeye ramifications)

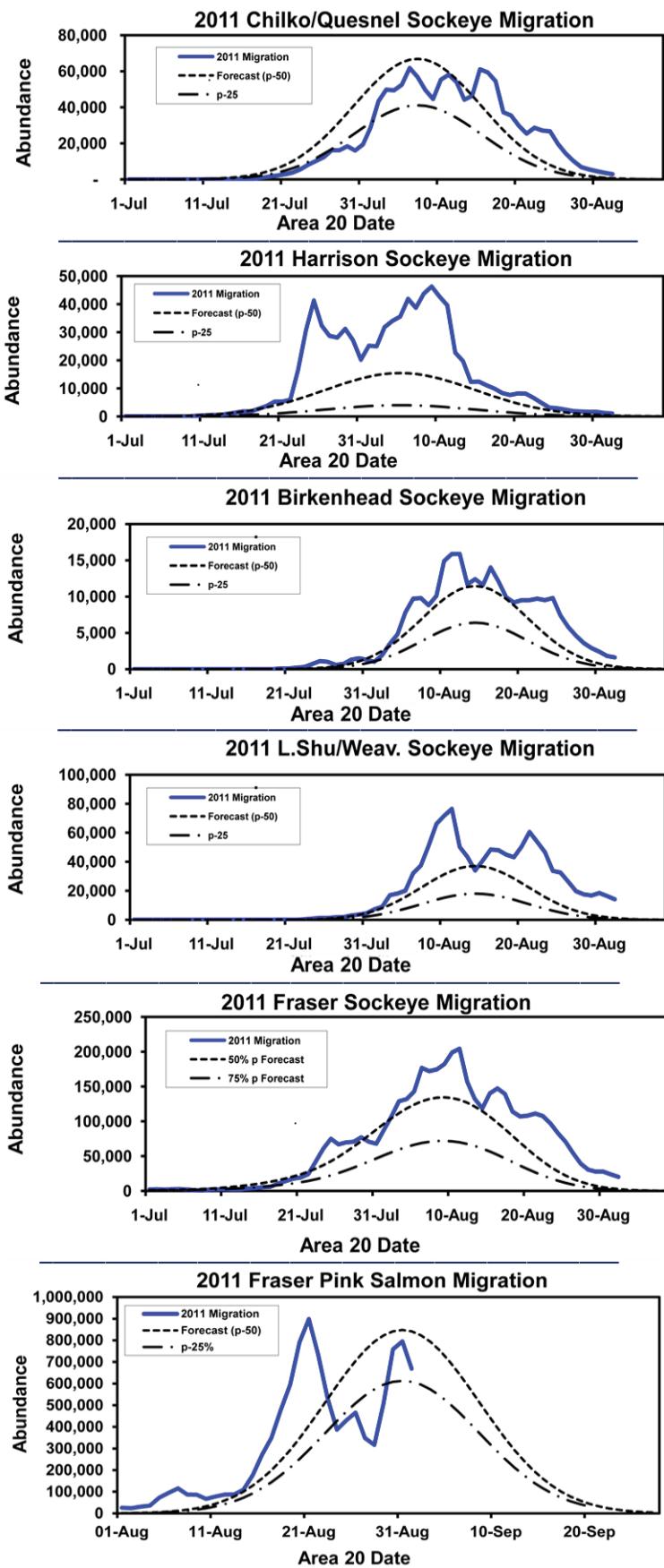
There is still a large amount of uncertainty but the indications are that the Fraser pink salmon return this year may be in the neighbourhood of the pre-season forecast of 17 million. Some pink salmon commercial fisheries may be constrained by the presence of sockeye. If a commercial fishery has caught its sockeye allocation, it may be unable to harvest pinks because of by-catch mortality on co-migrating sockeye. The Late Run sockeye, which includes the endangered Cultus Lake stock, will be a factor in the management decision making discussions regarding pink salmon fisheries. Those who are interested in conservation and protection of Cultus L. sockeye will be watching carefully as the Panel implements commercial harvests on pinks.

### IN-SEASON CALLS

Mike will be conducting another call next Thursday afternoon. Depending on how the season winds down, the migration behavior and updated information on Late Run stocks, and the implementation of pink salmon fisheries with ramifications for Cultus sockeye, the call next week may be his last of the season.



A weekly Aboriginal fisheries newsletter for  
fisheries representatives and their organizations



## VISIONS 2011

The Visions Workshop is an annual event sponsored by the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) that brings together First Nations representatives and Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel from throughout the Fraser Watershed and beyond. The Visions Workshops provide opportunities for participants to present perspectives on fisheries projects, discuss fisheries issues, and gather current information on programs, funding, and initiatives.

### Call for topics, presentations and displays:

In recent years, the Visions planning committee has chosen to focus the Workshop on a specific topic area or theme; for example, in 2010, the theme for Visions was Fisheries Data: Bridging Gaps and Building Trust, which was intended to explore the linkages between fisheries data and the formulation of fisheries policy. This year, however, the planning committee has decided to ask First Nations what topics they would like to address at the workshop. Some examples of topics that are currently being discussed by the planning committee are catch and release fisheries, the future of wild salmon populations, the Cohen Commission process, the COSEWIC assessment of eulachon, economic access, and the effects of mining on fisheries. **The planning committee is requesting that First Nations send us your ideas for presentations, or let us know if you have a project or topic you would like to present.** As in previous years, participants are also encouraged to bring displays of your fisheries projects to share. To suggest a topic or presentation or to book a display table, please contact us via email at [info@frafs.ca](mailto:info@frafs.ca).

### Accommodations:

This year's Visions workshop will be held on October 5th-7th, 2011 at the Billy Barker Hotel in Quesnel. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of October 4th, 5th and 6th at the rate of \$65+tax **until September 16th only.** Visions participants are asked to book their accommodations as soon as possible to ensure best rate and availability. To book your room, please contact the hotel directly at 250-992-5533 and quote the group name "Visions". For those participants wishing to stay elsewhere, a list of nearby accommodations will be sent out via the FRAFS email list and posted to the FRAFS website in the next week, along with information about how to register for this year's event.

**We hope to see you there!**

## USEFUL WEB LINKS

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

**Albion Test Fishery – Chinook Gill Net:**

[http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk_e.htm)

**Pacific Salmon Commission Website:** [www.psc.org](http://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](http://www.psc.org/info_testfishing_summaries.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 Program:**

[http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fwh/index\\_e.htm](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](http://www.frafs.ca)**

**To subscribe or submit content to the Watershed Talk, email us at [info@frafs.ca](mailto: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**

