



# WLFN FISHERIES NOTICE

Weekly in Season Fisheries Bulletin – WLFN Natural Resources

Issue 1 - July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Chinook - kekésu7

Fraser River Spring 5<sub>2</sub> and Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook are a Species at Risk with low populations, these fish are being managed by DFO in a highly precautionary manner to allow as many fish to pass through to the spawning grounds as possible.

Management actions for commercial and sport fisheries have been implemented in times and areas where early-timed Fraser-bound Chinook are thought to be migrating. These include salmon fishing closures, non-retention of Chinook, reduced daily limits, and sized limits depending on the time and area. Details on these measures can be found in the fishery notices listed below. Some additional measures were announced on July 13, 2023 in commercial and recreational fisheries. Links to the recreational notices are provided below.

Some fisheries impacts are expected to occur in First Nations FSC fisheries, in the Chinook and Sockeye test fisheries and in mixed stock fisheries directed at other stocks and species in marine waters.

### 2023 Management Measures:

Below are links to fishery notices announcing 2023 management measures for Fraser River Chinook salmon. Fishing for salmon is closed at the mouth of the Fraser River and in the Fraser River tidal and non-tidal waters effective January 1 each year. Details are at the DFO [Area 29 Salmon webpage](#).

[FN1421](#) – announced January 1 management measures in other South Coast waters.

[FN0158](#) – announced March 1 management measures in portions of Areas 19 and 20.

[FN0331](#) – provided details on recreational management measures that commenced on April 1, 2021.

[FN0426](#) – provided details on new mark selective fisheries in portions of Areas 17, 18 and 19.

[FN0604](#) – In-season abundance update for Fraser River Spring and Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook.

[FN0654](#) – announces additional salmon management measures for southwest Vancouver Island

[FN0652](#) – announces additional salmon management measures for northeast Vancouver Island

[FN0645](#) – announces additional salmon management measures for north coast

## Big Bar Upper Fraser Fish Passage Monitoring

For 2023, Fish passage monitoring will take place in the early part of the season only. The initial plan for monitoring fish passage is:

- Fishwheel operations in the lower Fraser River began June 27; to date 57 Sockeye and 38 Chinook have been radio-tagged.
- Sonars have been installed at the Alfalfa and Churn sites and are operational as of Wednesday, July 5.

- Telemetry stations are installed and operational at Alfalfa, Churn, and around the slide site area as of June 30.
- Telemetry stations at Lillooet, BC are operational and will remain in operation until late August.
- Telemetry stations on the Fraser River mainstem in the Soda Creek area and on the Stuart River just downstream of the Stuart Lake outlet are operational as of Friday, July 7. Other telemetry stations on the Stellako River, and on the Nadina River are planned for late July. All of these stations will be operational through mid to late August.

Discharge levels at Big Bar are currently below the unimpeded passage threshold for both Chinook and Sockeye as previously assessed.

## Fraser Sockeye - sqlelten7úwi

In-season teleconferences between DFO and First Nations take place during the fishing season. Fraser Panel in-season meetings commence on **Friday, July 14, 2023**. Meetings usually take place each Tuesday and Friday at 11:00 am.

### Early-Timed Sockeye Window Closure

For 2023, the window closure in place to protect Early Stuart and other earlier-timed Sockeye will be approximately 5 weeks in duration. Early season forecasts indicate a later-than-expected run timing for Early Stuart, as such the closure window dates have been adjusted by 3 days to account for an expected A20 peak run timing of July 7 (previously July 4). Please note that the actual closure dates may be revised in-season based on updated timing or other in-season information.

Area	Start Date	5-Week End Date	Management Actions <sup>3</sup>
Areas 111, 121, 123 to 127	26-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Sn, Gn, Tr)
Area 11	26-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn)
Area 12	26-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn)
Area 13	26-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn)
Areas 14 to 16	26-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr) or August 15 (Sn) <sup>1</sup>
Areas 17, 19, 20 and 21	26-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 1 (Sn, Gn, Tr)
Areas 18 and 29	1-Jul	6-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 6
Steveston-Mission Bridge	1-Jul	6-Aug	
Mission Bridge-Sawmill Cr	3-Jul	8-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 8
Sawmill Cr-Texas Cr	6-Jul	11-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 11
Texas Cr-Kelly Cr	6-Jul	11-Aug	
Kelly Cr-Deadman	6-Jul	11-Aug	
Deadman-Chilcotin	12-Jul	17-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 17
Chilcotin-Quesnel	12-Jul	17-Aug	
Quesnel-Hixon	12-Jul	17-Aug	
Hixon-Prince George	14-Jul	19-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 19
Prince George-Stuart R	16-Jul	21-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye directed fisheries before August 21 except for potential First Nations FSC allowable harvest in terminal areas

<sup>1</sup> Gear restrictions remain in place to protect Sakinaw Sockeye until July 25 (Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Straits) and August 15 (northern Strait of Georgia).

<sup>2</sup> Additional sockeye closures will remain in place in portions of Areas 11 and 12 until late July in waters north of Lewis Point to protect Nimpkish Sockeye.

<sup>3</sup> Management actions described here are just for Fraser River Sockeye-directed fisheries. Any fisheries directed on other stocks or species in the areas and times described may also have measures to limit impacts on Fraser-bound Sockeye (e.g. Gear restrictions in licence conditions).

## FSC In-river Management Actions and Preliminary Catch to Date:

Area	Management Actions/Opening	Catch To Date			
		Sockeye		Chinook	
		Kept	Released	Kept	Released
Below Port Mann Bridge	Consideration for Limited Participation licences only targeting 3 Chinook for unplanned events only and 1 ceremony of their choice for each community. No communal opportunities until further notice Tributary Chinook fisheries in Sumas/Vedder began July 1 and Chehalis July 7.	0	0	10	0
Port Mann to Sawmill Creek		0	7	41	0
Sawmill Creek to Texas, including Thompson d/s Bonaparte	No fisheries licensed at this time.	40*	8	85*	37*
Texas to Deadman	No fisheries licensed at this time.	5*	24	63*	19*
Deadman to Naver (includes tribs)	No fisheries licensed at this time.	0	0	0	0
Upstream of Naver Confluence (includes tribs)	No fisheries licensed at this time.	0	0	0	0
Thompson u/s of Bonaparte and tribs	No fisheries licensed at this time.	0	0	0	0

\* Catch numbers for above Sawmill are expanded numbers from inspected/seized nets and reported catch

If you are looking for updates to catch information between bulletins, the most current catch reports are available online at: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/index-eng.html>

To receive a weekly harvest report for the fishing areas upstream of Sawmill Creek, please contact Cynthia Breau ([Cynthia.breau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Cynthia.breau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) tel: (250) 256-2652 to be added to her mailing list.

**South Coast Sport Catch Bulletin** – to be added to the distribution list, please contact Aswea Porter ([Aswea.Porter@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Aswea.Porter@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)). These are produced monthly from June to September.

### If you catch a tagged fish:

Researchers with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in partnership with First Nations and the Province of BC, are tagging Chinook, Sockeye, and Coho salmon with radio tracking transmitters. The numbers printed on the radio tracking transmitters uniquely identify individual salmon and will be used to evaluate adult salmon migration success associated with the Big Bar landslide.

Please report the **tag numbers** along with the **date** and **location** of capture or recovery to [BigBarTag@gmail.com](mailto:BigBarTag@gmail.com)  
Or turn the tags in with the above information through your local catch monitoring program.

