

**Update No. 10**  
**September 25, 2025**

**2025 FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE ESCAPEMENT**  
**Inseason Update**

In-season updates provide a general indication of run timing, relative abundance, fish condition, and behaviour of Fraser Sockeye, as well as the environmental conditions observed on the spawning grounds. Data and observations are derived from stock assessment field studies that implement hydroacoustic, mark-recapture, enumeration fence, and visual assessment methods. These data are not escapement estimates and should not be interpreted as such.

**EARLY SUMMER RUN**

**North/South Thompson**

Visual surveys

Sockeye in South Thompson system are past peak die-off and surveys are now complete. Live counts, carcass recoveries and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

**Lower Fraser**

Visual Surveys

Sockeye in the Upper Pitt system are past peak die-off and surveys are now complete. Live counts, carcass recoveries and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

**Nechako**

Nadina River

As of September 22, 43,551 Sockeye have been counted past the Nadina hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The SONAR was removed on September 22. Sockeye are at peak of spawn and the incidence of pre-spawn mortality is decreasing.

Nadina River Spawning Channel

As of September 24, 9,898 Sockeye have been loaded into the channel (Table 4). Sockeye are at peak of spawn and the incidence of pre-spawn mortality is decreasing. The morning water temperature of the

Nadina River Channel outflow is 13°C and the afternoon water temperature in the river adjacent to the channel is 15°C.

## **SUMMER RUN**

### **Nechako**

#### **Stellako River**

As of September 23, 242,712 Sockeye have been counted at the Stellako hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The majority of the Sockeye passing the Stellako hydroacoustic site for the remainder of this project are likely Stellako-bound. The water temperature of the Stellako River is 13.0°C.

### **Chilcotin**

#### **Chilko River**

As of September 24, 2,380,846 Sockeye have been counted at the Chilko hydroacoustic site (Table 1). Sockeye are entering peak of spawn in most areas of the system. The water temperature of the Chilko River is 14.0°C.

### **Quesnel**

#### **Hydroacoustics**

As of September 23, 390,821 Sockeye have been counted at the Quesnel hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The September 18 to 20 counts include SONAR downtime and are underestimates. The water temperature of the Quesnel River is 17.0°C. The SONAR was removed on September 24.

#### **Visual Surveys**

Sockeye are nearing or at peak of spawn in Quesnel Lake tributaries and along shore-spawning areas, including the Mitchell River and Deception Point. An aerial survey of the Mitchell system and the north arm of Quesnel Lake was conducted on September 23. Sockeye in the Horsefly River are past peak of spawn and entering die-off. Sockeye in the Little Horsefly River and McKinley Creek are approaching peak of spawn. Water levels remain low in most areas. Live counts, carcass recoveries and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

### **North Thompson**

Cyclic visual surveys of Summer Run populations in the North Thompson system began on August 21. Sockeye are past peak die off in Lemieux Creek and Raft River; surveys are now complete for these systems. The first aerial and ground surveys of the North Thompson River were conducted on September 20 and 22, respectively, where Sockeye were at peak of spawn. Counts, carcass recoveries, and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

**Stuart****Tachie River**

As of September 25, 8,673 tags have been applied and 303 carcasses have been recovered. The incidence of net marks, hook marks, gill abnormalities, general disease and wounds is 12%, 0.8%, 0.4%, 0.3% and 13%, respectively. The water temperature of the Tachie River is 13.4°C.

**Visual surveys**

Cyclic visual surveys of Pinchi Creek, Kuzkwa River, and Middle River began on September 8. Sockeye are nearing peak of spawn in Pinchi Creek, at peak of spawn in Middle River and past peak of spawn in Kuzkwa River. An aerial survey of the Kuzkwa River and Middle River bars was conducted on September 23. Live counts, dead recovery and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are reported in Table 1.

**LATE RUN****Harrison-Lillooet****Birkenhead River**

A second aerial survey of the Birkenhead River was conducted on September 23. Sockeye are at peak of spawn, although large groups are still holding in the system (Table 2).

**Visual surveys**

Small numbers of Sockeye have been observed spawning Big Silver and Cogburn creeks. Water levels in this system are low. Counts, carcass recoveries, and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

**Cultus Lake**

As of September 24, 199 Sockeye have been counted through the Sweltzer Creek fence and an additional 63 have been retained for broodstock (Table 3). The water temperature of Sweltzer Creek is 21°C.

The next scheduled update will be on October 2.

**Table 11:** In-season estimates of Sockeye salmon passage upstream of hydroacoustic sites.

Date	Stellako (including Nadina)	Chilko	Nadina	Quesnel
	Sockeye Count	Sockeye Count	Sockeye Count	Sockeye Count
Jul-25	6	-	-	-
Jul-26	6	-	-	-
Jul-27	0	-	-	-
Jul-28	5	-	-	-
Jul-29	11	-	0	-
Jul-30	56	-	-	-
Jul-31	33	-	0	-
Aug-01	51	-	0	-
Aug-02	140	-	0	-
Aug-03	138	-	-	-
Aug-04	410	-	3	-
Aug-05	794	-	18	-
Aug-06	291	-	42	-
Aug-07	1,148	14	3	114
Aug-08	1,184	12	57	399
Aug-09	1,326	62	732	470
Aug-10	1,572	104	573	588
Aug-11	1,937	87	518	923
Aug-12	1,595	158	1,470	1,643
Aug-13	945	2,397	1,139	1,800
Aug-14	1,494	5,856	1,997	2,781
Aug-15	1,485	7,922	1,251	3,689
Aug-16	1,485	10,143	2,580	4,070
Aug-17	1,619	14,576	837	5,385
Aug-18	2,420	11,649	891	5,123
Aug-19	1,436	14,301	1,799	4,908
Aug-20	2,184	16,416	1,359	5,027
Aug-21	4,034	17,624	1,499	3,828
Aug-22	2,574	23,072	2,426	4,881
Aug-23	2,445	34,109	2,756	3,960
Aug-24	2,837	35,148	1,239	5,237
Aug-25	2,133	34,772	1,835	5,082
Aug-26	1,574	37,235	1,733	5,649
Aug-27	989	38,468	869	8,226
Aug-28	1,016	53,267	731	5,784
Aug-29	947	53,223	2,676	13,100
Aug-30	1,856	65,922	1,065	26,355
Aug-31	1,604	83,849	1,106	24,030
Sep-01	1,284	102,803	527	22,583
Sep-02	1,101	113,081	246	19,518
Sep-03	2,808	114,264	338	15,999

	<b>Stellako (including Nadina)</b>	<b>Chilko</b>	<b>Nadina</b>	<b>Quesnel</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Sockeye Count</b>	<b>Sockeye Count</b>	<b>Sockeye Count</b>	<b>Sockeye Count</b>
Sep-04	5,090	119,073	551	16,508
Sep-05	5,024	99,510	581	17,001
Sep-06	6,062	109,284	630	17,483
Sep-07	5,654	102,881	654	18,389
Sep-08	10,760	104,459	639	17,243
Sep-09	11,127	109,758	522	15,095
Sep-10	6,131	113,430	677	13,254
Sep-11	9,744	121,521	818	12,738
Sep-12	8,655	109,803	549	12,210
Sep-13	12,755	81,816	696	9,129
Sep-14	19,337	85,293	654	8,775
Sep-15	10,743	68,721	228	7,647
Sep-16	12,158	53,601	156	6,840
Sep-17	15,500	49,611	249	5,898
Sep-18	4,515	41,523	231	2,736
Sep-19	5,265	36,207	399	282
Sep-20	13,691	31,017	336	2,391
Sep-21	6,821	21,045	612	2,655
Sep-22	11,234	15,303	63	1,872
Sep-23	11,490	13,326	-	1,530
Sep-24	-	3,138	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>242,712</b>	<b>2,380,846</b>	<b>43,551</b>	<b>390,821</b>

One 20 minute file is counted per hour, per SONAR (i.e. 24 files/SONAR/day). These counts are expanded to produce hourly counts which are then summed to produce daily estimates of Sockeye passage. Missing data are not infilled or extrapolated in-season.

**Table 22:** In-season roving survey data for the current reporting period (September 18 - 24, 2025).

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered <sup>a</sup>
<b>EARLY SUMMER</b>						
<u>Pitt-ES</u>						
<b>Lower Fraser</b>						
Fish Hatchery Creek	Sep-18	3	Ground	14	0	2
Pitt River - Upper	Sep-18	6	Ground	13.5	0	745
Upper Pitt Channel	Sep-18	3	Ground	12	61	81
<u>Shuswap-ES</u>						
<b>Early South Thompson</b>						
Anstey River	Sep-19	5	Ground	12.1	302	1341
McNomee Creek	Sep-18	4	Ground	15.4	5	11
Seymour River	Sep-18	4	Ground	15.2	2030	1123
<b>SUMMER</b>						
<u>Kamloops-ES (S)</u>						
<b>North Thompson</b>						
Lemieux Creek	Sep-23	6	Ground	13	170	421
North Thompson River	Sep-20	1	Aerial		4649	0
North Thompson River	Sep-22	1	Ground	14.2	512	162
North Thompson River	Sep-24	2	Ground	15.2	0	641
Raft River	Sep-23	6	Ground	13.6	305	6197
<u>Quesnel-S</u>						
<b>Quesnel</b>						
Bill Miner Creek	Sep-22	4	Ground		116	0
Blue Lead Creek	Sep-22	4	Ground		616	8
Cameron Creek	Sep-23	1	Aerial		1135	0
Grain Creek	Sep-23	4	Ground		109	0
Horsefly River	Sep-18	4	Ground		22459	8846
Killdog Creek	Sep-22	1	Ground		32	9
Little Horsefly River	Sep-20	4	Ground		2204	44
Lynx Creek	Sep-22	4	Ground		357	12
McKinley Creek - Lower	Sep-21	4	Ground		917	329
Mitchell River	Sep-23	1	Aerial		30690	32
Mitchell River	Sep-24	3	Ground		8228	289
Penfold Creek	Sep-23	1	Aerial		945	0
Quesnel Lake - East Arm Shore - North	Sep-22	4	Ground		1103	0
Quesnel Lake - East Arm Shore - South	Sep-22	4	Ground		309	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm - Deception Point	Sep-23	4	Ground		1875	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm Shore - East	Sep-23	4	Ground		1376	1

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered <sup>a</sup>
Quesnel Lake - North Arm Shore - West	Sep-23	1	Aerial		754	0
Roaring River	Sep-23	4	Ground		891	52
Summit Creek	Sep-22	4	Ground		896	164
Wasko Creek - Lower	Sep-23	4	Ground		528	29
Watt Creek	Sep-24	4	Ground		268	49
<u>Takla-Trembleur-Stuart-S</u>						
<b>Late Stuart</b>						
Kazchek Creek	Sep-19	1	Ground	14	5117	18
Kazchek Creek	Sep-24	2	Ground		8925	298
Kuzkwa River	Sep-21	4	Ground	13.6	6464	192
Kuzkwa River	Sep-23	1	Aerial		26905	192
Middle River	Sep-18	1	Ground		11597	20
Middle River	Sep-23	1	Aerial		58885	20
Pinchi Creek	Sep-20	3	Ground	14.5	2512	14
Pinchi Creek	Sep-24	4	Ground	11.5	8735	191
<b>LATE</b>						
<u>Harrison (D/S)-L</u>						
<b>Harrison-Lillooet</b>						
Big Silver Creek	Sep-22	4	Ground	14	29	2
Cogburn Creek	Sep-22	4	Ground	13	3	2
<u>Lillooet-Harrison-L</u>						
<b>Harrison-Lillooet</b>						
Birkenhead River	Sep-23	2	Aerial		94490	0

Note: These data are not escapement estimates and should not be interpreted as such.

<sup>a</sup> Cumulative carcasses recovered over the entire project.

**Table 33:** Daily fence counts (and captured brood stock) of Sockeye salmon in Sweltzer Creek.

Date	Lake Count	Brood Collected
Jul-29	0	0
Jul-30	0	0
Jul-31	0	0
Aug-01	0	0
Aug-02	1	0
Aug-03	0	0
Aug-04	0	0
Aug-05	0	0
Aug-06	0	0
Aug-07	0	0
Aug-08	0	0
Aug-09	0	0
Aug-10	0	0
Aug-11	0	0
Aug-12	0	0
Aug-13	0	0
Aug-14	0	0
Aug-15	0	0
Aug-16	0	0
Aug-17	1	0
Aug-18	0	0
Aug-19	1	0
Aug-20	0	0
Aug-21	5	0
Aug-22	4	0
Aug-23	0	0
Aug-24	0	0
Aug-25	0	0
Aug-26	4	0
Aug-27	0	0
Aug-28	0	0
Aug-29	1	0
Aug-30	0	0
Aug-31	2	0
Sep-01	8	0
Sep-02	2	0
Sep-03	4	0
Sep-04	3	0
Sep-05	2	0
Sep-06	3	0
Sep-07	2	0
Sep-08	4	0
Sep-09	11	6
Sep-10	2	2
Sep-11	7	10
Sep-12	4	5

Date	Lake Count	Brood Collected
Sep-13	23	0
Sep-14	32	0
Sep-15	15	10
Sep-16	10	0
Sep-17	10	5
Sep-18	6	9
Sep-19	6	0
Sep-20	5	0
Sep-21	12	0
Sep-22	7	8
Sep-23	2	3
Sep-24	0	5
Total	199	63

- : Fence closed.

**Table 44:** Daily fence counts of Sockeye salmon in Nadina River Channel (data supplied by SEP).

Date	Sockeye Count
Sep-01	900
Sep-03	800
Sep-04	750
Sep-05	293
Sep-06	240
Sep-07	155
Sep-08	193
Sep-09	186
Sep-10	141
Sep-11	283
Sep-12	232
Sep-13	207
Sep-14	388
Sep-15	769
Sep-16	516
Sep-17	456
Sep-18	343
Sep-19	440
Sep-20	319
Sep-21	436
Sep-22	268
Sep-23	1,099
Sep-24	484
Total	9,898