Update No. 8
September 11, 2025

2025 FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE ESCAPEMENT
In-season 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

Scotch Creek

The counting fence on Scotch Creek became operational on August 14. As of September 7, 22,832 Sockeye have been counted past the fence (Table 4). Sockeye are in peak spawning. The water temperature of Scotch Creek is 16ºC.

Visual Surveys

Cyclic visual surveys of the Early Summer populations in the North/South Thompson system began on August 19. Sockeye in the upper Barriere River are in peak die-off. Sockeye in the South Thompson system are past peak spawning. Water temperatures have been increasing due to warm weather and water levels are low (<25% bankfull) in many locations; however, fish still appear vigorous and healthy.

Upper Fraser

Visual surveys

The second aerial survey of the upper Bowron River and its tributaries was conducted on September 9. Sockeye are past peak spawning. Live counts, carcass recoveries and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

Lower Fraser

Visual surveys

Cyclic visual surveys of the Early Summer populations in the Lower Fraser began on August 5. Sockeye in the upper Chilliwack River and Depot Creek are in peak die-off. Gates and Nahatlatch Sockeye are past peak spawning. A rain event during the current reporting period caused increased water levels in the Nahatlatch River and poor survey conditions. The second aerial survey of the upper Pitt River system was conducted on September 5. Sockeye in the upper Pitt system are in peak spawning and more Sockeye have now been observed in the mainstem. Water levels in the upper Pitt River are very low (<25% bankfull), particularly in North Boise and Fish Hatchery creeks. 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 7, 36,711 Sockeye have been counted at the Nadina hydroacoustic site (Table 1). Carcass surveys began September 1 and all carcass recoveries thus far have been pre-spawn mortalities. Sockeye are approaching peak spawning.

Nadina River Spawning Channel

The Nadina River Spawning Channel became operational on September 1. As of September 10, 3,658 Sockeye have been loaded into the channel (Table 5). All carcass sampled in the channel thus far have been pre-spawn mortalities. The morning water temperature of the Nadina River Spawning Channel outflow is 14ºC and the afternoon water temperature in the river adjacent to the channel is 20ºC.

SUMMER RUN

Nechako

Stellako River

As of September 9, an estimated 94,677 Sockeye have been counted at the Stellako hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The majority of the Sockeye passing the Stellako hydroacoustic for the remainder of this project are likely Stellako-bound. The water temperature of the Stellako River is 16ºC.

Chilcotin

Chilko River

As of September 9, 1,508,304 Sockeye have been counted at the Chilko hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The September 9 count does not include all available data and is an underestimate. Sockeye at the north end of Chilko Lake are in the early stages of spawning. The water temperature of the Chilko River is 16ºC.

Quesnel

Hydroacoustics

As of September 9, 302,864 Sockeye have been counted at the Quesnel hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The water temperature of the Quesnel River is 19 ºC.

Visual surveys

Cyclic visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 28. Sockeye in the Horsefly River are approaching peak spawning in the upper and middle portions of the river. Little Horsefly River Sockeye are primarily holding. Sockeye in the Mitchell River are primarily holding with some spawning occurring in the upper reaches of the river. Small numbers of Sockeye have been observed holding in several Quesnel Lake tributaries and shore spawning areas. The first aerial survey of the Upper Cariboo River was conducted on September 9. Sockeye in the Upper Cariboo are in peak spawning. Water levels are remaining constant for most areas in the system with the exception of Isaiah and Devoe creeks which have no visible water. Live counts, dead recovery and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are reported in Table 1.

North Thompson

Cyclic visual surveys of Summer Run populations in the North Thompson system began on August 21. Sockeye are past peak spawning in the Raft River and in peak spawning in Lemieux Creek. Water temperatures are high due to warm weather, however, Sockeye still appear to be healthy. Counts, carcass recoveries, and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are summarized in Table 2.

Stuart

Tachie River

Tagging on the Tachie River mark-recapture project began on August 31. As of September 3, 1,595 tags have been applied and no carcasses have been recovered. Overall, Sockeye are healthy and vigorous at tag application and are still holding. The incidence of net marks, hook marks, gill abnormalities, general disease, and wounds is 10%, 1%, 0%, 1% and 17%, respectively. The water temperature of the Tachie River is 19ºC.

Visual surveys

Cyclic visual surveys of Stuart Lake, Tachie and Middle river tributaries began on September 8. Sockeye in Kuzkwa River are holding. Live counts, dead recovery and water temperatures from surveys conducted during the current reporting period are reported in Table 1.

LATE RUN

Visual surveys

Cyclic visual surveys of Late Run populations in the Harrison-Lillooet area began on August 21. No surveys of Big Silver and Cogburn creeks were conducted during the current reporting period.

Cultus Lake

As of September 10, 59 Sockeye have been counted through the Sweltzer Creek fence and an additional 8 have been retained for broodstock (Table 3). The water temperature of Sweltzer Creek is 23ºC.

The next scheduled update will be on Thursday, September 18.

Table 1: In-season estimates of Sockeye salmon passage upstream of hydroacoustic sites.

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

	Nadina River	Chilko River	Quesnel River	Stellako River
Date	**Sockeye Count**	**Sockeye Count**	**Sockeye Count**	**Sockeye Count**
Aug-30	1,065	65,922	26,355	1,856
Aug-31	1,106	83,849	24,030	1,604
Sep-01	527	102,803	22,583	1,284
Sep-02	246	114,756	19,518	1,101
Sep-03	338	114,639	15,999	2,808
Sep-04	551	119,322	16,508	5,090
Sep-05	581	99,216	17,001	5,024
Sep-06	630	109,281	17,483	6,062
Sep-07	642	102,837	18,389	5,654
Sep-08	-	104,598	17,243	10,760
Sep-09	-	80,472	15,095	11,127
Total	36,711	1,508,304	302,864	94,677

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 2: In-season roving survey data for the current reporting period (September 4-10, 2025).

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered[a]
EARLY SUMMER						
Bowron-ES						
Upper Fraser						
Bowron River - Upper	Sep-09	2	Aerial	11.5	3,530	215
Huckey Creek	Sep-09	2	Aerial		139	0
Chilliwack-ES						
Lower Fraser						
Chilliwack River - Upper	Sep-08	6	Ground	12	0	58
Nahatlatch-ES						
Lower Fraser						
Nahatlatch Lakes	Sep-08	3	Ground		0	209
Nahatlatch River	Sep-08	4	Ground		1,167	54
North Barriere-ES						
North Thompson						
Barriere River - Upper	Sep-08	4	Ground	15.2	1,634	1,673
Harper Creek	Sep-08	3	Ground	14.3	234	16
Pitt-ES						
Lower Fraser						
Corbold Creek	Sep-04	1	Ground	13		5
Corbold Creek	Sep-05	2	Aerial		1,996	5
Corbold Creek	Sep-09	2	Ground	13.2	2,242	93
Fish Hatchery Creek	Sep-04	1	Ground	14.6	0	0
Fish Hatchery Creek	Sep-10	2	Ground	15.1	0	0
North Boise Creek	Sep-05	1	Aerial		0	0
Olsen Creek	Sep-10	1	Ground	13	0	0
Pitt River - Upper	Sep-04	1	Ground	14.2		4
Pitt River - Upper	Sep-05	2	Aerial		1,917	4
Pitt River - Upper	Sep-09	2	Ground	13.7	540	95
South Boise Creek	Sep-04	1	Ground	13.9	0	0
South Boise Creek	Sep-10	2	Ground	14	1	0

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered[a]
Upper Pitt Channel	Sep-04	1	Ground	14	165	1
Upper Pitt Channel	Sep-10	2	Ground	12.9	383	22
Shuswap-ES						
Early South Thompson						
Anstey River	Sep-05	3	Ground	14	2,503	241
Celista Creek	Sep-04	1	Ground	18.8	0	0
Crazy Creek	Sep-10	4	Ground		45	18
Eagle River	Sep-10	4	Ground	15.3	1,950	372
Four Mile Creek	Sep-05	1	Ground	13.9	0	0
Four Mile Creek Shore	Sep-05	1	Ground		0	0
McNomee Creek	Sep-04	2	Ground	16.1	43	0
Onyx Creek	Sep-04	1	Ground	18.7	0	0
Perry River	Sep-10	4	Ground	13.8	149	15
Seymour River	Sep-04	2	Ground	15.1	10,549	109
Sinmax Creek	Sep-09	1	Ground	12.4	0	0
Yard Creek	Sep-10	4	Ground	16.1	0	0
SUMMER						
Cariboo-S (unvalidated)						
Cariboo River - Upper	Sep-09	1	Aerial		6,536	38
Kamloops-ES (S)						
North Thompson						
Lemieux Creek	Sep-09	4	Ground	16.8	307	35
Raft River	Sep-09	4	Ground	16.5	6,539	1,860
Quesnel-S						
Quesnel						
Bill Miner Creek	Sep-08	2	Ground	12.4	0	0
Blue Lead Creek	Sep-08	2	Ground	10.1	0	0
Bouldery Creek	Sep-08	2	Ground	12.1	0	0
Grain Creek	Sep-09	1	Ground	14	0	0
Horsefly River	Sep-04	2	Ground	15.7	38,823	206
Little Horsefly River	Sep-06	2	Ground	19.2	201	0
Lynx Creek	Sep-08	1	Ground	11.8	0	0
McKinley Creek - Lower	Sep-07	2	Ground	16.3	0	0
Mitchell River	Sep-10	1	Ground	12	6,057	0
Quesnel Lake - East Arm Shore - North	Sep-08	2	Ground		5	0

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered[a]
Quesnel Lake - East Arm Shore - South	Sep-08	2	Ground		18	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm - Deception Point	Sep-09	2	Ground		162	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm Shore - East	Sep-09	2	Ground		539	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm Shore - West	Sep-09	2	Ground		2	0
Roaring River	Sep-09	2	Ground	11.5	0	0
Wasko Creek - Lower	Sep-09	2	Ground	17.2	0	0
Watt Creek	Sep-10	2	Ground		0	0
Takla-Trembleur-Stuart-S						
Late Stuart						
Kuzkwa River	Sep-09	1	Ground	17.1	1,385	5

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

[a] Cumulative carcasses recovered over the entire project.

Table 3: 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-1	8	0
Sep-2	2	0
Sep-3	4	0
Sep-4	3	0
Sep-5	2	0
Sep-6	3	0
Sep-7	2	0
Sep-8	4	0
Sep-9	11	6
Sep-10	1	2
Total	59	8

- : Fence closed.

Table 4: Daily fence counts of Sockeye salmon in Scotch Creek (data supplied by Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw).

Date	Sockeye Count
Aug-19	1
Aug-20	5
Aug-21	307
Aug-22	1,125
Aug-23	1,118
Aug-24	404
Aug-25	1,288
Aug-26	552
Aug-27	1,211
Aug-28	1,075
Aug-29	1,479
Aug-30	867
Aug-31	1,169
Sep-01	1,317
Sep-02	2,270
Sep-03	1,584
Sep-04	1,137
Sep-05	1,787
Sep-06	2,233
Sep-07	1,903
Total	22,832

Table 5: 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
Total	3,658