Update No. 9
September 18th, 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

As of September 14, 25,602 Sockeye have been counted past the fence (Table 4). Sockeye are past peak spawning and entering peak die-off. The water temperature of Scotch Creek is 16.0ºC. The fence was removed on September 14 and the project is now complete.

Visual Surveys

Sockeye in the upper Barrier River are past peak die-off. Sockeye in the South Thompson system are in peak die-off and water levels are low in most systems.

Upper Fraser

Visual Surveys

Additional ground surveys of the upper Bowron system were completed on September 16, however the data are unavailable at this time. 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

Sockeye in the Upper Chilliwack River, Depot Creek and the Nahatlatch system are past peak die-off. Water levels in the Nahatlatch system have dropped since the last report and surveys in this system are now complete. Sockeye in Gates River are in peak die-off and the surveys have concluded. The third and final aerial survey of the Upper Pitt system was completed on September 11 and Sockeye are now past peak spawning. Water levels remain low throughout the system. 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 14, 41,253 Sockeye have been counted at the Nadina hydroacoustic site (Table 1). An aerial survey of the Nadina River was conducted on September 17. Sockeye are approaching peak spawning. Few carcasses have been recovered to date, but most have been pre-spawn mortalities.

Nadina River Spawning Channel

The Nadina River Spawning Channel became operational on September 1. As of September 17, 6,509 Sockeye have been loaded into the channel (Table 5). Carcass predation in the channel has been high and the majority of females recovered have been pre-spawn mortalities. The morning water temperature of the Nadina River Channel outflow is 15ºC and the afternoon water temperature in the river adjacent to the channel is 17ºC.

SUMMER RUN

Nechako

Stellako River

As of September 15, 162,041 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 17, 2,182,176 Sockeye have been counted at the Chilko hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The September 15 and 16 counts include SONAR downtime and are underestimates. Chilko Lake shore spawners are in the early stages of spawning. The water temperature of the Chilko River is 15.0ºC.

Quesnel

Hydroacoustics

As of September 16, 373,457 Sockeye have been counted at the Quesnel hydroacoustic site (Table 1). The water temperature of the Quesnel River is 18ºC.

Visual Surveys

Cyclic visual surveys in the Quesnel system began August 28. Small numbers of Sockeye are beginning to spawn in several Quesnel Lake tributaries and along shore-spawning areas. Sockeye in the Mitchell River are approaching peak spawning. An aerial survey of the Horsefly River was conducted on September 11 where Sockeye were in peak spawning. Sockeye in the Little Horsefly River are primarily holding. Additional surveys of the upper Cariboo River were conducted on September 17 but those data are unavailable at this time. Water levels are 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 in peak spawning in Lemieux Creek and in peak die-off in the Raft River. Water levels are low. 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 17, 4,890 tags have been applied and 104 carcasses have been recovered. Overall, Sockeye are healthy and vigorous at tag application and are primarily holding. The incidence of net marks, hook marks, gill abnormalities, general disease and wounds is 12%, 0.9%, 0.6%, 0.5% and 16%, respectively. The water temperature of the Tachie River is 17ºC.

Visual surveys

Cyclic visual surveys of Pinchi Creek, Kuzkwa River, and Middle River began on September 8. Sockeye are in the early stages of spawning and water levels are low. Live counts, dead recovery and water temperatures form surveys conducted during the current reporting period are reported in Table 1.

LATE RUN

Birkenhead River

An aerial survey of the Birkenhead River was conducted on September 15. Sockeye are in peak spawning although large groups remain holding (Table 2).

Cultus Lake

As of September 17, 153 Sockeye have been counted through the Sweltzer Creek fence and an additional 38 have been retained for broodstock (Table 3).

The next scheduled update will be on Thursday, September 25.

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

	Stellako (including Nadina)	Chilko	Nadina	Quesnel
Date	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

Date	Stellako (including Nadina) Sockeye Count	Chilko Sockeye Count	Nadina Sockeye Count	Quesnel Sockeye Count
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	114,756	246	19,518
Sep-03	2,808	114,639	338	15,999
Sep-04	5,090	119,322	551	16,508
Sep-05	5,024	99,216	581	17,001
Sep-06	6,062	109,281	630	17,483
Sep-07	5,654	102,837	642	18,389
Sep-08	10,760	104,598	636	17,243
Sep-09	11,127	109,737	513	15,095
Sep-10	6,131	113,430	675	13,254
Sep-11	9,744	121,521	819	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	-	7,647
Sep-16	-	53,601	-	6,840
Sep-17	-	10,422	-	-
Total	162,041	2,182,176	41,253	373,457

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 11 - 17, 2025).

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered[a]
EARLY SUMMER						
Anderson-Seton-ES						
Seton-Anderson						
Gates River	Sep-11	3	Ground	11.5	6224	2254
Spruce Creek	Sep-11	1	Ground	12	140	49
Bowron-ES						
Upper Fraser						
Bowron River - Upper	Sep-09	2	Aerial	11.5	3530	215
Huckey Creek	Sep-09	2	Aerial		139	0
Chilliwack-ES						
Lower Fraser						
Chilliwack Lake	Sep-15	7	Ground		0	18
Chilliwack River - Upper	Sep-15	7	Ground	11	0	113
Nahatlatch-ES						
Lower Fraser						
Nahatlatch Lakes	Sep-15	4	Ground		0	286
Nahatlatch River	Sep-15	5	Ground	11.5	1517	274
North Barriere-ES						
North Thompson						
Barriere River - Upper	Sep-15	5	Ground	13.1	230	2360
Harper Creek	Sep-15	4	Ground	11.6	57	66
Pitt-ES						
Lower Fraser						
Corbold Creek	Sep-11	3	Aerial		1080	197
North Boise Creek	Sep-11	2	Aerial		0	0
Pitt River - Upper	Sep-11	3	Aerial		2009	148
Shuswap-ES						
Early South Thompson						
Adams River - Lower	Sep-14	1	Ground	21	4	2
Adams River - Upper	Sep-13	1	Ground	15.2	79	41
Anstey River	Sep-12	4	Ground	13.1	1216	1014
Burton Creek	Sep-13	1	Ground	12	7	6
Cayenne Creek	Sep-13	1	Ground	15.3	108	64
Celista Creek	Sep-11	2	Ground	16.8	0	0
Crazy Creek	Sep-17	5	Ground	12.6	18	35
Eagle River	Sep-17	5	Ground	14.9	428	612
Hiuihill Creek	Sep-14	1	Ground	13.3	188	23

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered[a]
McNomee Creek	Sep-11	3	Ground	15.9	26	2
Momich River - Lower	Sep-13	1	Ground	18.9	1	13
Nikwikwaia Creek	Sep-14	1	Ground	13.1	66	1
Perry River	Sep-17	5	Ground	13.6	42	34
Seymour River	Sep-11	3	Ground	15.2	7761	533
SUMMER						
Cariboo-S (unvalidated)						
Cariboo River - Upper	Sep-09	1	Aerial		6536	38
Kamloops-ES (S)						
North Thompson						
Lemieux Creek	Sep-16	5	Ground	11.8	466	124
Raft River	Sep-16	5	Ground	16.5	1561	5108
Quesnel-S						
Quesnel						
Bill Miner Creek	Sep-15	3	Ground	11.8	0	0
Blue Lead Creek	Sep-15	3	Ground	9.5	315	0
Grain Creek	Sep-16	3	Ground	10.2	0	0
Horsefly River	Sep-11	1	Aerial		63611	3039
Little Horsefly River	Sep-13	3	Ground	19.2	1351	1
Lynx Creek	Sep-15	2	Ground	11.4	121	0
McKinley Creek - Lower	Sep-14	3	Ground	15.2	933	62
McKinley Creek - Upper	Sep-11	1	Aerial		0	0
Moffat Creek	Sep-14	1	Ground	14.8	0	0
Quesnel Lake - East Arm Shore - North	Sep-15	3	Ground		540	0
Quesnel Lake - East Arm Shore - South	Sep-15	3	Ground		78	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm - Deception Point	Sep-16	3	Ground		967	0
Quesnel Lake - North Arm Shore - East	Sep-15	3	Ground		939	1
Quesnel Lake - North Arm Shore - West	Sep-16	3	Ground		161	0
Roaring River	Sep-16	3	Ground	9.5	544	1
Summit Creek	Sep-15	2	Ground		684	42
Wasko Creek - Lower	Sep-16	3	Ground	15.1	0	0
Watt Creek	Sep-17	3	Ground	10.4	126	0
Takla-Trembleur-Stuart-S						
Late Stuart						
Kuzkwa River	Sep-13	2	Ground	17.3	2930	7
Kuzkwa River	Sep-17	3	Ground		3605	21
Pinchi Creek	Sep-12	1	Ground	16.1	178	1
Pinchi Creek	Sep-16	2	Ground	13	916	5

Stock	Date	Survey #	Survey Type	Water Temp. (°C)	Live Count	Cumulative Carcasses Recovered[a]
LATE						
Harrison-Lillooet-L						
Birkenhead						
Birkenhead River	Sep-15	1	Aerial		96,650	1730

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

Date	Lake Count	Brood Collected
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
Sep-13	23	0
Sep-14	32	0
Sep-15	15	10
Sep-16	10	0
Sep-17	2	5
Total	153	38

- : Fence closed.

Table 3: 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	2,103
Sep-08	1,080
Sep-09	546
Sep-10	534
Sep-11	257
Sep-12	142
Sep-13	11
Total	25,602

Table 4: 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
Total	6,509