



Fraser Salmon Bulletin No: 2026-2

Date: July 31, 2026

This is the first Fraser Salmon Bulletin for the 2026 season. These bulletins will be provided every two to four weeks, typically when planned management changes come into effect, until mid-October once the Fraser Salmon migration has largely concluded. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide links and information to keep yourself up to date on in-season fishing information.

Fraser Chinook

The Albion Chinook test fishery has operated since 1981 on the lower Fraser River at Albion, BC (near Fort Langley). The test fishery is conducted with a drifted gill net at a specific site near the old Albion ferry crossing. On each day of operation, the boat fishes two sets, timed to coincide with the daily high tide.

The Chinook test fishery uses two different nets which fish on alternating days: the "standard" Chinook net, which is constructed using eight-inch mesh; and a "multi-panel" net, which consists of panels of six-, seven-, eight-, and nine-inch mesh. Both gill nets are 200 fathoms long. The purpose of the multi-panel net is to ensure representative sampling of Chinook passing through the lower Fraser River, due to the wide range of body sizes observed in Fraser River Chinook stocks.

Albion test fishery data largely consist of a long-term series of catch data that provides important information on run timing and stock composition of Chinook salmon migrating up the Fraser River. This information is currently used in post-season analysis to parse out the catch in various fisheries by stock grouping (i.e., Management Unit). Albion catch per unit effort (CPUE) data are used in-season to estimate the total return of Fraser Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook to the mouth of the Fraser River with a linear regression model of historical CPUEs and run sizes.

In 2026, the Albion test fishery commenced on May 1 and will collect Chinook data daily until August 31. After August 31, the test fishery alternates fishing the standard (8" mesh) Chinook gill net with a smaller mesh (6 ¾") gill net designed to assess the return of Chum Salmon to the Fraser River. The test fishery stops fishing with the standard Chinook gill net after October 20.

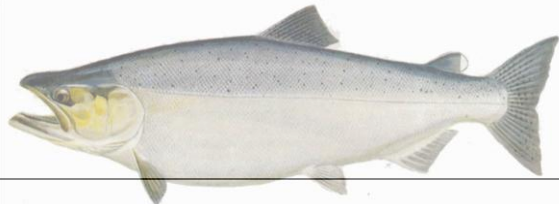
2026 Albion Chinook Catch – [Link to online Albion information](#).

For 2026, Albion run size updates for the Spring and Summer 5₂ management units (MUs) are provided for information purposes only and will not be used in-season to adjust management measures given conservation concerns.

On June 19, fishery notice [FN0610](#) was sent out outlining the details of the final in-season run size estimate for these MUs. A brief summary of the notice is also provided below.

The standard version of the in-season abundance model, that is based only on the 8-inch mesh data, predicts a terminal return for the Fraser River Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ Chinook aggregate of 54,500 (95% PI of 28,000 to 107,000).

Additionally, the low catch at the test fishery suggests low abundance for the Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ Chinook Salmon returning in 2026, and indicates ongoing low productivity for these MUs.



Fraser Sockeye

Fraser River Panel:

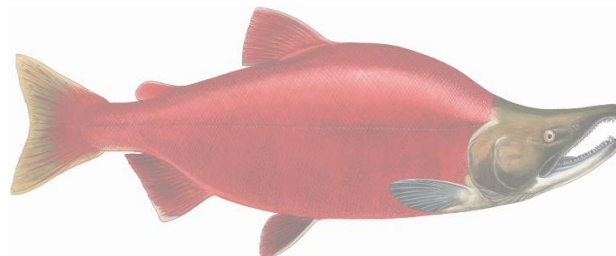
Fraser River Panel in-season meetings are planned to commence on July 10, 2026. Meetings usually take place each Tuesday and Friday at 11:00 am. You can follow this link to attend the in-season meetings: [Fraser Panel Meeting \(Zoom\)](#), or you can also dial in: 855-703-8985 (toll free in Canada) webinar ID: 838 9154 4946.

The Pacific Salmon Commission releases in-season information on the status of the Fraser River Sockeye runs. These include weekly reports, regulatory announcements, information packages and test fishing results. To access this information, please click [here](#).

In-season Fraser Sockeye updates will be distributed separately in their own report and will provide a summary of the previous Fraser River Panel meeting.

Fraser Sockeye Test Fishing Schedule

		Planned Schedule	
	Test Fishery	Start	End
Panel	Area 20 Gillnet	Jul 09	Aug 4
	Area 20 Purse Seine	Jul 24	Aug 30
	Brownsville Bar Gillnet ¹	Jul 13	Sept 26
	Whonnock Gillnet	Jun 22	Oct 09
	Gulf Troll ²	Aug 25	Sept 17
	Area 5 Gillnet	10 observation days	
	Area 7 Reefnet	10 observation days	
Non-Panel	Area 12 Round Island Gillnet	Jul 13	Aug 3
	Area 12 Blinkhorn Purse Seine	Jul 23	Sept 11
	Area 13 Purse Seine	Jul 24	Aug 05
	Qualark Gillnet	Jul 2	Oct 4



Please phone the Observe Record Report line at **1-800-465-4336** if you encounter any non-authorized fishing activity taking place

Fraser Sockeye In-season Updates:

The below table summarizes the most recent Fraser River Panel Update.

Week of: Jul. 26 - Aug. 1, 2026	Sockeye				
	Management Group				Total Fraser
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (incl's Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam)	46,000	55,300	55,800	4,500	161,600
Catch downstream of Mission	100	900	2,200	700	3,900
Accounted Run To Date	46,100	56,200	58,000	5,200	165,500
Adopted In-season run size ¹	46,000	540,000	na	na	0
Pre-season run size	62,670	1,163,680	4,304,780	2,212,260	7,743,390
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	1-Jul	5-Aug	na	na	na
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	4-Jul	3-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	14-Aug
Johnstone Str. Diversion Rate					
In-season 5-day average					79%
Preseason forecast of annual rate					67%

Of note:

- The Early Stuart run size has been downgraded to a run size of 46,000.
- Early Stuart sockeye are beginning to arrive at their spawning grounds. Cool water temperatures are being observed in the Early Stuart spawning tributaries.
- The Early Summer run size has been downgraded to 200,000 (above table not yet updated).
- The Early Stuart window closure is ending in some areas.
- Test fisheries are not observing notable abundance at this time.
- Only short-duration FSC opportunities are being considered at this time. This could change depending on strength of Summer and Late sockeye.
- Neither recreational or commercial fisheries have commenced at this time.

Other In-Season Meetings:

In-season communications between DFO, First Nations, Recreational and Commercial fleets take place to share information during the fishing season. If you would like to receive an invite to the meeting series, please follow-up with the respective DFO Manager.

FSC In-River Management Actions

As of Saturday, August 1st, 2026

Area	Management Actions/Openings
Below Port Mann Bridge	Short-duration chinook and sockeye communal fisheries.
Port Mann to Sawmill Creek	Short-duration chinook and sockeye communal fisheries.
Sawmill Creek to Texas, including Thompson d/s Bonaparte	Short-duration chinook and sockeye communal fisheries
Texas to Deadman	Short-duration chinook and sockeye communal fisheries
Deadman to Naver (includes tribs)	Chinook communal fisheries
Upstream of Naver Confluence (includes tribs)	Short-duration communal chinook opportunities with a catch limit in place
Thompson u/s of Bonaparte and tribs	Short-duration chinook and sockeye communal fisheries.

Fraser Chinook Recreational Management Measures:

Below are links to fishery notices announcing 2026 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](#).

[FN0147](#) – Recreational Salmon - Chinook - Strait of Juan de Fuca - Portions of Areas 19 and 20 - management measures - March 1, 2026

[FN0287](#) – RECREATIONAL Salmon - Chinook - Areas 11 to 20, 111, and Subareas 29-1 to 29-5 and 29-8 - Non Retention - Effective April 1, 2026

[FN0289](#) – RECREATIONAL - Salmon - Chinook Management Measures - West Coast of Vancouver Island - Area 121 and Areas 123 to 127- Effective April 1, 2026

[FN0288](#) – RECREATIONAL Salmon - Chinook - Southern BC waters: Vancouver Area and Fraser River - Area 28 and portions of Area 29 - Reminder of Fraser Chinook Management Measures - April 1, 2026

[FN0290](#) – RECREATIONAL - Salmon - Chinook - Portions of Areas 12, 13, and 15 to 20 - Chinook Management Measures - Effective April 1, 2026

An interactive map and table summarizing current British Columbia recreational fishing limits, openings and closures by management area may be found here: [British Columbia Recreational Fishing Regulations](#).

Catch Information

To receive a weekly harvest report for the fishing areas upstream of Sawmill Creek, please contact Cynthia Breau (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). Preliminary estimates are released during the peak season (June to September) two weeks after the end of each month. Finalized estimates are released in February.

Early-Timed Sockeye Window Closure

For 2026, the window closure in place to protect Early Stuart and earlier-timed Early Summer Sockeye will be approximately 4 weeks in duration. **Note the Early Stuart run timing has been updated which has affected some of the start and end dates in the below table.**

Area	Start Date	4-Week End Date	Management Actions ³
Areas 26-11, 27-4, 27-6, 111, 121, 123 to 127	23-Jun	21-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 21 (gillnet, troll, seine)
Area 11	23-Jun	21-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 21 (gillnet, troll) or July 25 (seine) ^{1,2}
Area 12	23-Jun	21-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 21 (gillnet, troll) or July 25 (seine) ^{1,2}
Area 13	23-Jun	21-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 21 (gillnet, troll) or July 25 (seine) ¹
Areas 14 to 16	23-Jun	21-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 21 (gillnet, troll) or August 15 (seine) ¹
Areas 17, 19, 20 and 21	23-Jun	21-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 21 (gillnet, troll, seine)
Areas 18 and 29	28-Jun	25-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 25
Steveston-Mission Bridge	28-Jun	25-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 25
Mission Bridge-Sawmill Cr	30-Jun	27-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 27
Sawmill Cr-Texas Cr	3-Jul	30-Jul	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before July 30
Texas Cr-Kelly Cr	3-Jul	30-Jul	
Kelly Cr-Deadman	3-Jul	30-Jul	
Deadman-Chilcotin	9-Jul	5-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before August 5
Chilcotin-Quesnel	9-Jul	5-Aug	
Quesnel-Hixon	9-Jul	5-Aug	
Hixon-Prince George	11-Jul	7-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before August 7
Prince George-Stuart R	13-Jul	9-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries on or before August 9, except for potential First Nations FSC harvest in terminal areas.

Note: dates are based on pre-season Area 20 peak run timing forecasts. Exact dates are subject to change based on in-season run timing.

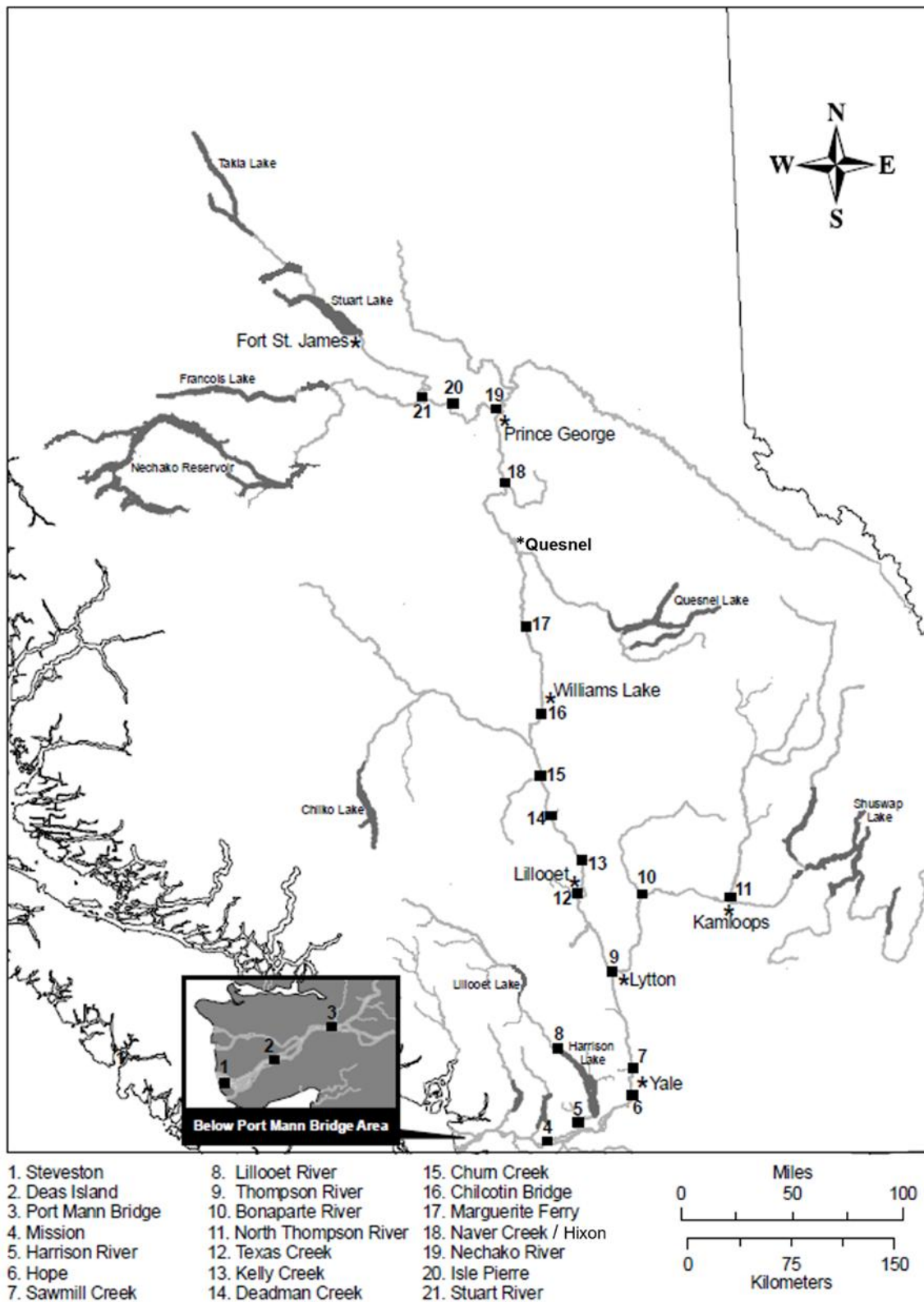
¹ Gear restrictions remain in place to protect Sakinaw Sockeye until July 25 (Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Straits - Areas 11 to 13) and August 15 (northern Strait of Georgia - Areas 14 to 16) unless the early-timed window extends beyond those dates.

² 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.

³ 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).

CHANGE FOR 2026: SOCKEYE FISHING MAY COMMENCE THE DAY FOLLOWING THE SOCKEYE WINDOW CLOSURE END DATE, NOT THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE TABLE

Map of Fishing Areas within the Fraser River Watershed



Please phone the Observe Record Report line at **1-800-465-4336** if you encounter any non-authorized fishing activity taking place