



Fraser Salmon Bulletin No: 2024-3

Date: July 19, 2024

This is the third Fraser Salmon Bulletin for the 2024 season. These bulletins will be provided every two to four weeks until mid-October. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide you with the 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 2024, the Albion test fishery commenced on April 21 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.

2024 Albion Chinook Catch – [Link to online Albion information.](#)

For 2024, 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 25, fishery notice [FN0596](#) 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 47,290 (95% PI of 25,000 to 88,000).

Additionally, the low catch at the test fishery suggests low abundance for the Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ Chinook Salmon returning in 2024, and indicates ongoing low productivity for these MUs.

2024 Management Measures:

Below are links to fishery notices announcing 2024 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 can be found at the DFO [Area 29 Salmon webpage](#).

[FN1316](#) – announced January 1 management measures in other South Coast waters.

[FN0141](#) – announced March 1 management measures in portions of Areas 19 and 20.

[FN0288](#) – provided details on recreational management measures that commenced on April 1, 2024.

[FN0290](#) – outlines management measures to protect Chinook in Areas 28 and 29.

[FN0291](#) – provided details on mark selective fisheries in portions of Areas 12, 13 and 15 to 20.

FSC In-River Management Actions

Area	Management Actions/Opening
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
Port Mann to Sawmill Creek	
Sawmill Creek to Texas, including Thompson d/s Bonaparte	No fisheries licensed at this time.
Texas to Deadman	No fisheries licensed at this time.
Deadman to Naver (includes tribs)	No fisheries licensed at this time.
Upstream of Naver Confluence (includes tribs)	No fisheries licensed at this time.
Thompson u/s of Bonaparte and tribs	No fisheries licensed at this time.

Catch Information

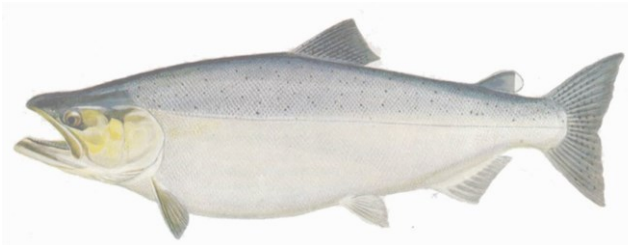
If you are looking for updates to catch information, the most current catch reports are available online at:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/fraser/index-eng.html>

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.

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). These are produced monthly from June to September.



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

Fraser Sockeye

Fraser Panel, Test Fishing Schedule and other in-season Meetings:

Fraser Panel in-season meetings commenced on **July 12th, 2024**. 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) webinar ID: 896 3260 8507

The Pacific Salmon Commission releases in-season information on the status of the Fraser Sockeye runs. These include weekly reports, regulatory announcements, information packages and test fishing results. To access this information, please click [here](#). The 2024 test fishing schedule is posted below.

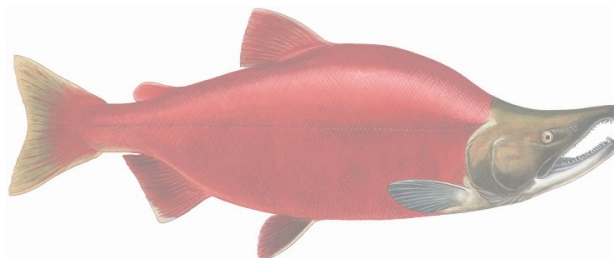
Test fishing schedule:

Panel approved test fishing schedule for 2024:

Test Fishery	Agreed Schedule	
	Start	End
Area 20 gillnet	Not operated for 2024	
Area 20 purse seine	July 15	August 5
Brownsville Bar	July 8	August 25
Whonnock gillnet	June 28	September 10
Area 7 reefnet	10 observation days	
Area 12 round island gillnet	Not operated for 2024	
Area 12 Blinkhorn purse seine	July 14	August 4
Qualark gillnet	July 18	September 6

In-season teleconferences between DFO and First Nations take place during the fishing season. Meetings will occur weekly starting July 17th, 2024. The table below provides the time for each area. If you would like to receive an invite to the meeting series, please follow-up with the DFO staff member who sent you this bulletin.

Fishing area	Day/Time	First Meeting
Fraser River and tributaries - downstream of Sawmill Creek, and Fraser River mouth	TBD	TBD
Fraser River and tributaries - upstream of Sawmill Creek	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am	July 17, 2024
Marine waters	Wednesdays @ 11:00 am	July 17, 2024



Early-Timed Sockeye Window Closure

For 2024, the window closure in place to protect Early Stuart and earlier-timed Early Summer Sockeye will be approximately 5 weeks in duration.

Area	Start Date	5-Week End Date	Management Actions ³
Areas 27-4, 111, 121, 123 to 127	24-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn)
Area 11	24-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ^{1,2}
Area 12	24-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ^{1,2}
Area 13	24-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ^{1,2}
Areas 14 to 16	24-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr) or August 15 (Sn) ¹
Areas 17, 19, 20 and 21	24-Jun	1-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 1 (Gn, Tr, Sn) ¹
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	3-Jul	11-Aug	No Fraser Sockeye-directed fisheries before August 11
Texas Cr-Kelly Cr	3-Jul	11-Aug	
Kelly Cr-Deadman	3-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 harvest in terminal areas.

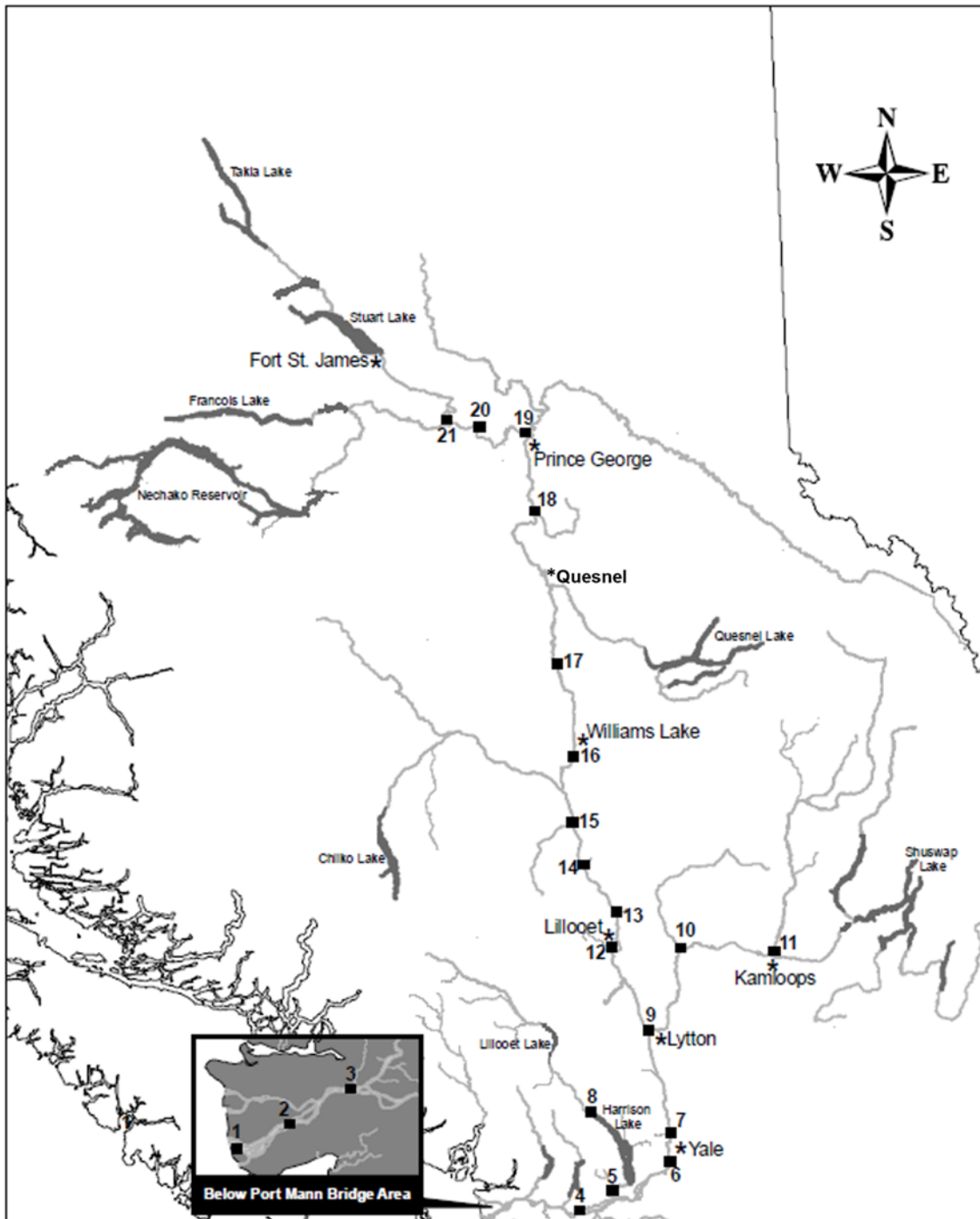
Note: dates are based on pre-season Area 20 peak run timing forecasts. Exact dates are subject to change based on in-season run timing.

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.

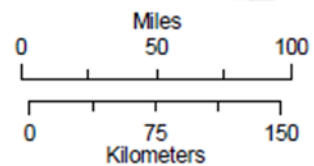
² Additional sockeye closures will remain in place in portions of Areas 11 and 12 until late July in waters north of Lewis Point to protect Nimpkish Sockeye.

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).

Map of Fishing Areas within the Fraser River Watershed



- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Steveston | 8. Lillooet River | 15. Chum Creek |
| 2. Deas Island | 9. Thompson River | 16. Chilcotin Bridge |
| 3. Port Mann Bridge | 10. Bonaparte River | 17. Marguerite Ferry |
| 4. Mission | 11. North Thompson River | 18. Naver Creek / Hixon |
| 5. Harrison River | 12. Texas Creek | 19. Nechako River |
| 6. Hope | 13. Kelly Creek | 20. Isle Pierre |
| 7. Sawmill Creek | 14. Deadman Creek | 21. Stuart River |



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BC Drought Update

Follow this link to review the current summary of drought conditions provided by Provincial government [B.C. Drought Information Portal](#). The table attached below is from the website and was last updated July 18th, 2024.

2024 Drought Conditions

2024 DROUGHT LEVELS AT A GLANCE																															
Drought Levels:	0	1	2	3	4	5																									
BASINS	02-May	09-May	16-May	23-May	30-May	06-Jun	13-Jun	20-Jun	27-Jun	04-Jul	11-Jul	18-Jul	25-Jul	01-Aug	08-Aug	15-Aug	22-Aug	29-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep	03-Oct	10-Oct	17-Oct	24-Oct	31-Oct	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov
Fort Nelson	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4																		
East Peace	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4																		
North Peace	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3																		
South Peace	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4																		
Northwest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																		
Stikine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																		
Skiena-Nass	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2																		
Bulkley-Lakes	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3																		
Fraser	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Fraser	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2																		
Upper Fraser West	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3																		
Upper Fraser East	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1																		
Upper Columbia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Lower Columbia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
West Kootenay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
East Kootenay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Kettle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Middle Fraser	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1																		
Lower Thompson	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1																		
North Thompson	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
South Thompson	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1																		
Nicola	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2																		
Okanagan	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Similkameen	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2																		
Central Pacific Range	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Eastern Pacific Range	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Sunshine Coast	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Lower Mainland	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
Central Coast	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1																		
West Vancouver Island	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1																		
East Vancouver Island	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	4																			
Haida Gwaii	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																		

Prepared By: Water Management Branch - Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

For more information / details, you can review these additional Provincial drought resources. See links below:

[B.C. River Forecast Centre Conditions Map](#)

[Drought and Watershed Watch Map](#)