



Fisheries and Oceans
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2025 Post-season Review Fraser Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries

Fraser Forum
28 January 2026



Overview

- Pre-season fishery planning considerations
- In-season fishery summary
- Post-season evaluation
 - Escapement vs Escapement target
 - TAC vs Catch
 - Exploitation rate vs Exploitation limit
- All data in this presentation is current to the PSC post-season meeting in January 2026

Pre-season forecast

- Fraser Sockeye p50 level: 2,941,000 salmon
 - 736,000 – 13,100,000 (p10-p90)
 - p50 forecast was a 64% decrease from the 30-year average cycle line run size (8.1M)
 - 16% increase from the 2021 brood year return (2.5M)
- Run timing forecasts by Management Unit were:
 - Early Stuart: July 8
 - Early Summer: August 3
 - Summer: August 15
 - Lates: August 20



Pre-season forecast

- Fraser Pink p50 level: 26,965,000 salmon
 - 12,585,000 – 57,854,000 (p10-p90)
 - p50 forecast was a 123% increase from the 30-year average run size (12.1M). If the median forecast was realized, it would be the highest Pink run size on record.
 - 157% increase from the 2023 brood year return (10.5M)
- Run timing forecast was August 21



Sockeye Escapement Plan and Harvest Rule

- Proportion of a stock that may be harvested depends on abundance from 0%, up to a maximum rate of 50%.
- Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) cap is the maximum harvest rate
 - Applied when the number of run size is greater than the Upper Reference Point.
- When the number of run size is less than the Lower Reference Point, no directed fisheries occur and the harvest rate is the Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER).
- The LAER is a threshold to stay below, allowing for only incidental harvest in fisheries on co-migrating stocks and species.

Stock Management Group	Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER)	Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point
Early Stuart	10%	20%	124,200	155,000
Early Summer	10%	50%	115,000	230,000
Summer	10%	50%	1,437,500	2,875,000
Late Run	10%	50%	345,000	690,000



Pink Escapement Plan and Harvest Rule

- Proportion of the stock that may be harvested depends on abundance from 0%, up to a maximum rate of 70%.
- The maximum rate is applied when the number of spawners is greater than the Upper Reference Point.
- When the number of spawners is less than the Lower Reference Point, the harvest rate is between 0% and 15%.

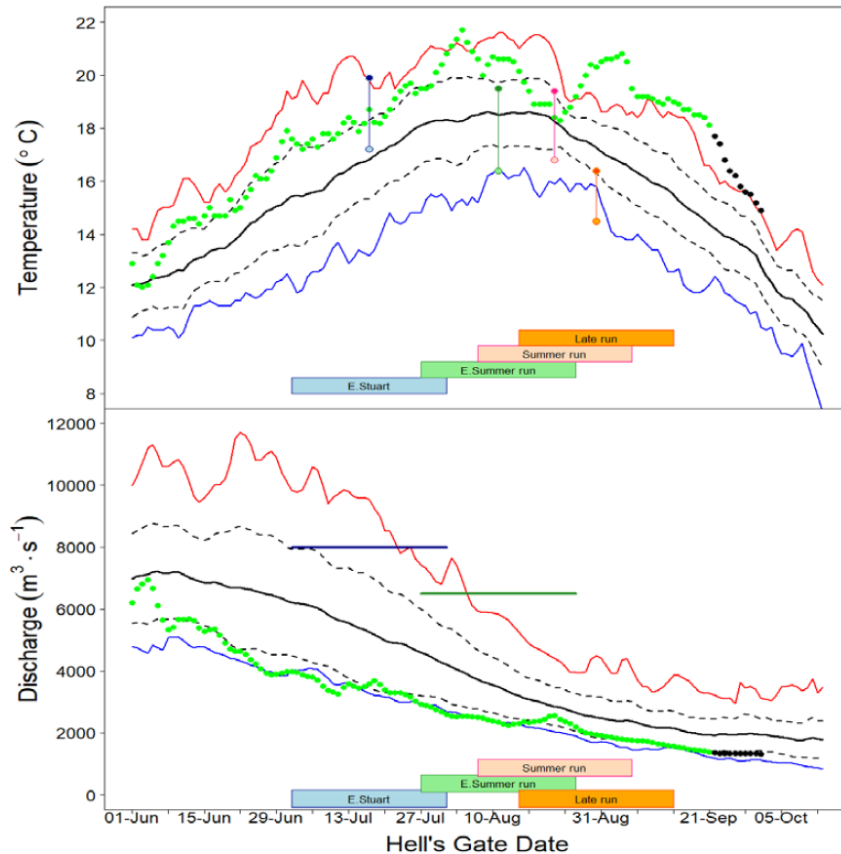
Management Unit	Maximum Exploitation Rate	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point
Fraser River Pink	70%	7,059,000	20,000,000



Fishery planning consultations

- Through the course of consultations several interests were identified and incorporated into the Sockeye escapement plan. These include:
 - Implementing a plan that increases the number of Sockeye salmon arriving to their spawning grounds, from all four management units, across the range of forecast run sizes.
 - Some felt the most effective mechanism to achieve this is to increase the Lower Fishery Reference Points, which requires that a larger run size be observed before any Sockeye-directed fishing occurs.
 - Implementing a plan that facilitates international cooperation and orderly administration of fisheries between and within Canada and the United States.

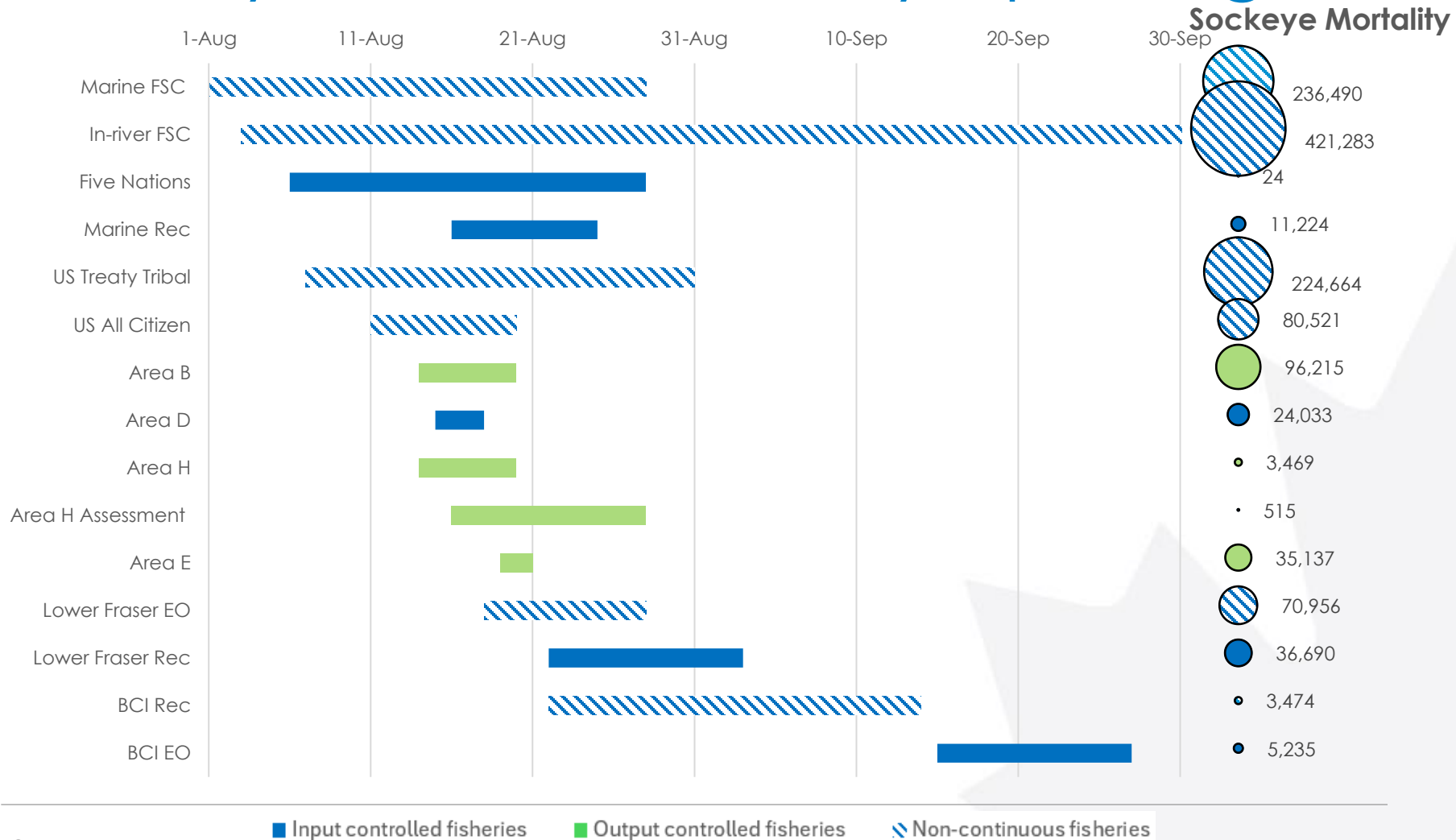
Environmental conditions



- Above-average water temperatures early in the season, and record high temperatures later in the season
- Record low discharge persisted through most of the freshwater migration period
- Nonetheless, early conditions were relatively positive for Early Stuarts. High temperatures in August created difficult migration conditions for the remaining three MUs, and triggered increases in en route loss forecasts for Summers

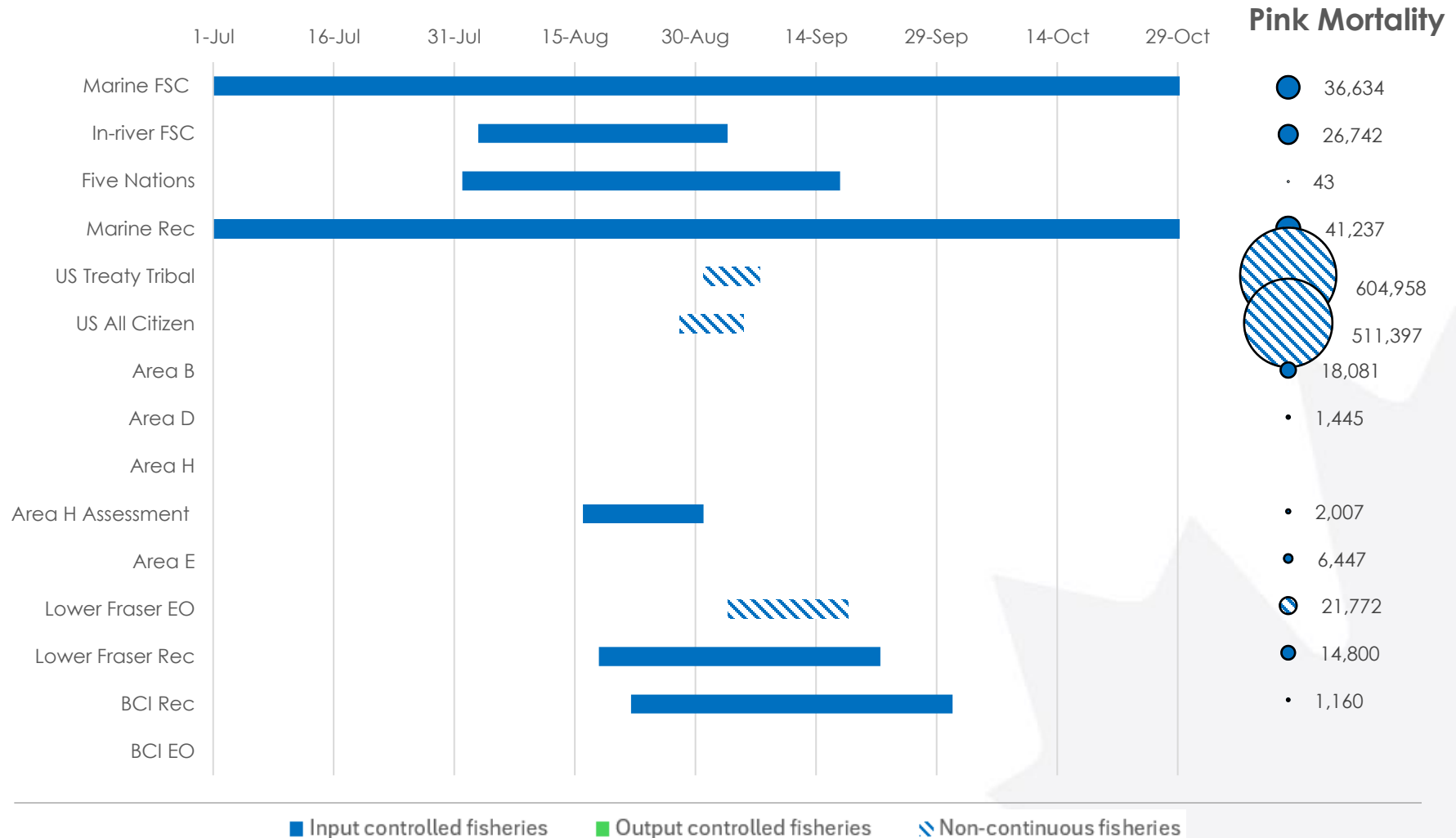


Sockeye-directed fishery openings





Pink-directed fishery openings





End-of-season estimates: Sockeye escapement

- End-of-season Fraser Sockeye run size (9.1M) is 12% above the 30-year average cycle line run size (8.1M) and 264% above the 2021 brood year return (2.5M)
- Total Fraser Sockeye escapement was less than the escapement target, but exceeded the escapement target for some Management Units
- Escapement targets were not met for Early Stuart, which was a management group that constrained fisheries.

	Early Stuart	Early Summer	Summer	Late	Total Sockeye
Adopted Run Size	736,000	411,000	6,915,000	850,000	8,912,000
End-of-season Run Size	737,000	409,000	6,872,000	1,033,000	9,051,000
Escapement Target*	588,800	205,500	3,457,500	425,000	4,676,800
End-of-season Predicted Escapement	256,537	228,010	3,699,171	438,373	4,622,090

*Targets are based on Panel-adopted run sizes and Total Allowable Mortality rules



End-of-season estimates: Pink escapement

- End-of-season Fraser Pink run-size (18.9 M) is 56% above the 30-year average run size (12.1M) and 80% above the 2023 brood year return (10.5 M)
- Fraser Pink escapement was greater than the escapement target
- Fraser Pink fishery opportunities were constrained by co-migrating Late Run Sockeye

	Fraser Pink
Adopted Run Size	19,000,000
End-of-season Run Size	18,909,000
Escapement Target	6,000,000
End-of-season Escapement	17,785,800



Preliminary End-of-season estimates: Sockeye TAC and catch

- Total Fraser Sockeye harvest was less than the harvestable surplus, but exceeded allocations for some Management Units
- Total Sockeye harvest by the United States was greater than the TAC
- Total Sockeye harvest by the Canada was less than the TAC

	Early Stuart	Early Summer	Summer	Late	Total Sockeye
Adopted Run Size	736,000	411,000	6,915,000	850,000	8,912,000
United States TAC	0	11,430	198,530	0	209,960
United States Catch	0	6,990	238,890	42,050	287,930
Canada TAC+AFE	3,660	80,840	1,368,670	26,120	1,479,290
Canada Catch	7,607	49,453	918,754	93,915	1,055,190
Total Catch Balance	-3,947	35,827	409,556	-109,845	346,130



Preliminary end-of-season estimates: Pink TAC and catch

- Total Fraser Pink harvest was less than the harvestable surplus
- Total Pink harvest by the United States was less than the TAC
- Total Pink harvest by the Canada was less than the TAC

	Fraser Pink
Adopted Run Size	19,000,000
United States TAC	3,336,730
United States Catch	1,044,300
Canada TAC	9,646,640
Canada Catch	153,280
Total Catch Balance	11,785,790



Preliminary end-of-season estimates: Exploitation Rate for Sockeye

- Fisheries impacts on Sockeye were limited to levels below the exploitation rate limits identified in the escapement plan for Early Stuart, Early Summer, and Summer Management Units.
- The exploitation rate limit for the Lates Management Unit was exceeded.

	Early Stuart	Early Summer	Summer	Late	Total Sockeye
End-of-season Run Size	737,000	409,000	6,872,000	1,033,000	9,051,000
Total Fishery Mortality (retained and released mortality, incl TFs)	12,974	59,902	1,211,260	143,618	1,352,370
Exploitation Rate Limit	10%	23%	23%	10%	N/A
Exploitation Rate	1.8%	14.6%	17.6%	13.9%	14.9%

Preliminary end-of-season estimates: Exploitation Rate for Pink

- Fisheries impacts on Pinks were limited to levels below the exploitation rate limit identified in the escapement plan.

	Fraser Pink
End-of-season Run Size	18,909,000
Total Fishery Mortality (retained and released mortality)	1,214,200
Exploitation Rate Limit	68%
Exploitation Rate	6.4%

Fishery Performance Summary

	Early Stuart	Early Summer	Summer	Late	Pinks
Escapement Target	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Catch Allocation	Over	Under	Under	Over	Under
Exploitation Rate	Under	Under	Under	Over	Under

- Escapement targets were not met because the target was more than 100% of the estimated run size.
- The escapement target for Late run was met based on the adopted run size and end-of-season escapement. However, the catch allocation and exploitation rate limit was exceeded.
- Some directed and incidental mortality is permitted even when harvestable surplus is zero. However, total mortality should remain below the exploitation rate limit.



2025 Fraser Sockeye and Pink Fisheries Summary

- End-of-season Fraser Sockeye run size (9.1M) is 12% above the 30-year average cycle line run size (8.1M) and 264% above the 2021 brood year return (2.5M)
- End-of-season Fraser Pink run-size (18.9 M) is 56% above the 30-year average run size (12.1M) and 80% above the 2023 brood year return (10.5 M)
- There was harvestable surplus for the Early Summer, Summer, and Pinks
- Sockeye-directed fisheries commenced on August 1 with marine FSC fisheries. In-river FSC fisheries commenced shortly thereafter
- Commercial and Recreational fisheries commenced in mid-August
 - Recreational in-river Sockeye fisheries occurred for the first time since 2022
 - 2025 was the first season for the Area E Individual Transferable Quota fishery



2025 Fraser Sockeye and Pink Fisheries Summary

- Although there was no harvestable surplus, retention of Early Stuart Sockeye was authorized as part of a LAER terminal fishery in the Stuart watershed. The estimated exploitation rate is less than the limit.
- All fisheries were constrained by Late-run Sockeye. The escapement target was high and the allowable exploitation rate was low relative to other Management Units, and the run timing overlapped with the more abundant Summer run and Pinks.
- The Management Adjustment (MAs) applied to the Summer escapement target may be triggered by forecasted environmental conditions. Oscillations around the environmental trigger and resulting MA was consequential to the harvestable surplus.



2025 Fraser Sockeye and Pink Fisheries Summary

- A fishery decision disagreement occurred at the Fraser River Panel when the US proposed Pink fisheries with Sockeye retention, despite no harvestable surplus for Sockeye remaining, as the US deemed these impacts to be “small but acceptable”
 - September 2: U.S. Sockeye harvest still totaled 147% of the US TAC.
 - Exploitation rate limit (10%) for Late-run sockeye was exceeded, and U.S. fishery mortality accounted for 38% of all Late-run mortality, despite there being no harvestable surplus for this Management Group.
 - On these grounds, Canada opposed the US fishery.