

Dear STÁUTW First Nation Members,

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to provide a critical update regarding Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) allocations and the Fraser River Sockeye run for 2024.

Sockeye Run Challenges

As you may be aware, this year's Fraser River sockeye salmon run was forecasted as the lowest on record, estimated at 567,180 fish. Unfortunately, the observed returns have been even lower than forecasted, currently at 363,500.

2024 Run status of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon

Date: Aug. 16, 2024

Week of: Aug. 11 - Aug. 17, 2024	Sockeye				Total Fraser
	Management Group				
	E.Stuart	E.Summer	Summer	Late	
Mission passage (includes Pitt, Alouette, Coquitlam) ¹	200	140,500	210,800	7,600	359,100
Catch downstream of Mission	0	1,300	3,000	100	4,400
Accounted run-to-date	200	141,800	213,800	7,700	363,500
Run size adopted in-season ¹	na	142,000	300,000	18,000	na
Run size forecasted pre-season	180	159,000	379,000	29,000	567,180
Area 20 timing adopted in-season	na	14-Jul	2-Aug	9-Aug	
Area 20 timing expected pre-season	7-Jul	19-Jul	30-Jul	7-Aug	

¹ Run sizes are usually not adopted until after the peak of the run has passed through marine test fishery areas in Juan de Fuca and Johnstone straits.

The Fraser River requires a return of approximately 1 million fish to sustain healthy populations. For comparison, in 2022, 6,933,200 sockeye salmon returned to the Fraser. For this reason, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has stated that there will be no sockeye retention this year (2024), including for FSC, on the East Coast of Vancouver Island.

Chilcotin Landslide

This year's diminished Fraser River sockeye run is expected to take an even heavier hit due to the impacts of the Chilcotin landslide (July 31, 2024) which has suspended debris and disrupted migration of a critical sockeye run. The river is also experiencing increased water temperatures which may have further impacts on migration.

Sustaining Fraser River Sockeye Populations for Future Generations

Due to the FSC harvesting closures, STÁUTW will not be receiving sockeye allocations for FSC this year. STÁUTW recognizes the importance of sustaining this fishery to ensure that Fraser River sockeye can be enjoyed by the community for future generations. We hope this closure will help to alleviate the immense pressure on sockeye stocks, allowing them the opportunity to recover and rebuild their numbers.

The Good News: FSC Allocations

1. **Frozen Sockeye:** We have an abundance of frozen sockeye salmon fillets available. Fillets have been delivered to elders. General membership distribution will occur on August 22, 2024, 12:00 pm (noon) – 7 pm. A newsletter will be put out this week with more information on this distribution.
2. **Upcoming Springs, Pink and Coho Salmon:** It is a peak return year for pink salmon. We anticipate receiving spring, pink and coho salmon later in the season. These fish will be made available as they arrive, and we will keep you updated on distribution dates

Ongoing Support and Communication

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or to discuss how we can assist further. Our goal is to ensure that we can provide the best possible support given the circumstances.

We remain dedicated to supporting **STÁUTW** community and are hopeful for better Fraser River sockeye returns in the future.

Thank you for your continued resilience and cooperation.

Best regards,

Chrissy Chen

Principal Negotiator and Fisheries Manager

STÁUTW First Nation