

Friday, September 26, 2003

The Panel has adopted the following in-season estimates of Fraser sockeye abundance by run timing-group: 30,000 Early Stuart sockeye (no change from the previous estimate); 585,000 Early Summer-run sockeye (no change from the previous estimate); 3,200,000 Summer-run sockeye (a slight decrease from the previous estimate of 3,300,000 fish); 375,000 Birkenhead sockeye (an increase from the previous, provisional estimate of 322,000 fish); and 1,200,000 Late-run sockeye, excluding Birkenhead sockeye (a decrease from the previous, provisional estimate of 1,319,000 fish). The estimated total run size of Fraser River sockeye is 5,390,000 fish, which is 98% of the pre-season 50% probability forecast level of abundance (5,502,000 sockeye).

The Panel approved an in-season run size estimate of 26,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon. This is slightly higher than the previous, provisional run-size estimate of 25,000,000 fish, and exceeds the 25% probability level run-size of 25,504,000 fish.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing.

**Note: Fishers catching a radio-tagged sockeye (which will have a thin wire antenna protruding from the mouth and an external, blue Floy tag attached to the antenna) are requested to please contact the following phone number, which is toll free in Canada and the U.S. 1-877-666-7575.**

This was the last in-season meeting of the Fraser River Panel in 2003.