

The Fraser River Panel met today to review the catches and biological data associated with the Fraser River sockeye salmon migration. Commercial fisheries in Canadian and United States waters this week harvested approximately 360,000 sockeye (see attached statistical sheet). Catches consisted of Summer-run stocks, primarily, and confirmed that the majority of Fraser sockeye are migrating to the river via Juan de Fuca Strait. PSC staff also used the catch information to update the Summer-run sockeye run size. Delay of a portion of the migration in the Strait of Georgia had hampered attempts to provide an in-season estimate of run size over the past week.

Early Summer sockeye continue to be present in samples collected from fish in the Strait of Georgia. It now appears that the numbers of Early Summer sockeye will exceed the in-season estimate of approximately 250,000 fish. The escapement of Early Summer sockeye is estimated at 215,000 fish.

Summer-run sockeye stocks (Quesnel, Chilko, Late Stuart, Stellako) comprise approximately 90-95% of sockeye caught in commercial and test fishing operations. Of the sockeye identified as Summer-run stocks, the age 5 component has declined to approximately 10-15% while age 4 fish have increased to approximately 85%. While the increase in the proportion of age 4 fish in the Summer-run group was expected, the proportion of age 5 sockeye continues to indicate that the total number of Summer-run sockeye will be lower than the pre-season 50% probability level forecast (11,715,000). Based on commercial and test fishing catches, PSC staff provided the first in-season assessment of the Summer-run run size to the Panel on Wednesday, August 1. The Panel approved a provisional in-season estimate of 6,000,000 Summer-run sockeye which is near the 75% probability level forecast (6,159,000). The peak (or 50%) timing of the Summer-run stocks is expected to be about August 4-5. The escapement of Summer-run sockeye is estimated at 484,000 fish. Late-run sockeye are now appearing in low proportions in the migratory areas as would be expected for the time of year.

Water levels in the Fraser River at Hope dropped from the high flows recorded last week and then stabilized this week at approximately 5,100 cms. The sharp increase in flow that peaked on July 23 was caused by heavy rainfall in northern British Columbia. This high flow and associated high turbidity appears to have created conditions that stopped the migration of sockeye that were in the Fraser Canyon. As well, the high, turbid flows appear to have caused fish approaching the river mouth to delay in the Strait of Georgia. Sockeye that were caught in the Fraser Canyon by the high water began passing Hells Gate on Friday, July 27 and peaked on July 31. Fish that delayed in the Strait of Georgia began moving into the river in numbers beginning Wednesday, August 1. The Panel expects that this migration will continue for the coming week during which time most of the delaying fish will enter the river.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada reported that Early Stuart sockeye have arrived in good numbers at their spawning streams in the Stuart River watershed. In addition, Early Summer sockeye salmon have been arriving in lower and middle Fraser River tributaries.

Uncertainty regarding the in-season estimate of 6,000,000 Summer-run sockeye, lead the Panel to delay announcement regarding potential United States net fisheries until Monday August 6.

The Panel announced the following regulations in Panel Area waters:

United States Fraser River Panel Area Waters:

Treaty Indian Fisheries:

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open to drift gillnets from 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 3, to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 4.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Remain closed to fishing

Non-Indian Fisheries:

Areas 7 and 7A: Reef nets open 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 5.

Areas 7 and 7A: Purse seines and gillnets remain closed to fishing.

Canadian Fraser River Panel Area Waters:

Area 20-1, 3 and 4: Open for Gear License Area "B" purse seines from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 5 and Monday, August 6. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has required that vessels possess a "Scientific License" and will adjust the duration and the open areas of this fishery as required on the fishing grounds, based on coho and chinook salmon encounters.

Area 29: Remains closed for Gear License Area "E" gillnets.

Area 18-1, 4 and 11 and Area 29-1 to 6: Closes as scheduled 11:59 p.m. Friday August 3.

The Fraser River Panel will meet again Monday, August 6 to review the progress of the escapement and commercial and test fishing catches and to consider regulations for the remainder of the week.

2001 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Jul. 29 - Aug. 4, 2001](#)

Date: August 3, 2001

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
<u>Canada</u>					
A & B Areas 1-10	Net				0
F Areas 1-10	Troll				0
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll				5,400
B Areas 11-16	PS				0
D Areas 11-16	GN				76,000
H Areas 12-16	Troll				33,200
H Areas 18-29	Troll				11,800
B Area 20	PS				0
E Area 29	GN				0
Canadian Total					126,400
<u>United States</u>					
Alaska	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				31,500
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				140,700
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				74,300
Washington Total					246,500
U.S. Total					246,500
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					38,700
Other Test					1,500
Canadian Selective					31,300
Fraser River Aboriginal					84,500
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					30,000
Recreational					0
Charter					2,800
U.S. TI Ceremonial					0
Non-comm. Total					188,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					561,700
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					836,000
Total Accounted-to-date					1,397,700

Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	223,000	219,200	2,000	221,200	99%
ESum	Early Summer	159,000	213,500	2,100	215,600	136%
Summ	Chilko/Quesnel	-	244,200	6,200	483,700	-
	L.Stu./Stel.		228,400	4,900		
Late	Birk./Adams/Cult.	-	0	0	0	-
	Weav/L.Misc.		0	0		