

Pacific Salmon Commission staff reported today to the Fraser River Panel on the status of Fraser River Summer and Late-run sockeye salmon. The estimate of Summer-run sockeye abundance remains at approximately 5,000,000 fish. This total is substantially lower than the pre-season forecasts of between 6,159,000 and 11,715,000 fish for these stocks. At the current run size, the gross escapement target provided to the Panel by Canada is 3,929,000 fish. Estimates of escapement past Mission, B.C. plus First Nations fishery catches below Mission total 3,506,000 Summer-run fish. In addition, approximately 787,000 Summer-run sockeye have been caught in fisheries other than First Nations fisheries in the Fraser River. PSC staff project that 300,000 additional Summer-run fish will arrive in the Fraser River within the coming week. Sockeye have begun arriving in Chilko River and in the Horsefly River (Quesnel Lake watershed). While the total return from the ocean has been extremely disappointing, the escapement to the spawning grounds should reach the target set by Canada.

Late-run sockeye spawn in middle and lower Fraser River tributaries. These stocks produce low numbers of sockeye on the 2001 cycle. The total return of Late-run sockeye is projected to reach 550,000 fish, close to the 50% probability level forecast of 528,000. Prior to the season, the Pacific Salmon Commission agreed to limit the harvest of Late-run sockeye, (except Birkenhead) to 17% of the return in order to conserve these stocks which have been depleted in recent years due to pre-spawning mortality. The harvest has reached 13.6% of these stocks. Estimates place the harvest of all Late-run sockeye at 73,000 fish while 318,000 have migrated upstream.

PSC staff advised the Panel and the industry that the early upstream migration of Late-run sockeye stocks is continuing in 2001. This behavioral phenomenon first became obvious in 1996 and has continued each year since. These stocks have suffered high en route and pre-spawning mortality associated with early river entry. The continued viability and productivity of these stocks has become a major concern for the Parties and the Commission. A separate news release describing the scope of the problem will be provided next week.

United States fishers have harvested 241,000 Fraser River sockeye while Canadian commercial fishers have 247,000 fish in marine areas. Canadian First Nations fisheries in marine areas have harvested 158,000 sockeye and within the Fraser River the catch estimate is 547,000 fish. The current total catch in all fisheries stands at 1,437,000 sockeye.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) reported that Early Stuart sockeye arrived at their natal streams and appear to have spawned successfully. Early Summer sockeye stocks in lower Fraser tributaries have arrived and have begun to spawn. Stocks that spawn in more distant parts of the watershed have begun to arrive at natal streams. However, arrival timing for these latter stocks appears to have been delayed by high discharge in the Fraser River in late July caused by heavy rains in the middle and upper Fraser watershed.

DFO provided the Panel with forecasts of Fraser River pink salmon arrival timing and Johnstone Strait diversion rates this week. The peak is now expected in Area 20 (Juan de Fuca Strait) on September 2. The 1993-99 average Johnstone Strait migration of 64% was suggested as an appropriate first approximation of the diversion rate for 2001. Purse seine test fishing in Johnstone Strait has shown significant pink salmon catches in the past week. PSC staff expect to have problems identifying the run size in-season because of the lack of commercial catch data.

All Panel Area fisheries remain closed for the conservation of Late-run sockeye. The Panel will meet again Tuesday, August 28, to review the status of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon stocks.



## 2001 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Aug. 19 - Aug. 25, 2001](#)

Date: August 24, 2001

		<b>Fraser Sockeye</b>	
Area	Gear	Cumul.	
<b>Commercial Catch</b>			
<b>Canada</b>			
A & C Areas 1-10	Net		0
F Areas 1-10	Troll		0
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll		17,100
B Areas 11-16	PS		29,200
D Areas 11-16	GN		93,900
H Areas 12-16	Troll		35,500
H Areas 18-29	Troll		24,900
B Area 20	PS		45,900
E Area 29	GN		0
Canadian Total			246,500
<b>United States</b>			
<u>Alaska</u>	Net		0
<u>Washington</u>			
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net		34,800
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net		125,900
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net		80,100
Washington Total			240,800
U.S. Total			240,800
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>			
PSC Test			86,400
Other Test			28,800
Canadian Selective			33,700
Fraser River Aboriginal			547,000
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal			157,500
Recreational			77,000
Charter			8,400
U.S. Tl Ceremonial			10,800
Non-comm. Total			949,600
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>			
Catch Accounted-to-date			1,436,900
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)			3,769,100
Total Accounted-to-date			5,206,000

### Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	225,000	219,200	2,000	221,200	98%
ESum	Early Summer	212,000	281,100	11,900	293,000	138%
Summ	Chilko/Quesnel	3,929,000	2,687,700	114,100	3,505,900	89%
	L.Stu/Stel.		663,900	40,200		
Late	Birk./Adams/Cult.	459,000	91,500	2,000	318,000	69%
	Weav/L.Misc.		216,900	7,600		