

At its meeting on Friday, September 7, the Fraser River Panel reviewed the catch data for fisheries in Panel Area and non-Panel waters early in the week. Catches of Fraser River pink salmon appeared to be strong despite the low number of vessels that participated in the fisheries. In the United States Areas 7 and 7A Treaty Indian purse seine fishery on September 4, six purse seines harvested 53,000 Fraser River pink salmon and, on September 5, 18 Non-Indian purse seines harvested 81,000 fish. Similarly, in the Canadian Areas 12 and 13, 76 purse seines caught 424,000 Fraser River pink salmon in a 12 hour period on September 4. Based on these catch data and continued catches in purse seine test fisheries, the Panel agreed to revise the estimated run size to 8 million fish for in-season management purposes. In all fisheries this week the Parties agreed to implement regulations forbidding retention of sockeye salmon and other species of conservation concern. The current total catch of Fraser River pink salmon in all fisheries stands at 721,000 fish (see attached summary).

Fraser River sockeye salmon numbers have dropped significantly in all areas this week. Purse seine test fishing catches in Canadian Areas 20 and 12 and gillnet catches in the Fraser River all show the declining abundance. Revisions to the species composition estimates of the escapement of sockeye and pink salmon at Mission reduced the estimated numbers of sockeye salmon migrating upstream for the period of August 22-September 3. The current accounting of sockeye salmon shows a cumulative catch and escapement of 6,084,000 fish. Staff now project that the total Summer-run abundance will not reach the projection of 5,300,000 fish made on August 31. Approximately 5,100,000 Summer-run sockeye are expected to be tallied in catch and escapement. This reduction brings the estimated total Fraser River sockeye run to approximately 6,200,000 fish.

Summer-run sockeye salmon are arriving at natal streams in the watershed and spawning has commenced at Horsefly River. The arrival patterns appear to be following the escapements at Mission adjusted for upstream catch. Environmental conditions at the spawning grounds generally have been favorable for spawning. High discharge was noted in some areas due to heavy rainfall but most of these events occurred prior to the arrival of the sockeye.

Late-run Fraser River sockeye salmon stocks continue to migrate directly into the Fraser River. Troll test fishing in the Strait of Georgia this week resulted in very low catches indicating that few Late-run fish are delaying. The Panel is now very pessimistic about the possible success of spawning of these stocks. In 2000, pre-spawning mortality reduced the spawning ground numbers to only 4% of the expected escapement. Of these, approximately 24% of the females died before successfully depositing their eggs. In effect, only 3% of the Late-run sockeye that migrated upstream for spawning survived to do so. The early upstream migration timing this year may result in a similar low survival. However, until Late-run sockeye arrive on their spawning grounds in October, estimates of actual spawning numbers will be not available.

In order to harvest Fraser River pink salmon, the Panel announced that United States purse seines and reef nets will open as follows. There will be non-retention of sockeye, for the conservation of Late-run stocks, and non-retention of other species as well.

UNITED STATES PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for purse seine fishing 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday September 9. Fisheries will open southerly and easterly of the Iwersen's Dock line. Non-retention of sockeye and other species will be in effect.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Purse Seines open 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday September 10. Reef nets open from 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily Sunday, September 9 through Tuesday, September 11. Fisheries will open southerly and easterly of the Iwersen's Dock line. Non-retention of sockeye and other species will be in effect.

The Panel will meet again Tuesday September 11 to consider further regulations in United States Panel Area Waters.

2001 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Sep. 2 - Sep. 8, 2001](#)

Date: September 7, 2001

		Fraser Sockeye	
Area	Gear	Cumul.	
Commercial Catch			
Canada			
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
United States			
Alaska	Net		0
Washington			
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
<u>Washington Total</u>			<u>240,800</u>
U.S. Total			240,800
Non-commercial Catch			
PSC Test			92,200
Other Test			30,300
Canadian Selective			33,700
Fraser River Aboriginal			612,600
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal			175,700
Recreational			77,000
Charter			11,300
U.S. TICeremonial			10,800
Non-comm. Total			1,043,600
Catch and Escapement			
Catch Accounted-to-date			1,530,900
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)			4,552,600
Total Accounted-to-date			6,083,500

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	210,000	281,100	11,900	293,000	140%
Summ	Chilko/Quesnel	3,934,000	3,415,400	115,600	4,255,300	108%
	L.Stu./Stel.		684,000	40,300		
Late	Birk./Adams/Cult.	495,000	117,400	2,000	467,600	94%
	Weav./L.Misc.		340,400	7,800		

2001 Fraser River Panel Pink Salm on Review

Week of: [Sep. 2 - Sep. 8, 2001](#)

Date: September 7, 2001

		Fraser Pinks
Area	Gear	Cumul.
Commercial Catch		
<u>Canada</u>		
A & C Areas 1-10	Net	0
F Areas 1-10	Troll	0
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll	10,500
B Areas 11-16	PS	454,200
D Areas 11-16	GN	4,500
H Areas 12-16	Troll	37,200
H Areas 18-29	Troll	100
B Area 20	PS	8,100
E Area 29	GN	0
Canadian Total		514,600
<u>United States</u>		
<u>Alaska</u>		0
<u>Washington</u>		
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	4,400
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	54,600
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	86,000
Washington Total		145,000
U.S. Total		145,000
Non-commercial Catch		
PSC Test		23,200
Other Test		12,600
Canadian Selective		0
Fraser River Aboriginal		0
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal		15,200
Canadian Recreational		9,900
Charter		0
U.S. Ceremonial		800
U.S. Recreational		0
Non-comm. Total		61,700
Catch and Escapement		
Catch Accounted-to-date		721,300
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above)		n/a
Total Accounted-to-date		721,300