

Data obtained through the PSC test fishing program and the hydroacoustic program at Mission, B.C., provided the Fraser River Panel with sufficient information on July 3rd to establish an in-season run-size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye at 250,000 fish. This number is similar to the 75% probability forecast of 258,000 fish but is less than the 50% probability level forecast of 420,000 fish. At this level (250,000), the 2001 Early Stuart run would be at the lowest on this cycle since 1965. The parent fish encountered high water levels in the Fraser Canyon in 1997 that resulted in large en route mortality and severe stress on the fish that eventually spawned. While age 4 sockeye usually comprise about 99% of Early Stuart return on this cycle, age 5 sockeye are contributing approximately 50% of the return this year, the highest proportion by this age group on record for the cycle.

PSC staff now project that Early Stuart sockeye will have a 50% migration date in Canadian Area 20 (Juan de Fuca Strait) on June 30th, the same as forecast prior to the season by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which is approximately three days earlier than average. The estimated escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past the Mission hydroacoustic site now totals 128,000 fish.

While Early Stuart sockeye still dominate in Area 20 and in the Fraser River, Early Summer sockeye stocks (Nadina, Gates, Pitt, Fennell, Bowron, and several smaller stocks) now contribute significant proportions in both areas. The proportions are higher than expected due to the low run-size of Early Stuart sockeye and the apparent early arrival timing of Early Summer stocks. Approximately 12,000 fish of these stocks have migrated upstream to date. This total is slightly larger than observed to July 5 in 2000 when the strong Early Summer run was estimated to be 5 days early. The data suggest that Early Summer stocks are larger than both the 75% probability level forecast (107,000 fish) and the 50% probability forecast (202,000). The run may also be earlier timed than the 2000 run.

Environmental conditions remain favorable for sockeye salmon migration in the Fraser River. Fraser River discharge at Hope is approximately 30% lower than normal for this time of year and is currently estimated at approximately 500 cubic meters per second (cms). River water temperatures are higher than normal but remain within the preferred range for sockeye. Projections call for decreasing river flows and increasing river temperatures over the next few weeks. There is concern over the potential for elevated water temperatures in the Fraser River because the low snow pack will lead to low river flows, which cause greater heating of the water in the interior parts of British Columbia. Peak temperatures normally occur in late July and early August. Weekly updates on the environmental conditions will be provided in this news release series.

The Pacific Salmon Commission makes available daily test fishing catches of sockeye and pink salmon and fishery regulations on its recorded message at (604) 666-8200. These and other data are available on the Internet at: www.psc.org/testfish/daily.htm. United States fishing schedules during the season will be available for Treaty Indian fisheries through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission at 1-800-562-6142. Non-Indian fishing schedules will be available through the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hotline in Seattle at 1-888-858-9319. Canadian fishing regulations will be announced on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada recorded message at (604) 666-2828.

2001 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Jul. 1 - Jul. 7, 2001

Date: July 6, 2001

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
<u>Canada</u>					
Areas 1-10	Net				0
Areas 1-10	Troll				0
Areas 124-27,11-12	Troll				0
Areas 11-16	Net				0
Areas 12-16	Troll				0
Areas 17-18-29	Troll				0
Area 20	Net				0
Area 29	Net				0
Canadian Total					0
<u>United States</u>					
Alaska	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				0
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				0
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				0
Washington Total					0
U.S. Total					0
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					3,300
Other Test					0
Canadian Selective					0
Fraser River Aboriginal					6,800
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					0
Recreational					0
Charter					100
U.S. TI Ceremonial					0
Non-comm. Total					10,200
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					10,200
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					136,100
Total Accounted-to-date					146,300

Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	-	128,400	2,100	130,500	-
ESum	Early Summer	-	12,300	0	12,300	-
Summ	Chilko	-	0	0	0	-
	L.Stu/Stel./Ques.		0	0		
Late	Birkenhead	-	0	0	0	-
	Weav/L.Misc.		0	0		