

NO. 7 NEWS RELEASE August 4, 2000

Monitoring programs on Fraser River sockeye salmon migrating via Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Strait this week have indicated that the Summer-run sockeye abundance will be near the pre-season forecast level. The Fraser River Panel adopted an interim estimate of 2,400,000 on July 31, in order to begin planning commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters. While the total abundance of the stock group is now estimated at near the pre-season forecast, the stock composition within the group is somewhat different than forecast. The historically predominant stock, Chilko, was forecast to contribute approximately 54% of the Summer-run abundance in 2000; however, current estimates place the Chilko at approximately 35% of the total.

At its meeting today, the Panel adopted a revised in-season estimate of 900,000 Early Summer sockeye abundance. There was no change to the in-season estimate of 2,400,000 Summer-run sockeye. For Late-run sockeye, the Panel adopted as an interim estimate the pre-season forecast (50% probability level = 577,000) based on early indications of abundance.

Catches in commercial fisheries through August 3 were estimated to total 234,000 in Canada and 166,000 in United States waters. The catch in Fraser River First Nations fisheries account for 379,000 sockeye, which includes a pilot sales catch of 18,000. In total, 894,000 sockeye have been taken in all fisheries.

The gross escapement of Early Summer sockeye now has reached the target set by Canada. The Mission hydroacoustic estimate for this run timing group is 529,000 and 41,000 have been taken in First Nations fisheries below Mission. The Summer-run sockeye gross escapement stands at 365,000 fish, or approximately 25% of the target for 2000.

Fraser River water conditions have improved for sockeye passage through the Fraser Canyon. Discharge has dropped to 5,200 cms and temperatures remain below critical levels. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) reports that Early Stuart and Gates Creek sockeye have begun to arrive at their spawning grounds in good numbers.

In order to harvest the available surplus of Summer-run sockeye, the Panel scheduled fisheries in Panel Area waters as follows:

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES:

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open for drift gillnets 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 5 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 7.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Open for net fishing 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sunday, August 6 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 7.

NON-INDIAN FISHERIES:

Remain closed.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29 - sub-areas 1 - 6 and Area 18 - sub-areas 1, 4 and 11: Extended for Area H troll fishing until 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 6.

The Panel will meet Monday, August 7, to review fisheries in Panel Area waters.

Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Jul. 30 - Aug. 5, 2000](#)

Date: August 4, 2000

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				1,600
Areas 11-16	Net				57,000
Areas 12-16	Troll				0
Areas 17-18-29	Troll				300
Area 20	Net				0
Area 29	Net				175,000
Canadian Total					233,900
<u>United States</u>					
Alaska	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				35,500
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				42,100
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				87,900
Washington Total					165,500
U.S. Total					165,500
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					57,000
Other Test					7,100
Canadian Selective					6,500
Fraser River Aboriginal					378,700
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					40,000
Recreational					0
Charter					3,600
U.S. TI Ceremonial					1,900
Non-comm. Total					494,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					894,200
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					929,600
Total Accounted-to-date					1,823,800

Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target	Mission Esc.	AFS Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	355,600	328,100	26,300	354,400	100%
ESum	Early Summer	548,000	528,500	41,500	570,000	104%
Summ	Chilko	1,784,600	93,600	5,700	365,000	20%
	L.Stu./Stel./Ques.		244,600	21,100		n/a
Late	Birkenhead		18,700	0	18,700	n/a
	Adam/LShu		0	0		
	Weav/L.Misc.		0	0		

