

NO. 8 NEWS RELEASE August 11, 2000

At the Fraser River Panel meeting today, PSC staff provided an update on the status of the Fraser sockeye stocks. Summer-run sockeye stocks comprised approximately 65-75% of commercial and test fishing catches this week. In the Fraser River, the latter portion of the Early Summer stocks has migrated upstream. In Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits approach routes, Late-run sockeye became the second most abundant stock group. Current estimates of stock group abundance provide a new run size of 4,600,000 Fraser River sockeye compared to a pre-season forecast of 4,083,000 fish (50% probability level).

The Early Summer sockeye run is nearly complete in the lower Fraser River. Today, the Panel approved a small increase to 950,000 Early Summer sockeye as the catch and escapement estimates have increased in the past several days to a point beyond the projected abundance. The escapement of these stocks has reached 655,000 sockeye, through August 10. Catches total 295,000 fish in all fisheries other than the Fraser River First Nations fisheries.

On August 8, the Panel approved a revision of the in-season estimate for Summer-run sockeye to 2,600,000, up from the previous estimate of 2,400,000. The increase was based on the result of estimation model results incorporating the catches and escapements of Summer-run stocks (i.e., Chilko, Late Stuart, Stellako and Quesnel sockeye) to that date. Catches of these stocks in commercial and non-commercial fisheries other than the Fraser River First Nations fisheries now total 1,010,000 fish. The gross escapement of Summer-run stocks stands at 870,000 fish.

Late-run sockeye abundance has been projected at 700,000 fish. In 2000, the major sockeye stocks within this group are Birkenhead and Weaver. The catch of these stocks now stands at 210,000 fish while 105,000 have migrated upstream. Both Birkenhead and Weaver sockeye are entering the river earlier than normal, as has been observed in each of the past four years.

Sockeye migration via Johnstone Strait has stabilized at approximately 40-50% of the incoming run. The DFO pre-season forecast of Johnstone Strait diversion rate projected that 30% of the run would arrive via the northern route.

Fish migration conditions in the Fraser River continued to be within average values. The river discharge for the past week has declined to approximately 4,400 cms. Temperatures increased as a result of high air temperatures in the watershed over the past week and were 19 C on August 9, the highest of the season for the main Fraser.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters for the week commencing August 13:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29, subareas 1 to 6 and Area 18, subareas 1,4 and 11: Extended for Area H troll fishing until further notice.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

All areas remain closed to fishing.

The Panel will meet by telephone conference on Monday, August 14.

Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 6 - Aug. 12, 2000

Date: August 11, 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				19,200
Areas 11-16	Net				415,600
Areas 12-16	Troll				36,000
Areas 17-18-29	Troll				800
Area 20	Net				0
Area 29	Net				403,000
Canadian Total					874,600
<u>United States</u>					
<u>Alaska</u>	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				55,400
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				196,400
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				216,200
Washington Total					468,000
U.S. Total					468,000
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					67,000
Other Test					13,700
Canadian Selective					13,600
Fraser River Aboriginal					474,000
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					86,600
Recreational					0
Charter					6,000
U.S. TI Ceremonial					1,900
Non-comm. Total					662,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					2,005,400
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					1,557,800
Total Accounted-to-date					3,563,200

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	585,000	607,700	46,200	653,900	112%
Summ	Chilko	1,460,000	269,800	12,200	869,300	60%
	L.Stu./Stel./Ques.		553,900	33,400		n/a
Late	Birkenhead	316,000	43,000	3,600	104,600	33%
	Weav/L.Misc.		58,000	0		