

NO. 9 NEWS RELEASE August 18, 2000

Lower numbers of Fraser River sockeye salmon arrived in coastal waters this week compared to the previous few weeks. Summer-run stocks continue to be present but in much reduced abundance. Late-run sockeye comprise approximately 40-50% of the fish now arriving in marine areas. The Fraser River Panel met today and approved a PSC staff recommendation to increase the estimated abundance of Late-run stocks to 1,000,000 fish. This change brings the total Fraser River sockeye salmon abundance estimate to 4,900,000 fish.

Catches of Fraser sockeye now total 2,180,000 in all fisheries. Canadian commercial catches total 928,000 fish while United States catches have reached 480,000. In addition, 670,000 sockeye have been harvested in Canadian First Nations fisheries and 88,000 in test fisheries. Given the current estimate of total allowable catch for United States fishers (471,000), they have reached their allocation. Additional fish remain in the allocation for Canadian fishers.

The escapement of Summer-run sockeye now stands at 1,289,000 fish, or approximately 92% of the target escapement (1,406,000). Additional escapement of Summer-run sockeye is expected over the next two weeks. Late-run sockeye escapement totals now show 93,000 Birkenhead and 235,000 fish of the other Late-run stocks (Weaver, Harrison, Portage, Adams, Cultus) have migrated upstream through August 17. In recent past years, the early migration of these latter stocks has been associated with high en route or pre-spawning mortality. Normally, these stocks hold in the Strait of Georgia for 3-6 weeks before moving into the river. The highly abnormal migration behavior of these stocks in recent years remains unexplained. However, the early migration presents the Panel with a major dilemma. In order to provide additional escapement to compensate for expected pre-spawning mortality, the Panel increased the gross escapement target for these stocks to 678,000 fish. Canada will be assessing the potential for en route mortality of these stocks over the next week and will provide the Panel with further guidance regarding gross escapement targets.

In order to manage the fisheries for escapement of delaying Late-run sockeye and for harvest of available Summer-run fish, the Panel announced regulations as follows:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29, subareas 1-6 and Area 18, subareas 1, 4 and 11: Close to Area H commercial trolling effective 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 21.

Area 29, subareas 11 to 17: Open for Area E gillnets 8:00 a.m. Monday, August 21 to 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 22.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to commercial fishing.

Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Aug. 13 - Aug. 19, 2000](#)

Date: August 18, 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				20,300
Areas 11-16	Net				442,600
Areas 12-16	Troll				58,600
Areas 17-18-29	Troll				3,000
Area 20	Net				0
Area 29	Net				403,000
Canadian Total					927,500
<u>United States</u>					
Alaska	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				53,500
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				205,300
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				221,600
Washington Total					480,400
U.S. Total					480,400
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					71,900
Other Test					16,300
Canadian Selective					16,100
Fraser River Aboriginal					591,000
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					78,700
Recreational					1,000
Charter					7,300
U.S. TI Ceremonial					3,400
Non-comm. Total					785,700
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					2,193,600
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					2,029,300
Total Accounted-to-date					4,222,900

Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	356,000	328,100	26,300	354,400	100%
ESum	Early Summer	585,000	603,700	46,500	650,200	111%
Summ	Chilko	1,406,000	517,300	20,800	1,288,700	92%
	L.Stu./Stel./Ques.		710,700	39,900		
Late	Birkenhead	678,000	90,700	2,500	328,000	48%
	Weav/L.Misc.		225,300	9,500		