

Fraser River sockeye salmon appear to be nearly complete in their migration through Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits. Both Summer-run and Late-run stocks were present in test catches this week in both approach routes, but catches remained modest. Run-size estimates remain unchanged for both stock groups: Summer-run stocks – 1,300,000 fish and Late-run stocks – 1,100,000. The assessment of the Late-run sockeye abundance in 1995 is based on purse seine test fishing catch-per-effort (CPUE) data rather than on commercial fishery catch data. However, since the majority of Late-run sockeye appear to be entering the Fraser River almost immediately upon arrival in the Strait of Georgia, the estimates of escapement at Mission support the current run size estimate of 1,100,000 fish.

The total 1999 Fraser River sockeye salmon run estimate remains at 3,020,000 fish. Commercial fisheries in both countries have taken a total of 74,000 sockeye. Catches in all non-commercial fisheries outside the Fraser River, including test fisheries and Aboriginal fisheries outside the Fraser River total 152,000 fish. The gross escapement of all stocks now totals 2,260,000 fish of which the Aboriginal fishers in the Fraser River have taken an estimated 216,000. Additional Summer-run and Late-run sockeye are expected to migrate into the Fraser River over the next month.

The early entry of Late-run stocks into the river observed this year is unusual and, given the environmental conditions, may result in stresses that these stocks do not normally experience. For example, Adams River sockeye appear to be migrating through the Fraser Canyon at river discharges that are approximately double the normal level they face during their typical migration in late September. River water temperatures are approximately 18 C, which is several degrees higher than this stock experiences during September migrations. In addition, Harrison River sockeye are currently present near their spawning grounds, whereas in past years, Harrison sockeye have migrated up the Fraser River in October and even early November. Cultus Lake sockeye also have been observed entering the lake in recent days, a month earlier than normal.

The migrations of pink salmon at the entrances of Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits have declined or remained low in recent days. Test fishing catches are low for this time of year and may signal either late arrival timing or low run abundance. Catches over the next week are expected to provide sufficient information for the Panel to determine whether or not the pre-season forecast of abundance (8,148,000), provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, will materialize.

Spawning ground arrival information provided to the Panel by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (F&OC) shows that Summer-run sockeye have begun to arrive at their spawning grounds. The arrival timing is later than normal, probably associated with delays in the Fraser Canyon due to high water levels in July and early August. Estimates of sockeye spawning populations will be available only after F&OC staff analyses information from enumeration programs conducted on the major stocks.

All Panel Areas remain closed to commercial fishing. The Panel will meet again by conference call on Tuesday, August 31.

Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 22 - Aug. 28, 1999

Date: August 27, 1999

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
Canada					
Areas 1-10	Net				0
Areas 1-10	Troll				0
Areas 124-27,11-12	Troll				2,300
Areas 11-16	Net				39,000
Areas 12-16	Troll				12,000
Areas 17-18-29	Troll				0
Area 20	Net				0
Area 29	Net				600
Canadian Total					53,900
United States					
<u>Alaska</u>					
	Net				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				19,700
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				0
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net			0	0
U.S. Total				0	19,700
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					47,800
Other Test					46,100
Fraser River Aboriginal					215,900
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					60,000
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. TI Ceremonial					0
Non-comm. Total					369,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					443,400
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					2,012,500
Total Accounted-to-date					2,455,900

Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Esc. Goal	Mission Esc.	AFS Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	146,000	146,200	200	146,400	100%
ESum	Early Summer	448,000	433,000	12,000	445,000	99%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,170,000	789,700	10,900	1,063,800	91%
	Late Stuart/Stellako		255,900	7,300		
Late	Birkenhead	892,000	100,500	1,000	573,100	64%
	Adam/Lshu		387,200	600		
	Weav/L Misc.		83,800	0		