

## **NO. 6 NEWS RELEASE August 14, 1998**

The Fraser River Panel limited fishing for Fraser River sockeye salmon to United States Panel Area waters this week as the Panel attempted to reach agreement on the best strategy to insure that the spawning escapement goal of Summer-run sockeye salmon is reached. The challenge has been to compensate for anticipated en-route and pre-spawning mortality due to high river water temperatures. Record level river water temperatures (over 21 C) are predicted to have severe impacts on Summer-run sockeye, particularly Quesnel Lake (Horsefly River) stocks. In view of this current situation, the Panel today agreed on a 25% management adjustment (increase) to the Summer-run escapement goal for the purpose of implementing the July 2, 1998 agreement.

High temperatures during the upstream migration of Early Stuart sockeye appear to be responsible for only about 20% of the fish arriving at their spawning grounds. Pre-spawning mortality of fish arriving on the Early Stuart sockeye spawning grounds is currently averaging 48% of the females. At this level, pre-spawning mortality would be the highest recorded for Early Stuart sockeye. Daily temperatures at Hells Gate declined slightly from over 21 C to 19.2 C on August 9-10, but have risen again to 19.8 on August 13.

Catches in United States fisheries in the week of August 9-15 are projected to total approximately 90,000 Fraser River sockeye. Canadian commercial fishery catches now total 1,157,000 sockeye while Washington State landings amount to 375,000 fish. In addition, an estimated catch of 142,000 Fraser River sockeye has been taken in Alaska. Escapement of sockeye past the Pacific Salmon Commission's hydroacoustic site at Mission, B.C. now totals 2,709,000 sockeye, including 397,000 Early Summer stocks and 2,055,000 Summer-run sockeye. The Chilko and Quesnel sockeye stocks presently comprise approximately 70% of sockeye entering the lower Fraser River.

Run size estimates presented today are as follows: Early Summer – 600,000; Summer-run – 4,500,000; Late-run – 3,000,000 (interim estimate). At these returns, the total Fraser River sockeye abundance in 1998 would be 8,275,000 fish compared to the preseason forecast of 11,218,000 fish.

The Panel scheduled fishing times for the period commencing August 15, as follows:

### **UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

#### **TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

**Areas 4B, 5 and 6C:** Drift gillnets open 12:00 p.m. (noon) Sunday, August 16 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Friday, August 21.

**Areas 6,7 and 7A:** Open to net fishing 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, August 18 to 5:00 a.m. Thursday, August 20.

#### **NON-INDIAN FISHERIES:**

**Areas 7 and 7A:** Reefnets open 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 15 and Sunday, August 16.

Purse seines open 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 17.

Gillnets open 7:35 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 17.

### **CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to troll and net fishing.

The next meeting of the Panel will be at 1:00 p.m. Monday, August 17, by telephone conference.

### Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 9 - Aug. 15, 1998

Date: August 14, 1998

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>					
<b>Canada</b>					
Areas 1-10	Net				9,000
Areas 1-10 "F"	Troll				82,000
Areas 11-12 "G"	Troll				193,000
Areas 11-16	Net				626,000
Areas 12-16 "H"	Troll				106,000
Areas 17-18-29 "H"	Troll				22,500
Area 20	Net				0
Area 29	Net				119,000
Canadian Total					1,157,500
<b>United States</b>					
<u>Alaska</u>					
	Net				141,600
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	5,000	100%	5,000	18,000
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	24,000	100%	24,000	165,000
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	62,000	100%	62,000	191,300
U.S. Total					91,000
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
PSC Test					46,200
Other Test					33,100
Fraser River Indian					212,900
Areas 12-124 Indian					46,000
Recreational					100
Charter					0
U.S. Ceremonial					0
Non-comm. Total					338,300
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					2,011,700
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					2,588,600
Total Accounted-to-date					4,600,300

### Gross Escapement (includes Pitt R. sockeye)

Run	Stock/Group	Mission Esc.	AFS Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	169,100	100	169,200	n/a
ESum	Early Summer	395,900	12,800	408,700	n/a
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,639,700	60,500	2,131,200	n/a
	Late Stuart/Stellako	415,600	15,400		
Late	Birkenhead	88,100	4,000	92,100	n/a
	Adam/Lshu	0	0		
	Weav/L Misc.	0	0		