

Pacific Salmon Commission staff today reported to the bilateral Fraser River Panel that recent test fishing results and racial analyses of catches over the past few days have confirmed that the 1998 Late-run sockeye return is much smaller than the pre-season forecast. Confirmation of this low return was obtained when test fishing catches in Juan de Fuca Strait and Johnstone Strait fell dramatically at the end of last week and the weekend. In response to these results, today the Panel did not revise the estimated total return of Late-run sockeye of 3,000,000 fish.

PSC staff reported that the migration of Late-run sockeye into the Strait of Georgia has reached approximately 1,700,000 fish. Reduced flow of fish into the Strait of Georgia from the migratory routes is expected to bring the total to approximately 2,400,000 fish. Total catches of Late-run sockeye in all commercial and Aboriginal fisheries stands at 591,000 fish. The estimate of 2.4 million total Late-run sockeye remaining is insufficient to allow additional harvest as all are required for escapement.

While current estimates show that some Summer-run sockeye are available in the calculated Total Allowable Catch (TAC), the presence of Late-run sockeye in the Fraser River since late last week has created an untenable situation for further harvest. Adams River and Lower Shuswap River sockeye have been identified in catches upriver to Yale, B.C. Any future fishery in the Fraser River below Lytton, B.C. (the mouth of the Thompson River) is expected to harvest Late-run sockeye along with fish of the Summer-run stocks.

Canadian commercial fishery catches of all Fraser River sockeye stocks now total 1,293,000 sockeye while Canadian First Nations catch estimates stand at 200,000 in marine areas and 336,000 in the Fraser River. Washington State landings amount to 579,000 sockeye and approximately 115,000 Fraser River sockeye have been taken in Alaskan fisheries. Escapement of sockeye past the Pacific Salmon Commission's hydroacoustic site at Mission, B.C. now totals 4,327,000 sockeye, comprising 168,000 Early Stuart, 599,000 Early Summer stocks, 3,242,000 Summer-run sockeye and 462,000 Late-run sockeye.

Run size estimates presented today are as follows: Early Stuart - 175,000, Early Summer - 800,000; Summer-run - 6,000,000; Late-run - 3,000,000. At these returns, the total Fraser River sockeye abundance in 1998 would be 9,975,000 fish compared to the preseason forecast of 11,218,000 fish.

The Panel announced that all Panel Area waters would remain closed at this time.

The next meeting of the Panel will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, August 28, by telephone conference.

## Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

 Week of: [Aug. 23- Aug. 29, 1998](#)

Date: August 25, 1998

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>					
<b>Canada</b>					
Areas 1-10	Net			0	9,000
Areas 1-10 "F"	Troll			0	82,000
Areas 11-12 "G"	Troll			0	207,300
Areas 11-16	Net			0	626,000
Areas 12-16 "H"	Troll			0	106,000
Areas 17-18-29 "H"	Troll			0	22,500
Area 20	Net			0	0
Area 29	Net			0	239,000
Canadian Total					1,291,800
<b>United States</b>					
Alaska	Net				115,200
<b>Washington</b>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			0	23,600
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net			0	290,200
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net			0	265,500
U.S. Total				0	694,500
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
					62,400
PSC Test					33,200
Other Test					336,300
Fraser River Indian					119,700
Areas 12-124 Indian					10,100
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. Ceremonial					0
Non-comm. Total					561,700
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					2,548,000
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					4,124,400
Total Accounted-to-date					6,672,400

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

Run	Stock/Group	Gross Esc. Goal	Mission Esc.	AFS Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	170,000	167,700	100	167,800	99%
ESum	Early Summer	445,000	584,000	14,900	598,900	135%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	3,536,000	2,611,700	93,600	3,241,800	92%
	Late Stuart/Stellako		517,500	19,000		
Late	Birkenhead	2,563,000	236,100	7,900	462,300	18%
	Adam/Lshu		174,900	6,300		
	Weav/L Misc.		35,200	1,900		