

NO. 10 NEWS RELEASE September 4, 1998

Pacific Salmon Commission staff reported to the Fraser River Panel on September 1 that the 1998 abundance of Adams River and Lower Shuswap River sockeye salmon and other Late-run stocks will be less than previously estimated. Troll test fishing surveys of sockeye delaying in the Strait of Georgia were conducted on August 26-27 and 29-30. The number of Late-run sockeye remaining for entry into the Fraser was estimated at 900,000 fish. Based on this information, the Panel approved a staff recommendation that the total Late-run sockeye run size be reduced to 2,500,000 fish. A subsequent survey on September 2-3 confirmed that lower numbers of sockeye have entered the Strait of Georgia than earlier projected based on purse seine test fishing catches in Johnstone Strait. The total Adams/Lower Shuswap abundance is now estimated at 1,600,000 fish compared to the pre-season forecast of 2,994,000. Weaver Creek, Birkenhead River and Portage Creek sockeye comprise the remaining 900,000 fish in the Late-run, which is close to the pre-season forecast for these stocks.

The total catch of Late-run sockeye in all commercial and Aboriginal fisheries stands at 716,000 fish. Therefore, the gross escapement of Late-run sockeye is estimated at 1,800,000 fish. The gross escapement of Adams and Lower Shuswap sockeye is expected to total approximately 1,200,000 fish. Current estimates show 473,000 Adams/Lower Shuswap sockeye have passed Mission, B.C. to date. However, the migration of these fish into the Fraser River has declined in recent days, suggesting that a portion of the run may remain in the Strait of Georgia for the short term and migrate upstream at the normal time of September 10-30. Temperatures in the Fraser River increased to 19.2 C on September 3, the highest on record for this time of year. The early migration of a portion of the Adams/Lower Shuswap sockeye escapement, in view of these high temperatures, may be a negative factor in the spawning success of these stocks.

Run size estimates presented today are as follows: Early Stuart – 174,000; Early Summer – 793,000; Summer-run – 5,700,000; Late-run – 2,500,000. At these returns, the total Fraser River sockeye abundance in 1998 would be 9,167,000 fish compared to the preseason forecast of 11,218,000 fish.

The Panel announced that regulatory control of Canadian Area 20 and United States Areas 4B, 5 and 6C will be relinquished effective September 6, as planned. Remaining Panel Area waters will remain closed for the balance of the regulatory control period.

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

Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Aug. 30 - Sep. 5, 1998](#)

Date: September 4, 1998

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
Canada					
Areas 1-10	Net			0	9,000
Areas 1-10 "F"	Troll			0	82,000
Areas 11-12 "G"	Troll			0	210,000
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					1,294,500
United States					
Alaska	Net				153,000
Washington					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			0	23,600
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net			0	285,300
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net			0	265,500
U.S. Total				0	727,400
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					67,800
Other Test					33,200
Fraser River Indian					502,300
Areas 12-124 Indian					199,700
Recreational					10,800
Charter					0
U.S. Ceremonial					0
Non-comm. Total					813,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					2,835,700
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					5,318,400
Total Accounted-to-date					8,154,100

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	583,700	14,900	598,600	135%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	3,355,000	3,280,000	112,300	4,040,900	120%
	Late Stuart/Stellako		627,200	21,400		
Late	Birkenhead	2,138,000	416,100	12,400	1,023,200	48%
	Adam/Lshu		473,000	13,700		
	Weav/L Misc.		104,400	3,600		