

**NO. 7 NEWS RELEASE August 29, 1997**

Internet address: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)

Canadian and United States catches this week reflected the changes in salmon species composition that normally occur at this time of year in southern British Columbia and Puget Sound waters. Catches of Fraser River sockeye salmon declined in the marine area fisheries while catches of Fraser pink salmon increased substantially. Commission staff anticipate that sockeye abundance will continue to decline next week as both Summer and Late run sockeye stocks taper off. Pink salmon abundance is expected to peak in marine area fisheries in the next two weeks. Staff plan to provide a pink salmon run size update on Friday, September 5.

Staff reported to the national section managers today that the Summer run sockeye stocks (Quesnel, Chilko, Late Stuart and Stellako) are now expected to produce 12.5 million fish. While the run has been very protracted, a total catch and escapement of 11.1 million fish has been accounted, to date. Late run sockeye stocks (primarily Birkenhead and Weaver sockeye) are projected to be slightly lower in abundance than forecast. Approximately 1.0 million Late run sockeye are now expected to return. To date, 610,000 Late run sockeye have been accounted in catch and escapement. These stocks have migrated onshore along with the Summer run stocks. These run size changes now place the total 1997 Fraser River sockeye salmon return abundance at 15.6 million fish, compared to the pre-season forecast of 18.2 million.

Total Fraser River sockeye commercial and other catches, excluding the Fraser River First Nations catches, amount to 8.5 million fish while 5.4 million have been estimated in gross escapement. Catches this week in Canada totalled 1,148,000 Fraser River sockeye and 635,000 Fraser River pink salmon. United States fisheries harvested 86,000 sockeye and 121,000 pinks. Cumulative catches of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon for the season are as follows: Canada - 7,250,000 sockeye and 1,787,000 Fraser River pink salmon; United States - 961,000 sockeye and 164,000 pink salmon.

The absence of an agreed management plan between the Parties on allocation of the total allowable catch of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon continues. This lack of agreement prevents the Fraser River Panel from acting in its normal role as the regulatory authority for sockeye fisheries in Panel Area waters. Regulation of the fisheries is being conducted by the respective United States and Canadian domestic management agencies.

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*Please note that Pacific Salmon Commission daily test fishing data and Pacific Salmon Commission news releases can be located at our internet site: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org).*

## Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Aug. 31 - Sep. 6, 1997

Date: September 2, 1997

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>					
<b><u>Canada</u></b>					
Areas 1-10	Net			0	182,700
Areas 1-11	Troll			0	180,000
Areas 121-127, 12	Troll	131,000	100%	131,000	1,156,000
Areas 11-13	Net	527,000	100%	527,000	3,800,800
Areas 12-16	Troll	0	0%	0	638,000
Areas 17-18-29	Troll	0	0%	0	11,000
Area 20	Net	80,000	100%	80,000	258,800
Area 29, 16	Net	410,000	100%	410,000	1,023,000
Canadian Total				1,148,000	7,250,300
<b><u>United States</u></b>					
Alaska (Dist. 104)	Net	0	0%	0	212,900
<b><u>Washington</u></b>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	0	0%	0	13,100
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	43,000	100%	43,000	373,900
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	43,000	100%	43,000	361,000
U.S. Total				86,000	960,900
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
PSC Test					74,400
Other Test					58,100
Fraser River Indian					931,200
Areas 12-124 Indian					112,000
Recreational					10,600
Charter					17,900
Non-comm. Total					1,204,200
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					9,415,400
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					4,459,000
Total Accounted-to-date					13,874,400

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

Run	Stock/Group	Goal	Mission Esc.	AFS Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
ESTu	Early Stuart	n/a	1,093,900	43,000	1,136,900	n/a
ESum	Early Summer	n/a	357,100	8,900	366,000	n/a
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	n/a	2,739,900	254,400	3,774,800	n/a
	Late Stuart/Stellako	n/a	724,800	55,700		n/a
Late	Birkenhead	n/a	105,300	7,200	119,700	n/a
	Weav/L.Misc.	n/a	7,200	0		n/a

## Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: **Aug. 31 - Sep. 6, 1997**

Date: September 2, 1997

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Pinks	
				Weekly	Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>					
<b><u>Canada</u></b>					
Areas 1-10	Net			0	20,000
Areas 1-11	Troll			0	48,000
Areas 121-127, 12	Troll	21,000	81%	17,010	321,000
Areas 11-13	Net	558,000	82%	457,560	983,000
Areas 12-16	Troll	0	0%	0	115,000
Areas 17-18-29	Troll	0	0%	0	6,000
Area 20	Net	140,000	95%	133,000	262,000
Area 29, 16	Net	27,000	100%	27,000	32,000
Canadian Total				634,570	1,787,000
<b><u>United States</u></b>					
<u>Alaska (Dist. 104)</u>	Net	0	0%	0	0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net	0	0%	0	3,000
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	71,000	90%	63,900	77,900
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	63,000	90%	56,700	83,000
U.S. Total				120,600	163,900
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
PSC Test					5,000
Other Test					0
Fraser River Indian					1,000
Areas 12-124 Indian					0
Recreational					7,000
Charter					0
Non-comm. Total					13,000
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					1,963,900
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					105,000
Total Accounted-to-date					2,068,900