

NO. 9 NEWS RELEASE September 12, 1997

Migration of Fraser River sockeye through Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits continued through the week with purse seine test fishing catches holding near the levels of last week. Canadian fisheries in Johnstone Strait harvested 140,000 fish and United States catches totalled 105,000 sockeye this week. Commission staff advised the Canadian and United States managers that the expected total abundances of Summer and Late run sockeye will be slightly larger than previously estimated. The prolonged nature of the entry pattern has made the in-season run-size estimation process more difficult than usual. Current estimates are that the Summer run sockeye stocks will reach 13.2 million fish, while Late run stocks should total 1.3 million. Cumulative catches and escapements of these stock groups are estimated to be 13.04 million Summer run fish and 1.14 million Late run sockeye as of September 11.

Catches of Fraser River pink salmon in Johnstone Strait this week were slightly above the previous two weeks and the September 10 Area 12 test fishing catch was the highest of the season. Area 20 (Juan de Fuca Strait) purse seine test fishing catches and daily catches in United States Treaty Indian fisheries indicate that the pink salmon abundance on the southern approach has declined slightly this week. Total Fraser River pink salmon abundance is now projected to reach 12 million fish, slightly above the pre-season forecast of 11,387,000. Catches now have reached 4,658,000 fish and 640,000 are estimated to have migrated upstream. Additional pink salmon are demonstrating their usual pattern of delay in the Strait of Georgia.

Total Fraser River sockeye commercial and other catches, excluding the Fraser River First Nations catches, amount to 10.2 million fish while the gross escapement has reached 5.9 million. Cumulative commercial fishery catches for the season are as follows: Canada - 8,476,000 sockeye and 3,269,000 Fraser River pink salmon; United States - 1,426,000 sockeye and 1,329,000 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.

Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: [Sep. 7 - Sep. 13, 1997](#)

Date: September 12, 1997

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
Canada					
Areas 1-10	Net			0	182,700
Areas 1-11	Troll			0	230,000
Areas 121-127, 12	Troll	8,000	100%	8,000	1,302,200
Areas 11-16	Net	108,000	100%	108,000	4,424,200
Areas 12-16	Troll	9,000	100%	9,000	666,000
Areas 17-18-29	Troll			0	13,000
Area 20	Net			0	262,400
Area 29	Net			0	1,395,000
Canadian Total				123,000	8,475,500
United States					
<u>Alaska</u>	Net			0	231,100
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			0	12,100
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	100,000	100%	100,000	605,500
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	5,000	100%	5,000	577,000
U.S. Total				105,000	1,425,700
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					80,300
Other Test					60,600
Fraser River Indian					1,052,700
Areas 12-124 Indian					120,700
Recreational					10,600
Charter					17,900
Non-comm. Total					1,342,800
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					11,244,000
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					4,884,900
Total Accounted-to-date					16,128,900

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	8,700	365,800	n/a
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	n/a	3,150,500	256,300	4,263,400	n/a
	Late Stuart/Stellako	n/a	789,400	67,200		n/a
Late	Birkenhead	n/a	124,200	10,700	178,700	n/a
	Weav/L.Misc.	n/a	42,700	1,100		n/a

Fraser River Panel Pink Salmon Review

Week of: [Sep. 7 - Sep. 13, 1997](#)

Date: September 12, 1997

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Pinks	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
<u>Canada</u>					
Areas 1-10	Net			0	20,000
Areas 1-11	Troll			0	51,000
Areas 121-127, 12	Troll	10,000	90%	9,000	433,000
Areas 11-16	Net	558,000	93%	517,000	2,161,000
Areas 12-16	Troll	23,000	95%	22,000	145,000
Areas 17-18-29	Troll			0	6,000
Area 20	Net			0	275,000
Area 29	Net			0	178,000
Canadian Total				548,000	3,269,000
<u>United States</u>					
<u>Alaska</u>	Net			0	0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net			0	3,000
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net	335,000	93%	312,000	695,000
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net	18,000	93%	17,000	631,000
U.S. Total				329,000	1,329,000
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					20,000
Other Test					7,000
Fraser River Indian					17,000
Areas 12-124 Indian					9,000
Recreational					7,000
Charter					0
Non-comm. Total					60,000
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					4,658,000
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less IF & sport catch above Mission)					640,000
Total Accounted-to-date					5,298,000