

Friday, September 29, 2006

This was the final in-season meeting of the Fraser River Panel for 2006 and the Panel reviewed the final in-season stock assessment data on the Fraser sockeye runs. The marine and freshwater migration of Fraser sockeye this season is nearly complete.

The final in-season run size estimates of Fraser River sockeye by run-timing group are as follows: Early Stuart – 70,000 fish; Early Summer-run – 1,450,000 fish; Summer-run – 2,000,000 fish; Birkenhead – 475,000 fish; and true Late-run sockeye – 4,720,000 fish. The estimated total run size of adult Fraser River sockeye (four and five year old fish) this season is 8,715,000 fish, which is approximately half of the pre-season forecast (50% probability level) of 17,357,000 fish. A large portion of this shortfall is attributable to the much lower than expected return of Quesnel and Late Shuswap sockeye this season.

Commercial fishing in Panel Area waters is closed for the balance of this season.