

The Fraser River Panel met today and reviewed sockeye catches, stock assessment data and planned fisheries directed at the harvest of Early Summer-run and Summer-run sockeye salmon. DNA analyses indicate that the marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is complete and Early Summer-run and Summer-run sockeye predominate in the marine approach areas and in the lower Fraser River. Estimates of the diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait have been difficult to assess over the past week; the current estimate is 70 %. In United States Panel waters, Treaty Indian fisheries in Areas 4B, 5, and 6C have caught 8,000 Fraser sockeye to date, and in Areas 6, 7, and 7A, 12,000 sockeye have been harvested. U.S. Non-Indian fisheries in Areas 7 and 7A, have landed 13,000 Fraser sockeye. Canadian commercial fisheries have harvested 426,000 Fraser sockeye. Non-commercial catches of Fraser sockeye total 133,000 fish thus far.

The Panel approved a provisional run size estimate of 1,100,000 Early Summer-run sockeye (24% higher than the 50% p level forecast of 885,000 fish) at a meeting on July 27. At the Panel meeting today, the Panel approved a further increase in the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye to 1,200,000 fish (36 % higher than the 50% p level forecast), with 50% arrival timing in Area 20 of July 25. The strong abundance of sockeye returning to Nadina, Pitt, and Chilliwack stocks (in the early-timed component) has contributed to the larger-than-forecast return of Early Summer-run sockeye. The marine migration of Early Summer-run sockeye is projected to decline rapidly over the next several days as the later-timed component of the Early Summer-runs (Scotch, Seymour, and Upper Adams) transit Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait and enters the Fraser River. The estimated migration of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission to July 29 is 473,000 fish.

Recent DNA analyses conducted on sockeye that were sampled from Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait fisheries indicate that Late Stuart and Stellako sockeye are present in higher than expected proportions, while the later-timed Summer-run sockeye returning to the Chilko and Quesnel watersheds, are present in slightly lower than expected proportions. The proportion of Summer-run sockeye currently in the marine assessment areas is close to pre-season expectations, assuming that their marine timing is near forecast (50% arrival timing of Chilko sockeye in Area 20 on August 6). Preliminary assessments of the abundance of Summer-run sockeye suggest that they are consistent with the 50% p forecast level of abundance (3,501,000 fish). A more accurate assessment of the run size of Summer-run sockeye should be available by the end of next week. The estimated migration of Summer-run sockeye past Mission to July 29 is 211,000 fish.

Fraser River water temperature (measured at Qualark Creek) has exceeded 18 °C for the past fourteen days and is presently 19.9 °C. Water temperature is forecast to remain high for the next several days and in-river mortality of some Fraser sockeye encountering these adverse migration conditions is anticipated. Fraser River discharge at Hope is currently 3,150 cms (30% lower than normal for this date). Environmental conditions for migrating sockeye in the Fraser watershed will be monitored closely over the coming weeks.

Observers in the Stuart watershed have counted the following Early Stuart sockeye through the enumeration-fences to July 28: Forfar Creek, 309 fish; Kynock Creek, 256 fish; Dust Creek, 92 fish; and

Gluske Creek, 2 fish. Sockeye have been observed entering most areas except for the Northeast Arm of Takla Lake (including the Driftwood River). Water levels in Stuart watershed creeks are average, and water temperatures are acceptable for spawning. The body condition of Early Stuart sockeye observed to-date has been good.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

#### **CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Area 20-1, 3, and 4: Open to Area B purse seines authorized by a Scientific Licence from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., daily on Sunday, August 1, and Monday, August 2, 2004 (fishery may close after 1 day depending on effort).

Area 18-1, 4 and 11; and Area 29-3, 4, and 6 (outside of a 27 fathom contour boundary): Open to Area B purse seines authorized by a Scientific Licence from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., daily on Sunday, August 1, and Monday, August 2, 2004 (fishery may close after 1 day depending on effort).

Area 18-1, 4 and 11; and Area 29-1 to 6: Closes to Area H troll 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2004.

Area 29-1 to 7 and 9 to 17: Open to Area E gillnets from 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 4 to 8:00 a.m., Thursday, August 5.

#### **UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

##### **TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday July 31, 2004, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 7, 2004.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 4:00 a.m., Sunday, August 1, 2004 to 11:59 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2004.

##### **NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty fishers should check the U.S. hotline before fishing as additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions are in effect).

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines and reef nets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2004 to Friday, August 6, 2004.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2004 to Friday, August 6, 2004.

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) reports daily test fishing catches of sockeye salmon on its recorded message at (604) 666-8200 and on the Internet at: <http://www.psc.org/TestFish/>. The PSC has provided information on Late-run Fraser River sockeye migration behavior, en route mortality, and research results on the Internet at: <http://www.psc.org/Pubs/LateRun/Index.htm/>. In addition, Fraser River Panel news releases, fishery regulations, sockeye escapement data and stock status reports are available on the Internet at: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org). United States fishing schedules during the season are available for Treaty Indian fisheries through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission at 1-800-562-6142. Non-Indian

fishing schedules are available through the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hotline in Seattle at 1-888-858-9319. Canadian commercial fishing regulations will be announced on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada recorded message at (604) 666-2828, on the Internet at: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/> and via fishery notices. Consult the appropriate regulatory agency regarding fisheries regulations in addition to those adopted by the Panel for the Fraser River Panel Management Area.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 3. Periodic news releases in this series will be provided by the Panel through the Commission to inform those interested in the progress of the Fraser River sockeye salmon runs.

## 2004 Fraser River Panel Sockeye Review

Week of: Jul. 25 - Jul. 31, 2004

Date: July 30, 2004

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
<b>Commercial Catch</b>					
<b><u>Canada</u></b>					
A & C Areas 1-10	Net				0
F Areas 1-10	Troll				0
G Areas 123-127,11-12	Troll				0
B Areas 11-16	PS				190,400
D Areas 11-16	GN				150,600
H Areas 12-16	Troll				31,700
H Areas 18-29	Troll				0
B Area 20	PS				9,300
E Area 29	GN				44,300
Canadian Selective					0
Canadian Total					426,300
<b><u>United States</u></b>					
<u>Alaska</u>	Net&Troll				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				8,100
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				12,400
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				13,400
Washington Total					33,900
U.S. Total					33,900
<b>Non-commercial Catch</b>					
PSC Test					14,700
Other Test					16,400
Fraser River Aboriginal					91,000
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					10,800
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. TI Ceremonial					100
Non-comm. Total					133,000
<b>Catch and Escapement</b>					
Catch Accounted-to-date					593,200
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					806,400
Total Accounted-to-date					1,399,600

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

Run	Stock/Group	Adjusted Target *	Mission Esc.	FN Below Mission	Total Esc.	% Complete
EStu	Early Stuart	197,500	189,000	4,000	193,000	98%
ESum	Early Summer	901,700	473,000	14,000	487,000	54%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,889,600	50,000	2,000	219,000	12%
	L.Stu./Stel.		161,000	6,000		
Late	Birkenhead	181,800	0	0	0	0%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		0	0		
	Weav/L.Misc.		0	0		