

The Fraser River Panel reviewed stock assessment data including projected catches of true Late-run Fraser sockeye at the meeting today. The proportion of Fraser sockeye migrating through Johnstone Strait has increased from approximately 70% last week to currently about 90%. Summer-run sockeye presently dominate among the sockeye stocks migrating through the marine approach areas. The marine migration of Early Summer-run sockeye is declining and stock identification analyses indicate that Birkenhead and true Late-run sockeye are present in low proportions in the assessment areas. The Fraser River hydroacoustic program has identified steady escapement of sockeye past Mission over the last several days and large numbers of sockeye were observed migrating past the Hell's Gate observation site on August 3 and 4.

The relatively low abundance of Fraser sockeye migrating through United States Panel waters (due to the high Johnstone Strait diversion rate) has prevented U.S. fishers from harvesting their share of the allowable catch of Fraser sockeye this season. In United States Panel waters, Treaty Indian fisheries in Areas 4B, 5, and 6C have caught 12,000 Fraser sockeye to date, and in Areas 6, 7, and 7A, 36,000 sockeye have been harvested. U.S. Non-Indian fisheries in Areas 7 and 7A, have landed 36,000 Fraser sockeye. Canadian commercial fisheries have harvested 1,002,000 Fraser sockeye. Non-commercial catches of Fraser sockeye to-date total 377,000 fish.

The Panel approved a run size estimate of 1,300,000 Early Summer-run sockeye (47% higher than the 50% p level forecast of 885,000 fish) at a meeting on August 3. At the meeting today, the Panel approved a further increase in the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye to 1,500,000 fish, which far exceeds the 50% p level forecast (885,000 fish) and is close to the 25% p level forecast (1,586,000 fish). The strong run of Early Summer-run sockeye this season is primarily attributable to the large return of early-timed, Early Summer-run stocks. Recent DNA analyses indicate that Early Summer-run sockeye comprise about 20% of the Fraser sockeye migration through Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait. The estimated migration of Early Summer-run sockeye past Mission to August 5 is 677,000 fish.

At the meeting today, the Panel approved a provisional run size estimate of 4,000,000 Summer-run sockeye (14% higher than the 50% p level forecast of 3,501,000 fish). DNA analyses indicate strength in the Late Stuart and Stellako stocks while the Chilko and Quesnel stocks are tracking lower than the 50% p level forecast (assuming forecast timing). A more accurate assessment of Summer-run sockeye abundance and timing will be available next week after the peak of their migratory abundance through the marine approach areas will likely have occurred. The estimated migration of Summer-run sockeye past Mission to August 5 is 453,000 fish.

Conservation concerns for true Late-run sockeye (Weaver, Late Shuswap, Portage, and Cultus stocks) due to their pattern in recent years of entering the Fraser River very early and experiencing high mortality rates, continues to require strict constraints on Fraser sockeye fisheries. During pre-season planning the Fraser River Panel agreed to a maximum 15% exploitation rate on true Late-run sockeye. The 50% probability level forecast for true Late-run sockeye is 100,000 fish. The forecast run size of

Birkenhead sockeye (including Big Silver, Samson, and Cogburn stocks) is 218,000 fish (50% p level forecast).

Late-run sockeye abundance and run-timing assessments will be conducted over the coming weeks as they migrate through Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits and enter the Fraser River. Stock identification estimates of true Late-run sockeye are highly uncertain this season because of the forecasted low abundance of true Late-runs relative to Summer-runs (true Late-runs are forecast to be less than 3% of the abundance of Summer-runs at the 50% p levels) and the substantial overlap in the marine migratory timing of Summer-run and Late-run stocks.

Fraser River water temperatures (measured at Qualark Creek) have averaged approximately 20 °C for the past fifteen days and it is presently 19.9 °C. Fraser sockeye exposed to river temperatures in this range for sustained periods, will likely experience substantial in-river mortality. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to range from 19.4 °C to 20.1 °C over the next week. Fraser River discharge at Hope continues to decline and is currently 2,700 cms (33% lower than average for this date). Environmental conditions for migrating sockeye in the Fraser watershed will be monitored closely over the coming weeks.

DFO estimates that the current escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past the enumeration fences on Forfar, Gluske, Kynock and Dust creeks now totals 2,820 fish to August 4. The electronic fish counter at the fishway that by-passes Seton dam has enumerated 652 Gates Creek sockeye thus far. The return of Early Stuart and Gates Creek sockeye to their spawning grounds to-date is far lower than their brood year (2000) escapement levels at this time. Enumeration of Chilko sockeye at Henry's Bridge and Cultus sockeye at Sweltzer Creek began on August 3 and no sockeye have been observed at either site to date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

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 August 7, 2004, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 14, 2004.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 11:59 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2004 to 11:59 p.m., Friday, August 13, 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 10, 2004 through Friday, August 13, 2004.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2004 through Friday, August 13, 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. 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 9. 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: Aug. 1 - Aug. 7, 2004

Date: August 6, 2004

Area	Gear	Weekly Catch	%Fraser	Fraser Sockeye	
				Weekly	Cumul.
Commercial Catch					
<u>Canada</u>					
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				495,300
D Areas 11-16	GN				155,400
H Areas 12-16	Troll				131,900
H Areas 18-29	Troll				0
B Area 20	PS				9,900
E Area 29	GN				194,300
Canadian Selective					15,000
Canadian Total					1,001,800
<u>United States</u>					
<u>Alaska</u>	Net&Troll				0
<u>Washington</u>					
T.I. Areas 4B/5/6C	Net				11,600
T.I. Areas 6/7/7A	Net				36,000
N.I. Areas 7/7A	Net				35,500
Washington Total					83,100
U.S. Total					83,100
Non-commercial Catch					
PSC Test					19,600
Other Test					46,900
Fraser River Aboriginal					207,800
Areas 12-124 Aboriginal					102,600
Recreational					0
Charter					0
U.S. TI Ceremonial					100
Non-comm. Total					377,000
Catch and Escapement					
Catch Accounted-to-date					1,461,900
Potential Net Escapement (Mission esc. less Aboriginal & sport catch above Mission)					1,208,200
Total Accounted-to-date					2,670,100

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	1,073,700	677,000	44,000	721,000	67%
Summ	Quesnel/Chilko	1,889,600	130,000	9,000	495,000	26%
	L.Stu./Stel.		323,000	33,000		
Late	Birkenhead	170,800	5,000	1,000	7,000	4%
	Adams/L.Shuswap		0	0		
	Weav/L.Misc.		1,000	0		