

## Fraser salmon update

July 21, 2005

Prepared by Ken Wilson, Stock Management Coordinator,  
FRAFS

*Editors Note: This information is a summary of the information presented by Mike Staley on the Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> Teleconference call.*

### Early Stuart

Fraser Early Stuart run continues to move into the Fraser. It now appears that the run is up to 9 days late (the latest date on record) and with the continued strength in the last part of the run, total abundance of early Stuart could be in the area of 100K. A warming trend is now underway for the Fraser, but based on current temperatures DFO is still estimating that just under 70% of the projected total return of early Stuarts will arrive on the spawning grounds.

### Early Summers/Summers

Test fishing catches have increased in the approach areas, and early summers and a few summers are now entering the Fraser. It is too early to provide a reliable run size estimate for Early summers, but the run appears to be low (75% probability forecast or around 300K) and late. Based on expected (historical) timing, summer sockeye should now be approaching the Fraser in some strength. Although test fishing has improved, summer stocks are not yet showing in abundance.

### Others

The Fraser Chinook test fishery at Albion has improved over the last week but is still the lowest since the test fishery began in 1980 (Less than 30% of the long term average).

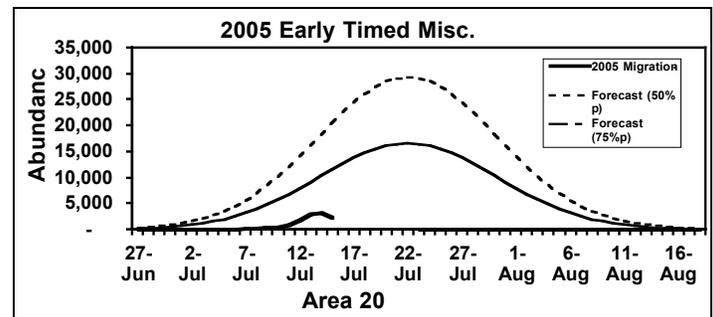
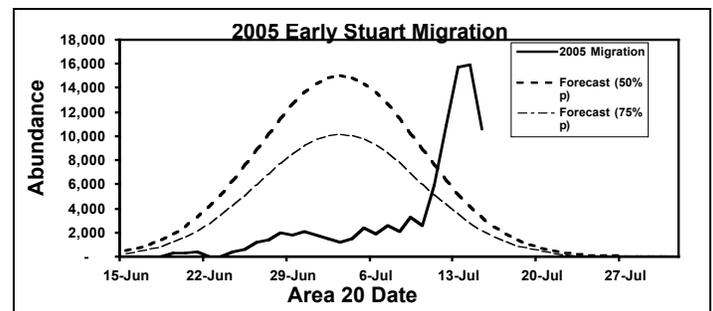
### Fisheries/planning

The Pacific salmon commission meets tomorrow (Friday, July 22). Based on test fishing catches and estimates of fish passing Mission, Ocean commercial fisheries are likely to be delayed until next week at the earliest, and possibly next weekend. Early Stuart sockeye are still moving into the Fraser in significant numbers (about 50% of the fish in the Fraser at Mission are still thought to be Early Stuart). It is likely that both commercial and First Nations fisheries will be delayed to protect Early Stuart, and to await the arrival of harvestable quantities of either Early summer or Summer run sockeye.

The chinook sport fishery in the Fraser remains open despite the very poor return of chinook salmon, and the fact that this fishery continues to kill small numbers of Early Stuart sockeye. The sport fishery is scheduled to move to sockeye retention on July 22, but this will likely be delayed to protect Early Stuart. Feel free to call me with any questions.

**For more information contact Ken Wilson at (604) 301-0418 or by email at [wilsonkh@telus.net](mailto:wilsonkh@telus.net).**

## IN-SEASON SOCKEYE MIGRATION GRAPHS: JULY 22, 2005



The latest Mission escapement information shows a total escapement estimate of 157,600 (data to July 23<sup>rd</sup>) with a Pitt escapement estimate of 3,100. The estimates by sockeye stock grouping (date to July 20<sup>th</sup>) are: Early Stuart 70,000: Early Summers (Chilliwack Lake) 2,600: Early Summers (group) 11,200: Summers (Chilko) 1,000.

**For more information contact Pete Nicklin at (250) 392-5888 or by email at [indiseant@shaw.ca](mailto:indiseant@shaw.ca).**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Tier 1 meeting: July 26, 2005: Location: Days Inn, Merritt, BC: Time 9:30am**