

Fraser Salmon Update

BY PETE NICKLIN, FRASER FISHERIES BIOLOGIST, FRAFS

GENERAL

The information in this update summarizes the information from the FRAFS September 3rd Thursday in-season teleconference call, the Fraser River Panel Technical Committee info distribution package (September 4th), and the DFO website.

The 9th 2009 FRAFS in-season teleconference took place at 4PM Thursday September 3rd, and **these calls are now finished for the season unless otherwise noted.**

WATER CONDITIONS

Fraser River discharge and temperature information is updated and distributed by the Pacific Salmon Commission. The graphs in this section are taken directly from that update.

Water conditions in the Fraser are currently satisfactory for sockeye migration from a discharge point of view. The current discharge (1920cms) is tracking approximately 30% below the historical average. However, the Fraser River temperature at Qualark set record highs for this date. The current water temperature is approximately 19 degrees, and is 3 degrees higher than average.

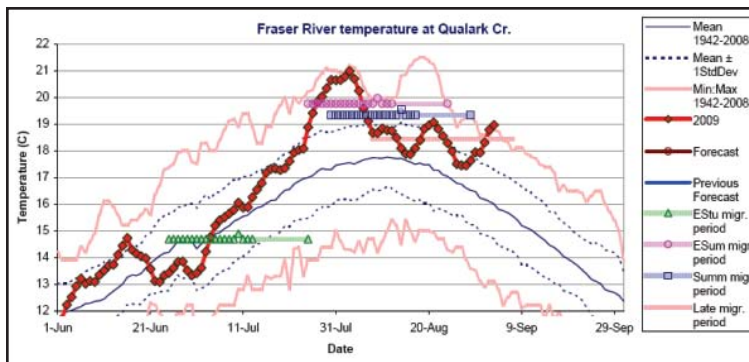


Figure 1: This graph shows the Fraser River temperatures at Qualark Creek (Lower Fraser). The line with the diamonds shows the 2009 temperatures. The unfilled circle portion of the line shows the forecast temperatures. The current temperature is approximately 19 degrees and is 3 degrees higher than average.

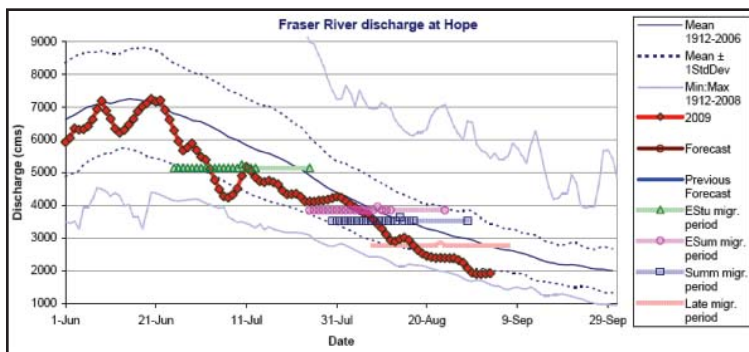
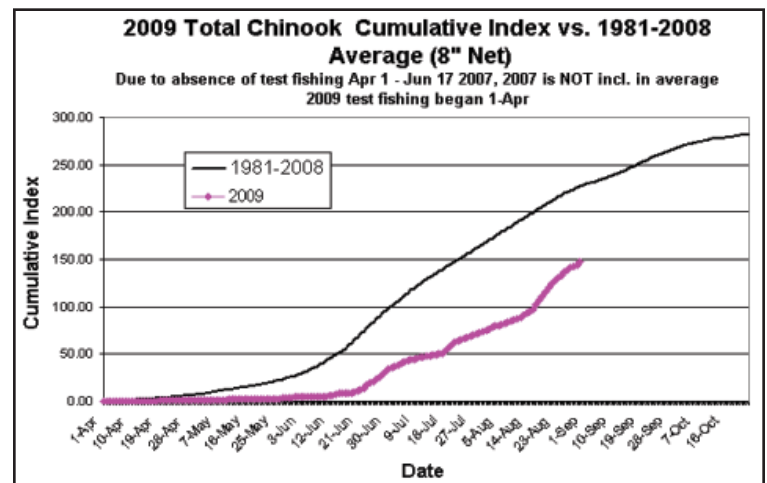
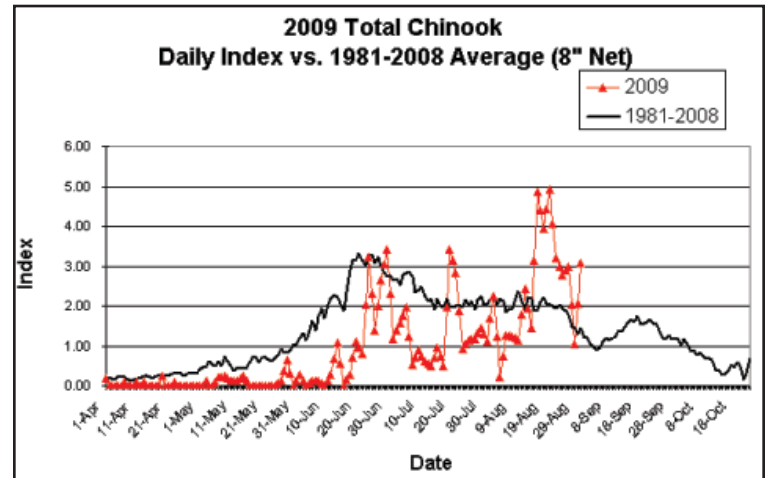


Figure 2: This graph shows the 2009 Fraser River discharge at Hope. The line with the solid red diamonds is the 2009 discharge, and the forecast discharge shows as unfilled circles. Fraser River discharge at Hope continues to track well below the historical mean (30% lower), and satisfactory for sockeye migration. Current discharge is approximately 1920cms.

FRASER CHINOOK

(Graphs from DFO website: Albion Chinook Test Fishery)



Fraser First Nations Reported Catch 2009: Reporting period up to Aug 30th, 2009.

	Species				Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	
Lower Fraser	22,784	21,182	262	27	44,255
Mid-Upper Fraser	2,041	28,091	108	0	30,240
Total	24,825	49,273	370	27	74,495

The above catch information is available from the DFO website at the link provided under the General Information section.

FRASER SOCKEYE

Sockeye migration is winding down in the marine areas, but a significant portion of the Lates appears to be delaying off the mouth of the river, which continues to be suggested by gulf troll assessment fisheries and in-river test fisheries.

The 2009 Fraser sockeye return was far lower than pre-season expectations, Harrison being the exception. The Early Summer in-season run size estimate is currently at 175,000 and the in-season

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Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat • c/o The Nicola Tribal Association • Box 188 • Merritt, BC • V1K 1B8

Tel: (604) 836-1909 • Fax: (250) 378-9119 • E-mail: aimee@nicolatribal.org • Web: www.frafs.ca

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Summer run estimate remains at 650,000. The Lates, including Harrison have an in-season estimate of 400,000 and Birkenhead is at 60,000. The total Fraser sockeye in-season return estimate is 1,370,000 which is less than half of the 90%P pre-season forecast. Total non-commercial catch of Fraser sockeye is estimated to be 95,000 (test fisheries and FSC fisheries). Therefore, the exploitation rate on Fraser sockeye is estimated to be approximately 7% so far, which would be one of the lowest exploitation rates of Fraser sockeye on record.

Early Stuarts

The in-season abundance estimate of Early Stuarts is at 85,000 and the enumeration project on the spawning grounds is now complete.

Early Summers

The Early Summers are virtually through the marine areas, and the aggregate shows a multi-modal distribution. The adopted in-season run size estimate is currently at 175,000 and there was no change to the in-season run-size estimate on September 4th.

Summers

The Summers are still showing in marine test fisheries, in decreasing abundance and proportions. The in-season run-size estimate remains at 650,000. At this abundance there is no identified international TAC.

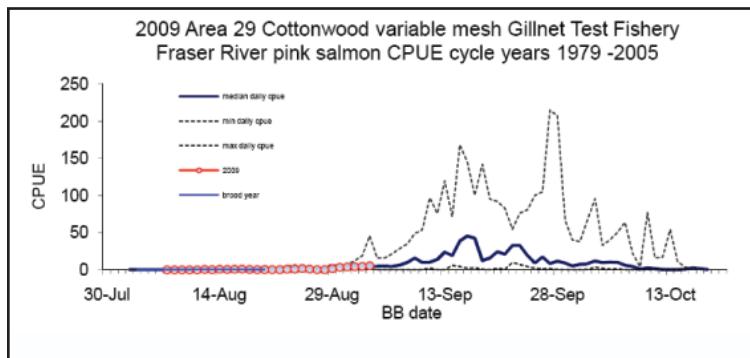
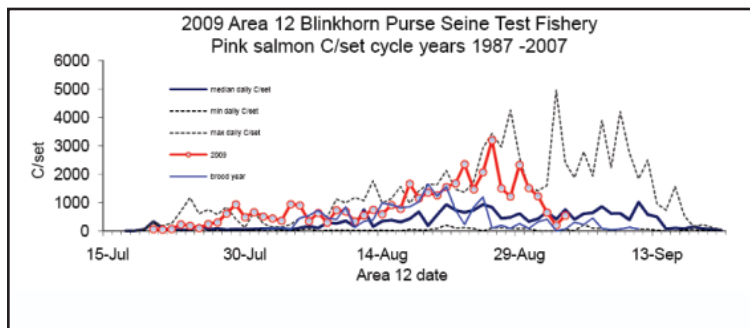
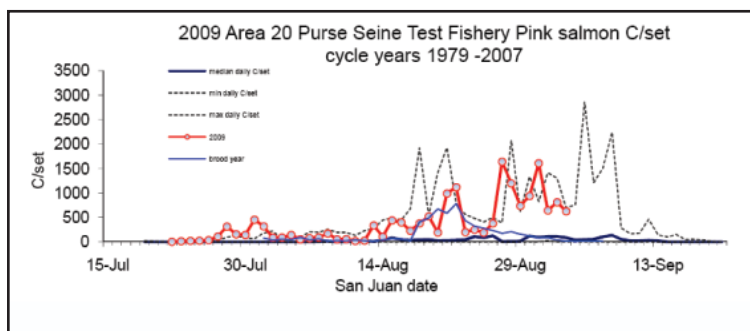
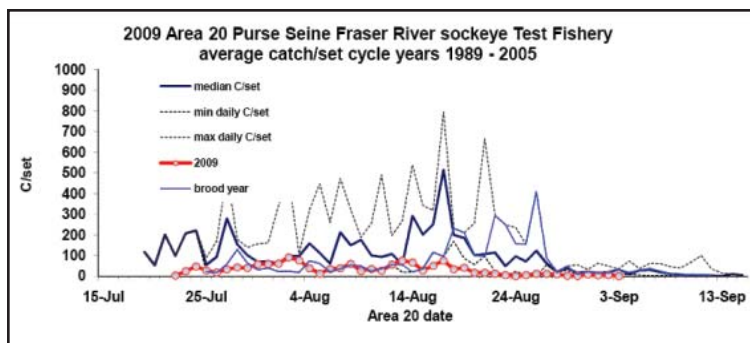
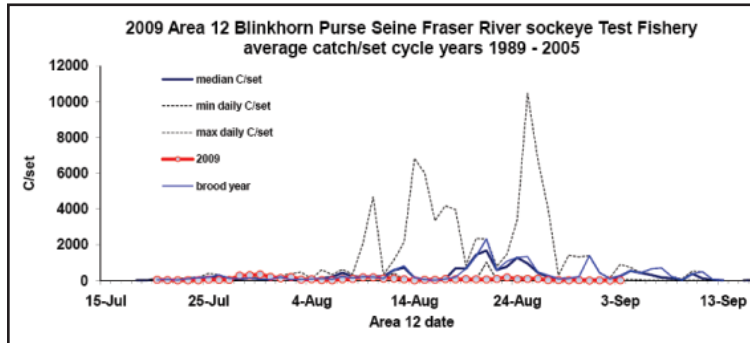
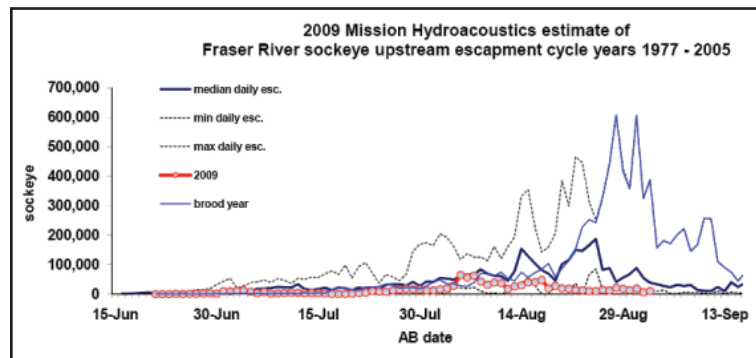
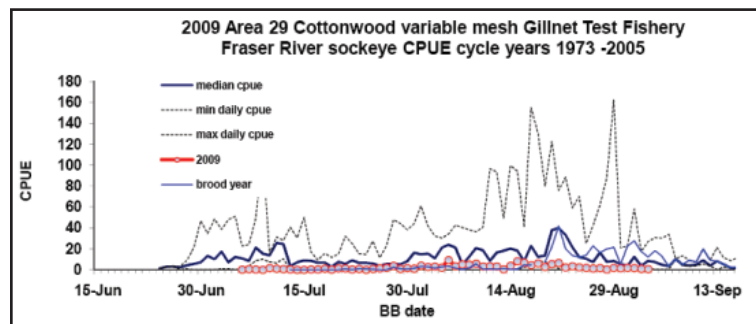
Late Sockeye

Harrison and Late Run sockeye are decreasing in abundance in marine areas, but there is significant delaying off the mouth of the Fraser for the Lates, which continues to be suggested by in-river test fisheries and gulf troll assessment fisheries. The in-season run-size estimate for the Lates (including Harrison) remains at 400,000.

FRASER PINKS

The operational in-season run size estimate for Pinks is 17.5 million and that was unchanged at today's Fraser River Panel meeting. There have been more than a million pinks caught to date in Canadian and US commercial fisheries, and it appears the Pinks are returning at the pre-season forecast level.

Fraser Sockeye and Pink Salmon Test Fishery and Mission Hydroacoustics Summary (Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)



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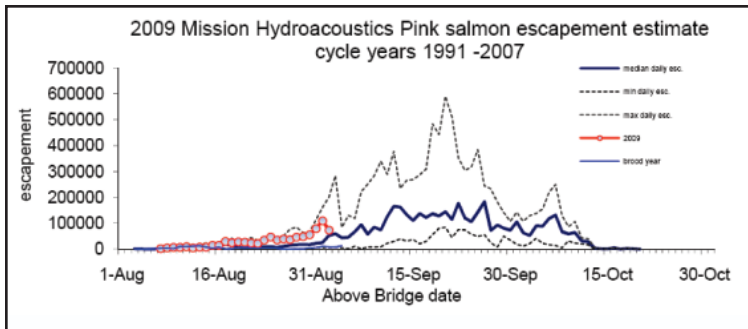


Figure 3: Pacific Salmon Commission 2009 test fisheries and Mission Hydroacoustics summary (September 4th).

Fraser Sockeye and Pink Area 20 sockeye and pink passage Graphs
(Provided by Pacific Salmon Commission)

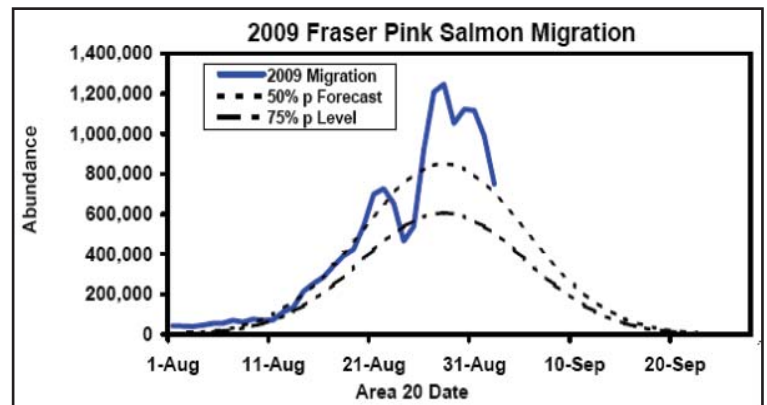
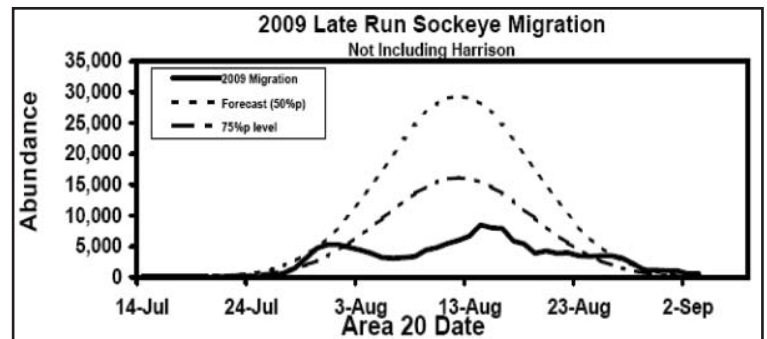
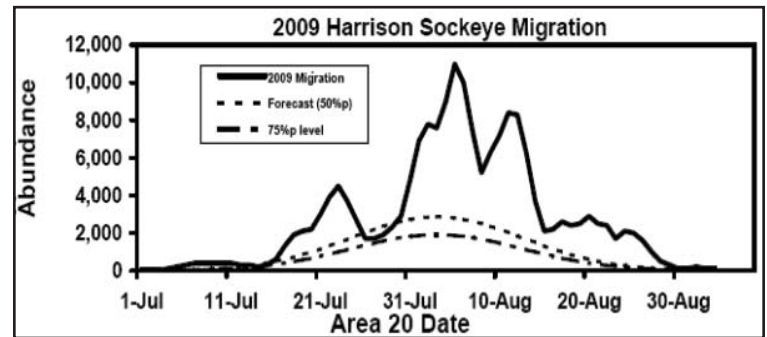
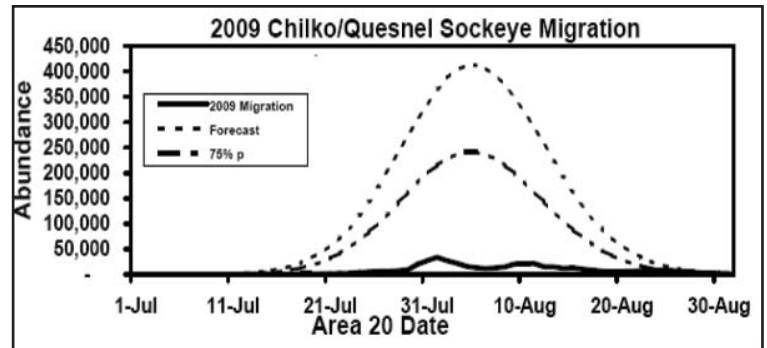
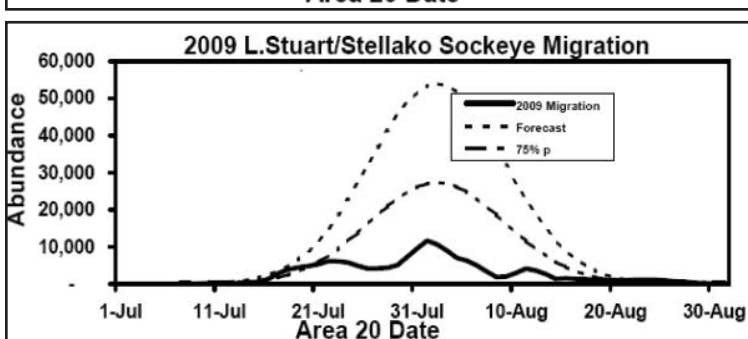
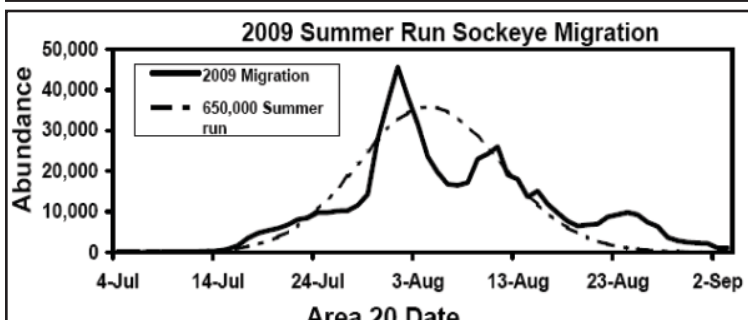
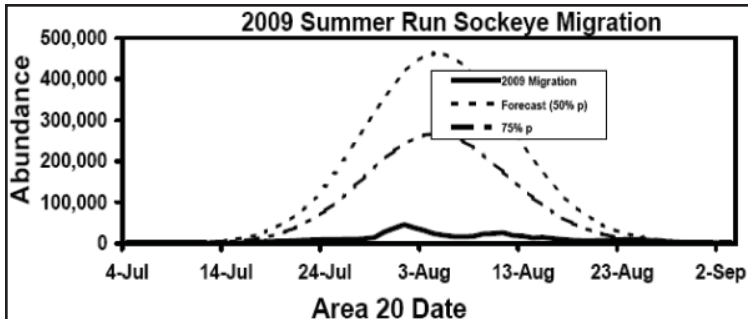
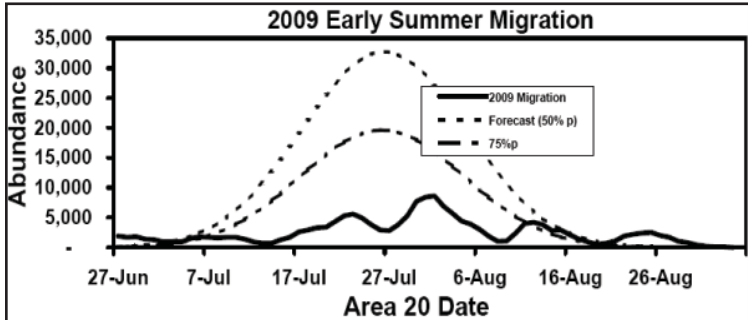


Figure 4: These graphs show the current (September 4th) information for the 2009 Early Summer, Summer, Harrison, Late sockeye and pink salmon migration.

**For more information contact Pete Nicklin
at (250) 392-5888 or by email at
indiseaent@shaw.ca**

GENERAL INFORMATION

With Chinook, sockeye and pink salmon approaching and in the Fraser, these links may be of interest to many.

Albion Test Fishery – Chinook Gill Net:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/commercial/commercialalbionchnk_e.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission Website:

www.psc.org

LGL Fishwheel Catch Updates:

www.psc.org/info_lglfishwheelcatch.htm

Upper/Mid/Lower Fraser Catch and Openings:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/firstnations.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission Test Fisheries:

www.psc.org/info_testfishing_summaries.htm

Pacific Salmon Commission News and Regulatory announcements:

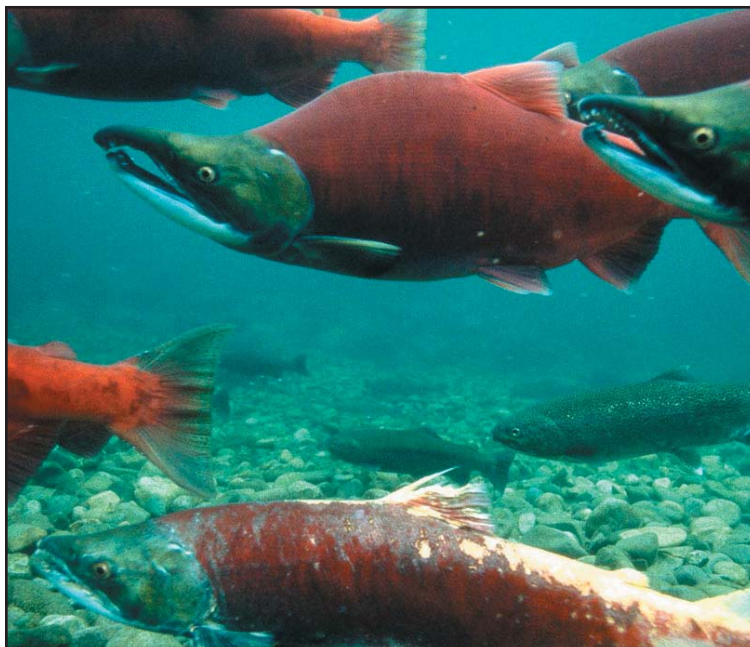
www.psc.org/news_frpnews.htm

Fraser River Mission Escapement Reports:

www.psc.org/info_inseasonfraserescapement.htm

Fraser River Environmental Watch Program:

www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fwh/index_e.htm



The Executive Committee (EC) of Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS)

is inviting eligible organizations to submit an

Expression of Interest (EOI) to provide contract hosting services to FRAFS

FRAFS is a bi-lateral organization that supplies technical and communications services and support to Fraser First Nations. For a more complete description of FRAFS, please go to its website www.frafs.ca. FRAFS is not incorporated as a legal entity; consequently, it requires a host organization to enter into a contract with the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans on its behalf to deliver funding for the FRAFS operations.

The FRAFS Executive Committee (EC) is soliciting expressions of interest from qualified First Nation organizations within the Fraser Watershed that may be interested in hosting the Secretariat starting April 1, 2010. Please be aware that for a number of reasons this request for an EOI may never proceed past this point; but in case the need does arise, the EC wishes to be prepared well in advance to implement a change in host organizations if such change is deemed necessary or desirable by the EC at some later date in this fiscal year (2009/2010).

An Expression of Interest must be received by FRAFS no later than September 30, 2009.

**For more information please visit
the FRAFS website at www.frafs.ca**

**Please note that the last Thursday
afternoon update conference call with
Mike Staley took place on September 3,
2009. They are now over for the season.**