SUMMIT ON FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON

Understanding Stock Declines and Prospects for the Future

Summary of Think Tank Conclusions
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Fraser sockeye productivity (adult returns per spawner)
This trend occurred despite strong reductions in fishing
Problem probably occurred after juveniles began migration to sea

Juveniles to sea in spring 
Young emerge gravel in spring – freshwater 1-2 yrs

Usually 2 years in marine

Adults spawn fall Freshwater
Research Needs

1. Analyze existing data on Fraser sockeye health and survival through life cycle

2. Compile historical data on abundance, health farmed salmon along migration route

3. Expand studies of timing and survival of migrating juveniles

4. Compare populations to understand why some faring better than others
In the short term, even before the federal judicial inquiry is completed, we must be prepared for:

1. Need for continued fishery closures

2. Additional precautionary measures such as experimentally removing farmed salmon from sockeye migration routes
Furthermore...

Management agencies much take impacts of climate change into account

We need to act now