
CHAPTER IV

FRASER RIVER AND PUGET SOUND PINK SALMON ASSESSMENTS

Two major stocks comprise the pink salmon population available to Council ocean fisheries during odd-numbered years. Table IV-1 provides a summary of recent run sizes.

The more abundant of the two runs originates from the Fraser River in British Columbia, Canada. The 2003 run size of Fraser pinks is estimated at 26 million, compared to the forecast of 17 million. The 2003 estimated run size for Puget Sound pinks is not yet available; the forecast run size was 2.32 million.

Fraser River and Puget Sound pink runs occur in significant numbers only in odd-numbered years. The only self-sustaining even-year pink run known in Washington is from the Snohomish River. This run has been steadily increasing over the 20 years it has been monitored. The 2004 return for Snohomish River pink salmon is projected to be 80,200.

TABLE IV-1. Estimated annual **run sizes** (odd numbered years 1977-2004) for Fraser River and Puget Sound **pink salmon** in millions of salmon.

Year	Puget Sound ^{a/}	Fraser River ^{b/}
1977	0.88	8.21
1979	1.32	14.40
1981	0.50	18.69
1983	1.01	15.35
1985	1.76	19.10
1987	1.57	7.17
1989	1.93	16.63
1991	1.09	22.33
1993	1.06	17.01
1995	2.11	12.88
1997	0.44	8.20
1999	0.95	3.59
2001 ^{c/}	3.50	21.19
2003 ^{c/}	2.30	26.00

a/ Total Puget Sound run size includes stocks other than Puget Sound pink stocks.

b/ Total run size.

c/ Preliminary, pre-season forecast.

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