

From: Brown, Robin
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2010 2:39 PM
To: Thomson, Richard <Richard.Thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: FW: Trudel FR-Sockeye-Outside-Hypothesis-DRAFT (3 June 2010).doc
Attach: Wood Welch et al (Sakinaw Sockeye Survival-AFS 2010 POST).pdf

Debate on socket mortality in SoG vs. mortality outside of the SoG. I know Dick hates this, but David actually has a very few DIRECT measurements of survival and transit through the Strait of Georgia. They might not be so representative, but they are DIRECT measurements.

let the fun begin!

Regards

Robin

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From: David Welch [mailto:david.welch@kintama.com]
Sent: June 7, 2010 9:35 AM
To: Brown, Robin
Subject: FW: Trudel FR-Sockeye-Outside-Hypothesis-DRAFT (3 June 2010).doc

Robin—

FYI, my comments on the timing of Dick's survey vis a vis smolt emigration. Will work with Marc to see what the timing is actually like, but my bet is that the smolts are well past the area of Dick's surveys before he does his survey.

Also, fyi, Chris Wood and I have a paper in press (attached) showing that for Sakinaw sockeye that tagged sockeye emigrating out of the Strait of Georgia had a 0% return rate as adults (consistent with the 0.2% smolt to adult survival rate Chris estimates for the untagged smolts—we would have had to tag 500 smolts to expect to get 1 survivor!!). The really neat thing, however, is that there was also a component of the run that apparently stayed in the Strait of Georgia as long-term residents—and these consistently had a 3.4% smolt to adult survival rate. So this would argue for the survival problem being outside the Strait of Georgia. Unfortunately, no smolt tagging of Sakinaw happened in 2007.

I suspect that there may be some internal politics afoot to have mainly the departmental staff speak on the sockeye issue so that DFO can be seen to be the lead organization and the source of most of the credible information, but it would be a tragedy if this morphed into the department trying to put the focus on the Strait of Georgia because (a) they have a better handle on how to study it (and can argue for more funding to do what

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they are already doing) and (b) because it puts the sockeye mortality problem in the Strait of Georgia, **BEFORE** the smolts start migrating past the salmon farms. (I know you would be shocked to hear this, but it wouldn't be the first time that the department tried to get the science to fit with the conclusion that they have decided that they want...).

Hope you are doing well, David

From: David Welch
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 9:04 AM
To: Trudel, Marc
Subject: RE: Trudel FR-Sockeye-Outside-Hypothesis-DRAFT (3 June 2010).doc

I think much of Dick's survey happens after the smolts will have left the Strait of Georgia, as his survey is in July, as I understand it (I heard this from Brian Riddell). If you can get the timing and sampling locations of Dick's study, we can assess this issue pretty straightforwardly. Remember, we are calculating exit to the northern end of Vancouver Island while Dick is measuring CPUE for (I believe) just the south-central Strait of Georgia—this is a lot closer to the mouth of the Fraser, and the timing as to whether Dick's July survey will even catch the bulk of the smolts will depend critically as to where Dick started and finished his survey—my guess is that he might just catch the tail-end of the smolt migration, but he will almost certainly have missed most of the run given when the smolts are migrating through and when he is there to sample.

From: Trudel, Marc [mailto:Marc.Trudel@dfo-mpo.gc.ca]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 8:35 AM
To: David Welch
Subject: RE: Trudel FR-Sockeye-Outside-Hypothesis-DRAFT (3 June 2010).doc

Thanks David,

I am in a meeting all day today and will give you a call tomorrow. We obviously have a different opinion on the interpretation of the results.

If the fish were not leaving the Strait of Georgia faster than other years, how do you explain the much lower CPUE that Dick has observed in 2007?

Regards,
Marc

-----Original Message-----

From: David Welch [mailto:david.welch@kintama.com]
Sent: Mon 2010-06-07 00:10
To: Trudel, Marc
Subject: Trudel FR-Sockeye-Outside-Hypothesis-DRAFT (3 June 2010).doc

Marc-- We have a significant difference of opinion-- see my edits/comments and also here is the paper I cite by Chris & I.

Give me a call in the office after you have digested this material. I will also send you an explication that I sent to Jack Rensel a few weeks ago

David