

**From:** Parslow, Matthew <Matthew.Parslow@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2009 8:30 AM  
**To:** Maxwell, Marla <Marla.Maxwell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Evers, Sheldon <Sheldon.Evers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Huang, Ann-Marie <Ann-Marie.Huang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Bonnet, Terri <Terri.Bonnet@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Sockeye #'s returned to the water

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Marla, I think you have it right in your assessment. While there may be some cases where released numbers are not reported (some fishers may not deem it important information to track) I'm a fairly certain that we are not seeing inflated numbers reported in our fisheries. As Sheldon mentions this is supported by the fact that reports are showing much higher numbers retained than released in most areas.

Given the potential pitfalls and lack of direction I also think we shouldn't be estimating illegal catch for these fisheries. I would be interested in participating in any further discussions on this. That said, I do see the value of feedback from C&P to managers on compliance rates etc. to inform their in-season discussions but I think that's a separate issue entirely.

Thanks,  
Matthew

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

**From:** Maxwell, Marla  
**Sent:** August 12, 2009 3:51 PM  
**To:** Evers, Sheldon; Parslow, Matthew  
**Cc:** Huang, Ann-Marie; Bonnet, Terri  
**Subject:** RE: Sockeye #'s returned to the water

Oh, Sheldon...

FYI - please do not forward this to Art or Nicole...for RM eyes only!

My initial thoughts on this response are that I really wish you had spoken to me or Matt about this before you suggested that C&P start gathering illegal catch data for us. This is a very complicated issue that has a lot of history to it. Most recently, there was a discussion earlier this year among Adrian, Matt, myself, and Paul Ryall, where Adrian apprised the group that RM would not be estimating illegal harvest. I personally feel very strongly that RM should **not** be estimating illegal catch for anyone, unless provided clear direction by someone to do so, as well as clear guidance on what we will do with these estimates. I am happy to discuss this more with you directly to give you a bit more background.

Regarding the reporting of numbers of released and kept sockeye, I think you have it right, and Art was letting his imagination wander (no offence to Art - I don't know him, and he may know a lot about FN fisheries, but I think he has this one wrong). FN's are keeping sockeye because they are technically allowed to, and nobody has told yet told them to stop. Therefore, they have no reason to not report them, or, for that matter, to make up released sockeye reports to make their kept catches look more "appropriate". I have never, ever, heard of anyone artificially inflating release numbers. Matt - if you have anything to add on this (I could be way off base), feel free to pipe up.

Anyway - lots for us to discuss here when you have the time. Thanks for including me in the discussion.

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

**From:** Evers, Sheldon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009 2:39 PM

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**To:** Demsky, Arthur  
**Cc:** Gallant, Nicole; Huang, Ann-Marie; Maxwell, Marla  
**Subject:** RE: Sockeye #'s returned to the water

Art,

I have had similar conversations with Glenn K, Jonathon Taylor other C&P as well as fish managers. The reports coming in have seen relatively low numbers of sockeye being released back to the water, with most being kept (but not necessarily reported). Most reports indicate that fish are being retained. In some parts of the river I think that because we have not indicated an encounter limit on the licence, that FN think it is ok to retain sockeye. In my meetings they have been asked to release all viable sockeye as it is indicated on the licence as well. As far as numbers of fish retained by C&P, it would be good to get a count of fish that have been caught in illegal nets and thrown back into the water dead or alive or that have been seized through other illegal activities. Resource Management Biologists may incorporate these numbers into their run size estimates, but I am not sure. It would be good evidence for arguments sake to see what the amount of illegal salmon numbers are either as an ongoing list or a post season tally. FN are consistently finger pointing other sectors for illegal activities and retaining illegally caught salmon. Thanks for the email. I hope this answers your question. I will forward on to the Biologists for their thoughts.

Sheldon

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

**From:** Demsky, Arthur  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2009 4:51 PM  
**To:** Evers, Sheldon  
**Cc:** Gallant, Nicole  
**Subject:** Sockeye #'s returned to the water

Hey Sheldon,

Has this issue come up or been accounted for?

While conducting surveillance this past weekend I watched a couple of native boats drifting. Neither made any attempt to release any sockeye at all. The nets and fish were simply dumped into the boats and nothing was looked at twice...nothing was released. This got me thinking about what they would then report to the monitor. It seems to me that they would not tell the monitor that they did not throw anything back. They would also not report throwing back less than they actually retained because this would look bad. So it seems they would have to report a significant number of sockeye returned to the water. This would then be a fictitious number. Now I know fish management is trying to account for all fish caught and supposedly caught ...but what about those fish that are reported as returned which were never actually returned...I hope these numbers don't go back into the escapement figures. I'm sure this is going on throughout the aboriginal fishery with few exceptions...

By the way one of the boats was using sockeye mesh and were caught.

Art

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