The Fraser River sockeye salmon collapse

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A recent scientific study concludes that the dramatic collapse of sockeye stocks in the Fraser River in 2009 was not an isolated event, but was part of a long downward trend in salmon productivity spread over a large area, from Alaska to Washington State. Researchers Randall Peterman and Brigitte Dorner suggest a likely explanation is that something that has an impact over a large area of ocean, where correlated sockeye stocks overlap, is the cause. Fish are surviving from eggs to fry, but appear to be dying in massive numbers after they have turned into smolts and headed out to sea. What went right for the sockeye in 2010 is as mysterious as what went wrong for the returning sockeye in 2007, 2008 and 2009. A modest number of sockeye salmon are predicted to return to the Fraser River this year and the next two, despite the abundance of fish that returned last summer. More here and here

TAGS: Fraser River, sockeye salmon, sustainable, fiisheries, sockeye collapse, low returns predicted

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