

Salmon designation is controversial

News Services

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Conservation groups are disagreeing with the Marine Stewardship Council's decision to certify the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery as sustainable.

Kerry Koughlin, regional director for the council, defended the designation, saying that a review conducted by an independent assessor was "a very thorough, scientific process."

It found different areas where the run could be strengthened and made recommendations for improvement. If the recommendations are not met, the fishery will lose its certification.

The Fraser River sockeye fishery is made up of genetic groupings or populations of fish that spawn in specific streams.

Aaron Hill, an ecologist with the Watershed Watch Salmon Society, said some of those populations are critically endangered, meaning the lakes and streams where the endangered populations spawn could wind up without any sockeye even though there are still seemingly plenty of sockeye in the Fraser.

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