

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 1 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser sockeye and pink salmon runs and discuss fisheries management plans for the harvest of pink salmon.

The marine migration of Fraser sockeye has been at low abundance levels over the past several days, while the migration of Fraser River pink salmon through the marine approach routes has been strong over the past week.

At the meeting today the run size estimates of 175,000 Early Summer-run, 650,000 Summer-run, 60,000 Birkenhead; and 400,000 True Late-run sockeye were unchanged. There is still considerable variability in run size assessments of Fraser River pink salmon since their peak migration timing through the marine approach routes is not yet known. However, there has been a large assessed abundance of Fraser pinks that have migrated through Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait over the past week. At the meeting today, the Panel approved the 50% probability level forecast for Fraser River pink salmon of 17,535,000 fish for fisheries planning purposes.

Fraser River environmental conditions are currently satisfactory for the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon. However, the discharge of the Fraser River is tracking about 34% below average and the water temperature at Qualark Creek on August 31 was 17.9 °C which is 1.6 °C above average for this date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters directed at the harvest of pink salmon:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-4: As previously announced, open for Area H troll ITQ fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon until further notice (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: As previously announced, open to net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 1, 2009 to 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 2, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2009 through 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 5, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, open for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 29, 2009 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 2, 2009.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 2, 2009 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 5, 2009.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, September 3, 2009; and 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 4, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Thursday, September 3, 2009; and 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Friday, September 4, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 1, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 2, 2009; 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, September 3, 2009; and 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 4, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, September 4, 2009.