

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 20 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed, including an update of the rock slide at Big Bar. The rock slide at Big Bar continues to be a major source of concern for the Panel as migrating sockeye salmon will need to pass this area to reach their spawning grounds. Fish monitoring using radio tags continues at the site, and hydroacoustic stations are operating above and below the slide. A fish wheel is operating at the site to help with capturing fish for helicopter transport above the slide, and a temporary fish ladder is on site and will be installed when conditions allow.

It is currently estimated that approximately 222,200 sockeye and 51,200 pink salmon have passed the Mission hydroacoustic site. Test fishing catches and daily escapements of sockeye salmon continue to track well below pre-season forecast expectations, although there was a small increase since the previous meeting. The Panel adopted an Early Summer-run run size of 90,000 with an Area 20 timing of July 27, and a Summer-run run size of 400,000 with an Area 20 timing of August 21. No changes were made to the Late run or pink salmon run sizes.

On August 19 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 3,037 cms, which is approximately 3% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 19 was 18.8°C, which is 0.7°C above average for this date. Fraser River discharge levels and water temperatures will be monitored closely to determine if specific management actions are required during the in-river migratory period to help achieve sockeye escapement goals.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to Commercial salmon fisheries.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C:

Open drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 21, 2019, through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Friday, August 23, 2019. All efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

Areas 6/7/7A:

Open for reef net, drift gillnet, and purse seine fishing 5:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2019 through 9:00 a.m. Friday August 23, 2019. All efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY

Areas 7/7A:

Open to purse seine with non-retention of sockeye 5 a.m. - 9p.m. Friday, August 23, 2019.

Open to drift gillnet with non-retention of sockeye 8 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. Friday, August 23, 2019.

There is no recommendation for reef net fishing at this time.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, August 23, 2019.