

Friday, August 23, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 23 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. Rocks are being strategically placed to create a route for fish to migrate upstream past the slide and there is evidence that a small number of Chinook have successfully migrated past the slide.

It is currently estimated that approximately 252,200 sockeye and 167,100 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 a Late-run run size of 40,000 with an Area 20 timing of August 26. Test fishing catches of pink salmon are tracking above pre-season forecast expectations. The Panel adopted a pink run size of 7,400,000 with an Area 20 timing of August 20.

On August 22 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 3,265 cms, which is approximately 12% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 22 was 18.1⁰C, which is 0.4⁰C 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 to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 24, 2019, through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 28, 2019. Sockeye non-retention.

Area 7: Open to reef net fishing, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, August 25, 2019, and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday, August 26, 2019. Sockeye non-retention.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY

Area 7: Open to reef net fishing, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, August 25, 2019, and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, August 26, 2019. Must release all sockeye, unmarked Chinook, unmarked coho and chum.

Areas 7 and 7A, excluding the Apex: Open to purse seine fishing from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, August 24, 2019, and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, August 25, 2019. Pink salmon retention only.

Areas 7 and 7A, excluding the Apex: Open to drift gillnet fishing, from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Saturday, August 24, 2019, and Sunday, August 25, 2019. Non-retention of sockeye.

The Apex is those waters north and west of the Area 7A "East Point Line," defined as a line projected from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the state of Washington to the East Point light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.