

Thursday, September 12, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Thursday, September 12 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. There is now evidence of natural passage of sockeye and pink salmon through the slide area, and as a result helicopter transport of fish above the slide has halted for the time being.

It is currently estimated that approximately 468,600 sockeye and 6,878,700 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. In-river test fishing catches and daily escapements of pink salmon are tracking above pre-season forecast expectations. The Panel adopted run sizes for Early Stuart, Early Summer, Summer and Late run of 26,000, 94,000, 360,000 and 20,000 with associated Area 20 timings of July 8, July 29, and Aug 19 (for both Summer and Late run), respectively. The Panel also adopted a pink run size of 8,900,000 with an Area 20 timing of August 17.

On September 11 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,114 cms, which is approximately 9% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 11 was 17.7°C, which is 2.3°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, 7, and 7A:

Open for reef net, drift gillnet, and purse seine fishing with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. Sunday, September 15, 2019, through 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 16, 2019.

Area 7:

Open to reef net with non-retention of sockeye 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2019, and 5:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2019.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY

Areas 7:

Open to reef net fishing from 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2019 and from 5:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2019. Must release all sockeye, unmarked Chinook, unmarked Coho and all chum salmon.

Open to purse seine 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2019. Pink salmon retention only.

Open to drift gillnet 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m. Friday September 13, 2019. Non-retention of sockeye.

Area 7A:

Open to purse seine 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2019 and 5:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 14 2019. Pink salmon retention only.

Open to drift gillnet 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m. September 13, 2019, and 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, September 14, 2019. Non-retention of sockeye.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, September 13, 2019.