

Friday, September 13, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, September 13 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 474,000 sockeye and 7,726,900 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. No changes were made to the sockeye or pink salmon run size or timing.

On September 12 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,163 cms, which is approximately 8% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 12 was 17.6⁰C, which is 2.4⁰C 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:

Areas 29-6, 7, 9:

Open to Area B purse seine ITQ from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily from Saturday, September 14, 2019 until Friday, September 20, 2019 (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

Areas 29-1 to 6:

Open to Area H troll ITQ fishery from 12:01 a.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 14, 2019 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 21, 2019 (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details)

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C:

Open for drift gillnet fishing from 5:00 a.m. Sunday, September 15, 2019, through 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 16, 2019. Non-retention of sockeye.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A:

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

Area 7:

Open to reef net fishing 5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2019, and 12:00 p.m. (noon) – 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2019. Non-retention of sockeye.

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 12:00 p.m. (noon) – 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 14, 2019. Must release all sockeye, unmarked Chinook, unmarked Coho and all chum salmon.

Areas 7:

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

Areas 7:

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.

Area 7A:

Open to drift gillnet 8:00 a.m. – 11:59 p.m. Friday, 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 Tuesday, September 17, 2019.