

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 17 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 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 478,700 sockeye and 8,375,000 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 16 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,411 cms, which is approximately 14% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 16 was 16.2⁰C, which is 1.5⁰C 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, 29-7 and 29-9:

Area B seine ITQ fishery for pink salmon will close at 20:00 hours Tuesday, September 17. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

Areas 29-1 to 29-6:

Area H troll ITQ fishery for Pink Salmon will close at 23:59 Tuesday, September 17, 2019. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

TREATY INDIAN AND ALL CITIZEN FISHERIES:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C:

Relinquish regulatory control effective 23:59 p.m., Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

Areas 6 and 7:

Relinquish regulatory control effective 23:59 p.m., Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

Area 7A:

Relinquish regulatory control effective 23:59 p.m., Saturday, September 21, 2019.

Apex:

Relinquish regulatory control effective 23:59 p.m., Saturday, October 5, 2019, as originally scheduled.

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.

This concludes the last in-season meeting of the Fraser River Panel.