

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 4 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the Fraser River Panel approved a run size estimate of 32,000 Early Stuart sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 6. An abundance estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye should be available later this week or next week after their peak migration through marine assessment areas has occurred. Summer run sockeye are the dominant management group in marine area samples. An update of Summer-run sockeye should be available later in August.

On August 3, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,669 cms, which is approximately 36% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 3 was 19.8 °C, which is 1.8 °C higher than 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.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

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: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 1, 2015 through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 5, 2015.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 5, 2015 through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 8, 2015.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2015 through 9:00 a.m. Friday August 7, 2015

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 6, 2015, and Friday, August 7, 2015

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 5, 2015, and Friday, August 7, 2015

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to drift gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, August 5, 2015, and Friday, August 7, 2015

(Note: U. S. All Citizen fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, August 7, 2015.