

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 25 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye and pink salmon runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon continue to track below pre-season expectations. At the meeting today, the run-size estimate of 350,000 Early Summer run sockeye, 1,600,000 Summer run sockeye and 419,000 Late run sockeye were unchanged. A Fraser pink salmon run-size estimate should be available after their expected 50% marine migration date of August 28.

On August 24 the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,045 cms, which is approximately 28% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 24 was 18.3 °C, which is 0.7 °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, open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Tuesday, August 25, 2015, through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 29, 2015. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to net fishing 5:00 am Thursday, August 27, 2015 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday August 29, 2015. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reef net with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 26, 2015 and Thursday, August 27, 2015.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seine with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 25, 2015 and Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to drift gillnet with non-retention of sockeye 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 25, 2015 and Wednesday, August 26, 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 28, 2015.