

Friday, August 28, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 28 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.

At the meeting today, the run-size estimate of 350,000 Early Summer run sockeye was increased to 400,000 sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 31 and the Summer run-size estimate of 1,600,000 sockeye was increased to 1,700,000 sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 12. The Late run-size of 419,000 sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. A Fraser pink salmon run-size estimate should be available early next week after their expected 50% marine migration date.

On August 27 the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,828 cms, which is approximately 30% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 27 was 18.1 °C, which is 0.9 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River temperatures are forecast to decrease to 17.3 °C by September 2. 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 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 29, 2015, through 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 2, 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.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Open to net fishing 5:00 am Monday, August 31, 2015 through 9:00 a.m. Tuesday September 1, 2015. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef net with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015 and Monday, August 31, 2015.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seine with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 2015.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to drift gillnet with non-retention of sockeye 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 30, 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 Monday, August 31, 2015.