

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 8 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye and pink salmon runs and to review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today the Early Summer run-size estimate of 400,000 sockeye was unchanged. At the meeting today, the run-size estimate of 1,700,000 Summer run sockeye was decreased to 1,500,000 sockeye, with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 10, and the run-size estimate of 300,000 Late run sockeye was decreased to 200,000 sockeye, with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 21. The Panel approved a Pink salmon run-size estimate of 6,200,000 fish with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 22.

On September 7 the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 1,990 cms, which is approximately 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 7 was 15.3 °C, which is 0.7 °C lower 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 and pink salmon escapement goals.

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

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29-6, 29-7 and 29-9: Open to Area B seine assessment ITQ (two vessels) seine fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon daily from 06:00 a.m. to 09:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9 until further notice. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to Commercial salmon fisheries.

Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59 p.m., Tuesday September 8, 2015 for all U.S. Panel Area Waters with the exception of the area lying westerly of a straight line drawn 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.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, September 11, 2015.