

Friday, July 31, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 31 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Recent test fishing catches in Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits indicate a modest migratory abundance of Fraser River sockeye salmon. At the meeting today, the Early Stuart run size estimate of 30,000 fish was unchanged. Abundance assessments of the early-timed component of the Early Summer-run sockeye run appear to be tracking near the median forecast level of abundance. A more accurate assessment of the total Early Summer-run run-size should be available next week after their expected peak migration period through the marine assessment areas has occurred. Summer run sockeye are now the dominant management group in marine area samples. An update on the Summer-run run-size and timing will not be available until later in August.

On July 30, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,922 cms, which is approximately 34% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 30 was 19.0 °C, which is 1.0 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River temperatures are forecast to increase to 21.5 °C by August 5. 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 to drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, July 29, 2015 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 1, 2015.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: 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 6, 7 and 7A: Open for net fishing 5:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Saturday August 1, 2015

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Open for net fishing 5:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Monday August 3, 2015

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef nets from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 1, 2015

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 2, 2015

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Sunday, August 2, 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 Tuesday, August 4, 2015.