

Friday, August 15, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 15 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the Fraser River Panel adopted a run-size of 233,500 Early Stuart sockeye with a 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of July 9. The run-size of 1,800,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. Summer-run sockeye are currently tracking near the median (p50) pre-season forecast level of 5,699,000 fish. Assessments of Summer-run sockeye abundance are ongoing. Test fishing catches indicate 98% of the Fraser sockeye are currently passing through Johnstone Strait.

On August 14, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 2,781 cms, which is approximately 25% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 14 was 19.7 °C, which is 1.9 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are forecast to be approximately 20.4 °C by August 20. Sustained water temperatures in this range can cause severe stress to migrating sockeye and may lead to significant en route mortality. Migration conditions for Fraser sockeye will be monitored closely and appropriate management actions will be taken.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4, and 18-11 and Area 29-1 to 6: As previously announced, open to Area H troll ITQ fishery from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday August 6, 2014 until further notice. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 29: Portions of 29- 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 to 17: REVISED Open to Area E gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 19, 2014. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Canada announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

Areas 123 and 124: Open to Area G troll ITQ fishery from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 17 to 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 18, 2014.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, open for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 13, 2014, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 16, 2014, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Friday, August 15, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 16, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Monday, August 18, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 19, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, August 14, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 18, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Thursday, August 14, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, August 18, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 13, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, August 18, 2014.

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty 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 19, 2014.