

Tuesday, August 26, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 26 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 run-size estimate of 2,200,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was decreased to 2,000,000 fish with a 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of August 8. At the meeting today, the run-size estimate of 7,000,000 Summer-run sockeye was decreased to 6,000,000 fish with a 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of August 14. Assessments of Late-run sockeye abundance are ongoing. Recent test fishing catches indicate 94% of the Fraser sockeye are currently passing through Johnstone Strait.

On August 25, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 2,511 cms, which is approximately 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 25 was 18.4 °C, which is 1.2 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are forecast to decrease to approximately 18.3 °C by August 31. Sustained high water temperatures 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: Open to Area E gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 27, 2014, to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, 2014. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, open for drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 23, 2014, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 27, 2014, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 30, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Open net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 27, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 30, 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. Monday August 25, 2014 and Tuesday August 26, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, August 25, 2014 and Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 23, 2014 through Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, 2014 through Friday, August 29, 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 Friday, August 29, 2014.