

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 9 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 1,900,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged. At the meeting today the Panel decreased the Summer-run size estimate from 8,200,000 fish to 7,800,000 fish with a 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of August 18. At the meeting today the Panel also decreased the Late-run estimate from the pre-season median forecast abundance level of 12,730,000 fish to 10,800,000 fish with a 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of August 26.

On September 8, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 2,289 cms, which is approximately 10% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 8 was 16.3 °C, which is 0.7 °C higher than average for this date. Most of the Early Summer-run, Summer-run and early timed Late-run fish that have entered the Fraser River to-date have encounter warmer than average water temperature. 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, 9, 10 and 11 to 17: Open to Area E gillnets from 8:00 a.m. Thursday, September 11, 2014 to 8:00 a.m. Friday, September 12, 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 from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 6, 2014, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 10, 2014, to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Sunday, September 7, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 10, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13, 2014.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday September 13, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:20 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily from Wednesday, September 10, 2014 through Friday, September 12, 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, September 12, 2014.