

Friday, September 12, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, September 12 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, consider harvest opportunities and review migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the total Fraser River sockeye return of 20,733,500 was unchanged. The current adopted run-sizes, by management group are 233,500 Early Stuart, 1,900,000 Early Summer-run, 7,800,000 Summer-run and 10,800,000 Late-run sockeye.

On September 11, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 1,961 cms, which is approximately 23% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 11 was 15 °C, which is near 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 are currently satisfactory, but 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 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 18-1, 18-4, and 18-11: As previously announced, open to Area H troll ITQ fishery from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday August 6, 2014 through 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Friday, September 12, 2014. (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 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 13, 2014 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, September 14, 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), 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 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 10, 2014 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13, 2014 through 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 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. Saturday September 13, 2014.

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

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

Area 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily from Saturday, September 13, 2014 through Saturday, September 20, 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 Monday, September 15, 2014.