

Monday, September 15, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Monday, September 15 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, consider harvest opportunities and review migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The 2014 total Fraser River sockeye return of 20,733,500 was unchanged at the meeting today. 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.

The majority of Fraser sockeye that have migrated upstream to-date have encountered warmer than average water temperature. Sustained high water temperatures can cause severe stress to migrating sockeye and may lead to significant en route mortality; however there have been no reports of significant mortality in the Fraser River or its tributaries to-date. The current migration conditions for Fraser sockeye are satisfactory.

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 29-3, 29-4, 29-6, and 29-10: Open to Area B purse seine ITQ fishery in waters deeper than 45 meters from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily from Tuesday, September 16, 2014, through Thursday, September 18, 2014. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 6, 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open 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 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 Thursday, September 18, 2014.