

The Fraser River Panel met today to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon, discuss fisheries management plans for the harvest of pink salmon and review environmental conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the run size estimates of 550,000 Early Summer-run, 2,400,000 Summer-run sockeye, and 600,000 Late-run sockeye were unchanged. The abundance of Fraser River pink salmon migrating through Johnstone Strait has been extremely high over the past week although it has declined in recent days. At the meeting today the run size estimate of Fraser River pink salmon was increased from 24,000,000 to 26,000,000 fish with 50% marine timing of August 29, which is one day later than average.

On September 5, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,250 cms, which is approximately 13% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 5 was 18.5 °C, which is 2.5 °C higher than average for this date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29-6, 29-7 and 29-9: As previously announced, open to Area B seine ITQ fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 until further notice. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:
TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 4, 2013 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 7, 2013. Sockeye salmon may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 7, 2013 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Sockeye salmon may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: As previously announced, extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 4, 2013 through 9:00 a.m. Thursday, September 5, 2013 and open from 5:00 a.m. Friday, September 6, 2013 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 7, 2013. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 7, 2013 through 9:00 a.m. Monday, September 9, 2013, and open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 10, 2013 through 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Sockeye may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes only.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Area 7: As previously announced, open to reefnets with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily on Wednesday, September 4, 2013, Thursday, September 5, 2013, and Friday, September 6, 2013.

Area 7: Open to reefnets with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 7, 2013, Sunday September 8, 2013, Monday, September 9, 2013, and Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 9, 2013.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 8:15 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Monday, September 9, 2013.

(Note: U.S. All Citizen 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, September 10, 2013.