

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 the marine approach routes has declined considerably in recent days. At the meeting today the run size estimate of 26,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon was unchanged. Their estimated 50% marine timing through Area 20 is August 28, which is the long term average.

Fraser River discharge measurements at Hope have not been available since September 6. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 9 was 19.1 °C, which is 3.8 °C higher than average for this date and a record high temperature for this date. Water temperatures exceeding 19 °C may cause stress to migrating sockeye and slow their migration.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29-4, 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) 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 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 11, 2013 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 14, 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. 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.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 11, 2013 through 9:00 a.m. Friday, September 13, 2013. Sockeye salmon 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 Saturday, September 7, 2013, Sunday September 8, 2013, Monday, September 9, 2013, and Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

Area 7: Open to reefnets with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 11, 2013, Thursday, September 12, 2013, and Friday, September 13, 2013.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines with non-retention of sockeye from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 13, 2013.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets with non-retention of sockeye from 8:20 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Friday, September 13, 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 Friday, September 13, 2013.