

Friday, August 16, 2013

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 16 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The abundance of Fraser River sockeye migrating through the marine approach routes has been strong over the past week. At the meeting today, the Panel increased the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye from 475,000 fish to 520,000 fish with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 24, which is one day later than expected. The Panel also increased the run size estimate for Summer-run sockeye from 2,000,000 fish to 2,300,000 fish with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 9, which is six days later than expected. An assessment of the abundance of Late-run sockeye should be available next week. Recent DNA analyses indicate that the proportion of Fraser River pink salmon migrating through the marine approach routes has been building over the past week. The migration of Fraser River pink salmon through the marine assessment areas is tracking abundance levels exceeding their median forecast run size of almost nine million fish, assuming their 50% migration timing through Area 20 is approximately August 28.

Daily Fraser River water temperatures have been at record high levels over the past week, which is expected to cause considerable en route and pre-spawning mortality of Fraser sockeye. On August 15, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 3,010 cms, which is approximately 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 15 was 21.0 °C, which is 3.3 °C higher than average for this date. Water temperatures are forecast to decrease over the next several days, which should improve migration conditions for Fraser sockeye.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remains closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

(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, August 20, 2013.