

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 7 to review assessment data on Fraser River sockeye salmon, plan fisheries and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The migration of sockeye in the lower Fraser River past the Mission hydroacoustic site was stronger than expected yesterday. At the meeting today the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye was increased from 530,000 fish to 550,000 fish. The estimated 50% marine timing of Early Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is July 16, which is the timing that was expected pre-season. Current Summer-run sockeye run size assessments are consistent with the pre-season forecast of 1,585,000 fish. The estimated 50% marine timing of Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is currently estimated to be August 5, which is four days later than expected. Run size assessments for Late-run sockeye will not be available until approximately mid August when their peak migration period through marine assessment areas is expected to occur.

On August 6 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 4,930 cms, which is approximately 18% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 6 was 18.7 °C, which is 0.9 °C higher than average for this date.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, extend for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, August 7, 2012, through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 8, 2012.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 8, 2012 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 11, 2012.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Open to net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 8, 2012 through 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 9, 2012.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Thursday, August 9, 2012.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Friday, August 10, 2012.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday, August 11, 2012.

(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, August 10, 2012.