

Friday, August 5, 2011

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 5 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye and pink salmon runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Purse seine test fishing catches of Fraser River sockeye in Johnstone Strait have increased recently. The Panel approved an increase in the run size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye from 23,000 fish to 25,000 fish at the meeting today. Their marine timing is still estimated to be July 2. At the meeting today, the Panel also approved a run size estimate of 453,000 Early Summer-run sockeye. Summer-run sockeye run size assessments are tracking near their forecast level of abundance if their marine timing is later than expected. A more accurate estimate of Summer-run sockeye run size will be available next week after further assessment data are collected. Assessments of Fraser River pink salmon abundance will be available in late August after their expected peak migration period through marine areas has occurred.

On August 4, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 6,500 cms, which is about 51% higher than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 4 was 15.7 °C, which is 1.9 °C cooler than average for this date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

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: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 6, 2011 to 12:00 p.m. (noon), Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 5:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, August 6, 2011.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to gillnets from 2:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Friday, August 5, 2011.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to purse seines from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 5, 2011.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, August 6, 2011.

(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 Monday, August 8, 2011.