

Friday, August 12, 2011

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 12 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and to 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 substantially over the past week. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated to be approximately 73%.

At the meeting today the Panel adopted the following run-size estimates:

480,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, 2,000,000 Summer-run sockeye and 1,475,000 Late-run sockeye. In-season estimates of these groups will continue to be updated as assessments are ongoing.

On August 11, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 5,335 cms, which is about 37% higher than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 11 was 16.9 °C, which is 1.1 °C cooler than average for this date.

The migration of pink salmon through Johnstone Strait has been higher over recent days. DNA analyses of pink salmon samples collected in Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait test fisheries indicate that Fraser pinks currently comprise about 20-30% of the samples. The estimated proportion of Fraser River pink salmon is expected to increase over the next few weeks as they near their expected peak marine migration period near the end of the month.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29: Subareas 29-11 to 29-17 and portions of Subareas 29-3, 29-4, 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10: Open to Area E gillnets from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 16, 2011. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

The previously announced opening for Area H Troll was incorrect, consult DFO Fishery Notices or The Fisheries and Oceans Canada recorded message at 604-666-2828 (from the lower B.C. mainland), and toll free from outside the lower B.C. mainland at 1-866-431-3474 for further details.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 13, 2011 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, August 16.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A:

REVISED

Open to gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Sunday, August 14, 2011.

Open to purse seines from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday, August 15, 2011.

Open to reefnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, August 13, 2011, and from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, August 14, 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 15, 2011.