

Monday, August 9, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met Monday August 9 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, plan fisheries and review migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Fraser sockeye catches in commercial and test fisheries have generally been lower than expected over the last few days. The run size estimate of 1,600,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. An estimate of the run size of Summer-run sockeye should be available later this week and for Late-run sockeye, an assessment of their abundance should be available next week. At the meeting today, the provisional run size estimate of 400,000 Harrison sockeye was unchanged.

On August 8 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was about 2,980 cms, which is 23% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 8 was 18.9 °C, which is 1.2 °C above average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are forecast to increase to approximately 20 °C by this weekend. Water temperatures between approximately 19 °C and 20 °C can adversely affect the upstream migration of Fraser sockeye and may cause en route mortality of some of these fish. Migration conditions for Fraser sockeye will be monitored closely over the next several weeks and appropriate management actions will be taken.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 20-1, 3, 4: As previously announced, open to Area B purse seine, ITQ Demonstration Fishery, daily from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 8, 2010 to Thursday August 12, 2010 (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11 and Areas 29 – 1 to 6: As previously announced, open to Area H troll 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 8, 2010, until further notice.

Area 29: Portions of 29 – 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 to 17: As previously announced, open to Area E gillnets from 2 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2010. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices 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, August 7, 2010 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tuesday, August 10, 2010.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

(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 Wednesday August 11, 2010.