

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday September 7 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, plan fisheries and review migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The marine migration of Fraser sockeye is declining rapidly. It is estimated that approximately 15,000,000 Late-run sockeye are currently delaying in the lower Strait of Georgia. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 3,700,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 3,800,000 fish and the run size estimate of 4,800,000 Summer-run sockeye was increased to 5,200,000 fish. The run size estimates of 1,200,000 Harrison, 24,000,000 Late Shuswap/Weaver, and 241,000 sockeye from the Birkenhead stock-group were unchanged at the meeting today. The total run size estimate for Fraser River sockeye this season (including 105,000 Early Stuart sockeye) has increased slightly from 34,046,000 fish to 34,546,000 fish.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. They will continue to be monitored closely and appropriate management actions will be taken.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11 and Areas 29 – 1 to 6: As previously announced, open to Area H troll as of 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 8, 2010 and continues until further notice (please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 29: Portions of Subareas 29-3, 4 and 6 (seaward of the 45 meter depth contour) open to Area B purse seine ITQ daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2010 and Friday September 10, 2010.

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, September 4, 2010 through 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 8, 2010 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, September 11, 2010.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: As previously announced, open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Saturday, September 4, 2010 through 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

Areas 6,7 and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5:00 a.m. Thursday, September 9, 2010 through 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 11, 2010.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced, open to reefnets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., from Saturday, September 4, 2010 through Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., from Wednesday, September 8, 2010 through Friday, September 10, 2010.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

(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 Friday, September 10, 2010.