

Friday, July 30, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met Friday July 30 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs, discuss fishery planning and review migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The Panel adopted a provisional run size estimate of 950,000 Early Summer-run sockeye at the meeting today. Based on the migration of Summer-run sockeye through the marine approach routes that has been observed to-date, assessments of their abundance are less than expected if their arrival timing is similar to pre-season expectations. The 50% probability level forecast for Late-run sockeye is 8,003,000 fish. Late-run sockeye returns are forecast to originate primarily from the Late Shuswap stock group. The expected 50% migration timing of Late-run sockeye through Area 20 is approximately mid August. For management purposes, the Panel adopted a provisional run size estimate of 400,000 Harrison sockeye at the meeting today.

On July 29 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was about 3,500 cms, which is 23% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 29 was 18.6 °C, which is 1.2 °C above average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are projected to reach approximately 21 °C by early next week. Sustained water temperatures in this range can cause severe stress to migrating sockeye and may lead to significant en route mortality. 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:

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, July 31, 2010, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 4, 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 Tuesday August 3, 2010.