

Friday, September 11, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, September 11 to review stock assessment data on the Fraser sockeye and pink salmon runs and discuss fisheries management plans for the harvest of pink salmon.

The migration of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait is nearing completion while the marine migration of Fraser River pink salmon through these areas has been generally strong for the past few weeks. At the meeting today the run size estimates of 175,000 Early Summer-run, 650,000 Summer-run, 60,000 Birkenhead, 400,000 True Late-run sockeye. The run size estimate for Fraser River pink salmon was increased from the 50% probability level forecast of 17,535,000 fish to 19,500,000 fish.

On September 10 the Fraser River discharge at Hope was approximately 2,100 cms, which is about 17% lower than normal. The water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 10 was 16.3 °C, which is 1.2 °C higher than average for this date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters directed at the harvest of pink salmon:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-4: Closes to Area H troll ITQ fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon at 8:00 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2009 (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

Area 18-1, 18-4, and 18-11 and Area 29-1 to 6: Open to Area H troll ITQ fishery for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, September 12, 2009 to 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2009. Fishery may close earlier, subject to by-catch concerns. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

Area 29-3, 29-4, 29-6: Open to Area B purse seine ITQ fishery in waters deeper than 50 meters from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily on Sunday September 13, 2009, Monday, September 14, 2009, Tuesday, September 15 2009, and Wednesday, September 16 2009. Fishery may close earlier, subject to by-catch concerns. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Relinquish regulatory control effective 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: As previously announced, extended for net fishing from 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009 through 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 12, 2009 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen's Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 6,7, and 7A: Iwersen's Dock line boundary rescinded effective immediately (11:20 a.m., Friday, September 11, 2009).

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extended for net fishing from 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 12, 2009 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 14. Please note: the Iwersen's Dock line boundary is NOT in effect in this fishery.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 9, 2009 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 12, 2009 to 11:59 (midnight), Monday, September 14, 2009.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Area 7 and 7A: The previously announced purse seine fishery for pink salmon that was to occur from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 11, 2009, has been cancelled.

Area 7 and 7A: The previously announced gillnet fishery for pink salmon that was to occur from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Friday, September 11, 2009 has been cancelled.

Areas 7 and 7A: The previously announced reefnet fishery for pink salmon that was to occur from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, September 11, 2009 has been cancelled.

(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).

This was the final scheduled in-season meeting of the Panel in 2009.