

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 29 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

Recent assessments indicate a substantial decrease in the marine migration of Fraser sockeye. The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye has been complete for several days. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of Early Stuart sockeye was increased from 35,000 fish (their 50% probability level forecast) to 40,000 fish.

At today's meeting, the Panel reduced the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye from 500,000 fish to 425,000 fish, which still exceeds their 50% probability level forecast of 349,000 fish. Additionally, the Panel adopted a run size estimate of 1,182,000 Summer-run sockeye which is their 75% probability level forecast of abundance. It is too early to provide an update on the run size of Late-run sockeye; however, Harrison sockeye abundance is currently tracking above their 50% forecast level of abundance. Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River remain generally satisfactory.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

**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), Wednesday, July 30, 2008 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 2, 2008.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, 2008 to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Thursday, July 31, 2008.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2008.

(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 August 1, 2008.