

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 22 to receive an update on the status of the Fraser River sockeye runs and review migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River.

Assessments to-date indicate that the marine timing of Fraser River sockeye is earlier than was forecast pre-season. Recent sockeye catches in the Juan de Fuca Strait test fisheries indicate strong migration of sockeye through this marine approach route. At the meeting today, the Panel approved a run size estimate of 500,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, which is substantially higher than their 50% probability level forecast of 349,000 fish. It is still early in the marine migration of Summer-run sockeye; however their abundance in marine areas is tracking near their 50% probability forecast run size of 1,810,000 fish.

Although migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory, they are forecast to become more adverse over the next several days. On July 21, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 4,000 cms, which is approximately 25% lower than average, while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 17.6 °C, which is about 1.2 °C warmer than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to increase to approximately 18.5 °C by the end of July. Water temperatures exceeding 18 °C may decrease the swimming performance of Fraser sockeye.

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 23, 2008 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, July 26, 2008.

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 July 24, 2008.