

Thursday, July 24, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Thursday, July 24 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser sockeye runs and plan harvest opportunities.

The Area 20 gillnet and purse seine test fisheries indicate steady migration of sockeye through Juan de Fuca Strait. Sockeye catches in the Johnstone Strait test fisheries have been small thus far, which indicates a low diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through this marine approach route. The run size estimate of 500,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. The abundance of Summer-run sockeye is tracking near their 50% probability forecast run size of 1,810,000 fish.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are currently satisfactory. On July 23, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 3,900 cms, which is approximately 25% lower than average, while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 17.3 °C, which is about 0.5 °C warmer than average.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 20-1 ,3, 4: Open to Area B purse seine, ITQ Demonstration Fishery, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday, July 27, 2008 and 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday, July 28, 2008 (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 Demonstration Fishery 12:01 a.m., Saturday, July 26 until further notice (please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

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) Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 6:00 a.m., Sunday, July 27, 2008 to 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 28, 2008.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, July 25, 2008.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, July 25, 2008

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 28, 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 Monday, July 28, 2008.