

Monday, July 28, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Monday, July 28 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser sockeye runs and plan harvest opportunities.

Recent assessments suggest a decrease in the marine migration of Fraser sockeye. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 500,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged. Summer-run sockeye are currently tracking lower than their 50% probability level forecast of 1,810,000 fish.

On July 27, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 3,900 cms, which is substantially lower than average, while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 17.7 °C, which is about 0.5 °C warmer than average for this date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 20-1, 3, 4: Closes for Area B purse seine, ITQ Demonstration Fishery, at 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 28 (please refer to DFO Fishery Notice for further details).

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11 and Area 29-1 to 6: Closes for Area H troll, ITQ Demonstration Fishery 6:00 p.m., Monday, July 28 (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), Tuesday, July 29, 2008 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 12:45 p.m., Monday, July 28, 2008 to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, 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 July 29, 2008.