

Friday, August 31, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 31 to receive an update on the status of the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The marine migration of Fraser sockeye is declining rapidly and the migration of Fraser River pink salmon through Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits has also declined considerably over the past week.

At the meeting today, the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye was decreased from 170,000 fish to 155,000 fish and the run size estimate for Summer-run sockeye was decreased from 700,000 fish to 650,000 fish. The Panel also reduced the run size estimate for Birkenhead sockeye from 150,000 fish to 100,000 fish and the run size estimate for true Late-run sockeye was decreased from 670,000 fish to 510,000 fish (330,000 Late Shuswap/Weaver and 180,000 Harrison sockeye). Due to the substantial decrease in assessed marine-area abundance of Fraser River pink salmon over the past week, the Panel adopted a run size estimate of 10,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon, which is approximately half of the pre-season 50% probability level forecast of 19,570,000 fish.

Fraser River discharge levels and water temperatures are presently satisfactory for the migration of 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 for pink salmon from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 1, 2007 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 5.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing for pink salmon from 5:00 a.m., Thursday, August 30, 2007 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, August 31, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m., Saturday, September 1, 2007 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 3, 2007 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.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Saturday, September 1, 2007 and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Sunday, September 2, 2007 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye salmon from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 1, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 2, 2007 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for reefnets for pink salmon with non-retention of sockeye from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 1, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, September 2, 2007 and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 3, 2007 southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the East Point Light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

(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 September 3, 2007.