

Tuesday, August 8, 2006

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 8 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

Recent test fishing and commercial catch data indicates a substantial increase in the migration of sockeye through both Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait. The Panel is currently using the 50% probability level forecast of 1,303,000 Early Summer-run sockeye for fisheries planning purposes. It is too early to provide an in-season update on the run-size of Summer-run sockeye; however, present data suggest that their marine timing is later than forecast. Late-run sockeye are currently migrating through the marine approach areas in moderate proportions and run size assessments will likely not be available until after their forecast peak migration timing through Area 20 in mid-August.

The discharge of the Fraser River at Hope is presently about 2,500 cms, which is just slightly higher than the record lowest discharge for this date. The water temperature of the Fraser River (measured at Qualark Creek) was 18.5 °C on August 7, which is approximately 1 °C warmer than average for this date. Water temperatures are forecast to decrease to just over 18 °C over the next few days before increasing to temperatures exceeding 19 °C in approximately one week.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11: Open to Area H troll; as announced previously.

Area 124: Open to Area G troll; as announced previously.

Area 123: Please consult DFO fishery notices for current update on the Area G troll fishery in this area.

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, August 9, 2006, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 12, 2006.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 4:00 a.m., Thursday, August 10, 2006 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, August 11, 2006.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight) Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

(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 August 11, 2006.