

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 18 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

The Panel adopted a run size estimate of 1,700,000 Early Summer-run sockeye at the Panel meeting today, which exceeds the 50% probability level forecast of 1,303,000 fish. The Panel has been concerned about the apparent lower than forecast abundance of Summer-run sockeye in marine assessment areas over the past few weeks. The Panel adopted the 75% probability level forecast for Summer-run sockeye of 4,020,000 fish at the meeting today. The 50% passage timing of Summer-run sockeye through Area 20 is presently estimated to be over a week later than the forecast of August 9. Preliminary assessments of Late-run sockeye abundance suggest that they are tracking a run size lower than the 50% probability level forecast of 8,250,000 fish, excluding Birkenhead sockeye; unless the marine timing of Late-run sockeye through Area 20 is considerably later than the forecast of August 15.

The water temperature of the Fraser River measured at Qualark Creek was 18.4 °C on August 16, which is approximately 1 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to reach approximately 20 °C by late next week, which could create adverse migration conditions for sockeye en route to their spawning grounds. Fraser River discharges at Hope have recently been the lowest in the historic record and the discharge is presently about 2,050 cms.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 18-1, 18-4 and 18-11 and Area 29-1 to 6: As previously announced: the Area H troll: ITQ Demonstration Fishery remains open until further notice.

Area 20 – 1, 3, 4: Open to Area B purse seine in waters deeper than 55 meters or 30 fathoms from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 21, 2006. Fishery may extend subject to by-catch concerns (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

Area 29: Portions of 29 - 3, 4, 6,7 , 9, 10 and 11 to 17: Open to Area E gillnets from 7 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 22, 2006. There will be a possible re-opening of this fishery on Wednesday. (Please refer to the DFO Fishery Notices for further updates that will be available Tuesday evening).

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), Saturday, August 19, 2006, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 23, 2006.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 4:00 a.m., Monday, August 21, 2006 to 10:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, 2006.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Friday, August 18, 2006. Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight) Wednesday, August 23, 2006.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced: Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, August 19, 2006. Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 20, 2006.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, August 18, 2006. Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 23, 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 21, 2006.