

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 5 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

The estimated abundance of sockeye migrating through Johnstone Strait and marine areas in general has declined considerably over the past several days. The run size estimates for Early Summer-run, Summer-run, and Late-run sockeye were decreased at the meeting today. The run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye was decreased from 1,700,000 fish to 1,450,000 fish, while for Summer-run sockeye the run size estimate was decreased from 2,500,000 fish to 2,000,000 fish. Also, the run size estimate for true Late-run sockeye, excluding Birkenhead sockeye was decreased from 10,000,000 fish to 9,200,000 fish.

The water temperature of the Fraser River measured at Qualark Creek was 17.6 °C on September 4, which is almost 2 °C higher than average for this date. The discharge of the Fraser River is presently about 1,450 cms, which is approximately 9% less than the previous record low discharge for this date.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 29: Portions of 29 – 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 to 17: As previously announced: Open to Area E gillnets from 8 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2006. (Please refer to DFO Fishery Notices for further details).

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 2, 2006, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, September 9, 2006.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: As previously announced: Open to net fishing from 4:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2006 to 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 6, 2006.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced: Open to gillnets from 3 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 6, 2006.

Areas 7 and 7A: As previously announced Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 6, 2006.

Area 7A: As previously announced: Open to purse seines from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.,
Wednesday, September 6, 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 September 8, 2006.