

Friday, July 28, 2006

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 28 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser River sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

The abundance of Fraser sockeye migrating through the marine approach areas has been lower than forecast thus far this season, although the passage of sockeye through Juan de Fuca Strait has increased in recent days. The diversion rate of Fraser sockeye through Johnstone Strait is currently estimated to be less than 20%, however it is forecast to increase considerably over the next several weeks.

The estimated run size of 70,000 Early Stuart sockeye will be decreased slightly next week after their marine migration is complete. The abundance of Early Summer-run sockeye currently migrating through the marine approach areas is presently tracking below expectations, unless their marine timing is several days later than forecast. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye run size should be available by next week. It is early in the marine migration of Summer-run sockeye through the assessment areas. Summer-run sockeye run size estimates should be available within two weeks, unless their return timing is much later than forecast.

Fraser River water temperatures (measured at Qualark Creek) have exceeded 20 °C over the past few days and the water temperature on July 27 was 20.7 °C, which is over 3 °C, warmer than average for this date. Water temperatures are forecast to decline to slightly over 18 °C by August 3, which would improve migration conditions for Fraser 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: As previously announced: Open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday, July 28, 2006, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 2, 2006.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Remains closed to fishing.

(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 31, 2006.