

Monday, July 31, 2006

The Fraser River Panel met Monday, July 31 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser River sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

Recent test fishing of sockeye in the Juan de Fuca Strait test fisheries indicate steady migration of sockeye through this marine approach route. Sockeye catches in the Area 12 purse seine test fishery were considerably higher yesterday, suggesting that a larger abundance of Fraser sockeye migrating through Johnstone Strait could occur in the coming days.

Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance have recently increased and an update on their run size will be provided later this week. It is early in the marine migration of Summer-run sockeye through the assessment areas. An assessment of how their estimated run size is tracking relative to the forecast should be available next week.

Fraser River discharge at Hope is currently about 3,100 cms and the water temperature at Qualark Creek on July 30 was 19.1 °C, which is approximately 2 °C warmer than average for this date. Fraser River temperatures are forecast to decline slightly over the coming week due to cooler weather conditions in the Fraser watershed. This will 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: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 2, 2006, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 5, 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 August 2, 2006.