

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

The Fraser River Panel met Wednesday, August 2 to discuss assessment data on the Fraser River sockeye runs and consider harvest opportunities.

The Area 20 gillnet and purse seine test fisheries continue to indicate a strong migration of sockeye through Juan de Fuca Strait. Catches in the Area 12 and 13 test fisheries have declined recently suggesting that the diversion rate of Fraser River sockeye through Johnstone Strait is presently low.

Assessments of the early-timed component of the Early Summer-run sockeye run continue to indicate weakness in their return strength or late marine timing. However, the later-timed Scotch and Seymour Early Summer-run stocks are showing continued strength in their migration through the marine assessment areas. An estimate of the Early Summer-run sockeye run size should be available by the end of the week. Summer-run sockeye abundance through the approach areas is presently tracking either later or weaker than forecast due primarily to the low return of Quesnel sockeye through the assessment areas to-date.

Fraser River discharge at Hope is currently about 2,900 cms and the water temperature at Qualark Creek on August 1 was 18.5 °C, which is approximately 1 °C warmer than average for this date. Fraser River temperatures are presently forecast to remain below 19 °C decline over the next several days.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Areas 123, 124: Open to an Area G troll test fishery (likely 2 vessels) from 12:01 a.m., Thursday, August 3, 2006 for approximately 3 days (see DFO Fisheries Notice FN0608 for further information).

Area 29: Open to an Area E gillnet assessment fishery (2 vessels) starting Friday, August 4, 2006 (DFO will be announcing further details regarding this assessment fishery).

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), Wednesday, August 2, 2006, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 5, 2006.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

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 4, 2006.