

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 6 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and to discuss regulatory actions.

The abundance of Fraser River sockeye migrating through the marine assessment areas has been steady over the past several days, which is extremely unusual since in most years their marine migration is virtually complete by this time. This has resulted in further increases in Fraser sockeye run size estimates. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye was increased from 650,000 fish to 750,000 fish (11% higher than the 50% probability level forecast of 718,000 fish), with 50% arrival timing of these sockeye through Area 20 of August 20, which is 19 days later than their latest marine migration date on record. The run size estimate of 6,500,000 Summer-run sockeye was increased to 7,000,000 fish today (37% lower than the 50% p level forecast of abundance of 11,048,000 fish). The run size estimate of Harrison River sockeye of 260,000 fish was unchanged, while the estimate of the remaining Late-run stocks was increased to 250,000 fish, (considerably higher than the 50% probability level forecast of 156,000 fish) for a total of 510,000 Late-run sockeye.

Abundance estimates of Fraser River pink salmon continue to track slightly below the 75% probability level forecast of 11,698,000 fish, assuming that their migratory timing through Area 20 is near average. If their marine migratory timing is later than average, assessments of their run size would be larger.

Fraser River temperature and flow conditions are currently satisfactory for the migration of sockeye and pink salmon.

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

No change to the regulations noted in the Regulatory Announcement on September 2, 2005.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2005, and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2005.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2005, and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2005.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2005, and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2005.

(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).

On Thursday, September 8, 2005, the U.S. share of Late-run sockeye harvest-impacts will be reviewed and if necessary, modification will be made to the Non-Indian gillnet, purse seine, and reef net fisheries currently scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2005. U.S. fishers should check the NMFS hotline (1-888-858-9319) on Thursday, afternoon, September 8, to determine if modifications have been made. The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, September 9, 2005.