

Friday, September 2, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, September 2 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and to discuss regulatory actions.

Fraser River sockeye continue to set new records for extremely late migratory timing this season, which has resulted in further increases in run size estimates. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 650,000 fish. The 50% arrival timing of these sockeye through Area 20 is now estimated to have occurred on August 17, which is 17 days later than the latest date on record and 25 days later than average. The run size estimate of 6,000,000 Summer-run sockeye was increased to 6,500,000 fish, with 50% arrival timing of these sockeye in Area 20 of August 24, which is eight days later than their latest migration date on record and 16 days later than their average marine timing. The Panel also approved an increase in the run size estimate of Harrison River sockeye from 250,000 fish to 260,000 fish, along with a run size estimate for the remaining Late-run stocks of 156,000 fish (50% probability level forecast of abundance) for a total of 416,000 Late-run sockeye.

Abundance estimates of Fraser River pink salmon are currently tracking slightly below the 75% probability level forecast of 11,698,000 fish, although estimates of their run size are presently, highly uncertain due to variability in assumptions regarding their 50% migratory timing through Area 20. A more accurate assessment of their run size should be possible next week after a larger portion of the run has been accounted through the assessment areas and a clearer identification of their arrival timing has been established.

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:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Open to drift gillnets 4:00 a.m., Saturday, September 3, 2005 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, September 7, 2005.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 4:00 a.m., Saturday, September 3 to 9 p.m. Monday, September 5, 2005, in the area southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from Iwersen's dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2005, in the area southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from Iwersen's dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Tuesday, September 6, 2005, in the area southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from Iwersen's dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia.

(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 Tuesday, September 6, 2005.