

Friday, September 9, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, September 9 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and to discuss regulatory actions.

The steady migration of Fraser sockeye through the marine approach areas, and in particular, through Johnstone Strait over the past week has resulted in further increases in estimates of their run size and in estimates of the lateness in their marine migratory-timing; the latter of which is unprecedented. The run size estimates of 750,000 Early Summer-run sockeye and 7,000,000 Summer-run sockeye were unchanged at the meeting today. The run size estimate of Late-run sockeye (excluding Birkenhead and Harrison sockeye) was increased to 300,000 fish, with 50% arrival timing through Area 20 of August 31, which is 17 days later than their average marine timing.

Abundance estimates of Fraser River pink salmon are tracking at approximately the 75% probability level forecast of 11,698,000 fish, although estimates of their run size continue to be highly uncertain due to variability in assumptions regarding their 50% migratory timing through Area 20. If Fraser River pink salmon also exhibit the protracted and late migratory-behavior pattern of Fraser sockeye this season, their abundance could be considerably larger than the 75% probability level forecast.

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

#### **CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Canada is considering an opening in Area 18-1,4, and 11 for Area H troll, commencing as early as 12:01 a.m., Monday, September 12, 2005. Please refer to the DFO website or to their recorded message at 604-666-2828 for further details.

#### **UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

##### **TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Open to drift gillnets 5:00 a.m., Saturday, September 10, 2005 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 12, 2005.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 5:00 a.m., Saturday, September 10 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, September 12, 2005.

##### **NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2005, and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2005.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2005, and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2005.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reef nets from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2005, and from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, 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).

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Monday, September 12, 2005.