

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Wednesday, September 14 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 and pink salmon entering Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait has declined considerably over the past few days. The run size estimates of 750,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, 7,000,000 Summer-run sockeye and 560,000 Late-run sockeye (excluding Birkenhead sockeye) were unchanged at the meeting today, although the final in-season run size estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye will be slightly larger than 750,000 fish.

The Panel approved a run size estimate of 10,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon at the meeting today, which is considerably lower than the 50% probability level forecast of 16,318,000 fish. Although the run size of Fraser River pink salmon this season is far below the pre-season forecast, given the relatively low catches, there will still be sufficient escapement to reach the spawning escapement goal of 6,000,000 Fraser River pink salmon.

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

No change to the regulations noted in the Regulatory Announcement on September 12.

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

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Remain closed to fishing.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

No change to the regulations noted in the Regulatory Announcement on September 9.

(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 Friday, September 16, 2005.