

Friday, July 29, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 29 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye salmon and discuss fisheries plans.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is declining rapidly. The estimated 50% passage date of Early Stuart sockeye through Area 20 this season is July 15, which is 12 days later than average. It is expected that the Early Stuart run will reach or slightly exceed 200,000 fish. The migration of Early Summer-run sockeye is tracking near the 75% p level forecast of abundance (391,000 fish) assuming that they are returning approximately eight days later than average. It is early in the migration of Summer-run sockeye through the marine assessment areas, however, current data suggests that their timing is later than average.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory; however they are forecast to become more adverse over the next few days. The water temperature of the Fraser River (at Qualark Creek) is forecast to increase to 19.0 °C over the next few days, which may cause physiological stress to migrating sockeye.

**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 12:00 p.m. (noon), Monday, August 1, 2005, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 3, 2005.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Remain 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 2, 2005.