

Friday, August 5, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 5 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye salmon and discuss fisheries plans.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye this season has been the latest on record, but is now virtually complete. In total, 205,000 Early Stuart sockeye have been accounted for thus far (20 % lower than the 50% p level forecast of 258,000 fish). The marine and in-river migration of Early Summer-run sockeye has been far below expectations. At the meeting today, the Panel approved an in-season run size estimate of 250,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, with 50% migration timing through Area 20 of July 31 (eight days later than average). This run size estimate is much lower than the 75% probability level forecast of 391,000 fish, and is attributable to the weak return of age 4 Early Summer-run sockeye to-date. It is too early to provide an in-season estimate of Summer-run sockeye run size; however their migration through Area 20 is currently tracking far below the 75% p level abundance even with a marine timing projection of eight days later (August 16) than average (August 8).

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River watershed have continued to be generally favorable over the past week.

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: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 6, 2005, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Monday, August 8, 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 7, 2005.