

Friday, July 30, 2004

The Fraser Panel met Friday, July 30 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. The Panel approved an increase in the run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye to 1,200,000 fish, which is 36% higher than their 50% p level forecast of abundance (885,000 fish). Summer-run sockeye abundance is tracking approximately the 50% p level of abundance (3,501,000 fish).

In-river temperature conditions for Fraser River sockeye continue to be adverse. Fraser River discharge at Hope is currently 3,150 cms (30 % lower than normal for this date) and the water temperature (at Qualark Creek) is presently 19.9 °C.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Area 20-1, 3, and 4: Open to Area B purse seines authorized by a Scientific Licence from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., daily on Sunday, August 1, and Monday, August 2, 2004 (fishery may close after 1 day depending on effort).

Area 18-1, 4 and 11; and Area 29-3, 4, and 6 (outside of a 27 fathom contour boundary): Open to Area B purse seines authorized by a Scientific Licence from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., daily on Sunday, August 1, and Monday, August 2, 2004 (fishery may close after 1 day depending on effort).

Area 18-1, 4 and 11; and Area 29-1 to 6: Closes to Area H troll 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2004.

Area 29-1 to 7 and 9 to 17: Open to Area E gillnets from 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 4 to 8:00 a.m., Thursday, August 5.

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 July 31, 2004, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, August 7, 2004.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open to net fishing from 4:00 a.m., Sunday, August 1, 2004 to 11:59 p.m., Friday, August 6, 2004.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty fishers should check the U.S. hotline before fishing as additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions are in effect).

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines and reef nets daily from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2004 to Friday, August 6, 2004.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2004 to Friday, August 6, 2004.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 3, 2004.