

Tuesday, August 16, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 16 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

The run size estimate of 250,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. The abundance of Summer-run sockeye migrating through the marine assessment areas continues to be much lower than expected for this time period. Assuming peak run timing through Area 20 of August 18, estimates of the run size of Summer-run sockeye are currently ranging from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 fish. However, there is considerable variability in these estimates due to high uncertainty in the run timing of these sockeye this season. A more accurate assessment of their run size should be available later this week or early next week. The low abundance of 4 year-old Early Summer-run and Summer-run Fraser sockeye to-date has prevented the commencement of most fisheries that were scheduled during pre-season planning.

The marine migration of pink salmon through the marine approach areas has been occurring since late July. The peak migratory timing of Fraser River pink salmon through Area 20 usually occurs between late August and early September and assessments of their run size should be available around this time.

On August 15 the discharge level in the Fraser River (at Hope) was approximately 2,700 cms (24% lower than average) and the water temperature of the Fraser River (at Qualark Creek) was 18.9 °C, which is 1.3 °C higher than average for this date. Water temperatures are forecast to increase to approximately 20.7 °C by August 24, which may cause adverse impacts on 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: Will close as scheduled for drift gillnets at 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 17, 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 Friday, August 19, 2005.