PWSAC 2017 Fisheries Updates

Monday, June 26, 2017

Chum Salmon Update

Wally Noerenberg Hatchery:

The chum salmon returns are behind the forecast return. Chum salmon cost recovery started on June 15th and was completed on June 24. The hatchery is estimating about 75,000 chum salmon in Lake Bay. Brood stock needs will be between 175,000 and 200,000 fish depending on the male to female ratio. No fish are inside the barrier net at this time. The net has been sunk in places to allow entry, but the fish are still quite green and not interested in approaching close to the hatchery. It may take a few days before they mature enough to approach the facility. A recommendation was made to ADF&G to liberalize the common property fishery since the cost recovery fishery is complete. Efforts to conserve the wild stock Coghill Lake sockeye salmon will also play into the amount of time and area allowed for the commercial fishery. The chum salmon harvest in the Coghill District as of 6/25 was 584,000 fish. PWSAC harvested 444,000 chum salmon of that total to complete the cost recovery goal. The female percentage from the last sales harvest was approximately 50%. The average weight was approximately 8.0 lbs.

Main Bay Hatchery:

The Main Bay sockeye salmon return is lagging behind the 1.15 million fish return forecast as well. Total harvest as of 6/25 in the Eshamy District is just over 155,000 sockeye salmon all caught in the CPF fishery. MBH will attempt to capture brood fish this week as the female percentage is approximately 50%.

AFK Hatchery:

The chum salmon fishery at AFK hatchery picked up last week, but is still behind forecast. Approximately 105,000 chum salmon have been harvested as of 6/25.

Port Chalmers:

Chum salmon harvest at Port Chalmers has slowed after the initial high harvest rates since the fleet has been restricted to a smaller area. Recent harvest data is not available because of the timing of the fishery open periods. Total harvest as of 6/21 is approximately 222,800 chum salmon.