PWSAC 2017 Fisheries Updates

Monday, July 10, 2017

Chum Salmon Update

Wally Noerenberg Hatchery:

The chum salmon return is still going strong. Recent drone video shows that chum salmon are still entering Lake Bay showing a surplus beyond brood stock needs. Chum salmon egg take started on July 7, and will continue every day until complete. Brood stock needs were approximately 200,000 fish. The hatchery is using about 15,000 thousand fish a day at their current pace. An estimated 100,000 fish are inside the barrier net at this time. New fish have been entering the SHA which are beyond the hatchery needs. Commercial fishing inside a portion of the SHA has been extended to catch newly arriving chum salmon and still maintain the hatchery brood stock. The chum salmon harvest in the Coghill District as of 7/7 was just over 1,725,000 fish. PWSAC harvested 444,000 chum salmon of that total.

Main Bay Hatchery:

The Main Bay sockeye salmon return is falling well short of the 1.15 million fish return forecast. Total harvest as of 7/7 in the Eshamy District is approximately 405,000 sockeye salmon all caught in the CPF fishery. MBH is still attempting to capture brood fish this week. As of July 10, the hatchery has removed approximately 25,000 jack salmon and only been able to retain 2,254 large adults. These jack salmon are all males and average between 2 and 3 pounds. Main Bay was closed this period to try to increase the number of large adult salmon entering the brood area. Eshamy Lake sockeye salmon stock is now starting to return which are not desired in the Main Bay hatchery brood.

AFK Hatchery:

The chum salmon fishery at AFK hatchery is very close to forecast. Approximately, 368,000 chum salmon have been harvested as of 7/8. The chum harvest at AFK is starting to slow.

Port Chalmers:

Total harvest of chum salmon as of 7/8 is approximately 475,000 fish, which is above forecast. Chum salmon are still arriving at that location.