PWSAC 2017 Fisheries Updates

Monday, July 3, 2017

Chum Salmon Update

Wally Noerenberg Hatchery:

The chum salmon return timing is behind the forecast return. However, the chum run is continuing to hold up providing opportunity for the Common Property Fishery (CPF). A recent aerial survey by ADF&G estimates between 250,000 – 300,000 chum salmon inside the SHA. Brood stock needs are approximately 200,000 fish depending on the male to female ratio. About 20,000 fish are inside the barrier net at this time. Fish are still not interested in approaching close to the hatchery and freshwater. The area open to the CPF has been enlarged to include a portion of the SHA to harvest some of the chum salmon in that area. Until these fish move into the barrier net it will not be possible to open more area in the SHA. It may take a few more days before they mature enough to approach the facility. A recommendation was made to ADF&G to liberalize the CPF to harvest any additional returning chum salmon. 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 7/1 was 1,100,000 fish. PWSAC harvested 444,000 chum salmon of that total.

Main Bay Hatchery:

The Main Bay sockeye salmon return is lagging behind the 1.15 million fish return forecast. Total harvest as of 7/1 in the Eshamy District is approximately 330,000 sockeye salmon all caught in the CPF fishery. MBH is attempting to capture brood fish this week as the female percentage is approximately 50%. Many of the fish captured to date have been jack salmon that are not usable. These jack salmon are all males and average between 2 and 3 pounds. Most are able to swim through the gillnet gear and end up at the hatchery. The AGZ was closed in an effort to allow larger adult salmon into the hatchery.

AFK Hatchery:

The chum salmon fishery at AFK hatchery slowed last week, and is still behind forecast. Approximately, 289,000 chum salmon have been harvested as of 7/1.

Port Chalmers:

Total harvest of chum salmon as of 7/1 is approximately 373,000 fish.