PWSAC 2017 Fisheries Updates

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Chum Salmon Update

Wally Noerenberg Hatchery:

The chum salmon return started out slow, but has been coming on as a strong, late run. The chum run is continuing to hold up providing opportunity for the Common Property Fishery (CPF). Recent drone video shows chum salmon are still entering Lake Bay with a surplus beyond brood stock needs. Brood stock needs are approximately 200,000 fish depending on the male to female ratio. About 75,000 fish are inside the barrier net at this time and additional fish are starting to stack up against the barrier net. Commercial fishing inside a portion of the SHA will be pulsed to catch newly arriving chum salmon and still maintain the hatchery brood stock. 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 7/3 was 1,450,000 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 7/3 in the Eshamy District is approximately 372,000 sockeye salmon all caught in the CPF fishery. MBH is still attempting to capture brood fish this week. Most 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 is now only slightly behind forecast. Approximately, 329,000 chum salmon have been harvested as of 7/3.

Port Chalmers:

Total harvest of chum salmon as of 7/3 is approximately 389,000 fish. The pink salmon harvest at Port Chalmers is starting to increase.