

Friday, July 18, 2003

The Fraser Panel met Friday, July 18th to review the status of the Fraser River sockeye migration. The abundance of Fraser River sockeye in both marine assessment areas and in the Fraser River is low at the present time. The Panel adopted an in-season run size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye of 25,000 sockeye, which is substantially lower than their forecasted abundance. Current assessments suggest that the return of Early Summer-run sockeye is either later-timed than normal and/or at lower abundance levels than was forecasted.

Fraser River discharge levels continue to be approximately 20% lower than normal for this date. Fraser River water temperature (measured at Qualark Creek) has increased over the past week and is now 17.5 °C. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to increase further next week and will be monitored closely over the migration period of Fraser River sockeye.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed.

The Panel plans to meet again Tuesday, July 22nd.