

Friday, July 25, 2003

The Fraser Panel met Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> to review the status of the Fraser River sockeye migration. The abundance of Fraser River sockeye salmon migrating through Juan de Fuca Strait increased over the past week, while the number of Fraser sockeye migrating through Johnstone Strait remained low.

The current in-season run size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye is 30,000 fish. Current assessments suggest that Early Summer-run sockeye are between the 75% and 50% probability level forecasts of abundance. Summer-run sockeye are being identified in the marine assessment areas, however an in-season estimate of their run size will not be available for at least two weeks.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River have degraded considerably over the past few days. There has been a large decrease in the discharge measured at Hope (from 4,400 cms on July 18 to presently 3,550 cms). Along with this decline in discharge, water temperatures have increased to 18.8 °C, which may impart physiological stress and slow the migration of sockeye. Environmental conditions for migrating Fraser River sockeye will be monitored closely over the coming weeks.

The Fraser River Panel announced the following regulations.

**CANADIAN PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to fishing.

**UNITED STATES PANEL AREA WATERS:**

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY**

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: open for drift gill nets from 4:00 p.m. Friday, July 25 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 30.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY**

Remains closed to fishing.

The Panel plans to meet again Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.