

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

The Fraser Panel met Wednesday, July 23rd to review the status of the Fraser River sockeye migration. Increased abundance of Fraser River sockeye was observed in the Area 20 gillnet test fishery over the last three days, although catches on July 22 were the lowest of the three days. Current assessments suggest that Early Summer-run sockeye are tracking between the 50% and 75% probability level forecasts of abundance.

Fraser River discharge level measured at Hope declined rapidly over the last couple of days and is now approximately 3,600 cms. Fraser River water temperature (measured at Qualark Creek) is 18.2 °C today and is forecast to increase to over 19 °C by July 26. These temperatures could have an adverse impact on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and will be monitored closely.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed.

The Panel plans to meet again Friday, July 25th.