

Monday, July 28, 2003

The Fraser Panel met Monday, July 28th to review the status of the Fraser River sockeye migration. The abundance of Fraser River sockeye salmon migrating through Juan de Fuca Strait and Johnstone Strait increased considerably over the past few days.

Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are similar to the 50% probability level forecast if their timing is approximately four days later than normal. A more accurate estimate of their run size will be available this week. An in-season estimate of the run of Summer-run sockeye size will be made in approximately two weeks since their 50% arrival timing in Area 20 is forecast to be almost a week later than normal.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River continue to deteriorate as a result of the prolonged hot weather throughout the Fraser watershed. The discharge measured at Hope is presently 3,540 cms, which is almost 25% lower than normal for this date. Due to the low Fraser discharge and hot weather, river temperatures (measured at Qualark Creek) have increased to over 19 °C, which may stress migrating sockeye. Environmental conditions for migrating Fraser River sockeye will be monitored closely over the coming weeks.

The Fraser River Panel announced the following:

CANADIAN PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY

No change to regulations. Current regulations are: 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.

Note: Fishers catching a radio-tagged sockeye (which will have a thin wire antenna protruding from the mouth and an external, blue Floy tag attached to the antenna) are requested to please contact the following phone number, which is toll free in Canada and the U.S. 1-877-666-7575.

The Panel plans to meet again Tuesday, July 29th.