

Tuesday, July 09, 2002

The Fraser Panel met Tuesday, July 9th to review the status of the Fraser River sockeye migration. Early Stuart sockeye have been present in Juan de Fuca Strait and the Fraser River for the past 3 weeks. The abundance of this stock has been tracking considerably below the 50% pre-season forecast level. After review of this information, the Panel approved a revision of the Early Stuart run-size to 60,000 sockeye.

Water levels in the Fraser River have been very high during the sockeye migration to date. Over the weekend, water levels have been dropping and as of July 9, the flow at Hope was 7,500 cubic meters per second. The Panel expressed concern that many Early Stuart sockeye will not reach the spawning ground as a result of high flows.

The Panel will meet again, Friday July 12th.