

Friday, August 4th, 2017

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 4th to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Daily test fishing catches and escapements continue to track below the pre-season median forecast level of abundance. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 166,000 for the Early Summer run with a marine timing through Area 20 of July 20 was unchanged. Consequently, no sockeye directed fisheries are being planned by either country. Summer-run stocks currently comprise most of the sockeye migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait and Johnstone Strait. Assessments of Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available in August after their peak migration through marine assessment areas.

On August 3rd the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,870 m³/s, which is approximately 31% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 3rd was 18.6⁰C, which is 0.6⁰C higher than average for this date. Fraser River discharge levels and water temperatures will be monitored closely to determine if specific management actions are required during the in-river migratory period to help achieve sockeye escapement goals.

All Panel Area waters remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 8th, 2017.