

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 8th to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches and daily escapements continue to track below the pre-season expectations. At the meeting today, the Panel adopted an Early Stuart run size of 46,000 with marine timing through Area 20 of Jul 4th. The Panel also decreased the run size estimate for the Early Summer run to 125,000 with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 31st. Summer-run stocks currently comprise most of the sockeye migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait and Johnstone Strait, but the daily abundance of the summer run is tracking below the median forecast and closer to the p10 forecast. Consequently, no sockeye directed fisheries are being planned by either country. Assessments of Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available after their peak migration through marine assessment areas.

On August 7th the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,811 m³/s, which is approximately 27% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 7th was 19.2^oC, which is 1.1^oC 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 Friday, August 11th, 2017.