

Tuesday, August 15th, 2017

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 15th 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. 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. At the meeting today, the currently adopted Summer-run run size of 1,250,000, with marine timing through Area 20 of August 14th, was left unchanged. The Late run is also tracking below the p25, but it is still early to estimate the Late-run run size. Consequently, no sockeye directed fisheries are being planned by either country.

On August 14th the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,571 m³/s, which is approximately 26% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 14th was 19.7⁰C, which is 1.6⁰C 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 Friday, August 18th, 2017.