

Friday, August 2, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 2 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed, including an update of the rock slide at Big Bar. The rock slide at Big Bar continues to be a major source of concern for the Panel as migrating sockeye salmon will need to pass this area to reach their spawning grounds. Fish monitoring using radio tags is underway and hydroacoustic stations are operating above and below the slide site. Transportation of salmon past the slide using a helicopter is also underway, and a temporary fish ladder is now on site and will be installed when conditions allow.

It is currently estimated that approximately 76,400 sockeye have passed the Mission hydroacoustic site. Test fishing catches and daily escapements continue to track well below pre-season expectations. At the meeting today, the Panel decreased the Early Summer-run run size estimate from 465,000 to 221,000 (the p25 forecast) with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 8.

On August 1 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 4,011 cms, which is approximately 6% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 1 was 18.2°C, which is 0.2°C 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 6, 2019.