

Friday, August 9, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 9 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 continues at the site, the hydroacoustic stations are temporarily shut down due to high water, but will resume shortly. Transportation of salmon past the slide using a helicopter continues, and a temporary fish ladder is on site and will be installed when conditions allow.

It is currently estimated that approximately 111,700 sockeye and 8,300 pink salmon have passed the Mission hydroacoustic site. Test fishing catches and daily escapements continue to track well below pre-season forecast expectations. The Panel adopted an Early Summer-run run size of 112,000 (the p10 forecast) with an Area 20 timing of August 2. There were no changes to the Summer-run run sizes or timing, but the Panel noted that the Summer run is tracking below the p25 forecast (2,454,000) and there are no fisheries planned at this time.

On August 8 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 3,921 cms, which is approximately 4% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 8 was 19.1°C, which is 1°C above 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 13, 2019.