

Friday, August 16, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 16 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, and hydroacoustic stations are operating above and below the slide. A fish wheel is operating at the site to help with capturing fish for helicopter transport above the slide, and a temporary fish ladder is on site and will be installed when conditions allow.

It is currently estimated that approximately 172,500 sockeye and 28,000 pink salmon have passed the Mission hydroacoustic site. Test fishing catches and daily escapements of sockeye salmon continue to track well below pre-season forecast expectations. The Panel adopted an Early Summer-run run size of 85,000 with an Area 20 timing of July 26, a Summer-run run size of 224,000 with an Area 20 timing of August 17, and a Late-run run size of 111,000 with an Area 20 timing of August 25.

On August 15 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 3,237 cms, which is approximately 4% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 15 was 19.2°C, which is 1.2°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 20, 2019.