

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, September 3 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. There is now evidence of natural passage of sockeye salmon through the slide area.

It is currently estimated that approximately 428,200 sockeye and 1,149,100 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. No changes were made to the sockeye or pink salmon run sizes.

On September 2 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,493 cms, which is approximately 1% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 2 was 17.7°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 Friday, September 6, 2019.