

Friday, September 6, 2019

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, September 6 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 and pink salmon through the slide area, and as a result helicopter transport of fish above the slide has halted for the time being.

It is currently estimated that approximately 441,800 sockeye and 2,957,800 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 size or timing.

On September 5 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,279 cms, which is approximately 7% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on September 5 was 18.2°C, which is 1.9°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, September 10, 2019.