

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 28 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed, including an update on the rockslide at Big Bar. Natural passage has been limited at the slide, but 11 sockeye salmon have passed the slide at Big Bar to date with the assistance of the Whooshh system (although there are no current estimates of fallback); discharge levels remain high at the site.

It is currently estimated that approximately 79,200 sockeye salmon have passed the Mission Hydroacoustics site. At today's meeting, the Panel adopted an Early Stuart run size of 14,000 with an Area 20 timing of July 7. Assessment of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance is ongoing and a run-size estimate should be available in late July or early August. The last trips for the Area 12 and 20 marine gillnet test fisheries will occur Tuesday, July 28 and Thursday, July 30, respectively.

On July 27, the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 7,214 cms, which is approximately 58% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 27 was 16.4°C, which is 1.5°C below 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, July 31, 2020.