

Friday, July 31, 2020

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 31 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 some sockeye salmon have passed the slide at Big Bar to date with the assistance of the Whooshh system; discharge levels remain high at the site.

It is currently estimated that approximately 98,100 sockeye salmon have passed the Mission Hydroacoustics site. Early Summer run abundance appears to be tracking at or below the p25 pre-season run size forecast. No changes were made to the Early Summer run size at today's meeting, but a lower run size will likely be adopted next week. The last trips for the Area 12 and 20 marine purse seine test fisheries were postponed by one day each, and are currently scheduled to end Wednesday, August 5 and Thursday, August 6, respectively.

On July 30, the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 6,412 cms, which is approximately 46% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 30 was 17.1°C, which is 0.9°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 Tuesday, August 4, 2020.