

Friday, August 7, 2020

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 7 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 for this time of year.

It is currently estimated that approximately 142,900 sockeye salmon have passed the Mission Hydroacoustics site. The Summer run abundances have been tracking at or below the p10 forecast and the run size was reduced to the p10 forecast of 169,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of July 27. The Late run abundances have been tracking below the p10 forecast and the run size was reduced to the p10 forecast of 28,000 with an associated Area 20 timing of August 15.

On August 6, the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 5,439 cms, which is approximately 38% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 6 was 18.4°C, which is 0.4°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 11, 2020.