

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 26 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today the Early Stuart run-size estimate remained unchanged at 22,000 sockeye, with a 50% marine timing date through Area 20 of July 3. Test fishing catches and daily escapements are tracking within the expected range based on the pre-season median forecast level of abundance and pre-season timing forecast. Summer run sockeye currently comprise the majority of the Fraser sockeye in marine assessment areas and Early Summer run sockeye comprise the majority of the sockeye migrating in the Fraser River. An estimate of the Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available later in July after their peak migration through marine areas. A Summer-run sockeye abundance estimate should be available early in August after their peak migration through marine assessment areas.

On July 25 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 4,323 cms, which is approximately 9% below the historical average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 25 was 19.2 °C, which is 1.5 °C higher than average for this date. The Fraser River water temperature at Qualark is forecast to reach 20.5 °C on July 31. 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.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Commercial salmon fisheries in Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to Commercial salmon fisheries.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: As previously announced, open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, July 23, 2016, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, July 27, 2016, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, July 30, 2016.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, July 29, 2016.