

Friday, July 22, 2016

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 22 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches and daily escapements continue to track below the pre-season median forecast level of abundance at the pre-season timing forecast. However, the abundance in marine areas appears to have increased in recent days. Chilliwack and Pitt sockeye currently comprise most of the Early Summer-run sockeye that are presently migrating through assessment areas. An estimate of the Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available later in July after additional assessment data are available. Harrison sockeye currently comprise most of the Summer-run sockeye presently migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait assessment route. Assessments of Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available early in August after their peak migration through marine assessment areas.

On July 21 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 4,302 cms, which is approximately 12% below the historical average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on July 21 was 18.6 °C, which is 1.6 °C higher than average for this date. The Fraser River water temperature at Qualark is forecast to reach 20 °C on July 27. 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: Open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, July 23, 2016, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 27, 2016.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.