

Friday, August 19, 2016

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 19 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

There were no changes to the Early Stuart run-size estimate of 18,000 sockeye. At the meeting today the Panel decreased the Early Summer run-size estimate from 250,000 sockeye to 240,000 sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 20. The Panel also decreased the Summer run-size estimate from 600,000 sockeye to 520, 000 sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 30. At the meeting today the Panel approved a Late-run abundance estimate of 75,000 sockeye, with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 8. The current total Fraser River sockeye return is 853,000 fish with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 27. This would be the lowest total Fraser River sockeye return in the past 100 years. In-river assessment programs will continue to monitor the upstream migration of Fraser sockeye.

On August 18 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,706 cms, which is approximately 15% below the historical average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark on August 18 was 20.6 °C, which is 2.5°C higher than average for this date. The Fraser River water temperature at Qualark is forecast to reach 19.9 on August 24. Sustained exposure of sockeye to Fraser River water temperatures in this range has been shown to cause severe stress and early mortality.

All Panel Area Waters remain closed to Commercial salmon fisheries.

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