

Friday, August 21, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 21 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon continue to track below pre-season expectations. At the meeting today, the run-size estimate of 350,000 Early Summer run sockeye was unchanged. The Panel approved an increase to the Summer run-size estimate of 1,500,000 to 1,600,000 fish with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of August 11. The late run-size estimate of 419,000 sockeye was unchanged. Sockeye and pink salmon assessments will continue over the coming weeks as Summer run sockeye continue to dominate marine assessment areas and as pink salmon approach their expected 50% marine timing date of August 28.

On August 20 the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 2,203 cms, which is approximately 28% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 20 was 19.7 °C, which is 1.7 °C higher than 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 25, 2015.