

Friday, July 24, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 24 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is nearly complete. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 30,000 Early Stuart sockeye with a 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 7 was unchanged. Current assessments of abundance, of the earlier timed component, of the Early Summer-run management group are tracking near the forecast level. A more accurate assessment of their abundance and timing should be available early in August.

On July 23, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 3,008 cms, which is approximately 38% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 23 was 19.4 °C, which is 2.1 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River temperatures are forecast to decline to 17.9 °C by July 29 in response to a moderate weather forecast. 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 25, 2015, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

ALL CITIZEN FISHERY:

Remains closed Commercial salmon fisheries.

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 28, 2015.