

Friday, July 11, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 11 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The daily abundances of Early Stuart sockeye continue to be less than expected if the run is returning at the median forecast level of 299,000 fish and with a 50% marine arrival timing through Area 20 of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, at the meeting today, the Fraser River Panel approved a lower run size with later timing; adopting the p25 forecast abundance level of 189,000 Early Stuart sockeye with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available in early August after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

On July 10, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 5,502 cms, which is approximately 8% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 10 was 17 °C, which is 1.7 °C higher than average for this date. Over the next several days water temperatures in the Fraser River are forecast to exceed historic temperatures for the date. If those temperatures materialize, an increase to the management adjustment for Early Stuart sockeye may be required. 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 commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing at the present time.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 15, 2014.