

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 15 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 189,000 Early Stuart was unchanged. It is early in the marine migration of Early Summer run sockeye through marine assessment areas and assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are ongoing.

On July 14, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 4,919 cms, which is approximately 14% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 14 was 17.8 °C, which is 2.1 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to increase to 19.3°C over the next few days. At the meeting today the Panel adopted an Early Stuart proportional management adjustment of 2.12. Sustained exposure of sockeye to Fraser River water temperatures in this range may slow their migration and cause elevated levels of pre-spawn mortality.

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 Friday, July 18, 2014.