

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 22 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 240,000 Early Stuart sockeye and a 50% marine migration timing of July 9 was unchanged. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are ongoing.

On July 21, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 4,367 cms, which is approximately 18% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 21 was 17.9 °C, which is 1.3 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to decrease to 17.2°C over the next few days. At the meeting today, the Early Stuart proportional management adjustment factor of 2.12 was unchanged. 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 25, 2014.