

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 16 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 217,000 Early Stuart sockeye was unchanged. Recent stock identification analysis of Area 20 gillnet test fishery samples indicate contributions of approximately 18% Early Stuart, 68% Early Summer-run, and 14% Summer-run sockeye. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available later in July after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

On July 15, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 4,750 cms, which is about 17% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 15 was 16.6 °C, which is 0.8 °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 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 19, 2013.