

Friday, July 19, 2013

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 19 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 decreased to 180,000 fish. The 50% marine migration timing of Early Stuart sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to be July 2, which is three days earlier than the pre-season forecast of July 5. Recent stock identification analysis of Area 20 gillnet test fishery samples indicates contributions of approximately 10% Early Stuart, 60% Early Summer-run, and 30% Summer-run sockeye. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are ongoing. Chilliwack and Pitt sockeye currently comprise most of the Early Summer-run sockeye migrating through the marine test fishing areas. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available later in July after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

On July 18, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 4,510 cms, which is approximately 19% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 18 was 16.7 °C, which is 0.7 °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 Tuesday, July 23, 2013.