

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 23 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 180,000 Early Stuart sockeye was unchanged. Current assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are tracking near the forecast level of abundance, while their marine timing is likely earlier than forecast. A more accurate assessment of their abundance and timing should be available after additional information is collected on the later-timed stocks within this group. The migration of Summer-run sockeye through the marine assessment areas has been lower than expected thus far, unless their marine timing is considerably later than expected. Assessments of Summer-run sockeye abundance will not be available until early August.

On July 22, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 4,030 cms, which is approximately 23% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 22 was 19.1 °C, which is 2.4 °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 26, 2013.