

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 10 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Current run size assessments of Early Stuart sockeye are tracking in the forecast range, however, there is still very high uncertainty in the run estimates since high river flows have delayed the start of lower Fraser River hydro-acoustic assessment programs. A more accurate assessment of Early Stuart run size should be available over the next several days. In-season assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available in late July after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

Fraser River discharge levels have decreased in recent days; however they are still at levels that will have a negative effect on the upstream migration of sockeye. On July 9 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 9,000 cms, which is approximately 50% above average for this date. The projected temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 9 was 13.8 °C, which is 1.5 °C lower 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 13, 2012.