

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 17 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart and Early Summer-run sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The marine migration of Fraser sockeye through Juan de Fuca Strait has been moderate over the past several days. At the meeting today, the Panel increased the run size estimate of Early Stuart sockeye from 120,000 to 140,000 fish, with 50% marine migration timing through Area 20 of July 2. Early Summer-run sockeye are tracking abundance levels in the forecast range; however, an estimate of their abundance will not be available until after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred. It is early in the marine migration of Summer-run sockeye and assessments on their abundance and marine timing will not be available until approximately late July or early August.

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 16 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 8,300 cms, which is approximately 46% above average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 15 was 15.9 °C, which is 0.1 °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 20, 2012.