

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 2 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Recent purse seine test fishing catches in Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits continue to indicate a modest migratory abundance of Fraser River sockeye salmon. At the meeting today, the Panel approved a run size estimate for the Early Miscellaneous stock-group of 164,000 fish, which exceeds the forecast of 124,000 fish. The estimated 50% marine timing of Early Miscellaneous sockeye through Area 20 is July 27, which is slightly later than expected. It is too early to provide a run size estimate for the aggregate abundance of Early Summer-run sockeye, which includes Early Miscellaneous as well as Scotch, Seymour, and North Thompson stocks. It is early in the migration of Summer-run sockeye through the marine assessment areas and an update on their run size and marine migration timing will not be available until after the first week of August.

Environmental conditions in the Fraser River are currently satisfactory for the migration of sockeye salmon. On August 1, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 6,300 cms, which is about 41% higher than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 1 was 15.5 °C, which is 2.2 °C cooler than average for this date.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, August 3, 2011 to 12:00 p.m. (noon), Thursday, August 4, 2011.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remains closed to fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Wednesday, August 3, 2011.