

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met on Tuesday, June 29 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

It is too early in the marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye to provide estimates of their run size or timing. However, the assessed abundance of Early Stuart sockeye to-date is consistent with their forecast abundance. Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. The discharge of the Fraser River at Hope on June 28 was 5,900 cms, which is approximately 9% lower than average for this date. The water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on June 28 was 14.9 °C, which is just 0.1 °C warmer than average for this date.

The lower than normal snowpack levels in the Fraser River watershed are projected to result in lower than normal flows in 2010, which may result in periodic high water temperatures in the Fraser River this summer. 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 July 6, 2010.