

Friday, July 23, 2010

The Fraser River Panel met Friday July 23 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser River sockeye runs and to review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is nearly complete. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 90,000 Early Stuart sockeye was unchanged. Recent assessments suggest that the marine migration of Early Summer-run sockeye may be later than expected. An in-season assessment of how the run size of Early Summer-run sockeye is tracking relative to their forecast of 783,000 fish at the 50% probability level should be available next week. An in-season assessment of the abundance of Summer-run sockeye will likely not be available until about mid August. Recent assessments indicate that Harrison sockeye are tracking above their forecast level of abundance or their marine timing is earlier than expected.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. On July 22 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was about 3,600 cms, which is approximately 30% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 22 was 17.3<sup>0</sup> C, which is half a degree above average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures at Qualark Creek are projected to exceed 20<sup>0</sup> C by late July due to the low discharge and warm weather that has been forecasted. Water temperatures exceeding 20<sup>0</sup> C may adversely affect upstream migration and cause en route mortality of some Fraser sockeye.

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 Tuesday July 27, 2010.