

Thursday, July 2, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Thursday, July 2 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

In-season assessments of Early Stuart sockeye indicate that they are currently tracking less than the 75% probability level forecast of abundance, which is 165,000 fish. However, a formal update of run size will not be available until after the peak of the run is observed passing marine areas (expected July 4). Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently near average for the time of year. Fraser River discharge (at Hope) and water temperature at Qualark were 5400 cms and 13 °C respectively on July 1, which are slightly below normal 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 July 7, 2009.