

Friday, July 10, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 10 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the Fraser River Panel approved a decrease in the run size estimate of Early Stuart sockeye from their 75% probability level forecast of abundance of 165,000 fish to 140,000 fish. The 50% migration timing of Early Stuart sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to be June 29, which is five days earlier than the pre-season forecast. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available later in July after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. On July 9 the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 4,600 cms, which is approximately 23% lower than average for this date. The water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 9 was 15.8 °C, which is 0.4 °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.

Please be advised that the telephone number for U.S. Non-Indian fishing schedules available through the National Marine Fisheries Service's Hotline in Seattle has been changed to 1-800-662-9825.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 14, 2009.