

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 14 to receive an update on the migration of the Fraser River sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches of sockeye in Johnstone Strait and Juan de Fuca Strait as well in the Fraser River indicate low migration of Fraser River sockeye over the past several days. At the meeting today, the run size estimate of 140,000 Early Stuart sockeye was unchanged; however, present assessments suggest that the return will likely be lower than this. The migration of Early Summer-run sockeye through marine assessment areas has also been lower than expected to-date.

Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. On July 13 the Fraser River discharge at Hope was approximately 4,850 cms, which is approximately 15% lower than normal, while the water temperature at Qualark Creek was 16.2 °C, which is 0.5 °C higher than average for this date.

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 17, 2009.