

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 21 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 Fraser River sockeye in marine areas have increased slightly in recent days. However, the migration of Fraser River sockeye through marine assessment areas to-date is lower than expected. The current run size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye of 110,000 fish may be decreased at a future Panel meeting after further data assessments are conducted. It is too early to provide an update on the run size of Early Summer-run sockeye; however current abundance assessments indicate that they are tracking lower than forecast if their timing is near average.

Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. However, Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to exceed 19 °C within a week, which may adversely impact the upstream migration of Fraser River sockeye.

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 23, 2009.