

Friday, July 17, 2009

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 17 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.

Sockeye catches in marine and Fraser River test fisheries thus far this season indicate that the migration of sockeye has been low. The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is nearly complete. At the meeting today, the Fraser River Panel decreased the run size estimate for Early Stuart sockeye from 140,000 fish to 110,000 fish. Early Summer-run sockeye will be continuing to enter the marine assessment areas over the next few weeks. The 50% probability level forecast for these sockeye is 739,000 fish. The migration of Early Summer-run sockeye through marine assessment areas has been considerably lower than expected to-date.

Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. However, Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to reach approximately 19 °C over the next ten days. Water temperatures exceeding 19 °C may stress sockeye and slow their upstream migration.

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 21, 2009.