

Tuesday, August 12, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 12 to review the status of the sockeye runs and receive an update on environmental conditions in the Fraser River.

The marine migration of Fraser sockeye has been declining over the past several days. At the meeting today the run size estimates were unchanged: 440,000 Early Summer-run sockeye, 1,000,000 Summer-run sockeye, 30,000 Birkenhead sockeye, and 232,000 True Late-run sockeye.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are becoming more adverse. On August 11, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was 2,950 cms, which is approximately 20% lower than average, while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 18.5 °C, which is 0.7 °C warmer than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to increase to approximately 20 °C by August 19. Water temperatures exceeding 20 °C have been associated with high pre-spawning mortality of Fraser sockeye. As a result of the much earlier than average migration timing of many Fraser sockeye this season, a large portion of Fraser sockeye are already well en route or have arrived at their spawning grounds and therefore their exposure to these higher, adverse water temperatures has been substantially decreased.

All commercial fisheries remain closed to fishing in Panel Area waters.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Friday, August 15, 2008.