

Friday, August 15, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 15 to review the status of the sockeye runs and receive an update on environmental conditions in the Fraser River.

Recent test fishing catches of sockeye indicate that the marine migration of Fraser sockeye is declining rapidly. At the meeting today: the run size estimate of 440,000 Early Summer-run sockeye was increased to 450,000 fish; the estimate of Summer-run sockeye abundance was decreased from 1,000,000 fish to 925,000 fish; the run size estimate for the Birkenhead stock-group of 30,000 fish was increased to 50,000 fish; and the run size estimate of 232,000 True Late-run sockeye was decreased to 200,000 fish (which is the sum of 47,000 Harrison sockeye and 153,000 Weaver/Shuswap sockeye).

On August 14, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 3,300 cms, which is slightly lower than average, while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 18.4 °C, which is 0.7 °C warmer than average for this date. Water temperatures exceeding 18 °C may decrease the swimming capability of Fraser sockeye.

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

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 19, 2008.