

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 15 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart and Early Summer-run sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The marine migration of Early Stuart sockeye is nearing completion. At the meeting today, the Panel approved an in-season run size estimate of 35,000 Early Stuart sockeye, which is their 50% probability level forecast of abundance. Early Summer-run sockeye will continue to enter the marine assessment areas over the next few weeks. The 50% probability level forecast for these sockeye is 349,000 fish. Assessments of their run size should be available later in July after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

Migration conditions for sockeye entering the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. The discharge of the Fraser River at Hope on July 14 was 5,400 cms, which is slightly lower than the historical average. The water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 14 was 15.6 °C, which is also slightly lower than average for this date.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing at the present time.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 18, 2008.