

Friday, July 18, 2008

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 18 to receive an update on the status of the Fraser River sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River.

The run size estimate of 35,000 Early Stuart sockeye was unchanged at the meeting today. The estimated abundance of Early Summer-run sockeye migrating through assessment areas thus far has been higher than expected. However, current assessments suggest that their marine timing is several days earlier than their expected 50% arrival timing in Area 20 of July 24. A more accurate estimate of their abundance and marine migration timing will be available next week when a greater proportion of the run has been assessed. The abundance of Summer-run sockeye this season is forecast to be 1,810,000 fish. In-season assessments of their marine timing and abundance will not be available until their expected peak migration period through Juan de Fuca Strait between late July and early August.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River continue to be satisfactory. On July 17, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 4,400 cms, which is approximately 20% lower than average, while the water temperature at Qualark Creek was 16.6 °C, which is slightly warmer than average for this date.

**CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

Remain closed to fishing.

**UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:**

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:**

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Open to drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Saturday, July 19, 2008 to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 23, 2008.

**NON INDIAN FISHERY:**

Remains closed to fishing.

(Note: U. S. Non-Treaty fishers should check the U.S. hotline and WDFW regulations before fishing as there are additional State of Washington regulations, including time restrictions that may be in effect).

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 22, 2008.