

Friday, July 13, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 13 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

In-season assessments of Early Stuart sockeye indicate that they are currently tracking below the 50% probability level forecast of abundance, which is 45,000 fish. A more accurate assessment of their abundance will be available next week. DNA analyses indicate that Early Summer-run sockeye have begun entering the Fraser River.

The recent hot weather in the Fraser River watershed has melted much of the remaining snow-pack. On July 12, the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was approximately 6,750 cms, which is slightly below the level that the first signs of physiological stress to migrating sockeye are typically observed. The water temperature of the Fraser River at Hope on July 12 was about 16.2 °C, which is slightly above average for this date. Fraser River discharge levels and water temperatures will be monitored closely this summer to determine specific management actions that are required during the in-river migratory period to help achieve escapement goals.

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 20, 2007.