

Friday, July 20, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 20 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 Early Stuart sockeye run has been weak this season due to the low return of four year old fish. Current run size assessments indicate that the run size of Early Stuart sockeye will be less than half of the 50% probability level forecast of 45,000 fish. Early Summer-run will be continuing to enter the marine assessment areas over the next few weeks. The 50% probability level forecast for these sockeye is 690,000 fish. An in-season estimate of their run size should be available in early August assuming that their peak marine timing is near average.

The cooler weather in the Fraser River watershed over the past several days has caused a decrease in water temperatures. On July 19, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 6,600 cms while the water temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek was 17.1 °C, which is almost 1 °C higher than average for this date. The discharge of the Fraser River at Hope is forecast to decrease while water temperatures are forecast to increase to approximately 18 °C by early next week.

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 24, 2007.