

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 31 to receive an update on the status of the Fraser River sockeye runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches in marine and Fraser River assessment areas have continued to indicate a low migration of Fraser River sockeye salmon thus far this season. However, sockeye catches in the Juan de Fuca Strait gillnet test fishery increased during the last two days, which is consistent with the expected building migration of Summer-run sockeye through marine assessment areas over the next several days. The migration of Early Summer-run sockeye through marine and Fraser River assessment areas has been very low to-date and it is unlikely that they will reach the 75% probability level forecast of 389,000 fish. Assessments of the abundance of Summer-run sockeye will be provided after the first week in August.

On July 30, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 5,500 cms, while the water temperature at Qualark Creek was 17.3 °C, which is the average water temperature for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to increase to 18.3 °C by August 3.

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 August 3, 2007.