

Tuesday, August 7, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, August 7 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 of Fraser River sockeye salmon in the marine assessment areas have generally been moderate over the last several days. The return of four year old Fraser River sockeye thus far this season continues to be far below pre-season expectations. The current run size estimate for Early Summer-run sockeye that is being used for management purposes is 231,000 fish; although current assessments suggest that the return may be lower than this. The expected peak migration of Summer-run sockeye through Juan de Fuca Strait would be occurring over the next few days. However, current Summer-run sockeye run size estimates suggest that the return is considerably below the 50% probability level forecast (3,369,000 fish) or their marine migration timing is substantially later than forecast.

Environmental conditions in the Fraser River are currently satisfactory for the migration of sockeye salmon. On August 6, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 4,400 cms, while the water temperature at Qualark Creek was 17.6 °C, which is 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 August 10, 2007.