

Monday, August 13, 2007

The Fraser River Panel met Monday, August 13 to receive an update on the status of the Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon runs and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

The estimated abundance of sockeye salmon migrating through the marine approach routes to the Fraser River continues to be much lower than forecast. The total return of Fraser sockeye this season is currently tracking a run size that is only about 25% of the pre-season 50% probability level forecast. At the meeting today, the Panel reduced the run size estimate of Early Summer-run sockeye from 150,000 fish to 120,000 fish and the run size estimate of Summer-run sockeye from 1,261,000 fish to 750,000 fish. The Panel also adopted the 90% probability level forecast run sizes for true Late-run sockeye of 504,000 fish and Birkenhead sockeye of 227,000 fish. Test fishing catches of Fraser River pink salmon continue to be moderate, however they are expected to increase over the next two weeks as the peak migration of these fish enters Johnstone and Juan de Fuca Straits.

On August 12, the Fraser River discharge at Hope was about 3,800 cms, while the water temperature at Qualark Creek was 17.2 °C, which is approximately 0.5 °C lower than 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 17, 2007.