

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 12 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches in marine waters and the Fraser River have been extremely low since assessments began on June 21. The Panel approved a run size estimate of 35,000 Early Stuart sockeye at the meeting today, which is only a small fraction of the 50% probability level forecast (258,000 fish).

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory. The discharge level in the Fraser River (at Hope) is currently 6,100 cms, which is 5% higher than average. The water temperature of the Fraser River (at Qualark Creek) on July 11 was 15.7 °C, which is 0.2 °C warmer than average.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 15, 2005.