

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 19 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart and Early Summer-run sockeye.

Recent assessments of the migration of Early Stuart sockeye suggest that their 50% migration date through Area 20 is at least five to seven days later than normal. Recent DNA analyses from sockeye samples collected in the marine approach areas continue to indicate a high contribution of Early Stuart sockeye. Furthermore, a large escapement of Early Stuart sockeye past Mission was estimated on July 18. The Panel noted that the current accounted run of Early Stuart sockeye already exceeds the current estimate of 35,000 fish; however the total return will still be far lower than the forecast level of abundance. The Panel intends to revise the estimate of Early Stuart run size at the meeting on July 22. Analysis of Early Summer-run sockeye migration and timing data indicates that their timing is likely later than normal and it will be difficult to develop an accurate estimate of their run size until at least the end of July.

Migration conditions for sockeye in the Fraser River are presently satisfactory.

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 22, 2005.