

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

The Fraser Panel met Tuesday, July 20 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. The Panel approved an increase in the run size estimate of Early Stuart sockeye from 190,000 to 200,000 fish (slightly lower than the pre-season 50% p. forecast of 216,000 fish). Although indicators of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are currently exceeding the 50% p level forecast (885,000 fish), it is still too early to provide an in-season update on their run size.

The discharge level in the Fraser River (at Hope) is currently 3,500 cms, which is 35% lower than normal. The water temperature of the Fraser River (at Qualark Creek) on July 19 was 19.4 °C. Fraser River water temperatures of approximately 19 °C may cause physiological stress and slow the migration of sockeye.

The Panel announced the following regulations for Panel Area waters:

CANADIAN FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

Remain closed to fishing.

UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER PANEL AREA WATERS:

TREATY INDIAN FISHERY:

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Extended for drift gillnets from 12:00 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, July 21, 2004, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, July 24, 2004.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remain closed to fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 23.