

Monday, August 16, 2004

The Fraser Panel met Monday, August 16 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. The estimate of 1,500,000 Early Summer-run sockeye (69% higher than the 50% p level forecast of 885,000 fish) remains unchanged. The run size estimate of 3,500,000 Summer-run sockeye was reduced to 3,200,000 fish (9% lower than the 50% p level forecast) at the meeting today.

In-river temperature conditions for Fraser River sockeye continue to be very adverse for migrating sockeye and high in-river mortality is probable. Fraser River discharge at Hope is currently 2,400 cms (26% lower than average for this date) and the water temperature (at Qualark Creek) is presently 21.1 °C (3.2 °C higher than average for this date).

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:

Remain closed to fishing.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remain closed to fishing.

Further commercial fishing in Panel Area waters is not likely this season. The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on August 20, 2004.