

Friday, July 16, 2004

The Fraser Panel met Friday, July 16 to receive an update on the migration of Early Stuart and Early Summer-run sockeye and the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. As a result of their sustained migration, the Panel approved an in-season run size estimate of 190,000 Early Stuart sockeye. Although preliminary, current assessments suggest that Early Summer-run sockeye are tracking above the 50% p level forecast. A clearer indication of their abundance and timing will not be possible until next week when a greater proportion of the run has been assessed.

The discharge level in the Fraser River (at Hope) is currently 3,550 cms, which is 37% lower than normal. Fraser River water temperature (at Qualark Creek) is presently 18.2 °C. Although present conditions in the Fraser River mainstem are generally satisfactory for sockeye migration, Fraser River water temperature is forecast to increase over the next several days, which may cause physiological stress in migrating 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: Open to drift gillnets 12:00 p.m. (noon), Sunday, July 18, 2004, to 12:00 p.m. (noon) Wednesday, July 21, 2004.

NON INDIAN FISHERY:

Remain closed to fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on July 20.