

Friday, August 18th, 2017

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, August 18th to receive an update on the migration of Fraser River sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

Test fishing catches and daily escapements continue to track below pre-season expectations. The Fraser River Panel adopted an Early Summer run size of 150,000 with marine timing through Area 20 of August 2nd. Summer-run stocks currently comprise most of the sockeye migrating through the Juan de Fuca Strait and Johnstone Strait, but the daily abundance of the Summer run is tracking below median forecast levels. At the meeting today, the currently adopted Summer-run run size of 1,250,000, with marine timing through Area 20 of August 14th, was left unchanged. Daily abundances of Late-run sockeye are also tracking below their median forecast levels, and the Panel adopted the p25 forecast of 247,000 for the Late-run run size with marine timing of Aug. 18th. Consequently, no sockeye directed fisheries are being planned by either country.

On August 17th the discharge of the Fraser River at Hope was 2,505 m³/s, which is approximately 23% below average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on August 17th was 19.0°C, which is 0.9°C higher than average for this date. Fraser River discharge levels and water temperatures will be monitored closely to determine if specific management actions are required during the in-river migratory period to help achieve sockeye escapement goals.

All Panel Area waters remain closed to commercial salmon fishing.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017.