

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

The Fraser River Panel met Tuesday, July 21 to receive an update on the migration of Fraser sockeye and review the status of migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed.

At the meeting today, the Fraser River Panel approved a run size estimate of 30,000 Early Stuart sockeye with 50% marine timing through Area 20 of July 7. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance should be available early in August after their peak migration through marine areas has occurred.

On July 20, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was 3,255 cms, which is approximately 35% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 20 was 20.1 °C, which is 3.2 °C higher than average for this date. Past years of such high in-river temperatures have been associated with large enroute losses of sockeye populations migrating to their spawning grounds. In anticipation of the potential for mortality in 2015, the Panel increased the proportional management adjustment for Early Stuart sockeye from 0.68 to 4.18. Fraser River water temperatures and discharge levels will be monitored closely to determine if additional 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 Friday, July 24, 2015.