

Friday, July 18, 2014

The Fraser River Panel met Friday, July 18 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 run size estimate of 189,000 Early Stuart sockeye was increased to 240,000 fish. The 50% marine migration timing of Early Stuart sockeye through Area 20 is estimated to be July 9, which is 2 days later than the pre-season forecast of July 7. Assessments of Early Summer-run sockeye abundance are ongoing.

On July 17, the Fraser River water discharge at Hope was approximately 4,518 cms, which is approximately 20% lower than average for this date. The temperature of the Fraser River at Qualark Creek on July 17 was 18.8 °C, which is 2.8 °C higher than average for this date. Fraser River water temperatures are forecast to decrease to 17.9°C over the next few days. At the meeting today the Early Stuart proportional management adjustment factor of 2.12 was unchanged. Sustained exposure of sockeye to Fraser River water temperatures in this range may slow their migration and cause elevated levels of pre-spawn mortality.

All commercial fisheries in Panel Area waters remain closed to fishing at the present time.

The next in-season meeting of the Panel is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 22, 2014.