

Summary of Action Items

DFO to report back on how First Nations were involved in setting Smsy targets for Fraser Chinook populations.

DFO to share 2020 Fraser Chinook recreational fishery regulations

DFO to clarify what early season chinook fisheries to expect for 2021 (confusion re 2020/21 plan vs 2021/22 IFMP).

Michelle/Jeff to follow up questions about how DFO will ensure an inclusive process that includes First Nations in reviewing science questions relating to MM and MSF proposals.

DFO to respond to questions about details and proposed role of chinook fishery evaluation tool on Day 3, Tier 2. (COMPLETE - further discussion proposed at FSMB, DFO to provide more info - see below)

DFO asked to outline what steps are planned to resolve concerns about shortcomings in the recreational fishery catch monitoring program.

Michelle to follow up with DFO re request to share total number of 2020 C&P hours, vessel inspections. (May be COMPLETE?)

Follow up discussion Michelle/DFO re what DFO is/has done to implement an ecosystem-based approach to managing stock conservation issues.

Request for information on sockeye impacts in trawl bycatch.

DFO to report on which First Nations participated in the SBC Chinook committee and/or supported development of the assessment framework.

DFO to send Allison the 2021 IFMP feedback package for distribution.

DFO to report on how retained salmon bycatch in the groundfish trawl fishery is disposed of.

Day 1: Welcome, Introductions, Process Review

Facilitator Marcel Shepert welcomed participants and reviewed process guidelines and objectives. Introductions & opening prayer waived due to initial tech issues.

Setting the Stage: Fraser & Approach Salmon Forum

Ken Malloway, FSMC & Elan Park, DFO - Forum Planning Committee Co-Chairs

Joint presentation covered the following key points (See Power Point for details):

- Co-presenter introductions.
- Acknowledgement of the very serious 2020-21 COVID challenges, as per Ken's experience, and also acknowledgement that this Forum is happening in a time of major transition.

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- Introduction of Forum Planning Committee members.

Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA)

Matthew Parslow, DFO & Brent Ryan-Lewis, FSMC

Joint presentation covered the following key points (See Power Point for details):

- Presentation overview; key terms and acronym list
- Background to 2019 signing of the CMA, with implementation beginning in 2019/20 to establish the new Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC - Tier 1 table) and Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB - Tier 2 table).
- Overview of the CMA.
 - Second round of Tier 1 regional sessions in March to further discuss the role of the 4 regions & where/how regional bodies like AAROMS fit in.
- Governance structure.
- Implementation to date: representation, appointments and initial work planning/priority setting; defining roles, responsibilities, communications, processes and future of Forums.
 - Questions under discussion/for feedback include whether Forum outputs should go to the FSMB or just to DFO.
- Annual FSMB work plan development process.
- Draft FSMB work plan items.
- Expectations for balance of 2020/21 fiscal year to March 31.

Discussion

- Q/A: More clarity is needed re mandate(s), liability and appointments for former Forum JTC members. Terms of reference for the Forum JTC can be updated if needed.
 - The CMA clearly defines how the new formally-appointed new JTC reports to FSMB. The intent so far is that the less formal technical process for these Forum sessions (JTWG) would be less formal and broadly inclusive.
 - A JTC appointee who is a paid AAROM body employee remains responsible to that AAROM as the parent organization. More work is needed to ensure these questions are clarified and that the new processes are transparent.
 - Links between our AAROM body and this process are unclear. We are still being invited to participate in a number of ongoing activities and it's unclear if FSMB is also involved and if our participation is supposed to be vetted via FSMB.
 - FSMC/B terms of reference allow for establishment of technical subcommittees to create necessary linkages.
 - FSMC is just starting to discuss these issues at the regional sessions. The CMA came without an implementation, so we have been working through such issues, but the hope is to revive the Forum's JTWG which is different from the FSMB's JTC.

2020 Fraser Chinook Stock Assessment, Fisheries

Brittany Jenewein, DFO

Presentation covered the following key points (See Power Point for details):

- Background: 5 Fraser chinook management units.
- 2020 stock assessment: Run size model outputs for 2020.
 - Post-season assessment: preliminary run size estimates expected in a month or so; Big Bar slide complications.
- Preliminary escapement estimates vs targets, trends.

Discussion

- Q/A: MSY = maximum sustainable yield. Smsy = number of spawners required to achieve that. There are various ways to estimate that, including based on available habitat.
- How was Smsy estimated for systems in our traditional territories without our traditional knowledge and input?
 - These estimates were developed by the PST's Chinook Technical Committee.

ACTION: DFO to report back on how First Nations were involved in setting Smsy targets for Fraser Chinook populations.

Presentation, continued:

- Albion test fishery summary (5 steelhead encountered; released with data collection).
- 2020 recreational fishery management.

ACTION: DFO to share 2020 Fraser Chinook recreational fishery regulations.

- Preliminary 2020 recreational catch estimates (updated data to be shared as available).
- 2020 First Nations fisheries.
 - 2020 Fraser River First Nations harvest.

Discussion

- Smsy is just one measure of population health. Why use that metric vs. others?
 - DFO: For Fraser Fall Chinook, we have an established escapement goal to use for evaluating fishery management. There is no escapement goal for the other groups, so this is one metric often used to evaluate fishery management (addresses goals of optimizing both harvest and sustainability).

2020 Fraser Chinook management & 2021 planning

Jeff Grout, DFO

Presentation covered the following key points (See Power Point for details):

- Chinook status assessments overview, COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assessments.
- 2020 Fraser Chinook fishery management objectives for the 5 management groups.

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- 2020 fishery management approach.
 - Work underway to assess where 2020 fishery mortalities occurred.
 - Northern BC AABM (Aggregate Abundance Based Management) & ISBM (Individual Stock Based Management) catch summary.
 - WCVI AABM & ISBM catch summaries.
- 2021 management measures.
- Current IFMP considerations, evolution of fisheries & fishery proposals; SFAB proposals for broader mark-selective fisheries (MSF).
 - Chinook fishery evaluation framework: tool developed in 2020 to provide transparency in decision making; updated for use in 2021 IFMP planning.
- 2021 Fraser Chinook IFMP: Summary of feedback from First Nations, SFAB and MCC.
- Update re status of Southern BC Chinook Technical Committee.

Discussion

- Need to consider alternatives to Smsy in setting benchmarks.
- How is trawl fishery bycatch of chinook accounted for in stock assessment?
 - DFO: DFO has a memo outlining results of the recent analysis on this, but it identifies that more details are needed (e.g. sampling rates and # of sub-legals) so DFO is pursuing changes to monitoring protocols to answer these questions.
 - The results shared yesterday were shocking; disappointed that these numbers have not been included previously in stock assessment.
- Presentation does not fully reflect our 2020 fisheries.
 - DFO: Correct. The 2020/21 IFMP measures did not start in April.
 - It's been very confusing, so it would be helpful for DFO to clarify what fisheries to expect for 2021. **ACTION**
- Q/A: DFO's intent is that 2021 chinook fishery evaluation framework consultation would come directly to First Nations and other process channels in light of concerns expressed last year re using the SBC Chinook committee for annual planning.
 - Concern about potentially just repeating 2020 fishery measures given growing population conservation concerns.
- Further to the 2015 report on enhancement and wild/hatchery survival issues, does DFO plan to update the necessary science on proposed chinook MSFs?
 - DFO: Work is being done and there are lessons to be learned from where MSF has been used elsewhere. Work includes that by the Pacific Salmon Commission's selective fishery evaluation group.
 - Q/A: Staff are not aware of a formal CSAS science review request at this point. DFO has an internal process for such requests.
 - Concerns about the need for a more inclusive process to review the science questions, given the potential impacts to First Nations and many user groups.

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- DFO: DFO's internal process is informed by consultations.

ACTION: Michelle/Jeff to follow up questions about how DFO will ensure an inclusive process that includes First Nations in reviewing science questions relating to MM and MSF proposals.

- Can DFO's evaluation tool model what recreational fishery reductions would be needed to ensure FSC needs are met? What are the objectives? Does it include Sparrow? How are First Nations involved in using it?
 - DFO: DFO welcomes input on the tool and evaluations.
- Echo concerns about MSF and whether they help or harm wild stocks. Unless they are right at the hatchery, too many wild impacts. DFO does not have my free, prior or informed consent for proposed SFAB fisheries, including a proposed fishery starting in April, as long as our FSC needs are not being met and conservation goals are not being met. When sockeye return next year, DFO needs to plan to allocate any available harvest to meet FSC needs first.
 - DFO: Concerns noted. Evaluation framework addresses FSC priority and conservation. DFO has already put fishery measures in place and welcomes discussion on what else is needed.
- Hope for communications materials to be distributed to provide transparency and ensure everyone is informed on management decisions regarding chinook fisheries. When early springtime marine fisheries shifted from targeting chinook to coho there was no difference in gear/method, just a language change. Concern that this is just a way to get around rules.
 - DFO: We can share decision rationales but we face some constraints re protected communications with the minister. Creel surveys ask to inspect retained catch but there are still some concerns about release impacts.

Big Bar Update

Dale Michie, DFO

This presentation gave an update on ongoing remediation work and fish passage results for 2020. Highlights included (See PowerPoint for details):

- Passage for early-timed runs still impeded at low flows; permanent fishway required.
- Contract for fishway awarded, design discussions underway; intent to have it ready for 2022.
- Planned further work broken down into four specific tasks/phases.
- Expect third season of assisted fish passage.
- Evaluation of 2019/20 response done to inform program improvements for 2021.
- Planning for key 2021 programs.
- Conservation enhancement overview.
- Links for further information.

Day 1, Tier 2 adjourned

Day 2 Welcome, Recap of Day 1

Following introductions, Marcel briefly recapped Day 1, Tier 2 meeting highlights.

Discussion

- Request for further clarity from DFO re reference to First nations helping to develop the chinook fishery evaluation tool. More transparency is needed on this.

ACTION: DFO to respond to questions about details and proposed role of chinook fishery evaluation tool on Day 3, Tier 2.

Fraser & Approach Forum: Technical Session

Brittany Jenewein, Aidan Fisher, JTWG co-chairs

Joint presentation recapped key topics discussed at the Feb. 1 technical session. Highlights included (See PowerPoint for details):

- Difference between appointed FSMB JTC & open Forum tech session: intent to keep both
- Update on Chinook Evaluation Framework & questions for further discussion at this Forum.
- DFO presentation on Southern BC Avid Angler and SBC creel program data: questions and concerns, including issues relating to compliance and uncertainty.
- DFO reviewing salmon/chinook bycatch in groundfish fisheries, with concerns especially about trawl fishery impacts on chinook: most is in WCVI/Juan de Fuca and ranges between 7,000 and 25,000 pounds/year. Discussion of need for more robust and consistent sampling/monitoring to better assess these impacts and potential measures to limit bycatch.
- MM & MSF: concerns that there is insufficient discussion with First Nations; implications for the PST (Pacific Salmon Treaty) CWT (Coded Wire Tag) stock assessment program.
- Items identified for March, April sessions include FRSSI, MSF/MM, Trawl bycatch, pink forecasting.

Discussion

- Broad concerns about BC trawl fisheries as “dirty” and about treating chinook bycatch as “offal.” Shrimp trawl fisheries still get more eulachon than we do. It’s important to shed more light on their impacts and to take appropriate action to minimize bycatch impacts.
- Concerns about gaps and shortcomings identified in recreational catch monitoring programs which have been repeatedly raised for many years. How will FSMB and/or other processes take action to resolve these concerns? SFAB is proposing to maintain and add new fisheries. Also new concerns re increased coho bycatch.

ACTION: DFO asked to outline what steps are planned to resolve concerns about shortcomings in the recreational fishery catch monitoring program.

- Question re rec fishery access to coho: Did any First Nations have coho access? If not, why not? There is deep frustration and many questions re the 7,000 - 25,000 pounds of salmon treated like offal in trawl sector bycatch. Also concern that DFO hasn’t transparently counted all fishery impacts to ensure management meets conservation & FSC needs.

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- DFO: The sport coho fishery that saw increased effort was a non-retention fishery. The targeted fishery changed from targeting chinook to targeting coho in the same area when it changed from non-retention to no fishing for chinook. No retention of either permitted.
- DFO: Some coho DNA data is available. Propose that it be shared at the next technical meeting. We need to better clarify language re “open” vs “non-retention” fisheries in communications.
- DFO: Clarify that reluctance to share data was just some Avid Angler participants.
- Most salmon bycatch in trawl fisheries was in WCVI, but some was in Georgia Strait in winter months in times and areas when some stocks are known to be rearing, so it warrants further investigation. Herring is a key food source for salmon and there was also high herring bycatch in these fisheries, which warrants further investigation.
- Mortalities in non-retention fisheries need to be considered. This is a key problem with MSF, as a portion of released fish will still die.
- DFO: Some licenses were issued to upper Fraser First Nations for coho last year.
- There remain process questions about how to resolve questions raised regarding catch monitoring & MSF.
 - DFO: DFO is hearing and will consider feedback in these processes and will discuss further as we learn more about outcomes from last year’s fisheries. DFO also has a coho planning process that will consider issues and concerns raised.
 - DFO: In the past, this Forum has identified concerns in a follow up letter, so suggest flagging such issues in the letter to put them on the record.
- What will be the role of FSMB?
 - FSMC: Propose using regional sessions to get input to FSMC Main Table, which would go to FSMB. Still working to approve draft process.

2020 Conservation & Protection Update

Art Demsky, DFO C&P

DFO presentation highlights (See PowerPoint for details)

- BCI challenges: lack of opportunities, COVID, Big Bar slide.
 - BCI closure seizures.
 - 2020-21 BCI successes, including engagement and partnerships with First Nations, Fishery Act changes effective November 2020 that restored priority to habitat protection activities & major case files.
- Lower Fraser challenges: shellfish safety, Fraser stocks of concern, compliance inspections; endangered and invasive species, habitat enforcement.
- Fraser Coastal successes: shellfish safety, illegal gear seizures, new officer training, new partnerships & major case files.
 - Major challenges included COVID, staffing and high levels of illegal sales.

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- Fraser Valley West: Illegal gillnet seizures, cross border and air cargo inspections, new habitat coordinator position.
 - Challenges include program cancellations & increased angler presence on smaller streams due to COVID.
- Fraser Valley East/canyon: High number of gillnet seizures, collaboration with rec/FN helped to calm conflict on Vedder & Fraser, new helicopter funding, new staffing.
 - Challenges include COVID, low returns & more angler activity fuelling tensions.
- Summary of illegal gillnet seizures.
- South Coast Area: Complexity/inconsistent/late rec fishery measures creating confusion; community access restrictions and US border closures.
 - Significant changes to rec fishery — reduced effort early in the season, less visitor/charter/lodge activity but more local angler effort due to COVID.
 - First Nations rights-based fisheries; conflict, lack of clarity re Somass sockeye and chinook fisheries.
 - Very limited commercial fisheries.
 - Successes include shellfish safety monitoring, seizures and major case files.
- South Coast marine patrol program: Coast Guard staff & fishery officers: commercial, recreational and First Nations vessel checks.
 - 211 violations reported to end of November: Summary of violation stats by issue, sector, compliance action and area.

Discussion

- Concerns raised again about jet boats on Fraser tributaries.
 - DFO: Don't disagree that such vessels are not appropriate for some areas. A new process, including consultation requirements, has been started for proposed Transport Canada restrictions in the Upper Pitt. With COVID, we saw increased boat traffic. Issues include health and safety concerns, risky behaviour by joy riders (not all anglers) and potential cumulative impacts. Any local concerns about risks to fish/habitat should be reported to C&P.
- Q/A: In 2019, ~220 nets were seized, so 2020 seizures of over 300 nets were a lot higher than average and a concern in a year of many conservation issues.
- Propose more detailed presentation to LFFA on this issue. We know a small percentage of our people do it and many are repeat offenders. We used to address this when we had our own enforcement staff. Some illegal net fishing is done by non-First Nations poachers.
- Concern about sport anglers fishing on spawning grounds - that should not be allowed.
- We need to assess cumulative impacts on stocks. What has been done to establish baselines for this? Also question about environmental effects.
 - Propose returning to questions about environmental forecasts and cumulative effects on Day 3. DFO does annual forecasting on Fraser environmental conditions.

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- Concern about illegal gillnets & propose role for FSMC to liaise with individual nations so they can be part of the solution.
- Propose also showcasing positive examples, e.g. trained youth demonstrating best practices as role models.
 - That connects to the potential role of Guardians as more than just eyes and ears on the ground.
- Question/concern about adequacy of enforcement resources relative to complexity of recreational fishery measures and number of participants.
- **ACTION:** Michelle to follow up with DFO re request to share total number of 2020 C&P hours, vessel inspections. (COMPLETE?)
 - DFO: Welcome expressions of interest from First Nations individuals interested in working in this field. Also work currently underway nationally on First Nations role in supporting compliance.
- We definitely saw an increase in recreational effort in 2020. How does C&P help to shape fishery management plans and measures to ensure they are enforceable? Are compliance stats related to increased angler effort or increased patrols?
 - DFO: COVID certainly presented unexpected new challenges, such as increased angler effort, including many novice anglers. C&P does have limited capacity, but can reallocate resources to address new priorities. We encourage people to report concerns as those reports help to shape enforcement priorities.
- C&P stats show 445 - 752 rec fishery boats were checked in 2020 out of a total estimated 211,000 boat trips. This does not seem sufficient, especially with more complex regulations. What will DFO do to address this?
 - DFO: C&P does have capacity to reallocate resources based on feedback received.

2020 Post-season review: Fraser Sockeye

Jamie Scroggie, DFO

DFO presentation highlights (See PowerPoint for details):

- 2020 Fraser sockeye forecast summary: important consideration was that actual returns have tended to come in below forecast average in recent years.
- 2020 fishery pre-season planning considerations: lower than average forecasts, escapement plans, precautionary planning with limited harvest opportunities expected.
- In-season preliminary run-size estimates for management groups.
- 2020 migration timing, delays due to high water levels.
- Graph: river discharge (challenging) and temperature (positive) levels.
 - Big Bar work and 2020 fish passage improvements.
- 2020 sockeye fisheries: No directed Canadian or US fisheries for Fraser sockeye.

Discussion

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- Early Stuart returns were higher than forecast but still only 30 made it back. We need to increase hatchery production given low survival rates.
- We've been hearing these concerns for a decade, yet DFO has still allowed significant sockeye harvest. Where is the long-term plan to rebuild these stocks? Why is other harvest being allowed while we are going hungry? Same with coho? Suggesting that we fish pinks is not a satisfactory solution for Mid-Fraser.
 - DFO: Work is underway on developing Recovery Potential Assessments (RPAs) and to develop consistent benchmarks for sockeye populations. We've gone from 70-80% to 60% and then 50% maximum harvest caps in 2020. So work is being done and meanwhile we are taking a precautionary approach with no licensed sockeye fisheries last year. Further discussion is planned on this.
 - The work on RPAs for Upper Fraser stocks is being led by First Nations.
 - Appreciate that work is being done now, but we haven't been able to access these stocks for a generation.
 - DFO: It should also be clear that having 50% TAM (Total Allowable Mortality) caps in the plan does not mean that we allow that level of harvest. The Province is now engaging in this work and it will take strong collaboration with all levels of government to address the issues. It's not fisheries, but more about very low marine survival rates and freshwater habitat issues (more discussion on Day 3).
- There is no right to fish in marine waters. Our returns are half of what they used to be when I stopped fishing decades ago. We need to work together on solutions. It sounds like we won't have fishing again in 2021. How are we going to explain this to our people?
- Is there any framework to use a life cycle /ecosystem-based model that includes the role of cumulative impacts, either currently or in the past?
 - DFO: We are working with the province & others on an ecosystem-based approach.

ACTION: Follow up discussion Michelle/DFO re what DFO is/has done to implement an ecosystem-based approach to managing stock conservation issues.

- Concern re DFO response on ecosystem-based approaches, since this is a key DFO guiding principle. This process is not working to protect our fish, We should be in a state of panic/emergency. DFO is not addressing the issues and allowing other fisheries to get out in front of us. For the most part these discussions are meaningless because nothing is changing in practice. We will document our concerns about the need for a co-management process in a formal letter.
- What processes are being developed to help us work together more effectively on solutions? This is not just a First Nations crisis but a national and international one.
 - DFO has worked to update the PST to reflect changes in productivity. The PST also provides funding to work on some of these issues

Presentation, continued:

- Preliminary post-season run-size summary.
- Preliminary retained catch (does not include released/incidental).

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- Preliminary post-season exploitation rates: most fishery incidental mortality was in First Nations chinook fisheries.
- 2020 run size summary and preliminary escapement estimates.
 - Most Early Stuarts that entered the Fraser did not make it to Big Bar.
 - Early Summers preliminary escapement was higher than in-season run-size estimate
- Summary of preliminary escapement comparisons.
- Climate conditions and productivity: analysis of Chilko indicator shows variable freshwater survival but very low marine survival.
- Timelines for further 2020 data and post-season analysis, including science reports, which won't be released before they are finalized.

Discussion

- We want to see hard actions to address these issues, not recommendations. What is being done to manage ocean conditions?
- Request for information on sockeye impacts in trawl bycatch. **ACTION**
 - DFO: Important to include such impacts in stock assessments.
- Concern that FSC priority gets lost in how DFO interprets and weighs it against other planning processes, principles and considerations, e.g. socioeconomic impacts on other stakeholders, IFMP process, Ministerial authority.
- Important to recognize that this work is vital to the survival of our community and that we need to find solutions as we don't have other resources that we can rely on.

Day 2 Tier 2 adjourned

Day 3, Tier 2: Welcome, Recap of Day 1/2

Marcel briefly recapped key themes from the previous 2 days and Greg Witzky offered an opening prayer to start the day.

IFMP Planning

Jeff Grout, DFO

- DFO encourages participants to review the full package of input and proposals received from First Nations and harvest groups on 2021 fishery planning.
- Good questions heard about how the IFMP process will work with the new FSMC/B. Work is underway to figure this out.
- Good discussion also happening at IHPC on how other groups can better collaborate with First Nations on fishery planning and broader questions. It would be useful to define what can be changed immediately and what requires longer term work.
- Chinook questions: The chinook evaluation framework was developed via the multilateral Southern BC Chinook Committee process to improve transparency in decision making (but FN participation in that process dropped off due to several concerns). DFO is open to setting

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up discussions on chinook planning: perhaps local discussions and also a broader webinar? The intent of the framework is not to make decisions but to identify where we have info gaps, etc.

- Broader conversation needed re role of mass marking and mark selective fisheries. Science group is developing materials to support consultation but no specific plans yet.

Discussion

- Questions about the evaluation framework include how it was developed & how it will be used. My comments at the SBC Chinook committee was that any such framework would need to be vetted through the FSMB and its technical process to ensure it's developed jointly by DFO and First Nations, as per the new CMA. Our agreement talks about how FN priority access will be planned and implemented so it's important that we do that collaboratively via the FSMB. That includes reviewing the data used in such a framework and the science questions/uncertainty around that data, before you can use it in a framework to evaluate fisheries. I believe there is a need for such a tool, but it should be developed collaboratively. It's confusing because we have a minister's unilateral directive on chinook recovery planning that is inconsistent with and needs to be aligned with the FSMB process and commitments.

- DFO: We've heard the request to discuss the framework at FSMB. DFO can report on what FNs participated in the Chinook committee, though it wasn't comprehensive.

ACTION

- Concern about inadequate consultation on the Area E ITQ (Individual Transferable Quota) fishery last year. The FNFC's (First Nation Fishery Council) SCC (Salmon Coordinating Committee) is another potential venue to discuss these issues.
 - DFO: Agree the discussion of Area E fishery was inadequate. Area E has also said they want better discussion. FNFC and CSAB are encouraging local discussion of such issues & DFO is interested in ways it can support such discussions.
 - If that's the plan, DFO should discuss resources to support First Nations to participate in such discussions.

ACTION: DFO to send Allison DFO's IFMP feedback package for distribution.

- Concerns about trawl bycatch reported (estimated 7,000 - 25,000 pounds. Why was it retained? Why was it treated as offal at the plants while FN and even Food Banks could have made use of that food. Why is that allowed and how are these impacts considered in management? Concern that we were never aware of this earlier. Which stocks are being impacted?
 - DFO: Salmon team asked for answers from the Groundfish Management Unit to these questions when we learned about this. The fish can't be released alive. We recommended that they be brought to the plant to be sampled. We can follow up re how they're disposed of. **ACTION**
- DFO's approach to fishery planning is not consistent with commitments under the FSMB agreement which speaks of joint recommendations on proposals to ensure that FSC priority is addressed. Similarly, the minister's directive to rebuild chinook should be coming jointly from DFO and First Nations.

State of the Salmon Presentation

Sue Grant, DFO

DFO presentation outlined environmental conditions that will inform 2021 returns and planning.

Key points included (See PowerPoint for details):

- Forecasts predictions were typically based on historical understanding/patterns, but we are experiencing unprecedented conditions, which greatly increases uncertainty in forecasts.
- Overview of salmon life history and marine rearing patterns.
- Global and ocean climate warming trends reflected in local ecosystems (most extreme effects further north).
- Years important to marine/freshwater rearing for runs expected back in 2021.
- Freshwater conditions:
 - Warmer stream temperatures for 2016-2019
 - More stream temperatures over 18 - 20 degrees, which can affect spawner survival, success and offspring quality).
 - Also earlier spring freshet.
 - Large forest fires: uncertainty about immediate and long-term effects: Tipping point for streams due to deforestation and slope destabilization.
 - More large landslides expected with climate change.
- Ocean conditions:
 - Ocean absorbing most of the excess global warming: The Blob
 - La Nina, shifts in available plankton/foods, warmer water species moving north.
- Conclusions: Marine and freshwater conditions are all negative for salmon returning in 2021, with more uncertainty, lower productivity expected.

Discussion

- Concerns about impacts of forestry practices on freshwater habitat. We need to be more proactive in addressing threats.
- Concern about forestry management practices: loss of forest cover, failure to replant and long-term impacts. Why aren't governments and ministries working together to resolve these issues? We've raised concerns repeatedly over the years with no action to fix the ecosystem issues. Given concerns about environmental factors, shouldn't we be approaching fishery planning more conservatively, e.g. lower TAC, assumptions based on 50% forecasts?
 - DFO: Lots of agreement that more dialogue is needed between organizations on how to fix this and we need to provide more opportunities to support that.
 - DFO: Important to understand that utilizing TAM caps of 50% for harvest is only considered in years of high abundance and high certainty.
- We need to consider how rebuilding can happen if DFO allows fisheries on any strong run.
- We need these presentations at the start, before discussing management questions.

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- Presentation didn't cover stream flow needs for salmon. We see the problem in the Coldwater, with fish killed by warm river temperatures. The ministries never work together.
- Our nation is working to try to manage habitat more proactively instead of waiting for others to do it. That includes talking to forestry, industry and land use planning reviews. It's important to be part of these processes to ensure everyone is moving in the same direction strategically, e.g. questions like tree planting and prescribed burns. We also have RPFs to manage our tenures and are developing a forestry management plan. Question for DFO re what are the solutions: e.g. role of hatcheries and involving TEK.
 - DFO: Role of hatcheries is a complex question, with careful consideration needed of the risks and benefits, including genetics questions. Work is being done on this, not sure how you're involved. It's very useful to incorporate local and traditional knowledge, and some local science is now being included, but the question is to find ways to harness it and work is being done on that.

Day 3, Tier 2 adjourned 10:40 am

Appendix 2: Attendance

Name - First Nations	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Marcel Shepert, FSMB Independent Chair	Y	Y	Y
Ken Malloway, FSMC	Y	Y	Y
Tracy Wimbush, FSMB	Y	Y	Y
Tony Roberts Jr, FSMB	Y	Y	Y
Mike Baird, FSMB	Y	Y	Y
Mike Staley, JTC co-chair	Y	Y	Y
Aidan Fisher, FSMB JTC	Y	Y	Y
Brent Ryan Lewis, FCMC staff	Y	Y	Y
Alison James, FSMC staff	Y	Y	Y
Greg Witzky, FSMC staff	Y	Y	Y
Marc Labelle, JTC	Y	Y	Y
Tyrone McNeil	Y	Y	Y
Pat Matthew	Y	Y	Y
Pete Erickson	Y	Y	Y
Jordan Point, FNFC	Y		
Lee Spahan	Y		Y
Murray Ned	Y	Y	Y
Sonora Thompson	Y	Y	Y
Nicole Frederickson	Y	Y	Y
Victor Isaac	Y	Y	Y
Janice Billy	Y	Y	Y
Pete Nicklin	Y	Y	Y
Robert Leech	Y	Y	Y
Dominic Hope	Y	Y	Y
Don Sam	Y	Y	Y
Michelle Walsh	Y	Y	Y
Kelsey Campbell	Y	Y	Y
Gord Sterritt	Y	Y	Y

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Brenda Morgan		Y	Y
Eva Wilson	Y		
Bernard John	Y	Y	Y
Don Simpson	Y	Y	Y
Ellen Reyes	Y	Y	Y
Dave Feil	Y	Y	Y
Darwyn John	Y	Y	Y
Sally Hope	Y		
Bernette Laliberte	Y	Y	Y
Barry Bennett	Y	Y	
Nora Billy	Y	Y	Y
Denise Antoine	Y		Y
Tina Donald	Y		
Randy James	Y	Y	Y
Paul Szirmay-Kalos	Y	Y	Y
Phillip Saul	Y		Y
James Archie	Y	Y	Y
Dalton Silver	Y		
Paul Mozin	Y	Y	Y
Beverly Ketlo	Y		
Neil Heron	Y		
Kim Charlie		Y	Y
Kelsey Charlie		Y	
Les Antone			Y
Andrew Victor			Y
Bonnie Adolph		Y	Y
Brad Armouse		Y	Y
Daryn Scotchman		Y	Y
Frank Boucher			Y

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Timothy Peter		Y	Y
Tony Malloway		Y	Y
Martin Louis			Y
Nick Chowdhury			Y
Trina Setah	Y	Y	Y
Simon Smith	Y		Y
Mark Tiley			Y
Gerald Michel		Y	Y
Harold Amos		Y	
Fred Robbins		Y	
Brian Tate		Y	Y
David Dick		Y	
Roy Fletcher		Y	
Ray Harris		Y	Y
Keith West		Y	
Richard Hall	Y		
Michelle Edwards			Y

Name - DFO	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Jeff Grout	Y		Y
Jennifer Nener, DFO, FSMB	Y	Y	Y
Terri Bonnet, DFO, FSMB		Y	
Matthew Parslow, DFO, FSMB support	Y		
Elan Park, DFO	Y		
Brittany Jenewein, DFO, JTC	Y	Y	
Jamie Scroggie	Y	Y	Y
Sue Grant			Y
Les Jantz	Y	Y	Y
Kevin Conley	Y		

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Rob Martin	Y	Y	Y
Mikaela Bacon	Y		
Hong Tjhie	Y	Y	
Tyler Engert	Y		Y
Dale Michie	Y		
Linda Stevens	Y	Y	Y
Madeline Wanless	Y	Y	Y
Sheldon Evers	Y	Y	Y
Heather Owens	Y		Y
Art Demsky	Y	Y	
Angelika Kaufman	Y		Y
Barry Zunti		Y	Y
Christine Bukta		Y	Y
Danielle Scriven		Y	Y
Kory Ryde		Y	Y
Lita Gomez		Y	Y
Matt Mortimer		Y	Y
Mike Fraser		Y	Y
Peter Lunka			Y
Robyn McCulloch		Y	Y
Sarah Murdoch			Y
Thomas Gristey		Y	Y
Steve Ratko		Y	
Sean Mulroney		Y	
Maddie Thompson		Y	
Kent Spencer		Y	
Brian Matts		Y	