

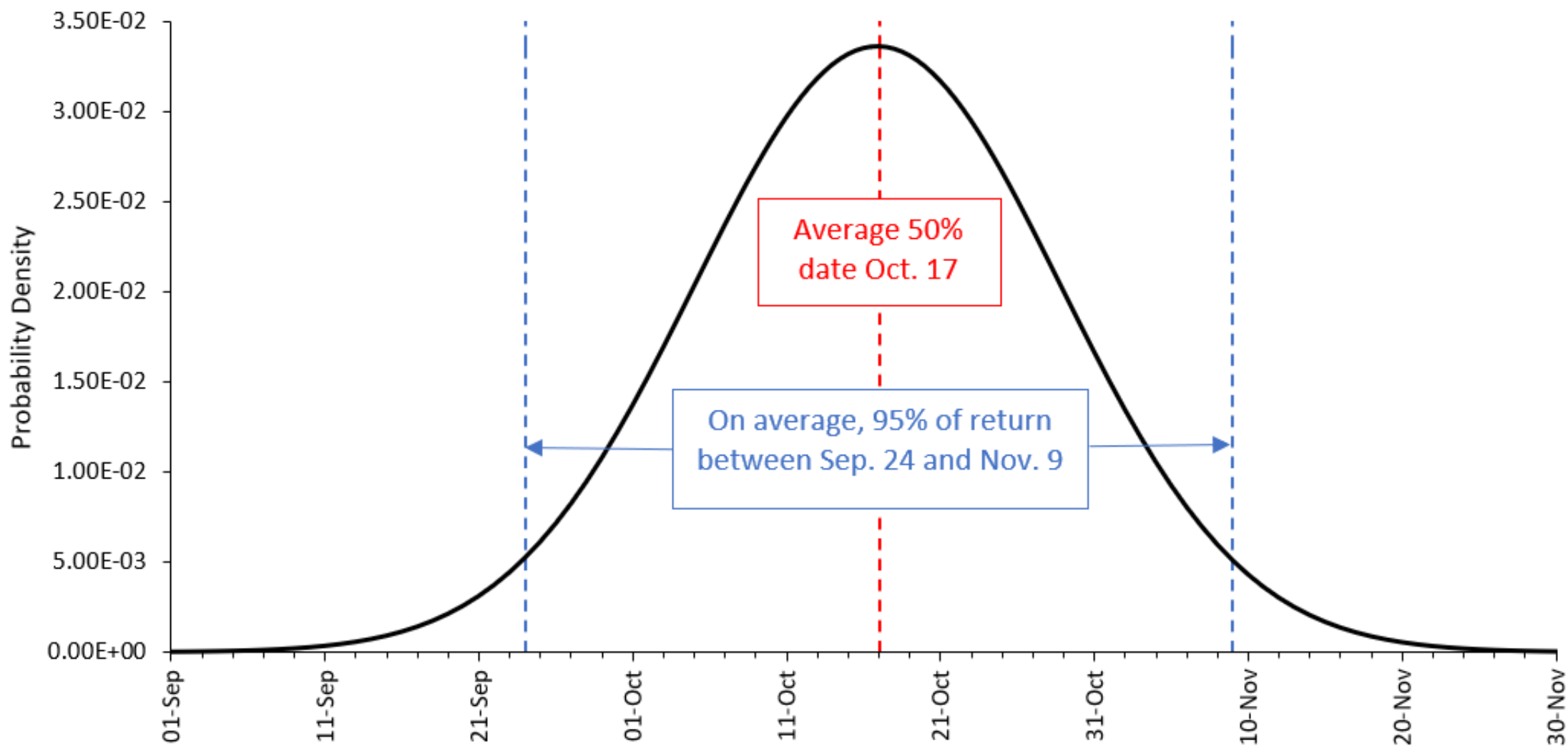
Status and Management of Fraser Chum Salmon in 2022

Presented to the Fraser and Approach Salmon Forum
April 12-14, 2022

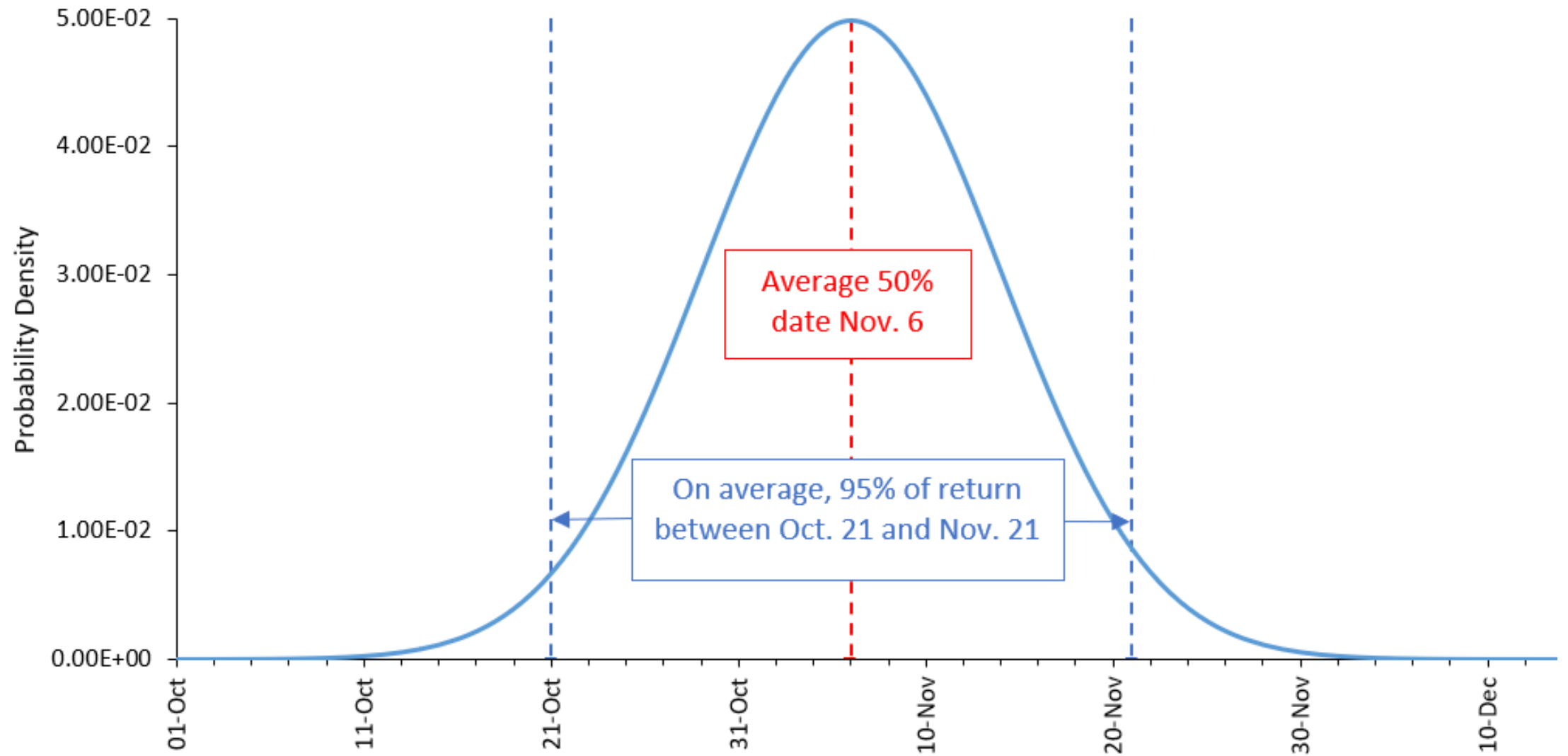
Fraser River Chum Salmon - Outlook

- Outlook for 2022 is “2” – below average
- Fraser River Chum Salmon spawning escapement failed to reach the escapement goal 2017-2020.
- Escapement assessments in 2021 are currently underway; terminal return will likely be close to the lower end of in-season predicted return (~400,000) and will likely be the 2nd lowest recorded escapement in over 20 years (with only 2019 escapement being lower).
- Spawning escapements for the past 4 years (2017-2020) have failed to outperform brood, suggesting low productivity.
- Returns in 2022 will be dominated by 4-year-old brood from the 2018 escapement (~680,000 spawners).

Fraser Chum average run timing at Albion test fishery (2009-2020)



Fraser Chum average run timing on spawning grounds



Fraser River Chum - 2022 Fisheries Planning

Management of Fraser River Chum fisheries in 2022 will be consistent with the precautionary approach and requirements to provide ongoing protection to stocks of conservation concern, including Interior Fraser River (IFR) Steelhead and IFR Coho.

The Department has proposed three changes in the draft IFMP to improve manageability and to maintain equitable harvest across all portions of the Fraser River Chum return:

1. Chum fishery end date in Fraser mainstem and tributaries of **November 30** (unless in-season information indicates run is much later than average)
2. Fraser Chum TAC for commercial fisheries calculated based on a proportion of Fraser Chum return available
3. Delayed start of Chum-directed recreational opportunities in the Fraser and approach areas (including tributaries) until the in-season terminal run size estimate is available

Fraser River Chum - 2022 Fisheries Planning

Fraser Chum TAC for commercial fisheries calculated based on a proportion of Fraser Chum return available after the Interior Fraser Steelhead window closure ends

- Using average run timing information, the amount of TAC that would be released ranges from approximately 22-34% of the full amount.
- The proportion varies by area due to the offset timing of the IFR Steelhead window closure by area.
- In-season information on return timing will be used when estimating the proportion of Fraser Chum return remaining available to fisheries.

Fraser River Chum – 2022 Fisheries Planning

Fraser River Terminal Run Size	Harvest Plan	Lower Fraser First Nations	Commercial	Recreational
<500,000	Reduced directed harvest of Chum Salmon in FSC and test fisheries. Harvest rate not to exceed 10% of the terminal run size for Fraser Chum.	Reduced allocation and limited fisheries (reduced hours and days/week fishing)	Closed	Mainstem Fraser River and tributaries closed to fishing for Chum Salmon.
500,000 to 800,000	Directed harvest of Chum Salmon limited to FSC and test fisheries. Catch not to exceed 91,800 (82,800 First Nations* and 9,000 test fishing).	Normal	Closed	Mainstem Fraser River closed to fishing for Chum Salmon. Non-retention of Chum Salmon in tributaries.
800,000 to 916,000	Directed harvest of Chum Salmon limited to FSC, test fisheries, and reduced recreational fisheries. Catch not to exceed 91,800 (82,800 First Nations* and 9,000 test fishing).	Normal	Closed	Mainstem Fraser River and tributaries open to retention of Chum Salmon. Consider reduced daily Chum retention limits.
916,000 to 1,050,000	Directed harvest of Chum Salmon. Commercial catch not to exceed 10% of the terminal run size for Fraser Chum.	Normal	Open (TAC 35,000-105,000)	Mainstem Fraser River and tributaries open to retention of Chum Salmon, subject to regular daily limits.
>1,050,000	Directed harvest of Chum Salmon. Commercial catch not to exceed 15% of the terminal run size for Fraser Chum.	Normal	Open (minimum TAC 105,001)	Mainstem Fraser River and tributaries open to retention of Chum Salmon, subject to regular daily limits.