



2022 Fraser Sockeye FSC Increases

Review of process & approach

Presentation to FSMB
November 16, 2022

Background

- Indications from First Nations that there was interest in increased FSC access in 2022 leading up to the fishing season:
 - TTA Nations
 - FSMC briefing note to the FSMB
 - LFFA on behalf of Lower Fraser First Nations
- Work to develop an approach was initiated within the Department in spring 2022 to consider options to address these interests.

Background cont.

- Parallel discussions were also occurring at the JTC and FSMB tables to consider approaches, resulting with a joint recommendation on August 2, 2022 allowing for up to 25% increases.
- This was communicated out to all First Nations with access to Fraser Sockeye in early August via the FSMC and DFO's distribution lists.
- As discussed at the FSMB table, an internal DFO process was established to review requests. Reviews were conducted in-season so that decisions reflected actual conditions observed

Summary of Internal Process

- A small group of the broader FRIMT team was identified to undertake the reviews of requests received by the Department and was led by the Fraser River Panel Co-Chair
- The assessment of requests conducted by this group aligned with the 2018 *Framework for Changes to Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries Allocations* considerations:
 - Community Needs for FSC Fish
 - Conservation Concerns
 - Manageability of the resources
 - Public health and/or public safety concerns, or other valid legislative objectives
 - Potential impacts to other Indigenous groups (duty to consult)
 - Additional information to help mitigate and/or evaluate change
- Templates for the requests, assessments and approvals were developed for use.

Summary of Internal Process cont.

Step	Notes
Communities IDs interest	
DFO staff and requesting Nation(s) populate the in-season assessment template	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Template seeking details of requested access in terms of amount, gear, location of harvest, etc. (fishing plan)
Review by the Fraser River Integrated Management Team (FRIMT) small group & FRP Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary assessment drafted detailing considerations for this specific request.• Reviewed by group, met weekly or more regularly as required.• Decision integrated into assessment
Box memo submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memo summarizing the assessments and decisions for each meeting.• Routed to RDs R&P and FM for sign-off
Notify communities	
Update TAC tables	

Summary of requests & increases

- A total of 12 Nations sought increased FSC access in the 2022 season.
- This resulted in an increase to the overall FSC harvest target of ~32,000 sockeye for nine Nations.
- Three of the requesting First Nations did not receive increases as base allocations were not reached.

In-season Challenges

- Significant uncertainty with in-season run-size estimates this season
 - August 18th run-size adoption, subsequent US fisheries, and subsequent reductions to run-size
 - Late adoption of larger run-sizes identifying sufficient TAC to support additional FSC access in addition to access for commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Constraints associated with co-migrating stocks of concern that limited ability to access late returning stocks.

Lessons Learned

- **Decisions on approach need to be reached earlier in the season.** Timing of decisions in 2022 posed several implementation challenges:
 - Limited opportunity to consult with First Nations
 - Finalization of internal process was rushed
 - Delayed communications out to impacted parties (Indigenous, commercial and rec) on the approach
 - Lack of certainty for First Nations regarding the opportunities they may be able to access.

Lessons Learned cont.

- **Approach does not support increased access by some communities well.** Some communities are limited in the stocks available to them, or by their capacity to access available fish. Need to review how to address these interests if increases are to be considered in the future.