



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



Fraser Salmon Management Board

Update: 2023 Fraser Chinook Management

Presentation to the Fraser Forum
April 5, 2023

Outline

- 2023 Fisheries Planning Context - FSMB
- FSMB Motion: 2023 Fraser Chinook
- JTC Technical Analysis
- March 15 FSMB Review/Update
- Next Steps

2023 Fisheries Planning Context - FSMB

- The FSMB's 2022-23 workplan includes the development of Chinook management measures that achieve identified conservation objectives and provide for priority access for First Nations for FSC.
- On February 10th the FSMB passed a motion relating to Chinook management.
- This was included in the draft 2023/24 IFMP to support work to identify and recommend additional fishery management measures for 2023 to further reduce fishery mortalities on Summer 5₂ Chinook in a manner that respects priority access for FN FSC. Additional fisheries restrictions may be required to provide First Nations harvest opportunities.
- DFO will engage with First Nations and the fishing sectors on fishing plans that achieve conservation objectives and provide for FSC priority. The FSMC will also engage with their Member Nations.

FSMB Motion: Fraser Chinook Management

FSMB Motion approved by consensus Feb 10, 2023
provided the following context on 2023/24
management of Fraser Chinook:

- On-going concerns over future productivity and low abundance of Fraser Chinook populations.
- Potential impacts of the Big Bar landslide on migration of the Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ Chinook.
- FSC fishery impacts have top priority after conservation

FSMB Motion: Fraser Chinook Management

FSMB Motion included the following recommendations:

- Continued precautionary management for Spring 4₂ and Spring 5₂ Chinook.
- Identify and recommended additional fishery management measures for 2023 to further reduce fishery mortalities on Summer 5₂ Chinook, as estimated by DFO's Fishery Mortality Index (FMI) for from ~15% towards 10% in a manner that respects priority access for FSC after conservation measures
- That the FSMC and DFO continue to work through FSMB/JTC on pre-season planning and technical analysis, and both parties consult with indigenous interests and/or stakeholders as appropriate and report back to the FSMB, so that the FSMB can seek consensus on the recommended reductions in 2023/2024.

It is recognized that reductions for recreational, commercial, and potentially FSC fisheries may be required to reduce fishery mortalities as low as 10%.

Joint Technical Committee Analysis

- FSMB tasked its Joint Technical Committee (JTC) with modelling scenarios to illustrate potential impacts of reducing fishery mortalities on Summer 5₂ chinook.
- JTC asked to model a range of potential scenarios from current (approx. 15%) down to 10% to support conservation and harvest allocation policy goals (i.e. priority for FSC)
- JTC undertook the requested gaming exercise with support of DFO modelling tools and staff.
- Modelling results shared at the March 15 FSMB meeting.

Fishery Mortality Index Calculations

Fisheries Mortality Index (FMI) calculations for the 2014-2018 Base Period & 2019-2021 average.

The percentage values in the following table represents Fishery Mortality Index (FMI) values, which are established based on Run Reconstruction + Genetic Stock ID, and which serve as a proxy for Exploitation Rate (ER).

		AVERAGE 2014-2018 FMI's	AVERAGE 2019-2021 FMI's	Reduction from Base Period	Percent Reduction from Base Period
In River	FIRST NATIONS	7.2%	6.1%	1.1%	14.9%
	COMMERCIAL/EO/TEST	1.4%	1.2%	0.3%	19.4%
	RECREATIONAL	2.5%	2.0%	0.5%	20.9%
Marine	FIRST NATIONS	1.0%	0.3%	0.6%	66.1%
	COMMERCIAL/EO/TEST	4.2%	0.8%	3.4%	80.9%
	RECREATIONAL	8.0%	5.0%	3.0%	37.3%
Fishery Total	FIRST NATIONS TOTAL	8.1%	6.4%	1.7%	21.0%
	COMMERCIAL/EO/TEST	5.7%	2.0%	3.7%	65.2%
	RECREATIONAL TOTAL	10.5%	7.0%	3.5%	33.4%
Total		24.4%	15.4%	8.9%	36.7%

Comments:

In-River Rec for the 2019 to 2021 time period is almost exclusively catch in the Chilliwack/Vedder system on an enhanced Summer 5-2 introduced population comprised of several stocks from the Fraser.

In-River Commercial/EO/Test for the 2019 to 2021 time periods is entirely Test fishery impacts.

Marine Recreational is the combined impacts from Southern and Northern BC recreational fisheries.

Marine Commercial/EO/Test is the combined impacts primarily from the Area F and G troll fisheries with minor contributions from the Marine test fisheries during the 2019-2021 period. During the base period there are impacts from southern BC net fisheries targeting Fraser sockeye and pink salmon.

March 15 FSMB Review/Update

Observations, next steps from FSMB's March 15 discussion:

- FSMB has not identified a specific cap for mortalities on Summer 5₂ Chinook in 2023 fisheries but recognizes, based on JTC's analysis, that reducing fishery mortalities down to 10% may require significant management changes.
- DFO's Salmon Allocation Policy requires that after conservation needs are met, First Nations FSC fisheries have first priority in salmon allocation.
- FSMC reps noted conservation issues will likely severely limit FSC harvest in 2023 for other Fraser stocks (e.g. Fraser sockeye) for many Fraser and Approach First Nations.

Next Steps

- Where reduced fishery mortalities may be required, FSMB proposed that fishery groups be asked to develop/recommend management changes that achieve the FSMB motion objectives.
 - DFO staff, data and modelling tools are available to support evaluating potential options.
- FSMB's work plan priorities acknowledge need for further work on:
 - Rebuilding objectives for Fraser Chinook, including Summer 5₂
 - More clarity on how to implement FSC priority in planning fisheries.
- FSMB meets April 19 to review feedback from FSMC, DFO & Victoria Salmon Forum, and consider consensus advice for 2023/24 fishery management.

Thank you!

