



2023 Fraser Forum #2

February 28 – March 2, 2023

What We Heard

Presentation to Forum
March 2, 2023

Item: State of the Salmon

Overview

- State of the Salmon provided as a tool to provide context to fishery planning discussions in the Forum meeting
- Discussion included the need to explore how best we can help salmon to adapt and build resilience to these changes.
- Environmental anomalies making modelling difficult, higher uncertainty than ever before.

Next Steps / Actions

- Is this information, as presented, desired for future Forums?

Tech Questions

- None identified

Deadlines

- None identified

Item: Fraser Sockeye/Pink Forecast and Escapement Plan Options

Overview

- Need to see if FN or FSMC want to provide a 3rd option
- Need to provide scenarios in how US access Pink TAC among potential Sockeye constraints
- Need to determine FSC access for Pinks before and after IFR Coho window closure
- Technical members would like access to the forecast documents in advance of release

Next Steps / Actions

- DFO to add FN observers and members of Fraser Panel Technical Committee to author group when developing forecast technical report

Tech Questions

- Need more technical analysis to evaluate escapement plan options.

Deadlines

- DFO to share 2023 forecast report ASAP

Item: Fraser Coho Management

Overview

- Agreed need for a) a precautionary approach and b) to begin exploring planning needs early to be prepared if status is upgraded in 2024 or future years.
- First Nations want to be part of planning, including related PSC processes.
- Good work being done to date on the LFC assessment fishery.
 - There is continued support from DFO and FNs; two more years of work and project evaluation will inform future planning and funding opportunities

Next Steps / Actions

- DFO to share 2022 escapement and marine survival information following March 13 PSC meeting

Tech Questions

- None identified

Deadlines

- Escapement and marine survival info shared by March 17, 2023

Item: Steelhead Management Actions

Overview

- Interest in future presentations on Steelhead
- Would be helpful to understand Lower Fraser and Thompson/Tsilhqot'in Steelhead
- Request for Province to engage with Forum reps to share updated escapement information
- Concerns regarding the effect of the Steelhead window closures on FSC fisheries (i.e., ability to achieve Chum allocation, use of preferred fishing gear and at preferred fishing times)

Next Steps / Actions

- FSMC to reach out to the Province for engagement. DFO to support as necessary.
- DFO to share SARA listing process status

Tech Questions

- When and where do marine recreational fishery encounters occur?

Deadlines

- Compile marine recreational fishery encounter information by April Forum

Item: Fraser Chinook Management

Overview

- FSMB Motion - noted that significant fishery reductions would be needed to reduce current Summer 5₂ impacts to 10%, mostly in recreational fisheries
- DFO is engaging with the CTC and FSMB on Canada's requirements under PST Chapter 3 to meet escapement goals for Quinsam and Harrison stocks
- A'Tlegay to be included in Quinsam discussions
- Reductions should be first sought in non-priority fisheries

Next Steps / Actions

- FSMB motion and proposed alterations to current CN management actions for Quinsam/Harrison will be identified in draft IFMP for further discussion

Tech Questions

- Further technical analysis on fishery changes required to meet 10% FMI on Summer 5₂ CN will be done by the JTC

Deadlines

- Ongoing

Item: Chinook MSFs

Overview

- Difficulty assessing MSF pilot proposals to understand their implications
- Concerns that MSF may result in harvest of hatchery-origin Chinook that were marked to inform conservation/rebuilding
- Concern that catch monitoring is insufficient to properly assess MSF impacts on wild stocks
- Previous FN advice on MSF proposals should be considered
- Insufficient time provided to consult effectively and concerns that this is not a collaborative approach; should have been included in FSMB discussions

Next Steps / Actions

- DFO to provide analysis of MSF proposals from previous years
- Consider opportunity for FN to meet with SFAB to discuss Chinook / MSF issues
- Additional follow-up on longer-term MSF framework development (e.g., JTC/JTWG members invited to technical workshops)

Tech Questions

- None identified

Deadlines

- Provide previous years' MSF proposal analysis by April Forum

Item: General Comments

Overview

- FN feel DFO is checking a box and that consultation is not meeting the standards required through this process.
- JTWG members were doing good work pre-COVID; would like to go back to detailed discussions of the data and working together.
- How/when DFO is going to move towards processes that are more reflective of Canada's commitment to implement UNDRIP?

Next Steps / Actions

- DFO/FSMB to clearly identify within each presentation whether it's about information-sharing, requesting feedback, or noting where decision/recommendations required.
- Ensure the JTWG process is captured in Forum Renewal and strategic planning discussions

Tech Questions

- None identified

Deadlines

- Implement the above for April Forum



Questions?

Background: Forum 1 WWH Slides

Item: Chinook Management

Overview

- Need to ensure that priority for FSC is being delivered
- Mixed perspective on using a 5 or 10% FMI for Summer 5₂
- Concerns around the MM/MSF process:
 - Potential impacts of MSF and hatchery competition on Fraser wild stocks
 - Need to understand next steps for the process
- Share any information on changes to Fall 4₁ management
- Concerns with recreational monitoring process
- Concern about environmental impacts on Chinook

Next Steps / Actions

- Provide update on MM/MSF process
- Share potential management measures - Fall 4₁

Tech Questions

- When was Smsy last reassessed?

Deadlines

- Information on MM/MSF and Fall 4₁ management to be shared at second Forum (28-Feb to 02-Mar)

Item: Recreational Fishing

Overview :

- Are there opportunities to have limited-entry fisheries?
- Is there an opportunity to move to area-based licencing?
- Need enforcement coverage to address poaching
- Potential for closures during low flow periods
- Concerns around catch and release fisheries.

Next Steps

- DFO to follow up on regulatory framework, to understand ability to change the licencing approach
- If not, what would be required to change the framework to support a change?

Tech Questions

- No immediate tech questions

Deadlines

- DFO to report back on regulatory mechanisms for the PG Forum – Feb 28 – Mar 2

Item: Fraser Sockeye

Overview :

- Early Stuart en-route loss. Interest in understanding the passage impacts further and ways that they can be addressed
- Interest in establishing a mid-river assessment fishery
- Concerns over PST and impacts of US fishery on access in Canada

Next Steps / Actions

- DFO-Nations to follow-up regarding objectives for additional assessment fishery
- Follow up with David Patterson about a presentation on radio telemetry work

Tech Questions

- Potential: what old infrastructure could be used to support migration?
- Did more salmon get to the spawning grounds because not all groups saw increases

Deadlines

- Telemetry presentation for second or third Forum meeting

Item: Jet Boat Impacts

Overview :

- Seeking engagement from the Ministry of Transportation to address concerns with use in spawning and fishing areas

Next Steps

- Contact Transport Canada to determine if they can provide a presentation
- Consider a presentation from LF groups on the work they have done relating to this issue

Tech Questions

- No immediate tech questions

Deadlines

- DFO to report back for the PG Forum – Feb 28 – Mar 2 on contacts with the Transport
- FPC to consider options for inclusion in the future.

Item: Forum Process

Overview :

- Timing of presentation distribution – 1+ week out
- Ordering of information in presentations
- Need to understand what role Forum plays in consultation
- Make the agenda compelling (rebuilding? Policies? Other?)
- Value to the inperson and hybrid approach to meetings
- Need to understand the Forum's interaction with FSMC/B

Next Steps / Actions

- Review approach to ordering information
- Set and hold to deadlines for presentations
- Strategic planning discussion RE: Forum role in FSCMA

Tech Questions

- No immediate questions

Deadlines

- Presentations for Second Forum to be shared by COB February 20th

Item: Policy & Process Issues

Overview :

- Interest in a review of policies by indigenous groups
- Interest in changing the IFMP process to reflect indigenous interests and the Collaborative Management Agreement
- Looking at how to better integrate Traditional Knowledge
- Confusion over number of initiatives & interactions

Next Steps / Actions

- Seek an update on Salmon Coordinating Committee IFMP work
- Potential consideration by FPC on future agendas

Tech Questions

Deadlines

Item: Access to Fishing Opportunity

Overview :

- Importance of timing of access to culture and practice
- Understanding sharing in high and low abundance years
 - Funding required to support discussions by Nations
- Consistency and predictability of access is key
- Interest in breakdown of allocations and catch

Next Steps / Actions

- DFO to consider funding for sharing discussions
- Detailed allocations can not be shared, would be good to discuss options to address the interest.

Tech Questions

- No immediate Qs

Deadlines

Item: Steelhead Management

Overview :

- Share details of the proposed 2023 management approach
- Significant impact of these management measures on commercial Chum fisheries and some First Nations communities

Next Steps / Actions

- Provide details of 2023 Steelhead approach

Tech Questions

- No immediate questions

Deadlines

- Share details of 2023 Steelhead approach by Second Forum (expect details in draft 2023/24 IFMP in February 2023)