



DFO Pacific Salmon Management Team  
401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C3S4

July 13, 2023

To: Fraser Salmon Management Council Members and Fraser Salmon Management Board Representatives

**Re: Salmon 2023/2024 Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) for Northern and Southern British Columbia (BC) – Changes to Fraser Chinook management measures**

As part of the approval process for the 2023/24 Northern and Southern Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs), the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada reviewed the conservation measures for Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern, including the fishery impacts to the Fraser River Summer 5<sub>2</sub> stock management unit (SMU). After much deliberation, and considering recommendations from the different consultation and engagement work, the management objective remains to manage Canadian fisheries in a highly precautionary manner to allow as many fish to pass through to the spawning grounds as possible.

In 2021, fishery impacts to this SMU (using the “run reconstruction plus GSI” method), were 15.4%, which was a decrease from the 2014-2018 average (24.4%) but an increase from the 2020 impacts (12.7%). Fishery impacts include incidental Chinook mortalities in Fraser River Chinook and Sockeye test fisheries, Chinook retention or bycatch retention in First Nation Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries, release mortalities, and incidental mortalities during Chinook-directed mixed stock fisheries.

In the face of recent productivity declines and environmental uncertainty our priority remains conservation; a precautionary approach suggests that we need to maintain a low level of impact. We also have chosen to expand our conservation measures to provide priority access to Summer 5<sub>2</sub> impacts for FSC fisheries in the Fraser River and approach areas, while committing to develop quantitative Canadian mortality limits for the stocks and consult with affected groups on the specific fishery measures that will maximize their harvest within those constraints. Recent indications are that environmental conditions in-river will be challenging this year due to lower than average levels of snow pack and anticipated high temperatures throughout the summer. While the full extent of these impacts will not be understood until later in the season, the Department will continue to monitor these conditions, and may consider implementation of additional actions at a later date. In the interim, the Minister has approved changes to the management plan for 2023, which target an overall fishery impact of 14%. The measures for 2023 are focused on commercial and recreational fisheries, with FSC management approaches to align with those implemented in recent years. This is expected to result in the majority of impacts being in FSC fisheries. The approved commercial and recreational changes are as follows:

Commercial Measures:

- Area F: The Area F Troll Chinook fishery will be delayed until August 16<sup>th</sup>
- Area G: The Area G Troll Chinook fishery will be delayed until August 16<sup>th</sup>

Recreational Measures: Daily catch limits will be reduced to one (1) Chinook per day during times specified below where Fraser River Chinook salmon are present:

- North Coast – 1 Chinook/day July 11 to July 31 in Haida Gwaii (Areas 1, 2, 142, and that portion of Area 101 west of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes west longitude)
- South Coast – 1 Chinook/day and a maximum size of 80 cm from July 15 to July 31 in:
  - Southwest Vancouver Island - Subareas 20-1 and 20-2
  - Portions of offshore West Coast Vancouver Island (Areas 121, 123)
  - Northern Vancouver Island - Area 111

If you require additional information, please contact the local resource manager in your area or the Regional Salmon Team at [DFO.PacificSalmonRMT-EGRSaumonduDfoMPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.PacificSalmonRMT-EGRSaumonduDfoMPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

DFO Pacific Salmon Management Team

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