

2023-24 Workplan

Fraser Salmon Management Board / Joint Technical Committee

Version : 1.0

Date : August 16, 2023

Background and Introduction:

The Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement (FSCMA), signed on July 5, 2019 by the President of the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) and Minister of Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO), is intended to create, promote and support government-to-government, nation-to-nation structures for the collaborative governance and management and conservation of Fraser salmon. In support of this, the FSCMA establishes a joint collaborative management structure for the Parties including an Executive, Fraser Salmon Management Board, and Joint Technical Committee.

As laid out in the FSCMA the FSMB, and their JTC, are guided in their work by their Annual Workplans. These workplans are developed collaboratively with an objective of refining the scope laid out within Section 2.1 of the Agreement to identify the priority items the FSMB and JTC will take on in any given year, recognizing the available resources and capacity available to the process. The workplans cover the period from April 1st to March 31st and, as a result, are therefore intended to be finalized on or before March 31st to inform the coming year's work.

The 2023-2024 workplan will cover four key areas of work as follows.

#	Title	Goal
1	Chinook Management Approach	<i>Develop Chinook fisheries management measures that achieve identified conservation objectives and provide for priority access for food, social and ceremonial fisheries.</i>
2	Sockeye Management Approach	<i>Identify a recommended Sockeye escapement plan option(s), management approaches for stocks of concern and support discussions of FSC sharing for First Nations on an annual basis.</i>
3	Governance and Process Development	<i>Support implementation of recommendations arising from the 2022 joint governance sessions, developing and finalizing process documents, and Forum renewal</i>
4	FSC Access & Allocation	<i>Support discussions of FSC sharing of Fraser salmon for First Nations as part of the long term work and on an annual basis.</i>

For reference, the FSCMA can be found online: https://frasersalmon.ca/files/2019/10/20190705_FSMC-DFO-signed-agreement.pdf

Adopted Workplan Versions

Version	Date Adopted	Changes Made
1.0	2023-Aug-16	Finalized first version of the 2023-24 FSMB/JTC Workplan

Note: working drafts are not to be recorded here, only versions of the workplan adopted by the FSMB.

2023-24 FSMB Workplan: Item 1 - Chinook Management Approach

Chinook Management Approach			
Goal: <i>Develop Chinook fisheries management measures that achieve identified conservation objectives and provide for priority access for food, social and ceremonial fisheries.</i>			
Measurable Accomplishment (S.M.A.R.T) Objective(s)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop recommendations for quantitative fishery mortality indices targets for Fraser Summer 5₂ Chinook stocks to guide management actions in all fisheries. Other stocks to be considered as required. 2. Post-season review of harvest impact analysis information to reach a shared understanding of the outcomes of actions implemented and the tools used to guide management. 3. Review projections of fishery mortality indices (FMI) for alternative management measures for consistency with management objectives, including conservation and allocation priorities (JTC/FSMB). Develop recommendations based on this analysis to inform management (FSMB). 4. Develop multi-year workplan for Chinook including consideration of the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ management strategy evaluation (MSE) ○ development of Precautionary Approach elements (including Limit Reference Points, LRP, upper stock reference and exploitation/fishery mortality rates) ○ support rebuilding plan work (BCSRIF); SARA listing considerations ○ engage in development of Mass Marking and Mark Selective Fisheries framework ○ review of SEP practices relating to Chinook enhancement and implications to stock assessment implementation and monitoring 5. Develop a summary of catch monitoring and reporting in place for all fisheries (including precision/accuracy, methods, etc.) and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. 			
Specific Action(s)			
Ref	Action	Responsible	Target Date
1A	Conduct a review of the current exploitation rate targets. Develop advice on effectiveness of current targets in addressing conservation needs.	JTC	
1B	Support a technical analysis using appropriate data and methods to support development of precautionary approach elements (e.g., LRP, USR, removal references) for Fraser Chinook	JTC / FSMB	

	<p>management units. This will likely take the form of a Fisheries Science Advisory Report (FSAR) which will take some time (potentially a few years) to complete. This should look to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge as part of the process. FSMB review and consideration of technical advice and recommendations.</p> <p>There is also a need for an interim approach to address the needs in advance of the completion of a full FSAR process. The FSMB to consider options to address this need.</p>		
1C	Assess impacts of alternative exploitation rates on conservation benchmarks / rebuilding trajectories for Fraser Chinook and provide recommendations to guide future management.	JTC / FSMB	
1D	Explore improvements in spawning escapement monitoring; explore and develop methods and needs to measure abundance and productivity.	JTC	
1E	JTC would like to pursue in season run size estimates for all Fraser chinook MU's	JTC	
2A	Continue to review the data and analytical methods and processes used to support planning and projections of fishery impacts.	JTC /	
2B	Improve the accessibility and usability of the datasets and tools used to assess and model impacts.	JTC / DFO FM & Sci	
2C	Consider requirements for additional peer review potentially including harvest data, assessment procedures, and forecasting assumptions by CSAS and technical forums convened by the FSMB including experts from all sectors (e.g., First Nations technical staff, DFO science and management staff, non-government organizations, Sport Fish Institute, CSAB, academia).	JTC / FSMB / CSAS / JTWG	
2D	Development of recommended wording for the South Coast Salmon IFMP identifying the need for an ongoing joint technical review management actions on an annual basis inform future fisheries plans.	FSMB	
2E	Technical review of the DFO decision for a 14% Summer 5 ₂ ER target for the 2023 season by the JTC and reporting up to the FSMB on technically grounded advice and recommendations.	JTC / FSMB	
3A	Review outputs of the technical work conducted to assess impacts arising from management actions.	JTC / FSMB	
3B	Provide technical advice on potential management activities to meet identified exploitation rate or management targets using the agreed upon tools. This work will reflect current and proposed fisheries inclusive of potential mark-selective fishery pilots.	JTC / FSMB	
3C	Identify recommended management action options for consideration.	FSMB	

4A	Review work underway and processes relating to the rebuilding and recovery of Chinook stocks	JTC / FSMB / FSMC	
4B	<p>Develop a multi-year workplan for the FSMB and JTC relating to the following elements. Ensure workplan identifies linkages to other process and resource requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope out timelines and work required to undertake a management strategy evaluation (MSE) • development of Precautionary Approach elements (including Limit Reference Points, LRP, upper stock reference and exploitation/fishery mortality rates) • support rebuilding plan work (BCSRIF); SARA listing considerations • engage in development of Mass Marking and Mark Selective Fisheries framework • review of SEP practices relating to Chinook enhancement and implications to stock assessment implementation and monitoring 	FSMB / JTC	
5A	Development of a template that summarizes catch monitoring program information in consistent manner. Work with DFO and First Nations programs to populate with details.	JTC & DFO Programs	
5B	<p>Undertake an educational catch monitoring workshop covering all fisheries identifying strengths and weaknesses of the programs. Areas to cover include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch and release estimation & biological sampling • Stock ID Programs 		

2023-24 FSMB Workplan: Item 2 - Sockeye Management Approach

Sockeye Management Approach			
Goal: <i>Identify and recommended Sockeye escapement plan option(s), management approaches for stocks of concern on an annual basis.</i>			
Measurable Accomplishment (S.M.A.R.T) Objective(s) 1. Develop annual recommendations for the Fraser Sockeye escapement plan and management approaches for stocks of concern for integration into the annual South Coast Salmon IFMP.			
Specific Action(s)			
Ref	Action	Responsible	Target Date
1A	Review sockeye escapement plan options provided by DFO, and feedback received through the IFMP process, and develop a recommended approach for inclusion in the IFMP process.	FSMB / JTC / ?	
1B	Review proposed management approaches for stocks of concern, and feedback received through the IFMP process, and identify a recommended approach for inclusion in the IFMP process.	JTC / FSMB / ?	

2022-23 FSMB Workplan: Item 3 – Governance and Process Development

Governance and Process Development			
Goal: <i>Support implementation of recommendations arising from the 2022 joint governance sessions, developing and finalizing process documents, and Forum renewal</i>			
Measurable Accomplishment (S.M.A.R.T) Objective(s)			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively participate in strategic planning session(s) to support the development of a strategic workplan for the FSMB process and Parties. 2. Support and engage in work to address recommendations identified within the 2022 governance session recommendations 3. Provide input to, and work to finalize, key process documents (e.g., communications plan, agenda development, workplan development) 4. Provide input to processes underway to renew the Forum process and participate and engage at Forum meetings. 5. Develop processes to support engagement with other parties on recommendations and options related to annual IFMP development. 			
Specific Action(s)			
Ref	Action	Responsible	Target Date
1A	Support agenda planning work and attend strategic planning sessions.	FSMB / JTC	
1B	Provide input to the development of any strategic plan documents	FSMB / JTC	
2A	Review governance recommendations – agree on approach and develop a plan for implementation within the FSMB/JTC where applicable.	FSMB	
2B	Governance Recommendation 6.1. Participate in strategic planning sessions. See workplan item 1A/1B.	FSMB/JTC	
2D	Governance Recommendation 8.1. Build understanding, structures and support for consensus building at the FSMB table to support implementation on the agreement. FSMB and JTC, with support of the FSMC, to develop a clearer understanding of the structures and support systems to build consensus at the FSMB table. Will be informed by discussions at the strategic planning sessions, and in reviewing the 2022-23 workplan implementation.	FSMB / JTC	
3A	Review and work to update and finalize the agenda development process document	FSMB / JTC	

3B	Develop, review and finalize a meeting record process document	FSMB / JTC	
3C	Develop a data and information sharing protocol document for both the FSMB and JTC	FSMB / JTC	
3D	Develop a decision Gantt chart to understand key deadlines for work to inform the IFMP and other processes and how the work integrates with the FSMB/JTC decision making process.	FSMB / JTC	
4A	Engage in work to review and renew the Forum process as required	FSMB	
4B	Participate in Forum meetings to present and seek advice on FSMB planning priorities, proposed options and recommendations	FSMB/JTC	
5A	Small FSMB working group to make connections with Parties outside of the Agreement to initiate discussions	FSMB Small Group	
5B	Develop an engagement plan for Parties outside of the Agreement	FSMB	
5C	Attend post-season and pre-season meetings with other parties (e.g. IHPC, SFAB, IRMAs) to present on FSMB planning priorities, proposed options and recommendations	FSMB	

2023-24 FSMB Workplan: Item 4 – FSC Access & Allocation

FSC Access & Allocation			
Goal: <i>Support discussions of FSC sharing of Fraser salmon for First Nations as part of the long term work and on an annual basis.</i>			
Measurable Accomplishment (S.M.A.R.T) Objective(s) 1. Review and recommend approaches to share available FSC access between First Nations in years of low and high abundance (including harvest amounts, harvest locations and sharing considerations). 2. <i>Interest has been expressed in engaging in discussions on the operational application of priority, in particular for Fraser Chinook. Guidance is anticipated from the Executive to help formalize this workplan item. (further discussion required)</i>			
Specific Action(s)			
Ref	Action	Responsible	Target Date
1A	Engage with the FSMC’s FSC Sharing Project to develop guidance to inform future work on sharing of available impacts between First Nations with access to Fraser Salmon.	FSMB / JTC	
1B	Annual advice on coordinating implementation of FN FSC fisheries (including conservation requirements, harvest amounts, harvest locations and sharing considerations)		
2	<i>Specific actions to be identified once direction has been received from the Executive.</i>		