



## 2023 Fraser Forum #1

# 2023 What We Heard Check-in

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Presentation to Forum  
January 30, 2024

# Introduction

- “What We Heard” presentations re-initiated in 2023
- Intent is to capture discussions and key priorities identified during Forum and highlight any next steps.
- In 2023, this was led by the Department.
- In 2024, we will be working to incorporate the FSMB.
- The Forum Planning Committee will be using this as a tool to help shape Forum agendas in-season.
- This will continue to evolve. If you have ideas about how to improve this process let us know!

# What We Heard – Presentation Structure

## Overview

- *Each slide will be focused on a broad topic area (e.g. Fraser Chinook)*
- *This overview section will include a high-level summary of the key themes raised*

## Next Steps / Actions

- *This section includes key next steps or actions identified during our discussions.*
- *In some cases, additional actions may be identified by the team preparing this presentation*

## Tech Questions

- *This will lay out any specific technical questions that arose for resolution*

## Deadlines

- *This will include key deadlines both for work to be completed and for input to be provided into processes*

# Action Item Process

- An Action Item Tracker will be maintained for the Forums in 2024
- Structure of the spreadsheet will be:
  - Current Action Items – those identified and not yet complete
  - Completed Action Items – things taken care of already
  - Back-eddy – previously the “parking lot”, items which don’t quite fit within the Forum, but that we don’t want to lose track of.
- This will be updated and distributed following each Forum to allow attendees to keep track of the items raised. These updates will be based on the WWH presentation and meeting minutes.

# Key Themes - 2023

- Managing in a Changing Environment
  - Interest in updating management to better address env. cond.
  - Interest in reviewing existing infrastructure to address current cond.
- Indigenous Engagement in Fisheries Management
  - UNDRIP Implementation in the fisheries context
  - Nations seeking early and effective engagement in fisheries management processes and work to be collaborative.
- FSC Priority Implementation
  - Current implementation does not align with FN expectations
- Process
  - Value in the Forum process, but work required to build

# Background Slides: WWH Forum 3 (2023)

- *These are the What We Heard slides from the **third** 2023 Forum*

# Item: General Topics

## Overview

- How/when DFO is going to move towards processes that are more reflective of Canada's commitment to implement UNDRIP?
- Nations need to be engaged early and throughout the process for all topics impacting their rights.
- FSC priority needs to be afforded for all species. Nations do not see this occurring.
- Sharing discussions need to follow a traditional approach & engage everyone
- Significant concerns from Nations regarding the monitoring & enforcement in place
- Need to build trust to support the work of reconciliation.
- Questions on accommodation for lost opportunity.

## Next Steps / Actions

- Consider planning a session focused on monitoring programs in all fisheries and areas to provide a forum to understand program information and discuss issues

## Tech Questions

- None identified

## Deadlines

# Item: Forum & JTWG Process

## Overview

- Full morning Tier 1 was helpful. Need to consider if additional time needed
- Some good discussions at the JTWG prior to this Forum digging into the details.
- Need to continue building on this joint technical work, particularly in supporting joint work on technical aspects and projects (e.g., forecasting)
- Need to find the balance of technical detail and higher-level summaries in the Forum and JTWG process

## Next Steps / Actions

- Add a column for “Out of Scope / Parking Lot” items to the Action Item Tracker
- Potential to develop a “Guidance to Presenters” document
- Forum Renewal to consider how to reflect the JTWG/Forum feedback

## Tech Questions

- None identified

## Deadlines



# Item: Interior Fraser Coho

## Overview

- Concern over how the current 3-5% exploitation is being accessed and by whom
- Interest in understanding the Treaty process and how to engage to make change to address concerns with the existing wording and requirements.
- Questions about the marking and tagging of coho to understand the objectives for both, and what is currently being done.

## Next Steps / Actions

- Consider what interest there may be in moving from the 3-5% ER to support access for FSC purposes
- Ongoing work between FN Caucus of the Canadian PST delegation with their counterparts in the US to address several issues.
- Provide details of the marking and tagging occurring in-river

## Tech Questions

- Provide information on how current 3-5% ER impacts are distributed

## Deadlines

# Item: Steelhead (Provincial Presentation)

## Overview

- Good to see the Province here at the meeting. Many communities would like them to come to their territories to speak with them directly.
- DFO and the Province need to work together with First Nations on steelhead
- There are tools to support protection of habitat for steelhead and other species through Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds
- There is also a history of educational work that could be built on to address habitat protection issues.

## Next Steps / Actions

- Jenn Davis indicated to several folks to contact her directly for further discussion.

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines

# Item: PSSSI – Harvest Transformation

## Overview

- Frustration about the engagement with First Nations about the many PSSSI initiatives
  - Not being included in the development and implementation
  - Moved backwards to not having a contact, only a Regional email address
- Need to find a way to support access by preferred means while addressing concerns
- Concern over the impacts of licence buy-backs on young fishers in communities and potential impacts to FSC in the future.

## Next Steps / Actions

- PSSSI contacts: [Key contacts for the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
- DFO interested in opportunities to discuss First Nations Harvest Transformation (e.g., terminal fisheries, etc.)
- Further engagement planned on commercial harvest transformation with CSAB and First Nations
- Also see separate items under MSF slide

## Tech Questions

None identified

## Deadlines

# Item: Fraser Chinook Management

## Overview

- Nations must be a part of these discussions, and need the right DFO staff
- Chinook bycatch in groundfish trawl. Need on-going stock ID work to understand.
- Nations don't view FSC priority as being met.
- Need to understand the process for determining the management approaches

## Next Steps / Actions

- Provide details of why inside recreational fisheries are Chinook non-retention rather than no fishing for salmon or no fishing for Chinook.
- Provide additional detail on Nicola escapement, with wild and hatchery components separately.
- Provide confirmation of why Harrison  $4_1$  escapement goal is no longer presented as a range of values and is now a fixed point.
- FSMB continuing to collect info/engage with others on Summer  $5_2$  approach

## Tech Questions

- Provide updated information on Groundfish trawl Chinook bycatch when available.

## Deadlines

- Ongoing

# Item: Chinook MSFs

## Overview

- Nations are seeking follow-up discussions on these pilots, and funding to support work:
  - Technical discussion to work through some of the outstanding questions
  - Consultation session to work through the remaining issues
- Work to develop operational framework should be structured to support engagement
- Concerns over the monitoring programs in place for recreational fisheries.

## Next Steps / Actions

- Proposal for a monitoring-focused session (as noted under "General Topics")
- Proposal for a technical FN and DFO Tier 2 session to continue discussion on longer-term framework for MSF/MM.
- DFO to provide details on the structure for engagement going forward.

## Tech Questions

- None identified

## Deadlines

# Item: Fraser Sockeye/Pink Management

## Overview

- LAER & window closures are too blunt. Need new tools to reflect current state of salmon.
- Interest in better in-season process for First Nations
- Concern over US and Canadian commercial impacts on Fraser-bound fish bycaught during Pink-directed fisheries
- Concern over how FSC priority is being delivered on through the current tools
- Challenges with understanding the forecasting methods, particularly as they relate to estimates of 5-year-old components for Early Stuart
- Need to understand the net impact of the approaches that have been implemented
- Process improvements are required to ensure FN reps are engaged early in technical work underway

## Next Steps / Actions

- JTWG discussion on forecast to dig into details

## Tech Questions

- None identified

## Deadlines



Questions?  
Comments?

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# Background Slides: Forum 2 WWH (2023)

- *These are the What We Heard slides from the **second** 2023 Forum*



# 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 5<sub>2</sub> 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 5<sub>2</sub> 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

# Background Slides: Forum 1 WWH (2023)

- *These are the What We Heard slides from the **first** 2023 Forum*



# 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 5<sub>2</sub>
- 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 4<sub>1</sub> 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 4<sub>1</sub>

## Tech Questions

- When was Smsy last reassessed?

## Deadlines

- Information on MM/MSF and Fall 4<sub>1</sub> 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)