



Fisheries and Oceans
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Fraser Salmon Management Board

An Update to the Fraser and Approach Salmon
Forum January 2024

Why is this Update so Important ?

“For FSMC, it’s very important to demonstrate change in the 2023 IFMP to address FN trust/frustration” – Pat M.

“Fraser Chinook presents a very complicated “wicked problem.””- Jeff Grout



Presentation Layout

- 1. Background**
- 2. Workplan**
- 3. Fish Management Decision time lines**
- 4. Dispute Resolution**
- 5. Process Development**
- 6. Administration**
- 7. Communication**

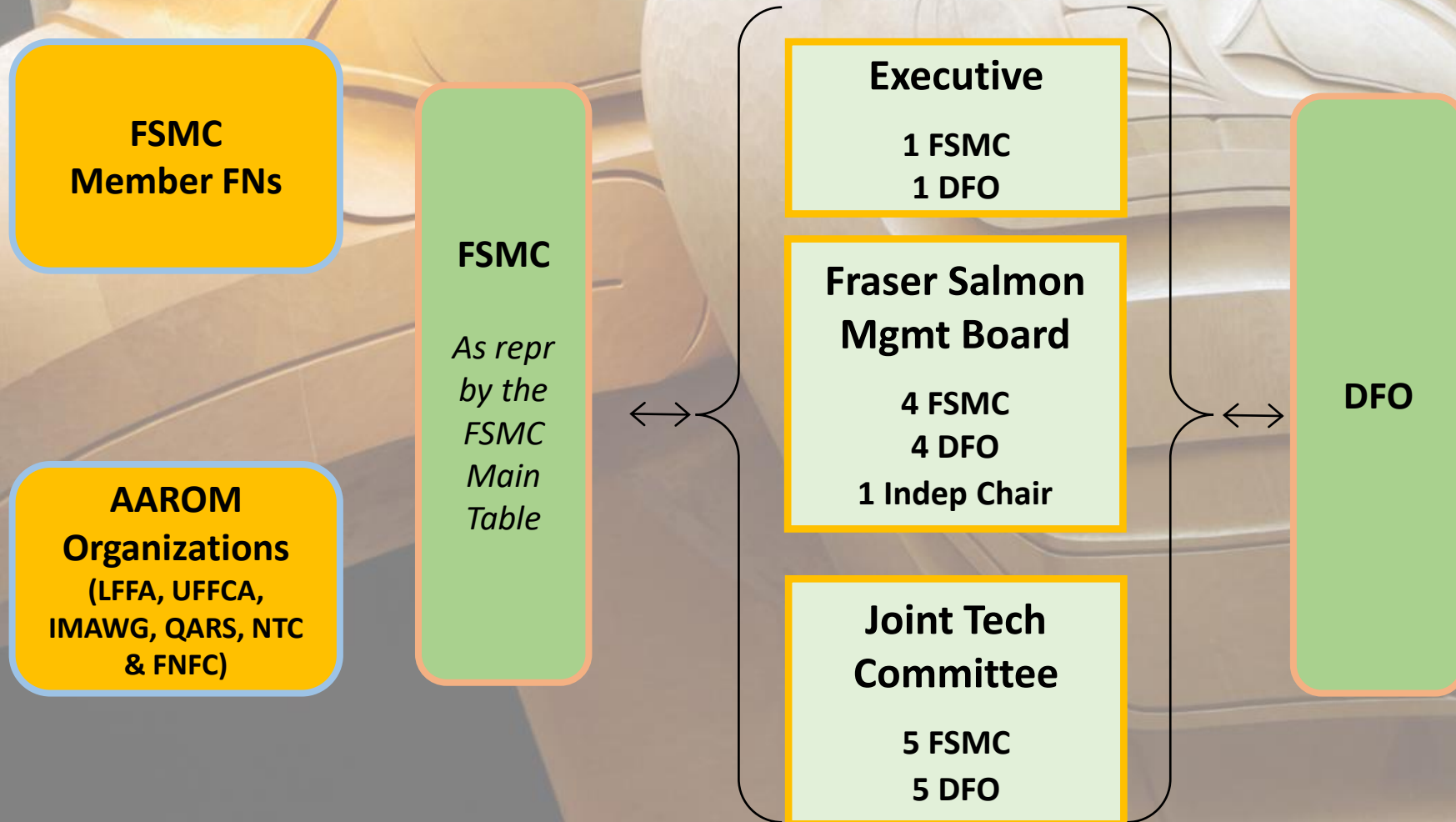
Back Ground

- **1994-1999** – Fraser Watershed Agreement
- **1994** – FRAFS established to facilitate communication
- **1999-2007** – series of initiatives to maintain FRAFS despite no Watershed Agreement
- **2008** – Forum process initiated
- **2009-2012** – Road Map Workshops
 - Letter of Understanding between FNs and DFO
 - Committing to prepare for & enter into negotiations
- **2014** – FSMC formed
 - Formalized Constitution & Bylaws, hired negotiator

Back Ground Cont.

- **2016** – Negotiations Commence
 - Mandate obtained from Signatory Nations
 - DFO-FSMC negotiations start
- **2019** - Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement Signed
 - provides a framework for co-management of Fraser River salmon between DFO and the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC), on behalf of signatory First Nations
- **2019-2020** - Implementation work begins
- **2020-2022** – Process took time and a lot of experienced board members on both sides committed to collaboration to gain momentum to dig deep into the issues and find solutions
- **2022-2024** - Annual work plans developed – consensus decisions reached and the collaborative management agreement starts to gain momentum

FSMCA – Governance Structure



Work Plan

1. **Chinook Management-** *Develop Chinook fisheries management measures that achieve identified conservation objectives and provide for priority access for food, social and ceremonial fisheries.*
2. **Sockeye Management** - *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.*
3. **Governance and Process Development** - *Support implementation of recommendations arising from the 2022 joint governance sessions, developing and finalizing process documents, and Forum renewal*
4. **FSC Access and Allocation** - *Support discussions of FSC sharing of Fraser salmon for First Nations as part of the long term work and on an annual basis.*

Fish Management & Decision Timelines

- For 2023, the FSMC developed a mandate to reduce Chinook FMI to between 10%-12.5%, with action to address FSC priority, improved monitoring, more timely catch reporting and transparency, etc.
- Chinook allocation decisions are currently made by the minister. DFO must therefore develop options or recommendations, instead of decisions, to send to the minister.
- DFO confirmed options for the minister could include a joint recommendation to reduce FMI for 2023, but the final decision would need to be left to the minister.
- DFO also committed to ensuring that FSMC's position was clearly communicated to the minister, that conservation is a shared objective, and that movement was needed re. management measures for 2023/24.
- We know the parties did not agree on the conservation objective for 2023 so DFO had to provide a rationale for the 14% FMI target.

Fish Management & Decision Timelines

In the event that there is a disagreement by either party they must refer to section 4.3 (d) of the CMA. In this case DFO (Minister) must provide written reasons why and must include:

- Technical / management / policy rationale
- How the decision is consistent with Canada's principles and guiding principles
- How the decision is consistent in law
- How the decision furthers the goals of the CMA and conservation of Fraser salmon
- How the decision furthers reconciliation between Canada and Nations
- To these ends DFO provided a letter to the FSMB which addresses these 5 points

Fish Management & Decision Timelines

- Moving forward, FSMB has agreed on the need to set out quantifiable conservation objectives for 2024/25, so the conversation now turns to how that will happen.
- Options could indicate FSMB and FSMC perspectives. FSMC could also submit their own Tier 1 advice to the Minister (without DFO endorsement) re 10-12.5% FMI for 2024, or request a meeting to discuss proposed reductions.
- FSMC/DFO jointly recommending a 2024 IFMP placeholder to establish/fund the necessary technical process in 2023/24 to establish management objective, benchmarks, etc., in time to inform a decision for the 2024/25 IFMP.



The Dispute Resolution Process

Focus on 3 areas

1. Chinook Management decision making Process clarity - Joint decision-making authority vs recommendations
2. Priority Access Policy – FSC access and allocation provisions
3. Technical – Conservation objectives, First Nations priority and rationale for changing the current FMI from 15.6% to something lower

Process Development

1. Action Tracker mechanism
2. IFMP planning timelines & milestones (GANTT chart development):
clarifying steps and checkpoints to develop timely annual planning advice.
3. Agenda planning subcommittee, document tracking, and archiving system agreement
4. Clarifying/coordinating JTC role in advancing FSMB work plan
5. Tier 1: FSMC internal process development

Process Development

1. Communications protocols: procedures to develop, approve & share joint messaging; communique, Website, Annual Report, Build on initial 2023 experiments for Forum reporting
2. Strat planning: (March 2023 session; subsequent Tier 1 follow up; next Tier 2 is ??)
3. Aligning work planning, action tracking to inform the annual report recommendations