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Fraser Salmon Management Board

Sockeye Escapement Plan Options

Presentation to the Fraser Forum
March 5, 2024

Outline

- 2024 Escapement Plan - Process Changes
- FSMB Motion: 2024 FR Sockeye Escapement
- Escapement Plan Options
- Discussion Questions

2024 Esc. Plan - Process Changes

In response to discussions leading up to the 2023 IFMP, the FSMB reinitiated their engagement with sockeye escapement plan development and their JTC undertook additional work in support

What was different in 2023/24?

- Two FSMC technical members involved early in development of Sockeye escapement plan options
 - Attended Fraser Sockeye forecast meeting in December
 - DFO staff responsible for plan development shared early drafts and met with full JTC to review and discuss options
- JTC provided recommendations and rationale to the FSMB, co-chairs available to respond to questions

Initial FSMB Review (January 17th)

Four options were developed and reviewed by the JTC

These were then discussed at the FSMB on January 17

Option 1- Brood Year (2020) Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	10%	20%	108,000	135,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.58
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	640,000	1,280,000	0.08
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.49

Option 2- Precautionary Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	10%	20%	108,000	135,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	180,000	360,000	0.58
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	1,000,000	2,000,000	0.08
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.49

Initial FSMB Review (January 17th) cont.

Option 3 (JTC) - Brood Year (2020) Escapement Plan with increased LAER

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	LowAbundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	20%	20%	108,000	135,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o misc)	20%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.56
Summer (w/o misc)	20%	50%	640,000	1,280,000	0.08
Late (w/o misc)	20%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.49

Option 4 (JTC) - Brood Year (2020) Escapement Plan with reduced LAER

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	LowAbundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	5%	20%	108,000	135,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o misc)	5%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.56
Summer (w/o misc)	5%	50%	640,000	1,280,000	0.08
Late (w/o misc)	5%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.49

Discussions and Collaboration

The FSMB and JTC worked to further review and refine the options during their meetings on January 24th and February 7th and via email.

This lead to the adoption of a motion by the FSMB during their February 7 meeting as follows:

"the FSMB supports including the 2 Fraser Sockeye escapement options discussed Feb 7 in the draft IFMP, with the understanding that other options can be explored via the IFMP development process"

Final Draft IFMP Wording

For 2024, given the low forecasted returns and resulting limited harvest opportunities, the Department is seeking input on 2 proposed escapement options and their respective components (Table 13.5-7 a & b). **The Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB) supports inclusion of these 2 options with the understanding that other options can be explored via the IFMP development process.** Consistent with previous years the Department will consider all input provided, including alternative options, to inform the final escapement plan. The final escapement plan that will be included in the IFMP may differ from the options described in this draft IFMP based on input received.

Escapement Plans | Option 1

- Option 1 is the Brood Year (2020) Escapement Plan implemented in 2020.

Option 1- Brood Year (2020) Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	10%	50%	108,000	216,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o	10%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.58
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	640,000	1,280,000	0.08
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.49

- Pros – provides added flexibility in bycatch mortality during potential earlier timed, non-sockeye harvest fisheries and test fisheries.
- Cons – may adversely affect stock recovery, particularly if stocks return at the lower end of the forecast and/or LAER limits are approached.

Escapement Plans | Option 2

- Option 2 is a Precautionary Escapement Plan with reduced LAERs for Early Stuarts and Early Summers and reduced TAM Cap for Early Stuarts.

Option 2- Reduced LAER Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	5%	20%	108,000	135,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o	5%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.59
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	640,000	1,280,000	0.09
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.54

- Pros – conservation approach with added protection for Early Stuarts and Early Summers while allowing some flexibility on Summer and Late mortality to occur in non-sockeye directed fisheries (e.g., summer Chinook).
- Cons – may constrain earlier timed non-sockeye fisheries, particularly if stocks return at the lower end of the forecast range.

Discussion Questions

Specific feedback being sought on sockeye management approaches for 2024/25 includes:

1. What escapement goal option do you most prefer? (option 1, option 2, neither, or another option not presented here?)