



Joint Technical Working Group Sockeye Recap March 3, 2024

Kelsey Campbell (UFFCA and FSMB) and Maddie Thomson (DFO)

Agenda



Time	Item	Lead
9:00 am	Introductions and Agenda Review	Kelsey Campbell and Maddie Thomson
9:20 am	Action Item Review	Kelsey Campbell and Maddie Thomson
9:45 am	Fraser Sockeye Forecast	Kaitlyn Dionne
10:45 am	Break	
11:00 am	2022/2023 Trawl Monitoring Review	Cory Lagasse
12:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plans	Colin Schwindt
1:45 pm	FRSSI	Ann-Marie Huang
2:30 pm	Break	
2:45 pm	MSF and Marine Recreational Review	Nicole Fredrickson
3:45 pm	Wrap Up and Agenda Planning for Forum 3	Kelsey Campbell and Maddie Thomson
4:30 pm	Meeting ends	



2024 Fraser Sockeye Forecast – Kaitlyn Dionne (DFO)

- Review of data inputs, modelling options, and process of model selection.
- Examined two examples in detail: Chilko (good model fit) and Quesnel (more challenging to identify a suitable model).
- Results of 2024 forecast: lowest on record. Very low brood but recent marine conditions have been more favourable.
- Key uncertainties: forecasts for 10 stocks are $< 1,000$.
- Plans for future work, including CSAS review of updated retrospective analysis.

Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative – Ann-Marie Huang (DFO)

- Review of the FRSSI model/process, which DFO uses to evaluate Fraser Sockeye Management Strategy.
- **Intent of FRSSI is to model different management protocols (harvest rules, reference points, etc.) to identify which are robust over the long term under a wide range of plausible scenarios (e.g., productivity).**
- Addresses long-term management strategy, not annual “tactical” management decisions in response to shifting conditions.
- **Discussion:** Model was designed for era of regular commercial fisheries and abundance — do we need a different approach for today, e.g., more emphasis on individual stocks.
 - FRSSI based on PST-defined SMUs, important to do homework on a potentially different approach before the upcoming PST renegotiation.

Fraser River Sockeye Escapement Plans – Colin Schwindt (DFO)

- Final 2023 post-season: smaller escapements than expected, so discussing possible sources of error for in-season estimates.
- Escapement planning process: JTC developed options to recommend to the FSMB.
- Highly unlikely to have any directed harvest in 2024 except perhaps Early Summers if returns above p75
- **Discussion:** Concern that IFMP does not support informed advice — i.e., adequate understanding of implications of the two escapement options, especially for individual stocks.
 - Example of 5% LAER for Early Stuarts and how it would impact fisheries, e.g., if test fisheries used the entire amount.
 - DFO manages to try to stay well below LAER cap.
 - How could management objectives use distributional goals for stocks within the MUs?
 - When developing management goals, need to consider individual stock status as well as recent trends.

END



krcampbell@telus.net

madeline.thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca