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## ***Fraser Salmon Management Board Process to Seek Input on the Management Approach for Fraser River Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook for the 2025/26 Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plans***

### ***Introduction & Purpose***

The Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB) is seeking input on potential management approaches for Fraser River Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook for inclusion in the final British Columbia Salmon IFMPs and this note is intended to identify the proposed approach and information sought. The attached information package includes technical background and an illustration of potential scenarios for distribution of Fishery Mortality Index (FMI) developed to represent some of the approaches proposed during consultations in past years. Actual options for 2025/26 will be developed based on feedback from IFMP consultations as part of the Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB)'s pilot process to engage external groups in developing 2025-26 IFMP management options for Fraser Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook.

### ***About the FSMB***

The FSMB was established through the 2019 Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement (FSCMA), as a joint co-management table comprising DFO and the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC), a mandated Indigenous organization that currently includes 78 signatory First Nations from the Fraser River and Approach waters. The FSMB process is supported by its Joint Technical Committee (JTC), comprising 5 DFO and 5 FSMC technical representatives.

The FSCMA creates and supports government-to-government, nation-to-nation structures for collaborative management and conservation of Fraser salmon. It provides a framework for consensus decisions and recommendations to the parties via the FSMB, recognizing the need for transformative change in collaborative governance to support reconciliation. Incremental FSCMA implementation will be based on FSMB's work plan, which prioritizes Fraser Sockeye and Fraser Chinook Summer 5<sub>2</sub> management.

### ***More Information: FSMB Engagement Deck- Chinook 5(2) Potential Scenarios***

### ***Background: Fraser Chinook Summer 5<sub>2</sub>***

In response to low abundance, directed commercial and recreational fisheries for Fraser stream-type Chinook salmon (Summer 5<sub>2</sub>, Spring 4<sub>2</sub>, Spring 5<sub>2</sub>) have not been permitted for many years. Concurrently, First Nations fisheries have been significantly restricted. In 2019 fishery measures were implemented to reduce fishery-related mortality of Fraser stream-type Chinook salmon. Additional measures were implemented in 2020-2024. Management measures have resulted in reduction of Canadian fishery mortalities for Spring 4<sub>2</sub> and Spring 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook to less than 5% in 2020-2023. While substantial reductions in Fraser Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook fishery mortalities were achieved in both 2019 and 2020-2022, the estimated fishery mortality rate of ~10-14% in 2020-2023 remain higher than for Spring 4<sub>2</sub> and Spring 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook stocks.

All six Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Designatable Units (DUs) have been assessed by COSEWIC as Threatened or Endangered. While overall Summer 5<sub>2</sub> escapement has increased since 2019, most DUs have not seen improvement and remain below current objectives.



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Conservation concerns continue to severely restrict rights-based Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) harvests for many First Nations, particularly in Upper and Mid-Fraser. Fraser Nations have led extensive efforts with DFO and other partners to restore habitat and rebuild depressed Fraser salmon populations to facilitate sustainable fisheries for all in the future.

### ***2025-26 Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) Process***

Through the 2024-25 IFMP process the Department and FSMB received a wide range of advice on Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook, some of which had not been consulted on through the IFMP process. The FSMB was unable to find consensus on the management approach for the 2024-25 season. For 2025-26, the FSMB developed a structured decision-making pilot approach, to be supported by extensive JTC technical analysis and engagement with external parties

In developing 2025-26 management advice, the FSMB is seeking input on scenarios that will best address the following objectives:

- Conservation: Progress has been made since 2019 but serious conservation concerns remain and require a precautionary management approach.
- Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Priority: Many First Nations, especially in the Upper Fraser, are not meeting their FSC needs. The FMI shows the distribution of fishery mortalities for Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook in recent years has resulted in the majority of impacts occurring in other fisheries (test, recreational, and commercial fisheries). The FSMB is seeking to explore options to support improved outcomes for priority FSC fishery harvests of Chinook.
- Sustainable opportunities: Provide sustainable fishery opportunities for more abundant stocks while limiting impacts on Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook.

The attached information package includes technical background and potential scenarios to support discussion and feedback on 2025-26 fishery management strategies.

The FSMB will be leveraging existing IFMP engagements to support discussions on this information and to receive input on the proposed scenarios.