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**Fraser**  
**River Sockeye Spawning Initiative**  
**2012 Workshop**

**Presentation to First Nations**

January 23, 2012

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# Presentation Outline

- **Purpose**
- **Background & Context**
- **Objectives**
- **Summary & Questions**

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## Purpose of Workshop

- **Follow up from July 2011 FRSSI sessions where DFO outlined the progress on the FRSSI model updates, reviewed the planned steps to move forward and the three priority tasks being worked on.**
  - Should the TAM rule be adjusted to account for recent productivity
  - Should stocks be moved between management groups
  - Should the TAM cap be increased
- **Seek feedback on the three questions.**

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## Background

- In 2003 DFO committed to reviewing the Fraser sockeye spawning plan which had been in place since 1987.
- In 2004 a CSAS Research Document, Cass, et al, laid the groundwork for FRSSI.
- FRSSI has two key elements it is a collaborative planning process supported by an assessment model used to support the process.
- in 2010/11 an update of the model occurred. As well the Canadian members of the Fraser Panel have been established as the Steering Committee for the FRSSI process.

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## Background cont.

- The Steering committee were established to lead discussions and any changes as appropriate.
- The FRSSI process and other works including the Fraser sockeye benchmark paper are intended to move forward on implementing the WSP.
- Fraser sockeye are managed under an abundance based approach, which changes from a low fixed exploitation rate (ER) at low run sizes to a fixed escapement objective at moderate run sizes to a total allowable mortality (TAM) cap at larger run sizes.

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## Workshop Objectives

- Seeking feedback on the analysis and results from the three priority tasks that the Steering Committee provided in June/July 2011.
- **Should the TAM rules be adjusted to account for the recent productivity?**
  - CSAS papers by Grant et al indicate that productivity of some stocks are on a downward trend, some are not demonstrating any specific trend and some others are showing increasing productivity.

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## Workshop Objectives cont.

- **Should Raft/N. Thompson stocks and or Harrison River be moved to the Summer run stock group if all analysis directs as per the guidelines document?**
  - PSC has been advising the Panel for 3-4 years that the Harrison stock is returning earlier and over a longer period than previously understood. Also that Raft/N. Thompson has been a known later timing and that current management of these stocks in the Late and Early Summer groupings may have escapement and harvest implications (above or below expectations).
  - First Nations, others and the US have all raised concerns which essentially indicate use best info available.
  - DFO has developed draft guidelines for making a stock movement between the 4 management groups.
  - Stocks have been moved on a number of occasions since the establishment of the current 4 management groupings in the 1990's.

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## Workshop Objectives cont.

- **Should TAM cap be increased for any or all stock groupings or individual stocks in a grouping?**
  - In 2010 the Fraser experienced the largest return in 100 years. Using the escapement rules adopted that year resulted in over 13 million spawners and a number of populations to achieve the largest estimates on record.
  - Not all rivers experienced the same level of relative spawning within each stock grouping.
  - Concerns were expressed by some that levels may be too high and create ecosystem issues.

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## Workshop Objectives cont.

- What advice do you have with regards to the list of issues as developed by the Steering Committee? We will be reviewing this list later in the agenda.
- Note this workshop is focusing on the specific questions and is not the 2012 consultation process that will occur as per normal at Forum and IHPC processes.

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## In Summary

- DFO is seeking feedback on the three issues reviewed in detail today. If these are to be adopted for 2012 they need to be part of preseason planning activities which occur in March. Your input is appreciated and we would like it by mid-February.
- We are also seeking input to support the directions for the Steering Committee on next steps/priorities, this can be at any time either directly to any Steering Committee member. The Steering committee will be setting goals for any future works by later this spring.
- Questions

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