

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

Note: This table is intended to highlight areas where there are potential inter-sectoral issues to facilitate discussion at the IHPC meeting. The Department will be meeting with First Nations to review detailed First Nations comments; however, some comments are included below as they relate to shared issues.

Issues:	DFO Response
RHQ	
<p>1. Sec 3 - Social, Cultural and Economic Importance: Concerns raised with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Content (comparing economics of very diverse fisheries using different sources/types of data. b. Sources of information used for the report. c. “Valuing individual fisheries relative to each other is not a useful position from which to move forward in the integrated planning process. The base valuation is incomplete and will likely always be incomplete (i.e. does not properly account for all of the “value-added” benefits of the fisheries – either economic or social), and it inherently sets up conflict among the sectors. The bottom line is that we all agree that all the fisheries are important and all fisheries share common social and economic values and objectives (e.g. the principle of ‘sustainability’. d. Suggested changes include: A few short statements saying that these fisheries are important to the people that participate in them both culturally and financially would be sufficient. It is possible that the inclusion of 	<p>The intent of this section is to provide a socio-economic review of the salmon fishery in British Columbia. DFO recognizes the unique values of each of the fisheries described here and the overview provided in this section is intended to help build a common understanding of the socio-economic dimensions of each fishery rather than compare the fisheries. DFO will continue to work with First Nations and stakeholders on content in this section for future years’ IFMPs.</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>some links to various studies and perspectives on the recreational and commercial fisheries would be beneficial to those who may want further information.</p>	
<p>2. Interior Fraser River Coho:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CSAB– supports Option 3 – optimizing all fisheries to maximize harvest of the available TAC in FR sockeye fisheries. b. Processors support Option 3 or above (30% + potential exploitation rate). Any potential IFR coho impacts should be used to support directed Fraser sockeye harvest first (by FN’s, commercial and recreational fisheries in that order), and retention of coho only if sockeye fisheries are not negatively impacted. c. Area B supports Option 3. Option 2 would not meet the 2014 objective of maximizing sockeye harvest opportunities for Area B, nor for other commercial, recreational or First Nations fisheries. Area B does not support coho retention fisheries, by any user-group, in Areas at times when there is a strong likelihood of encountering and impacting IFR coho. d. Area G provided rationale for Option 2 and 3 with associated management measures for each. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 2: In August in Area 125-127, the bycatch of coho constraints the amount of chinook TAC 	<p>A final decision on the IFR coho exploitation rate objective will be outlined in the 2014/15 IFMP expected in early June 2014. This decision will be for the 2014 fishing season only.</p> <p>As outlined in the IFMP, the exploitation rate limit for IFR coho in Canadian fisheries is used to provide incidental impacts while fishing for other stocks or species where Interior Fraser River (IFR) coho may be encountered and released. Incidental and/or by-catch mortalities are used to provide access to all southern BC fisheries where IFR coho may be encountered.</p> <p>Based on the ER approach for 2014, the Department will confirm specific fishing plans for the season as appropriate.</p> <p>Aggregate Interior Fraser coho returns in 2014 will be from the 2011 brood year escapement of approximately 25,000 coho. Forecast returns for the IFR coho aggregate are for approximately</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>available to Area G.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the available Area G chinook TAC from 20% to 30% for July and August fisheries. The October 01-March 15 fishery TAC would be reduced to 10% of the annual TAC. ○ Dependent on available chinook TAC Area G fisheries can operate in Area 125-127 from July 24 to August 15 and in Areas 123 and 124 from August 01-15. ● Option 3 recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retention of hatchery marked coho after June 01 in Areas 125-127. ○ Retention of all coho after September 1 in Areas 123-127 ○ In August in area 125-127, they by-catch of coho constraints the amount of chinook TAC available to Area G. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the available Area G chinook TAC from 20% to 30% for July and August fisheries. The October 01 – March 15 fishery TAC would be reduced to 10% of the annual TAC. ▪ Dependent on available chinook TAC Area G fisheries can operate in Area 125 to 127 from July 24 to August 15 and in Areas 123 and 124 from August 01-15. 	<p>50,000 coho (range from 31K to 78K-see 2014 Marine Survival Forecast of Southern BC Coho).</p> <p>The recent Science Advisory Report on the Assessment of the Interior Fraser Coho Management Salmon Management Unit noted that in general, it appeared that escapements of 20,000 and 40,000 (3-year running geometric mean) would result in very high probabilities that Objectives 1 (short-term recovery objective -2006 IFCRT) and 2 (short-term recovery objective -2006 IFCRT) above would be met, respectively. Using geometric means provides more precautionary generational averages and recognizes the importance (through heavier weighting) of smaller escapements to genetic diversity</p> <p>Based on the low end of the 2014 forecast abundance range and spawning abundances data for 2012 (approx. 54K) and 2013 (approx. 55K), the projected 3-year geometric mean escapement is expected to meet or exceed 40,000 (recovery objective 2) under each of the 3 options proposed.</p>
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DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

e. Area E

- request change to coho closure wording: “ If a Coho closure on the Fraser River is required it will come into play after September 15th, but only if valid mortality expectations in the Area E fishery are seen to be harmful to the recovery of the stock over time.”;
- Request that each group be allocated its share of the by-catch based on its fleet share/proportional share of the TAC.

f. SFAB provided options outlining preferred recreational fishery management measures for impact scenarios of 3%, 4% and 5%. Supports for opportunity for commercial fisheries to take advantage of abundant Fraser sockeye returns. . Option 3 is preferred approach.

g. MCC – Supports Option 1 – status quo Cdn ER at 3%. Not precautionary to increase fishing impacts in the absence of stronger evidence of rebuilding.

h. SCC: This objective needs to be sharpened up with specifics. How will the impact be minimized? What is the target? What types of fisheries restrictions are contemplated (especially chum and late run sockeye fisheries)? What is the impact from US fisheries? Increase spawner abundance to what level in

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

comparison with previous years?

- i. Some FNs supportive of Option 1 only.
- j. Other FNs supportive of Option 1 but would consider Option 2 for 2014 only with the following requests:
 - Marine and Lower Fraser fisheries managed to allow 40K IFR coho to escape past Hell’s Gate;
 - US and Cdn fisheries managed to hold the ER of the IFR coho to a total of 19% or less;
 - directed terminal harvest may take place in accordance with the local FN’s management plan;
 - and collaboration in developing and implementing stock status assessment programs in 2014 that will enable evaluation of the results in implementing Option 2, and the consequences for the recovery of IFR coho.
- k. Nuu-chah-nulth Nations support option 2 (Permit additional flexibility to increase the Canadian exploitation rate within the PST Low status zone). Within the determined allowable ER, Nuu-chah-nulth Nations support priority access to Fraser River First Nations and approach area First Nations (including Nuu-chah-nulth) for food and ceremonial access, then Fraser River First Nations and First Nations in approach areas (including Nuu-chah-

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

nulth) for incidental harvest in economic fisheries, and then incidental harvest in recreational and commercial approach area fisheries as needed and as the remaining ER can support within the total allowable ER.

Previous key issues highlighted:

FN requests:

- l. Request to accommodate the harvest of coho available through by-catch in other fisheries for FSC purposes.
- m. Requests that commercial opportunities in the Upper Fraser be considered with respect to increasing exploitation on IFR Coho.
- n. Request for assessment tools used to implement the ER of IFR coho to the Joint Technical Working Group and time for them to analyze the methodology of DFO; rationale for who will be benefitting from this increase; and how an increase would still meet the sustainable recovery objective.
- o. Requests for a description in the 2014/15 IFMP the process by which FN FSC and economic needs (in-river) will be accommodated in any increase above the conservation level of 3% ER of IFR coho.
- p. Request a demonstration of the aggregate return and ER that would be required to achieve this.
- q. Request that due to this high unqualified uncertainty

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

that a buffer be employed to the targeted ER for the aggregate to afford protection for the populations and sub populations.

- r. Request that an analysis be provided describing the response of populations and sub populations to proposed increases in the ER.
- s. Request to have the modelled domestic exploitation rate verified and the uncertainty associated with it prior to making any decisions for the 2014-15 IFMP, and to describe the results in the IFMP for this stated year.
- t. Request to have a description of the current performance of creel coverage and funding to process CWTs. DFO should describe how creel coverage will change in light of any proposed changes to ER for IFR coho.
- u. Request that any changes to ER for IFR coho should be considered interim (2014/15 only) until such time in the WSP benchmarks are established.

LFF comments:

- v. Allow fishing for and retention of sockeye in the Fraser River during the window closure for IFR coho in the FR into September similar to 2010.
- w. Analysis provided in recent discussion document did not adequately address key questions of how to

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>manage in 2014, or incorporate recent spawning escapement information (2012 – 2014). 40,000 objective is attainable with significant certainty based on the geometric mean of these three years’ escapement.</p> <p>x. Request for more detail in the IFMP on allocation of IFR coho impacts as by-catch to the various fisheries. A full review of the IFR coho conservation program and the management of allowable impacts need to occur with assessment of impacts to FSC and economic opportunities for First Nations communities. It is likely that the requirement for the coho window closure for “non-selective” fisheries will not be necessary.</p> <p>y. Recreational Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the daily salmon aggregate allow the retention of one wild coho per day in Areas 11 to 29 (except the tidal waters of the Fraser River) commencing June 1. • To increase the daily limit of hatchery marked coho from 2 to 4 per day commencing June 1 in Areas 11 to 29 (except the tidal waters of the Fraser River). 	
<p>3. Fraser River Sockeye:</p> <p>a. FN’s request CU status information as part of the background or issues associated with FR sockeye</p>	<p>A final decision on management approach for Fraser sockeye will be outlined in the 2014/15 IFMP expected in early June 2014.</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

management and to maintain the option for an Early Stuart closure window. Also request an option for a protective closure window for Bowron, Nadina and Taseko sockeye if runs return significantly below forecast levels.

- b. Review current approach for management of these stocks (Bowron, Nadina and Taseko) and explore options for protection and rebuilding.
- c. SFC – support Option 1 – 60% TAM for 2014 to protect Early Stuart aggregate, Fennel, Bowron, Nadina and Taseko, Quesnel River, Raft River, and late Shuswap aggregate.
- d. SFC supports window closure option for Early Stuart and a window closure for Bowron, Nadina and Taseko.
- e. LFFA – seeking directed fishing on Early Stuarts if run size warrants it. Priority is to provide for Dry Rack opportunity, timed to coincide with preferred weather.
- f. LFFA – not enough flexibility in escapement options, neither addressing issues at very large run sizes. Need further development in conjunction with change approach to MAs at large run sizes (First Nations must be involved in review of MA approach).
- g. LFFA supports use of Qualark test fishery to

Fraser River sockeye are managed on the basis of the four management groups (Early Stuart Run, Early Summer Run, Summer Run, and Late Run). Pre-season forecasts of run size at various probability levels are developed for major sockeye stocks within the four management groups. The two escapement plans options in the IFMP outline fishery reference points for each of the four management aggregates and are based on outcomes from the Fraser River sockeye spawning initiative process. Although the escapement plan is developed for the management aggregates, these plans include considerations for conservation units within the aggregate; additional constraints have also been identified for stocks of concern. Decision rules for management aggregates have been tested using the FRSSI model for expected performance at maintaining stocks (CU's) above lower abundance benchmarks over time.

For 2014, the Department also provided information on the potential outcomes for stocks (with CU's identified) for each of the escapement plan options at a range of run sizes relative to a variety of benchmarks that have been identified for

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>support Fraser stock assessment.</p> <p>h. LFFA - Cultus constraints should be viewed with the unusual economic opportunities that may be available this year, but recommends a 20 % ceiling not tied to Late Run abundance, unless recovery objectives will be met with high degree of certainty.</p> <p>i. MCC: opposed to Option 2 for Fraser sockeye; support the 108K escapement for Early Stuarts and the continuation of closure windows for both early Stuart and early summers in 2014; concerns persist for Quesnel stocks and request estimates in-season; request for max 20% ERs for Cultus in order to maximize rebuilding.</p> <p>j. Processors support for a TAM rule with a higher maximum rate – 70% with an option to cap escapement when the goal goes beyond some level; request to re-evaluate the approach on Management Adjustments; request to include Cultus sockeye in the Late Run composite for 2014, with no special consideration for a different harvest rate.</p> <p>k. Area B suggested another option that would increase the total allowable mortality to – 70% TAM (at the p50 level).</p> <p>l. Request for Area G troll opportunities to harvest Barkley Sound or Fraser River sockeye in 2014.</p> <p>m. SFAB request that the daily retention of sockeye be</p>	<p>assessing status.</p> <p>With respect to Cultus management objectives for 2014, the Department continues to implement approaches to meet recovery objectives for this stock of concern over time. As in previous years, the general management approach will be to adopt an exploitation rate that is the greater of a) the low abundance exploitation rate identified for Late Run Sockeye, or b) the exploitation rate that is consistent with continued rebuilding of the population based on in-season information on returns and potential numbers of effective spawners. In the absence of other information, Late Run abundance will be used as the in-season proxy for Cultus abundance. See section 7.5.4.4 of the draft Southern BC IFMP. Page 105</p> <p>The commercial allocation plan for 2014 includes a share of the Fraser River sockeye for Area G, as agreed to by the CSAB. The 2014 commercial allocation plan will be included in the final IFMP.</p> <p>The SFAB Sockeye/Pink Working Group will</p>
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DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>raised to 4 sockeye per day with 2 days possession limit in the non-tidal Fraser River system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> n. Request to review the current policy of using the MA and pMA to put unusually large escapements past Mission (page 90, 93 etc.) o. Request to a change in the practice of setting a pre-season maximum exploitation rate set on any stock or stock groupings Once an adequate, agreed upon escapement has been achieved on a stock or stock grouping, that the exploitation rate on that stock or stock grouping is no longer a driver in opening and closing fisheries. p. Request that IFMP describe how FSC fish will be harvested proportionally throughout the season; a certain portion from each stock grouping, unless there is a clear advantage to every stakeholder group by having the FSC fish come more from one stock grouping than others. q. Request to include in the IFMP, the exploitation rate estimates for all of the monitored stocks, along with upper and lower WSP benchmarks. r. Request to enable all terminal fisheries to harvest abundant sockeye CUs while minimizing impacts on CUs below their upper benchmarks. s. Request to limit the exploitation of Cultus sockeye to 20% and support terminal fisheries in order to 	<p>convene a meeting in mid-May to review and discuss the SFAB request to increase the daily retention of sockeye.</p> <p>With respect to the Management Adjustment approach for 2014, there are ongoing discussions occurring through the Fraser Panel process on possible adjustments in light of the large returns and potential escapements anticipated for this year. It is nonetheless anticipated that there will be an ongoing need to assign management adjustments based on environmental conditions in-river (for Early Stuart, Early Summer and Summers) or assumptions about pre-spawn mortalities for Late Run sockeye. Pre-season estimates of these MAs are reflected in the escapement tables laid out in the IFMP. Values will be updated based on in-season information.</p> <p>Despite strong anticipated returns on certain stocks within each sockeye management group, there remains variability in abundance and productivity among different stock groups within each aggregate, therefore, and the cap on ERs at large run sizes is intended to ensure sustainability across all components of the aggregate.</p>
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DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>continue the rebuilding of this COSEWIC-listed stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> t. Request that Cultus sockeye continue to be managed using an exploitation rate ceiling; a 20% ceiling is appropriate and not tied to the aggregate Late run abundance. u. Request for the IFMP to identify how the WSP for CUs in the red zone will be implemented particularly in relation to any increases in the TAM for aggregates. v. Proposal to group Widgeon CU with Harrison in Summers as opposed to Lates. w. Request that a full 2012 and 2013 postseason review of moving the Raft/North Thompson and Harrison to the Summer run grouping should be completed with a benefit/cost analysis and consultation to determine the parameters of the review. 	<p>Due to the inherent in-season variability in the timing and relative abundance of various stock groups, it would be very difficult to develop a fixed pre-season approach to how FSC harvests would be distributed across each group. Harvest plans are developed through in-season management processes.</p>
<p>4. Fraser Chinook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MCC: support to start the season in Zone 1 for spring and summer 5-2 and only go to Zone 2 management if warranted through in-season assessment; request that considerations for killer whales be reflected in the 2014 fishing plans; not supportive of the proposed regulation changes to the Juan de Fuca and SOG recreational chinook 	<p>Pending completion of the 2014/15 Southern BC Salmon IFMP, the Department is planning to continue managing Fraser Spring and Summer 52 chinook with zone 1 (less than 45 thousand return to the mouth of the Fraser) management actions.</p> <p>A final decision regarding which suite of spring and summer management provisions (Zone 1 or Zone</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>fisheries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. SFAB supports starting the season in Zone 2 management based on pre-season information. c. FN’s support starting in Zone 1 and using the Albion in-season update to provide management guidance to the management zone in-season. d. Fraser FNs have ongoing concerns about status of spring 4-2s, spring and summer 5-2s, and incidental impacts of non-FSC fisheries on these stocks. e. Closures requested by FN’s for recreational fishing for certain times in in Region 3. f. A scientifically defensible data collection program (CWT indicator stock or well-designed program based on DNA) is required for these management groups. g. Methods to estimate the distribution of impacts on these stocks (that were outlined in 2012 letter from DFO) need further review. h. Request for resources to provide a transparent analysis of the 2012 and 2013 total mortality estimates for Fraser Chinook to be completed in advance of the 2014/15 IFMP being finalized. i. Request that DFO and PSC representatives in the PSC process ensure that work to parse out the Fraser Early model stock into its 4 constituent life history based populations for use in the CTC 	<p>2) will be applied will be outlined in the 2014/15 IFMP expected in early June 2014. Consistent with previous years, the Department plans to update expected returns (to the mouth of the Fraser) using in-season data from the Albion test fishery.</p> <p>In-season updates are planned on or about May 20 and June 2 with a final estimate on June 16th. Consistent with previous years, an in-season adjustment may be made to the management zone based on the estimated abundance in mid-June.</p> <p>There has been extensive work over the last several years to develop a management approach for Fraser River Spring 4₂, Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ chinook. The objectives and management actions are identified in the IFMP.</p> <p>The Department is committed to the priority of First Nations harvest opportunities for FSC purposes over all other uses in managing salmon fisheries. This approach seeks to substantially reduce fishery impacts while avoiding broad fishery closures that would result from a zero fishing mortality approach. An annual review of fishery management actions and results for Fraser chinook will continue conducted as part of the annual post-</p>
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DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>model is a high priority and be completed during the 2014 year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. Request for a CSAS approved document evaluating the efficacy of catch and release fisheries in promoting the recovery of chinook stocks of concern in the Fraser. k. Request for all marine Canadian commercial and recreational chinook fisheries have measurable impacts on chinook stocks of concern in the Fraser must have scientifically defensible fishery independent estimates of catch and drop-offs with 80% certainty. l. Request for all Canadian chinook fisheries that employ catch and release as a method to reduce impacts of stocks of concern must provide fishery independent verification of catch, encounters, and drop-offs with 80% certainty. m. Request for in-season DNA stock composition should be employed in all Canadian commercial and recreational fisheries with measurable impacts of stocks of concern. n. Request for a 10% Canadian exploitation rate limit for these populations, through consultation with affected First Nations, and consistent with Canada’s Allocation Policy and WSP. o. Request that scientifically defensible, fishery 	<p>season review meetings.</p> <p>In addition, work is on-going to develop an integrated strategic plan for all Southern BC Chinook and results from this process may help inform adjustments to management actions in subsequent years.</p> <p>The draft IFMP includes a proposed management measure for the recreational sector in Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia (2/day, only 1 chinook >67cm through July 30) which provides some certainty for the recreational fishery.</p> <p>DFO plans to conduct a feasibility study for development of a Summer 5₂ indicator stock program beginning in 2014.</p>
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DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>independent surveys of stock composition, encounter rates, compliance, and drop-off/predation mortalities are used to estimate whether the catch and release measures – including MSF with and w/out slot limits – are having desired benefits.</p>	
<p>5. Fraser Chum/Steelhead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request to retain the 80/90 rule for the steelhead objective b. Concerns regarding the Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead without the IFR coho protection window in place to protect these species. c. Concerns regarding impacts during increased commercial, sport and FSC fishing targeting late summer sockeye; more selective gear should be used. d. SCC: Previously it was a 90% certainty; this statement opens the door for lower certainty levels which runs counter to a precautionary approach. e. This management action needs to be sharpened up with specifics. What constitutes a high degree of certainty? What types of fisheries restrictions are contemplated (especially chum and late run sockeye fisheries)? f. Concerns about scientific defensibility of the 80/90 	<p>The proposed modification of the IFMP regarding implementation of measures to conserve steelhead in the Fraser River, i.e. the 80/90 clause in the South Coast Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP), is not intended to alter the protection provided to interior Fraser River steelhead. This change was proposed to permit managers the flexibility to explore alternative fishery management approaches (including timing adjustments to improve fishery monitoring and catch reporting, compliance checking and alternative selective fishing techniques) consistent with steelhead protection.</p> <p>Preliminary analysis of timing of Interior Fraser River Steelhead shows that, on average, a very small proportion of that stock group travels into the Fraser River during early September (by September 9th, less than 2% of the run has entered the river and</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>approach. Request the flexibility in the 2014/15 IFMP to be able to change the date from the current “earliest possible date of October 25th” to “October 15th” for Area E chum fishery.</p> <p>g. Request that the conservation strategy that has been in place for Interior Fraser Steelhead needs to be reviewed and consulted on with Lower Fraser FN, prior to the fall fisheries. More information from DFO and BC on steelhead management approach is required.</p>	<p>less than 5% prior to September 15th). Therefore only a very small component of the IFR steelhead run would be vulnerable to fisheries impacts if fisheries were to continue into early September. Impacts are more significant for fishing later in September and early to mid-October, particularly using gear such as gillnet with high post-release mortality rates.</p> <p>The changes in the IFMP provisions envisioned will not lead to substantial changes to the fisheries management measures aimed at protection IFR steelhead. Non-retention and selective fishing requirements (e.g. revival boxes, brailing) for southern BC commercial fisheries remain in place. There are also a number of time and area closures to protect Interior Fraser River steelhead. These measures remain in place under the proposed revision to the IFMP.</p> <p>The changes proposed relate solely to the specifics of timing for commercial gillnets in the Fraser River and are aimed at providing modest flexibilities, such as allowing for two daylight hour openings (12 hours or less) as opposed to a full 24-</p>
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DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

	<p>hour fishery. In our view, daylight fishing has benefits in terms of effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement that can offset any modelled change in level of protection to Interior Fraser steelhead.</p> <p>Also, it has increasingly come to light that the 24-hour fishery is a source of health and safety concerns for the fleet and for others on the water, and DFO is seeking means to address these matters.</p> <p>DFO is continuing to engage with the province of BC on steelhead management approaches to make sure that we have the best tools in place for estimating and minimizing the impacts of various fisheries on IFR steelhead, while still providing viable economic opportunities to those fisheries targeting more abundant, co-migrating stocks.</p>
<p>6. Demonstration Fishery Proposals</p> <p>a. New – Area E Gill Net Nitinat Hatchery Chinook Pooled demonstration fishery. The objective of conducting this fishery is to test the feasibility and explore the potential benefits of accessing surplus Nitinat hatchery Chinook, using pre-determined licence pools fishing to a defined catch target. This demonstration directly controls the total harvest by</p>	<p>Proposals being considered or are still under review are included in the draft IFMPDFO fishery managers plan to follow up with the Area Harvest Committees on demonstration fishery proposals for 2014.</p> <p>a. This is a new proposal since the draft IFMP and is currently under review by DFO. It will be</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>limiting pre-determined pools fishing to a defined catch target. This demonstration directly controls the total harvest by limiting the participation in the fishery and settling limits on the harvest amount.</p> <p>b. Area D Gill Net Fraser River sockeye demonstration fishery in Area 14.</p>	<p>included in the final IFMP as under consideration. Further discussion and consultation is required before this demonstration fishery proposal is approved.</p> <p>b. This proposal has been reviewed by Stock Assessment and a meeting with the harvest committee is in the process of being set up. DFO is committed to provide the information shared with the IHPC.</p>
<p>7. Temporary Salmon Shares Transfer</p> <p>a. LFFA - A mechanism for 2014 for transferring un-caught sockeye and chum allocations from the regular commercial fishery to the FN's EO fisheries is requested.</p>	<p>DFO will craft management plans aimed at maximizing opportunities for allocations to be achieved in regular commercial fisheries, but due to various management considerations (including the need to achieve conservation objectives for weak stocks or species), harvests of available commercial TAC may not be achieved in all cases. Interim Operational Guidelines for Temporary Salmon Shares Transfers outlined in the draft IFMP (p. 217) include provisions under which transfer of unused or unallocated shares between areas may be considered.</p>
<p>8. Catch Monitoring</p>	<p>This discussion can occur at the actual IHPC</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>a. MCC request that all sectors should have the opportunity to provide input into the objectives, ToRs, and operating guidelines of the service providers hired in 2014 to provide fishery independent verification of at-sea encounters and releases by forming an IHPC subcommittee.</p>	<p>meeting.</p>
<p>9. Other</p> <p>a. In-season flexibility opportunities: The IFMP should have a statement that allows fishery managers to close and/or open fisheries where they judge conservation goals can be met, subject to meeting allocation priorities and policies. This provides the ability to adjust to unforeseen circumstances and to take advantage of unique and unexpected opportunities without going through extensive consultation and/or reference to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.</p> <p>b. An effective consultation process (e.g., Salmon IHPC) should have the specific task of endorsing the draft IFMP before final approval by the Minister. It weakens the consultation process referred to in section 1.7 with no attempt to seek endorsement of the draft IFMP.</p>	<p>The objective of the changes in this year’s Salmon IFMP process timelines was to improve the IFMP process and assist with meeting our target of the final Salmon IFMPs being approved by June 1, 2014.</p> <p>DFO is looking at ways to make the IFMP into a more flexible and dynamic plan to address a range of possible conditions in-season. The IFMP will provide transparency on what DFO’s objectives, harvest decision rules, and guidelines will be for managing salmon fisheries.</p> <p>Further discussion and feedback is welcomed on the IFMP planning process.</p>
<p>South Coast</p>	

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>1. SFAB request that DFO develop a size definition for precocious males (jacks) to the Stamp/Somass and other watersheds.</p>	<p>DFO staff in Port Alberni/RHQ have already started working on this issue, may require consultation and a regulation change.</p>
<p>3. WCVI Chinook – request an increase in size limit in commercial troll fishery and request an earlier start for the September fishery.</p>	<p>The request for an earlier start date for the September fishery is currently under review and further analysis and discussion with the Area G Harvest Committee is required before a decision can be finalized. The request for an increase in size limit requires a review of the work to date with the Pacific Salmon Commission and Area G troll fleet. No change is being considered for the 2014 season.</p>
<p>4. SFAB request to vary the Fraser chinook regulations corridor start time from May 1, 2014 to Sunday May 4 2014 in the Victoria Area.</p>	<p>A decision was made to vary the opening to May 4 and a fishery notice was posted.</p>
<p>5. SFAB opposition to the proposed reduction of marked coho smolts in southern BC hatcheries in by 2014.</p>	<p>Following SFAB input on draft IFMP, a revised approach has been put forward that maintains the guiding principles from initial plan. It includes a reduced overall production of marked coho smolts in Georgia Basin (9% vs. 20% reduction) to reduce potential carrying capacity interactions.</p> <p>Reductions mainly at sites that contribute at lower rates to fisheries. Consideration of increased terminal daily limits on hatchery stocks with large surpluses and low catch rates. Consideration of</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

	<p>increased daily limits in the marine area. Increased AFC marking on few remaining unmarked stocks to better serve mark-selective fishery (release target unchanged). Shift resources at select sites to address other priorities (e.g. Fraser Summer 52 chinook CWT indicator feasibility study).</p>
<p>6. SFAB request to reduce the duration of various Strait of Georgia chinook restrictions in the non-terminal areas.</p>	<p>This proposal is under review and will be included in the 2014/2015 IFMP as under consideration.</p>
<p>7. T’aaq-wiihak First Nations 2014 Fishing Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chinook: a 30% harvest share of total WCVI AABM Chinook TAC (net of F&C); total 31,912 based on 2013 data. b. Coho: for ocean coho, FNs want to work with DFO to establish a TAC, based on which they would harvest a 50% share. c. Sockeye: proposal for 10% TAC of WCVI migrating Fraser sockeye. d. Terminal chum and coho: proposing access for 4-5 rivers. 	<p>In addition to fishing opportunities for FSC purposes, DFO acknowledges that in <i>Ahousaht Indian Band et al. v. Canada and British Columbia</i>, the courts have found that five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht - have “aboriginal rights to fish for any species of fish within their Fishing Territories and to sell that fish, with the exception of geoduck”.</p> <p>The Department is working with T’aaq-wiihak Nations to further review and discuss changes to the Southern BC IFMP wording where appropriate.</p>
<p>Lower Fraser Area</p>	
<p>1. DFO and other agencies need to work to ensure peace on the water between First Nations and recreational fisheries,</p>	<p>DFO would like to see your proposals on night fishing so the Department can identify and work</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>particularly during sockeye fishing. Need to consider night-time drift fishing for FNs.</p>	<p>through any logistical issues.</p>
<p>2. Pursue First Nations’ terminal fishing opportunity for Harrison, Chilliwack and Pitt River sockeye and any other stocks where opportunities exist.</p>	<p>For FSC opportunities please provide proposals to your local resource management as to the specifics for these potential fisheries opportunities ASAP.</p> <p>Commercial opportunities for sockeye are not envisioned in the Chilliwack and Pitt Rivers at this time, although there are discussions ongoing on potential expansion of ESSR approaches in 2014 to apply beyond just situations of hatchery surpluses. As these discussions advance, you may wish to discuss potential options with your local resource manager.</p>
<p>3. Use of Chinook planning tool for Lower Fraser FNs fisheries – data gaps and uncertainties need to be addressed and assumptions reviewed, need clear terms of reference for in-season use, need consultation and clear communications on its use.</p>	<p>DFO staff in the Lower Fraser are working with individual First Nations or groups of First Nations in the lower Fraser to address questions related to this use of this tool. DFO is making use of the best available data at this time to support the tool, and will endeavor to update it as any new information is received.</p>
<p>4. FNs recommend discontinuation of recreational chum fisheries above Hope Bridge</p>	<p>Although two Conservation Units (CU) for Fraser River chum have been identified (lower Fraser River and Fraser River canyon), they are currently</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

	<p>managed as one unit. There may be distinct characteristics that separate Lower Fraser Chum from Fraser River Canyon Chum but there is no separation on population, or run timing the Department uses in managing Fraser River Chum. We understand that the First Nations in this area voluntarily don't fish for chum. DFO manages both Fraser chum CU's as one management unit and there are no separate escapement goals, exploitation rates, etc. for the individual CU's. Management of Fraser River chum is based on the in-season test fishery at Albion and according to the key decision points in the IFMP.</p>
<p>5. Request for gillnet opportunities in Economic Opportunity fisheries above Port Mann Bridge.</p>	<p>DFO continues to support the use of selective fishing techniques wherever possible for chum EO fisheries due to concerns for bycatch species, particularly IFR coho and IFR steelhead. Fisheries using non-selective gear (i.e. Gillnets) are expected to have more constrained opportunities than those using more selective gear, such as beach seines. Actual opportunities to allow for gillnets above Port Mann Bridge in the chum gillnet fishery will have to be considered in light of overall coho and steelhead management approaches for 2014.</p>
<p>6. Lower Fraser First Nations continue to express concerns</p>	<p>The management approach for Johnstone Strait</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

about chum management model and lack of integration between marine mixed stock fishery and Fraser terminal fishery.

chum outlined in the IFMP is similar to last year. For fisheries in Johnstone Strait, a fixed harvest rate model is used to plan fisheries with the overall objective of a 20% exploitation rate for all fisheries; of this 15% is for commercial fisheries. A fixed fishing schedule is used to set fishing opportunities. In addition, there is a critical threshold of 1 million chum salmon below which little or no harvesting will occur. When run sizes are expected to be below the critical threshold, commercial fisheries will be suspended.

The Albion test fishery provides an index of abundance for Chum Salmon returning to the Fraser. For fisheries within the Fraser River, chum harvests are planned based on an in season run size based on the catch per unit effort data from the Albion test fishery (see section 7.9 of the IFMP). This test fishery has not been used to provide an estimate of returns to Johnstone Strait as estimates would be biased low given the additional stocks, including Vancouver Island origin chum, are present in Johnstone Strait and timing of the information at Albion is later. Fisheries in the Fraser River are also designed to provide protection for other co-migrating stocks like IFR

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

	<p>steelhead. This usually results in starting with reduced FSC fisheries when the IFR coho window closure is removed and moving to more regular fisheries once the run size assessment is provided.</p> <p>Please note that we have no in-season data on stock composition for chum passing through Johnstone Strait, so we cannot identify how many of the returning Inside Southern Chum are of Fraser origin in-season. However, the 20 % harvest rate is a conservative harvest level that has enabled sufficient chum to return to the terminal Fraser area to meet escapement targets at to provide for FSC, commercial and recreational fishing opportunities in the <i>majority</i> of years.</p> <p>We are advancing our capacity to assess the Fraser components of the mixed-stock fishery in the POST-SEASON analysis, but we do not have the resources to do this in-season.</p>
<p>7. Terminal coho and chum opportunities (EO and FSC) should be explore where local abundance warrants.</p>	<p>DFO will need to see more specific proposals for what is envisioned. Economic opportunities are discussed as part of negotiations on comprehensive fisheries agreements.</p>
<p>BC Interior</p>	

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>1. SFAB supports continued dialogue between the ONA, DFO and local anglers and others with respect to the ONA economic opportunity fishery.</p>	<p>An experimental pilot proposal produced jointly by ONA and BCWF Region 8 reps was received. The proposal describes intentions of developing a small troll fleet designating both First Nation and Non First Nation for commercial harvest on Okanagan Sockeye in Osoyoos Lake. The proposal was discussed at the local SFAC with support of the pilot and feasibility of the project for 2014.</p>
<p>2. Closures requested by FN’s for recreational fishing for certain times in Region 3 on specific system to protect both 4-2 and spring / summer 5-2 Chinook in Zone 1- 3.</p>	<p>Recommendations received from First Nations to impose additional closures in region 3 in both zone 2 and 3 to protect 4-2 and spring /summer 5-2 Chinook. In addition, recommendations include management actions during targeted 4-1 Chinook fisheries to provide protection to late migration of 4-2 Chinook. The Dept. will be having discussion with the local SFAC and SFAB to discuss the recommendations.</p>
<p>3. SFC supports recommendation from Riddell et al (2013) for an independent assessment of the SEP Chinook enhancement program</p> <p>4. Requests increased involvement in the SEP Production Planning process</p>	<p>SEP is actively engaged in the Southern BC Chinook Strategic Planning process. The Independent Science Panel report is one of the key pieces of work being considered in the development of alternative management and learning strategies for Southern BC Chinook.</p> <p>The SEP production planning process takes place at the Area level, with significant involvement of</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

	<p>BCI Stock Assessment, SEP and Resource Management staff. SFC is invited to engage through Kamloops RM staff as well as SEP staff to provide input on enhancement priorities and issues in their territory. It should also be noted that the Simpcw and Skeetchestn First Nations are actively engaged in production planning relating to the Deadman and Dunn Creek CEDPs, respectively.</p>
<p>North Coast</p>	
<p>1) North Coast Troll Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SCC: NTC support the 10% Exploitation Rate objective for WCVI chinook in all Canadian fisheries. b. It is requested that the in-season DNA sampling method used in previous years will be continued in 2014 in order to test the new management tool and manage (close) the fishery if needed. c. NTC are concerned that the Area F troll fishery was allowed to exceed the in-season 2013 WCVI Chinook limit by 1,097 Chinook (60%). What is the actual ER obtained in the 2013 Area F troll fishery? d. Area F Harvest Committee: concerns with Zone 1 management decision for Fraser 52 Chinook and subsequent later start date for their fishery (had proposed start date of June 15) 	<p>DNA sampling will continue for 2014 and the results will be compared post-season to the Effort-Harvest Rate management tool that will be used in-season for 2014.</p> <p>Please refer to memo composed by Area F Troll manager for the IHPC members that demonstrates how the Effort-Harvest Rate management tool works and the post-season results for 2013.</p> <p>Have put in opening date of June 21 into IFMP with wording to allow for an earlier start if in-season indicators from the Albion Test fishery indicate increased Chinook abundance.</p> <p>Coho directed troll fisheries in Area 3 will be</p>

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

	<p>determined in-season based on indices of abundance such as Nass River fishwheels, North Coast and Southeast Alaska troll fishery CPUE's, Canadian Area 3 and US Tree Point net fishery CPUE's</p>
<p>2. Skeena Sockeye Harvest Rules (multiple groups):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Concern expressed over insufficient consultation on suggested option for updated Harvest Rules in the draft IFMP. b. Concern over impacts of increased harvest rate to wild Skeena sockeye stocks that co-mingle with enhanced stocks. c. Concern over steelhead bycatch issues with increased exploitation rates on sockeye. d. Requests to maintain “status quo” for Harvest Rules until further discussions can take place. 	<p>A final decision on management approach for Skeena River sockeye will be outlined in the 2014/15 IFMP expected in early June 2014.</p> <p>NCA staff are drafting a plan for a series of meetings/consultations over the next year to continue discussions on potential changes to the Skeena harvest rules.</p>
<p>3. North Coast Net Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nass sockeye – proposal for Area 3 sockeye gillnet opening a week earlier. b. Request for a 2 week Kwingeese closure rather than a 3 week closure. c. Area C request to provide Area 4 spring salmon opening dates at a later time. d. Request for coho retention at beginning of season in Areas 3 and 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The opening date in the IFMP is June 10, which is one week earlier than in 2013. b. A two week closure will be implemented, as in 2013, July 12-24. c. No dates have been included in the IFMP; the opening dates will be decided in-season. d. This request has been incorporated into the IFMP. e. No change in the IFMP, however this will be

DFO Response on the Proposals and Comments received by the Department on the Draft Southern and Northern BC Salmon IFMPs for 2014/2015 –May 1st , 2014

<p>e. Request for coho retention in Area 6.</p>	<p>determined in-season based on in-season coho abundance assessments.</p>
<p>4. Rivers Inlet Sockeye a. Proposed no Rivers Inlet commercial fishery until 500,000 for 4 consecutive years.</p>	<p>No change to the 2014 IFMP; discussions on-going with all interested parties for future years.</p>