

DFO Response on the letters received by the Department from the First Nation Forum attendees regarding the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning Meetings on Jan and March, 2015

Issues:	DFO Response
<p>January 27-29 Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning Meeting</p>	
<p>1) Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Coho Technical Committee has started discussions/negotiations on the Coho Chapter of the PST. What other negotiations are underway that First Nations have not been informed about? While it is understood that there are some technical participants from First Nation organizations at the Pacific Salmon Commission, these people are not participating in a consultative or a decision-making role in regard to Treaty Chapter negotiations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: a full, deep, and meaning DFO/First Nations consultation process <u>must be immediately designed and implemented</u> that will properly inform the negotiations of all Chapters of the Pacific Salmon Treaty that are coming due for negotiation. Leaving the process to the internal workings of the Pacific Salmon Commission and its committees is not acceptable. 	<p>Negotiations on Chapter 5: Coho Salmon have not begun. Rather, the Parties are simply conducting reviews of what is working – and not working – under the current Treaty provisions. Similar work is underway for the remaining fishing chapters and any changes will be subject to negotiations which are expected to commence in January 2016.</p> <p>In the interim, DFO is currently conducting an internal assessment of the Annex IV fishing chapters to identify potential areas where revisions might be needed. The Department’s scoping work is designed to categorize issues with the current Treaty language into the three streams of 1) housekeeping changes (i.e. minor editing); 2) implementation review (i.e. review to ensure Canada is satisfied with identified actions/allocation numbers and identify desired changes); and 3) substantive issues.</p> <p>DFO recognizes the importance of consultation and engagement with First Nations on the future of the PST and is currently developing a comprehensive consultation plan for the forthcoming negotiations. It is our understanding that the First Nations Caucus met in March 2015 to identify potential areas where revisions to the Treaty might be needed, and we look forward to receiving that information. DFO welcomes your input on both current and future Treaty implementation as well as potential approaches for information exchange and engagement to inform the development and implementation of the consultation plan.</p>

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	<p>The consultations and negotiations on the various Chapters will be led by the DFO Panel Chairs. Should you wish provide comments or suggestions on the PST consultations and negotiations please contact the following individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 1: Transboundary Rivers: Steve Gotch (steve.gotch@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) ○ Chapter 2: Northern British Columbia and Southeastern Alaska: Mel Kotyk (mel.kotyk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) ○ Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon: Gayle Brown (gayle.brown@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), Kate Ladell (kate.ladell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) (Note: Chapter 3 negotiations will be led by Commissioners) ○ Chapter 5: Coho Salmon: Arlene Tompkins (Arlene.tompkins@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), Andrew Thomson (Andrew.thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) ○ Chapter 6: Southern BC and Washington State Chum: Pieter Van Will (Pieter.vanwill@dfo-mpo.gc.ca), Andrew Thomson
<p>2) Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering Committee appears to be comprised of the Canadian Caucus of the Fraser River Panel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: the Steering Committee must be greatly expanded to include a wider range of First Nations representatives. The Steering Committee must then formulate its Terms of Reference that allow for the full participation of its First Nation members, with appropriate technical support. It is understood there have been several First Nations people identified for possible 	<p>The Canadian caucus of the Fraser Panel has functioned as the Steering Committee for the FRSSI process during the past several years. At the request of First Nations and the commercial sector, additional participants have been invited to participate in the April 16 and 17 FRSSI planning meeting. First Nation participants have been identified through the Forum process and individuals have been contacted and provided details regarding the meeting. There is no formal appointment process.</p>

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<p>participation in this Steering Committee, but these participants have not been formally appointed at this time.</p>	
<p>3) CSAS Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While First Nations involvement in the process has improved in recent months, there are still steps to be taken to ensure that increased collaboration between DFO and First Nations is provided for? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: actively explore with Forum attendees and the JTWG the possibility of these groups informing the Request for Information and Science Advice. Further, the JTWG and/or other suitable First Nations participants should have an official role in the development of the questions and the development of the Terms of Reference. 	<p>DFO is prepared to meet with First Nations technical advisors to have further discussion on the development of CSAS advice and opportunities for First Nations involvement in the process. Further information on the process is provided below.</p> <p>At DFO, science-based information is only part of policy formation and development of management approaches. Regardless, the high quality of science information developed through the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) peer review process is invaluable in ensuring that the subsequent consultative processes with stakeholders and advisory bodies proceed from a shared and reliable information base. CSAS coordinates the peer review of scientific issues for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Requests for Science Information and Advice (RSIA) are submitted by lead DFO sectors (e.g. Fisheries Management) to Science to address key scientific questions; these RSIA's are informed by requests and advice from First Nations and stakeholders. RSIA's are reviewed, prioritized, and science capacity to deliver the requested advice within requested timelines is considered in developing annual science work plans. Often requests for advice exceed the capacity to deliver and not all requests are approved. For approved RSIA's, DFO science staff are assigned to complete working papers, and CSAS convenes a Steering Committee of technical experts to accomplish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify appropriate meeting chairs or co-chairs for the meeting (if not identified already). • Recommend meeting logistics: date and location; • Develop and recommend meeting Terms of Reference in

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	<p>response to the Request for advice;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop participants list (both internal and external, the type of expertise needed and who may have the expertise); • Identify working papers to be developed; • Develop and/or review meeting agenda; • Review working papers
<p>4) CSAS Review: Chinook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations participants at the JTWG, on behalf of the FN Forum attendees, <u>formally request a CSAS review</u> of chinook management measures for the Strait of Georgia, including the sport fisheries, through a Request for Information and Science Advice (RISA) to CSAS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: respond immediately (c/o FRAFS) in support of this formal request. 	<p>DFO acknowledges the request from First Nations to review chinook management measures in Strait of Georgia sport fisheries. In considering this request, DFO will need to consider that southern BC chinook, including Fraser River chinook, are encountered in a range of First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries in marine areas and the Fraser River and there are a range of First Nations and stakeholder perspectives on management actions in place to conserve these populations. The Department is actively pursuing the development of tools that can be used to evaluate fisheries impacts for all Canadian fisheries, including First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries. Recent work on the Southern BC chinook planning initiative has focused on the use of these types of tools to evaluate a range of fishery management scenarios. Focusing on requests for evaluation of specific fisheries will need to carefully consider the benefits of that approach compared with work on more comprehensive tools as this will likely involve the same group of technical experts and resources are limited.</p>
<p>5) Steelhead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of steelhead has long been a process of the Provincial Government and DFO each deflecting the real issues of declining stocks (e.g. Thompson) and the implementation of inappropriate fisheries that constitute a real 	<p>DFO will move forward a request to Provincial staff to provide a presentation to the JTWG on their current impact model approach for Interior Fraser River, including Thompson, steelhead. This would provide an opportunity for the JTWG to discuss opportunities for further technical work.</p>

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<p>infringement on aboriginal rights to these culturally important fish. The Province’s “management/assessment model” has not passed the scrutiny of peer review. Thompson River steelhead continue to be fished and/or intercepted while at critical levels of returns. First Nations continue to be deprived of cultural and traditional fisheries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: insist to the Province, or take it on as a federal project, that the Province’s inadequate model be improved to a standard that will pass peer review. First Nations – through the JTWG – must be able to review the inputs to the model. 	
<p>6) Qualark and Mission hydroacoustic programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is thought that reduced budgets will endanger the operation of one or the other of these projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: convene an open and transparent assessment, with the full participation and engagement of First Nations, of the relative merits, challenges, and costs associated with these projects before <u>any</u> decision is made by the Pacific Salmon Commission and/or DFO regarding their continuation or cancellation. 	<p>First Nations input was sought on who they would like to have participate in a sub-group of the Panel that is addressing work on the hydro-acoustics programs. Mike Staley was identified and has been invited to participate in all meetings and conference calls. This sub-group of the Panel is providing guidance on technical and analytical work to be completed. Results of this work will be brought forward to the full Panel and will inform recommendations from the Panel to the Hydro-acoustics Strategic Review Committee (sub-set of Commissioners), that in turn will make recommendations to the Commissioners, who will then make decisions. The purpose of this review is to develop the most efficient and cost effective hydro-acoustic program for the Fraser River.</p>

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<p>7) Interior Fraser Coho management in 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are many contentious issues around the Dept.'s fisheries management decisions in 2014 that affected Interior Fraser coho. Those effects have yet to be determined but we understand that the Dept. is taking various steps to provide some answers. However, there are many questions about these steps, which appear to be taking place behind closed doors. For example, DNA samples were taken: why? Where? Who determined the locations? What was the sampling methodology? Who determined the methodology? What information is being sought, and does the sampling methodology conform to the provision of the desired information? What is the information going to be used for? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: instruct staff to present all the information around analysis of 2014 fishery impacts on Interior Fraser coho to the JTWG, and to fully and completely answer questions that arise. This will include transparent sharing of technical data associated with post-season IFC analysis and the 2014 DNA project. 	<p>As part of the management approach for Interior Fraser River coho in 2014, the Department committed to collecting information to support a post-season review. The 2014 spawner abundance (estimated at 18,500) coho was lower than expected based on the pre-season forecast abundance (range 31,000 to 78,000) and in-season exploitation rate of 10.9%. This suggested that total returns were below the lower end of the forecast range and/or fisheries impact models underestimated fisheries impacts.</p> <p>The Department has completed 2 review documents of fishery impacts in marine areas and the Fraser River to better understand factors contributing to the low spawner abundance of IFR coho in 2014. These analyses incorporated results from DNA sampling of 2014 fisheries and independent methods for assessing IFR coho mortalities in Fraser River gill net fisheries. The draft documents outline methods used to complete the analyses, including DNA sample collection and associated methodology and results. The 2 review documents have been provided to First Nations and stakeholders for review and have been discussed with the JTWG. These draft documents may be revised further based on further discussion and input from First Nations and stakeholders. Further assessment of tools to evaluate fisheries impacts are also planned for review by CSAS for marine and Fraser River fisheries in the fall.</p>
<p>8) Chinook: Spring 4/2, Spring 5/2, and Summer 5/2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DFO has unilaterally moved the Outlook category from a 1 to a 2. DFO has still not explained, clearly and fully, its 2013 management regime which has continue to 	<p>DFO provides the Salmon Outlook document in the fall of every year as an early indication of potential salmon abundance. Each outlook unit is ranked from 1 to 4 based on available qualitative and quantitative information and the opinion of DFO Stock Assessment staff. While the Salmon Outlook provides a general context for fisheries planning,</p>

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underpin DFO's "management measures" for these fish. First Nations technical personnel are not able to replicate the methods and results associated with the technical information contained in Rebecca Reid 2012 letter. Most First Nations in the Fraser watershed have not had their desired access to these fish for many years as a result of DFO's management measures – a clear infringement on the rights of those First Nations.

- Action required from DFO: first – do not deflect the issue of the Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative. This Initiative is not going help with 2015 management of Fraser chinook. The proper management decisions must be made in 2015 that clearly provide for the aboriginal right, and the Strategic Planning Initiative is still some years away from producing an acceptable Plan. Second – reduce the access to Fraser chinook by the commercial and sport industries starting now. Third – design, in collaboration with First Nations, a deep and meaningful consultation process concerning chinook management decisions in 2015 before such decisions are made.

discussion of specific fishery management measures is the subject of the IFMP planning process.

The outlook category for Spring 42, Spring 52 and Summer 52 was improved in 2015 to a "2" or *low*, based in part on expectations for modest improvements over brood year spawner abundance. However, overall abundance is expected to remain low given ongoing unfavourable marine conditions. As a result, ongoing fishery restrictions similar to recent years are planned to remain in place for 2015 fisheries. These fishery management measures are outlined in the draft salmon IFMP and are similar to recent years in most areas.

DFO has outlined the current management approach in numerous previous letters. This approach is intended to result in a substantial reduction of exploitation rates to rebuild chinook populations. First Nations fishing for food, social and ceremonial fisheries have priority over recreational and commercial fisheries. While reductions in First Nations fisheries are part of the current approach; commercial and recreational fisheries will have the greatest overall reductions in harvest. For commercial and recreational fisheries, impacts that remain are expected to be low and occur incidentally during fisheries for more abundant stocks and species.

The analysis of fishery reductions in First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries is challenging given uncertainties associated with lack of current coded-wire tag information for Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ chinook and reliance on a models for Fraser River and marine fisheries. However, DFO remains willing to work with JTWG to review methods and results from the available tools that are used to assess the current management approach.

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	<p>Consultation on the 2015 management plan is expected to occur within the existing IFMP process; DFO remains open to First Nations suggestions on potential improvements to the process. In addition, DFO remains committed to working collaboratively with First Nations to develop an integrated strategic plan for SBC chinook. Both the planning process and technical working group have DFO and First Nations co-chairs to ensure First Nations perspectives are considered throughout the process.</p>
<p>9) Sockeye</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has become apparent that significant numbers of Fraser sockeye were caught in Alaskan fisheries in 2014. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: ascertain, before 2015 sockeye fishing plans are devised, the Fraser sockeye stocks that were intercepted by the Alaskan fishery. Further, DFO must take action through the Pacific Salmon Treaty to ensure that the Alaskan fishery is held accountable for those impacts. 	<p>During the January meetings of the Fraser Panel PSC staff had indicated a harvest of 500,000 Fraser sockeye in the Alaskan District 104 Purse seine fishery in 2014. This was subsequently corrected later in the week to less than 200,000 Fraser sockeye. During the February Fraser Panel meetings, PSC staff provided a weekly catch table which suggests approximately 180,000 Fraser sockeye were harvested in the District 104 fishery in 2014. DNA samples are currently being processed to identify the specific Fraser stocks within that catch.</p> <p>Under current PST provisions, Alaskan harvests are not included as part of the US share. However, within Chapter 4 (Fraser) of the PST a section was added during the most recent negotiations that identifies conditions under which the Alaskan harvests of Fraser sockeye would not be included in the US share; these conditions are subject to review if conditions change. This is an issue that can be raised and discussed further through the Canadian caucus of the Fraser River Panel</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the Fraser sockeye forecast for 2015, First Nations right-based fisheries needs may not be met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action required from DFO: 1. Test fisheries should not be opened on Early Stuart sockeye, and should be delayed for Early Summer Run/Summer Run 	<p>Discussions have been ongoing within the Department as well as the Fraser Panel regarding the test fishery impacts on Early Stuart sockeye. Although plans have not been finalized at this time delaying the startup of the Area 20, Whonnock and Qualark gillnet test fisheries is being considered. These are the test fisheries which have the largest impact on Early Stuart sockeye and are regularly delayed to reduce impacts. In 2011 (2015 brood year), Area 20 was delayed from June 24th to July</p>

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<p>sockeye. 2. While test fisheries on these later management groups are justified on a conservation and information need basis, DFO must not allow the implementation of any “business case” test fisheries without receiving the informed consent of First Nations. To do otherwise may constitute a serious infringement.</p>	<p>15th as was Qualark. This approach will likely be adopted again in 2015.</p>
<p>March 10-12 Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning Meeting</p>	
<p>10) Process Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO staff heard loud and clear that the lack of available information/data that was necessary to fuel the discussions at this Forum was a problem. First Nations and Dept. staff agreed that meaningful input to the draft IFMP was impossible without convening another Forum, prior to the IFMP comment deadline, and that the requisite data would be supplied. Dates were set: April 10 for a JTWG meeting to first look at and discuss the information that needs to be provided by DFO; and April 13-14 for a two day Forum to properly review and inform the First Nations attendees. DFO agreed to extend the IFMP input deadline to April 17. 	<p>Forum meeting dates for the winter/spring of 2014-15 were set collaboratively with FRAFS and DFO in the summer of 2014. The intent was to plan in advance in order to set realistic dates when post/pre-season fisheries data would be available and also align with IFMP release/deadline. Given the challenges, discussion is taking place between FRAFS and DFO to review dates for next seasons’ Forum meetings and decisions are expected in early summer. During the March Forum, DFO staff considered feedback on concerns raised and worked closely with FRAFS to plan for an additional meeting in April to address key areas of fisheries planning with new information that was available in early April. Agreement was also reached to extend the deadline for IFMP input from Forum participants to April 17th.</p>
<p>11) Data Delivery: DFO has still not delivered the information required for First Nations to carry out analyses related to chinook and coho management decisions/actions. DFO is aware of its consultation</p>	<p>DFO has undertaken considerable analysis to support discussions on the 2015 draft IFMP and has shared the relevant information on chinook and coho with First Nations and stakeholders as soon as the information was available. These analyses are complex and require substantial</p>

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<p>obligations but DFO cannot just go through the motions – DFO must provide to First Nations the information required by its own consultation processes.</p>	<p>inputs of time and resources to provide meaningful analysis of key issues/questions that have been raised by First Nations and stakeholders.</p> <p>DFO has provided additional analysis to support : 1) the 2014 post-season review of IFR coho impacts in a) marine fisheries and b) Fraser river gill net fisheries; and, 2) analysis of an SFAB proposal to change recreational fishery regulations for Fraser chinook in the Juan de Fuca (Victoria) area.</p>
<p>12) <u>In-season allocation transfers:</u> DFO has not yet responded to the recommendation that a bi-lateral “in-season allocation transfer committee” be formed <u>well in advance of the fishing season</u> to decide on a methodology/procedure for responding to and expediting in-season proposals for transfer of allocations. <u>This very important and sometimes-complex issue cannot be left to the whims of an isolated, unilateral ad-hoc decision making process in the middle of the fishing season.</u></p>	<p>DFO has provided interim guidelines in the draft 2015 IFMP which outline considerations to inform in-season allocation transfer requests (see page 237). These principles and operational considerations will be used by the Department when evaluating proposals for in-season transfers. Further to these, proposed updates to the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (see page 248) identify additional principles and guidelines identified by the FN SCC and CSAB regarding flexibilities to harvest shares.</p> <p>DFO supports a collaborative discussion to identify and resolve issues related to transfer requests and a pre-season discussion would be helpful to further discuss this issue. It may also be useful to include some commercial harvesters in this discussion for considerations related to transfer requests between commercial harvesters and First Nations.</p>
<p>13) <u>Sec 35(1) fishing area change requests:</u> a process must be developed, perhaps with the assistance of the First Nations Fisheries Council, to deal with such requests in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner.</p>	<p>DFO is open to discuss further a potential role for the FNFC or other aggregate FN fisheries bodies in coordinating or providing feedback and advice to DFO regarding consultation on FSC access decisions.</p>
<p>14) <u>FRSSI Performance Review:</u> some of the questions that continue to be asked: This modelling process has been in use in 2006: is it still useful? Is it done what it is supposed to do? How have the outcomes influenced sockeye management? Has management been precise</p>	<p>A retrospective analysis of the FRSSI model, the associated escapement plans and the models overall performance is being proposed as part of the upcoming FRSSI workshop(s). Many if not all of the questions identified in the letter will be addressed.</p>

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<p>enough to enable evaluation of the plan? Have there been occasions when the plan was developed through FRSSI but not implemented? Why?</p>	
<p>15) Chinook sport fishery: the Dept. is considering “flexibility” particularly for the marine chook sports fishery industry, while at the same time holding First Nations to strict management objectives even in the face of infringements. The proposed “blending” of Zones 1 and 2 – put forth by the sport fishing industry is unacceptable. As noted in the communication from the January Forum, <u>First Nations required DFO to immediately commit to a full and transparent consultation process on the management of the Fraser River chinook.</u></p>	<p>The Department is seeking feedback on a proposal in the draft IFMP that would modify the suite of management measures in place in the Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia recreational fisheries (described in Appendix 6, Section 6.3.3). The proposal seeks to align the management measures in place in these areas across management zones used to manage Fraser River Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ chinook. This proposed change would implement the following management actions for zone 1, 2 and zone 3 management.</p> <p>This proposed change is also identified at page 186 of the draft 15/16 Southern BC Salmon IFMP. NOTE: The dates in the draft IFMP for the Juan de Fuca area are incorrect and should read as follows (the dates in the attached memo are correct).</p> <p>Juan de Fuca recreational fishery (Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and Subarea 20-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ March 1 through June 19th 12th, the daily limit is two chinook per day which may be wild or hatchery marked between 45 and 67 cm or hatchery marked greater than 67 cm in Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and 20-5. □ June 20th 13th through July 31st, the daily limit is two chinook salmon per day of which only one (1) chinook may be greater than 67 cm. <p>The Department is looking for feedback on this proposed change and has circulated a technical memo outlining the potential implications of the proposed changes to support feedback on the draft IFMP.</p> <p>For First Nations fisheries, the Department is willing to continue to</p>

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	<p>work with First Nations to consider flexibilities for FN fishing plans that meet the needs of FN groups while continuing to try and reduce overall fisheries impacts on these populations.</p>
<p>16) Sockeye test fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area 20 test fishery must not start until mid-late July. First Nations support the Whonnock and Qualark test fisheries being implemented per normal timing, as their impact on Early Stuart and the early timed stocks of the Early Summer Run management group will be minimal while still providing some basic training information important for management of window closures. • The Pacific Salmon Commission (or DFO) must not engage in (commercial) fishing of sockeye in 2015 for the purpose of amassing funds to pay for test fisheries. The PSC has stated in the past that they implemented this practice when sockeye were very plentiful in order to obtain sufficient funds to pay for the operation of test fisheries in years of expected low returns. 2015 is such a year. 	<p>At its April meeting, the Fraser Panel will be reviewing the start times for various test fisheries (see #9). Analysis completed by the PSC secretariat shows that there would be an estimated reduction in Early Stuart mortalities (~500 fish) by delaying the onset of the Area 20 test fishery until July 13th (usual start time is June 20th). Your recommendation will inform Canada’s position in panel discussions, and we expect that First Nations members of the Canadian FRP Caucus will also contribute to Caucus and Panel deliberations on this issue.</p> <p>At this point, DFO is not aware of a plan to conduct non-assessment sets on sockeye during test fisheries administered by the PSC, and that they are analyzing options to reduce test fisheries impacts on sockeye as noted above.</p>
<p>17) Sockeye (general):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning four year old forecasts are inherently uncertain. Several stocks are forecast to contain a large proportion of returning five year olds – these forecasts contain a much higher level of uncertainty. <u>First Nations state that precautionary management principles must be applied in 2015.</u> 	<p>The high level of uncertainty in the 2015 forecast will be taken into consideration in both the pre-season planning as well as in-season management of the fisheries directed on Fraser sockeye. In-season assessment information on run size, timing and stock composition forms the basis of management decision making as the season progresses.</p> <p>With respect to the recent UBC study on Early Stuart mortality conducted in 2014, it is premature to accept and apply the results to fisheries in 2015. The results of the study are preliminary at this time</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Early Stuart sockeye mortality study results have not been provided for discussion in relation to pre-season planning. <u>This study must be provided to First Nations as part of an open and transparent data-sharing exercise that is the underpinning of a legitimate consultation process in regard to fishery management decisions.</u> 	<p>and additional discussion needs to occur once the study is published. Concerns have been raised in relation to the study being conducted in the Cultus lab and that it focused on effects of elevated temperatures on Early Stuart sockeye released from large mesh gillnets. Once the study is completed it will be available for distribution by UBC.</p>
<p>18) Early Stuart sockeye: Forum attendees agreed that for planning purposes the p25 forecast run size of 16,000 must be adopted, and that there will be a fishing closure to protect the 2015 Early Stuart sockeye run. They further agreed that if the MA is “normal” they would accept a maximum of incidental harvest mortality of 10% (1,600 fish), with the objective of putting at least 10,000 spawners on the spawning grounds.</p>	<p>The Department appreciates the recommendations from the Forum attendees and will consider them in the finalization of the 2015 Southern BC IFMP.</p>
<p>19) Early Summer Run stocks: The Forum attendees agreed in principle with the IFMP proposal to maintain an extended window closure to protect the earlier timed stocks, i.e. Taseko, Bowron, and Nadina during the period June 28 to July 29. However, the attendees request that DFO provide timing information for the Early Stuart, and those Early Summer Run stocks, to support further discussion on window closures timing details at the April Forum.</p>	<p>The run timing information requested by Forum attendees has been provided.</p>
<p>20) Summer Run stocks: Discussion centered around the issue of another year of strong Chilko returns along with weak returns of the co-migrating Late Stuart, Stellako, and Quesnel stocks. Further discussion will be needed at the April Forum. However, some outcomes from the March 12 discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Stuart must be protected. This will likely 	<p>The Department is also concerned about the low returns being forecast for Late Stuart sockeye in 2015. Fisheries directed on summer run sockeye will be determined based on the final escapement plan identified in the 2015 SC IFMP. DNA sampling will be conducted as in previous years which permit identification of most stocks; however, differentiation between Late Stuart and Stellako is currently a challenge in-season.</p>

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<p>mean transfer of more TAC (Chilko) away from the mixed stock fisheries and into the Chilcotin system than would otherwise be the case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine commercial mixed-stock fisheries must not be implemented in 2015 in order for First Nations to meet their constitutionally protected needs with a minimum of impact on Late Stuart in particular, but also on Stellako and Quesnel stocks. • To better inform in season management and post-season analysis, DNA sampling is used to differentiate Chilko from Quesnel stocks, and this must be continued. There should be equal effort put into separately identifying in-season the relative abundances of Stellako and Late Stuart stocks. • The two fishing plan options provided by DFO are a “winners-losers” scenario. A third potential option was briefly discussed, and may be explored in more detail in the April Forum. 	<p>As discussed at the Forum meeting in March the Department is willing to discuss alternative escapement plans to the two provided in the draft IFMP.</p>
<p>21) <u>Late Run stocks:</u> there seemed to be general agreement with the Lower Fraser’s position of a maximum ER of 20%. However, more discussion will have to occur in April.</p>	<p>The department appreciates the recommendations from the Forum attendees and will consider advice received in the finalization of the 2015 SC IFMP.</p>
<p>22) <u>Interior Fraser Coho:</u> First nations Forum attendees note that DFO staff are/have been working on a data/information package related to 2014 post-season analysis of impacts. FN participants on the JTWG have not been provided any opportunity for involvement or input the development of the package. This is <u>not</u> how</p>	<p>DFO has circulated draft documents that provide preliminary results of potential fishery impacts on IFR coho in 2014. In addition, a discussion document (<i>Draft Discussion Paper: 2015 Interior Fraser River Coho Management</i>) outlines planning considerations for 2015.</p> <p>In addition, DFO has developed a discussion document to guide</p>

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<p>“collaborative management” is supposed to work. <u>Therefore, action is required from DFO:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A draft of the IFC package must be shared with the JTWG no later than the end of the business Friday March 20 in order to provide some time for the JTWG to address points for clarification and consider alternative methods of analysis. ○ Clarify the 2015 draft IFC objectives, i.e. define “Canadian Fisheries” and references to pre 2014 IFC management impacts and calculations. ○ Distribute the IFC 2015 forecast as part of the package for consideration in IFC planning for 2015. ○ Include information related to IFC fisheries specific to 2011 and 2013 management (Fraser pink years). 	<p>feedback on the 2015 fishing plan. This includes the 2015 forecast for IFR coho and some fishery scenarios related to the 2011 and 2013 fisheries.</p> <p>With respect to 2015 fisheries planning, DFO is seeking your feedback as follows:</p> <p>Within the 10% ER limit for Canadian fisheries (occurring South of Cape Caution), what are the key fisheries management considerations that need to be taken into account? What configuration of fisheries would you support?</p> <p>The views received during consultations will inform final decisions on the 2015 fishing season to be included in the Southern BC IFMP.</p> <p>Further information is also provided at point #7 above.</p>
<p>23) Fraser Chinook: As noted very strongly by FN Forum attendees in January, DFO continues to manage Fraser chinook largely for the benefit of the marine sport industry and a comprehensive management consultation process must be implemented. Before considering any changes to the marine sport fishery in the 2015 IFMP, DFO must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and peer review the existing management measures and evaluate the existing fishery regime with respect to conservation objectives and exploitation rate assumptions; • Distribute and describe the data/inputs/information/tools associated with the 	<p>DFO agrees that further assessment of existing management measures with respect to conservation objectives and exploitation rate assumptions would be useful for all fisheries. The Chinook Technical Committee of the PST process has been working on a model that may be useful for contributing to this analysis; further work is planned in conjunction with the SBC chinook planning process technical working group (see #4).</p> <p>Information and analysis on the 2015 marine sport fishery is provided for the proposed changes in the Juan de Fuca and Strait of Georgia (see #15).</p> <p>Information on the salmon outlook, proposed 2015 management</p>

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<p>2015 marine sport fishery and provide an evaluation of the implications to First Nations rights-based fisheries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2015 salmon outlook for spring 4sub2 Fraser chinook went from 1 to 2. DFO must describe any subsequent changes to the approach for the 2015 fisheries (compare with 2014 etc. when the outlook was 1), and describe the distribution of impacts and conservation objectives, including methods and calculations. The draft IFMP management objective appears to be unchanged from the previous year (outlook 1) – but it is written such that changes to impacts to these stocks by sport fisheries may be allowed while still “meeting the objective”. The potential for further infringements on First Nations rights to these stocks may be increased. Clarification is required.• As noted over the last two years, FN technical personnel are not able to replicate the methods, results, and consultation associated with the management information provided in the 2012 Rebecca Reid letter. To date, DFO has not responded to requests for detailed discussion with DFO technical staff responsible for the information in that letter that outlines the spring/summer 5sub2 impacts and reductions. Furthermore, First Nations also request a full discussion regarding an evaluation of the objectives outlined in the 2012 letter based on independent data. Complete transparency is	<p>approach and review of 2012 analysis is provided in #8.</p>
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<p>expected in regard to all sectors.</p>	
<p>24) Fraser Pink salmon: More information is required to meaningfully discuss proposed Fraser Pink salmon fisheries with First Nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential constraints on pink salmon fisheries from protected steelhead, Late run sockeye, and Interior Fraser coho; • The proposed increases to pink salmon allocation and opportunities for sport fisheries as outlined in the draft IFMP; • Catch monitoring plans (including encounter rates and bycatch of other species) for pink salmon sport fisheries. 	<p>Further discussion on pink salmon fisheries planning will occur at the next Forum meeting on April 13.</p>