

Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning

JTWG UPDATE

JANUARY 26, 2016

JTWG Activities

- Two meetings: Dec 16th Goto Meeting and January 25th In-person Meeting
- All major topics/issues are now tracked via: JTWG Management/Issue Tracker (Excel Workbook)
- TOR: reviewed - minor changes recommended (define consensus) – will go to FRAFS EC for approval
- All meeting notes are complete and distributed

Today's Update

- Good Meeting Yesterday (12 in-person, 7 on phone/GoToMeeting) 10 FN, 9 DFO
- Today's presentation:
 - Technical issues related to post season Forum materials
 - Technical issues anticipated for 2016 (snapshot)

Technical Update- 2015 Post Season

- Sockeye/Pink
- Chinook
- Coho
- Chum
- In general: Post-season is still under discussion – more information on the way
- Discussed presentations with intent of clarifying the information presented at Forum
- Co-Chairs aren't speaking for participants...

2015 Post-Season: Sockeye/Pink

- Return for Early Stuarts: As expected at P50 forecast
- Returns for Early Summer/Summers/Lates: Far below P50 expectation
- Alaska sockeye catch: early estimate of 100,000 Fraser sockeye
- We noted: detailed MA discussion/review was supposed to occur in 2015...
- Pink return: Far below expectations
- In combination: sox/pink return was pretty bad...
- Not all escapement estimates are available: post-season is still on-going

2015 Post-Season: Chinook

- Not too much discussion about post-season Chinook: discussed on-going technical issues
- Post-season discussion is still on-going: escapement estimates not complete except for general summaries
- Additional discussion to occur when escapement estimates are complete
- General summary: escapements up from brood on aggregate basis
- RR updated to 2014, CWT info 2014: TBD for 2015
- We are starting to look at impacts by fishery (sector)

2015 Post-Season: Coho

- Interior Fraser Coho: 2015 Forecast: approx 49,000 (mid-point)
- Management Objective: ER based on Canadian fisheries south of Cape Caution: issue raised pre-season 2015
- Preliminary Escapement: 10 – 20K: down from brood of 57K and 2014 return of approx 18K
- Lower Fraser: Escapement estimates incomplete at this time
- Post season discussion on-going...

2015 Post-Season: Chum

- Fraser Chum: Escapement goal = 800,000
- Oct 22 Run size estimate = 1.8 Million
- Significant harvest opportunities
- Escapement estimates: still underway

Technical Update- Pre-Season

Sockeye

2016 Escapement Planning:

- Stocks of concern in each aggregate and we are coming off low brood year escapements in some cases (ie Lower Adams (Lates))

2016 FSC sharing:

- FSC sharing was required last year. Given brood year escapements sharing may be required for this years return.
- Sharing plans/options may be complicated further when considering the anticipated distribution of the sockeye return (weighted to Lower Fraser for some aggregates)

Technical Update- Pre-Season

Chinook

Expected Returns:

- Fraser Chinook are all Outlook Status 2 (low) in 2016. Expect mngt actions likely similar to previous years.
- Although survival may have increased from very low levels observed in the ~2008 time period we are still coming off of low brood years for the 2016 return for Spring and Summer 52 chinook as well as Summer 41 Chinook
- The brood year escapement for Spring and Summer 52 Chinook is ~32500. Zone 1 management is a possibility

Technical Work:

- We spent time last year updating the Run Reconstruction with new escapement data
- Given recent updates there was some discussion about looking at harvest by sector
- Immediate priority to build on past DNA work. The JTWG will be looking at some DNA results collected in the JdeF sport fishery from 2014.
- Also planning to update the 2015 RR and CWT mortality distribution tables 2015 April (priorities pending)

Technical Update- Pre-Season

Coho

- IFR and LFA coho are stocks of concern in the outlook
- The JTWG will be engaged in two coho CSAS reviews in June
 - Marine Spreadsheet Model (marine projection methods and exploitation rate updates)
 - Decay Model (In-river exploitation rate methods and exploitation rate updates)

Technical Update- Pre-Season

Chum

- Fraser Chum are forecast to be abundant in 2016
- Planning consideration for steelhead is on the JTWG radar
- January 12th IFMP letter: 'Provincial officials have indicated an interest in exploring additional management actions to avoid/reduce steelhead by-catch in salmon fisheries.'

Next JTWG Meetings

- Webinar/Conference Call: Feb 25th
- In-person: March 7th

Thank you!