

Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning

JTWG UPDATE

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Today's Update

- Summary: Good Meeting Yesterday: 28 overall: 17 FN/10 DFO/1 Province
- Today's presentation:
 - Overview of yesterday's discussion
 - More focus on discussion vs presentations
 - Will focus on highlights that may initiate some discussion today
 - Less time spent on DFO FSC Sharing discussion in this presentation
 - Province joined us for the first time

Key Agenda Items

- Steelhead stock status and general tech info
- Juan de Fuca DNA update and next steps
- Chinook and Coho
 - Chinook technical updates
 - CWT Mortality Distribution
 - Run Reconstruction
 - Summer 41 Tech Analysis
 - Coho CSAS Update
- Sockeye FSC Sharing Discussion

Interior Fraser Steelhead

- Rob Bison: Focus on Stock Status and Benchmarks; some technical discussion about the fishery impact models
- Take home messages:

Stock Status:

- Interior stocks return from early September to Late November
- Declining trends in abundance vary roughly similar to those observed in coho.
- Escapement estimated for 7 of 10 stocks
- Last years prelim escapement was near lower BM
- BMs are a similar metric used by DFO for Chinook for example (Sgen , MSY)
- Data used to generate BM is uncertain due to data limitations (estimating recruits)
- Albion model does well at estimating the escapement for mngt purposes

Interior Fraser Steelhead

Steelhead Continued

- Take home messages:

Fishery Impact Models:

- Only had time to discuss some detail (no presentation)
- Fishery impacts generated by the model are most useful to describe an index of mortality over time not a mortality rate
- Why? Data limited: have estimates of effort but little information on catchability, migration speed, diversion rate
- The fishery impacts reported do not include all fisheries (focus on key fisheries that likely encounter steelhead)

Interior Fraser Steelhead

Steelhead Continued: Next Steps and Process

- Request a breakout of the mortality index by fishery
- Request to engage and educate (decision makers and fishers)
- Process....Where does the JTWG fit in?
 - The Department seeking feedback on steelhead mngt for fisheries DFO manages
 - Higher level discussions occurring between DFO and the Province
 - Working group set to develop an integrated management plan for steelhead
 - To provide IFMP recommendations or develop an integrated management plan a technical understanding of the underpinnings as well as the assumptions is important. This is likely where the JTWG could fit into the process??

Juan de Fuca DNA

- Updated file distributed on Friday
- File likely finalized in the next few days
- Overall the results have likely changed little but the file is now closer to error free and is more flexible for analyses
- Analysis considerations:
 - Use 2014 RR estimate and assumptions for other fisheries to estimate the exploitation rate relative to the Rebecca Reid letter

Juan de Fuca DNA

- Analysis considerations continued:
 - Look at the length data of samples to help understand when and where the impacts are happening (assess mngt actions).
 - Consider including released catch in the analysis
- Other concerns and considerations
 - Look at other samples collected in other areas and times
 - Consider recommending DNA sampling/and or monitoring for other areas and fisheries (timely)
 - Concern raised about the timeliness of the analysis and DFO capacity

Juan de Fuca DNA

Next Steps:

- Distribute final DNA file and Summary of samples collected in the SC area
- Schedule a GotoMeeting teleconference in late April to review DNA analysis and SC area monitoring information (heat maps)
- The above will be helpful in providing JTWG/Forum recommendations on monitoring/sampling that may feed into a larger review of management actions for these stock groups
- The JTWG to continue to provide key messages and results (Juan de Fuca DNA) to the Forum for IFMP feedback

Chinook Technical Update

CWT Mortality Distribution

- Annual process also a Forum recommendation
- Preliminary results close to being released
- Spring 42 very similar to 2014 (~85% to escapement)
- Summer 41 expect very soon (~50-60% to escapement)

Chinook Technical Update

Run Reconstruction

- Part of the annual process
- Not yet complete (currently updated to 2014)
- Goal is to have it complete by spring (May)
- Some future work required with regards to process and linking updates to Chinook Technical Committee work

Summer 0.3 Technical Update

- Forum Recommendation
- Additional info should help provide IFMP feedback
- In addition to what has been provided in previous presentations we looked at preliminary CU BMs, mortality distributions, CU escapements and RR harvest rates in the Fraser

Summer 0.3 Technical Update Cont

Take home messages:

- The prelim Outlook this year for this stock group is *low* however, this stock group is very productive. Will the outlook change?
- Brood year escapements for each CU are just under the preliminary lower BM, most years escapements are well above the lower BM
- One stock in particular was very low in the brood year (mid shuswap ~369)
- FN fishery planning concerns: ONA access only to mid shuswap and no other opportunities expected, little sockeye expected in the LFA and the coho window closure may restrict access, FN harvest rate in 2012 was higher than average (~20%) due likely to little sockeye opportunities
- Other concerns: will an increase in the AABM AI increase impacts in Summer 0.3s?

FSC Sharing

- Went through the DFO presentation
- Key considerations:
 - Harvest amounts or constraints are distributed by licence amounts in the marine, LFA and BCI
 - Licence amounts have changed (see IFMP)
 - The geographic distribution of stocks in 2016 may make a sharing arrangement complicated
 - Little incentive under current mngt regime for groups to harvest off the mainstem

Thank you!