



Juan de Fuca Recreational Chinook Fishery Proposal

Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon
April 13, 2015



Outline

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- What is the rationale for the proposal?
- What is the proposal?
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Origin of Proposal

- In 2014, the SFAB proposed a set of fishery regulations for the Juan de Fuca/Southern Strait of Georgia fishery for all three management zones for Fraser Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ chinook for the foreseeable future
- Subsequently, DFO modified the SFAB proposal by extending the regulations proposed to the end of July. This modification was made in order to meet the impact reductions required for Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook under zone 1, 2 or 3 management approaches
- This approach was first outlined in the March 2014 draft IFMP but not implemented due to inadequate time to get feedback on the proposal



What is the rationale for the proposal?

- Certainty and Stability
 - The request reduces the uncertainty associated with the mid-June in-season update of Spring 5_2 and Summer 5_2 chinook abundance and permits greater certainty for fishery planning.
- Simplified Regulations
 - proposal intended to simplify regulations and provide consistency from year to year which is expected to result in improved understanding of the regulations by the recreational fishery participants.



The modified proposal

- **Juan de Fuca recreational fishery** (Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and Subarea 20-5):
 - March 1 through June 19th, the daily limit is two (2) 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 through July 31st the daily limit is two (2) chinook salmon per day of which only one (1) chinook may be greater than 67 cm.
- **Strait of Georgia recreational fishery** (Subareas 18-1 to 18-6, 18-9, 18-11, 19-5, and portions of Subareas 29-4 and 29-5):
 - May 4 through July 31st, the daily limit is two (2) chinook salmon per day of which only one (1) chinook may be greater than 67 cm. The minimum size limit in these areas is 62 cm in length.



DFO Analysis

Results evaluated relative to expected outcomes for Spring 5₂ chinook management (see separate memo for additional details)

- 1) Achieve an overall reduction in ER of greater than 50% from the base period;** The proposal does not appreciably (<1%) change the overall reduction of at least 50% across all fisheries. The overall reduction is about 53% under the proposed approach compared with 54% reduction under Zone 1 management.
- 2) The total ER in Canadian fisheries will be reduced to 30% or less;** The proposal changes the overall ER outcome by less than 1%, with 29.4% ER under the proposed approach vs. 28.9% ER under zone 1 management
- 3) Requirement for the proportional reduction to be greatest in the commercial and recreational fisheries.** Across all southern BC recreational fisheries, ER is reduced by 67%-72% depending on which measure is adopted. Commercial ER is unchanged from previous analyses.



DFO Analysis

Overall, the proposed regulations produce the following expected outcomes for exploitation rates in the Juan de Fuca fishery

Management Zone	Base Period	2012 projected outcomes as stated in the 2012 R. Reid letter.	2015 proposed approach
Zone 1	11.8% ER	1.9% ER (-84%) % change	2.8% ER (-76%) % change
Zone 2 or 3	11.8% ER	3.4% ER (-71%) % change	2.8% ER (-76%) % change

Looking at last 7 years from 2008 to present (2yrs zone 1 and 5yrs zone 2), the proposed approach would have been expected to have had an average reduction of 76.0% compared with an average reduction of 74.7% under the current approach.



DFO Analysis

2015 Summary of Predicted Outcomes for Fraser Spring and Summer chinook, comparing the 2000-2006 base period to projected 2015 in zone 1, zone 2, and the proposed combined zone management

Fishery	Base Period Average	zone 1		zone 2		proposed 2015	
	ER	predicted ER	% Change vs. Base Period	predicted ER	% Change vs. Base Period	predicted ER	% Change vs. Base Period
Spring run 4/2	2.0%	0.6%	-69%	0.6%	-69%	0.6%	-69%
Spring run 5/2	11.8%	1.7%	-85%	2.8%	-76%	2.8%	-76%
Summer run 5/2	unknown	2.97%	-70%		-54%		-55%

based on 2001-06 base period CWT estimates of ER and effort

scenarios are based on 67cm max size limit until June 19 then 1/day wild under recent 3yr average effort until July 17



Other Considerations

- Improved alignment of fishery management with fishery monitoring programs for the month of July as management actions are in place for the full month.
- Elimination of the 85cm mark selective fishery regulation for the current zone 1 management approach simplifies regulations and reduces the complexity of information required to assess fishery regulation outcomes using CWT recoveries.



Other Considerations

- A small increase in protection of the Spring 4₂ (i.e. small decrease in ER) is likely. Under zone 1 the 85cm size limit means that 95% of the Spring 4₂ chinook would be vulnerable to retention in the fishery during latter portion of migration (after mid-June). Proposed approach of only 1 chinook greater than 67cm reduces exposure of the Spring 4₂ to essentially a 1/day limit.



Comments/Questions

- The Department is looking for feedback on this proposed change
- Further details can be found in the draft southern BC IFMP at page 186.