

Questions and/or Requests for Advice from FORUM Presentations

Note: The FORUM provides an annual process for information sharing and discussion on Fraser salmon fisheries issues between DFO and First Nations (Tier 2) and First Nations with other First Nations (Tier 1). First Nation attendees have the opportunity to provide their advice and recommendations on management plans. The intent of the April meeting is to provide further detail on some of the contents of the draft 2017/2018 IFMP for southern BC salmon and to continue discussions on fishery planning for 2017.

A number of presentations were provided at the March Forum meeting (copies are available at www.frafs.ca). Within those presentations, there were a number of questions posed. The first section of this document summarizes those questions. The second section of this document provides a summary of some of the requests and questions raised by the FORUM planning committee.

The Forum Planning Committee has heard from Forum participants regarding the need at the April Forum for more Tier 2 discussion. The intent of this document is to provide some background and context for discussion. We hope this approach is helpful and we welcome your feedback.

Fraser Sockeye

1. The Department is seeking feedback on the value of extending the Early Stuart window closure in 2017? Current proposal is for an approximately three week window closure (see below). In some years, a one week extension of the Early Stuart closure is implemented with the aim of providing some protection to some of the earliest returning Early Summer sockeye (Bowron and Taseko for example).

The table below (from the draft IFMP) contains dates that would be in effect for a three week closure. Add 7 days for the end dates for a four week closure.

Area	Date Start (date, time)		Date End (date, time)		Management Action
Area 127	Open 14-Jul, 7 days/week				Earliest potential opening to FN FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 14 (Gn, Tr); July 25 (Sn) ¹
Area 11	Open 14-Jul, 7 days/week				Earliest potential opening to FN FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 14 (Gn, Tr); July 25 (Sn) ¹
Area 12	Open 14-Jul, 7 days/week				Earliest potential opening to FN FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 14 (Gn, Tr); July 25 (Sn) ¹
Area 13	Open 14-Jul, 7 days/week				Earliest potential opening to FN FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 14 (Gn, Tr); July 25 (Sn) ¹
Area 20	Open 14-Jul, 7 days/week				Earliest potential opening to FN FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 14 (Gn, Tr); July 25 (Sn) ¹
Areas 18 & 29	27-Jun	00:00	20-Jul	Noon	Earliest potential opening to FNs FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 20, noon
Steveston-Mission Bridge	27-Jun	00:00	20-Jul	Noon	Earliest potential opening to FNs FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 20, noon
Mission Bridge-Sawmill Cr	30-Jun	06:00	22-Jul	06:00	Earliest potential opening to FNs FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye = July 22, 06:00am
Sawmill Cr-Texas Cr	3-Jul	18:00	24-Jul	18:00	FN's FSC: Open to selective fishing for chinook (dip net, angling and potential for 8" mesh gill net) and open in tribs for sox and chinook.
Texas Cr-Kelly Cr	3-Jul	18:00	24-Jul	18:00	
Kelly Cr-Deadman	3-Jul	18:00	24-Jul	18:00	
Deadman-Chilcotin	6-Jul	18:00	27-Jul	18:00	FN's FSC: Open to selective fishing for chinook (dip net, angling) and open in tribs for sox and chinook.
Chilcotin-Quesnel	6-Jul	18:00	27-Jul	18:00	
Quesnel-Hixon	6-Jul	18:00	27-Jul	18:00	
Hixon-Prince George	10-Jul	18:00	31-Jul	18:00	FN's FSC: Open to selective fishing for chinook (dip net and 8" mesh gill net) and open in tribs for sox and chinook.
Prince George-Stuart R	10-Jul	18:00	31-Jul	18:00	FN's FSC: some allowable harvest in terminal areas.

¹ Gear restrictions remain in place to protect Sakinaw sockeye until July 25, 2017.

2. The Department is seeking feedback on two proposed Fraser sockeye management group escapement options (separate handout from March Forum).

Note: Alternate options may also be provided if you wish.

Option 1 Summary

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters		Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap		
Early Stuart	10%	60%	108,000	270,000
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	60%	100,000	250,000
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	60%	1,250,000	3,125,000
Late (w/o misc)	20%-30%	60%	300,000	750,000

Option 2 Summary

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters		Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap		
Early Stuart	10%	60%	108,000	270,000
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	60%	100,000	250,000
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	60%	1,000,000	2,500,000
Late (w/o misc)	20%-30%	60%	300,000	750,000

For your reference this table shows the allowable exploitation rate difference (red squares) and projected spawners (immediately below red squares) at the lower end of the summer run forecast.

		p10	p25	p50	p75	p90
Summer	forecast (incl. misc)	1,065,000	1,861,000	3,407,000	6,631,000	12,560,000
Option 1	Allowable ER	10%	18%	55%	55%	55%
	Projected S (after MA)	863,300	1,375,100	1,375,100	2,652,400	5,024,000
	Proj. S as % BY S	45%	71%	71%	138%	261%
	Proj. S as % cycle S	55%	87%	87%	168%	318%
Option 2	Allowable ER	10%	34%	55%	55%	55%
	Projected S (after MA)	863,300	1,100,100	1,362,800	2,652,400	5,024,000
	Proj. S as % BY S	45%	57%	71%	138%	261%
	Proj. S as % cycle S	55%	70%	86%	168%	318%

3. Attached is the proposed sharing arrangement for Early Stuart sockeye. Do you have any advice or suggestions for improvements on this proposal?

	p50	p25
Early Stuart Run Size	99,000	64,000
Total for FSC sharing (under LAER)	8,800	5,500

FN Group	Share of available FSC for sharing	Share of available FSC for sharing
Carrier-Sekani TC	1,796	1,122
Lheidli T'enneh	108	67
Carrier-Chilcotin	36	22
TNG; NSTC; Esket	1,077	673
Whispering Pines - High Bar	36	22
St'at'imx Nation	1,796	1,122
NWSFA; NNTC	1,796	1,122
Above Port Mann	1,796	1,122
Below Port Mann	359	225
<i>Marine incidental</i>	<i>incidental</i>	<i>incidental</i>
Total	8,799	5,500

Implied Spawners to the Grounds

run - LAER	89,100	57,600
pMA	0.64	0.64
DBE	-39.02%	-39.02%
predicted DBE (# fish) = (run-LAER)*DBE	(34,771)	(22,478)
<i>implied spawners to the grounds</i>	54,329	35,122

4. The Department is seeking feedback on how to manage FSC sockeye fisheries for stocks other than Early Stuart sockeye when there is not enough Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all to catch the amount as set out in licences issued by DFO.
5. The Department is seeking feedback on the following proposed sockeye Low Abundance Exploitation Rates (LAER).

Management Group	Proposed LAER
Early Stuart Sockeye	10%
Early Summer Sockeye	10%
Summer Sockeye	10%
Late Run Sockeye	20%-30% (goes to 30% if the run returns at the P75 or greater.) OR

6. DFO Science suggested using the P25 forecast for Summer Run sockeye for planning purposes, which is different than the usual approach of starting with the mid-point forecast for planning purposes. Under the PST the FRP uses the p50 forecast unless otherwise agreed for pre-season planning only. Are there additional considerations the Department should consider?

Fraser Chinook

7. With respect to 2017 fishery planning, the Department is seeking feedback on the management approach outlined (same as 2016 approach).
Note: This references the objectives in the IFMP. In summary:
 - conserve Fraser Spring 4₂ chinook by minimizing incidental harvests in marine waters,
 - use the zoned approach for Fraser Spring/Summer 5₂ chinook.
8. Are there any modifications you would suggest?
9. What considerations should be given to managing chinook fisheries during the Early Stuart sockeye window closure?
10. What considerations should be given to managing chinook fisheries in the event there are no further allowable impacts on co-migrating sockeye salmon?

Interior Fraser Coho.

The objective for Interior Fraser River coho (including Thompson River coho) is to manage Canadian fisheries in a highly precautionary manner with fisheries management measures similar to those in place prior to 2014. This approach is expected to achieve an overall exploitation rate in Canadian waters within the 3 – 5 % range.

11. Is their support for the objective as stated above? (same as 2016 approach)
12. Coho pre-season planning in the marine area fisheries is conducted using the Marine Spreadsheet Model. First Nations have requested the information from this model, which details the planned 2017 fisheries impacts for Canada be presented as part of the DFO Forum information related to Coho. When will it be available and how is DFO planning to consult on the pre-season plan?
13. Are there any modifications you would suggest to current management actions?

Fraser River Pink

Decision Guidelines

Run Size	Escapement Plan
Less than 7.059 M	<p>The allowable exploitation rate (ER) increases linearly from zero percent at a run size of zero to 15% at a run size of 7.059M.</p> <p>(For run sizes less than 7.059M, the allowable % ER is the run size expressed in millions multiplied by (15%/7.059))</p>
between 7.059M & 20M	<p>The allowable ER increases from 15% to 70%.</p> <p>The escapement goal is 6M, the remainder is harvestable surplus.</p>
Greater than 20M	<p>The allowable ER is 70%.</p> <p>The escapement goal increases as the run size increases beyond</p>

For commercial fisheries, when pink TAC is available and there are bycatch constraints for other species (i.e. Fraser sockeye) the Department may consider decision rules similar to recent years where the total sockeye mortalities associated with a gear specific pink fishery is 1% or less for sockeye. This calculation takes into account the release mortality rate of the gear being used to harvest pink salmon as well as the estimated proportion of sockeye expected to be encountered in the fishery.