

Concerns raised by First Nations regarding the 2011 South Coast Integrated Fisheries Management Plan

Issues:	DFO Response
1) Fraser River Sockeye & Pink	
a) Early Stuart Escapement Plan options:	
<p>LFFA comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support 3 week window closure • Recommendations for Chinook directed fisheries during window closure using 8” drift and set nets with “hot picking” • Utilize “encounter limits”; however would like correction with presence of other stocks i.e. Chilliwack sockeye • Recommend an assessment of the efficacy of conservation methods over the years re: stock status • Every effort to review the dry rack fishery based upon in season information must be pursued to provide opportunities • CSTC supports sockeye management options with 0% TAM. Operationally this would be accomplished by providing at least a three week harvest protection window for these fish. The CSTC also believes the one-week extension to protect Early Summers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window closure dates in IFMP included 1 week extra for E. Summer) to help protect the earliest timed stocks of the Early summer aggregate • Directed Chinook fishing during this window closure did occur using 8 inch mesh with a 3:1 hang ration as well as hot picking set nets with requirements for the fisher to be present at all times. • Encounter limits were utilized during the 3 week Early Stuart closure based on total sockeye encounters. • Reports have been done (e.g. Levy <i>et al.</i> 2008 report for UFFCA “Stuart Area Sockeye Salmon Runs and their Importance to the First Nations of the Upper Fraser River Watershed”). Migration conditions and in-river mortality cited as primary reason for continuing low returns to terminal areas. • Dry Rack fishery was permitted following conclusion of the 4 week window closure. • In-season run size was increased to 25,000 from 17,000 however extreme high water levels in-river resulted in lowest escapement on record of 751 sockeye with estimated harvest of 2,223. • Department implemented the proposed 4 week window closure from the Forum process for Early Stuart and Early Summer sockeye. • Fishery impacts/mortalities were allocated using the 1996 Early Stuart sharing plan to conduct Chinook fisheries within the Fraser

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<p>provides additional conservation benefits and recommends a similar approach to that used in 2010. However several CSTC communities in the Stuart watershed which only have access to Stuart sockeye may chose to conduct small near terminal harvests if returning numbers appear adequate by their measures, which the CSTC supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSTC supports sockeye management options with 0% TAM at any of the above returning run sizes. Operationally this would be accomplished by providing at least a two week harvest protection window on this stock, similar to the past several years. <p>Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a 3 week moving window closure to protect Early Stuart sockeye. 	<p>River.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminal First Nations were provided with an allocation of Early Stuart sockeye to conduct a directed fishery. • The combined allocation of mortalities for Early Stuart sockeye equated to 10% of the return with the understanding that not all of the allocated mortalities would be utilized. The preliminary post-season Exploitation Rate is estimated to be 9%. • Same as above. • Same as above.
<p>b) Early Summer Escapement Plan options: LFFA comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support one week window closure • Recommend using 8” drift and set nets with “hot picking” • No sockeye encounter limit should be used for this one week window closure • SFC recommends DFO adopt sockeye Escapement plan option 2 for Early Summer sockeye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra week window closure was implemented in 2011. • Hot picking of set nets were permitted with requirements for the fisher to be present at all times. • During this week there were no sockeye encounter limits on the fisheries. • Department reviewed feedback on this and adopted Option 2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTC: Early Summer (Nadina) Sockeye – TAM rule options 3 and 4 may meet interests. In addition the CSTC supports the one week extension to the Early Stuart 3 week window closure as in 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department reviewed feedback on this and adopted Option 2.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSTC - TAM rule options 3 and 4 may meet interests. However, NStQ communities must meet their FSC requirements and will not do so if access is not provided to all stocks that the NStQ have traditionally relied on. The NStQ support the option that provides access to the Early Summer sockeye returns to the Upper Fraser River to meet the FSC needs. Commercial Fisheries and Recreational Fisheries access is not supported and all priority must be afforded to the holders of the Aboriginal Right to these fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department reviewed feedback on this and adopted Option 2.
<p>Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an additional 1 week window closure (following the 3 week Early Stuart closure) to protect early summer sockeye, and where necessary, additional measures to keep the exploitation of early summer miscellaneous stocks to a maximum of 25%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department implemented the one week window extension and Option 2 of the Escapement plan options for Early Summer sockeye. • Final in-season exploitation rate estimate for entire aggregate is 34% while the earliest timed component had an ER believed to be lower with final estimate to be determined.
<p>c) Summer Run Escapement Plan options:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSTC - Summer (Stellako and Late Stuart) Sockeye – the CSTC cannot endorse any of the proposed Summer sockeye aggregate based management strategies as they will not allow CSTC interests to be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the feedback the Department received from all groups the Escapement Plan adopted for Summer run sockeye was Option 1 with escapement objective of 520,000 and ER ceiling of 60%. • Preliminary escapement estimate for the aggregate is 1,052,670 with an exploitation rate of 53%. Escapements to individual CU's are Chilko – 918,537, Stellako – 84,318, Quesnel – 45,475 and Late Stuart – 4,030.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NStQ do not support any commercial fisheries that target the aggregate of summer run sockeye and support stock by stock or conservation unit based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the in-season run size and Option 1 escapement plan fisheries for all sectors were permitted in 2011.

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<p>management. In addition, there is to be no recreational fisheries on summer run sockeye until after the NStQ meet their FSC needs. After reviewing all of the proposed Summer sockeye aggregate “options” the NSTC cannot (even conditionally) endorse any of the proposed aggregate-based management strategies provided within the draft IFMP as having any potential to allow their interests to be met.</p>	
<p>d) Late Run and Cultus LFFA comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for 20% ER ceiling on Late Shuswap rather than active management based upon a TAM rule • Support for 20% ER ceiling on Cultus; no support for higher than 20% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department adopted Option 1 for the Late Run escapement plan for 2011 with a minimum ER of 20%. • The Cultus sockeye approach outlined in the 2011 SC IFMP was similar last year, i.e. a maximum 20% exploitation rate for Cultus sockeye unless in-season information indicates a higher exploitation rate can be used consistent with continued rebuilding objectives. This approach is intended to continue rebuilding the population while providing for fisheries on more abundant co-migrating stocks. • In 2011, the Late run proxy stocks were assessed as being above the mid-point of the forecast and evidence of these stocks holding in the Strait of Georgia indicated the upstream mortality would be lower than predicted. On this basis, the maximum exploitation rate for Cultus sockeye was increased to 30% for management purposes. This information was discussed with the LFFA on an in season call on September 7, 2011. • Preliminary post season ER estimate for Cultus is 20.5% with an escapement of 7,436 which includes 253 for broodstock.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chehalis First Nation would like to be involved with the Harrison River Sockeye management decisions on which run timing they would belong to. • Support for 10-12% ER on Cultus; low ER on Cultus (Chehalis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO is currently discussing with First Nations and stakeholders on the process of re-evaluating which stocks are in each run timing group through the FRSSI workshops in 2012. • See explanation above for Late Run and Cultus management approach for 2011.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFC recommends DFO adopt sockeye option 2 for the late run aggregate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department adopted Option 1 for the Late Run escapement plan for 2011 with a minimum ER of 20%. See full explanation above for Late Run and Cultus management approach for 2011.
<p>e) Fraser Pink LFFA comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about commercial selective fisheries (Area B seine in Area 29) for pink and chum moving in river and occurring on traditional First Nation territories. • Run size assessments must continue until the end of the migration to ensure that fisheries in river have access as the run size increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pink run size is assessed using marine Purse Seine Test fishery, stock composition analysis and other information - this continues for the majority of the pink migration • In-river hydro-acoustics programs were operational until they were swamped by the large abundance of Pink salmon. After this the PSC uses the test fishing information as long as required to make projections of abundance. The Pink Salmon return in 2011 was estimated at 17.5 million and fisheries were planned; the escapement objective of 6 million was exceeded. • DFO continued to support the conduct of commercial selective fisheries, including First Nations economic fisheries, to harvest available surpluses where consistent with allocation priorities. In 2011, DFO permitted a number of commercial and First Nations economic opportunity fisheries for pink salmon including a small Area B demonstration fishery in the Fraser River. The Area B licence conditions permit seine fishing in Area 29.
<p>f) In-river Test Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whonnock and Albion need to be delayed or improved to avoid killing Chinook and Early Stuart Sockeye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Albion test fishery is required to manage Fraser spring and summer 5-2 Chinook stocks and as such was operated as in previous years. The utility of Albion as an assessment tool of Fraser Chinook is dependent on consistent sampling among years (i.e.,

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Test fishing vessels should utilize “hot picking” • The use of selected fishwheels is supported by the LFFA • The use of Qualark for stock assessment is supported by the LFFA • Test Fisheries in the First Nation territories should be operated and managed by First Nation 	<p>having the data collected in a consistent manner: at the same tides, in the same area, with the same gear, on the same dates). Any changes to test fishing practices (such as hot picking) must be carefully evaluated to ensure that a change in practice does not make any new data collected incompatible with the historic time series. Changing the start time for this fishery could disrupt the ability to make the types of in-season changes to fisheries plans if runs are stronger which occurred this year. Test fisheries are considered part of conservation under the allocation policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whonnock was the only test fishery active during Early Stuart sockeye migration in 2011; changes were made to other sockeye test fisheries to delay the start date and minimize impacts on Early Stuart sockeye • The use of fishwheels for test fishing is being discussed at the Fraser Panel, who have responsibility for sockeye test fisheries. • The Qualark test fishery proceeded in 2011 as part of a DIDSON hydro acoustics program to assess species passage at Qualark. • Selection of test fishery operators is an open process tendered through the Pacific Salmon Commission. If you wish to follow up for opportunities with those test fisheries contact the Pacific Salmon Commission.
<p>2) Fraser River Chinook a) Spring 4₂</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for Fraser Chinook recreational actions- Area 20 JDF to Mouth of Fraser River: Closed February 1 to July 10, 2011. Mouth of Fraser River to Sawmill Creek: Closed to sport fishery March 1 to July 31, 2011. Sawmill Creek to Lytton: Closed to sport fishery March 1 to August 15, 2011. (Fraser FN Forum) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management actions for Fraser 4-2 Spring Chinook were unchanged from the 2010 approach with one exception. The start date for the slot limit restrictions in the corridor between Juan de Fuca and the mouth of the Fraser River was implemented on May 5th roughly one month earlier than in 2010.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on available data, effective immediately all marine recreational fisheries where spring 4₂ Chinook stocks are known to occur should be closed until July 10th, and all Fraser River recreational fisheries should be closed while spring 4₂ Chinook are present. (Fraser FN Forum) SFC FN concurs with the recommendations for commercial and recreational fisheries that were put forward to DFO at the Fraser Forum in February 22-23. Request for full closure of recreational and commercial fisheries that intercept these stocks; no further reductions in FN fisheries (LFFA, Chehalis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department did not close all recreational fisheries where Spring 4-2 chinook are present as per the request as these stocks make up an extremely small component of the total Chinook stock composition in numerous fishing areas. Additional actions may result from the Southern BC Chinook Strategic Plan process. Department is in the process of developing a long term strategic plan for southern BC Chinook. The initial meeting to discuss the process and approach was held on July 21, 2011 and further meetings are planned in the coming months. Preliminary escapement estimate of 2,200 for this group which is an improvement from the brood year escapement of 1,400 however it remains well below desired levels.
<p>b) Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chehalis)Request to adjust zone 2 management of the recreational fishery in the Fraser River from July 16-30: Btw 30-45K, open on July 16th at one per day btw 30-77 cm until July 29th Btw 45-60K, open July 16 to 23rd at one per day btw 30-77 cm then move to 4/day with one over 50 cm beginning on July 24 to July 28(Lower Fraser Valley SFAC) Request for a definition associated with “directed” or “incidental” regarding Marine recreational fisheries. (LFFA FN) Since there is no indicator stock for this aggregate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to the management zones were made for 2011. Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook were managed based on in the in-season abundance projection from the Albion test fishery in mid-June which indicated the returns were in Zone 2. Zones are based on estimated number of spawners to support maximum sustained yield (S_{MSY}). For Fraser Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ Chinook, the stream by stream sum of the estimates of S_{MSY} is about 138, 000, and the estimate of 40% of S_{MSY} is about 55,000. Accounting for an approximated 10% harvest rate in zone 2, the Department set a terminal run size of 60,000. Definitions are described in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP). The definitions for “directed” and “incidental” terms can be found in section 6.5 of SC IFMP and ‘Selective fisheries’ are explained and described in section 9.11 of the SC IFMP. DFO is committed to meeting standards for the coded wire tag

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<p>Recommendation to use DNA as the management tool to ID stocks (LFFA FN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The management zone limits for Albion are currently set for the predicted total return yet all reference values provided in the draft IFMP are based on spawning escapement. Spawning escapement will always be lower than the total return due to natural mortality and fishing impact. Therefore, stock health benchmarks need to be identified for the total return or alternatively, natural mortality and fishing impact have to be accounted for when setting the management zones (SFC FN).• Management Zone limits for Albion need to be adjusted to reflect the status of Spring and Summer 5-2 stocks which have been in decline for a number of years. To prevent further decline of these stocks, the number of fish allowed on the spawning grounds needs to be at least equal to the brood year (54,414). Therefore Management Zone limits need to be increased from the current 30,000 and 60,000. To meet the objective of rebuilding Spring and Summer 5-2 stocks the no fishing limit (threshold between Zones 1 and 2) should be set to a number equivalent	<p>(CWT) program under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and has indicated there is room to improve coded-wire tag recovery rates in a number of fisheries. LFFA is working with DFO on advancing the knowledge and understanding of the CWT program and improving CWT information obtained from fisheries. For Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook, there is not a current CWT indicator population. The Department continues to monitor spawning escapements and utilizes a run reconstruction model to estimate returns to the Fraser River. Work is ongoing in the Chilko R. to develop an indicator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Albion model predicts total return to the Fraser River above Albion and the identified management Zone's take into account both escapement as well as some harvest in fisheries. Management actions are designed to reduce exploitation rates based on in-season estimates of abundance. Estimates of natural mortality of salmon once they pass the Albion test fishery are not currently available and no adjustments are currently made. Future management reference points (e.g. boundaries between zones 1, 2 and 3) may be adjusted based on further work to develop escapement targets for these management units and outcomes from the development of the strategic plan for Southern BC Chinook.• Same as above.
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<p>to the sum of the: Brood year escapement (54,414), Albion uncertainty (approx 17%), Natural in-river mortality, Expected fishing impact, Desired increase in stocks. The zone 2/3 limit should be increased by the same amount. (FN-SFC)</p>	
<p>3) WCVI Chinook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about high exploitation rate on WCVI natural Chinook and request for an exploitation rate objective suitable to permit recovery of these stocks; suggestion to adjust wording of objective to include all fisheries (FN-NTC) • Request for analysis of DNA samples in Haida Gwaii recreational fishery and in ISBM areas where WCVI Chinook are harvested (FN-NTC) • Concern about pass through of WCVI Chinook from 15% Southeast Alaska AABM reduction (FN-NTC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 management measures to conserve WCVI Chinook similar to 2010 actions. Limit AABM exploitation to 10%. • Department developing a strategic plan for Southern BC Chinook including responses of populations to exploitation and other factors and future prospects for recovery as part of longer term strategic plan for managing southern BC Chinook. • Coded wire tag data is the primary source of information for assessing exploitation rates post-season. DNA samples are not available for most of the ISBM areas. • Year 3 of PST reductions in SEAK and WCVI; AABM harvest limits continue to apply in NBC and WCVI AABM areas.
<p>4) Interior Fraser Coho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFMP needs more detail on the allocation if Interior Fraser Coho impacts (LFFA FN). • A request for a full review of the Interior Fraser River Coho conservation program with First Nations being part of that review (LFFA FN). • Ground-truthing the Coho model is required to ensure that the 3% Canadian exploitation rate is not exceeded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department manages any First Nations, commercial and recreational fisheries that may impact on IFR coho to account for potential mortalities using an effort based model which has been discussed in Fraser First Nations technical meetings. Within Canada, DFO is managing those impacts to 3% or less. • A CSAP paper assessing coho mark selective fisheries and enhancement activities is being prepared for 2012 while a second paper reviewing the stock status of Interior Fraser coho is planned for 2013; First Nations will have the opportunity to participate in the review of both papers. • The Department is currently working through the Coho Working Group and the Coho Technical Committee of the Southern Panel to

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<p>The models need to be populated with real and accurate data. More staff and funding resources are required to implement an effective stock assessment and management program (SFC FN)</p>	<p>improve the current assessment models used to manage the impacts on Coho in the southern BC area. Although this work will not be a complete ground truthing of the current model used to simulate impacts in the southern BC fisheries, it is an independent assessment of the fisheries that may provide information on whether the current model impacts are adequately represented. The Department continues assess opportunities for ensuring estimated impacts for all fisheries in southern BC are reliably estimated with the assessment resources that are available</p>
<p>5) Johnstone Strait Mixed Stock Chum Fishery and Fraser River Chum Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about how 1 million conservation threshold is to be determined for JS chum and potential effects on Fraser River chum and other terminal systems (FN-IMAWG) • The practice of a commercial assessment fishery in Johnstone Straits prior to identification of a TAC should be terminated. The Albion Test Fishery should be used as the indicator (FN-Chehalis and LFFA) • Request for no commercial harvest of the last group of Chums which pass through Johnstone Strait, since this late run Chum group often include the final spawners which reach the Nanaimo, Cowichan and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management approach for Johnstone Strait chum outlined in the IFMP similar to 2010. The exploitation rate is set at 20% across all harvesters, unless abundance is below a critical threshold of 1 million chum established for conservation purposes. (See section 7.8) • JS fishery managed on effort based approach; fisheries not managed to TAC. • CSAP paper (Labelle) in progress; simulation model of Johnstone Strait chum fishery using in-season test and commercial fishery information • Fraser chum in-river harvest and run size estimation is based on catch per unit effort data from the Albion test fishery (see section 7.9) • Presentation made to IHPC in 2010 covered a number of these issues and historical data. • A chum purse seine test fishery usually starts in late September in Johnstone Strait. The test fishery provides information on run timing, stock composition and age. Information from the test

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<p>Goldstream Rivers (FN – IMAWG).</p>	<p>fishery and the initial commercial openings are used to assess the strength of the aggregate chum run in Johnstone Strait. Terminal fisheries are subsequently determined based on in-season escapement information for each major river system.</p>
<p>6) Interior Fraser Steelhead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFC agrees with the development of a management framework for Interior Fraser Steelhead. However, we request that SFC is fully consulted on the escapement targets and our FSC requirements. (FN-SFC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precautionary management objective to minimize impacts on Fraser steelhead (see Section 5.1.9) Department met with Province in April and December 2011 to discuss issues and approaches; further discussion planned. Selective fishing measures required during times when steelhead are present.
<p>7) First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about opportunities for FSC access for salmon including practice of fishing and related activities. Specific concerns for southern BC Chinook, Fraser sockeye, southern chum. (FN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFO is committed to managing fisheries such that fishing for FSC purposes has priority over all other users and is second to conservation requirements and that the Department supports the management of FN fishing opportunities in a manner consistent with the <i>Sparrow</i> decision and other subsequent case laws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for updated evaluations of food, social and ceremonial needs with First Nations and negotiation of communal licence harvest targets. Request for performance measurement table in the IFMP to better inform how First Nations FSC fisheries (e.g. requested species allocations, communal licence amounts and post-season catch estimates by region) (NTC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft IFMP includes communal licence harvest targets (section 5.3) and actual catches for broad regions (Appendix 4, section 4.2) The Department will be working with First Nations to develop specific performance measures for incorporation in the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Fraser Ceremonial Fisheries: Elders Gathering and request for consistent approach to ceremonial permits applied evenly across all First Nations (LFFA FN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions occurred with First Nations in the lower Fraser River about the Elders Gathering ceremony and fishing opportunities were provided. The Department has tried to be consistent when providing communal licences for ceremonial purposes in the Lower

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	<p>Fraser River as well as other areas. During times of low abundance, the DFO has been consistent with issuing licences for unplanned ceremonial events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department would like to work with the LFFA to review the current issuance of licences for ceremonial purposes in times of low abundance and work to develop a strategy that works for the fish, the First Nation as well as DFO.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for additional consultation at FN-DFO process (Tier 2) for First Nation input into management plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department continues to consult on IFMP as part of Tier 2 consultations with FN groups. All consultations form part of process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests for additional First Nations representatives at the IHPC (number of FN's) LFFA recommends 7 seats at SC IHPC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department will be reviewing IHPC membership with the First Nations Fisheries Council and First Nations. Recently FN are working on developing an improved approach to providing input to the development of the IFMP as well as determining how or if to participate in the IHPC process.
<p>8) Economic/Demonstration Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to include insert 'marker' language on T'aaq-wiihak Nations (FN-NTC). If there is a directed harvest by the commercial or recreational fisheries for Fraser Late (Harrison) Chinook, Chehalis First Nation would like a commercial economic opportunity to harvest this stock (FN-Chehalis) Chehalis FN would like the demonstration fishery management zone to include the Harrison River (FN- Chehalis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department reviewing wording proposed. In 2011, the Economic Opportunities/Demonstration licences that were issued for Sockeye and Pink salmon allowed for the harvest and sale of Harrison River Chinook. DFO has been consulting with Chehalis FN as part of discussions on their demonstration fishery and it was agreed that a portion of the demonstration fisheries total allowable catch (TAC) would take place on the Harrison River, as well as a portion of the Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) allocation. In 2011, most of the demonstration fisheries' TAC and approximately 25% of the FSC was taken from the Harrison

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estimation (FN)	available resources.
<p>10) IFMP process;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFMP process is inadequate, lack of resources and technical expertise.(LFFA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year a Draft IFMP is developed and then made public for consultation on the DFO consultation website (http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/index-eng.htm) and forwarded via e-mail to all Department client contacts. DFO consults broadly with First Nations and stakeholders on the IFMP. In particular, for Fraser salmon species and fisheries, DFO has supported bilateral discussions with First Nations as well as regional discussions at the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for discussing issues that affect First Nations and fisheries in Southern Approach waters and the Fraser River. DFO has and is providing funding as well as venues where the IFMP and the information within it can be discussed and commented on. FRAFS has supported and hosted meetings such as Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon as well as specific workshops on catch monitoring and FRISSI. Funding is also provided to FRAFS for First Nation technical and joint working committees. With the assistance of PICFI, LFFA has received additional funds for technical work through their AAROM agreement. Individual First Nations also receive AFS funds which do or could support further IFMP consultation. Additional discussion required with the IHPC and First Nations to identify options to improve communication. Recently FN are working on developing an improved approach to providing input to the development of the IFMP as well as determining how or if to participate in the IHPC process.