

Considerations for FORUM Participants - Fraser Sockeye and IFR Coho
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An updated version of this document will be made available once 2020 forecast numbers are available and the draft IFMP is released prior to the March Forum.

Fraser Sockeye

The 2020 Fraser Sockeye forecast is still being developed and is not yet available. For your consideration, however, preliminary indications suggest that for 2020:

- The median Fraser sockeye return forecast will likely be in the 1.0 to 1.5 million range which is well below average for this cycle. At the upper end of this range there may be small harvest opportunities depending on the status of the Big Bar slide as most of the forecast is for stocks destined above the slide.
- There is a high probability that FSC needs for Fraser sockeye will not be met in 2020.
- The Early Stuart return will likely be low and DFO will propose at least a three week window closure to protect most of this run.
- The Early Summer brood year escapement was similar to the cycle average. Some stocks such as Bowron and Upper Barriere are expected to be well below cycle average given observed brood year spawners. Early Summers will likely be managed to a LAER in 2020, however; it is possible that there will International TAC at higher ends of the forecast distribution (p75). Similar to 2019, an additional week added on to the end of the window closure could be considered to help protect the earliest returning Early Summer run stocks.
- The Summer run is expected to make up a majority of the return this year, with the majority of the return anticipated to be comprised of Chilko Lake, Harrison and Stellako sockeye. The Summer run brood year escapement was well below the cycle average and will likely be managed to a LAER in 2020. It is possible that there will be International TAC at the higher end of the forecast distribution (p75).
- This is an off-cycle Adams year and the Late run returns will likely be very low relative to the cycle average due to poor escapements in 2016. Cultus recovery objectives will likely not be met and LAER management is expected.

For 2020, the Department will be seeking input on two escapement options and their components.

Although the escapement plans have not yet been developed -one of the options will likely be similar to the brood year. You may wish to provide advice on what to consider when crafting the two escapement options.

For your reference the 2016 (4-year old brood year) escapement plan is provided on the reverse.

Table 5-8: 2016 Fraser sockeye Escapement Plan

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%	640,000	1,600,000
Late (w/o misc)	20%	60%	300,000	750,000

When a 2020 forecast is available (likely in February) we will be asking for more detailed feedback. Some things you may want to consider prior to providing this feedback are:

- Given the expected low forecast, COSEWIC listing recommendations and uncertainty in the forecast, are there management actions that should be considered if low returns are observed in-season?
- What LAERs do you consider appropriate for Early Summer, Summer and Late run sockeye - 10 or 20%
- Given the low forecast and ongoing trend of low productivity, do you support a total allowable mortality (TAM) cap of 60% or a lower level for all run timing groups?
- Are there additional measures such as reducing the Lower or Upper Fishery References points for the aggregates that should be considered to provide additional protection for specific stocks within the aggregates that are a concern as far as expected escapements?
- Do you have any advice on how long (approximately three weeks or four weeks) the window closure should be to protect Early Stuart Sockeye and potentially Early Summer Sockeye in 2020? In some years, a one week extension is added on to the end of the 3-week Early Stuart closure (i.e. for approximately 4 weeks of closure total) with the aim of providing some protection to some of the earliest returning Early Summer sockeye (e.g. Bowron and Taseko). (Note that in-season, the actual dates may be adjusted based on in-season run timing information).
- Do you have feedback on how to manage FSC sockeye fisheries for stocks when there is not enough harvest available to catch the amount as set out in licences issued by DFO? Do you support the approach taken for Early Stuart sockeye in recent years, and if not, please recommend an alternative approach.

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.

- Is their support for the objective as stated above? (same as 2018 and 2019 approach)
- Are there any modifications you would suggest to current management actions?