

Key Issues identified in Proposals received by the Department for 2014/15 Draft Southern Salmon IFMP

Issues:
Key Issues
1. Fraser Chinook
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Several First Nation requests to start in zone 1 of Fraser Spring and Summer 5-2 management zones.b. Several First Nations request for coded wire tag indicators be established for Fraser chinook.c. Request that DFO maintain Zone 1 management measures in all fisheries (marine and in-river) until the Albion test fishery indicates that there are sufficient Chinook numbers to enter into Zone 2 management.d. Request for resources to provide a transparent analysis of the 2012 and 2013 total mortality estimates for Fraser Chinook to be completed in advance of the 2014/15 IFMP.e. Request that DFO and PSC representatives in the PSC process ensure that work to parse out the Fraser Early model stock into its 4 constituent life history based populations for use in the CTC model is a high priority and be completed during the 2014 year.f. Request for a CSAS approved document evaluating the efficacy of catch and release fisheries in promoting the recovery of chinook stocks of concern in the Fraser.g. Request for all marine Canadian commercial and recreational chinook fisheries have measurable impacts on chinook stocks of concern in the Fraser must have scientifically defensible fishery independent estimates of catch and drop-offs with 80% certainty.h. Request for all Canadian chinook fisheries that employ catch and release as a method to reduce impacts of stocks of concern must provide fishery independent verification of catch, encounters, and drop-offs with 80% certainty.i. Request for In-season DNA stock composition should be employed in all Canadian commercial and recreational fisheries with measurable impacts of stocks of concern.j. Request for a 10% Canadian exploitation rate limit for these populations, through consultation with affected First Nations, and consistent with Canada's Allocation Policy and WSP.k. Request that scientifically defensible, fishery independent surveys of stock composition, encounter rates, compliance, and drop-off/predation mortalities are used to estimate whether the catch and release measures – including MSF with and w/out slot limits – are having desired benefits.l. WCVI Chinook – request an increase in size limit in troll fishery and request an earlier start for the September fishery.m. Recreational proposal - review the management actions in the Strait of Georgia including reducing the timing of the finfish closure timing at Cape Mudge as returns to the Cowichan River are approaching the escapement goal.

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2. Interior Fraser Coho

- a) Request for stock assessment on Interior Fraser River coho that was completed in 2013 and will most likely be done for 2014.
- b) Requests to accommodate the harvest of coho available through by-catch in these fisheries for FSC purposes.
- c) Requests that commercial opportunities in the Upper Fraser be considered with respect to increasing exploitation on IFR Coho.
- d) Request for assessment tools used to implement the ER of IFR coho to the Joint Technical Working Group and time for them to analyze the methodology of DFO; rational for who will be benefitting from this increase; and how an increase would still meet the sustainable recovery objective.
- e) Requests for a description in the 2014/15 IFMP the process by which FN FSC and economic needs (in-river) will be accommodated in any increase above the conservation level of 3% ER of IFR coho.
- f) Request a demonstration of the aggregate return and ER that would be required to achieve this.
- g) Request that due to this high unqualified uncertainty that a buffer be employed to the targeted ER for the aggregate to afford protection for the populations and sub populations.
- h) Request that an analysis be provided describing the response of populations and sub populations to proposed increases in the ER.
- i) Request to have the modelled domestic exploitation rate verified and the uncertainty associated with it prior to making any decisions for the 2014-15 IFMP, and to describe the results in the IFMP for this stated year.
- j) Request to have a description of the current performance of creel coverage and funding to process CWTs. DFO should describe how creel coverage will change in light of any proposed changes to ER for IFC.
- k) Request that any changes to ER for IFC should be considered interim (2014/15 only) until such time in the WSP benchmarks are established.
- l) Request to change the wording in the coho closure date section (p. 175 of 2013/14 IFMP) to “ If a Coho closure on the Fraser River is required it will come into play after September 15th, but only if valid mortality expectations in the Area E fishery are seen to be harmful to the recovery of the stock over time.”
- m) Recreational Proposals
 - i. Within the daily salmon aggregate allow the retention of one wild coho per day in Areas 11 to 29 (except the tidal waters of the Fraser River) commencing June 1.
 - ii. To increase the daily limit of hatchery marked coho from 2 to 4 per day commencing June 1 in Areas 11 to 29 (except the tidal waters of the Fraser River).
 - iii. Allow fishing for and retention of sockeye during the window closure for IFR coho in the FR into September similar to 2010.
- n) Request that DFO entertain requests and comments on IFR coho for the 2014 IFMP until after the report has been finalized.
- o) Request for directed WCVI Coho troll fisheries: Wild and Marked September 7 NWWI, September 15th SWVI (no barbless hooks/ plugs)

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During directed Chinook openings: Marked Coho retention year round. Wild and Marked after September 7th in Areas 125-127.

3. Fraser Sockeye

- a) Request that the IFMP indicate that discussions are ongoing and that the Department will be considering a proposal from the Upper Fraser to ensure a more equitable sharing arrangement is incorporated into the IFMP with regard to Early Stuart Sockeye.
- b) Request to review the current policy of using the MA and pMA to put unusually large escapements past Mission (page 90, 93 etc.)
- c) Request to a change in the practise of setting a pre-season maximum exploitation rate set on any stock or stock groupings Once an adequate, agreed upon escapement has been achieved on a stock or stock grouping, that the exploitation rate on that stock or stock grouping is no longer a driver in opening and closing fisheries.
- d) Request that each group be allocated its share of the by-catch based on its fleet share/proportional share of the TAC. An allocation of a harvestable stock (sockeye) without an accompanying allocation of the proportional by-catch (chinook) is of limited value, and patently unfair.
- e) Request a rationale on the importance of FSC fish be harvested proportionally throughout the season; a certain portion from each stock grouping, unless there is a clear advantage to every stakeholder group by having the FSC fish come more from one stock grouping than others.
- f) Request to include in the IFMP, the exploitation rate estimates for all of the monitored stocks, along with upper and lower WSP benchmarks.
- g) Request to enable all terminal fisheries to harvest abundant sockeye CUs while minimizing impacts on CUs below their upper benchmarks.
- h) Request to limit the exploitation of Cultus sockeye to 20% and support terminal fisheries in order to continue the rebuilding of this COSEWIC-listed stock.
- i) Request for Area G troll opportunities to harvest Barkley Sound or Fraser River sockeye in 2014.
- j) Request for the IFMP to identify how the WSP for CUs in the red zone will be implemented particularly in relation to any increases in the TAM for aggregates.

4. Steelhead

- a) Request the flexibility in the 2014/15 IFMP to be able to change the date from the current "earliest possible date of October 25th" to "October 15th" for Area E chum fishery.

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5. Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Request that the Appendix 4 – Section 4.3 – Recreational and Commercial Objectives – Post Season Review 2012 be changed. Suggest that DFO either show the catch numbers by species and sector in objective 4.3 or since the addition of numbers to either section does not quite provide supporting rationale for the objective, all numbers should be removed, to be fair and consistent.b) Request the language in the IFMP needs to reflect potential opportunities as to not exclude them from fisheries planning.c) Request that the section on economic and social value of the recreational, commercial and FN fisheries be simplified to “Valuing individual fisheries relative to each other is not a useful position from which to move forward in the integrated planning process. The base valuation is incomplete and will likely always be incomplete (i.e. does not properly account for all of the “value-added” benefits of the fisheries – either economic or social), and it inherently sets up conflict among the sectors. The bottom line is that we all agree that all the fisheries are important and all fisheries share common social and economic values and objectives (e.g. the principle of ‘sustainability’.d) Request of a sub-committee consisting of concerned members of the IHPC and the FN SCC be tasked with providing advice on the development and implementation of fishery independent verification contracts.e) Request that clear and objective criteria for design and implementation of independent verification programs are in the 2014 IFMP.
6. Demonstration Fishery Proposals
Area H
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Area H Harvest Committee – proposes to continue the demonstration fishery projects which were established for the harvest of pink, sockeye and chum salmon in 2011, 2012 and 2013. The AHC for Area H is interested in extending the demonstration fisheries to facilitate the transfer of fishing privileges between and among commercial salmon fleets and other user groups and resource stakeholders as well as incorporate alternative catch monitoring and traceability methods.b) Area H AHC proposes a plan intended to explore and assess traditional and historic area H (and Gulf) Troll fisheries that may have been suspended due to resource constraints or lack of participation – supported pursuant to the “use of fish” funding arrangement recently established by DFO and utilizing Total Allowable Catch that would otherwise be available for harvest by the Area H fleet.
Area D
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Area D AHC – Area D Gill Net Fraser River Sockeye Demonstration Fishery in Area 12 (Subareas 12-9, 12-10, and portion of 12-8) – a limited entry fishery that demonstrates that the Area D gill net fishery can conduct fisheries directed at Fraser River sockeye in these areas while maintaining acceptable levels of non-targeted species impacts and mortalities.b) Area D AHC – Area D Gill Net Fraser River Sockeye demonstration fishery in Area 14 (Subareas 14-6, 14-9, 14-12, and 14-13) – the objective of conducting this fishery is to test the feasibility and explore the potential benefits of accessing Fraser River bound sockeye salmon in the Strait of Georgia.

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Area B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Area B AHC – Area 12&13 Chums – demonstration fishery – full fleet derby or full fleet derby + hybrid IQ. If regular derby fishery would like to explore the option of flexible dates (two options: 1. Last minute pre-season (after commencement of test fishery); 2. In-season deviation based on deviation in run timing.) b) Area B AHC – Area 16 Sockeye demonstration fishery same as Johnstone Street. Area B looking to explore options to fill the “gap” in fisheries between JST and the river. Aware of previous concerns with other species but not convinced the issues still exist.) c) Area B AHC – Area 17 Chum limited Nanaimo terminal demonstration fishery. d) Area B AHC – Area 23-27 Chum in-season abundance drive demonstration fishery – possible working group limitation. e) Area B AHC – Area 29 Chum terminal demonstration fishery – In 2013, Area B engaged in a one day (only) fishery with a designated limited catch. Environmental conditions severely compromised this opportunity. Same as 2013, needs further development and discussion. f) Area B AHC – Area 29 In-river terminal Chum demonstration fishery. There is interest in exploring the option of chum harvest in-river, similar to other users employing seine nets.
Area E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) Area E modified net (shallow seine) sockeye demo fishery – the objective of conducting this fishery is to test the feasibility and explore the potential benefits of accessing Fraser sockeye with an alternative style of net, therefore minimizing Coho and other by-catch mortalities.