

# Fraser and Approach Salmon Management Forum Joint Technical Working Group Update

January 19, 2022



**Fraser Salmon  
Management  
Council**

**Canada**



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## Monday JTWG Session January 17, 2022

1. JTC vs JTWG, JTC work plan update
2. Fraser Chinook, Chum, and Coho 2021 post-season review
3. Fraser Sockeye, Pink 2021 post-season review
4. Review of 2019/2020 Fraser Chinook impacts memo
5. Discussion on IMAWG letter RE: 2021 SBC creel survey results
6. Fraser Sockeye 2022 escapement plan options

## JTC vs JTWG, JTC Work Plan Update

- JTC work plan update presentation available on Forum website
- Late budget approval led to delayed start-up for some items (July)
- Work progressed on two key items in 2021 (Chum management, Chinook management); working on plan for 2022/2023
- Outstanding question about the interaction between JTC and JTWG
  - Ongoing budget challenges for amount of work identified
  - Forum JTWG meetings is the main point of interaction at this time
  - Coordination/transmission role of JTC is uncertain
- Funding for a professional note-taker for JTWG is recommended

## Fraser Chinook, Chum and Coho post-season review

- Presented by Brittany Jenewein, overview of the presentations that will be provided at Forum later today
- Extensive discussion to better understand origin of Smsy and escapement goals; DFO work upcoming to understand how these reference points behave over time and recommendations on whether they need updating
- Important note: Recreational catch in Fraser tributaries occurred, but not yet available. To be reviewed at future meeting once available.
- Update on development of CWT indicator stocks for Sp/Sum 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook – Working out feasibility for Sp 5<sub>2</sub> broodstock collection; Sum 5<sub>2</sub> limitation is related to capacity of smolt transport
- Interest in understanding how much of return of all 3 species is hatchery-origin; data availability varies, more work needed

## Fraser Sockeye, Pink 2021 post-season review

- Presented by Maddie Thomson
- A lot of challenges for management in 2021
- Discussion of Alaska bycatch; Fraser impact data available a year out
  - Impacts in previous years have varied, HR often <2%. Notable exceptions: 2007 (10%) and 2019 (14%)
  - Further reviews underway by DFO, desire to work with FNs on path forward
- Concerns about late identification of Summer TAC and how this impacted fisheries throughout the whole season

# 2019/2020 Chinook Fishery Mortality Index Memo

- Presented by Brittany Jenewein, supported by Wilf Luedke. Upcoming presentation later today.
- Discussion points:
  - Desire to see similar analysis for non-Fraser stocks; challenged with data availability but working on improvements
  - Understanding how error/inherent variability in CWT sampling and catch accounting may affect results
  - Data status for 2021; work ongoing to develop a pre-season planning tool
- Feedback received:
  - RE: terminal catches on hatchery stocks – leave as part of analysis with clear description of impacts; ensure considered in interpretation of results
  - Need clarity on what pre-season expectations were (Action item)
  - Management of Summer  $5_2$  for 2019/2020 didn't align with the goals, particularly regarding the non-retention marine recreational fishery

# Review of IMAWG letter RE: SBC recreational fisheries

- Presented by Nicole Frederickson on behalf of IMAWG
- Concerns raised:
  - Increase in recreational catch in 2021, estimated an increase of 12% mortality (from kept and released) based on SBC creel bulletins
  - Pilot fisheries were launched in Indigenous territory without prior, informed, and free consent.
  - Unclear how catch is distributed across stocks; how is this management approach sustainable and precautionary?
  - Intrinsic issues with creel program and estimates (high uncertainty); what changes/improvements were made in 2021?
  - Timeliness of data availability, no in-season method to evaluate and manage recreational fisheries

# Review of IMAWG letter RE: SBC recreational fisheries

- DFO response in development, started discussion on technical info
  - The non-retention period had the effect of redistributing effort to the period once the restrictions were lifted.
  - The redistribution of effort was helped by high abundance. The CPUE (aka. abundance) of legal sized Chinook was high during the period of retention. Stocks like Lower Thompson Summer 4<sub>1</sub> and Cowichan were strong. Kept catch increased relative to 2020.
  - The SBC Creel Bulletins presented combined sub-legal and legal sized releases. Important to note that stock compositions are very different between the two, and sub-legal sized releases have not been converted to adult equivalents.

# Fraser Sockeye 2022 Escapement Plan options

- Presented by Jamie Scroggie
- Process unchanged but meeting earlier than usual to begin discussions
- What options should be considered to include in 2022 draft IFMP?
- Three potential options discussed; likely FSC fisheries in all 3 options at the p25
- Concerns raised about LAER implementation changing across years; recommendation to clarify in IFMP

# Agenda Planning for February and April

- Group identified several potential items for future discussion:
  - FRSSI (Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative)
  - Chinook Mass Marking and Mark Selective Fisheries
  - Fraser Chinook Run Reconstruction and CWT mortality distribution tables (2021 results)
  - Update on work to understand salmon bycatch in groundfish fisheries
  - Fraser Sockeye forecast for 2022
  - Methodology to develop Limit Reference Points for Pacific Salmon (CSAS)
  - Chinook evaluation framework – post-season review
- Other topics in support of Forum discussions are welcome, please send suggestions to co-chairs!
- Next meeting: February 25, 2022