



# 2025 Fraser Forum #3 April 1-3

## What We Heard - DRAFT



Photo credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

Robin Hawes (DFO)  
April 1-3, 2025

# Outline

- Presentation Structure
- Overarching Messages
- T̓silhqox Landslide
- Fraser Sockeye (sq̓lelten7úw̓)
- Fish Stocks Provisions
- Fraser Coho (sxeyq̓s)
- Fraser Chum
- Fraser Steelhead (sgwígwl̓e)
- Five Nations Presentation
- Fraser Chinook
- Reference Fishery Summary
- Forum Planning Committee





# Item: Presentation Structure

## Overview

- *Each slide will be focused on a broad topic area (e.g. Fraser Chinook)*
- *This overview section will include a high level summary of the key themes raised*

## Next Steps / Actions

- *This section includes key next steps or actions identified during our discussions.*
- *In some cases, additional actions may be identified by the team preparing this presentation*

## Tech Questions

- *This will lay out any specific technical questions that arose for resolution*

## Deadlines

- *This will include key deadlines both for work to be completed and for input to be provided into processes*

# Item: Overarching Messages

## Overview

- Extend deadline for IFMP feedback
- Concern when only one DFO person can do the work on something – need to bring Nations in and collaborate
- *Food sovereignty for current and future generations*
- *Technical capacity of Nations is here and ready to advance work*

## Actions:

- Action for all: request feedback come in by morning of April 8<sup>th</sup> or shortly thereafter



Photo credit: FSMC

# Item: T̂ilhqox Landslide

<b>Overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TNG had total closure to their fisheries due to Emergency event while marine recreational and Alaskan fisheries occurring</li><li>• What's the point of hatcheries and other conservation efforts when other fisheries occurring</li><li>• Important to stop and conserve during emergencies such as these</li><li>• Connection with other impacts such as wildfire</li><li>• Complexity due to number of Nations and governments involved</li></ul>
<b>Next Steps / Actions</b>	<b>Tech Questions</b>
<b>Deadlines</b>	

# Item: Fraser Sockeye - sqlelten7úwí

## Overview

- Be explicit about benefits of Option 3 on co-migrating stocks that are weaker – concern for all stocks (e.g. Early summers)
- Upper Fraser Nations want more fish than what's currently on the spawning grounds
  - Broadly heard want to see the salmon getting back to the spawning grounds
- Aggregate management framework not working; focus on benefits of Option 3 and Nations working together rather than the consequences
- Option 3 is a step in the right direction – rebuilding abundance for the future
- Concern language comes across as to ‘divide and conquer’
- DFO must seek consent from Nations for fisheries in their territories – UNDRIP/Sec. 35
- Support for Option 3 throughout room

## Next Steps / Actions

- FSMB to receive the recommendations from the FSMC

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines

# Item: Fish Stocks Provisions

## Overview

- Presentation appreciated; informative
- Questions about process –e.g. time for review and adjustment important
- Questions around how limit reference point used, and that it has gone down over the years to allow continued rec fisheries
- Current DFO staff inherited a system that's still not getting it right: e.g. significant Alaska, Northern BC impacts on WCVI stocks of concern.
- Important to involve Nations along the migratory route for FSP processes
- Complexity of this process in the context of Fraser stocks highlighted to show need for co-governance structures, importance and value of involving First Nations, iterative process, need for tools that support Nations to undertake complimentary work at local scale.
- If challenging the recreational fishery, First Nations voice pushed aside
- First Nations should not bear brunt of conservation

## Next Steps / Actions

- Correction of SMU description in Strait of Georgia

# Item: Fraser Coho - sxeyqs

## Overview

- Need physical handouts to support informed discussion
- Limitations to creel
- Concerns around study design of the Strait of Georgia coho assessment fishery, e.g. low sample rate; what is the threshold for determining it doesn't work?; utilizing the technical capacity of Nations to design program that better meets study objectives

## Next Steps / Actions

- JTWG to review Strait of Georgia coho assessment fishery study design

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines



# Item: Fraser Chum

## Overview

- Concern: Creel data do not appear to reflect full Chum impacts due to survey coverage.
- DFO should harness technology to implement mandatory rec catch reporting.
- Concerns re anglers in tributary spawning areas, especially during drought.
  - Proposed effort controls to limit recreational impacts on stocks of concern.
- Do not agree with non-retention fisheries – shouldn't be playing with the fish

## Next Steps / Actions

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines

# Item: Fraser Steelhead - sgwígwe

## Overview

- Closures in areas where 0 steelhead have been encountered for several years need to be examined for change.
- Window closure is devastating to fisheries (e.g. gillnet); hard for young fishers to get into the fishery because of the cost of seine boats
- Any encounter studies being done should be by First Nations
- Can FSMC/B help address federal/provincial silos in steelhead management?

## Next Steps / Actions

- DFO to share interim CSAS steelhead report

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines

# Item: Five Nations Presentation

<b>Overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DFO should use reconciliation commitments to implement Five Nations legal rulings more broadly to avoid forcing other nations to go to court.</li><li>• Standardized coast-wide measures like window closures are blunt, ineffective tools — need more targeted tools and better science to support conservation goals.</li><li>• Proposed fishery changes and interest in solutions to build science on WCVI</li></ul>
<b>Next Steps / Actions</b>	<b>Tech Questions</b>
<b>Deadlines</b>	

# Item: Fraser Chinook

## Overview

- Important that decision makers get a better understanding of rights-based fisheries and use that to inform and design fishery plans.

*This will get filled in with feedback provided from this morning and shared to FSMC website*

## Next Steps / Actions

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines



# Item: Reference Fishery Summary

## Overview

- Concerns with methodology and inherent bias in the process;
- First Nations interest in collecting the information
- Focus of this discussion at Forum needs to be on the management aspect rather than the data aspect
- Disconnect between reference fishery objectives and informing management of MSF's
- Without a clear evaluation framework/criteria, it's unclear how Reference Fishery data informs whether MSF pilots are meeting conservation goals. Current pilots should not be expanded without resolving this.
- More stringent monitoring for rights-based fisheries than rec fisheries.

## Next Steps / Actions

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines

# Forum Planning Committee

- Greg Witzky (FSMC co-chair)
- Robin Hawes (DFO co-chair)
- Sonora Morin-Thompson (IMAWG)
- Aidan Fisher (FSMC, JTC)
- Ken Malloway (FSMC)
- Chief Victor Isaac (FSMC)
- Tony Roberts Jr. (FSMB)
- Pete Erickson (FSMC)
- Kelsey Campbell (First Nations JTWG co-chair)
- Colin S (DFO JTWG co-chair)
- Brittany Jenewein (DFO, JTC)
- Amy Wakelin (DFO)
- Jeff Radford (DFO)

Please reach out to any of us to provide feedback on Forum



# Questions? Comments?

## kukwstsétsemc



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