



2025 Fraser Forum #3 April 1-3

What We Heard



Photo credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

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April 1-3, 2025



Outline

- Presentation Structure
- Overarching Messages
- T̄silhqox Landslide
- Fraser Sockeye (sq̄lelten7úw̄i)
- Fish Stocks Provisions
- Fraser Coho (sxeyqs)
- Fraser Chum
- Fraser Steelhead (sgw̄ígwle)
- 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
- More Tier 1 time was beneficial; desire for even more
- Need to focus on solutions; Province needs to be in the room regularly, appreciated Provincial representation at this Forum
- *Food sovereignty for current and future generations; salmon = health*
- *Technical capacity of Nations is here and ready to advance work; inter-AAROM MOU*

Actions:

- Action for all: request IFMP feedback come in April 4th or shortly thereafter



Photo credit: FSMC

Item: Tâilhqox Landslide

Overview

- TNG had total closure to their fisheries due to Emergency event while marine recreational and Alaskan fisheries occurring
- What's the point of hatcheries and other conservation efforts when other fisheries occurring
- Important to stop and conserve during emergencies such as these
- Connection with other impacts such as wildfire
- Complexity due to number of Nations and governments involved

Next Steps / Actions

Tech Questions

Deadlines

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

Tech Questions

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

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 - sgwígwle

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

Overview

- DFO should use reconciliation commitments to implement Five Nations legal rulings more broadly to avoid forcing other nations to go to court.
- Standardized coast-wide measures like window closures are blunt, ineffective tools — need more targeted tools and better science to support conservation goals.
- Proposed fishery changes and interest in solutions to build science on WCVI
- Fishery still treated like a large fishery, despite smaller size
 - Community used to have several fishers, and now have 3 due to constraints on fishery

Next Steps / Actions

Tech Questions

Deadlines

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.
- First Nations do not support Scenarios 1 and 2 that were presented
- Recreational fishery infringing on First Nations rights
- No catch and release – significant concern wrt release mortality
- Closing Area G jeopardizes 5 Nations rights-based sale fisheries

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?

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Photo credit: FSMC

