



# 2014 Salmon IFMPs: Plenary Issues Overview

Forum on Conservation & Harvest  
Planning

May 7th, 2014



## Key Southern Issues

1. Interior Fraser Coho Management Objective
2. SEP Coho Production
3. Fraser Spring 5<sub>2</sub> and Summer 5<sub>2</sub> chinook
4. Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plan
5. Fraser Chum/Steelhead



# Interior Fraser River Coho

- Draft IFMP outlined 3 options for Interior Fraser coho management:
  1. **Status Quo. Continue current actions to limit Canadian exploitation rates to 3 percent or less.**
  2. **Permit increased exploitation rates in Canada from 4 to 9 percent.**
  3. **Permit increased exploitation rates in Canada from 10 to 16 percent.**
- Range of views:
  - Support for option 1 based primarily on ensuring continued rebuilding and recovery of populations
  - Support for increasing exploitation (option 2 or 3) to realize fishery opportunities, particularly Fraser sockeye, for the 2014 season only;
  - Requests for information to assess outcomes (e.g. continued stock assessment) and development of longer term harvest rules for future years.

# Interior Fraser Coho

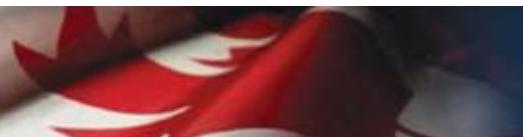
## **New Information:**

- 2014 forecast for IFR coho aggregate of approx. 50K (range 31K to 78K; see forecast document provided)
- CSAS paper reported, aggregate wild coho escapement to the Interior Fraser River watershed averaged 36,000 adults (2010-12, geometric mean).
- Using geometric means provides more precautionary generational averages and recognizes the importance (through heavier weighting) of smaller escapements to genetic diversity
- If returns are at low end of the 2014 forecast returns (31K) and spawning abundances data for 2012 (approx. 54K) and 2013 (approx. 58K), the projected 3-year geometric mean escapement is expected to meet or exceed 40,000 (recovery objective 2) under each of the 3 options proposed



# Salmonid Enhancement Program - Coho

- In 2014 a review of Southern coho production was conducted, focused on Georgia Strait
- Implemented approach to explicitly categorize all enhanced systems as one of:
  - Major fishery, minor fishery or rebuilding stock
- For major fishery production, target development aims to align production with required adult return to support recreational fisheries (freshwater and marine)
- For minor fisheries and rebuilding stocks, primary consideration in target development is enhanced contribution to natural spawning return
- Overall, planned reduction of approximately 9% in output of marked coho
  - Intention is to maintain or improve fisheries at recent harvest levels, reduce high excess salmon to spawning requirements (ESSRs), and explicitly incorporate risk management principles into production planning
- Adjustments to coho production could permit flexibility to pursue other enhancement priorities (e.g. Fraser Summer 5<sub>2</sub> feasibility work for indicator population)



# Fraser River Spring 5<sub>2</sub> and Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook

- Pending completion of the IFMP, DFO plans to continue with management actions based on returns being in lowest abundance level (zone 1; <45K to Fraser River),,
- An in-season re-assessment may be made to the management zone based on estimated abundance at the Albion test fishery.
  - Updates planned for May 20 and June 2 with a final estimate on June 16th.
- an in-season adjustment may be made to the management zone based on the estimated abundance in mid-June; or sooner if possible.

## AABM Chinook

|                 | SEAK    | NBC     | WCVI    |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Abundance Index | 2.57    | 1.99    | 1.20    |
| Allowable Catch | 439,400 | 290,300 | 205,400 |

- PSC Chinook Technical Committee memo (April 1) outlined abundance indices (AI) and TAC's for AABM fisheries
- Pre-season forecasts for all 3 major AABM fishery areas are substantially higher primarily due to high abundance forecasts for U.S. origin populations

# Chinook AABM Projected Harvest Amounts

|                 | WCVI           | NBC            |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>AABM TAC</b> | <b>205,400</b> | <b>290,300</b> |
| FN FSC          | 10,500         | n/a            |
| Recreational    | 60,000         | 69,000         |
| Commercial      | 134,900        | 221,300        |

Notes: First Nations and recreational harvest amounts are projections and will be reviewed in-season. Commercial harvest amounts may be adjusted inseason.



## Area F Troll – chinook management

- Area F TAC managed using Individual Transferable Quotas
- For 2014, proposed to manage to 3.2% WCVI exploitation rate objective using effort-harvest rate relationship
  - See separate handout for analysis of 2013 fishery
- Plans to continue DNA collection and assessment to evaluate management performance.
- Fraser Spring 5<sub>2</sub> and Summer 5<sub>2</sub> – proposed opening of June 21; earlier opening possible based on Albion test fishery in-season assessment.

# Demonstration Fisheries

- Further discussions planned on 2014 T'aaq-wiihak Salmon Demonstration Fishery – previous IHPC presentation on T'aaq-wiihak proposal.
- Demonstration fishery projects similar to previous years in most areas.
  - Commercial fleet projects outlined in draft IFMP. In addition, requests made for:
    - Area D Gill Net Fraser River sockeye demonstration fishery in Area 14, and
    - Area E Gill Net Nitinat Hatchery Chinook Pooled demonstration fishery
  - First Nations demonstrations focus on inland fisheries including Nass, Skeena and Fraser Rivers.
  - Additional discussions planned on proposals
- Revisions to *interim guidelines* for considering requests to transfer harvest shares between commercial fishery participants, including First Nations with commercial harvest allocations for continued implementation in 2014.



# Fraser River Sockeye

- 2014 Escapement Strategy and Harvest Rate Calculations
  - 2 proposed escapement plan options for all 4 management groups
    - Option 1: ‘Like Cycle Year’ based on escapement plan implemented in the 2010 cycle year.
    - Option 2: “65% TAM Cap” Escapement Plan is similar to Option 1 with an increase in the TAM cap for Early Summer, Summer and Late Run sockeye.
      - Option 2 allows for increased harvest at larger run sizes
  - FRSSI escapement plan memo developed to support review and feedback on options, including CU specific information.



## Fraser River Sockeye

- Range of perspectives provided on preferred escapement plan option; interests focused on adequate measures for conservation of stocks of concern and providing for additional harvest opportunities of expected abundant returns
  - Suggestions also made to consider increase to TAM caps in option 2 above 65%.
- Options 1 and 2 provide spawner abundances at or above historic averages for all populations except Cultus sockeye at mid-point of forecast



# Fraser Sockeye – Cultus Management

- Cultus Management
  - Based on the Cultus Lake sockeye recovery objectives and an assessment of in-season information for the Late Run sockeye stock aggregate.
  - Approach similar to recent years allows flexibility to increase exploitation if in season information indicates that recovery objectives can be met (draft IFMP outlined range of possible outcomes).
  - Range of views on proposed management approach including support for:
    - 20% exploitation rate ceiling
    - Current approach that permits inseason adjustment
    - Managing Cultus sockeye up to the same exploitation rate as permitted for Late runs



# 2014 Commercial Allocation Plan

- Commercial allocation implementation plan is developed annually based on discussions with the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board; meeting was on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- For 2014, CSAB members agreed on allocation arrangements for the 2014 fishery consistent with the coast-wide gear types outlined in the Allocation Policy.
  - A share of Fraser sockeye was included for Area G in 2014; fishing area consideration for Area 127/11
- IFMPs outline the commercial allocation arrangements for all areas.



## Fraser Chum/Steelhead

- For 2014, management actions are planned to continue to protect 80% of the run with a *high degree of certainty*, and commercial gill net opportunities within the Fraser will continue to be delayed to avoid the majority of the Interior Fraser steelhead migration period.
  - The changes proposed relate to timing for commercial gillnets in the Fraser River and are aimed at providing modest flexibilities, such as allowing for two daylight hour openings (12 hours or less) as opposed to a full 24hr opening.
  - This is intended to improve planning, monitoring, safety and selective fishing practices
- The Department will continue to engage with the Province on the strategy for addressing steelhead impacts in fisheries.



# Discussion



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# Additional Slides



# Salmon IFMP Timelines

| Milestones                      | Purpose  | Date    |
|---------------------------------|--|---------|
| Outlook                         | Release via email  | Nov-27  |
| 2013 Post Season                |  |         |
| Post-season consultations       | Post Season Review   | Dec/Jan |
| Pre-Season Planning             |  |         |
| IFMP Proposal Deadline          | New  | Jan-31  |
| Draft IFMP circulated           | Release of draft IFMP that includes all the proposals and any changes for upcoming fishing season. | Mar-03  |
| IHPC                            | Pre-Season Planning and discussion of draft IFMP.  | Mar-13  |
| Deadline for public comments    | Posted online for one month for external feedback.   | Apr-07  |
| DFO responses to IFMP proposals | Spreadsheet circulated that includes responses to key IFMP feedback.                               | Apr-25  |
| Full IHPC                       | Review of DFO summary of feedback and responses on IFMP.   | May-01  |
| Approvals                       |  |         |
| Target Public Release           | Distribute electronically and post final IFMP on website   | Jun-01  |



# Catch Monitoring

- **Commercial**

- Pilot programs initiated 2013 are planned to continue in order to address the minimum catch monitoring requirements identified by DFO and CSAB Catch Monitoring Working Group.
- Area A seine for pink and sockeye (PFMA 3 and 6)
- Area C gill net for sockeye (Skeena and Nass)
- Area D gill net for sockeye (Johnstone Strait and proposed for Barkley Sound)
- Area E gill net for sockeye (Fraser River)
- Area G troll for chinook (WCVI)

## Catch Monitoring (con't)

- **Recreational** initiatives continue:
  - Condition of TWSF licence to report info and catch to DFO
  - Creel survey, phone survey and new internet survey since 2012 “irec”
- **First Nations** – development of integrated and coordinated data management and data entry systems within DFO and FN Band offices.