



Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning

For Fraser Salmon

January 22, 2010

DFO response to concerns and questions raised by
First Nations during 2009 Forum meetings



Develop joint working group to focus on the data and calculations described in the Fraser Chinook Post-season document

- CJTWG met 4 times since June
- Evaluating methods used to assess impacts from 2008 management actions
- Discuss benefits of alternative approach to management groups
- Updates provided at FWJTF meetings



Early-timed Chinook

- Added the following into the IFMP (pg 29):
“revisions to the management approach may be considered in April 2010 based on the 2009 post-season review” for both Early-timed and Spring/Summer Chinook.



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Include study design with demonstration fisheries
 - Sampling protocols
 - Management actions to reduce impacts to weak stocks
 - Sample analysis to confirm fisheries targeted stocks as proposed

Spring/Summer Chinook

- Establish technical collaborative process to share information and work through data/calculation methods used to develop management measures for Spring / Summer (age 5) chinook
 - Chinook Joint Technical group formed
 - To date focus on 2008 post-season information
 - Continue to work through technical information



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Incorporate CWT information into the 2008 analysis regarding the effect of the Early-timed Chinook management measures
 - CJTWG have since had an opportunity to review the model used to assess fishery exploitation rates by fishery with the data updates and will soon get a chance to review the final report once it is complete



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Include language in IFMP stating management of Fraser Spring and Summer Chinook is subject to on-going analysis and discussion through 2009 and 2010
 - *Management actions for 2010 for commercial and recreational fisheries in marine areas will likely be required beginning in March 2010 consistent with the conservation objective and allocation priorities. Revisions to the management approach may be considered in April 2010 based on the 2009 post-season review. Additional consultations will occur in 2010 for First Nation fishery plans.*



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Conduct a workshop to reconcile the interpretation and implementation of the priority of First Nations fishing for FSC
 - FNFC suggests this issue be addressed at a Regional level.
 - A panel discussion (MacAulay/Gaertner) on legal perspectives of this issue occurred at the Fall 2009 FNFC Assembly.



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Stock assessment priority to improve understanding of where stocks of concern are being harvested. i.e.,
Fraser Spring & Summer indicators
 - Sentinel Stock Program proposal for Summer 5(2) on the Chilko River. DFO has met with FN groups in the Upper Fraser to discuss the proposal and the possibility of moving forward.
 - SEP review occurring.
 - Comprehensive approach required to assess all aspects of chinook status i.e. habitat, fisheries, enhancement.

Spring/Summer Chinook

- Creel surveys in all recreational fisheries including CWT head collection and reporting and size sampling (particularly on stocks of concern)
 - catch monitoring standards are being developed for all fisheries
 - achieve confidence among user groups
 - continue to promote the return of heads from adipose marked Chinook in all fisheries.



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Mark selective fisheries (MSF) for Chinook.
 - in 2009 a limited fishery occurred, March-May period in portions of areas 19-20 (Victoria area).
 - IHPC sub-committee tasked with developing a mark selective fisheries framework to inform future decisions.
 - currently working on developing a MSF document for discussion purposes.



Spring/Summer Chinook

- Develop a FSC sharing process for Fraser chinook.
 - Most of the discussions to date have revolved around sockeye, while not achieved, progress has been made.
 - DFO is committed to working with FN to discuss sharing plans/options if requested by FN to do so.