



2013 Draft #2 Salmon IFMP: Issues Overview

Forum on Conservation and Harvest
Planning Meeting

May 7-9, 2013



Outline

- IFMP Feedback Process
- Southern BC IFMP issues
- Use of Fish Update



Feedback Process

- The department has received feedback from a number of sources on draft 1 of the IFMP (e.g. IHPC, SCC, Letters and Bilateral Meetings)
- The department will consider all information in preparation for the final IFMP.
- Draft 2 of the IFMP released last week shows in track changes where changes have been made based on Draft 1 input.
- Final responses to IFMP feedback will be forthcoming once the final IFMP has been approved.



Southern Issues

1. Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plan
2. Fraser Spring 4₂ Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ Chinook
3. Interior Fraser Coho – Objective and fishery proposals
4. Demonstration Fishery Proposals



Fraser River Sockeye

- IFMP outlines 2 potential options for 2013 plan with potential results at various forecast levels
 - Option 1 (like last year)
 - Option 2 – higher fishery reference points for Early Stuart and Summer run sockeye; same for Early Summer and Late run
- General support expressed for Option 2; concerns raised about stock specific impacts and rebuilding



Fraser River Sockeye

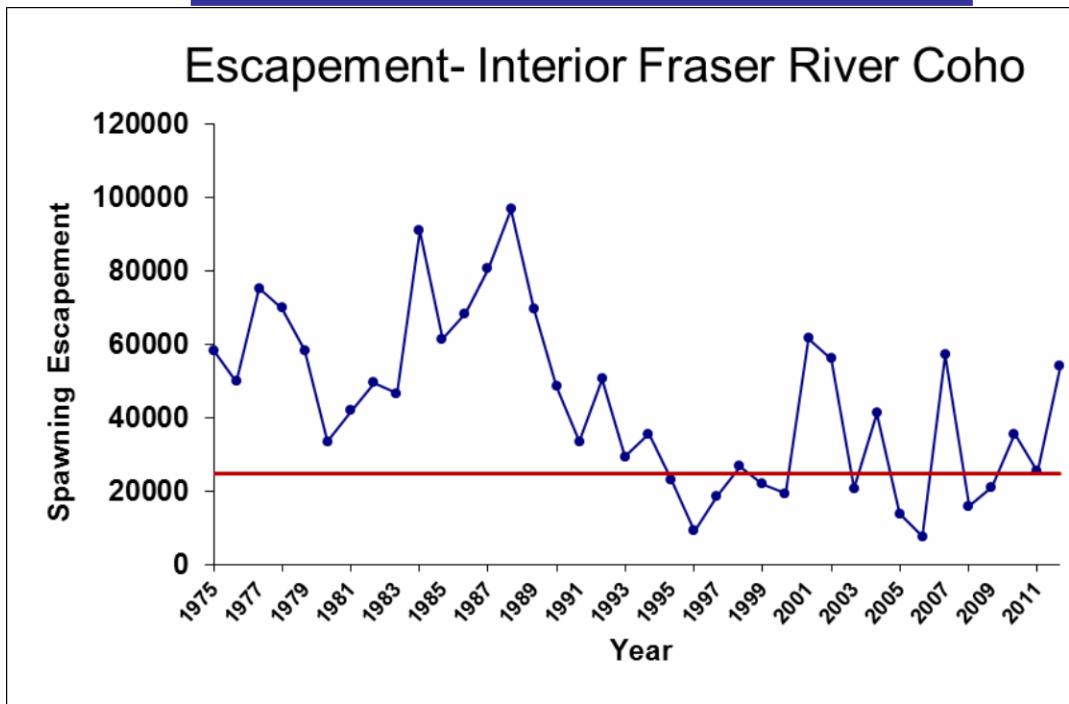
- Early Stuart; Mixed feedback, some support for window closure and some interest in harvest if TAC available
- E Summer; Some support for extra week of window closure. Interest in harvesting Chilliwack terminally
- Summers; concerns raised on the weaker stocks within the management unit, (L Stuart, Raft, Stellako).
- Late Run ER; comments received on support for both 20% and 10% ER (10% at returns less than p50 forecast).



Fraser Chinook

- **Spring 4₂:**
 - Suggested limit of 10% ER
- **Spring and Summer 5₂:**
 - No changes were proposed to previous management approach within each zone.
 - Fraser First Nations discussing potential fishing plans for Zone 1
 - Proposal from Victoria SFAC requesting adjustment to proposed zone 1 management actions
 - Request for post season analysis of breakpoints.

Interior Fraser Coho



Red line on figure denotes upper end of spawner abundance range for recovery obj. 1 (25K)

- Returns in 2013 from 2010 brood spawners of 36,000 fish and forecast total return of **42,729** coho (50% CI: 27,091 to 67,393); based on 3 yr avg. model.
- 3 consecutive years with spawners above recovery objective 1 including: 2010 - **36,000**; 2011 - **26,000**; 2012 - **55,000**.
- uncertainty remains about the trend in productivity with 4 of the last 10 years below replacement levels.



Interior Fraser Coho

- Department has received requests for adjustments to fishing opportunities directed at more abundant stocks/species that could result in small incremental impacts on Interior Fraser River coho.
- Pending completion of more detailed analysis, the Department is seeking feedback on a potential adjustment to management objective for 2013.
 - **(proposed) to increase exploitation rate limit from 3% to 4% for 2013**
- The current 3% ER on IFR Coho has been used as by-catch (release) mortality to prosecute other fisheries i.e. sockeye and pink salmon fisheries. With this proposed modest increase, the Department doesn't envision a change to this policy
- See Southern IFMP p. 60
- Some support for change for this year only, need review of impacts.
- Concerns raised on Increasing ER until Coho benchmark and other Coho technical work completed.
- Recommended change to Coho closure boundary and dates.



First Nation Southern Demonstration Fishery Proposals

- **Plans include previous projects:**
 - First Nations demonstration fisheries p. 164; Request to move Pink TAC From BCI to Lower Fraser FN.
 - **New proposals include:**
 - Area H and Fraser First Nations: Fraser sockeye and pink transfer proposal (p.221)
 - Area B seine: Johnstone St. chum share based approach (p. 206).



Use of Fish – Test Fishing Activities

Track 1 - Transition Larocque Projects:

- For the interim year 2013-2014, where feasible, Track 1 will transition existing 2012-2013 Larocque projects to the new use-of-fish authority while completing the National Policy Framework for new projects.
- The Department has developed interim guidelines to transition existing Larocque projects to the new use-of-fish authority for a period of one year.
- Plans underway to finalize arrangements for the Larocque projects that will transition to use-of-fish as a method of financing the projects for 2013-2014.



Potential 2013 Projects

1. Pacific Salmon Commission – 13 projects, including 10 for Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon; 1 for southern BC chum; 1 for Fraser chinook/chum; and 1 for Skeena salmon
2. Hupacasath First Nation - 1 project related to Somass River sockeye
3. Discussions underway - 3 projects related to southern BC chum salmon (Nitinat, Cowichan and Saanich)
4. Area F Troll Harvesters / Troll Association - 1 project related to the in-season Northern BC troll fishery (*not currently proceeding*)

Implementation Plan (cont'd)

Track 2:

- On a parallel track, a draft national policy framework is being developed on which the Department plans to consult with stakeholders in 2013.
- The types of issues we will need to address in this framework include:
 - eligibility to allocations;
 - eligibility criteria for projects;
 - considerations in calculating amount of fish required to cover the cost of a project;
 - allocation process / considerations for determining where the fish will be taken from (e.g., off the top of total allowable commercial catch); and
 - process for accepting, evaluating and approving projects.
- Plan is to have the national framework in place by December 2013 for full implementation of the new authority beginning in 2014-2015.
- Existing and new projects proposed under Section 10 will be subject to the national policy framework in 2014-2015 and beyond.



Discussion