



2014 OUTLOOK and PRE-SEASON PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Post-season Review Meetings
December 2013





Outline

- General Outlook
- Species Prospects:
 - Southern Sockeye
 - Southern Pink
 - Southern Chum
 - Southern Chinook
 - Southern Coho
- Process timelines



2014 Outlook Summary: Pacific Region

- total of 91 Outlook Units (four fewer units this year)
 - Outlook Units represent aggregates of CUs
 - see appendix one in Outlook document
 - further aggregated into management units
 - e.g. Fraser sockeye: 26 CUs; 14 OUs; 4 management units
 - Fraser chinook salmon outlooks now harmonized with management units



2014 Outlook Summary

- a total of 91 Outlook Units were considered
 - 2 new units to deal with Fraser sockeye run-timing changes
 - outlooks categorized for 84 units
 - six units were data deficient (ND)
 - one pink unit was not applicable (NA)
- 33 Outlook Units are likely to be at or above target abundance
- 28 are expected to be of some conservation concern
- the remaining 23 have mixed outlook levels
- overall, the outlook for 2014 has improved relative to the previous outlook



2014 Outlook Summary – (Southern Units in Blue)

- 21 Outlook Units improved in category
 - **sockeye**: Early Stuart, Early Summer North Thompson, Summer Nechako, Fall Portage, Fall South Thompson, Somass, Areas 11 to 13, Babine Lake, and Skeena
 - **chinook**: Fraser Summer Run 41, WCVI Hatchery, Areas 9 & 10, and Skeena
 - **coho**: Mid / Upper Fraser, Thompson, Area 13, Georgia Strait, and Alsek
 - **pink**: Areas 11 to 13, Areas 3 to 6
 - **chum**: Yukon
- 9 Outlook Units declined in category
 - **sockeye**: Early Summer Lower Fraser, Summer Raft, and Henderson
 - **chinook**: Fraser Spring 42, Fraser Summer 52, and Stikine
 - **pink**: Georgia Strait West
 - **chum**: Georgia Strait, Porcupine



Fraser River Sockeye

- Half of the units are expected to be near target or abundant; half of the units are expected to be below target.
- There is a potential for a strong 2014 return to South Thompson for the Early Summer and Fall runs, as well as to Chilko for the Summer run.
- Pre-season abundance forecasts will be available by February 2014.
- The research document on integrated Wild Salmon Policy status assessments for Fraser sockeye is available at Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat website:
 - <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/>.



Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plan

- Management approach based on abundance based harvest rules for 4 management units
- Further work planned using FRSSI model/process to evaluate performance of current harvest rules, lower exploitation allowable exploitation rate limits and caps on total allowable mortality rates
 - Meeting planned for February to review FRSSI work.
- Escapement plan options will be developed for consideration in draft IFMP).
- Actual fishery opportunities based on in-season assessment of abundance information including test fisheries, hydro acoustics, and stock identification sampling.



Fraser Chum

Fraser chum - near target

- Early information is that the 2013 escapement will continue recent increasing trend.
- These increases reverse a persistent 8 year decline prior to 2011.
- Management approach planned similar to recent years using information from Johnston Straits and Albion test fisheries to estimate in-season return abundance.
 - 800 thousand escapement target for the Fraser River



Southern BC Chinook

- **Fraser Spring 4₂**: stock of concern; expectations for modest improvements over 2010 parental brood escapements but continued overall low abundance levels.
 - *Continued requirement for management restrictions.*
- **Fraser Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂** : stock of concern; continue to exhibit very low escapements. Expectation for modest improvement over parental brood escapement levels.
 - Inseason assessment based on Albion test fishery information. *Continued requirement for management restrictions. Concern for later timed Summer 5₂ populations.*
- **Fraser Summer 4₁ (South Thompson)**: near target. 2014 abundance could be high based on parental spawner abundance was average, however, uncertain smolt-adult survival.



Southern BC Chinook

- **Fraser Late (Harrison)**: *low to near target*; average returns expected in 2014. Quantitative forecast available in late March.
- **WCVI wild**: *stock of concern*. Wild populations have either been well below target and/or declining for several generations.
 - *Continued requirement for management restrictions*
- **Cowichan chinook**: *low*. Cowichan jack returns in 2013 are lower than last two years suggesting that the rebuilding seen recently is slowing.
 - *Continued requirement for management restrictions*
- AABM Forecasts and coded wire tag (CWT) based total mortality distributions available in late March / early April.
- Work on-going on Southern BC Chinook Integrated Strategic Plan

Southern BC Coho

- Interior Fraser coho – *low* - outlook is improved for the first time in over a decade.
 - Early 2013 escapement information suggests continuation of the recent rebuilding trend.
 - Status assessment of Interior Fraser coho status is planned for January 2014. Further discussion will be required to plan for potential increase to allowable exploitation rate.
 - Department is working on a discussion paper on potential management approaches.
- Georgia Strait – *near target* – 2013 observations of returns suggest an increase in marine survival above the forecast.
- Forecasts will be available for these units in spring 2014.