

## Action Items from February 2018 Forum

**DFO to share Indigenous Fisheries Institute link:** <http://IndigenousFisheries.ca>

**DFO to share Hakai Institute study re effect of fish farms/sea lice on out-migrating wild smolts.**

The Hakai Institute is a scientific research institution that conducts long-term research at remote locations on the coastal margin of British Columbia, Canada. Their website is:

<https://www.hakai.org/>

The Hakai Institute is collecting data on juvenile survival in the Strait of Georgia and Johnstone Strait and are collaborating with DFO Science on the interpretation of the data. A program summary is provided for this program which is called 'HAKAI INSTITUTE SALMON EARLY MARINE SURVIVAL PROGRAM (SEMSP)'



SEMSP

backgrounder\_2015\_

**Mike Hawkshaw to follow up with Chris Neville re details re where and when smolt surveys take place.**

Kris Neville runs the DFO sampling program. The attached paper has the details of the sampling protocol for juvenile sockeye. This paper was produced in 2014 but the sampling protocols are still used today.



NPAFC\_2016\_45-60  
\_nevilleetal.pdf

**Jennifer Nener to follow up re science on over-spawning risks.**

Work has been done by Dan Selbie, DFO. Some of his initial findings were presented to FORUM in 2014. Work has not yet been written up or gone through a scientific review. This will be brought forward to 2019 and if desired, presented to the JTWG. This item will be on-going.

**DFO follow up re why the US breakpoint for accessing chum is lower than the Canadian 1 million limit (PST presentation).**

In the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the current language has two management points that the US is tied to:

1. **1.0 Million Critical threshold for inner south coast chum aggregate** (determined in Johnstone strait in early October). If we are above 1 million that fisheries are prosecuted in the mixed stock area of Johnstone Strait at a 20% Exploitation Rate as planned and the US can initiate their fisheries after October 9<sup>th</sup> with a targeted harvest of no more than 130K. If below 1.0 million, commercial fisheries in Canada are suspended and we notify the US to take action on their fisheries (example of this occurred in 2010)
2. The second management point was based on the **Fraser Run size of 900,000** based on data from Albion Test Fishery. If Canada determined the Fraser terminal run size to be

less than 900K we would notify the US no later than October 22<sup>nd</sup> and they would have to minimize their catch after notification not to exceed 20K more fish. If above 900K US continues to harvest to their target 130K (minus any payback for previous years overages).

The proposed language now has 3 in-season management points. It still has the 1<sup>st</sup> management point of the 1.0 million critical threshold for the Aggregate Inner South Coast Chum to initiate both Canadian and US fisheries (Still the same date of October 10<sup>th</sup> for US fishery commencement with reduced the catch target from 130K down to 125K) but has added 2 new breakpoints in the Fraser based on the terminal run sizes of 1.05 million Fraser chum and 1.6 million Fraser Chum.

See table below.

|   | Current                                   | Proposed  | What's new?  |
|---|---|-----------|--|
| <b>Critical Threshold (Inner South Coast Aggregate Abundance)</b> | 1,000,000                                 | 1,000,000 | No change here. If abundance determined to be above this threshold, mixed stock fisheries continue as planned in Canada and US can initiate fisheries after October 9 <sup>th</sup> . If below than Canada suspends commercial fisheries in mixed stock areas of Johnstone Strait and upon notification US will limit its fishery not to exceed 20K additional chum. |
| <b>Fraser Terminal Run Size Breakpoints</b>                       |   |           |  |
| <b>Lower Breakpoint</b> (Fraser Chum Terminal run size estimate)  | 900,000                                   | 1,050,000 | U.S. fisheries terminated below this run size – more protection at lower Fraser run sizes  |
| <b>Lower U.S. Catch Ceiling</b> (pieces of chum)                  | 130,000                                   | 125,000   | Reduced U.S. harvests at low to moderate run sizes   |
| <b>Upper Breakpoint</b> (Fraser Chum Terminal run size estimate)  | NA  | 1,600,000 | New inflection point   |
| <b>Upper U.S. Catch Ceiling</b> (pieces of chum)                  | No change at increased run size – 130,000 | 160,000   | More U.S. harvest flexibility in years of high chum abundance  |

Carry forward from January Forum

***DFO to reflect and report back on how to engage First Nations in setting biological escapement goals.***

- This item will take time and should be kept on the Action item list.