

Fraser River Salmon Joint Technical Working Group Update

Forum on Harvest and Conservation Planning
January 22, 2018



**Fraser River
Aboriginal Fisheries
Secretariat**



Presentation Outline

- Recap of December 4th and 5th
- Key Technical Materials and Messages
- January 22nd JTWG In-person Meeting
- Key Technical Materials and Messages
- Next Steps



Recap of December Meeting

- Change in DFO Co-Chair, Jamie Scroggie's last meeting as Co-Chair Dec
- Participants: Day 1: 20 participants (12 FN and 8 DFO)
Day 2: 15 participants (9 FN and 6 DFO)
- Objective Day 1: *Full day session to update FN technicians on the work to date of the FRSSI team. Intended for each participant to provide their respective organization with a better understanding of FRSSI.*
- Objective Day 2: *Follow up with identified action items and priority topics from the April 2017 JTWG session in Prince George.*



Key Technical Materials and Messages

FRSSI

- Presentations provided by Ann-Marie Huang and FRSSI Tech team, starting with history of the FRSSI process. By providing context to the work done to date it better allowed participants to understand FRSSI.
- Key differences in the FRSSI are the process vs the model.
- Process: Annual inclusion of recommendations developed by the model and participants into the IFMP.
- Model: the actual simulation model used to generate and evaluate projections 48 years into the future, based on potential harvest rules



Key Technical Materials and Messages

FRSSI

- FRSSI staff are able to generate reports of performance measures for each of the modeled stocks, provided they are given the appropriate information to report on for a stock of interest.
- Discussion and suggestions were put to FRSSI staff for consideration regarding terminal fisheries inclusion in the model, currently there are challenges with modeling in-river fisheries due to the construction of the model.

Next Steps:

- FRSSI extended steering committee meeting in January, participation at the meeting is subject to organizer capacity.
- JTWG Participants can update their organizations on the details of FRSSI



Key Technical Materials and Messages

JTWG December:

- The JTWG officially has a SharePoint site up and running for file distribution, makes organizing files for participants much easier.

iREC Infilling Methods

- Rob Houtmann presented the iREC infilling methods paper to the JTWG. Uses iREC as a heatmap to identify areas of importance to cover, infilled by scaling catch annually from a base period of known creel data.
- Infilling is used for marine recreational fisheries that lack a creel estimate, but meet certain criteria.
- Paper was presented to JTWG for feedback, but the methods paper is not going through DFO peer-review before implementation.



Key Technical Materials and Messages

CSAS Participation

- CSAS office, DFOs peer-review process for scientific advice, has requested that a list of First Nations technical staff be provided for more consistent inclusion on CSAS papers.
- JTWG was identified as a potential point of contact for technical staff associated with Fraser fisheries that could contribute to a CSAS review.

Review of CSAS Papers from 2017

- Updates on each of the 4 CSAS papers reviewed this summer were provided: Coho Marine survival, Data limited Chum, WSP Sockeye Re-assessment and hatchery Chinook impacts to Wild Salmon



Key Technical Materials and Messages

Steelhead

- Discussed the DFO steelhead boxcar model, as well as the Provincial report for in-season steelhead abundance.
- Steelhead are very difficult to model with current tools, due to rarity of encounters in fisheries even when they were abundant.

Short discussion on potential priorities for 2018 Forum season.



Recap of January Meeting

- New DFO Co-Chair for JTWG: Marla Maxwell
- 22 Participants: 16 FN and 6 DFO
- Objective: *Discuss upcoming technical issues and questions for 2018. Review and discuss post-season products to be presented at the Forum*



Key Technical Materials and Messages

Housekeeping/Admin

- Reviewed the JTWG ToR to be ratified on February 22nd, a few new points came up for recommendation for inclusion.
- An initial list of CSAS participants is being drafted for distribution to CSAS office, intend to increase the FN participation at CSAS reviews.

Run Reconstruction / CWT report

- Nothing official to report, 2017 Run Reconstruction is not completed.
- New process for RR, means a report will hopefully be available for Feb.
- Expect an official review, including implementation changes (change from Excel to R)
- 2016 CWT mortality distribution tables are not ready, and will be distributed when they are.
- Identified that the international and domestic versions are slightly different, and comparison would be helpful



Key Technical Materials and Messages

Chinook 5 year Review

- Update from participants on the 5 year review.
- Approach to review has been identified, essentially a modified run reconstruction which includes the marine fisheries.
- Waiting for full data set before starting analysis of management actions. Some in-river work has been, including sensitivity analysis.
- Potential method for peer-review has been discussed, but nothing has been decided on.

Update on status of PST Chapter renegotiations, agreement-in-principle

- Update on the status of the PST chapters: Coho, Chum, Chinook



Key Technical Materials and Messages

PST cont.

- Discussed the current understanding of the process and timelines of the sockeye & pink chapter, expires 1 year after others.

Reviewed Forum Presentations

- Post Season: reviewed presentations and identified topics and questions that will be of interest at Forum to be answered.
- SARA / COSEWIC: Suggestion to use Cultus and/or Sakinaw as a case study.
- Steelhead Emergency Assessment discussed.
- Chinook management will be a long discussed item this season: 5 year review, SR Killer Whale, decreasing escapements
- Many technical indicators are pointing to poor conditions for Pacific Salmon, precautionary approach holds merit.



Looking Forward

- Next meeting, February 26th in Nanaimo
- Priority items include:
 - Chinook: Southern Resident Killer Whales, 5 year review
 - Sockeye: Forecast and supplements
 - Marine recreational catch estimation programs
 - Points identified at the Forum this week

