

# Fraser River Salmon Joint Technical Working Group Update

**Forum on Harvest and Conservation Planning**  
**January 29, 2019**



**Fraser River  
Aboriginal Fisheries  
Secretariat**



## JTWG Meeting January 28, 2019

1. SARA Recovery Potential Assessments for Salmon - Paul Grant
2. 2019 Fraser River Chinook Conservation Measures – Jeff Grout
3. Group Discussion of Data Needs to Support Review of Chinook Conservation Measures
4. Update on Changes to PST Chapter 5 (Coho) – Pete Nicklin
5. Planning for February and March JTWG Meetings

# SARA Recovery Potential Assessments for Salmon

## Timelines and Update

- Presentation by Paul Grant
- Comprehensive review of Salmon Recovery Potential Assessments (RPA's) currently or soon to be under development as part of SARA Listing Process
- RPA's are currently being developed for Okanagan Chinook, Interior Fraser River Coho, and Fraser Sockeye
- Planning underway for the RPA for the first assessed group of SBC Chinook
- Details provided for each RPA process on timelines, lead authors, technical working group membership

	Salmon	COSEWIC Assessment	# of DUs*	COSEWIC Status	COSEWIC Annual Report Date	Anticipated GiC Decision Date**
1	Interior Fraser Coho	Nov 2016	1	TH	Oct 2017	Oct 2020
2	Okanagan Chinook	April 2017	1	EN	Oct 2017	Oct 2020
3	Fraser Sockeye	Nov 2017	24	8 EN, 2 TH, 5 SC, 9 NAR	Oct 2018	Oct 2021
4	Southern BC Chinook (Non-Enhanced)	Nov 2018	16	8 EN, 4 TH, 1 SC, 1 NAR, 2 DD	Oct 2019	Oct 2022
5	Southern BC Chinook (Enhanced)	Nov 2019	12	TBD	Oct 2020	Oct 2023
6	Fraser River Sockeye	Nov 2019	7	TBD	Oct 2020	Oct 2023
7	Chinook/ Sockeye/ Chum/ Pink/ Steelhead	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

# 2019 Fraser River Chinook Conservation Measures

- Presentation by Jeff Grout
- Summary of escapement and productivity trends:
  - Escapements well down from brood year and below long term average for all aggregates. Many individual populations at historic low escapements.
  - Recruits per spawner well less than 1 for Spring 4(2), Spring 5(2), Summer 5(2). Recruits per spawner for Summer 4(1) and Fall 4(1) slightly below 1.
  - This means that these populations are not replacing themselves even in the absence of fishing.

## 2019 Fraser River Chinook Conservation Measures

- Considerations for management approach for 2019 include:
  - Timing and distribution of stocks and stock aggregates
  - Aggregate-specific productivity
  - Consideration for weak populations within aggregates
  - Fishery impacts in various fisheries and sectors
  - Salmon Allocation Policy
  - Compliance with new Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Chapter
  - Support prey availability objectives for SRKW
- Presentation prompted discussion of how what is required for effective JTWG evaluation of forthcoming 2019 proposed conservation measures

## Data Needs to Support Review of Chinook Conservation Measures

- The JTWG identified the need for various sources of data to be available for February to facilitate review of any proposed conservation measures, including:
  - Calculations of R/S and total mortality estimates (Chuck Parken)
  - Available DNA from fisheries through 2018 (new marine recreational results expected in February)
  - Size and age of spawners over time
  - Adipose-clip rate in marine recreational fisheries
  - Preliminary results from 5-year review
  - Fishery planning tools/models

## Update on Changes to PST Chapter 5 (Coho)

- Presentation by Pete Nicklin
- Review of the technical aspects of the PST Chapter 5 renewal, management is based on Interior Fraser Coho data.
  - 3 statuses: Low/Moderate/Abundant
  - Statuses defined based on escapement and survival, over a 3 year minimum time period. Both escapement and survival need to exceed the management benchmarks in consecutive years.
- Interest from participants on how the framework could be applied to Lower Fraser and Strait of Georgia MUs.

## Planning for February and March JTWG Meetings

- Additional meeting planned for February 26 to review Chinook and Steelhead data, specifically to deal with technical information for upcoming management changes.
- March 11 meeting to focus on:
  - Sockeye and Pink forecasts and escapement plans
  - Coho post-season analysis from Coho TC
  - Additional Chinook or Steelhead discussion as needed