



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Canada

Région du Pacifique
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April 26, 2016

Dear First Nations and Stakeholders,

Re: Fraser River Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook Management Approach

As part of discussions on the draft 2016/17 Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plans for Southern BC, there has been considerable discussion about the management approach that should be implemented for Fraser River Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook for 2016 fisheries.

Under the approach outlined in the draft IFMP, a cautious management approach for First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries is implemented to start the season with the assumption that returns of Fraser River Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook will be less than 45,000 to the Fraser River (Zone 1). As in previous years, in-season, consideration would be given to less restrictive management actions if catch information from the Albion test fishery indicates higher chinook returns to the Fraser River. Management actions are specified for areas where these populations are most likely to be encountered including: Northern (Area F) and WCVI (Area G) commercial troll; Juan de Fuca (Victoria area) and Fraser River recreational; and Fraser River First Nations FSC fisheries. Specific management restrictions are outlined in the Draft salmon IFMPs for these fisheries.

A range of feedback has been received on the management approach outlined in the draft IFMP for Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook. Similar to last year, the Sports Fishing Advisory Board recommends standardization of management actions across Spring and Summer 5₂ abundance zones.

Alternatively, First Nations have raised concerns about whether the draft IFMP approach is providing sufficient priority for FN FSC fisheries given expectations for reduced FSC harvest opportunities for Fraser chinook and sockeye in 2016 and potential impacts on Fraser River Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook in recreational and commercial fisheries. First Nations have recommended closures during May, June and July in interception fisheries impacting Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook.

For 2016, in consideration of First Nations' concerns and consistent with the priority for First Nations FSC harvest opportunities after conservation, the Department is seeking feedback on a proposed approach to manage recreational and commercial

fisheries using more restrictive Zone 1 management actions for the entire 2016 season. Proposed zone 1 management actions are outlined in the attached table. First Nations FSC fishery opportunities would also be managed using Zone 1 management actions unless inseason assessments indicate higher chinook abundance that could support additional FSC fishing opportunities subject to conservation constraints for other stocks (e.g. Spring 4₂ chinook and Early Stuart sockeye). Maintaining low (Zone 1) impacts in recreational and commercial fisheries, while maintaining flexibility to adjust First Nations FSC opportunities subject to inseason Spring and Summer 5₂ abundance is intended to reflect priority considerations in this year's context of weak anticipated Fraser salmon returns, but will still provide for predictable fishing opportunities for other sectors.

Departmental staff is seeking feedback on this proposed approach prior to making a decision for 2016 fisheries.

In addition, the Department is planning a broader review (e.g. the last 5 years) of our management approach as part of the 2016 post-season review. To support this, we are seeking feedback on key questions in support of a review of the management approach, including an assessment of the impacts of all fisheries on Fraser River chinook using the best available information.

If you would like to provide feedback, you are requested to provide it to your local resource manager or Kelly.binning@dfo-mpo.gc.ca on or before May 9, 2015.

Sincerely



Jeff Grout
Regional Resource Manager, Salmon

Attachment:

Summary of proposed 2016 management measures for Fraser Spring 4₂ and Fraser Spring and Summer 5₂ chinook.

Summary of proposed 2016 management measures for Fraser Spring 4-2 and Spring and Summer 5-2 chinook where Zone 1 remains in place

Fishery	Area	March			April			May			June			July			August																		
		1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	31																
Commercial:																																			
Area F Troll																																			
Area G Troll																																			
North Coast																																			
Closed- Status Quo																																			
Opening date restricted to June 21 - ITQ Fishery																																			
NWVI (Area 125 to 127)	Open	Closed March 16 - April 18	April 19 to May 31 open. Managed to monthly boat day effort/catch target limits	Closed June 1 - July 23						Open July 24 until target catch achieved																									
SWVI Area 124	Closed March 1 - April 30	May 01-May 31 open. Managed to monthly boat day effort/ catch target limits	Closed June 1 - July 31																																
SWVI Area 123	Closed March 1 - May 06	May 7-May 31 open. Managed to monthly boat day effort/ catch target limits																																	
Ahousaht Plaintiffs Salmon Demonstration Fishery																																			
NWVI (Areas 25, 26, 125 and 126)																																			
Time and Areas for fisheries under negotiation																																			
SWVI (Areas 24 and 124)																																			
Recreational: Marine																																			
NBC AABM																																			
Status Quo, 2 Chinook per day >45cm																																			
WCVI AABM																																			
Juan de Fuca	Sub areas 19-1 to 19-4, 20-4 and 20-5.	March 1- June 17: 2 chinook between 45-67 cm (hatchery or wild) or >67cm (hatchery marked only).						June 18 to July 15: 2 chinook between 45-85 cm (hatchery or wild) or >85cm (hatchery marked only). Minimum size of 45cm.						July 18 to Dec. 31: 2 chinook/day with a min. size of 45cm.																					
Georgia Strait	Corridor between Juan de Fuca and Fraser River (Subareas 18-1 to 18-6, 18-9, 18-11, 19-5, and portions of Subareas 29-4 and 29-5)	Mar. 1 to May 1: 2 chinook/day with a min. size of 62 cm.			May 2 to June 17: 2 chinook of which only 1 may be greater than 67cm. Minimum size limit of 62cm.			June 18 to July 15: 2 chinook between 62 - 85 cm.			July 18 to Dec. 31: 2 chinook/day with a min. size of 62cm.																								
Georgia Strait	Area 29 off Fraser River (Area 29-6, 7, 9-10)	Mar. 1 until further notice (likely July 31): non-retention of chinook												Aug 1-Dec 31: 2 chinook/day with a minimum length of 62cm																					
Recreational: Fraser Tidal + Non-tidal																																			
Fraser Tidal	Fraser River Tidal (Areas 29-11 to -17)	Jan 1 to July 31: No fishing for salmon												Aug. 1-August 31: 4 chinook /day with only 1 > 50cm																					

	Freshwater (Mission to Alexandra Bridge)	Jan 1 to July 31: No fishing for salmon	Aug. 1-August 31: 4 chinook /day with only 1 > 50cm	
Fraser Non-tidal	Region 3 - Fraser Mainstem Including the Thompson River	Closed-Status Quo	July 1 to July 15: No fishing for salmon 4(2) management measure.	July 16 to Aug 21: No fishing for salmon 5(2) Zone 1 management measure Fisheries targeting 4(1) stocks occur after these dates and in those areas where no 5(2)'s are present.
	Region 3 tributaries	Closed-Status Quo	July 1 to July 15: No fishing for salmon 4(2) management measure.	Thompson River from Kamloops Lake downstream to the confluence with the Fraser River, no fishing for salmon until August 21. • Bridge River, Clearwater River and North Thompson Rivers – No fishing for salmon. • South Thompson River – No fishing for salmon until August 15th. • No fishing for salmon at mouth of Bessette Creek – July 15 to Aug. 15. Fisheries targeting 4(1) stocks occur after these dates and in those areas where no 5(2)'s are present.
	Region 5 & 7 - mainstem and trib.	No fishing for salmon until July 15th.	No chinook directed fisheries.	

	Lower Fraser: Below Port Mann	Closed for communal fisheries; very limited ceremonials	Limited communal FSC fisheries in April, May, June and July using an effort based model to limit overall impacts.	normal fisheries
Fraser River First Nations	Lower Fraser: Port Mann to Sawmill	Closed for communal fisheries; very limited ceremonials	Limited communal FSC fisheries in April, May, June and July using an effort based model to limit overall impacts.	normal fisheries
	BC Interior: Sawmill to Kelly Cr. And Thompson below the Bonaparte	Closed-Status Quo	Closure to June 19; limited openings for Gill Net, Dip Net and angling with Rod+Reel fisheries on portions of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers to July 2nd. Dip net and angling with Rod+reel fisheries to August 1st. Some terminal area restrictions initiated by First Nations	Some fisheries in terminal areas closed or restricted

Albion Test Fishery	Fraser River Chinook Assessment Fishery	Closed-Status Quo	April: Start of Fraser River chinook test fishery
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Fishery	Area	March			April			May			June			July			August		
		1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	30	1	15	31	1	15	31