



Pre-Season Planning and IFMP Priorities: 2019 Salmon Fisheries

Pre-season Planning Priorities and Feedback

Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning
January 29-31, 2019



Outline

A. IFMP Priorities and Feedback Received:

1. COSEWIC and SARA Process
2. Chinook management
3. Southern Resident Killer Whales
4. Interior Fraser Steelhead
5. Fraser River Sockeye
6. Interior Fraser Coho
7. Five Nations Fishery Management Plan
8. Pacific Salmon Treaty Update
9. Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework

B. IFMP process timelines



A. IFMP Planning Considerations

- Key planning considerations reflect areas where Department expects potential changes to management approaches and decision guidelines for 2019 fishing season
- A letter was sent to First Nations and stakeholders in early Dec. with further details on planning priorities and the deadline for feedback submission was Jan. 17, 2019.
- Consultations with First Nations and stakeholders will occur as part of process to develop the draft salmon IFMP and includes a 30 day public comment period prior to finalizing the 2019/20 salmon IFMPs. ₃



1. SARA Listing Timelines - Salmon

- Five salmon listing processes need to be undertaken.
- New service standard directs listing decision to occur within 36 months of submission of assessment by COSEWIC to GoC (thru COSEWIC Annual Report).

Species	# of DUs*	COSEWIC Assessment Date	COSEWIC Status	COSEWIC Annual Report Date
Sakinaw Sockeye	1	2016 (April)	EN	Oct 2016
Interior Fraser Coho	1	2016 (November)	TH	Oct 2017
Okanagan Chinook	1	2017 (April)	EN	Oct 2017
Fraser Sockeye (Group I)	24	2017 (November)	8 EN, 2 TH, 5 SC, 9 NAR	Oct 2018
Steelhead Trout (Thompson & Chilcotin)	2	2018 (January)	2 EN (Emergency)**	N/A
Southern BC Chinook (Group I)	16	2018 (November)	8 EN, 4 TH, 1 SC, 1 NAR, 2 DD	Anticipated Oct 2019
Fraser Sockeye (Group II)	7	2019 (November)	Assessment not yet performed	Anticipated Oct 2020
Steelhead Trout (Thompson & Chilcotin)	2	2019 (November)	Re-assessment not yet performed (non-emergency)	Anticipated Oct 2020
Southern BC Chinook (Group II)	12	TBD	Assessment not yet performed	TBD

EN – Endangered, TH – Threatened, SC – Special Concern, NAR – Not at Risk, DD – Data Deficient



2. Chinook Management

Process:

- Over the coming month, the Department plans to consult with First Nations and stakeholders through existing processes to identify additional fishery management measures for Fraser River Chinook stocks
- Department will also seek input on proposed fishery that outline management actions for commercial, recreational and First Nations fisheries that meet conservation objectives
- A letter will be sent to First Nations and stakeholders outlining specific conservation objectives and initial fishery scenarios for consideration in the near future and will include details on how to provide feedback.
- Feedback on proposed fishery scenarios, including fisheries management actions will be required by the end of February for early season Chinook fisheries.
- Early Season Chinook Fishery decisions will be made by the Department in March with implementation beginning in April. 5



2. Chinook Management - Feedback

First Nations

- implement broad-scale, clear, enforceable management actions to ensure the long-term abundance and sustainability of Fraser chinook
- No targeted commercial and recreational fisheries for chinook when FN FSC needs not being met
- Zone “0” management approach, such that the only impacts to chinook are from First Nations FSC fisheries
- DFO should review past Forum recommendations with regards to the recreational Chinook fisheries when considering management measures for the 2019/20 IFMP.
- Range of additional recreational fishery measures suggested including:
 - Fishery closed unless opened; Max size limits for inside waters (e.g. 67cm to protect wild fish); reduction of recreational catch limits; no catch and release mortality if FSC fisheries reduced; extend measures to Area 12
- Additional management actions required to address low-flows and high temperature in various rivers.
- Implement enforceable actions



2. Chinook Management - Feedback

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- Total mortalities on at-risk, endangered and threatened Fraser River Chinook of 0-10%
- Non-retention of Chinook in rec fisheries where stocks of concern are present only when:
 - Fishery independent catch reporting + monitoring in place
 - Commitment to close fisheries once harvest ceilings are reached
 - Rec fisheries encountering populations of concern are evaluated relative to CSAS SAR on Fishery Related Incidental Mortality
- Similar non-retention approach in commercial fisheries



3. SRKW – 2019 Planning

- Department is reviewing additional fishery management actions to support increased Chinook prey availability in key SRKW foraging areas within the SRKW Critical Habitat.
- Potential measures will be designed to provide an accessible food supply and to reduce physical and acoustic disturbance in key SRKW foraging areas.
- The Department intends to implement measures in 2019 starting in May to coincide with the return of SRKW to the Salish Sea.
- Further discussion with First Nations and stakeholders on potential measures that may be considered will occur as part of IFMP consultation process.



3. SRKW - Feedback

First Nations

- Ecosystem management approach required to address SRKW recovery, including provision of sufficient prey (e.g. chinook / herring).

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- Priority feeding areas closed to fin fishing in critical habitat (123, 121/21, Juan de Fuca to Sooke, mouth of the Fraser, Gulf Island Subareas)
- Total mortalities in commercial, recreational and FN chinook fisheries on south migrating stocks to WCVI, inner SC and Fraser reduced to less than 10% mortality and in early Fraser less than 5%
- Terminal chinook fisheries that have spawners in excess of escapement goals should be conducted in terminal areas if abundance permits
- Enforcement and monitoring of all fishery measures



4. Interior Fraser Steelhead

2019 Fisheries Management – linkages to SARA

- Timing of GIC Listing Decision results in need to consult on both LIST and DO NOT LIST Scenarios for 2019 IFMP
- DO NOT LIST Scenario similar to 2018 measures
 - 27 day window closure in-river and for Johnstone Strait gillnets
 - Reduced fishing time for salmon FSC in-river
 - Minor modifications to this approach may be considered if alternative, but equally effective, conservation measures are identified during consultations
 - May require additional science advice concerning duration of closure period



4. Interior Fraser Steelhead

2019 Fisheries Management – linkages to SARA

- LIST Scenario
 - Automatic general prohibitions under SARA
 - Closures to all gear to which steelhead may be vulnerable, in times and areas along the steelhead migration route (terminal exclusions)
 - Closure duration currently projected to be 60 days, but may be longer pending advice from Science
 - Closure to FSC, recreational finfish, commercial
- Direct impacts on pink, sockeye, chum fisheries
 - Area 126 closure from Aug 22 to Oct 21
 - Fraser River Mouth from Sept 11 to Nov 10
- Kelt outmigration period
 - actions expected in the future, but not identified for 2019



4. Interior Fraser Steelhead - Feedback

First Nations

- Fishing impacts from commercial and recreational fisheries eliminated before FSC
- Engagement and follow up required with Province on Steelhead protection / habitat issues
- Request for steelhead encounter data for 2018

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- Rolling window closure extended by 2 weeks at beginning and 1 week at end
- Fishery independent estimates of steelhead encounters
 - Third-party validation of landings for Chum fisheries
 - All fisheries have 20% fishery independent at-sea monitoring
- Comprehensive compliance monitoring and enforcement plan for recreational and commercial fisheries
- Consider potential impact of drop-outs from FSC and commercial gillnets
- New selective fisheries during the rolling window closure should have 100% fishery independent monitoring



Chum Management - Feedback

First Nations

- Develop low impact fishery plan for years with low expectations.
- Gather further catch details in A12 before closures are implemented
- DNA stock identification program for chum
- Manage Nanaimo and Cowichan chum fisheries with acknowledgement of by-catch considerations
- DNA and biological samples should be collected to inform chum fishery planning

Commercial

- Permit use of power skiff in terminal chum fisheries
- Review management policies, decision rules and in-season commercial allocation approach
- Recommend option of drop Beckett weedlines for JS gill net chum fishery if traditional JS chum openings and areas remain



5. Fraser River Sockeye Management

- 2019 is sub-dominant cycle line for Fraser sockeye
- Quantitative forecasts will be available by February 2019.
- 2019 is also a Fraser pink salmon return year. Note: declining trend for last two returns with 2017 return being one of lowest in the last three decades.
- Planning will need to consider the potential for a range of returns, as well as, specific management measures for protecting and rebuilding stocks of concern including:
 - duration of the window closure to protect weak stocks returning at start of season;
 - escapement plan for each aggregate; and,
 - Additional management measures for stocks of concern.



5. Fraser River Sockeye Management – Feedback

First Nations

- Supportive of window closures to protect stocks of concern
- Supportive of Lewis Point closures (to protect Nimpkish sockeye)
- Request for DNA information (including non-Fraser sockeye)
- Concerns regarding constraints on FSC fisheries and how these are implemented on commercial and recreational fisheries
- Recreational fishery should be subject to aggregate Fraser Sockeye management
- Explore opportunities for wild stock ESSR fishery
- Discuss FSC retention of bycatch during EO fisheries (Dual fishing)
- Harvest plans should account for unexpected migration timing and pre-season fishing plans should be adapted to provide priority access for FSC
- Move recreational fisheries to area-based management approach to avoid conflict with areas where FSC harvesting occurs



6. IFR Coho Management Considerations

- No change to current 20% ER cap for *low* status in place since 2002. Note: each country's share of the 20% ER cap (10% each) may be managed to lower ERs based on domestic planning (e.g. Canada implemented 3-5% ER on interior Fraser River MU in most years).
- ER Caps for *moderate* and *abundant* status categories for the IFR MU are lower consistent with a desire to be cautious in the face of uncertain data and analysis, as well as, feedback from consultations.
- No change to US shares of the IFR MU ER Caps.
- An improvement from *Low* to *Moderate* or *Abundant* status would be based on a combination of marine survival rates and spawner abundance for IFR Coho.
- Canada required to inform US of IFR coho status category in March of each year.
- Status determination for SoG and LF Coho is not included given current data limitations but may be considered in the future. However, we may revisit this approach in the future.



PST Reference Points and ER Caps for the IFR

Coho MU

	Low	Moderate	Abundant
Survival	$S \leq 0.03$	Three consecutive years $0.03 < S \leq 0.06$ and	Three consecutive years $S > 0.06$ and
Escapement	Monitored in CU's and subpops but no thresholds	Three consecutive years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Half of subpops in each CU > 1000; orAggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., 27,000)	Three consecutive years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All IFR subpops in each CU > 1000; orAggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., revised 40,000)
ER cap (US/Can)	0.20 (0.10/0.10)	0.30 (0.12/0.18)	0.45 (0.15/0.30)

Previous approach included ER caps of 20% for low; 40 for moderate and 65% for abundant



6. Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho Feedback

First Nations

- FSC needs to be addressed as priority in IFR management; concerns about recreational/commercial impacts
- Assessment of stock abundance required to justify recreational fishery on Cowichan River Coho
- Assessment of Coho in Strait of Georgia should be a priority



7. Five Nations Fishery Management Plan

- DFO provided the Five Nations with an Initial Multi-species Fishery Management Plan on Nov. 30/18.
- The plan outlines proposed allocations and harvest plans for salmon, groundfish, crab and prawn.
- DFO has been and will continue consulting with the Five Nations, other First Nations and stakeholders between Dec./18 and Feb./19.
- Summarization, analysis and consideration of the consultation to inform a Ministerial decision on the plan will need to occur prior to Mar. 31/19, thus the goal is to finalize consultations by mid Feb./19.
- **Written comments on the initial plan are due by February 15**
- The final plan will be issued by March 31, 2019 and implementation will begin on April 1, 2019



8. Pacific Salmon Treaty Update

- Some of the key elements of the proposed agreement relevant to Southern BC include:
 - Harvest reductions in Canadian and U.S. AABM and ISBN fisheries to address ongoing conservation concerns for Chinook stocks in both countries;
 - For Southern Coho, creation of a single Strait of Georgia management unit (MU), replacing two prior MUs and the development of a status-based management approach for Canadian MUs; and,
 - Creation of two “breakpoints” for Fraser River chum.
- The revised versions of Annex IV, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 (plus current text for Chapters 4, 7, and 8) have been posted at <https://www.psc.org/publications/pacific-salmon-treaty/>.
- Please note that Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 are not yet formally in force, but the Parties have agreed to provisionally apply them as of January 1, 2019.



9. CSAF Demonstration Fisheries

- The deadline to submit any new demonstration fishery proposals (or substantial changes to existing proposals) was **January 28th, 2019**.
- Demonstration fishery proposals that were not submitted by this deadline will not be considered for the 2019 season.
- The Department will evaluate the proposals and provide an opportunity for feedback and discussion through the draft IFMP consultation process.



Other Feedback

First Nations

- Stronger presence of CO's and stiffer penalties for those not complying to fish regulations
- Develop area-based FMPs that will act as a sub-IFMP
- Discussion on issues within Ch.4 not finalized
 - Explain process to which FN input was considered into PST Chpt 4 (sockeye/pink) re-negotiations and what extent the advice gets reflected
- Include review of commercial and recreational sectors and FN priority access in Salmon Allocation Policy
- FN lead socio-economic analysis of FSC and EO fisheries to support SARA processes
- Restoration/remediation required to address FW habitat factors limiting production in various watersheds: Nimpkish, Fraser).

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- All fisheries should undergo risk assessment
- Apply Fishery Related Incidental Mortality (FRIM) to update release mortality rates used. Include information on how C+P will enforce identified management actions



2019 IFMP Timelines:

Activity	Proposed Timelines
Integrated Harvest Planning Committee Meetings to review and discuss potential changes to IFMPs and opportunity for focussed discussion on key IFMP issues. Additional meetings with First Nations organizations and advisory groups are also identified in the salmon calendar.	FN Forum (Jan 29-31) Northern - Prince Rupert (February 5) Southern IHPC – Vancouver (February 6) meetings
Release draft IFMPs for public review & comment	Approx. February 22
Meetings to review draft IFMP	Northern IHPC – Prince Rupert (March 6); and, Southern IHPC – Vancouver (March 7) FN Forum (March 12-14)
Deadline to submit comments on draft IFMP (30 day comment period).	April 8
Final Meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback.	Full IHPC (April 24-25) FN Forum (Apr 26 or 30) – webex
Target for public release of salmon IFMP	June