

Questions and/or Requests for Advice from FORUM Participants
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An updated version of this document will be made available once 2019 forecast numbers are available and the draft IFMP is released prior to the March Forum.

Fraser Sockeye

The 2019 Fraser Sockeye forecast is still being developed and is not yet available. For your consideration, however, preliminary indications suggest that for 2019:

- The Fraser sockeye forecast will likely be below average for this cycle; however there will likely be harvest opportunities.
- The Early Stuart return will likely be low and DFO will propose at least a three week window closure to protect most of this run.
- The Early Summer run returns will likely be low as well with most of the production likely to come from lower river stocks. There may be international TAC available at the p50 forecast level. An extended window closure should be considered to help protect the earliest returning Early Summer run stocks.
- The Summer run returns will likely be the largest component of the return this year, with the majority of the return anticipated to be comprised of Chilko Lake sockeye. International TAC is likely to occur at returns at or above the p25 forecast level.
- This is a subdominant Adams year and the Late run returns will likely be low due to poor escapements in 2015. Cultus recovery objectives will likely not be met, and a 20% LAER will likely be implemented.

For 2019, the Department will be seeking input on two escapement options and their components. The escapement plans have not yet been developed. You may wish to provide advice on what to consider when crafting the two escapement options.

For your reference the 2015 (4-year old brood year) escapement plan is provided below.

2015 Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters		Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	Pre-season pMA
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap			
Early Stuart	10%	60%	108,000	270,000	0.68
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	60%	100,000	250,000	0.64
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	65%	1,000,000	2,857,000	0.17
Late (w/o misc)	20-30%	60%	300,000	750,000	0.95

When a 2019 forecast is available (likely in February) we will be asking for more detailed feedback. Some questions that are generally asked each year are:

- Given recent returns and uncertainty in the forecast, are there additional actions that should be considered to address returns at the lower end of the forecast?

- What LAERs would you prefer for Early Summer and Summer run sockeye (recall from 2018 these were increased from 10% to 20%)?
- Do you support a TAM cap of 65% for Summers and 60% for the other run timing groups?
- Are there additional measures that should be considered for specific stocks within the aggregates that are a concern as far as expected escapements, large or weak?
- Do you have any advice on how long (approximately three weeks or four weeks) the window closure for Early Stuart Sockeye and potentially Early Summer Sockeye should be in 2019? In some years, a one week extension of the Early Stuart closure (i.e. increased to approximately 4 weeks instead of 3 weeks) is implemented with the aim of providing some protection to some of the earliest returning Early Summer sockeye (e.g. Bowron and Taseko).
- Do you have feedback on how to manage FSC sockeye fisheries for stocks other than Early Stuart sockeye when there is not enough Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for all to catch the amount as set out in licences issued by DFO?

Fraser Pink

The 2019 Fraser Pink forecast is still being developed and is not yet available. However preliminary indications suggest that for 2019:

- Fraser pink returns will likely be low.
- FSC harvesting opportunities will likely still be available.

Interior Fraser Coho

The objective for Interior Fraser River coho (including Thompson River coho) is to manage Canadian fisheries in a highly precautionary manner with fisheries management measures similar to those in place prior to 2014. This approach is expected to achieve an overall exploitation rate in Canadian waters within the 3 – 5 % range.

- Is their support for the objective as stated above? (same as 2018 approach)
- Are there any modifications you would suggest to current management actions?