



# 2026 Fraser Forum #1 DRAFT

## What We Heard



Photo credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

Robin Hawes (DFO) & Greg Witzky (FSMC)

January 29, 2026



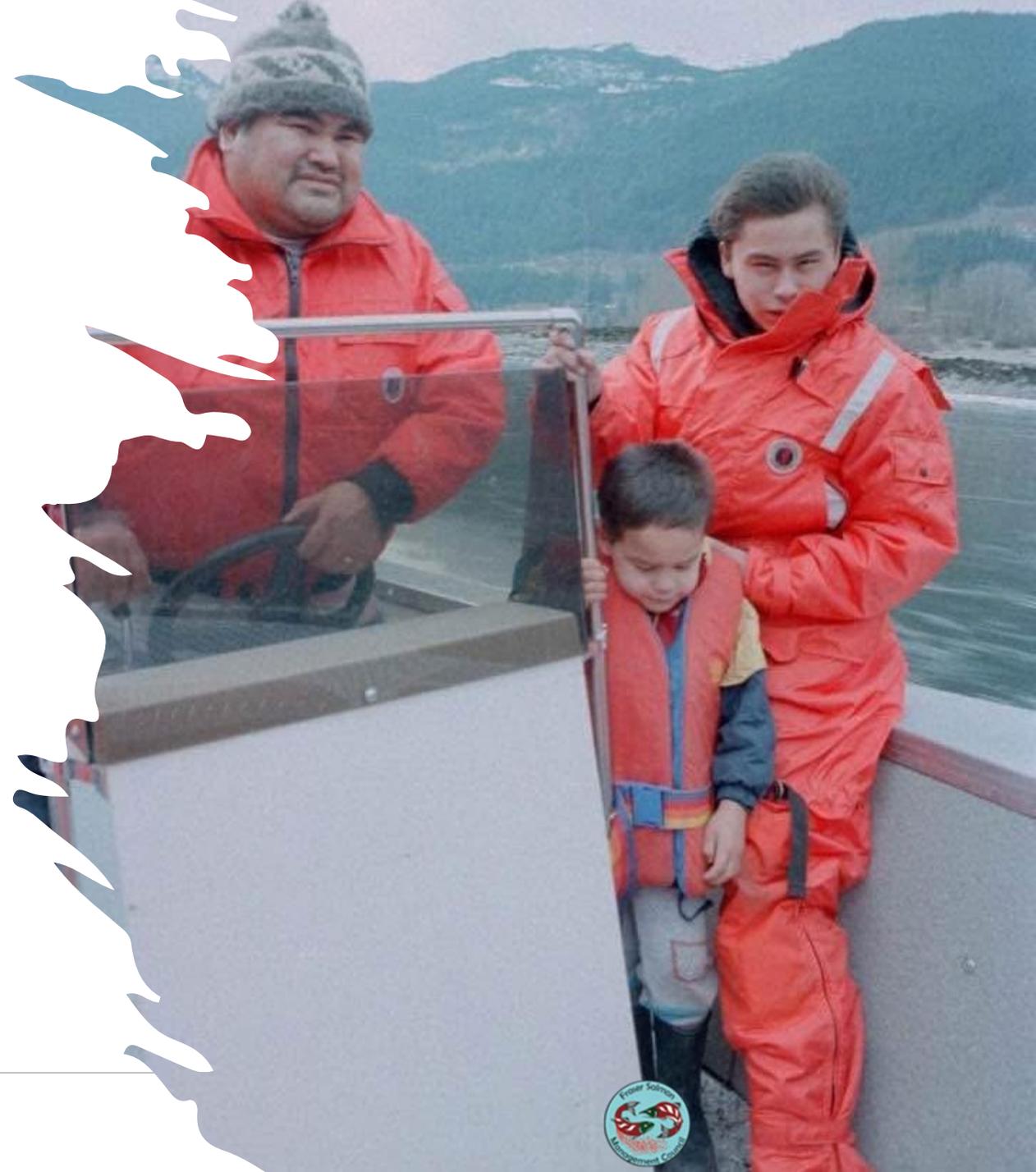
# What We Heard

- Intent - capture the discussions and key priorities identified during Forum and highlight any next steps.
- Tool to inform subsequent Forum agendas.
- Continue to evolve with feedback



# Outline

- Presentation Structure
- Overarching Messages
- Fraser Chinook
- West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook
- East Coast Vancouver Island fisheries
- Fraser Sockeye
- Fraser Salmon Management Board
- 2026 Management Approach



# Item: Presentation Structure

## Overview

- *Each slide will be focused on a broad topic area (e.g. Fraser Chinook)*
- *This overview section will include a high-level summary of the key themes raised*

## Next Steps / Actions

- *This section includes key next steps or actions identified during our discussions.*
- *In some cases, additional actions may be identified by the team preparing this presentation*

## Tech Questions

- *This will lay out any specific technical questions that arose for resolution*

## Deadlines

- *This will include key deadlines both for work to be completed and for input to be provided into processes*



# Item: Overarching Messages

## Overview

- Cultural value of fishing
- Priority rights vs recreational privilege
- Data gaps, monitoring, and lack of trust in numbers
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Free, Prior and informed consent (FPIC)
  - Policy and regulatory frameworks undeveloped
- Need to do things differently to get different outcome



Photo credit: FSMC

# Item: Fraser Chinook

## Overview

- Aggregate management challenges
- First Nations Priority access
- Recreational harvest of chinook is high; reduce and shift impacts to First Nations rights-based fisheries
- Proposed recreational fishery area-based licensing and restricting access
- Status quo not working for First Nations
- Criteria for distinguishing between rights-based fisheries and interest-based privilege

## Next Steps / Actions

- Request for information: DFO to provide socio-economic methodology used to support decision-making

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines



# Item: Steelhead

## Overview

- Interest in better understanding what work is going on to recover stock.
- Give up opportunity on other stocks to protect Steelhead
- Lack of steelhead data keeping boats on the beach
- Trilateral accord may be avenue to explore Steelhead further

## Next Steps / Actions

- Get Steelhead on Forum agenda & Invite province

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines

- *Forum 3 – March 31 – April 2*



# Item: West Coast Vancouver Island Aggregate Abundance Based Management - Chinook

## Overview

- Stock management unit grouping 'Columbia/Snake' – threatened stocks on Columbia that show harvest in Area G troll
- Area G troll springtime chinook demo shows proportion of harvest from Columbia. Some Columbia stocks threatened.

## Next Steps / Actions

- Follow up with Chinook Technical Committee re: differentiating stocks within the larger SMU grouping

## Tech Questions

## Deadlines



# Item: East Coast Vancouver Island

## Overview

**Pink:** recreational fishery open until closed and invites incidental catch on other species; Incidental

**Chinook:** recreational fishery releases are a waste and morally wrong and must be emphasized to Minister; status quo not working; Broaden scope of criteria used to evaluate Mark Selective Fisheries (MSF's); opposition to MSF's; First Nations have capacity to monitor these fisheries; Need total allowable catch on recreational industry that includes release mortalities;

**Coho:** high releases in recreational fishery; effort graph showing higher coho CPUE may be result of chinook fishery closures shifting fishing effort

## Next Steps / Actions

- Salmon Tier 2 Vancouver Island Meeting March 16 – contact IMAWG or Maxime Veilleux
- Request for information: data from MSF's
- Request rationale for why recreational fisheries remain open
- Coho summary tables include release mortalities column
- Request for coho assessment fishery genetic stock identification (GSI)
- Confirm chum escapement and if target was met

## Deadlines

- *Coho assessment fishery GSI will be presented to IMAT Feb 4;*
- *Consideration for JTWG to discuss having coho assessment fishery GSI information presented at JTWG.*

# Item: Fraser Sockeye

## Overview

- Escapement plans need to be nimble and adaptive in season; greater clarity – triggers and procedure
- Missed opportunities in 2025; food needs not being met
- Upper Fraser Nations opportunities not seen in years
- Pacific Salmon Treaty deficiencies
- Cannot recover lost FSC opportunity – loss of culture
- Aggregate management – concerns for weaker conservation units

## Next Steps / Actions

- FSMB will present escapement plan options at Forum 2
- PST renegotiations underway – bring thoughts forward to representatives of the Fraser Panel
- PST renegotiations on Forum 2 agenda

## Deadlines



# Item: Fraser Salmon Management Board

## Overview

- Expectation of FSMC being true partner with DFO, rather than advisors or consultation body
- Status quo mgmt. not working for First Nations – FSMB should revisit the scenarios and management actions developed by JTC last year
- FSMC should have meeting with Minister to express views
- Socio-economic impacts to First Nations when fisheries cannot be prosecuted
- Need for 3<sup>rd</sup> party report on socio-economic of recreational fishery
- 2025 management decision response lacks rationale for infringement of rights-based fisheries
- Interest in having presentation slides that detail FSMC and FSMB & more discussion time
- Proposal for another metric to be considered in chinook management – fishing time

## Next Steps / Actions

- Updated Joint Technical Committee technical report available in next two weeks & shared broadly
  - Request to participants to review the information and provide feedback

## Deadlines

- *Final recommendations of FSMB to Minister by April 24, 2026*

# Forum Planning Committee

- Greg Witzky (FSMC co-chair)
- Robin Hawes (DFO co-chair)
- Sonora Morin-Thompson (IMAWG)
- Aidan Fisher (FSMC, JTC)
- Ken Malloway (FSMC)
- Chief Victor Isaac (FSMC)
- Tony Roberts Jr. (FSMB)
- Pete Erickson (FSMC)
- Kelsey Campbell (First Nations JTWG co-chair)
- Colin S (DFO JTWG co-chair)
- Brittany Jenewein (DFO, JTC)
- Andrea Goruk (DFO)
- Jeff Radford (DFO)

Please reach out to any of us to provide feedback on Forum



# Questions? Comments?

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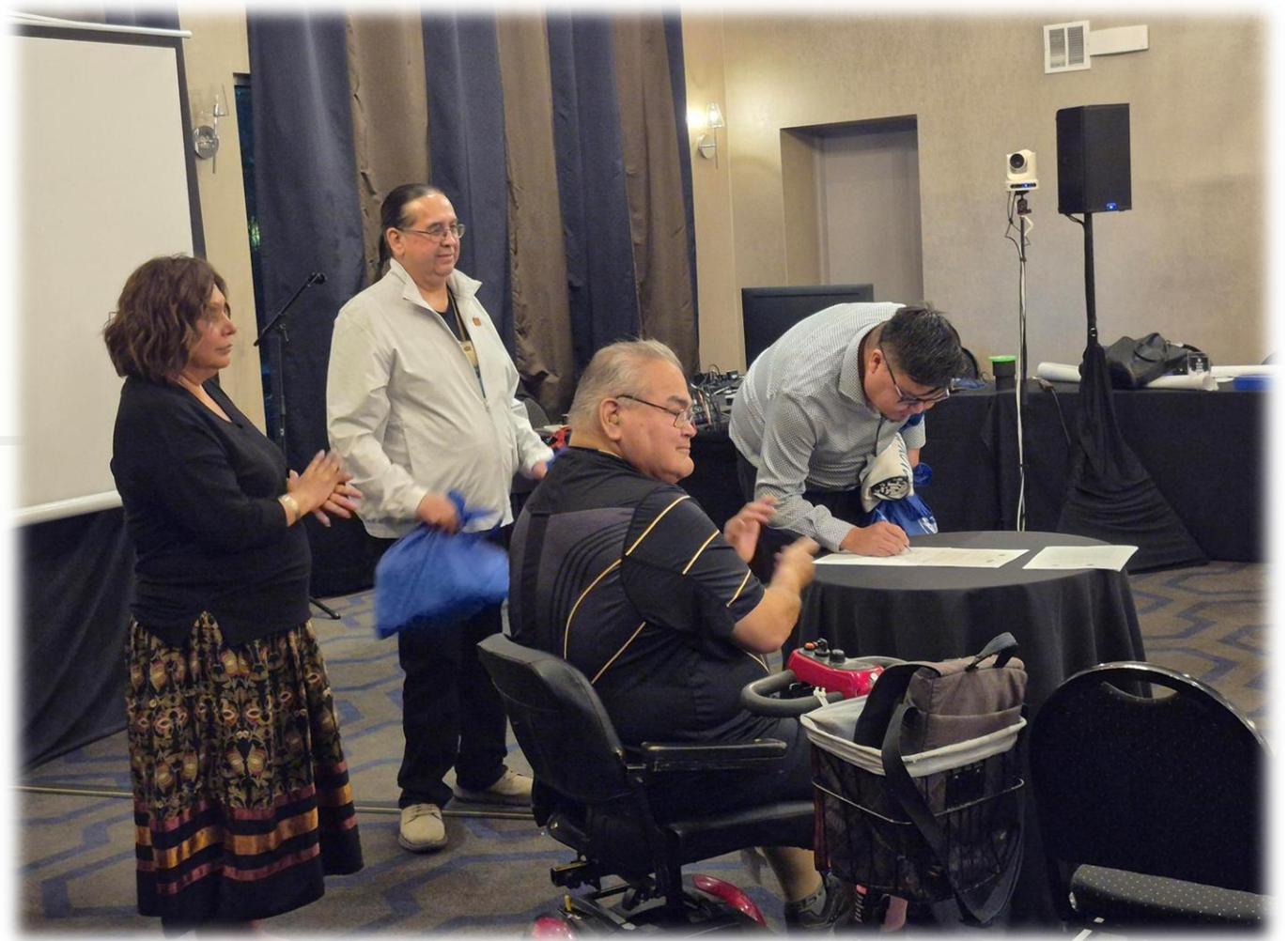


Photo credit: FSMC

