



2026 Fraser Forum #2

Getting Started



Photo provided by Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

Presentation to Forum
Greg Witzky (FSMC) & Robin Hawes(DFO)
February 24, 2026





Fraser Forums

Critical for our shared learning and the co-production of knowledge to inform Fraser salmon conservation and decision-making

- Continuing to evolve
- Remain an important tool in the Fraser Salmon co-governance and co-management tool kit
- Striving to become a safe space to:
 - Practice principles of collaboration; UNDRIP, and Reconciliation
 - Integrate Indigenous Knowledge with western science
 - Create technical and policy feedback loops and explore adaptive management





Key Themes of 2026 Forums

- Chinook Summer 5₂ management approaches
- Sockeye Escapement Planning
- Pacific Salmon Treaty Renegotiations (Forum 3)

Photo provided by Secwepemc Fisheries Commission



Fraser Forum Progression

Forum 1

DFO 2025-2026 post-season information sharing

Introduced 2026-2027 FSMB plans and priorities before draft IFMP is released

Forum 2

Informed dialogue between FSMB, DFO, and Nations on 2026-2027 Fraser salmon management approaches

Shared understanding to inform the development of IFMP responses before April 10th, 2026 deadline

Forum 3

FSMB & DFO share feedback on draft IFMP responses

Shared understanding of 2026-2027 management plans and actions



New to Forum 2

- Further increase to Tier 1 time
- Addition of Tier 1 Reflections to complement “What We Heard” on Day 3
- Additional Forum Planning Committee discussions with DFO presenters to address Forum 1 feedback



Continued from Forum 1

- Increased detail in Forum agenda
- Oh Boy Productions and discussion transcripts
- AI to support production of Forum summaries
- Meet and Greet Reception
Wednesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm



Photo provided by Pat Matthew



2026 Forum 1 Action Trackers – Updates (1/3)

Action Item/Next Step	Update	Next Step(s) now
Request for information: DFO to provide socio-economic methodology used to inform decision-making	<p>The Department compiled information on the economic value of commercial and recreational fisheries and associated economic benefits and economic costs (lost opportunities) associated with different management scenarios. Department did not undertake a comprehensive socio-economic analysis to inform the 2025 Chinook salmon fishery management decision.</p> <p>Shared with FSMC for distribution (February 23, 2026)</p>	Complete
Get Steelhead on Forum agenda & Invite province	Forum Planning Committee members will discuss the addition of Steelhead on the 2026 Forum 3 agenda	
Regarding Area G troll demo fishery results: Follow up with Chinook Technical Committee re: differentiating stocks within the larger SMU grouping - interest in breakout of conservation units within the 'Columbia/Snake' stock management unit	Unable to differentiate the DNA to distinguish Canadian component from US component in the larger stock management unit.	<p>Stock assessment engaging directly with the individual who raised this question to determine if there is another way to satisfy the interest, potentially through coded wire tag results.</p> <p>Report back to Forum once resolved.</p>
Request rationale for why recreational fisheries remain open - pinks, chinook, coho	<p>In places and times with no specific conservation concern, where FSC is not restricted, recreational fisheries are left open.</p> <p>Where a recreational fishery is open, but there are potential impacts to stocks of concern, a range of measures will be put in place (e.g. non-retention, time/area closures, daily/possession limit, gears, closure, etc.) to minimize impacts to stocks of conservation concern.</p>	Request for clarity around question so a more detailed response can be provided.

2026 Forum 1 Action Trackers – Updates (2/3)

Action Item/Next Step	Update	Next Step(s) now
Request for information: data from MSF's (slide 18 of ECVI post season presentation)	<i>In progress</i>	Will update at next Forum
ECVI presentation - Request that Coho summary tables include release mortalities column for legal and sub-legal catch	<p>Feedback received. Work will occur between to update the templates of post-season report and presnetations templates for next year.</p> <p>For 2025, release mortality rates are shared in the IFMP (table 7.3 - release mortality rates) and can be combined with release numbers shared to determien release mortality</p>	Requests for updates will be collected and updates for next year to continually improve reporting and sharing of information
Request for coho assessment fishery genetic stock identification (GSI)	shared with IMAT on February 4. Data shared with FSMC for distribution to Forum participants on February 23, 2026	Potential for it to be covered a JTWG meeting, subject to availability on agenda & continued interest from JTWG participants
Confirm Fraser chum escapement and if target was met	Fraser Chum escapement goal has been met for 2025 (escapment goal = 800,000)	Near final escapement estimates will be available in March. Information to be provided at Forum 3 during review of Action items.

2026 Forum 1 Action Trackers – Updates (3/3)

Action Item/Next Step	Update	Next Step(s) now
Provide in writing, the Department's interpretation of Aboriginal priority in context of Chinook fisheries	After conservation needs are met, First Nations' food, social and ceremonial requirements and treaty obligations to First Nations have first priority in salmon allocation. The Aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes has priority, after conservation, over other uses of the resource. Where a treaty exists, fisheries are managed in a manner consistent with the provisions of the treaty.	Forum 2 Chinook presentations speak to how the Department and FSMB are operationalizing the Policy in the context of Chinook salmon.
Inquiry: DFO response to train derailment into Nechako - monitoring, impacts to salmon, how First Nations will be kept informed.	DFO is aware (C&P and FFHPP); DFO Habitat Biologists receiving regular updates on clean up progress; DFO will continue to receive updates and assess whether further DFO involvement is required.	Train Rerailment Vanderhoof District - Province of British Columbia



Questions or Feedback

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All Forum presentations and handouts
are attached to your Forum #2
calendar invite

Hard to find?

Email:

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