Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fraser Salmon Management Board 2026-27 IFMP Engagement

- Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plan - Options

Objective
Of Presentation

Continue the FSMB's 2026/27 IFMP process for consultation on Fraser Sockeye escapement planning

Photo Credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

- Sockeye Escapement Plan
  - 2026 Process
  - Options
- Discussion & Questions

2025-26 Fraser Salmon Management Board/Joint Technical Committee Workplan

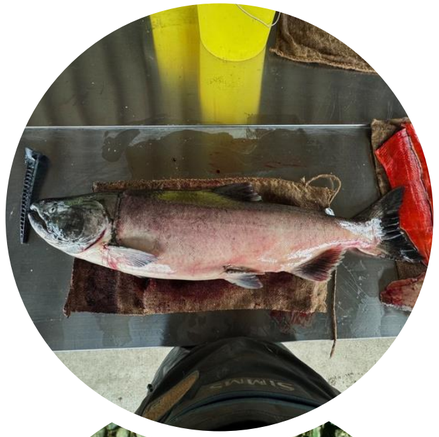

Photo Credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

Summer 5_2 Chinook Management

The Summer 5_2 Chinook management workplan item includes reviewing previous management, consultation on potential management approaches, and option development.

Fraser Sockeye Management

The Fraser Sockeye management workplan item includes developing escapement plan options, consultation, and identifying a recommended sockeye escapement plan.

The workplan includes other topics as well; details can be found in the reference slides.

Sockeye Escapement Plan
2026 Process

The FSMB is following a similar process for the Fraser Sockeye escapement plan options in the 2026/27 IFMP:

- New this year: FSMB will seek to have greater coordination with the Canadian Caucus of the Fraser River Panel to support development and engagement on the escapement plan
- FSMB interest to ensure analysis of options considers potential outcomes across the full range of the pre-season run size distribution
- JTC and Fraser Panel Technical Committee Working Group involved to collaboratively developing Sockeye escapement plan options beginning in December. Escapement plan options will be reviewed FSMB and Canadian Caucus.
- Options will be finalized by the FSMB and included in the draft IFMP for engagement (Feb).
- The FSMB will seek feedback through the IFMP process, including presenting at key meeting including the IHPC and the Fraser Forums on draft escapement plan options. (current stage)
- FSMB will review feedback and seek a consensus recommendation on a final Fraser Sockeye escapement plan for 2026.
- In addition to escapement plan, consideration of conservation measures for stocks of concern (e.g. Early Stuart, Cultus, etc.)

Fraser River Sockeye
Escapement Plan Options

Option 1 – Escapement Weighted Fraser Sockeye Draft Escapement Plan. Increased escapement (reduced harvest) at all run sizes.

	Harvest Rule Parameters				
Management Unit	**Low Abundance ER (LAER)**	**TAM Cap**	**Lower Fishery Reference Point**	**Upper Fishery Reference Point**	**Pre-season pMA @p50**
Early Stuart	10%	50%	350,000	700,000	1.08
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	260,000	520,000	0.59
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	1,437,000	2,874,000	0.09
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	1,200,000	2,400,000	0.39

- Modified for higher spawning escapement at all run sizes.
- Escapement targets are increased across all run sizes (increased LFRP) and a larger return is required to identify a harvestable surplus for consideration in sockeye directed fishery opportunities, relative to Option 2.
- Harvestable surplus is lower and maximum exploitation rates are reduced at higher run sizes (lower TAM Cap).
- When no harvestable surplus is identified, allowable impacts are reduced (lower LAER).
- Operational control points have been increased to the upper range of values modelled or used in previous Fraser Sockeye spawning escapement evaluations (e.g., Pestal 2011) and draft plans.

Fraser River Sockeye
Escapement Plan Options

Option 2 – Harvest Weighted Fraser Sockeye Draft Escapement Plan. Increased harvest opportunities (reduced escapement) across a broader range of run sizes.

	Harvest Rule Parameters				
Management Unit	**Low Abundance ER (LAER)**	**TAM Cap**	**Lower Fishery Reference Point**	**Upper Fishery Reference Point**	**Pre-season pMA @p50**
Early Stuart	10%	60%	350,000	875,000	1.08
Early Summer (w/o misc)	20%	60%	180,000	450,000	0.59
Summer (w/o misc)	20%	60%	1,020,000	2,550,000	0.09
Late (w/o misc)	20%	60%	1,100,000	2,750,000	0.39

- Larger harvestable surplus at lower run sizes (reduced LFRPs)
- Sockeye-directed harvest opportunities are identified across a broader abundance range with an increased maximum exploitation (increased TAM Cap).
- Provides more opportunities for sockeye-directed harvest across the range of potential run sizes but results in reduced escapements, relative to Option 1.
- When no harvestable surplus is identified, allowable impacts are increased (increased LAER). OCP's are similar to those used on this cycle line between 2010-2019 (pre-Big Bar landslide).

Fraser River Sockeye
Escapement Plan Options

Option 3 – Hybrid Fraser Sockeye Draft Escapement Plan. Achieves the same outcomes as Option 1 (escapement weighted) at lower run sizes and Option 2 (harvest weighted) at higher run sizes.

	Harvest Rule Parameters				
Management Unit	**Low Abundance ER (LAER)[a]**	**TAM Cap**	**Lower Fishery Reference Point**	**Upper Fishery Reference Point**	**Pre-season pMA @p50**
Early Stuart	10%	60%	350,000	875,000	1.08
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10-20%	60%	260,000	650,000	0.59
Summer (w/o misc)	10-20%	60%	1,437,000	3,593,000	0.09
Late (w/o misc)	10-20%	60%	1,200,000	3,000,000	0.39

[a] Variable LAER approach is being explored in 2026

- Achieves the same outcomes as Option 1 at lower run sizes (increased escapement and higher run sizes required prior to identifying harvestable surplus), and as Option 2 at higher run sizes (increased harvest and reduced escapement).
- This option uses the increased Lower Fishery Reference Points from Option 1 with higher TAM Caps from Option 2.

Discussion & Questions

- Seeking input on preferred Escapement Plan options, desired outcomes and considerations for each of the three options.

Fraser Salmon Management Board

Reference Slides

Photo Credit: Spruce City Wildlife Association

Sockeye Escapement Plan
Terminology

Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) cap: Maximum allowable mortality for a Management Unit, expressed as a percentage

Lower Fishery Reference Point (LFRP): Describes the numerical escapement target when the run size is between the Lower and Upper Fishery Reference Points. Below the LFRP, the escapement target is the estimated run size.

Upper Fishery Reference Point (UFRP): Describes the run size above which the TAM is maintained at the cap, remaining proportion goes to escapement

Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER): When run size is below the LFRP, this is the maximum percentage of incidental mortalities allowed from fisheries directed on co-migrating stocks and species. Not a harvest target.

proportional Management Adjustment (pMA): May be added to escapement goals to account for differences between Mission hydroacoustic estimates of fish passage and spawning ground escapement estimates

Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI): Process undertaken to develop escapement strategies for Fraser River Sockeye. Evaluated a range of harvest rules (TAM rules).

2025-26 FSMB/JTC Workplan

#	Title	Goal
1	Chinook Management Approach	*Assess annual performance including review of relevant data and methods. Develop Chinook fisheries management measures that achieve identified conservation objectives and provide for priority access for food, social and ceremonial fisheries.*
2	Sockeye Management Approach	*Identify a recommended Sockeye escapement plan option(s), management approaches for stocks of concern, longer term escapement planning and support discussions of FSC sharing for First Nations on an annual basis.*
3	Interior Fraser Coho Management Approach	*Identify and recommend fishery management approaches for Interior Fraser Coho (IFC).*
4	General Fraser Salmon Management Approach	*Identify and recommend general fishery management approaches for topics related to all Fraser Salmon.*
5	Governance and Process Development	*Support implementation of recommendations arising from the 2022 joint governance sessions, developing and finalizing process documents, and Forum renewal*
6	FSC Access & Allocation	*Support discussions, develop understanding of and recommendations on FSC access and allocations. FSC sharing, Aboriginal Priority, and FSC allocations of Fraser salmon for First Nations to be discussed as part of the long-term work and annually.*