

## **2026 Fraser Forum – Day 1 Meeting Summary (AI generated from Tier2 Transcript and notes from Robin Hawes (DFO) and Sharmayne Page (FSMC))**

This revised Day 1 Meeting Summary integrates the Forum agenda, technical presentations, facilitated discussion, and consolidated Action Items and Key Points drawn from Forum 1 Action Item notes. It is intended to serve as a clear record of discussions, outcomes, and follow-up commitments arising from Day 1 of the 2026 Fraser Forum.

### **Purpose of Day 1**

Day 1 focused on post-season technical reviews and governance-relevant discussion to inform First Nations leadership and support preparation for Tier 1 deliberations. Presentations emphasized transparency in management outcomes, conservation performance, and areas requiring policy clarification or reform.

### **Key Technical Sessions – Summary**

#### **AABM Chinook – West Coast Vancouver Island**

DFO provided a post-season review of 2025 AABM Chinook fisheries on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Key themes included Canada not fully harvesting its Pacific Salmon Treaty allocation, results from the Area G spring demonstration fishery showing no detected Fraser Chinook stocks of concern, and the introduction of an incremental community-based economic fishery. Discussion highlighted data lags, mixed-stock impacts, and implications for future treaty negotiations.

#### **East Coast Vancouver Island – Chinook, Coho, Chum**

DFO presented post-season summaries for ISBM-managed fisheries, including FSC, ESSR, commercial, and recreational sectors. Substantial discussion focused on recreational release mortalities, mark-selective fisheries, monitoring transparency, and consent. First Nations participants raised concerns regarding waste, cumulative mortality, lack of clear evaluation criteria for mark-selective fisheries, and the absence of consent-based decision-making in territorial waters.

#### **Fraser Coho and Southern BC Chum – Status and Outcomes**

Post-season information indicated improving but fragile trends for Interior Fraser Coho, with survival rates still below thresholds required to move out of low-status management under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Southern BC Chum returns remained below escapement objectives, with management decisions influenced by test fishery data and late-season run timing. Participants questioned decision thresholds, economic versus conservation trade-offs, and the adequacy of precautionary approaches.

## Key Discussion Themes

- Ongoing concern over recreational release mortality and salmon waste
- Lack of transparent criteria for evaluating mark-selective fisheries
- Data access, monitoring credibility, and First Nations capacity to monitor
- Alignment of fisheries management with priority access, conservation, and consent
- Need for clearer linkage between technical results and policy decisions

## Day 1 – Action Items and Key Points

### Action Items

- DFO to provide the socio-economic methodology used in Chinook decision-making, developed collaboratively with First Nations.
- DFO to explain the rationale, through existing decision-making processes, for prioritizing recreational access over FSC, including consideration of caps on the recreational sector.
- DFO to determine and report SFAB perspectives on Chinook and Coho catch levels.
- DFO to provide GSI information for Coho from the assessment fishery.
- Brittany (DFO) to follow up with Matthew Clark regarding Chum test fishery modeling.

### Key Points

- The FNFC process and the trilateral accord should be explicitly linked in discussions related to Steelhead.
- Day 1 discussions underscored that the status quo in recreational fisheries management is not working from a First Nations conservation and priority-access perspective.

### Closing Note

Day 1 concluded with a clear call from First Nations leadership for greater accountability, transparency, and consent-based management. The issues raised were explicitly identified as foundational context for Tier 1 discussions on Day 2.