

2026 Fraser Forum – Day 2 (Tier 2) Meeting Summary

Date: Day 2, 2026 Fraser Forum

Focus: Tier 2 – FSMB, JTC, and IFMP-related discussions

Meeting Purpose

To review Tier 2 governance updates, including FSMB priorities, Joint Technical Committee (JTC) work, and proposed management approaches informing the 2026 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP).

Key Takeaways

- FSMB and JTC are advancing more collaborative and flexible approaches to Fraser Chinook and Sockeye management.
- In-season responsiveness, forecast accuracy, and flexibility in management tools (including LAER) remain critical concerns.
- First Nations priority access and equity, particularly for Summer 5-2 Chinook, continue to be central and unresolved issues.
- There is growing concern regarding the influence of external bodies on Fraser Panel decision-making.
- Clearer Ministerial decision parameters and socio-economic justification frameworks are needed.

Agenda Summary – Tier 2 Sessions

FSMB Updates – 2026

FSMB representatives outlined 2026 priorities, focusing on Fraser Sockeye escapement planning and Summer 5-2 Chinook management. The Board emphasized incremental but meaningful progress toward collaborative, consensus-based governance, including improved engagement with First Nations and stakeholders.

Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Work Plan

The JTC presented updates on technical analyses supporting FSMB decision-making, including updates to the Summer 5-2 Chinook technical information package. The committee emphasized transparency, shared interpretation of uncertainty, and the need for broad review of technical materials prior to future forums.

2026 Management Approaches & IFMP Timelines

Discussion focused on upcoming IFMP milestones, including release of the draft IFMP, consultation timelines, and FSMB recommendation deadlines. Participants emphasized the

need to integrate First Nations priorities, time-based access considerations, and flexibility across varying run sizes and regional contexts.

Key Points (Tier 2)

- In-season responsiveness and forecast accuracy require improvement.
- Greater flexibility is needed in the application of LAER to support First Nations access.
- UNDRIP references FPIC primarily in the context of major projects; fisheries-specific policy and regulatory frameworks remain underdeveloped.
- The Salmon Commission's involvement at the Fraser Panel was raised as a governance concern.
- FSMB will bring forward a flexible 2026 escapement plan responsive to differing abundance levels and regional needs.
- The FSMB IFMP recommendation deadline was extended to April 24 (from April 10), representing incremental progress.
- Clear Ministerial decision parameters are needed for collaborative Chinook 5-2 management.
- A third-party socio-economic report on the recreational fishery is needed to support transparent decision-making.
- Review of the forthcoming Technical Information Package is critical, with JTC seeking feedback on gaps.
- Time (duration) of fisheries should be considered alongside mortality in assessing First Nations access.
- Downriver fisheries triggers can create inequities upriver, especially when recreational fisheries proceed.
- Southern Panel technical expertise should be invited where it can inform collaborative decision-making.

Action Items

- FSMB to advance a flexible 2026 Fraser Sockeye escapement plan for discussion at upcoming forums.
- JTC to distribute the updated Technical Information Package and collect feedback on missing or unclear information.
- FSMB and FSMC to explore development of an independent socio-economic analysis of the recreational fishery.

- FSMB to seek clarity from the Minister on decision parameters and application of priority in Chinook 5-2 management.

- Forum planning committee to consider inviting Southern Panel technical representatives where relevant.

- Participants to review IFMP timelines and provide coordinated feedback ahead of the April 24 FSMB deadline.