

2026 Fraser Forum 2 – Day 1 Executive Summary

February 24, 2026

Focus: Fraser Chinook (Summer 5(2)) – 2026 Planning

Purpose of Day 1

Day 1 focused on 2026 pre-season planning considerations for Fraser Chinook, particularly Summer 5(2), including review of updated data, scenario options under development, and discussion of allocation, conservation, and governance issues.

Current Biological Context

- Data through 2024 indicate continued low abundance for many Spring and Summer 5(2) stocks, with modest improvement from 2019 levels but persistent concern for small and vulnerable populations.
- Summer 5(2) remains a binding management constraint across mixed-stock fisheries.
- Participants emphasized the need to re-ground decisions in stock-level escapement realities, not solely aggregate mortality indices.

Access and Allocation Issues

- Lower Fraser representatives reiterated ongoing frustration with limited access to early-timing Chinook, despite repeated submission of reduced FSC fishing plans.
- Upper Fraser Nations emphasized that FSC needs remain unmet while fishing activity continues in marine and downstream areas.
- Multiple participants identified mixed-stock recreational fisheries (Strait of Georgia / Johnstone Strait) as central to any meaningful reallocation discussion.

Recreational Sector Concerns

- Participants raised concerns regarding growth, effort levels, and impact distribution within the recreational sector.
- Calls were made for structural reform, clearer distinction between commercial-guided and individual effort, and consideration of resident versus non-resident participation.
- There is increasing pressure to address recreational impacts if priority access for First Nations is to be realized.

Governance and Decision-Making

- Significant concern remains regarding how Board recommendations are weighed in final Ministerial decisions.
- Participants referenced recent commitments from the Minister to improve transparency and feedback loops.
- There is strong interest in moving toward more visibly collaborative evaluation of options prior to final decisions, in alignment with the Collaborative Management Agreement.

Climate and Environmental Context

- Climate change, habitat degradation, and cumulative impacts were identified as compounding stressors.
- Participants emphasized that while not all drivers are controllable, harvest management remains one of the primary tools within immediate collective authority.

Emerging Direction

Across discussions, there was alignment on the need for:

- Measurable demonstration of how options meet conservation and priority objectives;
- Greater transparency in how advice is translated into decisions;
- Consideration of stock-selective and terminal approaches;
- Structural examination of mixed-stock recreational fisheries;
- Continued movement toward transformative co-management.

Day 1 concluded with transition to Tier 1 (First Nations only) discussions to further refine regional advice and perspectives.