



Fisheries and Oceans
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2026 Pre-season Fisheries Planning Fraser Chinook Salmon Fisheries

Fraser Forum
31 March 2026



Overview

- Purpose:
 - Receive advice from Forum about Fraser Chinook fishery objectives
 - Share Feedback and Proposals that may affect Fisheries for Fraser Chinook
- Fishery objectives
- Summary of escapement plan options
 - Summary of advice received to date

FISHERY OBJECTIVES



Fishery Objectives

- International objective:
 - Manage Canadian treaty fisheries to ensure that obligations within the Pacific Salmon Treaty are achieved.
- For Chinook, see Chapter 3:

Aggregate Abundance Based Management (AABM)
Fisheries are managed to a TAC Set annually

Individual Stock Based Management (ISBM) fisheries
managed to stock specific annual exploitation rate limits:

- Snohomish (SKY) 14.8%



Fishery Objectives

- Domestic conservation objectives:
 - Fraser Chinook Stocks of concern: allow as many fish to pass through to the spawning grounds as possible
 - OPERATIONALIZED as desired FMI outcomes
 - Spring 4_2 FMI less than 5%
 - Spring 5_2 FMI less than 5%
 - Summer 5_2 FMI target 10-14%



Fishery Objectives

- Domestic access and allocation objectives:
 - Manage fisheries to ensure that, after conservation needs are met, First Nations' food, social and ceremonial requirements and treaty obligations to First Nations have first priority in salmon allocations in accordance with the Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon.
 - Afterwards manage recreational and commercial fisheries for sustainable benefits consistent with established policies.
- Implementation:
 - After conservation, First Nations rights-based fisheries are provided priority access for directed harvest.
 - In the Fraser Chinook context aboriginal priority is supported by providing **the majority of** fishery-related mortality of Fraser River Summer 5₂ Chinook salmon to First Nations fisheries.



Fraser River Chinook

- The FSMB is continuing to assess the management approach for Fraser River Summer 5₂ Chinook and 4 scenarios are identified in the draft IFMP for further feedback.
- In addition to the status quo (measures like 2023-2025) the FSMB is evaluating approaches that meet conservation targets (10-14% FMI) and could increase First Nations fisheries impacts in combination with a decrease in non-First Nation marine fisheries to support Aboriginal priority.



Fraser Summer 5₂ Chinook Management Options

Scenario	Scenarios for Consideration	Approaches to achieve objectives	Potential Total FMI
A	Management like 2023-2025	No substantial changes to management actions from 2023-2025	13%
B	Maintain fishery mortality impacts at recent average. Provide additional First Nations FSC access and lower bycatch/incidental mortality in other fisheries	Increase First Nations fisheries impacts on Summer 52 by approximately 30% in combination with a decrease in non-First Nation marine fisheries to better meet Aboriginal priority.	13%
C	Maintain fishery mortality impacts at recent average, take management actions to provide more access to First Nations	Reduce allowable impacts on Summer 52 in Recreational (Marine) fisheries by 50%, increase allowable impacts in First Nations fisheries by 43% to better meet Aboriginal priority.	13%
D	Maintain fishery mortality impacts at recent average, take management actions to provide more access to First Nations, above what is identified in Scenario C	Reduce allowable impacts on Summer 52 in Recreational (Marine) fisheries by 80% and Commercial fisheries by 50%, increase allowable impacts in First Nations fisheries by 72% to better meet Aboriginal priority.	13%



Potential ways to shift impacts - Recreational areas of focus (marine waters)

- 2024 FMI results were used to determine areas of focus for further reductions to Summer 52 impacts
- Areas with relatively higher impacts (greater than 30 fish) were then assessed using the average DNA results from 2022 to 2024
- Areas of focus:
 - Portions of Area 23 (Barkley Sound)
 - Portions of Areas 19 and 20 (Juan de Fuca Strait)
 - Portions of Area 123 (SWVI)
 - Portions of Area 29 (SOG near the Fraser River mouth)



Estimated Summer 5₂ savings and foregone catch

Area	Timing	Current Regulation (since 2023)	Regulation change	Estimated 5 ₂ Savings (fish)
Area 23 (outer portions, Subareas 23-7 to 23-11)	July	2/d	1/d, max 80 cm	73
Area 123 (inside 1 nm line)	July	2/d	1/d, max 80 cm	44
Area 19 (JDF, Subareas 19-1, 19-3 to 19-4)	August	1/d, max 80 cm	1/d, max 75 cm	31
Area 20 (JDF, Subareas 20-3 to 20-7)	August	1/d, max 80 cm	1/d, max 75 cm	237
Area 29	September (timing TBD)	2/d	1/d	118
Estimated reduction in total mortalities (# of fish, sum of kept and release mortalities)				503



Other Chinook Fishery Proposals

- In the Fraser River mouth and tidal and mainstem Fraser Region 2, recreational fishing for Chinook salmon opening September 11 at the earliest.
- Changes to Hatchery Chinook retention and size limits:
 - **Capilano River:** August 1 to November 30 – Four (4) Chinook per day (removal of size limit)
 - **Coquitlam River:** September 1 to December 31 – One (1) Chinook per day.



Improving Survival of Fishery Released Chinook

- Recent studies¹ suggest ways to increase survival of released Chinook
- For 2026/27 Salmon IFMPs, the Department is considering gear changes to recreational fishing:
 - prohibition of hooks having more than one point (i.e., only single barbless hooks may be used), and/or
 - permitting only one single barbless hook (i.e., no tandem rigs); and/or
 - prohibition of larger sized hooks (definition of larger size to be determined but examples may include 5/0 or less, and/or hook gap less than 22 mm), and/or
 - feedback on other potential approaches that may support improved survival of released salmon
- Times/areas TBD - may include Chinook non-retention times, Chinook directed fishing closures, or all salmon fisheries
- The Department also encourages increased fisher education about best handling practices to support increased survival of released salmon. More information can be found at: [Improving the survival of fish released in tidal waters | Pacific Region | Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#)

¹ [Enhancing the sustainability of capture and release marine recreational Pacific salmon fisheries using new tools and novel technologies](#)



Advice to date via IFMP consultations

- Some First Nations feedback expressed a preference for options that reduce recreational impacts on Fraser Chinook
- Some First Nations feedback reflected a desire for more salmon to pass through all other fisheries to terminal areas
- Some commercial feedback expressed interest in increasing Canada's access to its share of the AABM Chinook TAC
- Some recreational feedback suggested maintaining the status quo fisheries



Seeking advice from Forum

- We are seeking input on the preferred Summer 5₂ option, noting the desired outcomes and considerations between options

- What is the anticipated outcome of your preferred option plan?
- What are the cost and opportunities of the preferred option for you?



2026/27 IFMP Timelines

Activity	Proposed Timelines
Deadline for new CSAF proposals	January 23, 2026
Deadline for any other new, non-CSAF, fishery proposals to be included in the draft IFMP	January 23, 2026
Post-season review at Fraser Forum	January 27-29, 2026
Meetings to review and discuss potential changes to IFMPs and opportunity for focused discussion on key IFMP issues.	Northern IHPC – February 5, 2026 Southern IHPC – February 6, 2026
Draft IFMPs released for public review & comment	Late February, 2026
Meetings to review draft IFMP	Fraser Forum – February 24-27, 2026 Southern IHPC – March 10, 2026 Northern IHPC – March 11, 2026
Deadline to submit comments on draft IFMP (minimum 30-day comment period)	April 10, 2026
Final Meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback	Fraser Forum – March 31 – April 2, 2026 Full IHPC – April 22-23, 2026
Target for public release of salmon IFMP	June 26, 2026