

## **Recommendations to DFO from the First Nations Participants of the Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon**

### **CHINOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:**

*Statement: The 2010 management restrictions for Fraser spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook were a reflection of the 2006 brood year spawner numbers. The 2007 brood year spawner numbers were **75% lower** than those of 2006. Repeating the 2010 regulations in 2011 is clearly inadequate to sufficiently protect the 2011 returns. DFO's refusal to implement the measures put forward by First Nations at the February 2011 Forum is an insult to the Forum participants, and could have dire consequences for 2011 Fraser spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook.*

**Recommendation #1:** Based on available data, effective immediately all marine recreational fisheries where spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook stocks are known to occur should be closed until July 10<sup>th</sup>, and all Fraser River recreational fisheries should be closed while spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook are present.

**Recommendation #2:** Have the JTWG review available management tools such as Albion, and examine the feasibility of others such as Qualark, in order to meet the needs for assessing marine and in-river areas.

**Recommendation #3:** Have the JTWG design and apply a DNA sampling process for marine sport fisheries to determine stock composition of their catch (timeline: implementation in 2011).

**Recommendation #4:** Conservation concerns for Chinook are not exclusive to the Fraser; island Chinook stocks are also declining and require protection. Declining coastal stocks means more pressure on Fraser stocks. Recognizing that DFO is currently developing a South Coast Chinook Management Framework, DFO must commit to meeting with Vancouver Island First Nations to discuss a rebuilding plan for their stocks.

**Recommendation #5:** Have the JTWG explore the option of installing cameras at all sport lodges and major landing sites to capture recreational catch and species composition (or other options for areas where there is no creel survey).

**Recommendation #6:** Implement catch monitoring programs to account for catch beginning January 1. There needs to be catch monitoring for all fisheries in all areas at all times of the year. First Nations must be involved in the design and implementation.

**Recommendation #7:** Increased monitoring and enforcement, and decreased fishing time and retention limits, are required in the Georgia Strait and Juan de Fuca recreational fisheries.

**Recommendation #8:** ONA and UFFCA have collaboratively developed methodology for measuring the efficacy of DFO's slot sizes for partial mark selective fisheries (discussion document presented at the IHPC 2 years ago). DFO should implement a monitoring program to measure the efficacy of size restriction measures for protecting Chinook.

**Recommendation #9:** The management tool presented by Rishi Sharma should be reviewed through a peer review process with DFO and First Nations participation, and if required, reviewed by CSAP.

**Recommendation #10:** Use traditional knowledge to address the seal issue at Albion (local knowledge may be applicable and should be considered).

**SOCKEYE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Recommendation #1:** Implement a 3 week moving window closure to protect Early Stuart sockeye.

**Recommendation #2:** Implement an additional 1 week window closure (following the 3 week Early Stuart closure) to protect early summer sockeye, and where necessary, additional measures to keep the exploitation of early summer miscellaneous stocks to a maximum of 25%.

**Recommendation #3:** A method for evaluating the efficacy of closure windows for protecting Early Stuart and early summer sockeye is needed (if Early Stuart are not responding to management actions, why not?).

**Recommendation #4:** In response to the need to minimize test fishery impacts on early Stuart sockeye, we recommend using the Matsqui fish wheels to provide the information on species composition and sockeye stock composition samples during the migration period for early Stuart sockeye. Many of the early Stuart sockeye caught by the Whonnock gillnet test fishery are lost to seals. The Matsqui fish wheels are a proven effective method for sampling the sockeye return during the early Stuart migration period and all fish caught (sockeye, early timed Chinook) can be released alive.

**Recommendation #5:** Data request: Have DFO provide the TAC sheets by management group with the forecast run size under each proposed TAM rule option (1-4) for discussion at the April 13<sup>th</sup> JTWG meeting.

**Recommendation #6:** The JTWG will provide further calculations to the First Nations Forum participants following their meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Secwepemc Fisheries Commission is proposing TAM rule option 4 for late runs (still under consideration by other First Nations).