

Proposal for Bar fishery Fraser river 2021

Submitted by Upper Fraser Valley SFAC

Bar fishing has historically used by recreational fishermen to target chinook salmon In the Chilliwack to Hope area on the Fraser River since at least 1940. It has tremendous social and economic importance to the Fraser Valley communities.

Traditional knowledge shows that it is extremely rare to catch sockeye in the mainstem Fraser with this technique.

Bar fishing has a much lower catch rate per effort than bottom bouncing on all species of Salmon.

It will provide an opportunity to go fishing to harvest a chinook with virtually no impact on sockeye stocks of concern.

We are requesting a recreational bar fishing opportunity in the Fraser River at a time when the Chinook stocks of concern are not prevalent and the abundant 4-1 Thompson stocks are migrating through the area.

This fishery is recommended for consideration between Aug. 15 2021 and the start of the rolling closure for IFS in September

We understand that the Harrison white chinook stock may be a concern in the coming year. Should that overlap with a fishery for the Thompson fish the downstream boundary for this fishery would be moved to above the confluence of the Harrison to the Fraser

Given that since the advent of bottom bouncing all creel census would reflect a much higher catch of chinook than a bar fishery. Creel census prior 1994 could if compared to 1994-98 give a proportionality of catch to give a rough estimate, however given that run size is lower now a catch estimate would be difficult to do.

We ask that this fishery be closely monitored for use and catch to provide data for future fisheries in a manner consistent with the effort and catch monitoring that takes place in the Thompson Okanogan region.

Preliminary Recreational Fishery Catch 2020 BCI SFAC November 15 2020 Jamie Scroggie, DFO

Area to be open to Bar fishing:

From the Mission bridge to Sawmill Creek

Above Harrison confluence if necessary, for conservation purposes

Specific boundaries to be defined

Daily limit ; one adult, 5 season

Season Opening : To be determined with a review of stock timings. likely between Aug 15 and September (IFS closure ?)

Definition:

Bar Fishing: a method of fishing where a weight is cast into the river from shore or an anchored boat then placed in a rod holder with the intent of holding a lure in the current.