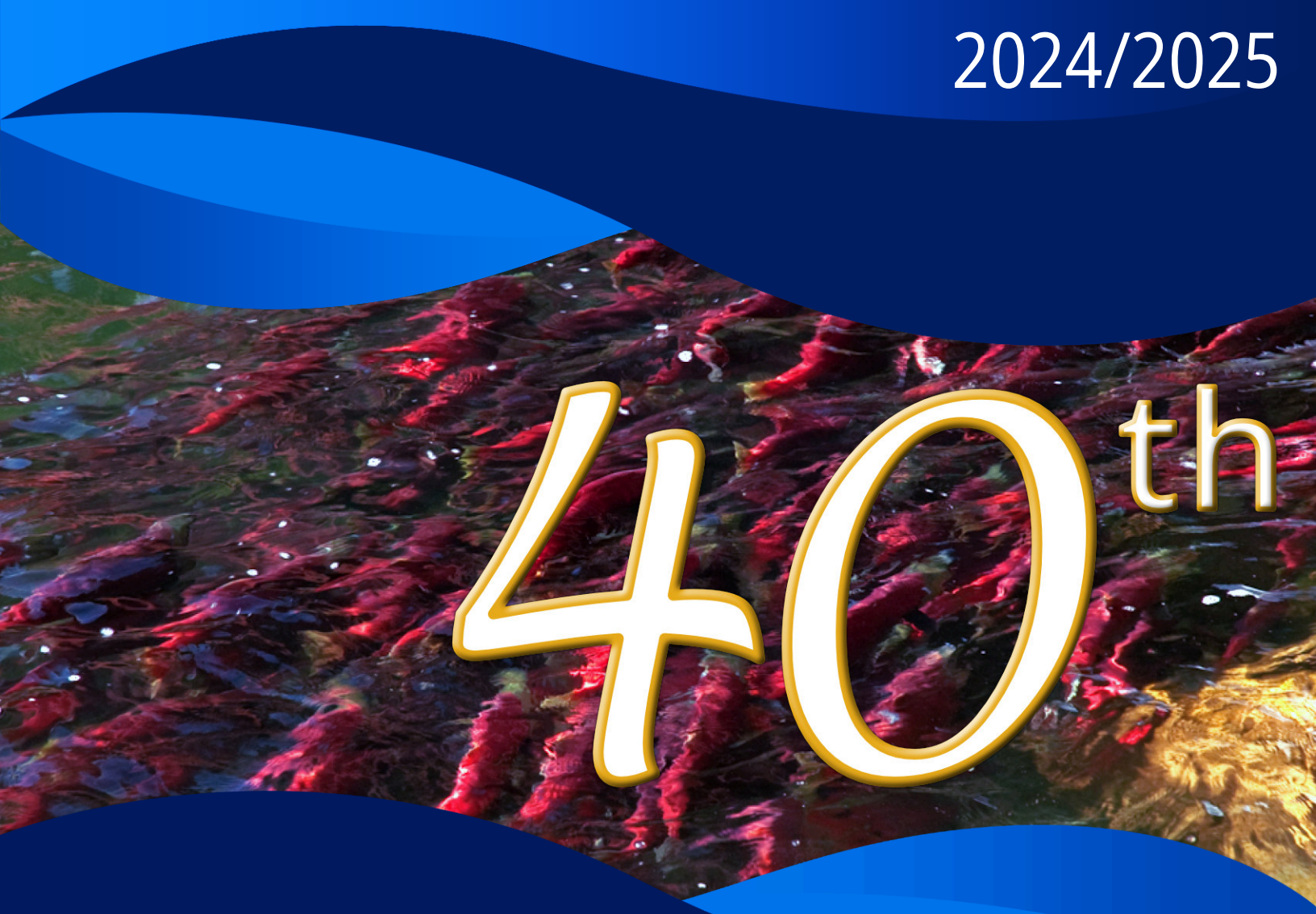
2024/2025



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

40 YEARS
PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION
1985 ★ 2025

Fortieth Annual Report
2024/2025

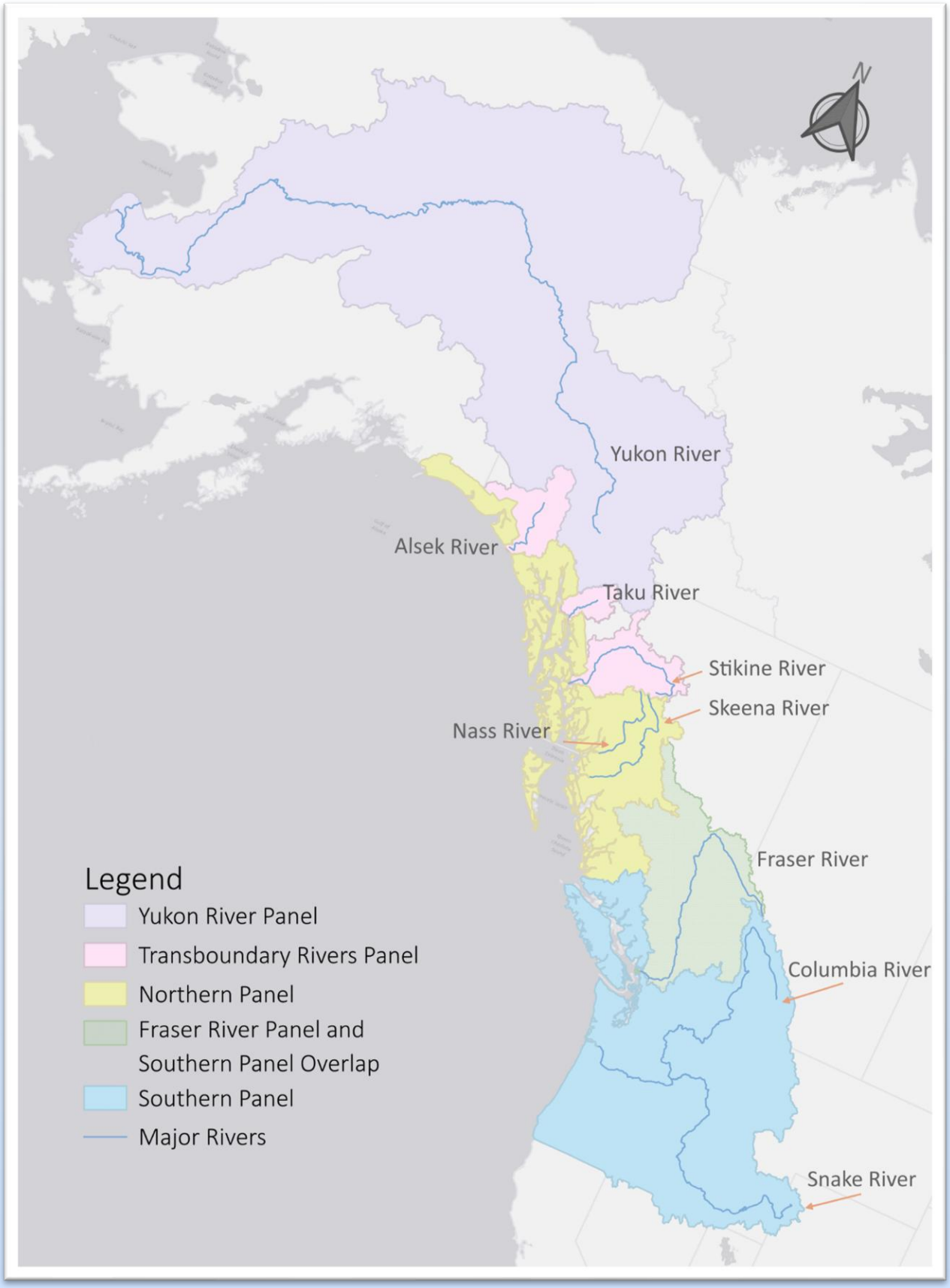
Published annually by:

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Established by Treaty between Canada and the United States on March 18, 1985 for the conservation, management and optimum production of Pacific salmon

600-1155 Robson Street
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
www.psc.org

December 2025



Pacific Salmon Commission Regulatory Areas

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MARCH 18, 1985

600 - 1155 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER B.C. V6E 1B5
604-684-8081
www.psc.org

Letter of Transmittal

In compliance with Article II, Paragraph 14 of the Treaty between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America concerning Pacific salmon (the Treaty), it is my pleasure as Executive Secretary of the Pacific Salmon Commission to present my compliments to the Parties and to transmit the Fortieth Annual Report of the Commission.

This report summarizes the activities of the Commission for the fiscal year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. It reports on the results of the 2024 fishing season and on meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. It also includes updates on the Commission's grant programs, and our auditor's report on the Commission's finances during the fiscal year April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Additional details about the Commission's activities and the Treaty are available at www.psc.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Field

Executive Secretary

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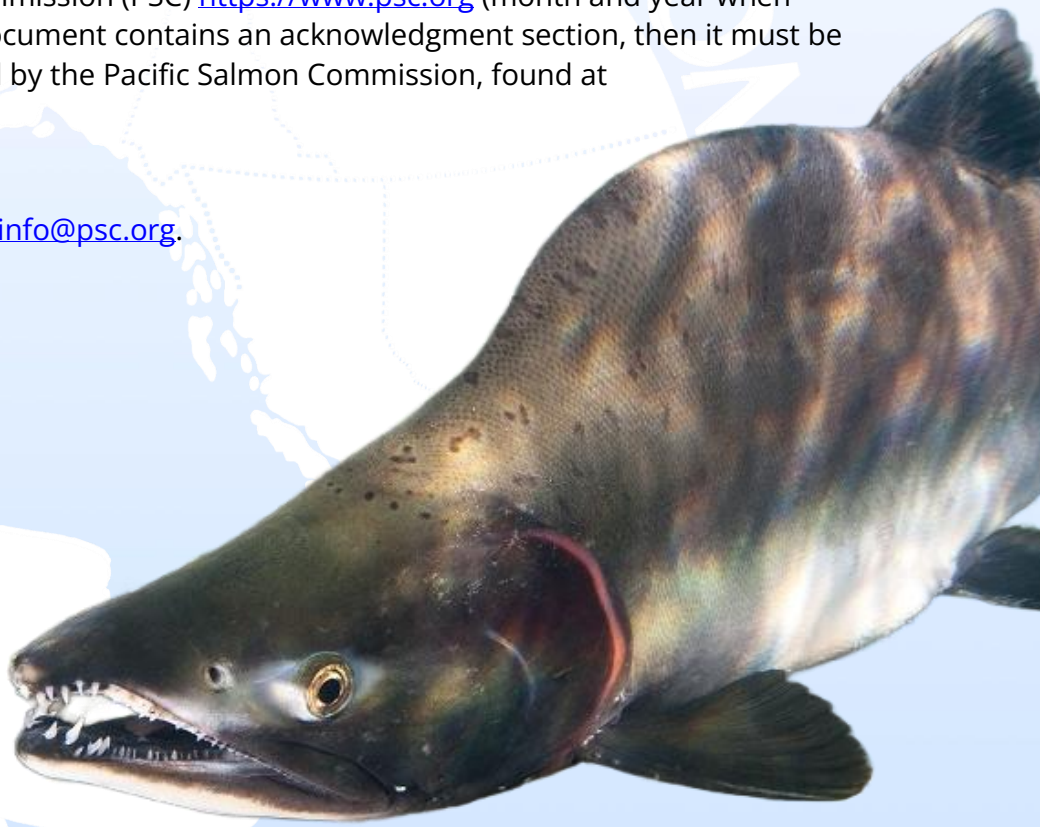

Correct citation for this publication:

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A Message from the Executive Secretary

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), established in 1985, has played a pivotal role in the management and conservation of Pacific salmon stocks shared by the United States and Canada. As the PSC marks its 40th anniversary, it is a prime opportunity to reflect on its achievements, recognize the challenges it has overcome, and celebrate its ongoing commitment to sustainable salmon fisheries.

As you'll see within this annual report, the Commission remains an essential and inclusive forum to drive the engines of cultural and economic activity in each country through sound fisheries management. The countries bring many viewpoints through their delegations of indigenous, commercial, and sport fishers as well as expertise from state, provincial, and federal agencies. It is hard to imagine a more resilient organization to ensure all voices involved in the business, cultural, and conservation aspects of Pacific salmon management are heard across regional borders.

The PSC's 40th year represented the best of what the Commission can accomplish. In addition to routine business, the Parties continued the annual presentation of the Larry Rutter Award in Pacific Salmon Conservation: the 2025 recipient was Mr. Steve Gotch of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Steve's rich history with the Commission and dedication to salmon management are described on the PSC's website here: https://www.psc.org/news-announcements/2025-larry-rutter-award-ceremony/. The February ceremony allowed the Commission community to take a pause in its busy schedule to remember the collaborative spirit, rich personalities, and collective work ethic that binds all of us together. Steve certainly embodies that spirit and was a gracious awardee.

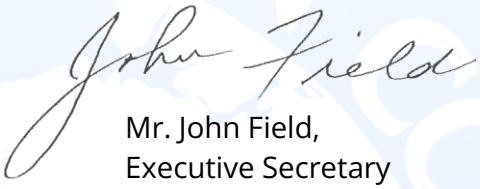
The Commission also awarded its second annual Lorraine Loomis Scholarship in 2025. Lorraine, an elder in the Swinomish Tribe, passed away in August 2021 and thus ended a decades-long career advocating for indigenous fishing rights at their intersection with salmon conservation. She was one of the first women to play an active role in fisheries policy and management, rising to prominence at the tribal, state, national, and international level. The scholarship seeks to honor Lorraine's legacy and her many contributions to the fisheries community, with a view to inspiring and enabling future leaders like her. In 2025, Arielle Koenig (Wet'suwet'en Nation, British Columbia) received the $5,000 award for the 2025/26 academic year at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in pursuit of her Master's degree. You can read more about her accomplishments on the PSC website here.

Science has been a cornerstone of the Commission since its inception, and the cross-cutting Committee on Scientific Cooperation (CSC) thrived at its 40-year mark. The CSC held two workshops (November 2024 and January 2025) as part of its multi-year "Managing

through Uncertainty" project. In 2020, the Commission authorized the CSC to work on environmental change and its ramifications for management and assessment of salmon stocks under the PST (including these workshops). More detail is provided below in the CSC's annual update.

These accomplishments, and those of the PSC's panels, committees, and working groups described in these pages show the PSC is prepared to enter its fifth decade. The Commission is planning a celebration of all these aspects at the 41st annual meeting in February 2026, and I look forward to describing that event in the next annual report!

Sincerely,



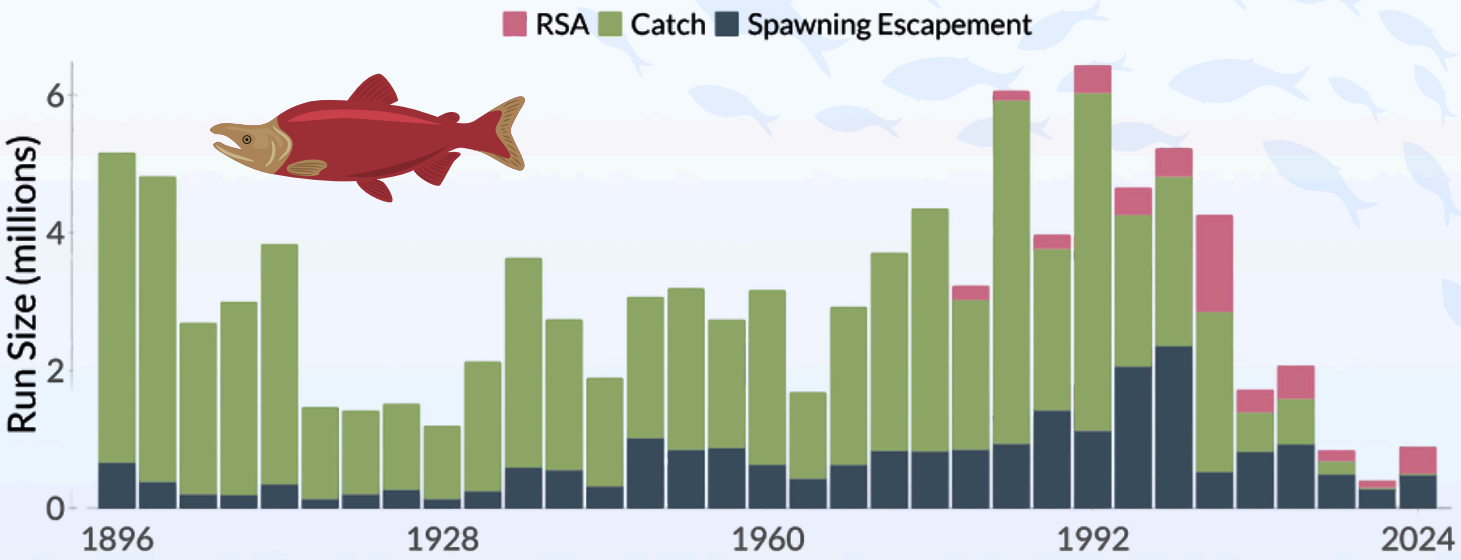
Mr. John Field,
Executive Secretary

Key Facts and Figures from the 40th Annual Report

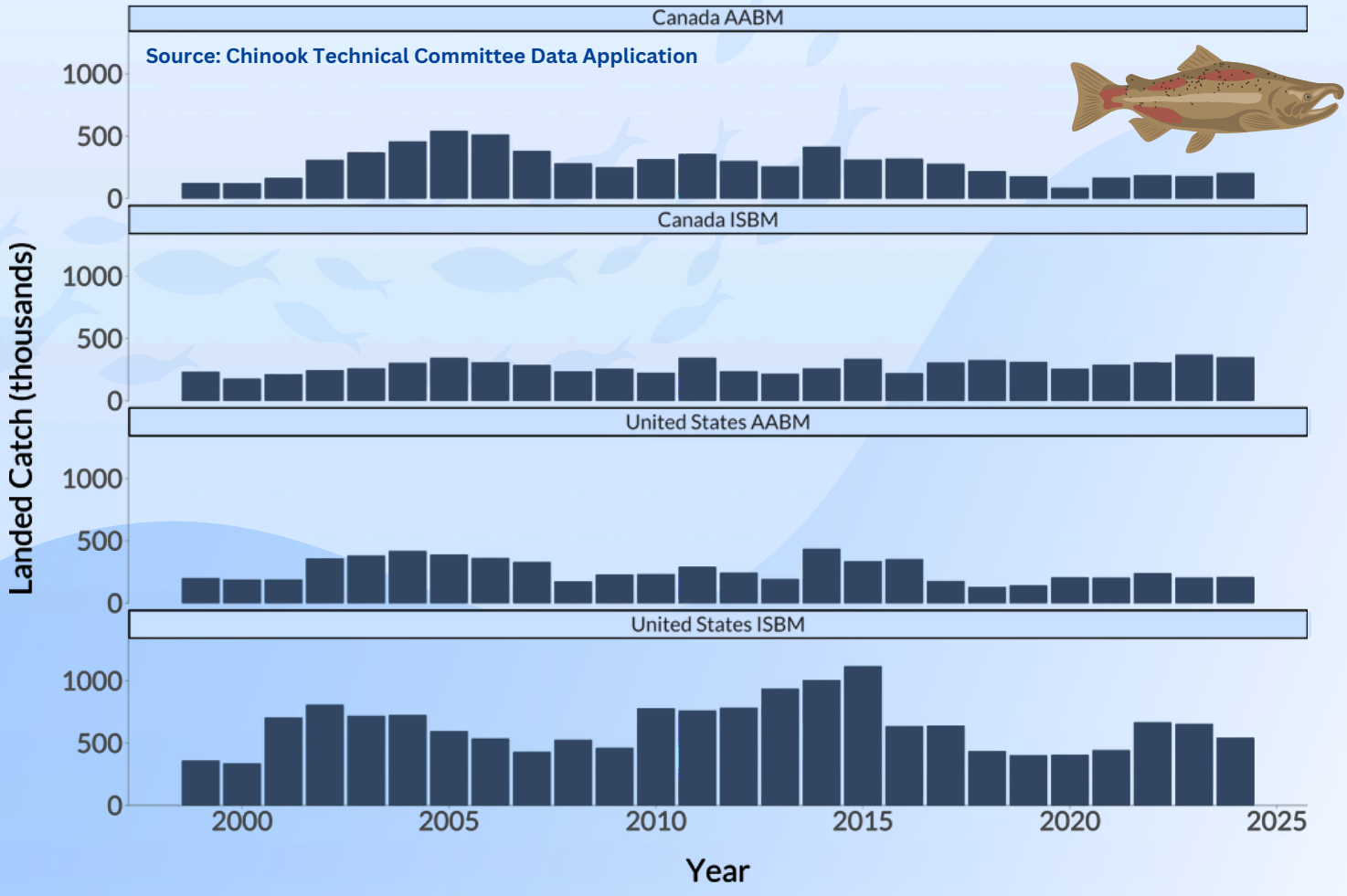
Fiscal Year April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

2024 Cycle Line: Fraser Sockeye Run Size

Source: Fraser River Panel Data Application



2024 Chinook salmon Landed Catch



Read the full report at psc.org/publications/annual-reports/commission/

Activities of the Northern and Southern Funds

Please note: All dollar amounts are expressed in USD

Key Facts:

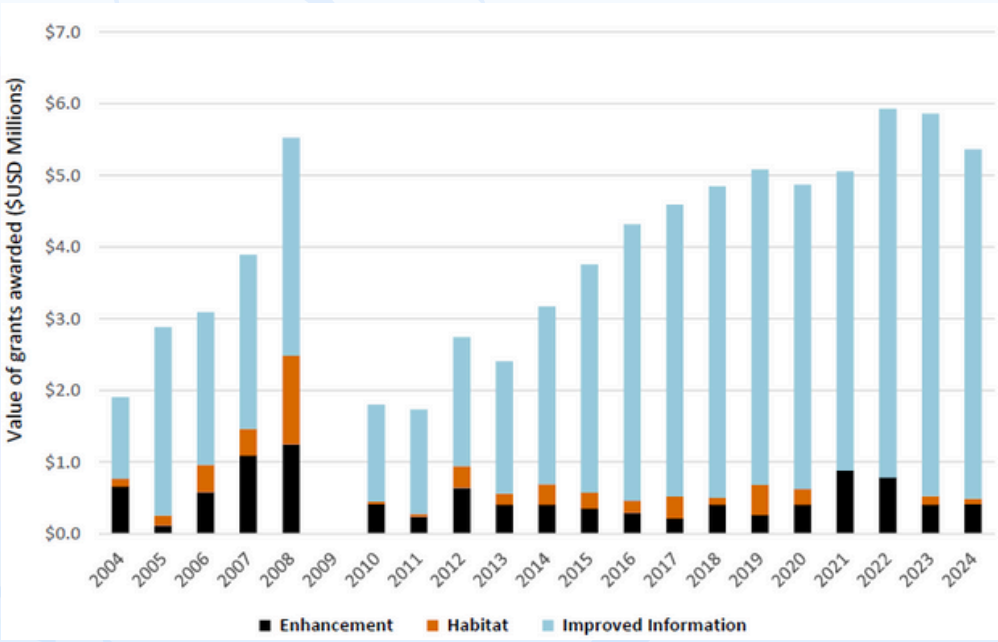
83 Total projects funded in FY 2024/25

Northern Fund: $5,002,944.08

Southern Fund: $4,496,939.88

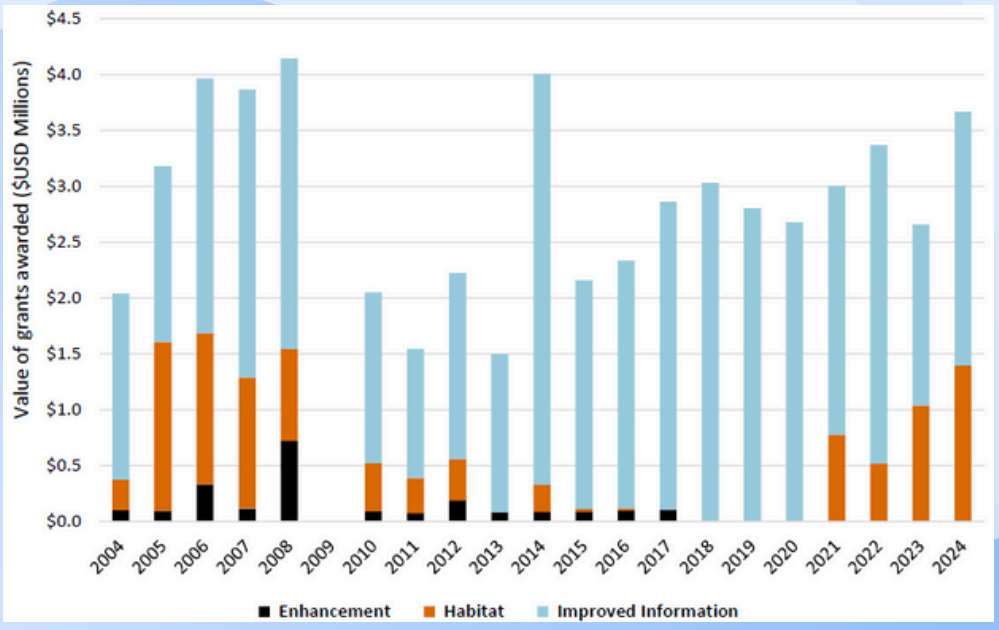
Total awarded: $9,499,883.96

Northern Fund: Summary of grants awarded by funding cycle



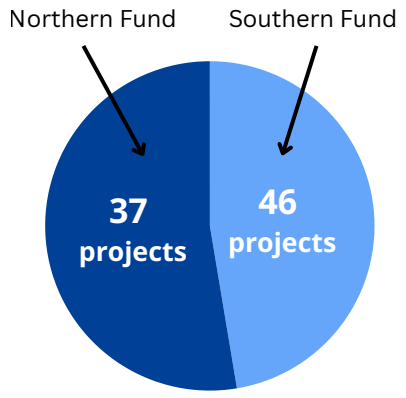
Source: 2024 Annual Report of the Northern and Southern Funds

Southern Fund: Summary of grants awarded by funding cycle



Source: 2024 Annual Report of the Northern and Southern Funds

Northern vs Southern Fund projects funded in FY 2024/25:



Learn more and apply: psc.org/about-us/funding-opportunities

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

2024-2025

Chair: Mr. Andrew Thomson **Vice-Chair**: Mr. Douglas Vincent-Lang

COMMISSIONERS

Canada

Ms. Anna Classen
Ms. Susan Farlinger
Mr. John McCulloch
Mr. Murray Ned
Dr. Katrina Connors
Chief Russ Jones
Dr. Brian Riddell

United States

Mr. Phil Anderson
Mr. W. Ron Allen
Dr. Scott M. Rumsey
Mr. William F. Auger
Mr. Rick Klumph
Mr. McCoy Oatman
Mr. Dimitri Varmazis

SENIOR SECRETARIAT STAFF

Executive Secretary	Mr. John Field
Director of Finance	Ms. Ilinca Manisali
Director, Fisheries Management Programs	Ms. Fiona Martens
Director, Fisheries Management Science	Dr. Catherine Michielsens

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INTRODUCTION

Since the early 20th century, Canada and the United States have discussed and collaborated on Pacific salmon conservation and management. Interception of Pacific salmon bound for rivers of one country in fisheries of the other has been a particularly important issue over the years. Early research indicated that Alaskan fishers were catching some of the salmon bound for British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Canadian fishers off the West Coast of Vancouver Island and northern British Columbia were capturing some of the salmon bound for rivers of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. U.S. fishers were also catching Fraser River salmon as they traveled through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the San Juan Islands towards their spawning grounds.

Cooperative management of stocks subject to interception became a matter of common concern to Canada and the United States, which desired a mechanism to enable each country to reap the benefits of its respective management and enhancement efforts. That mechanism is now provided through the Treaty Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of American Concerning Pacific Salmon (hereafter the "Pacific Salmon Treaty" or "the Treaty"), which entered into force on March 18, 1985.

The treaty, *inter alia*, established a) a bilateral fishery management organization known as the Pacific Salmon Commission (the Commission), and b) bilateral fishery management regimes for conservation and harvest sharing of salmon stocks. Each country (Party) must manage its fisheries in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Treaty. The Treaty is intended to enable bilateral conservation and enhancement to prevent overfishing, increase production, and ensure that each country receives benefits equivalent to its own salmon production. The Commission also serves as a forum for consultation between the Parties on their salmonid enhancement operations and research programs.

The Commission comprises four Commissioners (and alternates) from each country and has established numerous subsidiary bodies including four subregional panels. The Panels report to the Commission and provide advice on the conservation and management of selected stocks of concern, with certain exceptions as noted below:

- Transboundary Panel: stocks originating from the Alsek, Stikine and Taku River systems.
- Northern Panel: stocks originating in rivers situated between Cape Suckling in Alaska and Cape Caution in British Columbia.
- Southern Panel: stocks originating in rivers located south of Cape Caution, other than Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.
- Fraser River Panel: special in-season regulatory responsibilities for Fraser River stocks of sockeye and pink salmon.

- Yukon River Panel: makes recommendations to authorities in Alaska and the Canadian government concerning the conservation and coordinated management of salmon originating in the Yukon River in Canada, but does not report to the Commission.

The panels review annual post-season reports, annual pre-season fishing plans and ongoing and planned salmonid enhancement programs of each country. They also provide recommendations to the Commission for development of fishery regimes in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty. These regimes, once adopted by the Commission and accepted by the Parties, are implemented by the relevant fishery management agencies in each country.

The Parties accord the Fraser River Panel special responsibility for in-season regulation of Fraser River sockeye and pink fisheries of Canada and the United States in southern British Columbia and northern Puget Sound, in an area designated as Fraser River Panel Area Waters. Scientific and technical work is conducted for the Panel by the Fishery Management Division of the Commission's Secretariat.

Adaptive management arises from periodic amendment of the Treaty's regulatory annex, with most chapters of that annex expiring every 10 years (e.g., January 1, 2029 for the current provisions) The Commission also implements multiple competitive grant programs to, to advance bilateral scientific cooperation and innovation..

The Commission generally meets three times annually and conducts its business between meetings through its Secretariat located in Vancouver, British Columbia. In the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, the Commission met on three occasions:

1. **Fall Session**

   October 7-10, 2024. Vancouver, B.C.

2. **Post-Season Meeting of the Commission and Panels**

   January 13-16, 2025. Vancouver, B.C.

3. **Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Commission**

   February 10-14, 2025. Portland, OR.

This, the Fortieth Annual Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission, provides a synopsis of the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies during its fortieth fiscal year of operation, April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Activities of the Commission

FALL SESSION OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

October 7-10, 2024. Vancouver B.C.

The Commission met in three sittings.

Mr. John Field presented the Executive Secretary's report, including an overview on the Secretariat's social media plans, planning for the Commission's 40th Anniversary celebration, and introducing Ms. Aimee Liu as the Secretariat's new Salmon Coordinator.

The Commission adopted the Parties' Final 2023 Post-Season Reports.

The Commission received and accepted the Mark-Selective Fishery Fund Committee report and the recommendations within.

The Commission adopted the updated process for establishing Technical Dispute Settlement Boards and the proposals regarding data management and Shiny Apps.

The Commission reviewed the Panel and Committee annual work plans, including the status of tasks in 2019 Chapter implementation plans and issued instructions to the Panels and Committees.

The Commission accepted the report of the Committee on Scientific Cooperation Liaison Group.

The Commission received an update on Columbia River Treaty negotiations and the Chilcotin landslide.

The Commission received and accepted a report from the Chinook Interface Group, including its recommendations.

The Commission accepted the slate of officers for 2024/25.

A PSC service plaque was presented to former Commissioner Martin Paish.

POST SEASON MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND PANELS

January 13-16, 2025. Vancouver, B.C.

The Commission met in two sittings.

Mr. John Field presented the Executive Secretary's report, including a draft Code of Conduct, and an update for the planned 40th Anniversary celebration.

The Commission accepted the Parties' 2024 Draft Post-Season Reports.

The Commission received national reports on 2024 Chinook fisheries held in Canada, the Southern United States, and Southeast Alaska.

The Commission received initial negotiation priorities from the panels at an in camera session, noting these are described mostly in general terms.

The Commission received an update from the Transboundary Panel regarding the Taku River subsistence fishery.

The Commission received an update from the Committee on Scientific Cooperation (CSC) and the CSC Liaison Group about progress made regarding the CSC's joint project with ESSA "Managing Through Uncertainty."

The Commission received and accepted the Chinook Interface Group's report, including its recommendations.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

February 10-13, 2025. Portland, OR

The Commission met in three sittings.

Mr. John Field presented the Executive Secretary's report, including an update that the 40th Anniversary celebration would be held during the February 2026 Annual Meeting.

The Commission received an update from the Transboundary Panel regarding the Taku River subsistence fishery, noting that the proposed U.S. federal subsistence fishery may proceed in 2025 under certain constraints.

There was a public comment from Chief Francis Laceese and Chief Roger William of the Tŝilhqot'in Nation.

The Commission received a Grant Programs update and accepted the Mark Selective Fishery Fund Committee report.

The Commission accepted the 2025/2026 Committee on Scientific Cooperation work plan.

The Commission received an update from the Planning Inter-Panel Workshop on GSI (PIPWOG) working group and agreed that planning may proceed to execute an April 2025 workshop to address issues surrounding the D104 bycatch of Fraser sockeye.

The Commission accepted the report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration.

The Commission received and accepted the report from the Chinook Interface Group, including its recommendations.

The Commission received and accepted work plan progress reports from the Selective Fisheries Evaluation Committee, the Technical Committee on Data Sharing, the Northern Panel, the Southern Panel, the Fraser River Panel, and the Transboundary Panel.

Activities of the Standing Committees

MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration met virtually on January 9, 2025 and by hybrid mode on February 11, 2025. The Committee addressed several issues and made recommendations for the Commission's consideration as noted below.

Budget proposal for FY2025/2026

The Committee reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2025/2026 as amended on January 28, 2025 (Attachment I) to incorporate potential budget savings of $108,700, as identified by Secretariat staff at the Committees direction.

As in prior years, the Committee agreed to a budget presentation that included annual contributions from the Parties calculated such that the cumulative deficit/surplus at the end of the fiscal year would be NIL. The Committee agreed to include a footnote to the budget schedule that addressed the mechanism through which Canada would process its dues, with the understanding that the final amount contributed from each Party will be equal for each fiscal year.

The Committee emphasized the importance of controlling cost increases in the Secretariat's budget over the coming years, in light of the current economic environment. To support decision-making, and in response to these concerns, the Committee requested that the Secretariat develop a report outlining options for further efficiencies, ensuring financial sustainability while maintaining the Secretariat's operational effectiveness.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed budget for FY2025/2026 as shown in Attachment I.

Mission Hydroacoustics bank remediation and dock implementation project (the Project)

The Committee received updates from Secretariat staff on the Project's progress. The Committee understood that the Project was on track in terms of budget ($710,000) and completion date (March 31, 2025).

Test Fishing

Test fishing finances remained a significant issue for the Parties, after record-low return of Fraser River sockeye salmon over the last several years. The low returns have precluded the capture and sale of adequate number of fish to recover test fishing costs in those

years, and the Parties have made supplementary financial contributions to the Test Fishing Revolving Fund (TFRF) to help offset the test fishing costs.

The Committee recognized that test fisheries represented a significant cost to the Parties in the Fraser River assessment process, and advocated for the adoption of a cost/benefit approach to determining the scope and length of the test fishing program in any given year. The Secretariat is conveying this message to the Fraser River Panel as the panel plans annual test fishing regimes.

The Committee understood that ahead of the 2025 season, the Parties will be invoiced by the PSC Secretariat in order to replenish the TFRF, in a manner consistent with the Test Fishing Regulations adopted in February 2022:

- Canada: 50% of the test fishing deficit incurred in the 2024 season, and
- U.S.A: 50% of the projected 2025 deficit, as determined from the test fishing schedule agreed upon by the Fraser River Panel (FRP) using the adopted run size as of February 2025.

Efficiencies and Cost Controls for PSC Meetings

The Committee reviewed the Secretariat-prepared discussion paper "Efficiencies and Cost Controls for PSC Meeting" (dated February 5, 2025), which outlined certain proposed measures to streamline the process of booking hotel rooms for national delegates and to reduce meeting costs borne by the Secretariat.

The Committee agreed to the revised lodging room booking process that reduced the Secretariat's staff involvement in delegates' room booking and should expedite future preparation for all PSC meetings.

The Committee also agreed to recommend implementing processes within the national sections to reduce ad-hoc meeting room bookings that lead to increased costs for the Secretariat.

MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

The CSC made substantial progress on several assignments during the reporting period, as noted below.

1. Environmental change and the PST.

The CSC's multi-year, cross-PSC, assignment to work on environmental change and its ramifications for management and assessment of salmon stocks covered under the PST has advanced in two phases. The first phase of work consisted of documenting the extent to which the assessment and management frameworks of the PST account for, and are responsive to, uncertainties and impacts posed by the changing environments to which salmon are exposed. This work was presented to the Commission at the 2023 Annual Meeting and published as a PSC special report in May of 2023[1].

Phase 2 of the CSC's assignment has provided a forum for facilitated discussions across the PSC community about whether PST assessment and management frameworks can be made more robust to environmental change. This phase of the CSC's assignment has been

supported by the Southern Endowment Fund and an external consulting firm, ESSA Technologies, who have contributed to project design and provided technical facilitation.

In Year 1 of Phase 2 (2023/24), the CSC and ESSA held a series of virtual workshops and engagement meetings with PSC panels and technical committees to solicit input on a proposed series of workshops for Year 2.

Based on the input received, and as approved by the CSC's Liaison Group, Year 2 (2024/25) focused first on a project "outreach meeting" to share reflections on the feedback received and outline the project plan and workshops for Year 2. Participants in this virtual meeting included 48 PSC members across most Panels and Technical Committees, as well as several Commissioners. Following the outreach meeting the CSC and ESSA have hosted two Year 2 workshops:

a. **Climate Resilient Fisheries Management and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (virtual, November 2024)**: This workshop was held in response to a request from the PSC community for opportunity to reflect on key characteristics of climate resilient fisheries management systems and their relevance to salmon management and PST contexts. The workshop was supported by a background document that detailed characteristics of climate resilient assessment and management frameworks, and examples of their application in salmon and other fishery contexts. Approximately 60 people from across the PSC participated in the workshop, and all materials (including presentation, background document and summary of break-out group discussion) were subsequently made available to the PSC on the Sharepoint website.

b. **Accounting for Changes in Salmon Dynamics when Providing Management Advice (hybrid, January 2025)**: This hybrid seminar and panel discussion was held at the 2025 Post-Season PSC meeting and provided an overview of what is meant by "time-varying dynamics", how common they are among Pacific Salmon stocks, aspects of assessment and management that can be impacted, and some emerging "good" practices. The seminar portion of the workshop leveraged a recent multi-agency and institution project focused on developing guidance around when, where, and how to account for time-varying dynamics in Pacific salmon science advice. Over 100 people from across the PSC participated in the workshop, and all materials (including presentation, background reading and summary of discussion) were made available to all of the PSC on the SharePoint site. Post workshop feedback from 34 participants scored it 6.4, 8.2 and 6.8 in terms of the level of benefit, organization and level of enjoyment respectively with 10 indicating high and 0 indicating low levels. The level of technical detail was scored 5.7, which was neither too detailed (0) nor too general (10).

2. PSC Pacific Salmon Run Size Shiny App.

At the October 2024 Fall Meeting, the CSC supported the PSC secretariat in presenting a proposed plan for addressing ShinyApp development and general data management/sharing issues. Commissioners subsequently approved moving forward with the development and eventual publication of the Pacific Salmon Run Size Shiny App. The application aims to improve accessibility to data curated by the PSC. It visualizes information on run size, escapement, harvest, and exploitation rate for each salmon species and region in the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The CSC has provided oversight of the project and chapter-specific review and approval of the data and documentation by relevant Technical Committees is underway.

3. Standards for genetic analysis of sockeye intercepted in Alaska District 104 Purse Seine Fishery.

Sockeye salmon from the Fraser River are incidentally harvested in the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) District 104 (D104) purse seine fishery, which targets pink salmon. Information and samples from fisheries outside the Fraser Area are provided to the Fraser River Panel each year for complete catch accounting and stock composition analyses, including samples from D104.

In April 2024 ADF&G expressed concerns about the way the D104 genetic samples were being analyzed and communicated in a letter to the PSC. In response, an ad-hoc workgroup was formed to address the concerns raised in the ADF&G letter, and specifically to "sort out the history, analytical approaches, and any next steps needed, including the potential of developing certain protocols that might be suggested to the Commission". The workgroup consisted of staff from the DFO, ADF&G, and NOAA genetics labs, PSC staff, and the chairs of the Fraser River and Northern Boundary technical committees. The workgroup met to discuss the issues raised, devised interim solutions to allow genetic analyses to resume, and made several recommendations for moving toward long-term solutions. These recommendations included a request for Commission support for an in-person workshop to develop agreements on fundamental issues, standards, and technical understanding of application and interpretation of GSI within the PSC. The U.S. Department of State allocated ~150k USD to support this effort, and at the 2024 Fall Meeting commissioners instructed the CSC to participate in the ad-hoc "Planning Inter-Panel Workshop on GSI" (PIPWoG) working group meetings to observe discussions, receive correspondence from the working group as it plans next steps, update the CSC Liaison Group ahead of the January 2025 meeting, and report out to Commissioners as appropriate.

In November 2024, the CSC met with the PIPWoG to receive an update on their activities and workshop planning. Two workshops have been proposed. The first workshop, proposed for April 2025, is focused on development of shared standards/guidelines for the collection, analysis, and reporting of Fraser River sockeye salmon intercepted in the District 104 fisheries based on fishery samples and genetic stock composition analyses. The second workshop, which is much earlier in the planning stages, is proposed to focus on development of "Good" practices for the analysis and use of GSI data to support assessment and management across the PST.

The CSC briefed the commission on PIPWoG planning and activities at the 2025 post-season meetings and commissioners approved the plan to host the first workshop and requested the CSC provide an update to the commission on the first workshop and plans for the second one at the 2025 Fall meeting. The commissioners re-affirmed their instructions to the CSC to continue to track PIPWoG activities, provide input on opportunities to strengthen scientific cooperation with respect to GSI across the PSC, participate in workshops, and report back to the CSC Liaison Group and commissioners as requested.

MEETINGS OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FUND COMMITTEES

This section summarizes the meetings and business of the Northern and Southern Fund Committees between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025. A more detailed account of the meetings held in 2024 is provided in the 2024 Annual Report of the Endowment Fund Committees to the Commission, available for download from the PSC website. A more detailed account of the meetings held in 2025 will also be published in due course as part of the Committees' 2025 report.

Joint Fund Committee

The Northern and Southern Fund Committees have agreed that given the congruent nature of their agendas, their decision to combine the funds into a single master account for investment management purposes, and the efficiencies involved with respect to interaction with investment advisors and managers, it is appropriate to meet as a Joint Fund Committee to conduct investment related business.

The Joint Fund Committee met twice during the period covered by this report: once in May and once in November.

Joint Fund Committee Meetings

The following information provides a summary of Joint Fund Committee (in this section, 'Committee') activities undertaken in this period.

On May 8 and 9, 2024, the Committee met to review investment performance and to conduct related business. Additional items discussed related to recovery of withholding taxes; fund administration expenses in the prior fiscal year and approval of an administration budget for the coming fiscal year; review of updates to the PSC website; a review of Secretariat staff support over the prior year; and presentation of the Communications Implementation Plan.

On November 13, 2024, the Committee met to review investment performance, to receive presentations from and interview investment managers (Axium, IFM and ACM), and to conduct related business. Additional items discussed related to results of the fiscal year 2023/2024 audit; a review of administration expenses in relation to amounts granted to projects; and further discussion of outcomes from the Communications Implementation Plan, including a presentation on Grant Management Systems and next steps for implementation.

Joint Fund Committee Finance Sub Committee

The Joint Fund Committee Finance Sub Committee exists as a venue to have more detailed discussion on annual financial statements and create administrative efficiencies in the Joint Fund Committee process.

The Finance Sub Committee met once during this period.

Joint Fund Committee Finance Sub Committee Meetings

The following information provides a summary of Finance Sub Committee (in this section, 'Sub Committee') activities undertaken in this period.

On April 23, 2024, the Sub Committee met to discuss; the current year administration expenses; and a review of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

Northern Fund Committee Meetings

The Northern Fund Committee met three times during this period.

1. On May 10, 2024, the Committee met to develop a Call for Proposals for projects due to start in 2025. The Committee also received updates on project reporting and project change requests.
2. On October 2 and 3, 2024, the Committee met to review project concepts submitted in response to the 2025 Call for Proposals. The Committee also reviewed the detailed proposal application form; reviewed actual (vs. budgeted) expenditures on Northern Fund projects; discussed a standardized reporting approach; and inviting select project proponents to present at PSC post and pre-season meetings.
3. On February 18, 2025, the Committee met to make decisions about the projects to support in 2025. The Committee also reviewed the Northern Fund Project Showcase presentation at the January 2025 PSC Meeting; reviewed project report structure and guidance; and considered a draft itinerary and budget for a field trip in 2025.

Southern Fund Committee Meetings

The Southern Fund Committee met four times during this period.

1. On May 6, 2024, the Committee met to develop a Call for Proposals for projects due to start in 2025. The Committee also discussed possible changes to their spending policy; and received updates on overdue project reports, project change requests, and potential field trips for 2024.
2. On September 27, 2024, the Committee met to review project concepts submitted in response to their 2025 Call for Proposals. The Committee also reviewed and implemented changes to the detailed proposal application form and proposal submission procedures; and received presentations on fund unitization and allocation, and actual (vs. budgeted) expenditures of Southern Fund projects for 2014-2023.

3. From October 16-17, 2024, three members of the Committee and Grant Program staff undertook a field trip to tour a project site in the hiɬsyaqƛis watershed (Tranquil Creek), on
4. On February 25, 2025, the Committee met to select projects to support in 2025. The Committee also reviewed their proposal submission procedure and made amendments to their change request policy.

There was a change in the membership of the Southern Fund Committee in 2024. Mr. James (Jim) Scott was appointed to the U.S. Section of the Southern Fund Committee in May 2024, replacing Mr. Larry Peck as the U.S. Co-Chair, who had retired in February 2024.

Activities of the Panels and Technical Committees

FRASER RIVER PANEL

At the January meeting the Panel received presentations on the 2024 fishing season, the Mission program and estimates, Total Allowable Catch (TAC) calculations and allocation status, and test fishing program expenses, revenues and 2024-related challenges due to low run size expectations, e.g. not running the marine gillnet test fisheries and live sampling in purse seine test fisheries.

The Run Size Adjustment process associated with post-season Fraser sockeye run size estimates underwent a Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) review and the results and recommendations from this review were summarized at the January meeting.

In addition, a status update was provided regarding a working group developed in 2024 to address concerns on catch estimates of Fraser sockeye in Alaska District 104 fisheries, Planning Inter-Panel Workshop on Genetics (PIPWOG).

At the February meeting the Panel received reports from Canada on 2024 escapements, and 2025 pre-season forecasts for Fraser River sockeye salmon. Additional reports were provided regarding Washington sockeye salmon pre-season forecasts and historical returns. The Panel also discussed test fishing options for 2025.

NORTHERN PANEL

Annual Workplan

The Northern Panel met domestically and bilaterally at the Vancouver Post Season meeting from January 13 to 16, 2025. The bilateral Panel did not meet at the Portland Annual Meeting in February.

The Northern Panel had several notable outcomes from the January session:

Reviewed and accepted the

- Northern Boundary Technical Committee's (NBTC) 2023 Final Boundary Area sockeye salmon run reconstruction.
- Final 2023 pink salmon run reconstruction.
- Preliminary 2024 Boundary Area sockeye salmon run reconstruction.
- Preliminary 2024 pink salmon run reconstruction.
- Cumulative Annual Allowable Harvest sharing agreements.

Received updates and status on

- Fishery reports from both parties for the 2024 season.

CSC Discussion

At the Post Season meeting, most members of the bilateral panel and NBTC attended the presentation provided by the CSC.

Review of Implementation Workplan Tasks and Timelines

Chapter 2 was ratified for implementation in 2019, which led to a Joint Implementation Workplan for the chapter that outlined all required activities and due dates. The implementation plan was updated in December of 2024. To date, all activities have been completed except the upcoming chapter review that begins in January 2026.

The NBTC provided an update at the January meeting on the three remaining technical tasks from the Chapter 2 review that was completed in 2023: potential for increased genetic resolution of mixed stocks in Northern Boundary fisheries; Skeena River run timing; and quantifying uncertainty in the run reconstruction model. A major outcome of these discussions is an effort to convert the sockeye run reconstruction model to R, which will make the model more accessible to member of the technical committee and will allow for improved assessment of model uncertainty. A Northern Fund proposal has been submitted to fund this work moving forward.

Canadian Presentation on Skeena River Habitat

As part of the follow up to the joint analysis of Chapter 2, Canada provided a presentation the status of salmon habitat on the Skeena River drainage, which led to a good discussion of habitat issues on the river. Habitat issues were of concern to the U.S. in trying to understand changing production dynamics for Skeena River salmon stocks.

Domestic Policy Presentations

As part of the follow up to the joint analysis of Chapter 2, we also exchanged policy documents and presentations on key domestic policy and legislation for the protection and rebuilding of wild populations. Canada provided a summary document of key legislation, policies, and legal precedents that drive salmon management, and answered questions that helped clarify salmon management processes and objectives in British Columbia. The U.S. provided a published paper outlining the development of salmon fishery policy in Alaska and gave a presentation on the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries and the Policy for Statewide Salmon Escapement Goals. The policy discussions were very helpful in providing better understanding of the issues facing both countries and the similarities and differences behind the policies guiding salmon management on both sides of the border.

Identification of Issues Related to Negotiating the Chapter 2 Agreement

Following instructions from the commission in October 2024, the Northern Panel developed a joint memo on issues related to renewal of Chapter 2. The memo demonstrated that similar issues to the 2019 negotiation will factor for the upcoming negotiation, with the U.S. generally satisfied with the current agreement and Canada seeking updated language that

better aligns with their positions and management objectives. We anticipate we will be able to conclude negotiations by February 2027 by meeting at both the January and February meetings in 2026 and 2027. Typically, the Northern Panel only meets in January, so for our panel this would allow for 2 additional meetings devoted entirely to negotiations. Any additional meetings beyond January and February 2026 and 2027 will be done virtually if needed.

SOUTHERN PANEL

Session Activities:

- The US and Canadian Sections of the Southern Panel developed an agenda that enabled bilateral and section time to focus on activities associated with our annual work plans and other related assignments:
    - Polishing and formatting the 5 year review report for Chapter 5 Paragraph 12
    - Receiving and discussing reports from Coho and Chum Technical Committees
    - Review and discussion on Coho TC draft electronic 'Periodic Report'. Southern Panel approved the Periodic Report format and requested that the CoTC use the Skagit MU template for all Mus and finish the report
    - Reviewing 2023 Coho Exploitation Rate (ER) Annual Report
    - Developing priorities for Endowment Fund proposals for 2026
    - Conducting tasks from workplans for 2025
- The Bilateral Panel met and received presentations on:
    - 2024 Post-season Report Presentations from each Country
    - Ocean Indicators Report
    - Coho and Chum Technical Committee SEF 2025 project updates and 2026 priorities
- <u>Chapter Implementation Plans</u>
    - Both section and bilateral time was spent to review implementation plans for Chapters 5 and 6, including assigning tasks to sub-committees, Technical Committees as appropriate, and assigning short-term and longer-term tasks.
        - Discussed and revised the draft 5 year review report
        - The Southern Panel and Coho TC will schedule the Coho Working Group (CWG) meeting and develop the agenda.
- <u>Update from the Coho Technical Committee</u>
    - The Coho TC presented their updates to the electronic "Periodic Report" for Panel consideration and feedback

- 2023 Coho Annual Summary ER Report was presented. The ER report is preliminary, final numbers for grays harbour to be added
- Southern Endowment Fund (SEF) 2026 priorities and 2025 project updates (at time of this report out there was no section or bilateral discussion)
- Planning for CoWG meeting agenda items and preparing technical information to support the meeting

- Update from Chum Technical Committee
  - Review and discussion on preliminary post-season 2024 fisheries information
  - Update on progress for the SEF funded ChumGEM project to finalize run reconstruction model for Southern BC and Washington State Chum
  - Provided updated 2025 and 2026 SEF priorities to the Southern Panel
  - Provided chum 101 presentation to Southern Panel which included information on forecasting

Preparation for Future Meetings

- Finally, the bilateral Panel worked on a schedule for upcoming meetings, including the timing of the manager-to-manager information exchange for a virtual meeting in mid March and the Coho Working Group and Coho Technical Committee.
- Meeting plan to meet negotiation schedule. The panel will be extending their regular meetings to include Fridays. The Panel will also require one additional week of meetings per year, with the potential to augment that with virtual meetings. We will also, if needed, use and repurpose some time from our annual coho working group meetings.

TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL

The Transboundary Panel (Panel), supported by Transboundary Technical Committee (TTC) and Enhancement Sub-Committee (TESC) representatives met bilaterally during the 2024 Post-Season (January 14–16) and 40th Annual (February 11–13) 2025 Pre-Season meetings of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

2024 Post-Season Meeting

The Panel received post-season reports on 2024 Transboundary Stikine, Taku, and Alsek Rivers salmon runs including: catch from terminal marine and inriver fisheries, escapements, and results from stock assessment projects. As required in Chapter 1 (Paragraph 4), 2024 U.S. and Canadian fishery management measures and associated catch were evaluated to confirm if escapement goals were achieved, and harvest shares not exceeded. Escapements were not achieved for Stikine River Chinook salmon for the ninth consecutive year, and although Taku River Chinook salmon escapement was achieved, managed actions will continue to be required management for both stocks in 2025. The U.S. harvest of Taku River coho salmon in 2024 was above PST allocation for third time in the previous 5 years,

resulting in the requirement to implement corrective management actions during the 2025 season in accordance to Paragraph 4. All other fishery catches were maintained within PST harvest share allocations; no corrective management actions are required. The Panel received presentations from the TESC on the 2024 Stikine Enhancement Production Plan (SEPP) and Taku Enhancement Production Plan (TEPP) sockeye enhancement program results (fry outplants from 2023 and egg takes in 2024). The final 2022 SEPP was approved by Panel. The TESC also presented results from the 2023 SEPP and the proposed 2025 SEPP and TEPP. The TESC final presentation reviewed Tatsamenie Lake sockeye enhancement and specifically the extended rearing program. The Panel received a presentation from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the 2024 Taku River subsistence fishery, noting that no permits to participate in the fishery were issued. The Panel received a U.S. proposal for a 2025 Taku River subsistence fishery for consideration. Bilateral agreement on recommendations regarding the proposed fishery was not achieved, with further discussion scheduled for the February 2025 Transboundary Panel meeting session. The Panel received updates on the Stikine River Chinook salmon escapement goal review, development of a Stikine River coho salmon assessment program, and the ongoing work of the Alsek River Chinook and sockeye salmon assessment project. Finally, the Panel compiled a list of U.S. and Canadian Chapter 1 renewal priorities which was presented to Commissioners.

2025 Pre-Season Meeting

The Panel received 2025 bilateral forecasts for Stikine and Taku Chinook and sockeye salmon and Taku River coho salmon, in addition to Canadian forecasts for Alsek River Chinook and sockeye salmon. In conjunction with the forecasts, the Panel received proposed management actions for each party's fisheries which included continuation of extraordinary measures to conserve Stikine Rivers Chinook salmon and continued attention on Taku River Chinook salmon in 2025. In addition, the Panel received proposed U.S. management measures to align U.S. harvest of Taku River coho salmon with Treaty allocations (response to Chapter 1 Paragraph 4 trigger identified following the 2024 season). The Panel also accepted the TTC's recommendation to not proceed with any lethal assessment fisheries in 2025. The Panel received Canada's response and associate recommendations on the U.S. proposal for a 2025 Taku River subsistence fishery and following deliberation and receiving updated information on participant eligibility, the Panel reached bilateral agreement on measures associated with the administration of the fishery. The Panel Chairs presented the bilateral recommendation to Commissioners for decision on February 13. The Panel received final recommendations from the TESC on the 2025 SEPP and TEPP, which were bilaterally approved by the Panel for implementation. The TTC presented proposed plans and timelines to complete analysis that will enable development of an updated recommendation for a Taku River coho salmon escapement goal. The Panel accepted the TTC recommendation, tasking the TTC to provide a presentation on the results of analysis at the Panel's January 2026 bilateral meeting session. The Panel received a presentation on adult sockeye salmon passage restoration projects in the Taku River watersheds as well as a presentation on initial considerations pertaining to a Stikine River Chinook salmon restoration strategy. The TTC also presented the results of the Alsek River sockeye salmon radio tagging project for 2024 in addition to a presentation on U.S. fishery management measures implemented in the Dry

Bay area to achieve Chapter 1 Section 3.(c)(ii)(D) sockeye salmon passage in the Alsek River prior to statistical week 27. The Panel Chairs reported on submission of Chapter 1 renegotiation priorities and process and the TTC provided an update on the status of annual catch and escapement reports. Finally, the Panel received an overview of Northern Fund projects relative to the Transboundary Rivers. The Transboundary Panel's next bilateral meeting is scheduled for January 2026.

YUKON RIVER PANEL

For updates on the activities of the Yukon River Panel you may refer to their website https://www.yukonriverpanel.com.

CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chapter 3 of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Agreement identifies a variety of tasks to be completed annually by the Chinook Technical Committee (CTC). To fulfill these tasks, the CTC publishes a series of annual reports, which includes: (1) a review of catch and escapement from the prior year, (2) a report on the results of the annual exploitation rate analysis (ERA), and (3) a report on the results of the annual calibration and abundance projections of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) Chinook Model. Given the comprehensive nature and length of these reports, particularly the latter two, they are often not available until long after the analyses are completed. Due to the time sensitive nature of some of the annual reporting requirements within Chapter 3 of the 2019 PST Agreement, the CTC provides this "Commissioner Summary Report" that contains the critical reporting elements needed by the Commission in order to ensure that the provisions of the Chapter are met. The information provided below will eventually be included in one of the three annual reports mentioned above. Specifically, this report aims to provide several key pieces of information:

1. How did overall levels of landed catch (LC) and incidental mortality (IM) in 2024 compare with those that occurred in 2023?
2. What was the overall status of stocks in 2024 relative to escapement goals, and were there any stocks that consistently achieved less than 85% of their escapement goals during the most recent three-year time period (2022–2024), per subparagraph 7(a)(iv)?
3. Is any payback required in aggregate abundance-based management (AABM) fisheries per paragraph 6(h) due to management error overages in 2024 that affect the 2025 pre-season annual catch limits?
4. Has the recent two-year (2023–2024) performance of AABM fisheries resulted in a situation where further action is required by the Commission per paragraph 7(b)?
5. Did any AABM fisheries exceed the IM limits identified in paragraph 4(f) in 2024?
6. Were U.S. or Canadian annual individual stock-based management (ISBM) obligations exceeded for any stocks, per paragraph 5(a)?

7. Has the recent three-year average performance of any ISBM fisheries resulted in a situation where further action is required by the Commission per paragraph 7(c)?

Overall Catch Summary

Per the terms of the 2019 PST Agreement the CTC is required to report annually on LC and IM that occur in all Chinook fisheries within the Treaty area. Additionally, new to the 2019 PST Agreement per subparagraph 4(e)(iii) is a requirement to identify any "significant changes in rates or patterns of incidental mortalities in all fisheries that are subject to this Treaty" relative to what occurred between 1999–2016 for AABM fisheries and between 1999–2015 for ISBM fisheries. Canada and the U.S. compile annual estimates of LC and IM for their respective jurisdictions within the Treaty area according to fishery regimes, regional locations, and gear type. Provided below is a general summary of the overall estimates of LC, IM, and their sum, total mortality (TM), for each Party and fishery regime (AABM vs ISBM) during the 2024 fishing year. Additional detail and a more fine scale breakdown of these estimates are provided in the CTC's Annual Report of Catch and Escapement for 2024. Figures 1 and 2 provide summaries of LC and IM, respectively, for 1999 through 2024 by fishery regime for each Party.

The preliminary estimate of Treaty LC of Chinook salmon for all PST fisheries in 2024 is 1,300,997, of which an estimated 750,446 and 550,551 were harvested in U.S. and Canadian fisheries, respectively. Total estimated IM associated with this harvest is 219,947 (14% of the TM) in nominal fish. The TM for all PST fisheries in nominal fish was 1,520,945 Chinook salmon, which is 121,645 less than recorded for 2023. Of the total PSC TM estimated for 2024, 846,696 occurred in U.S. fisheries and 674,249 occurred in Canadian fisheries. For U.S. fisheries, 72% of the LC and 58% of IM occurred in ISBM fisheries; in Canada, 63% of the LC and 77% of IM occurred in ISBM fisheries. For some component sport fisheries, 2024 LC and IM estimates are not yet available or are projected using recent year averages.

A large increase in the Canadian ISBM IM was observed in 2021 and 2022 despite landed catches similar to those observed in prior years. The main fishery contributing to this increase was the Strait of Georgia ISBM due to its large release of sublegal and super-legal fish. The mortality associated with these releases, when combined with drop-off mortality associated with the landed catch, results in IM estimates since 2021 that are noticeably larger than those in past years. The high number of releases is attributed to two factors: extended periods of Chinook non-retention that commenced in 2019, and changes in the legal size limit. Starting in 2019 there were changes to the fishery regulations. When Chinook retention was permitted, a maximum size limit of 80 cm was implemented and added to the 62 cm minimum size limit (i.e., legal size slot), resulting in releases of larger fish that were previously legal (over the 62 cm minimum). In 2019, the legal size slot limit was only applicable for 2 weeks in the northern regions of the Strait of Georgia, but by 2021 it was extended for six weeks in north Strait of Georgia and four weeks in south Strait of Georgia. After peaking in 2022, IM in Canadian ISBM fisheries decreased in 2023 and again in 2024 to levels below those observed in 2021.

Stock Performance

Attachment I of Chapter 3 of the 2019 PST Agreement contains a list of 38 escapement indicator stocks and corresponding exploitation rate indicator stocks, in addition to relevant ISBM fishery limits and management objectives. Of the 38 stocks, 22 have associated management objectives provided in Attachment I. Table 1 provides the available escapement information for each Attachment I stock over the three most recent years (2022–2024), in addition to the status relative to corresponding management objectives where relevant.

In 2024, of the 22 stocks with management objectives, 19 achieved their management objectives. Of the remaining three stocks that did not achieve their management objectives, all three of them had escapements that were below 85% of their goals (Stikine, Nehalem, Siuslaw).

Subparagraph 7(a)(iv) of the 2019 PST Agreement requires identification of escapement indicator stocks that are consistently not meeting their management objectives. Specifically, the CTC is required to provide to the Commission *"the status concerning the achievement of stock-specific management objectives; specifically, a table of agreed-to management objectives for each stock included in Attachment I and the annual stock-specific metrics, if available, with the identification of stocks that achieved less than 85% of the point estimate (or lower end range) of the management objective for three consecutive years beginning in 2019."*

Between 2022 and 2024 there was one stock that consistently achieved less than 85% of its escapement goal (Siuslaw).

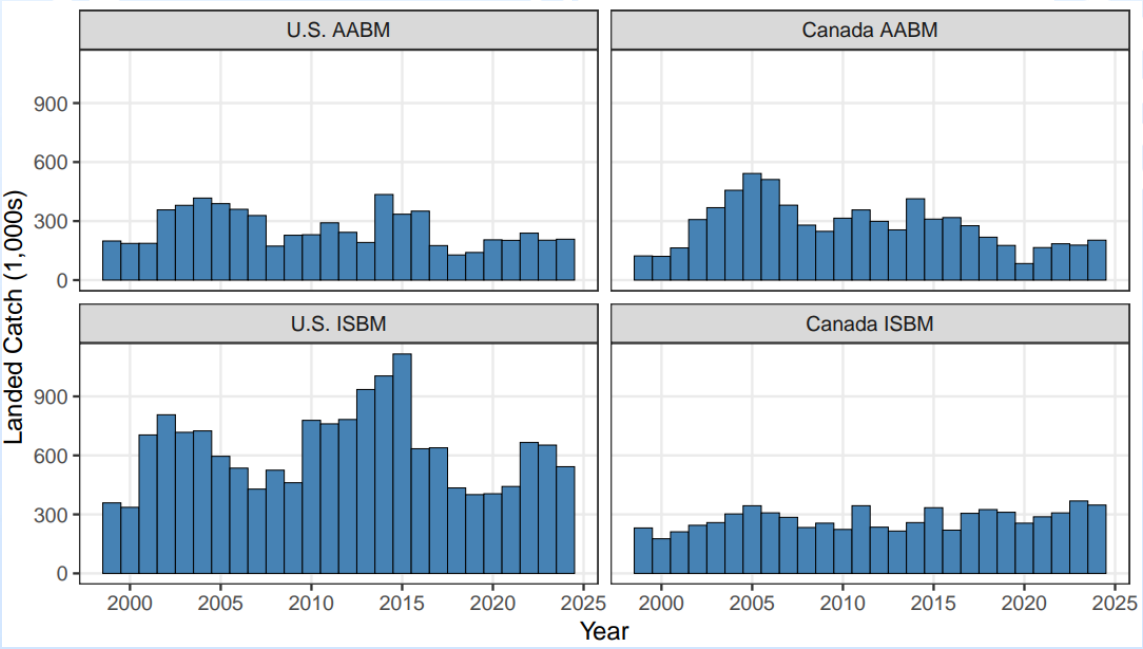


Figure 1: Estimates of landed catch in U.S. and Canadian aggregate abundance-based management (AABM) and individual stock-based management (ISBM) fisheries, 1999–2024.

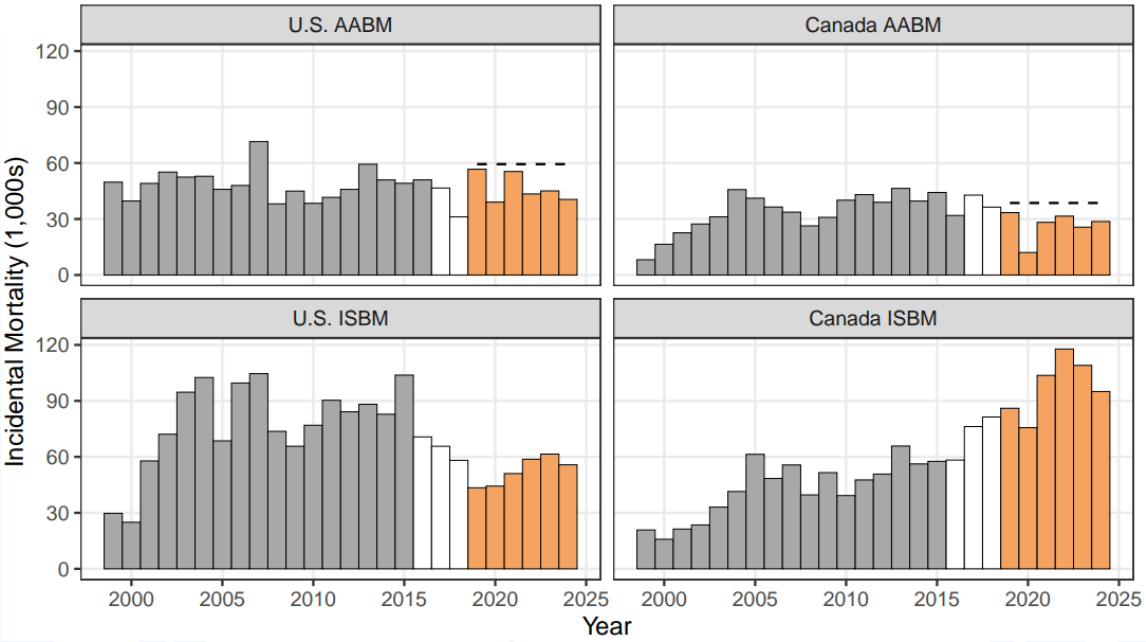


Figure 2: Estimates of incidental mortality (IM) in U.S. and Canadian aggregate abundance-based management (AABM) and individual stock-based management (ISBM) fisheries, 1999–2024. *Note: Gray bars indicate reference years for assessing changes in patterns of IM, per subparagraph 4(e)(iii). For AABM fisheries, horizontal dashed lines represent Treaty IM limits that apply beginning in 2019 as specified in paragraph 4(f).*

Table 1: Attachment I escapement indicator stocks by stock group and run, PSC-agreed management objectives, and escapement performance, 2022–2024. *Note: For stocks with PSC-agreed management objectives, escapements above the goal or lower bound of the range are in green, escapements within 85% of the goal or lower bound of the escapement range are in yellow, and escapements below the 85% threshold are in red.*

Stock Group	Run	Escapement Indicator	Management Objective	2022	2023	2024
Southeast Alaska						
Yakutat	Spr	Situk	500-1,000	890	144	517
Northern Inside	Spr	Chilkat	1,750-3,500	1,582	2,234	2,070
Southern Inside	Spr	Unuk	1,800-3,800	1,304	2,072	1,980
Transboundary Rivers						
	Spr	Alsek	3,500-5,300	3,351	4,185	4,771
Transboundary Rivers	Spr	Taku	19,000-36,000	12,722	14,571	24,518
	Spr	Stikine	14,000-28,000	9,090	12,795	9,835
North/Central B.C.						
Northern B.C.	Sum	Skeena	TBD	24,724	26,044	29,883
Central B.C.	Sum	Atnarko	5,009	5,139	6,903	10,479
Vancouver Island						
East Vancouver Is.	Fall	EVIN	TBD	NA	NA	NA
	Fall	NWVI Natural	TBD	2,588	1,745	2,471
West Vancouver Is.	Fall	SWVI Natural	TBD	331	607	300
Fraser River						
Spring-Run 1.2	Spr	Nicola	TBD	7,438	4,482	2,056
Spring-Run 1.3	Spr	Chilcotin	TBD	4,126	1,707	1,577
Summer-Run 1.3	Sum	Chilko	TBD	13,532	7,091	4,666
Summer-Run 0.3	Sum	Lower Shuswap	12,300	33,914	74,517	16,445
Fraser Fall 0.3	Fall	Harrison	75,100	81,649	146,498	131,544
Strait of Georgia						
Lower Strait of Georgia	Fall	Cowichan	6,500	17,574	19,855	22,938
Upper Strait of Georgia	Fall	Phillips	TBD	2,070	3,277	4,202
Puget Sound						
	Spr	Nooksack Spring	TBD	4,319	4,205	NA
	Spr	Skagit Spring	1,024	3,487	1,184	2,276
Puget Sound Natural	Sum/Fall	Skagit Sum/Fall	8,201	17,323	11,788	9,386
	Sum/Fall	Stillaguamish	TBD	1,530	792	1,139
	Sum/Fall	Snohomish	TBD	5,635	2,843	6,593
Washington Coast						
	Fall	Hoko	TBD	1,168	4,018	2,489
	Fall	Quillayute	3,000	8,369	6,682	5,378
WA Coast Fall Natural	Fall	Hoh	1,200	1,866	2,323	2,158
	Fall	Queets	2,500	1,643	2,058	4,068
	Fall	Grays Harbor	13,326	14,259	10,943	13,803
Columbia River						
	Sum	CAN Okanagan	TBD	NA	NA	NA
Columbia River Summers	Sum	Mid-Col Summers	12,143	64,497	49,410	41,142
	Fall	Upriver Brights	40,000	95,558	103,116	101,051
Columbia River Falls	Fall	Lewis	5,700	6,833	7,607	12,954
	Fall	Coweeman	TBD	494	478	416

Table 1: continued

Stock Group	Run	Escapement Indicator	Management Objective	2022	2023	2024
Oregon Coast						
	Fall	Nehalem	6,989	4,434	9,095	4,065
North Oregon Coastal	Fall	Siletz	2,944	4,694	6,220	4,871
	Fall	Siuslaw	12,925	7,394	10,029	9,557
	Fall	South Umpqua	TBD	2,604	3,924	616
Mid Oregon Coastal	Fall	Coquille	TBD	846	633	341

Note:
Management objective and escapement estimates for the Canadian Okanagan escapement indicator stock are pending the review specified in paragraph 5(b) of Chapter 3 and a subsequent Commission decision.

Current and historical information on stock status is presented for most escapement indicator stocks through synoptic plots, which are available in Chapter 3 of the CTC's annual report of catch and escapement (most current report available here). These figures are intended to clearly summarize the performance of the stocks and fisheries management relative to established or potential goals and incorporate (1) escapement data, (2) PSC-agreed MSY management objectives (or, in some cases, habitat model or agency escapement objectives that have yet to be agreed upon by the CTC), and (3) exploitation rates from related CWT indicator stocks.

AABM Fishery Performance

This section is on hold, pending Commission guidance on the appropriate reported catch values to be used in assessing performance.

ISBM Fishery Performance

Limits in ISBM fisheries are stock-specific and, beginning with the 2019 PST Agreement, are based on the calendar year exploitation rate (CYER) metric. The CTC is tasked with annually evaluating ISBM fishery performance relative to both the annual obligations set forth in paragraph 5(d) and the multi-year obligations set forth in paragraph 7(c). Attachment I identifies ISBM obligations based on Party-specific CYER limits for 30 stocks (originally this was 31 prior to removal of the Canadian ISBM CYER limit for Phillips in 2022 due to discontinuation of the CWT indicator program). Of these, 14 do not have management objectives so the annual CYER limit automatically applies each year. The remaining 16 stocks have management objectives, and for these stocks the annual CYER limit only applies when the management objective is not met.

For multi-year assessments, a running three-year average (3YA) CYER is calculated for each stock, which includes the three most recent annual CYERs that meet the criteria for inclusion specified in paragraph 7(c). For stocks in Attachment I without agreed management objectives, all years shall be used to calculate the 3YA. For stocks in Attachment I with an agreed management objective, the 3YA will include *"all years in which the management objective is not achieved, and the years in which the management objective is achieved with a CYER that is less than or equal to the ISBM obligation identified in paragraph 5."* At their October

2022 meeting, the Commission provided guidance that the 3YA must include three years of CYERs, thus, in cases where there are years that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the 3YA, it will span a time frame greater than three years.

Here we report on results of the ERA conducted in 2025, which includes annual CYERs for 2023 in addition to 3YAs that run through 2023, as this is the most recent year for which CYERs are available for both Parties. Beginning with the 2024 ERA, mark-selective fishery algorithms have been incorporated per the methods and recommendations identified in PSC Technical Report No 53, and performance in this section of the report is now being assessed using the "unmarked" CYERs (i.e., for Chinook with an intact adipose fin) in order to best represent fishery impacts on the wild escapement indicator stocks.

In 2023, of the 16 stocks with CYER limits and management objectives, three did not meet their management objectives – Queets, Grays Harbor, Siuslaw (Table 1). As a result, CYER limits are applicable for Queets, Grays Harbor, and Siuslaw in 2023

Canadian ISBM Fishery Performance

There are 17 Attachment I indicator stocks subject to Canadian ISBM fisheries performance evaluation, including five of U.S. origin. Of those, 11 stocks do not have management objectives listed in Attachment I and two of those are currently under development and cannot be evaluated. Additionally, the Commission decided in 2022 to remove the CYER limit in Canadian ISBM fisheries for the Phillips stock, as it was discontinued as a CWT indicator stock following the 2019 brood year, resulting in the inability to calculate CYERs beginning with return year 2023. As a result, annual CYER limits apply for eight of the 11 stocks without management objectives. There are six stocks that have management objectives listed in Attachment I and annual CYER limits only apply when these management objectives are not met. Of these, in 2023, all of them met their respective management objectives. Thus for 2023, annual CYER limits apply to eight stocks – the eight stocks without management objectives that can be evaluated (Table 2).

Relative to Canadian ISBM fisheries performance for 2023, annual ISBM obligations were met for 11 of the 14 Attachment I escapement indicator stocks that could be evaluated; six that met their management objectives and thus had no applicable CYER limits, and five that had CYERs that were below the applicable limits. Annual CYERs exceeded their limits, and thus the Canadian ISBM obligations were not met for three stocks in 2023 – EVIN, Nooksack Spring, and Snohomish (Table 2).

For the multi-year assessment of Canadian ISBM fisheries performance specific to paragraph 7(c), there were 13 stocks for which 3YAs could be calculated (Table 3). Of these, the 3YA exceeded the CYER limit by more than ten percent for one stock – Snohomish. Per the provisions of the 2019 PST Agreement, this requires further action, as identified in subparagraphs 7(c)(i) and 7(c)(ii).

Table 2: Annual performance of Canadian ISBM fisheries, 2023. *Note: The 'Obligation Met' column indicates whether the annual ISBM obligation for each stock was met (green) or not (red) in 2023. A green shaded cell in the '2023 Escapement' column signifies that the stock achieved its management objective, thus no CYER limit applies for 2023. Shading in the '2023 CYER' column signifies that the CYER limit was applicable in 2023 and indicates whether the limit was exceeded (red) or not (green).*

Escapement Indicator	Management Objective	2023 Escapement	CYER Limit	2023 CYER	Obligation Met?
Skeena	NA	26,044	0.153	0.019	Yes
Atnarko	5,009	6,903	0.318	0.179	Yes
NWVI Natural	NA	1,745	0.119	0.083	Yes
SWVI Natural	NA	607	0.119	0.083	Yes
EVIN	NA	NA	0.242	0.260	No
Phillips	NA	3,277	0.130	NA	NA
Cowichan	6,500	19,855	0.569	0.623	Yes
Nicola	NA	4,482	0.182	0.035	Yes
Chilcotin	NA	1,707	NA	NA	NA
Chilko	NA	7,091	NA	NA	NA
Lower Shuswap	12,300	74,517	0.263	0.111	Yes
Harrison	75,100	146,498	0.173	0.235	Yes
Nooksack Spring	NA	4,205	0.208	0.222	No
Skagit Spring	1,024	1,184	0.118	0.233	Yes
Skagit Sum/Fall	8,201	11,788	0.112	0.221	Yes
Stillaguamish	NA	792	0.195	0.075	Yes
Snohomish	NA	2,843	0.148	0.150	No

Table 3: Performance of Canadian ISBM fisheries relative to three-year average (3YA) CYERs, as specified in paragraph 7(c) in Chapter 3 of the 2019 PST Agreement. *Note: The 'Paragraph 7(c) Obligation Met' column indicates whether the provisions of paragraph 7(c) were met for each stock, specifically whether the 3YA CYER was less than (green) or exceeded (red) the CYER limit by more than ten percent.*

Escapement Indicator	Years Included in 3YA	CYER 3YA	CYER Limit	Paragraph 7(c) Obligation Met?
Skeena	2021, 2022, 2023	0.028	0.153	Yes
Atnarko	2021, 2022, 2023	0.174	0.318	Yes
NWVI Natural	2021, 2022, 2023	0.087	0.119	Yes
SWVI Natural	2021, 2022, 2023	0.087	0.119	Yes
EVIN	2021, 2022, 2023	0.220	0.242	Yes
Phillips	NA	NA	0.130	NA
Cowichan	2020, 2021, 2022	0.303	0.569	Yes
Nicola	2021, 2022, 2023	0.037	0.182	Yes
Chilcotin	NA	NA	NA	NA
Chilko	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lower Shuswap	2021, 2022, 2023	0.149	0.263	Yes
Harrison	2020, 2021, 2022	0.161	0.173	Yes
Nooksack Spring	2021, 2022, 2023	0.121	0.208	Yes
Skagit Spring	2019	NA	0.118	NA
Skagit Sum/Fall	2020, 2021, 2022	0.056	0.112	Yes
Stillaguamish	2021, 2022, 2023	0.091	0.195	Yes
Snohomish	2021, 2022, 2023	0.199	0.148	No

Note:
The Phillips CWT indicator stock has been discontinued, with the final tagged brood occurring in 2019. As a result, beginning with return year 2023, CYERs can no longer be calculated.

U.S. ISBM Fisheries Performance

There are 22 Attachment I indicator stocks, including three of Canadian origin, that are subject to U.S. ISBM fisheries performance evaluation. Of those, eight stocks do not have management objectives listed in Attachment I; therefore, CYER limits apply for all eight stocks without management objectives. There are 14 stocks that have management objectives listed in Attachment I and CYER limits only apply when these management objectives are not met. Of these, in 2023, three had escapements below their respective management objectives (Grays Harbor, Queets, Siuslaw). Thus for 2023, annual CYER limits apply to 11 stocks – the three stock(s) with management objectives that were not met and the eight stocks without management objectives (Table 4).

Note that the CYER limits for the five Puget Sounds stocks presented Tables 4 and 5 were derived separately from the 2025 ERA, as recommended by the Chinook Interface Group (CIG) and agreed by the Commission in February 2025. Specifically, in response to effects to U.S. ISBM CYERs from updated catch and release estimates in Canadian recreational fisheries, the CIG recommended that *"pursuant to Chapter 3, Paragraph 7(g), the CYER limits for U.S. ISBM fisheries for Nooksack, Skagit (Spring and Summer), Stillaguamish, and Snohomish stocks will remain consistent for 2025 with those provided by the CTC in April 2024 as adjusted for unmarked Chinook salmon using methods developed by the CTC."* The resulting CYER limits for these five stocks are incorporated into Table 4 and 5 below, and were provided in an April memo to the CIG, which also included a description of the approach used to derive them.

Relative to U.S. ISBM fisheries performance for 2023, annual ISBM obligations were met for 20 of the 22 escapement indicator stocks listed in Attachment I; 11 that met their management objectives and thus had no applicable CYER limits, and nine that had CYERs that were below the applicable limits. Annual CYERs exceeded their limits, and thus the U.S. ISBM obligations were not met for two stocks in 2023 – Stillaguamish and Queets (Table 4).

For the multi-year assessment of U.S. ISBM fisheries performance specific to paragraph 7(c), there were 20 stocks for which 3YAs could be calculated (Table 5). Of these, there were no stocks where the 3YA exceeded the CYER limit by more than ten percent, thus, no further action is required for U.S. ISBM fisheries per paragraph 7(c).

Table 4: Annual performance of U.S. ISBM fisheries, 2023. *Note: The 'Obligation Met' column indicates whether the annual ISBM obligation for each stock was met (green) or not (red) in 2023. A green shaded cell in the '2023 Escapement' column signifies that the stock achieved its management objective, thus no CYER limit applies for 2023. Shading in the '2023 CYER' column signifies that the CYER limit was applicable in 2023 and indicates whether the limit was exceeded (red) or not (green).*

Escapement Indicator	Management Objective	2023 Escapement	CYER Limit	2023 CYER	Obligation Met?
Cowichan	6,500	19,855	0.055	0.012	Yes
Nicola	NA	4,482	0.037	0.010	Yes
Harrison	75,100	146,498	0.055	0.031	Yes
Nooksack Spring	NA	4,205	0.083	0.054	Yes
Skagit Spring	1,024	1,184	0.255	0.355	Yes
Skagit Sum/Fall	8,201	11,788	0.147	0.063	Yes
Stillaguamish	NA	792	0.108	0.162	No
Snohomish	NA	2,843	0.109	0.060	Yes
Hoko	NA	4,018	0.100	0.047	Yes
Grays Harbor	13,326	**10,943**	0.153	0.043	Yes
Queets	2,500	**2,058**	0.136	0.147	No
Quillayute	3,000	6,682	0.205	0.116	Yes
Hoh	1,200	2,323	0.147	0.127	Yes
Upriver Brights (URB)	40,000	103,116	0.254	0.135	Yes
Upriver Brights (HAN)	40,000	103,116	0.281	NA	Yes
Lewis	5,700	7,607	0.187	NA	Yes
Coweeman	NA	478	0.194	0.059	Yes
Mid-Col Summers	12,143	49,410	0.286	0.122	Yes
Nehalem	6,989	9,095	0.130	0.155	Yes
Siletz	2,944	6,220	0.171	0.170	Yes
Siuslaw	12,925	**10,029**	0.202	0.194	Yes
South Umpqua	NA	3,924	0.268	0.218	Yes
Coquille	NA	633	0.222	0.070	Yes

Note:
Nooksack Spring CYERs calculated using NSF adj.
CYER limits for the five Puget Sound stocks (Nooksack Spring, Skagit Spring, Skagit Summer/Fall, Stillaguamish, Snohomish) were derived externally to the 2025 ERA - see text for details.
Attachment I to Chapter 3 of the 2019 PST Agreement identifies two exploitation rate indicator stocks to represent the Upriver Bright escapement indicator stock (URB, HAN). In the event the Upriver Bright management objective is not met in a given year, the URB CYER will be used to assess U.S. ISBM fishery performance.

Table 5: Performance of U.S. ISBM fisheries relative to three-year average (3YA) CYERs, as specified in paragraph 7(c) in Chapter 3 of the 2019 PST Agreement. *Note: The 'Paragraph 7(c) Obligation Met' column indicates whether the provisions of paragraph 7(c) were met for each stock, specifically whether the 3YA CYER for a given stock was less than (green) or exceeded (red) the CYER limit by more than ten percent.*

Escapement Indicator	Years Included in 3YA	CYER 3YA	CYER Limit	Paragraph 7(c) Obligation Met?
Cowichan	2021, 2022, 2023	0.018	0.055	Yes
Nicola	2021, 2022, 2023	0.006	0.037	Yes
Harrison	2021, 2022, 2023	0.038	0.055	Yes
Nooksack Spring	2021, 2022, 2023	0.080	0.083	Yes
Skagit Spring	2020, 2021	NA	0.255	NA
Skagit Sum/Fall	2021, 2022, 2023	0.088	0.147	Yes
Stillaguamish	2021, 2022, 2023	0.105	0.108	Yes
Snohomish	2021, 2022, 2023	0.085	0.109	Yes
Hoko	2021, 2022, 2023	0.033	0.100	Yes
Grays Harbor	2021, 2022, 2023	0.063	0.153	Yes
Queets	2022, 2023	NA	0.136	NA
Quillayute	2021, 2022, 2023	0.088	0.205	Yes
Hoh	2021, 2022, 2023	0.125	0.147	Yes
Upriver Brights (URB)	2021, 2022, 2023	0.176	0.254	Yes
Upriver Brights (HAN)	2020, 2021, 2022	0.213	0.281	Yes
Lewis	2019, 2020, 2021	0.058	0.187	Yes
Coweeman	2021, 2022, 2023	0.119	0.194	Yes
Mid-Col Summers	2021, 2022, 2023	0.209	0.286	Yes
Nehalem	2022	NA	0.130	NA
Siletz	2020, 2022, 2023	0.152	0.171	Yes
Siuslaw	2021, 2022, 2023	0.152	0.202	Yes
South Umpqua	2021, 2022, 2023	0.235	0.268	Yes
Coquille	2021, 2022, 2023	0.067	0.222	Yes

Note:
Nooksack Spring CYERs calculated using NSF adj.
CYER limits for the five Puget Sound stocks (Nooksack Spring, Skagit Spring, Skagit Summer/Fall, Stillaguamish, Snohomish) were derived externally to the 2025 ERA - see text for details.

Summary of Findings

As indicated in the introduction, the objective of this report is to provide several key pieces of information to the Commission in advance of the standard publication timelines, with a focus on critical annual reporting elements that could affect the upcoming management cycle or require further action by the Commission. Here, we summarize the key findings of this report as they relate to the questions initially posed in the introduction of the report.

1. *How did overall levels of LC and IM in 2024 compare with those that occurred in 2023?*

- The preliminary estimates of Treaty LC and IM for Chinook salmon in all 2024 PST fisheries is 1,300,997 and 219,947, respectively. When combined, this results in a TM of 1,520,945 nominal fish in all 2024 PST fisheries, which is 121,645 less than the TM of 1,642,590 recorded for 2023.

2. *What was the overall status of stocks in 2024 relative to escapement goals, and were there any stocks that consistently achieved less than 85% of their escapement goals during the most recent three-year time period (2022–2024), per subparagraph 7(a)(iv)?*

- In 2024, of the 22 Attachment I stocks with management objectives, 19 achieved their management objectives. Of the remaining three stocks that did not achieve their management objectives, all three of them had escapements that were below 85% of their goals (Stikine, Nehalem, Siuslaw).
- Between 2022 and 2024 there was one stock that consistently achieved less than 85% of its escapement goal (Siuslaw).

3. *Is any payback required in AABM fisheries per paragraph 6(h) due to management error overages in 2024 that affect the 2025 pre-season annual catch limits?*

- AABM fishery performance evaluation is on hold, pending Commission guidance on the appropriate reported catch values to be used in assessing performance.

4. *Has the recent two-year (2023–2024) performance of AABM fisheries resulted in a situation where further action is required by the Commission per paragraph 7(b)?*

- AABM fishery performance evaluation is on hold, pending Commission guidance on the appropriate reported catch values to be used in assessing performance.

5. *Did any AABM fisheries exceed the IM limits identified in paragraph 4(f) in 2024?*

- AABM fishery performance evaluation is on hold, pending Commission guidance on the appropriate reported catch values to be used in assessing performance.

6. *Were U.S. or Canadian annual ISBM obligations exceeded for any stocks, per paragraph 5(a)?*

- In 2023, annual ISBM obligations for Canadian fisheries were met for 11 of the 14 Attachment I escapement indicator stocks that could be evaluated; six that met their management objectives and thus had no applicable CYER limits, and five that had CYERs that were below the applicable limits. Annual CYERs exceeded their limits, and thus the Canadian ISBM obligations were not met for three stocks in 2023 – EVIN, Nooksack Spring, and Snohomish.
- In 2023, annual ISBM obligations for U.S. fisheries were met for 20 of the 22 escapement indicator stocks listed in Attachment I; 11 that met their management objectives and thus had no applicable CYER limits, and nine that had CYERs that were below the applicable limits. Annual CYERs exceeded their limits, and thus the U.S. ISBM obligations were not met for two stocks in 2023 – Stillaguamish and Queets.

7. *Has the recent three-year average performance (based on available CYERs from 2019 through 2023) of any ISBM fisheries resulted in a situation where further action is required by the Commission per paragraph 7(c)?*

- Of the 17 Attachment I stocks for which there are Canadian ISBM fishery CYER limits, there were 13 stocks for which 3YA CYERs could be calculated. Of these, the 3YA exceeded the CYER limit by more than ten percent for one stock – Snohomish. Per the

provisions of the 2019 PST Agreement, this requires further action, as identified in subparagraphs 7(c)(i) and 7(c)(ii).

- Of the 22 Attachment I stocks for which there are U.S. ISBM fishery CYER limits, there were 20 stocks for which 3YA CYERs could be calculated. Of these, there were no stocks where the 3YA exceeded the CYER limit by more than ten percent, thus, no further action is required for U.S. ISBM fisheries per paragraph 7(c).

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DATA SHARING

The bilateral Technical Committee on Data Sharing (TCDS or Committee) supports the Pacific Salmon Commission by coordinating the content of the Coded-Wire-Tagging and reporting system to be exchanged (see Pacific Salmon Treaty's Memorandum of Understanding, January 28, 1985). The Technical Committee on Data Sharing (TCDS) reports directly to the Pacific Salmon Commissioners.

This committee is responsible for:

- Maintaining and revising the Specifications and Definitions for the Exchange of Coded Wire Tag Data for the North American Pacific Coast (hereafter Specifications).
- Facilitating access and timely exchange of CWT data between the two parties.
- Advising Commissioners as appropriate on: (i) computing hardware, software (including development), and data transmission requirements of the Commission; (ii) compilation and maintenance of databases established by or for the Commission; (iii) policies and procedures for data compilation and dissemination of fishery-related statistics and environmental information; and, (iv) data governance and software development guidelines (e.g. handling external data requests), documenting, and version management)) used to create automated reports and analytical data products.

The Committee's draft Terms of Reference (TOR) was approved by the Commissioners during their October 2024 meeting, effectively merging the Data Standards Working Group within the TCDS, thereby streamlining the committee's process and reducing the number of meetings. The 2024 TOR also refined the responsibility of providing advice to the Commissioners to clarify the role that the TCDS has in providing advice on data/software related PSC guidelines and sharing lessons across committees. During the Commissioner's October 2024 meeting, the Commissioners also approved the TCDS suggestion to add to the PSC workplan a section that would facilitate communication of issues and request to the TCDS.

As part of this workplan the TCDS continues to review requests for modifications to the Specifications, and other requests received from PSC technical committees, including the Chinook, Coho and Selective Fishery Evaluation Technical Committees. To support information exchange with the PSC committees, the TCDS co-chairs continue to provide updates to the relevant PSC technical committees and to receive input on proposed modifications and on implementation timeline. The TCDS continues to assist with

preparation and review of draft PSC guidelines. For its workplan implementation, the TCDS primarily liaises with the Chinook Technical Committee (CTC), Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee (SFEC), and Coho Technical Committee (CoTC).

A key goal of the 2024-2025 workplan is to finalize and begin modifications to the USA and Canada data systems to prepare for implementation of the 5.0 version of the Specifications and Definitions for the Exchange of Coded Wire Tag Data for the North American Pacific Coast by t early 2026. The TCDS is also continuing to advance the development of a controlled vocabulary document to define all data fields and terms in the data specifications to ensure the accessibility of these data over-time and to maintain quality data in the bilateral systems. Once ready, engage in collaborative scoping and document approaches and methods with other technical committees to refine terms, definitions, and metadata that support proper CWT and related data use. The TCDS continues to assess processes to improve CWT data quality, including incorporating new metadata fields, use of automated validation processes and automated quality checks on data submitted to the bilateral systems.

A summary of 2024 and 2025 tasks and their status are provided below:

Task	When	Status
Present draft TOR and recommendations to improve information exchange with other committees (i.e., section added to annual workplan, PSC guidance documents, and 2025 Data Den) to Commissioners during their October for approval	October 2024	Done
Update members on outcome of presentation to Commissioners' during their Oct 13, 2024 meeting and advance progress on developing the Controlled Vocabulary document.	November 2024	Done
TCDS Co-chair discuss with CTC and CoTC during 2025 Post Season Meeting January 13, to January 17, 2025, proposed modification and implementation impacts, and timelines. Obtain input on other needed modifications and improvements that would inform 5.1 or 6.0 version of the Specifications document. Communicate information on guidelines.	January 2025	Done
Internal draft report of the 5.0 Data Specification version is produced	January 2025	Done
Host PSC wide Data Den to facilitate discussion around common data management concerns within all PSC committees and how TCDS may provide support.	January 2025	Done
TCDS Co-Chairs present 2024-2025 work plan progress update to PSC Commissioners during the 40th Annual Meeting 10- 14, February 2025 in Portland, OR. Meet with other technical committees as possible to conduct outreach and coordination.	February 2025	Planned
Full TCDS virtual meeting to review current status of proposed finalized 5.0 version, discussing input received from TCs. Check in on (and continue to work on) all planned tasks as listed above this table.	April 2025	Planned
Full TCDS in-person/hybrid meeting in Nanaimo, BC at DFO office to revisit as needed timeline for 5.0 implementation process (migration	May 12-15, 2025	Planned

/translation) and outreach to all data providers. Confirm month for database version 5.0 to enter production stage that best minimizes impact on TCs analytical work. Check in on (and continue to work on) all planned tasks as listed above this table.		
Full TCDS in-person/hybrid meeting 2-5 September 2025 to develop 2025/2026 Work plan. Check in on 5.0 implementation progress and timeline. Check in on (and continue to work on) all planned tasks as listed above this table.	September 2-5, 2025	Planned
Full TCDS virtual meeting (1-day) to confirm outreach with committees and content being discussed; and continue progress on the controlled vocabulary	October 2025	Planned
TCDS co-chairs to meet virtually or in-person with technical committees on finalizing 5.0 implementation, discuss active/new proposals to inform *Specifications* version 5.1 or 6.0, and new tasks from scoping exercised planned for 2026 (revised from previously estimated 2025/2026 timeframe).	Revised to be January 2026. (previously estimated as Late Oct/Nov 2025)	Planned
The final version of the 5.0 Specification document version will be finalized after the 5.0 version is implemented into production. In the original work plan submitted we estimated this to be submitted at the end of 2025 but based on discussions with technical committees this will be shifted to 2026. This timeline should minimize impact on CWT data users, such as the Chinook Technical Committee. The updated version of PSC Technical Report No. 52.	Revised to be 2026. (previously estimated as end of 2025) early 2026	Planned

SELECTIVE FISHERY EVALUATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The SFEC met in Victoria, BC in November 2024 to review 2025 Mass Marking (MM) and Mark Selective Fishery (MSF) proposals.

The planned Mass Marking for 2025 included:

- Coho proposals included a region-wide total of approximately 36.4 million MM fish, a decrease of 0.8 million fish from 2024.
- Chinook proposals included approximately 141.8 million MM fish, an increase of approximately 7.1 million from 2024, mostly due to production increases of Columbia River fall Chinook program.

Agency	Coho (in millions)		Chinook (in millions)	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
ADF&G			3.3	2.8
CDFO	3.5	3.7	11.6	11.5
USFWS	1.6	1.5	27.1	27.8
WDFW/Tribes	25.9	23.7	67.9	72.1
ODFW/Tribes	6.2	7.5	24.8	26.7
Total	**37.2**	**36.4**	**134.7**	**141.8**

- 2024 and 2025 estimates include U.S. hatchery production to increase Southern Resident Killer Whale prey.
- Canada is continuing to explore the potential for new MM and MSF opportunities.
- In the U.S., Chinook and Coho DIT groups are limited to Puget Sound, the Washington Coast, and the Columbia River. WDFW, USFWS, and NWIFC are the agencies tagging DIT groups. In Canada, the only DIT program which began tagging in 2024, is on Big Qualicum Chinook in the Strait of Georgia.
- AutoFish trailers continue to be added in Canada and the U.S. to allow increased and more efficient marking and tagging with lower tag-loss rates.

Planned MSFs for 2025 include 33 proposals for Coho fisheries and 48 for Chinook fisheries:

- The 33 Coho MSF proposals for 2025 is two less than proposed for 2024. There are no new Coho MSF proposals.
- 48 Chinook MSF proposals were received, two more than for 2024. The additional WDFW proposal is a sport MSF within the Humptulips River that has previously been proposed and has occurred since 2017. There is one new proposal from ODFW/WDFW for a commercial MSF in the lower Columbia River targeting summer Chinook.

Agency	Coho		Chinook	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
ADF&G	0	0	0	0
CDFO	9	9	5	5
WDFW	16	14	29	30
ODFW	7	7	5	5
ODFW/WDFW	3	3	5	6
IDFG	0	0	0	0
Lummi Nation	0	0	1	1
Nisqually Indian Tribe	0	0	1	1
Total	**35**	**33**	**46**	**48**

Key points for the Commissioners and obstacles for completing bilateral tasks:

New and Emerging

- Given recent Chinook CYER workgroup recommendations, requirements for tagging and fishery sampling have changed for Chinook. Different requirements for Chinook versus Coho may lead to confusion from management entities regarding requirements under the PST.
- Given the result of the CYER WG evaluation indicating strong performance of single index tags (SIT) methods for Chinook, and the state of CWT recoveries for Coho in mixed stock fisheries, a joint SFEC-CoTC workgroup has been formed to review the value of double index tagging DIT and recoveries for Coho.
- New U.S. travel administration issues prevented SFEC members from participating in-person, required those U.S. members who did attend to provide their own travel funding, and impeded completion of workplan tasks.
- The 2004 SFEC MOU is being considered for amendment given adopted CYER working group recommendations regarding reporting protocols for MSF regulations and data.
- SFEC proposes streamlining data requests by limiting them to data necessary for SFEC's review and analysis, recognizing that additional data should be transferred directly from the management agencies to CTC and CoTC, as needed. SFEC steering committee (CTC, CoTC, Data Sharing, and SFEC co-chairs) will be engaged in this process.
- Given the emerging information on release mortality rates, SFEC recommends the technical committees update release mortality rates used for Chinook and Coho. These rates are part of the evaluation of mark rates and assessment of MSF impacts.
- There are times and areas where Chinook and Coho MSFs are being prosecuted but the mark-rates submitted to SFEC are low. This raises concerns around incidental mortality and the benefit of MSF over non-MSF, as well as impacts to non-retention or

non-target species. We recommend agencies ensure mark rates are considered when deciding to implement MSFs in these situations.

Ongoing

- Complexity of MSF regulations, particularly mark-and-size mixed bag regulations, will challenge evaluation of MSF impacts. We recognize that the mixed fishery adjustment developed by CYER WG addresses the mixed bag complexity for Chinook MSFs but does not address mark-and-size regulations.
- Lack of electronic CWT sampling for Coho in some areas (i.e., Canada, and Alaska fisheries) where DIT groups are expected to be encountered results in lack of sampling of unmarked fish.
- Some Canadian CWT recoveries include inaccurate information regarding the regulation type that the catch occurred in.
- There are continuing concerns with monitoring programs for certain MSFs.
- Increased scrutiny of U.S. hatchery programs has resulted in litigation that is affecting hatchery production, including marking and tagging.
- Potential expansion of pre-terminal Chinook MSFs in BC (potentially changing mark rates in subsequent fisheries).
- Hiring and retention of staff, particularly for marking, tagging, and sampling activities, continues to be a challenge for all management entities.
- Hatcheries continue to face challenges from climate change including elevated water temperatures, water supplies, and impacts from wildfires.

Progress on 2024/25 Annual Work Plan

- The SFEC annual report Review of Mass Marking and Mark-Selective Fishery Activities Proposed to Occur in 2024 is anticipated to be completed February 2025.
- The 2025 SFEC meeting will be held in Victoria, BC from 17 to 20 November 2025.
- SFEC is coordinating with CoTC with regards to the Coho DIT program.
- The 2004 SFEC MOU will be considered for amendment given adopted CYER working group recommendations regarding reporting protocols for MSF regulations and data.

YUKON RIVER JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

For updates on the activities of the Yukon River Joint Technical Committee you may refer to the website: Yukon River Joint Technical Committee Reports | Yukon River Panel.

Review of 2024 Fisheries and Treaty-Related Performance

FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON

The data presented in this summary are accurate as of the time of publication. For updates and access to the data please see our FRP Annual Report App found at: psc1.shinyapps.io/PSC_Annual_Fraser. The following paragraphs describe the planning of the 2024 season, the in-season Panel management actions and the outcome in terms of the achieving Panel objectives:

Pre-season Planning

1. Pre-season, the median run size forecast (p50 level, Appendix B) was 567,000 Fraser River sockeye salmon and there was a one in two chance that the run size would be between 299,000 and 1,121,000. This was the lowest run size forecast on record.
2. Pre-season expectations of migration parameters included a 33% diversion rate for Fraser River sockeye salmon through Johnstone Strait. The Panel adopted the following Area 20 50% migration dates: July 7 for Early Stuart, July 19 for Early Summer, July 30 for Summer, and August 7 for Late-run sockeye salmon.
3. At median (p50) forecast abundance levels, pre-season spawning escapement goals were 180 Early Stuart, 131,400 Early Summer, 379,000 Summer, and 29,000 Late-run sockeye for a total of 539,600 sockeye salmon.
4. Management Adjustments (MAs) of 200 Early Stuart, 73,600 Early Summer, 106,100 Summer-run, and 14,200 Late-run sockeye were added to the spawning escapement targets to increase the likelihood of achieving the targets.
5. There was no projected Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of Fraser River sockeye salmon based on the median forecasted abundances and agreed deductions.
6. The Panel adopted the 2024 Fraser River Panel Management Plan and 2024 Regulations.

In-season Management Considerations

7. As the Early Stuart pre-season forecast was very small, less than 180 fish, no in-season assessments were done for this management group.
8. The in-season marine migration timing was earlier than pre-season expectations for the Early Summer run, and later for the Summer run and Late run: 5 days early for the Early Summer run, 3 days later for the Summer run and 5 days later for the Late run. In-season marine migration timing was not determined for Early Stuarts as no in-season assessments were done for this management group.

9. The overall Johnstone Strait diversion rate for Fraser River sockeye was 41% which was slightly higher than the pre-season forecast.

10. Returns for Fraser sockeye salmon were below the median pre-season forecast for all management groups: Early Summer run: 11%, Summer run: 19% and, Late run: 14%.

11. Throughout the season, extremely high temperatures and low discharge caused migration challenges for all management groups. The Panel adopted proportional Management Adjustments (pMAs) for Early Stuart and Summer run based on the retrospective analysis presented to the Panel pre-season to ensure spawning escapement targets were met. No in-season changes were made to the Early Summer run as the pre-season model was identified as the best approach based on the retrospective analysis. For Late run, changes to the MA were the result of change in relative abundance for the Birkenhead/Big Silver and non-Birkenhead/Big Silver groups, not due to change in method.

12. A landslide on the Chilcotin River on July 30, severely impacted migration conditions for all sockeye migrating through the Fraser River, due to the high turbidity and sediment loads. Taseko and Chilko sockeye salmon were especially impacted as there was a full blockage on the river, for 6 days, downstream of the spawning grounds during the key migration window. As a result of the slide, Chilko spawners (53,000 with 30% females) arrived at the spawning grounds over one month after the slide breached.

Run Size, Catch, Escapement and Migration patterns

13. A revision to the estimated total run size was made post-season resulting in an increase to the total sockeye passage at Mission to 647,700. This was made as species composition information collected at Mission highlighted an underestimation of sockeye and over estimation of Chinook salmon in the 2024 season.

14. Estimated returns of adult Fraser sockeye totalled 667,300 fish which was the third smallest run size on record but 45% greater than the run size of 365,200 fish in the primary brood year (2020). Divided into management groups, adult returns totalled 600 Early Stuart, 198,100 Early Summer-run, 429,600 Summer-run and 38,900 Late-run sockeye.

15. All Fraser River sockeye management groups remained in a low abundance exploitation rate (LAER).

16. Catches of Fraser River sockeye salmon in all fisheries totalled 24,000 fish, including 18,200 fish caught by Canada, and 5,800 fish caught by test fisheries. There was no catch in Washington.

17. The Canadian catch, 18,200, was a mix of First Nations Catch, 500 and non-commercial catch, 17,700, which included ‘other’ catch (17,400; unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species). The preliminary estimate of Alaska District 104 sockeye catch is 4,200.

The overall exploitation rate of Fraser River sockeye salmon was 4% of the run, which excludes Alaska District 104 catch. This sockeye exploitation rate is the second lowest on record.

18. DFO's near-final estimates of adult spawning escapements to streams in the Fraser River watershed totalled 465,300 adult sockeye and were below cycle line averages for all run timing groups except Early Summer. This was the second lowest escapement on record following the Fraser sockeye 2020 brood year escapement of 273,000 adults, which was impacted by the Big Bar landslide. In 2024, there were 186,117 effective female spawners in the Fraser watershed and overall spawning success was 81%.

Achievement of Objectives

19. In order of descending priority, the goals of the Panel are to achieve the targets for spawning escapement, international sharing of the TAC, and domestic catch allocation.

20. In-season management decisions are based on targets for spawning escapement, which are represented in-season by potential spawning escapement targets (i.e., spawning escapement targets plus MAs). The Panel adopted larger MAs in-season to ensure the spawning escapement targets were met for Early Stuart and Summer run, while the pre-season MAs for Early Summer was not changed. For Late run, the Panel adopted a change in stock proportions between Birkenhead/Big Silver and non-Birkenhead/Big Silver resulting in a small change to the MA.

21. In-season, the spawning escapement target equalled the run size for Early Stuart, Summer and Late run. For Early Summer run, the spawning escapement target was very close to the run size, so the escapement target could only be obtained in the absence of catches and limited difference between estimates. Even with the rigorous management approach that was applied in 2024, spawning escapement targets could not be met for any management groups given the challenging migration conditions encountered in 2024. The exploitation rates for all management groups were lower than their respective LAERs.

22. Post-season spawning ground estimates of Fraser sockeye abundance totalled 465,300 adults, which is 23% less than the post-season target. Spawner abundance was below target for Early Stuart sockeye (100% under), above target for Early Summer-run (31% over), below target for Summer-run (39% under) and below target for Late-run sockeye (18% under). While the Early Stuart spawning escapement was well below target, there were a record number of jacks that returned to the area, 330, compared to previous years. The Early Summer run management group exceeded its spawning escapement target by 31% due to Nadina sockeye which returned in greater numbers than expected and accounted for 70% of the Early Summer-run escapement. All other Early Summer run stocks returned at or below the post-season target.

23. There was no available international TAC of Fraser sockeye based on the calculation method set out in Annex IV, Chapter 4 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Canada reported 'other' sockeye catch (unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species). The total Canadian catch of 18,200 Fraser sockeye (excluding single stock food, social and ceremonial (SSFSC) catch) consisted mostly of 'other' catch as well as 500 First Nations catch and 200 fish caught in the Charter test fisheries (Albion). This Canadian catch exceeded the Canadian share of TAC + Aboriginal Fisheries Exemption (AFE). In these calculations, the TAC is based on the TAC on the date of the last adopted run size in-season (August 23, 2024), while catches are post-season estimates.

Allocation Status

24. By Panel agreement there is a United States (U.S.) payback of 2,390 Fraser River sockeye, carried forward from the 2023 season.

2024 POST-SEASON REPORT UNITED STATES SALMON FISHERIES OF RELEVANCE TO THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

2024 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the conduct of Alaska fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) that occurred during 2024 in the area south and east of Cape Suckling, Alaska and north of the U.S./Canada border. These fisheries were conducted under preseason management plans that were consistent with Annex IV of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Agreement, including obligations defined within Chapter 3 for Chinook salmon aggregate abundance-based management regimes (AABM). Preliminary data suggest that all Treaty obligations were met. Harvests of sockeye salmon in Alaska will be below annual allowable harvests in the District 101 drift gillnet, District 104 purse seine, Stikine River, and Taku River fisheries. For Chinook salmon, all fisheries were managed conservatively and monitored closely inseason to avoid exceeding the preseason catch limit. The 2024 all-gear Treaty harvest of 207,811 was below the catch limit of 211,400 based on the pre-season AI from the PSC Chinook Model and the ACL specified in Table 1 of Chapter 3.

NORTHERN BOUNDARY AREA FISHERIES

District 104 Purse Seine Fishery

The 2019 PST Agreement calls for abundance-based management of the District 104 purse seine fishery. The Agreement allows the District 104 purse seine fishery to harvest 2.45 percent of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon prior to ADF&G statistical week 31 (referred to as the Treaty period). The AAH is calculated as the total combined run of Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon minus either the escapement requirement of 1.1 million (200,000 Nass River and 900,000 Skeena River) or the actual in-

river escapement, whichever is less. The preliminary annual allowable harvest in the District 104 purse seine fishery for 2024 was approximately 52,000 fish.

The District 104 purse seine fishery opens by regulation on the first Sunday in July. In 2024, the first potential opening was July 7 (week 28). The pre-week 31 fishing plan for District 104 was based on preseason DFO forecast runs of approximately 2.01 million Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon. In the 2024 Treaty period (Alaska statistical weeks 28–30), 46,736 sockeye salmon were harvested during one 12-hour and one 15-hour opening in week 29, and one 15-hour and one 10-hour opening in week 30 (Table 1). A total of 58 purse seine vessels fished at some point in the district during the Treaty period. The preliminary total return to the Nass and Skeena Rivers was much higher than forecast at 3,593,012 fish, which increased the allowable harvest in District 104 to 61,079 fish. The preliminary estimate of the number of Nass and Skeena sockeye salmon harvested during the Treaty period in District 104 was 29,093 fish, which resulted in an underage of 31,986 fish.

In 2024, a total of 4,554,108 pink, 142,129 sockeye, 300,219 chum, 72,860 coho, and 7,624 Chinook salmon were harvested in the District 104 purse seine fishery (Table 1). The number of days that the fishery was open was slightly below average, and the number of boats fishing was 45% of the 1985–2023 average (Figure 1 and 2). A total of 7,624 Chinook salmon were harvested from week 30 to 33 (Figure 3). Sockeye salmon harvests were well below average in all weeks except week 30 (Figure 4). The Treaty period (week 28–30) harvest of 46,736 fish was 53% of the long-term average (1985–2023). The total sockeye salmon harvest of 142,129 fish was 32% of the long-term average of 439,000 fish. Harvests of coho salmon were above average in weeks 29 and 30, but then dropped below average for the remainder of the season (Figure 5). The overall harvest of 72,860 fish was 69% of average. The overall pink salmon harvest of 4,554,108 fish was 60% of average (Figure 6). Finally, the chum salmon harvest of 300,219 fish was 105% of average (Figure 7).

Since the PST was signed in 1985, the number of hours open, boats fished, and boat-days fished in the pre-week 31 Treaty period in District 104 are down 57%, 65% and 86% respectively compared to averages in the pre-Treaty 1980–1984 period (Table 2). The total pre-week 31 Treaty-period sockeye salmon harvest is also down 53%. The purse seine fleet moves freely between districts as various species are harvested, so seining opportunities elsewhere affect the effort and harvest in District 104.

Table 1. Weekly salmon harvest and fishing effort in the Alaska District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

Week/ Opening	Start Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Hours
29	14-Jul	0	2,124	2,003	17,560	8,734	13	12
29B	18-Jul	4	8,145	10,919	81,782	16,101	16	15
30	21-Jul	9	26,505	9,634	286,861	35,675	25	15
30B	25-Jul	1,082	9,962	4,778	207,069	23,077	50	10
31	28-Jul	75	24,874	8,354	819,436	42,724	44	15
31B	1-Aug	2,510	29,568	8,754	1,126,215	53,260	73	15
32	5-Aug	2,210	17,167	7,948	765,685	35,414	49	39
32B	8-Aug	13	13,837	9,655	657,489	63,473	42	39
33	12-Aug	1,721	7,279	6,412	430,436	14,635	23	39
33B	16-Aug	0	1,846	2,093	100,332	3,140	8	39
34-35	20-Aug	0	822	2,310	61,243	3,986	17	117
							Permits Fished	
Weeks 29-30		1,095	46,736	27,334	593,272	83,587	58	52
Weeks 31-35		6,529	95,393	45,526	3,960,836	216,632	80	303
Total		7,624	142,129	72,860	4,554,108	300,219	85	355

Table 2. Fishing opportunity, effort, and sockeye salmon harvest prior to week 31 in the Alaska District 104 purse seine fishery.

Year	Hours Fished	Individual Permits Fished	Days Fished (1d=15hrs)	Approximate Boat-Days	Sockeye Harvest	Sockeye Catch per Boat-Day
2024	52	58	3.5	127	46,736	368
Avg. 80–84	139	225	9	1,487	187,647	136
Avg. 85–23	60	79	4	209	88,249	482
% Change	-57%	-65%	-57%	-86%	-53%	256%

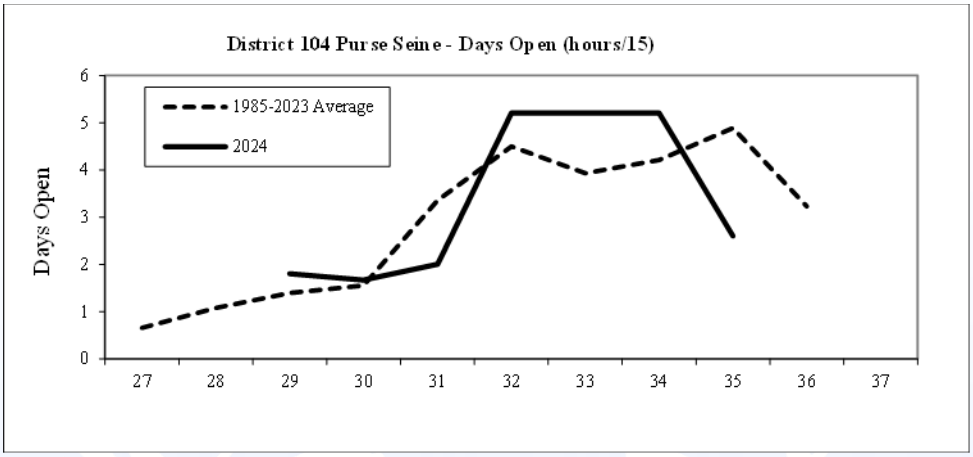


Figure 1. Days open by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

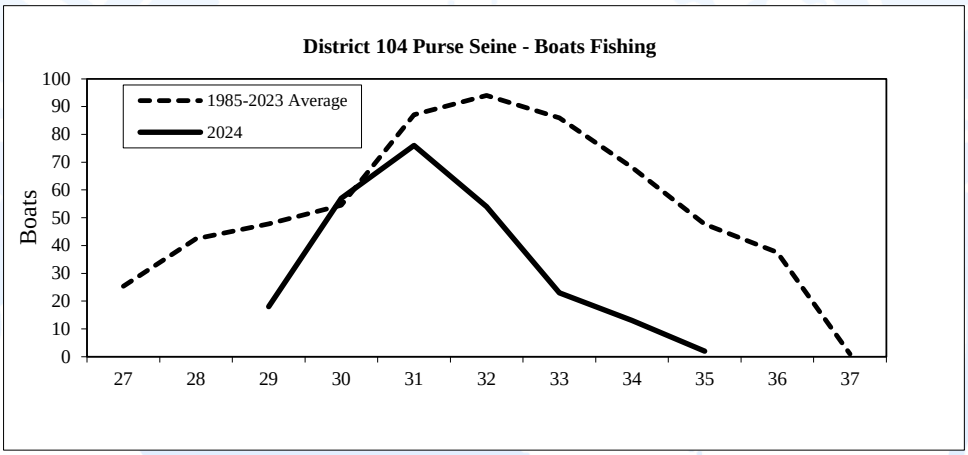


Figure 2. Number of boats fishing by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

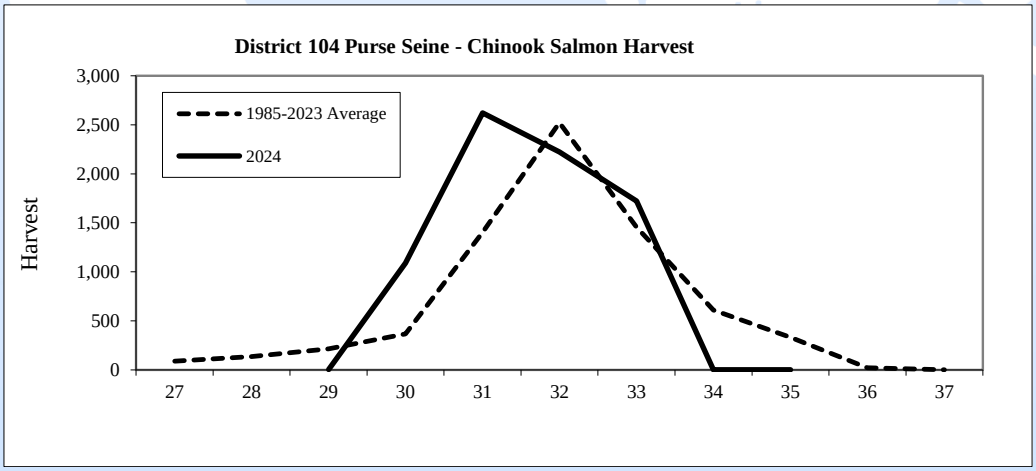


Figure 3. Chinook salmon harvest by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

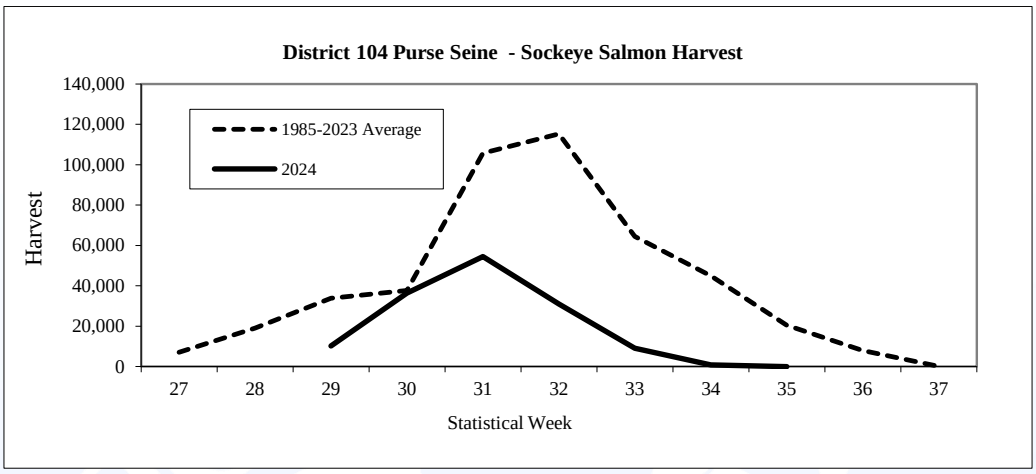


Figure 4. Sockeye salmon harvest by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

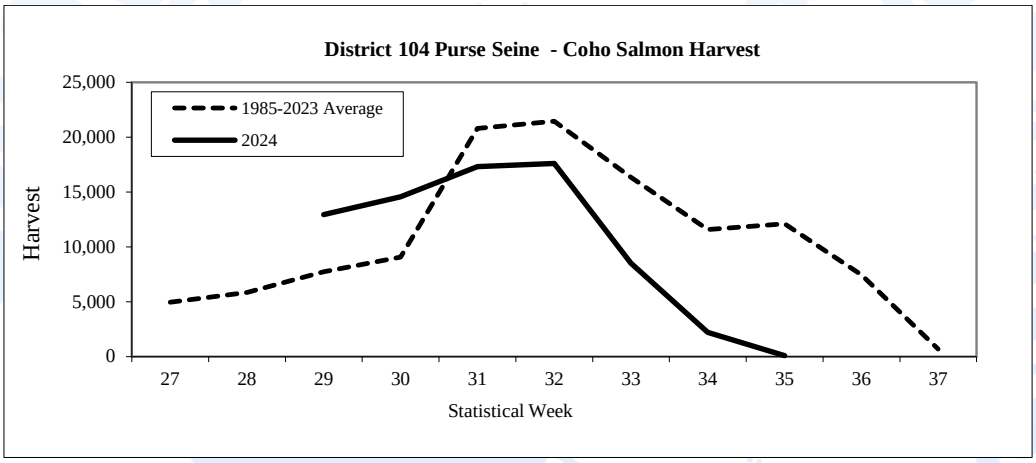


Figure 5. Coho salmon harvest by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

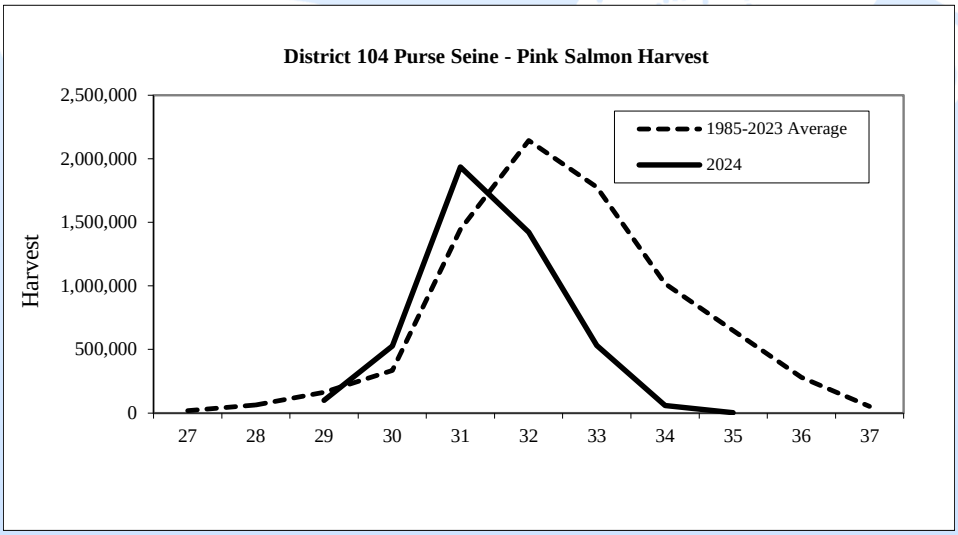


Figure 6. Pink salmon harvest by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

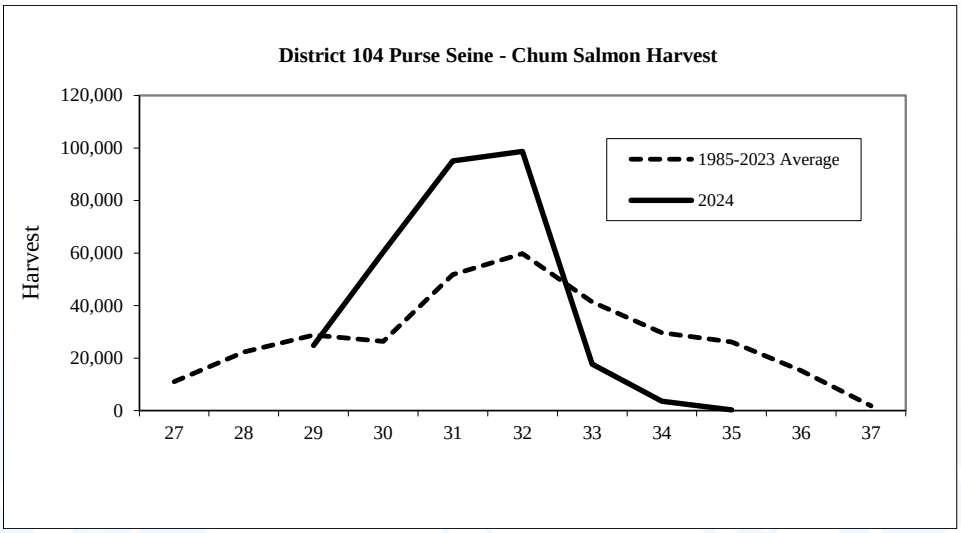


Figure 7. Chum salmon harvest by week in the District 104 purse seine fishery, 2024.

District 101 Drift Gillnet Fishery

The 2019 PST Agreement calls for abundance-based management of the District 101 (Tree Point) drift gillnet fishery. The agreement specifies that the U.S. manage for a harvest of 13.8% of the AAH of the Nass River sockeye salmon run. The AAH is calculated as the total run of Nass River sockeye salmon minus either the escapement requirement of 200,000 fish or the actual in-river escapement, whichever is less. The run of Nass River sockeye salmon was forecasted at 469,000 fish in 2024 which, minus an escapement goal of 200,000 fish, would result in an AAH of approximately 269,000 fish. Using this forecast, the 2024, the allowable harvest in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery was approximately 37,000 Nass River sockeye salmon.

The District 101 drift gillnet fishery opens by regulation on the third Sunday in June, which was June 16 (week 25) in 2024. During the early weeks of the fishery, management is based on the run strength of Alaska wild stock chum and sockeye salmon and on the run strength of Nass River sockeye salmon. Beginning in the third week of July, when pink salmon stocks begin to enter the fishery in large numbers, management emphasis shifts by regulation to that species. By regulation, the District 101 Pink Salmon Management Plan (PSMP) begins the third Sunday in July and sets drift gillnet fishing time in this district in relation to the District 101 purse seine fishing time. Beginning in week 36 (September 1) management was based on the strength of wild stock coho salmon.

The number of days the fishery opened was near or above average most of the season (Figure 8), but the number of boats fishing during weekly openings was well below average throughout the season (Figure 9). The total number of individual boats fishing during the season was 50, which was approximately 51% of the long-term (1985–2023) average of 99 boats. A total of 24,587 sockeye salmon were harvested, which was just 25% of the 1985–2023 average of 100,009 fish (Table 3). Harvests of sockeye salmon were well below average throughout the season (Figure 10). The cumulative sockeye salmon harvest prior to the initiation of the PSMP in week 30 was 13,909 fish, or about 57% of the season's total sockeye

salmon harvest. The preliminary estimate of the number of Nass River sockeye salmon harvested in 2024 was 12,868 fish. The preliminary Nass River total return was well above forecast at 789,936 fish, which resulted in an allowable harvest of 81,411 Nass River sockeye salmon and an underage of 68,543 fish for the season in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery.

Coho salmon harvests were below average early in the season but were well above average in weeks 35 through 37. The total harvest of 45,078 fish was right at average (Table 3; Figure 11). Pink salmon harvests were well below average throughout the season, and the total harvest of 88,176 fish was 19% of average (Figure 12). Chum salmon harvests were above average through week 33 and the total harvest of 401,534 fish was 138% of average (Figure 13). Chinook salmon harvests were below average in most weeks of the season (Figure 14).

Table 3. Weekly salmon harvest and fishing effort in the Alaska District 101 commercial drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

Week	Start Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Hours
25	6/16	357	2,460	33	130	22,009	15	96
26	6/23	316	1,849	98	222	44,095	32	96
27	6/30	216	4,086	78	192	70,016	37	96
28	7/7	139	3,164	144	1,883	49,099	38	96
29	7/14	86	2,350	243	5,082	48,866	36	96
30	7/21	21	3,252	248	8,942	41,513	31	96
31	7/28	7	2,730	317	10,006	34,964	27	96
32	8/4	4	2,237	355	18,105	27,350	32	120
33	8/11	4	1,349	948	18,621	23,319	24	120
34	8/18	4	558	2,574	14,755	13,458	24	120
35	8/25	3	429	9,358	8,099	17,647	30	120
36	9/1	4	110	11,060	2,000	5,543	32	96
37	9/8	5	12	13,216	128	3,073	24	120
38	9/15	0	1	5,641	11	459	20	120
39	9/22	0	0	765	0	123	8	120
Total		1,166	24,587	45,078	88,176	401,534	50	1,608
1985-2023 Avg.		1,495	100,009	46,133	454,736	291,774	99	1,389

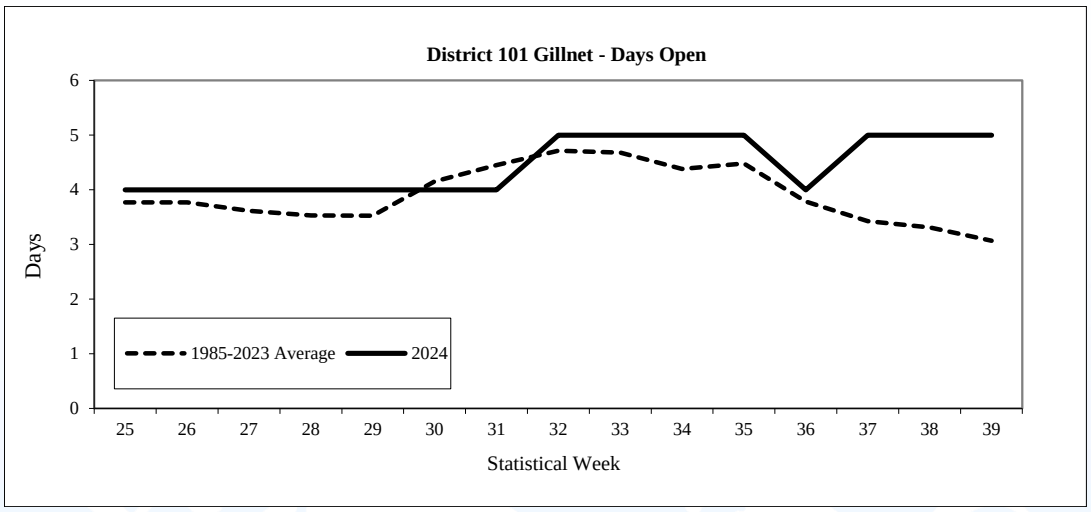


Figure 8. Days open by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

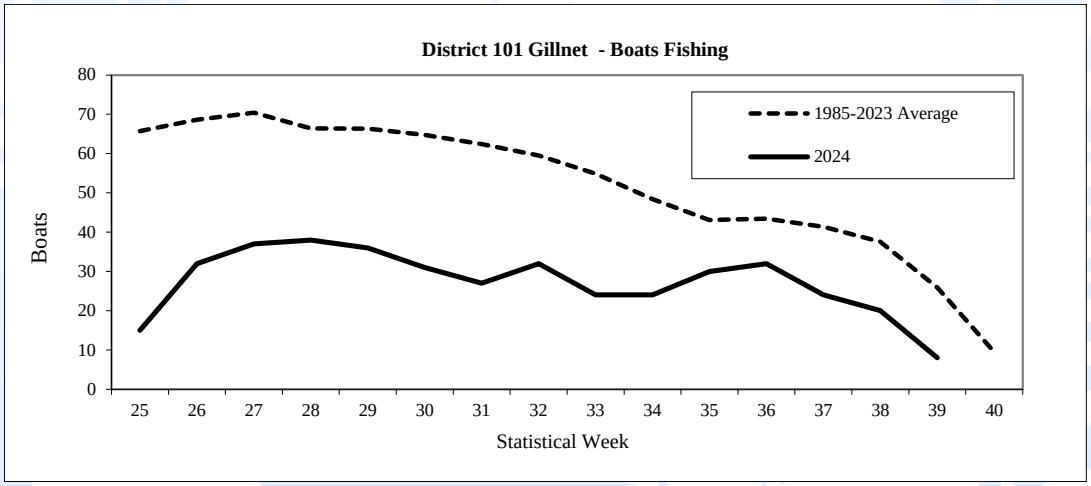


Figure 9. Number of boats fishing by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

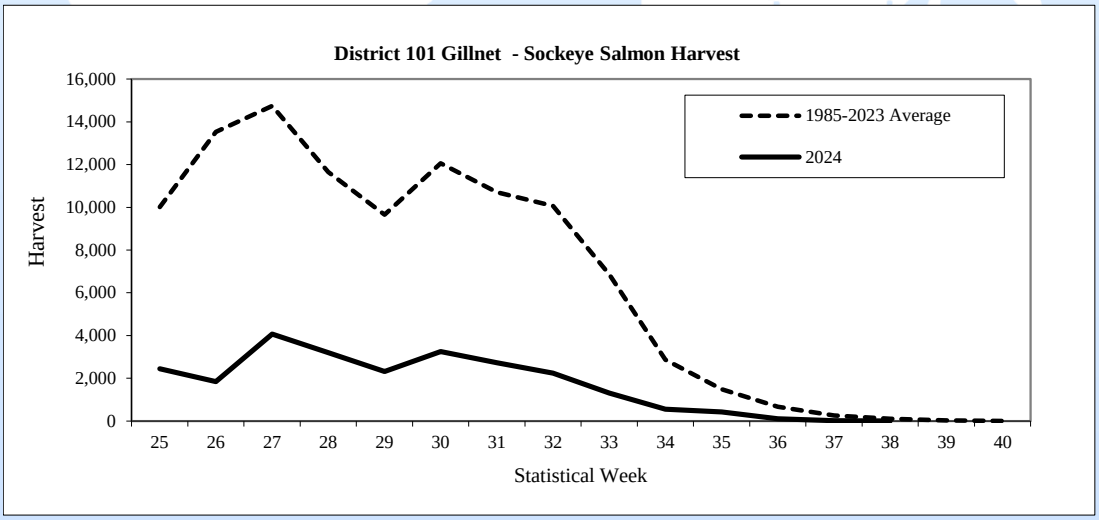


Figure 10. Sockeye salmon harvest by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

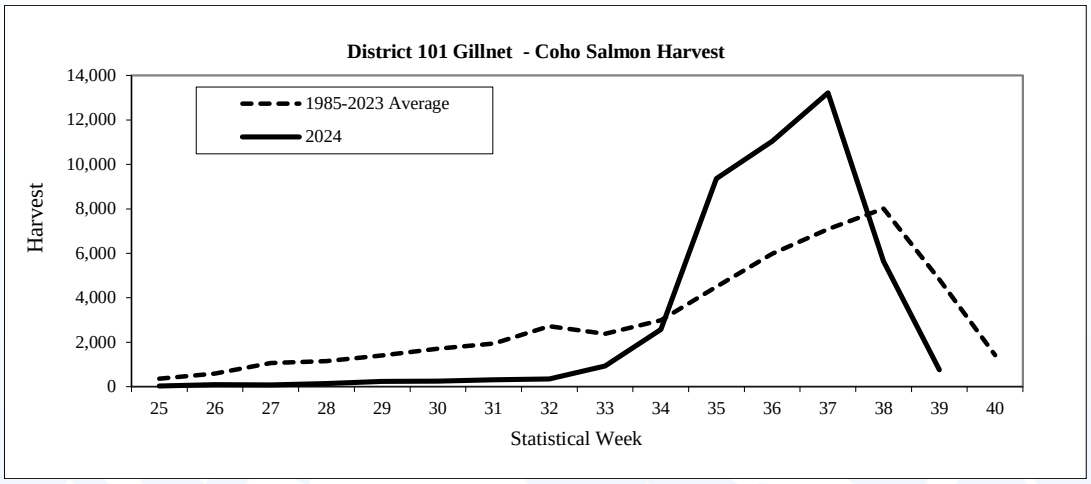


Figure 11. Coho salmon harvest by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

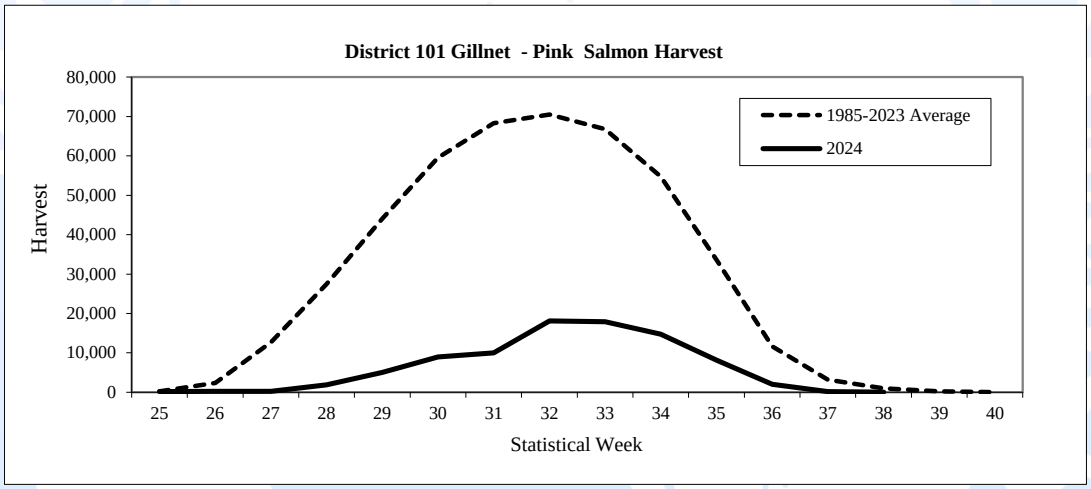


Figure 12. Pink salmon harvest by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

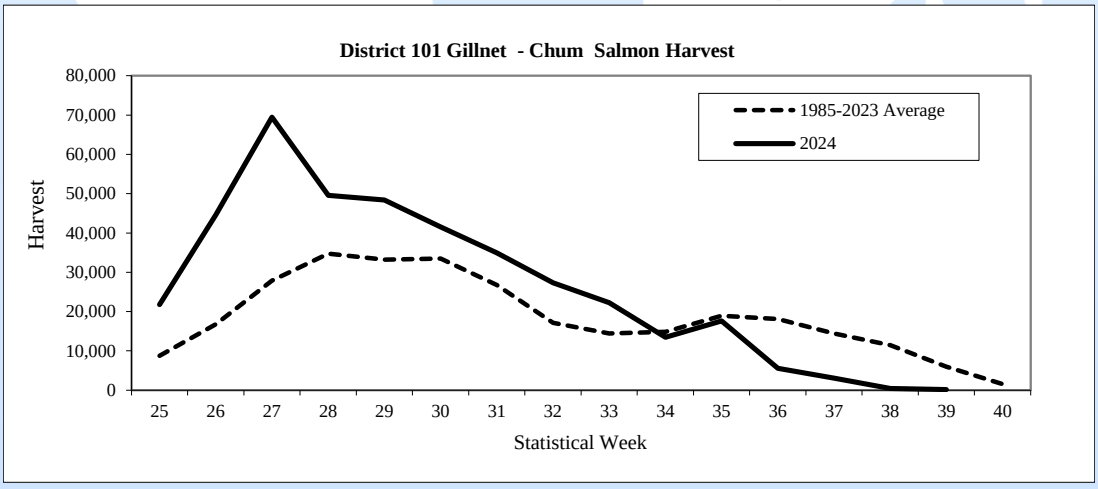


Figure 13. Chum salmon harvest by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

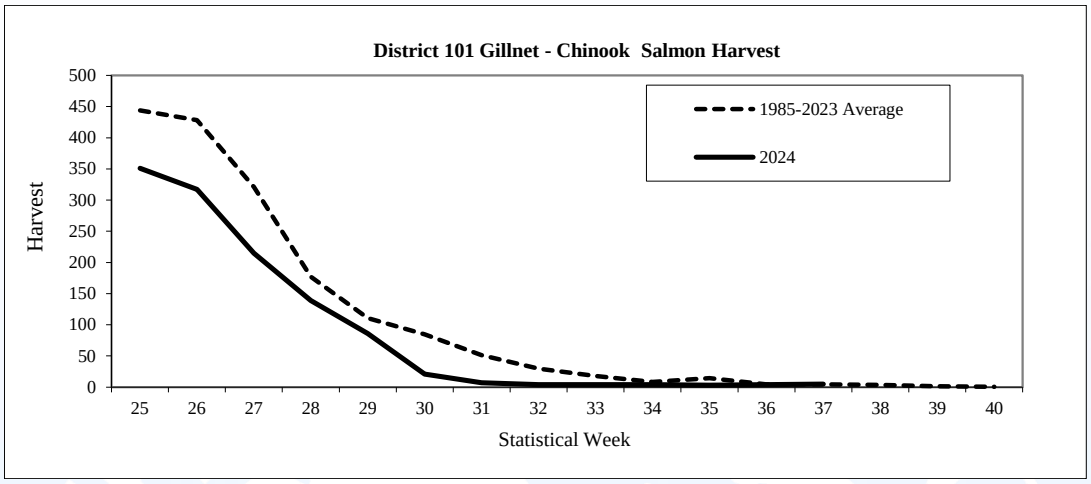


Figure 14. Chinook salmon harvest by week in the District 101 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

Pink, Sockeye, and Chum Salmon Escapements

Escapements of pink salmon were well above average in southern Southeast Alaska (SEAK), but low to average in most areas of northern SEAK. The total 2024 SEAK pink salmon escapement index of 14.40 million fish ranked 14th since 1960. Biological escapement goals were met in the Southern Southeast, Northern Southeast Inside, and Northern Southeast Outside subregions (Table 4). On a finer scale, escapements were within or above management targets for 11 of 15 districts in the region and for 38 of the 46 pink salmon stock groups in SEAK. The Southern Southeast Subregion includes all of the area from Sumner Strait south to Dixon Entrance (Districts 101–108). The escapement index value of 9.23 million was above the escapement goal range of 3.0 to 8.0 million index fish.

Table 4. Southeast Alaska 2024 pink salmon escapement indices and biological escapement goals by subregion (in millions).

Subregion	2024 Pink Salmon Index	Biological Escapement Goal	
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Southern Southeast	9.23	3.00	8.00
Northern Southeast Inside	2.79	2.50	6.00
Northern Southeast Outside	2.38	0.75	2.50
Total	14.40		

Sockeye salmon escapement levels throughout SEAK generally met goals in 2024, and lower bounds of escapement goal ranges were achieved for at least 10 of the 12 sockeye salmon systems with formal escapement goals (no escapement estimate was obtained for East Alsek sockeye salmon in 2024). The Hugh Smith Lake adult sockeye salmon escapement was 3,562 fish, which was well below the optimal escapement goal range of 8,000 to 18,000 adult sockeye salmon. Based on a mark-recapture estimate, the escapement of sockeye salmon into McDonald Lake was 61,300 fish, which was within the sustainable escapement goal range of 55,000 to 120,000 fish.

Chum salmon populations in SEAK are divided into two runs based on migration timing: summer-run fish peak during the period mid-July to mid-August and fall-run fish peak in September or later. For summer-run chum salmon, lower bound sustainable escapement goals were achieved for only one of the three subregions in SEAK. The Southern Southeast summer-run chum salmon stock group is composed of an aggregate of 15 summer-run chum salmon streams on the inner islands and mainland of southern SEAK, from Sumner Strait south to Dixon Entrance, with a sustainable escapement goal of 62,000 index spawners (based on the aggregate peak survey to all 15 streams). Summer chum salmon escapements were above average at many index streams in southern SEAK, and the index of 111,000 fish was well above the sustainable escapement goal (Figure 15).

Cholmondeley Sound is the only area in southern SEAK with a formal escapement goal for fall chum salmon. Fall chum salmon runs are monitored in Cholmondeley Sound through aerial surveys at Disappearance and Lagoon creeks. The escapement index of 38,000 fish was within the sustainable escapement goal range of 30,000 to 48,000 index spawners (based on the aggregate peak survey to both streams; Figure 16).

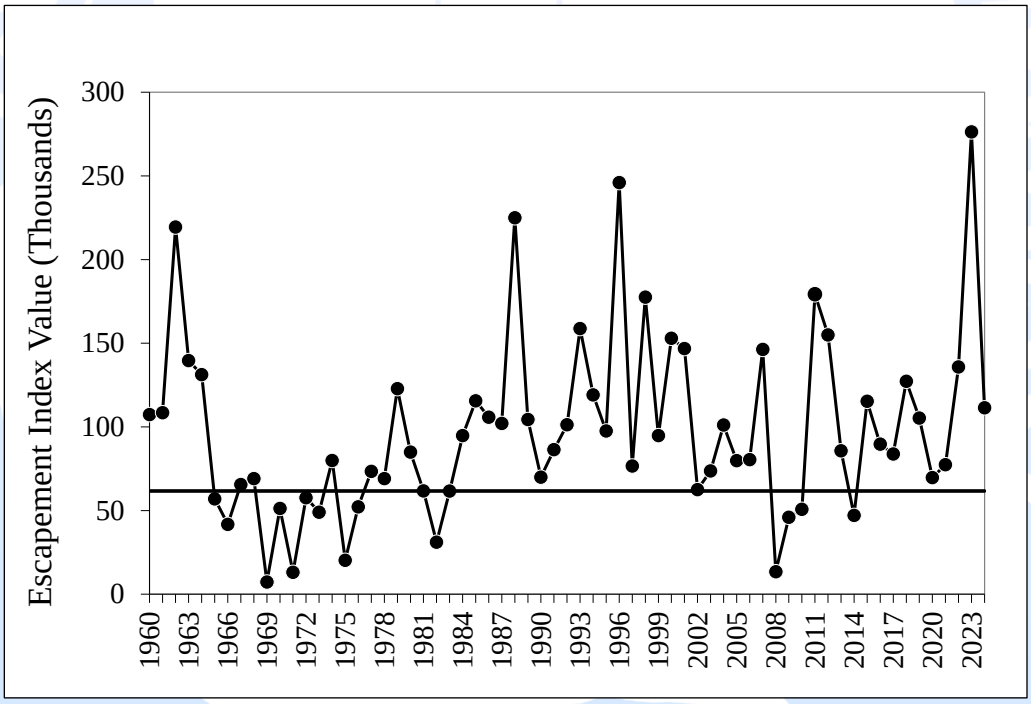


Figure 15. Observed escapement index value by year (solid circles) and the sustainable escapement goal threshold of 62,000 index spawners (horizontal line) for wild summer-run chum salmon in the Southern Southeast Subregion, 1960–2024.

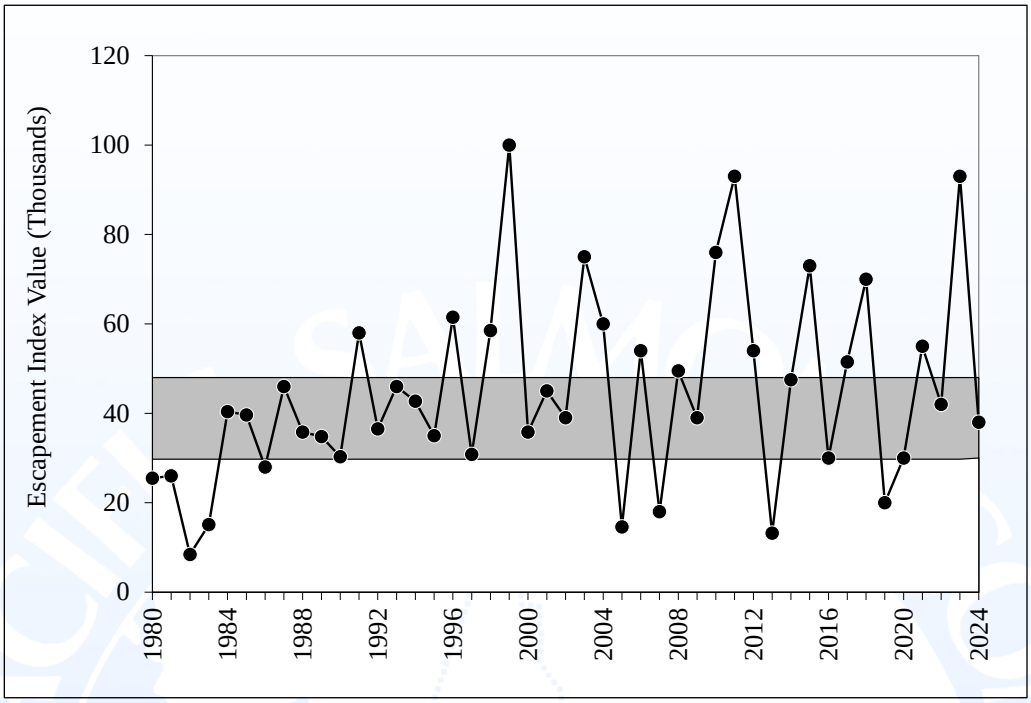


Figure 16. Observed escapement index value by year (solid circles) and the sustainable escapement goal range of 30,000 to 48,000 index spawners (shaded area) for Cholmondeley Sound fall-run chum salmon, 1980–2024.

TRANSBOUNDARY AREA FISHERIES

Stikine River Area Fisheries

The 2024 preseason forecast for large Chinook salmon (≥660 mm mid eye to tail fork length) returning to the Stikine River was approximately 12,900 fish, which did not allow for directed Chinook salmon fisheries in District 108. The final escapement estimate of Stikine River large Chinook salmon was 9,835 fish.

The 2024 preseason forecast for sockeye salmon returning to the Stikine River was 130,000 fish, which was above the 2014–2023 average of approximately 102,000 fish. The 2024 forecast included approximately 57,000 wild Tahltan (44%), 42,000 enhanced Tahltan (32%), and 30,000 mainstem (23%) sockeye salmon. During the first half of the sockeye salmon management period, fishing periods in District 108, and to a lesser extent in District 106, were determined by the inseason abundance estimate of the Tahltan Lake stock. Management actions during the second half of the sockeye salmon fishery became focused on the mainstem Stikine River stock in District 108, while returns to local area systems were the focus in District 106. Typically, Tahltan Lake sockeye salmon exhibit peak run timing in District 106 fisheries during week 26 (June 23–29) and District 108 fisheries during week 27 (June 30–July 6). During an average Tahltan Lake run, significant numbers of sockeye salmon could be present as early as week 24 (June 9–15) and as late as week 33 (August 11–August 17). The 2024 runs of local area sockeye salmon stocks were generally very good.

Due to the poor performance of SEAK Chinook salmon stocks, restrictions were implemented in District 106 and 108 drift gillnet fisheries. In District 106, the initial opening was delayed by

one week until week 25 (June 16) and a 6-inch maximum mesh restriction was in place through week 29 (July 20). The initial opening in District 108 was delayed until week 26 (June 23) and the District 108 spring troll hatchery access fishery was closed for 2024. Commercial trolling remained closed to Chinook salmon retention in District 108 until the second opening of the summer troll fishery. Therefore, no Stikine River origin Chinook were harvested in the troll fishery during the reporting period. The District 108 sport fishery was closed to retention of Chinook between April 1 and July 14. The only sport harvest of Chinook in District 108 within the reporting period occurred in week 29 (July 14–20) starting July 15 or within the City Creek release site which provides opportunity for Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook after June 14. The genetic-based District 108 sport harvest estimate was zero Stikine River large Chinook salmon during the accounting period. The U.S. preliminary harvest estimate of Stikine River large Chinook salmon in all District 108 fisheries was estimated to be 37 fish (15 in the commercial gillnet fishery, zero from the sport fishery, and 22 from the federal subsistence fishery); well below the U.S. base level catch of 3,400 fish.

The District 106 drift gillnet sockeye salmon fishery opened Sunday, June 16 (week 25) and the District 108 drift gillnet fishery first opened Sunday, June 23 (week 26). Considering the forecast predicted a Tahltan run above the escapement goal range, managers focused on inseason indicators to assess how the run was progressing in relation to the forecast. In week 25, District 106 was opened for three days with effort in the district below average (18 vs 38 permits). Harvest was approximately 3,100 sockeye salmon, much higher when compared to the 2014–2023 average of approximately 1,700 fish. In week 26, both districts were originally opened for two days with District 108 being restricted to subdistricts 108-30 and 108-60 (the upper part of Sumner Strait and the upper part of Frederick Sound). Surveys of fishermen on the grounds indicated above average catch rates from below average participation, particularly in District 108. As such, both districts were extended for 24 hours. In weeks 27 and 28, both districts were originally opened for three days and subsequently extended for 48 hours based again on above average catch rates and below average effort. For week 27 there were 35 permits vs the average of 46 permits in District 106 and 18 vs the average of 32 in District 108. In week 28, effort was near average in District 106 with 42 permits vs the average of 47 permits but far below average in District 108 with only 19 compared to the average of 32 permits. Mesh restrictions were in place through week 29 in District 106 and through week 30 in District 108. Area restrictions continued to be in place for District 108 until week 31 when the open area was expanded to include the lower part of Frederick Sound (108-50), the Chichagof Straits (108-10), and the upper Stikine Strait (108-20). Open time in District 106 was the same as in 108 except when it was limited to two days per week in weeks 29 through 31 for McDonald Lake sockeye salmon conservation (Table 5 and Table 6). The postseason assessment for Stikine River sockeye salmon was a terminal run of 192,900 fish

Districts 106 and 108 were managed based on pink salmon abundance during the month of August and in late August management focus switched to coho salmon. The number of boats participating in the District 106 fishery was well below average from mid-July through the remainder of the season (Figure 18). Participation dropped through the season and the seasonal number of permits fished was 69% of average (Table 5). The number of boats

participating in the District 108 fishery was also well below average for the entire 2024 season (Figure 25). The 69 permits fished was 70% of the average of 98 permits (Figure 25; Table 7).

During the 2024 season, 15,217 pink salmon, 40,687 sockeye salmon, 125,083 chum salmon, 57,780 coho salmon, and 1,126 Chinook salmon were harvested in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery (Table 5). Chinook salmon harvests were below average in most weeks of the season (Figure 19); the harvest was comprised of 36% Alaska hatchery origin fish. Sockeye salmon harvests were near or above average through mid-July and below average through the rest of the season (Figure 20). The total sockeye salmon harvest of 40,687 fish was 76% of the 2014–2023 average and the number estimated to be of Stikine River origin was 12,600 fish. Harvests of coho salmon were below average in most weeks of the season and the overall harvest of 57,780 coho salmon was 54% of the 2014–2023 average of 107,224 fish (Figure 21). Pink salmon harvests were well below average throughout the season (Figure 22), and the overall harvest of 15,217 fish was only 6% of average. Chum salmon harvests were well above average through mid-July and then dropped below average through the end of the season. The overall chum salmon harvest of 125,083 fish was 77% of average (Figure 23).

During the 2024 season, 2,504 pink salmon, 16,167 sockeye salmon, 88,229 chum salmon, 9,538 coho salmon, and 535 Chinook salmon were harvested in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery (Table 6). Due to the late start of the fishery, few Chinook salmon were harvested (Figure 26). An estimated 37 Stikine River large Chinook salmon were harvested in District 108 by commercial drift gillnet, subsistence, and sport fisheries during the reporting period (weeks 19–29). Despite low effort and large area restrictions, District 108 drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvests were near average for the sockeye salmon season (weeks 26–31). The total harvest of 16,167 fish was 105% of the 2014–2023 average (Figure 27). The number of sockeye salmon estimated to be Stikine River origin was 14,400 fish. The overall coho salmon harvest of 9,538 fish was 46% of average (Table 6, Figure 28). The pink salmon harvest of 2,504 fish was only 10% of average (Figure 29) and the chum salmon harvest of 88,229 fish was 81% of the 2014–2023 average (Figure 30).

Table 5. Weekly salmon harvest and fishing effort in the Alaskan District 106 commercial drift gillnet fisheries, 2023.

Week	Start Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Days	Boat Days
25	18-Jun	124	2,401	89	1,177	4,308	35	3	105
26	25-Jun	229	3,755	573	9,422	24,120	41	3	123
27	2-Jul	110	5,942	607	12,810	26,125	51	4	204
28	9-Jul	168	9,768	1,544	8,515	35,426	47	3	141
29	16-Jul	28	4,064	1,850	18,888	14,316	47	2	94
30	23-Jul	12	3,721	1,748	24,275	13,614	48	2	96
31	30-Jul	21	5,730	1,995	21,867	8,638	32	3	96
32	6-Aug	22	3,933	3,312	15,124	12,451	34	5	170
33	13-Aug	1	1,637	2,867	9,260	8,517	25	5	125
34	20-Aug	2	985	3,056	3,672	5,316	26	5	130
35	27-Aug	3	250	1,843	385	2,014	20	4	80
36	3-Sep	13	146	9,188	650	15,769	30	5	150
37	10-Sep	5	2	5,324	3	5,632	29	5	145
38	17-Sep	3	0	3,878	0	1,772	17	4	68
39-41	24-Sep	0	0	4,462	0	1,151	12	12	144
Total		741	42,334	42,336	126,048	179,169	99	65	1,871
2013-2022 Average		1,790	53,880	107,224	291,839	154,053	137	46	2,431
2023 as % of Average		41%	79%	39%	43%	116%	72%	141%	77%

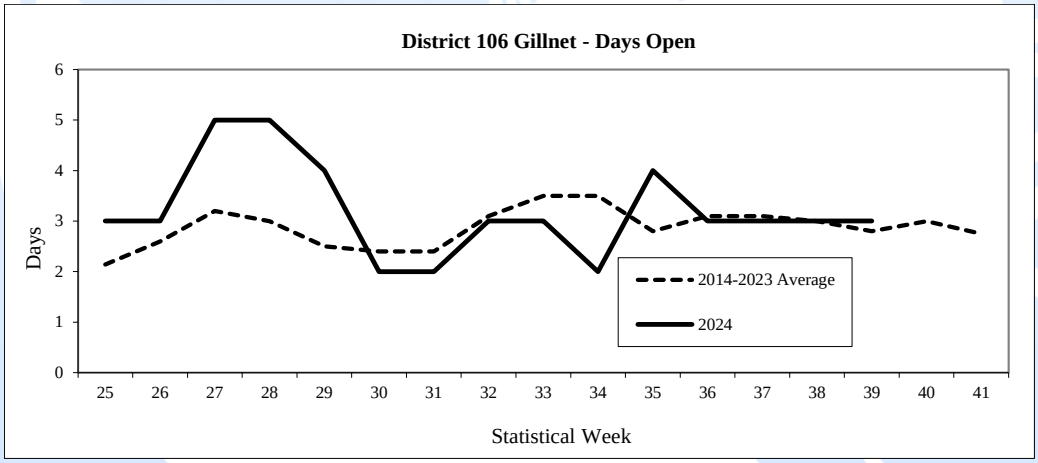


Figure 17. Days open by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

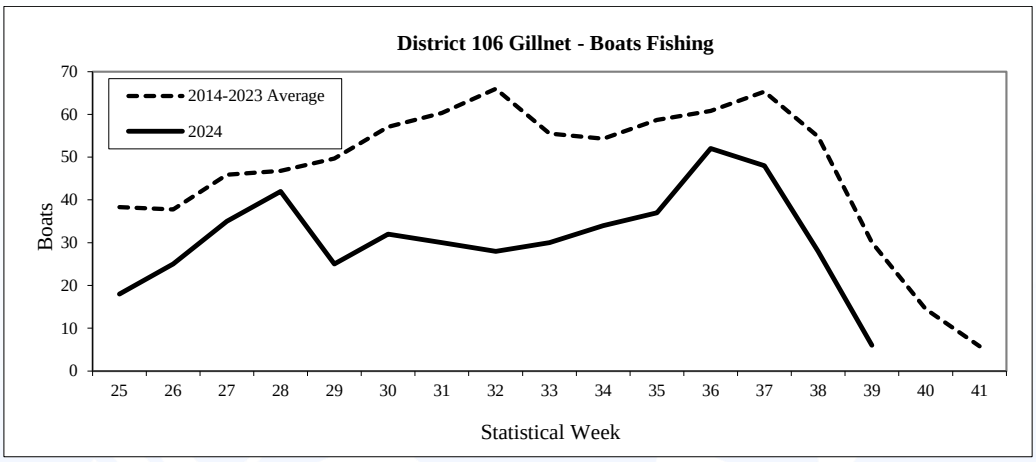


Figure 18. Number of boats fishing by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

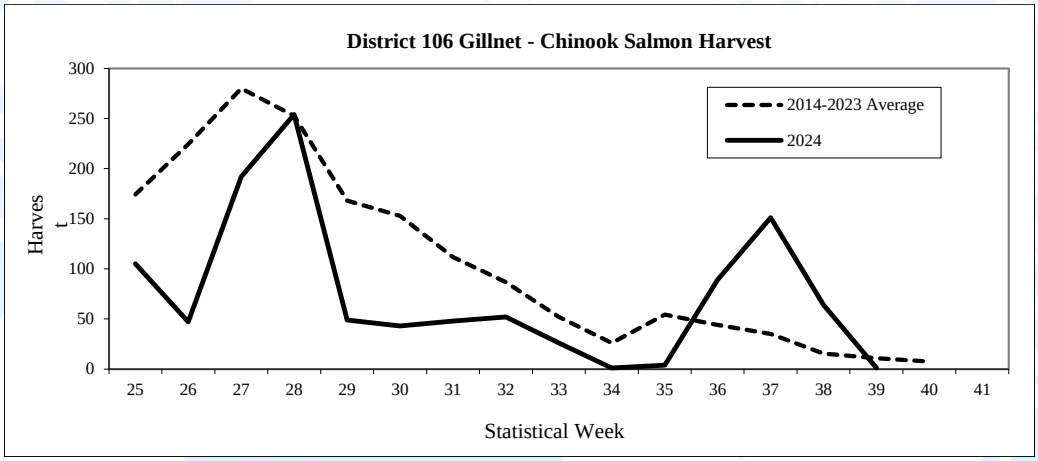


Figure 19. Chinook salmon harvest by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

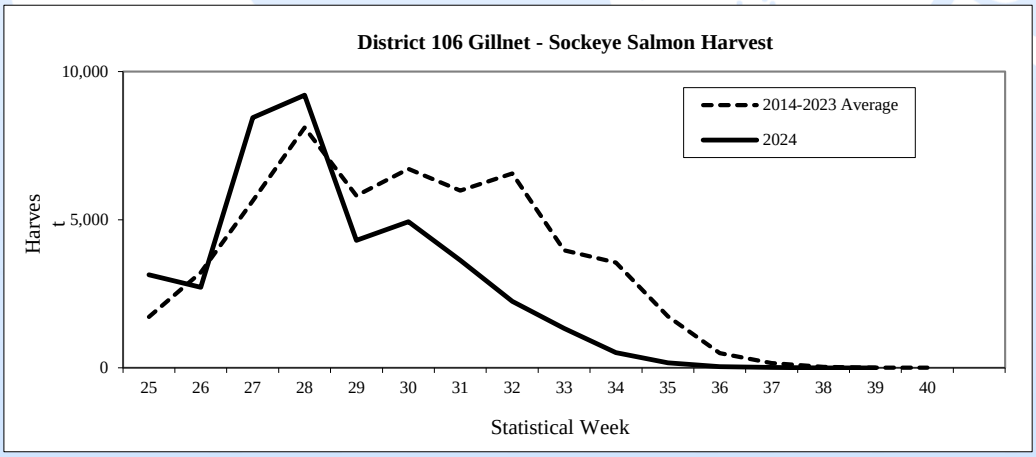


Figure 20. Sockeye salmon harvest by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

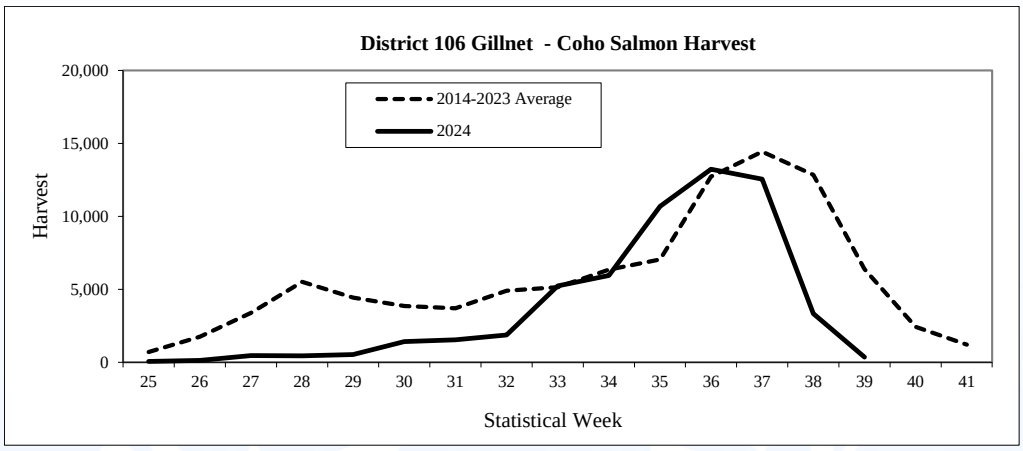


Figure 21. Coho salmon harvest by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

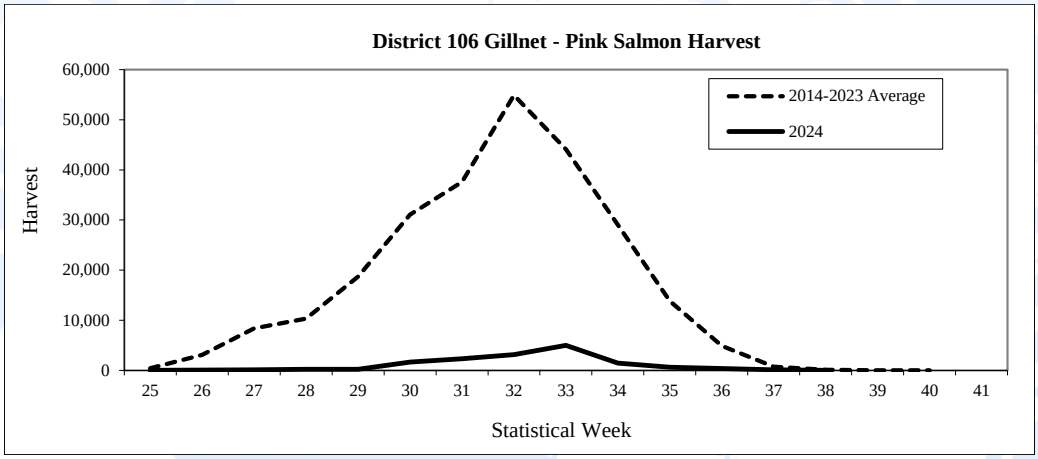


Figure 22. Pink salmon harvest by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

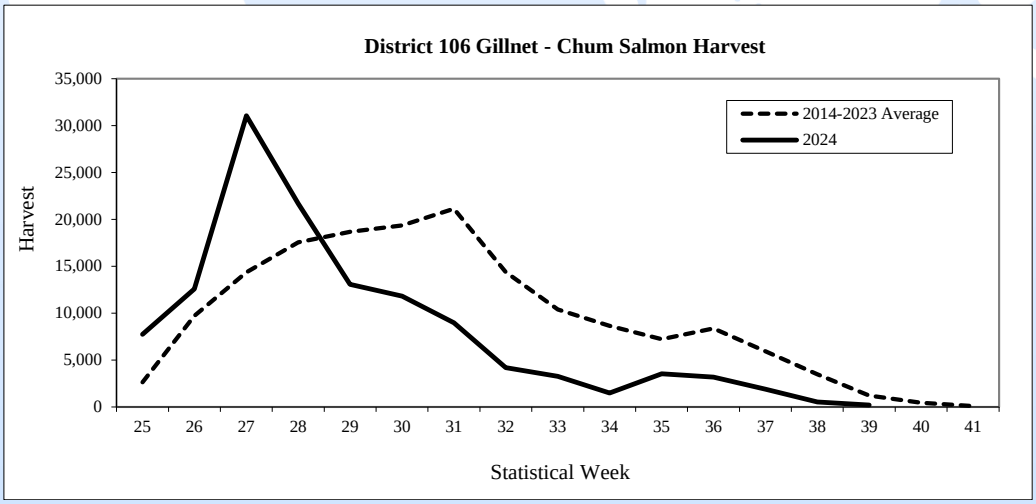


Figure 23. Chum salmon harvest by week in the District 106 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

Table 6. Weekly salmon harvest and fishing effort in the Alaskan District 108 commercial drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

Week	Start Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Days	Boat Days
26	23-Jun	94	2,103	1	0	686	11	2	22
27	30-Jun	115	5,061	10	2	7,264	18	5	90
28	7-Jul	43	2,596	3	2	10,500	19	5	95
29	14-Jul	58	2,181	56	62	4,827	22	2	44
30	21-Jul	59	2,007	53	284	14,052	34	2	68
31	28-Jul	102	1,694	358	1,126	27,549	40	2	80
32	4-Aug	26	313	263	447	14,619	22	3	66
33	11-Aug	16	153	485	282	6,519	16	3	48
34	18-Aug	4	36	686	95	1,335	10	2	20
35	25-Aug	11	15	2,636	197	733	15	4	60
36	1-Sep	2	6	2,443	3	94	14	3	42
37	8-Sep	4	1	1,997	4	27	14	3	42
38	15-Sep	0	1	455	0	5	7	3	21
39	22-Sep	1	0	92	0	19	3	3	9
Total		535	16,167	9,538	2,504	88,229	69	42	707
2014-2023 Average		4,645	15,462	20,531	23,975	109,454	98	44	1,360
2024 as % of Average		12%	105%	46%	10%	81%	70%	95%	52%

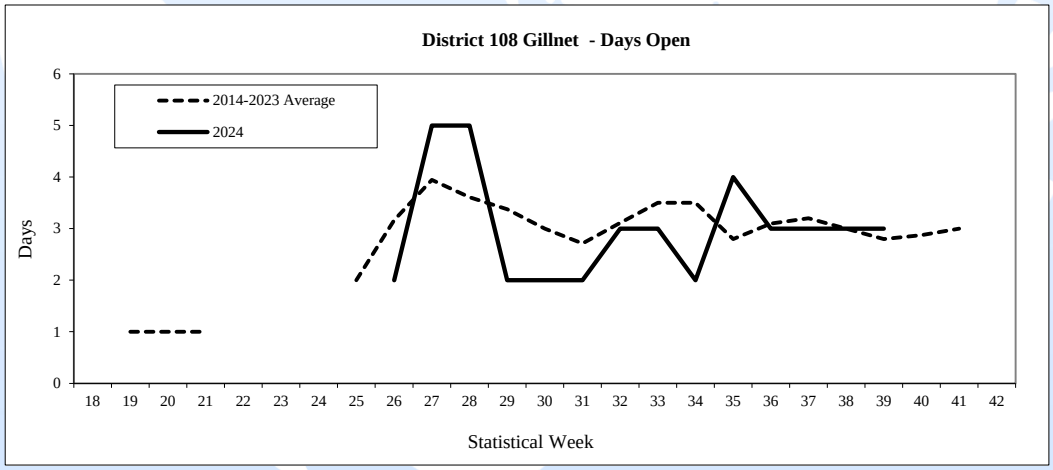


Figure 24. Days open by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

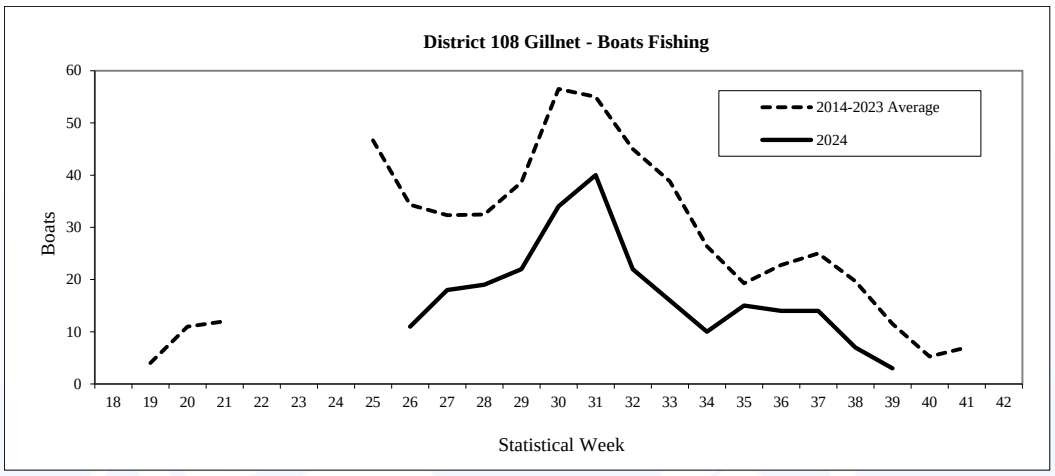


Figure 25. Number of boats fishing by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

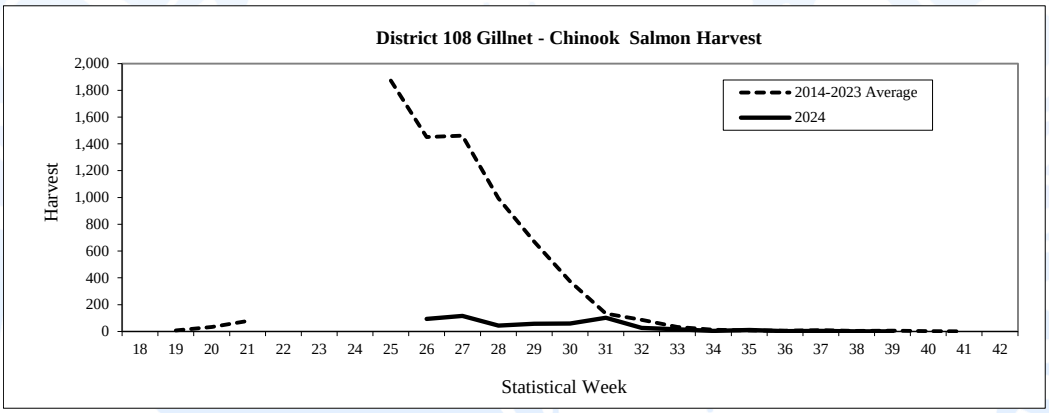


Figure 26. Chinook salmon harvest by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

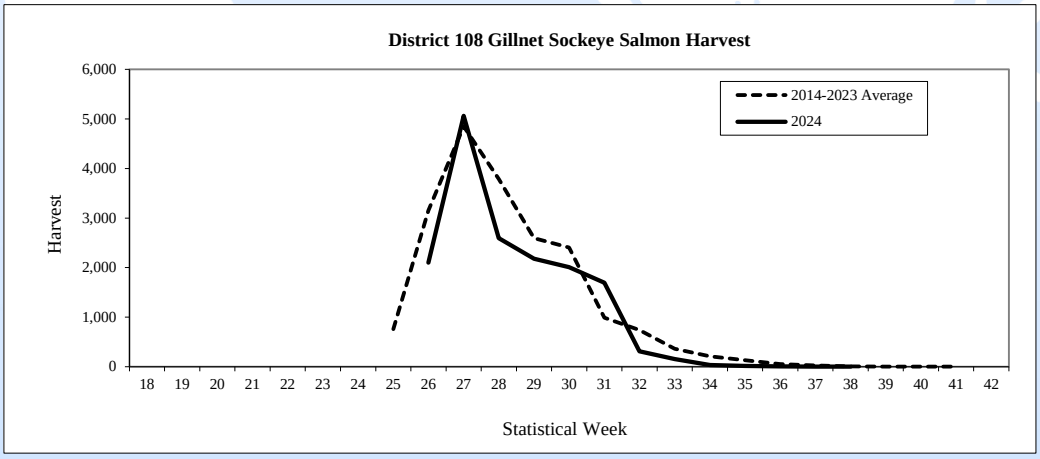


Figure 27. Sockeye salmon harvest by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

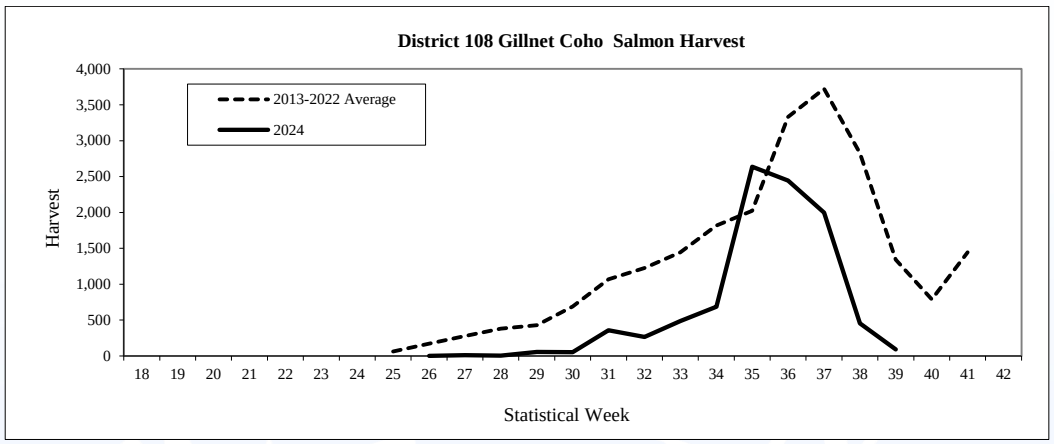


Figure 28. Coho salmon harvest by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

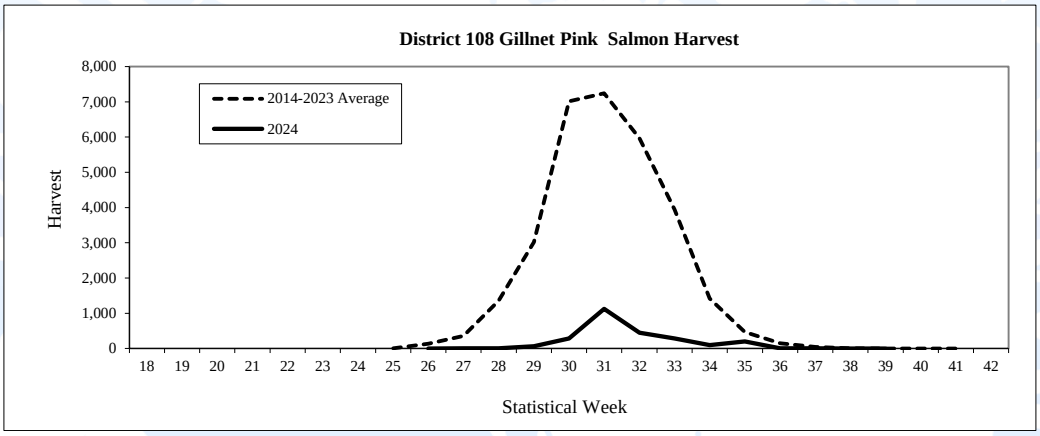


Figure 29. Pink salmon harvest by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

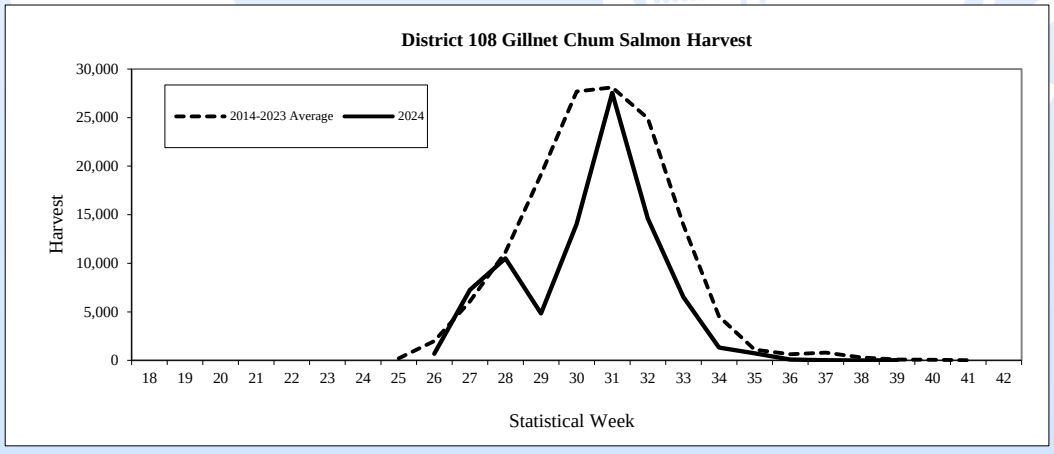


Figure 30. Chum salmon harvest by week in the District 108 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

Taku River Area Fisheries

The traditional drift gillnet fishery in District 111 targets salmon stocks bound for the transboundary Taku River. This fishery is managed for Chinook salmon from weeks 18 through 24. From weeks 25 through 33 the fishery is managed for Taku River sockeye salmon, and from weeks 34 through 42 for Taku River coho salmon. Also harvested in this fishery are salmon bound for Stephens Passage and Port Snettisham streams as well as enhanced Chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon from Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) hatchery releases. The traditional fishery does not include harvests from the Speel Arm Terminal Harvest Area (THA) inside Port Snettisham. The traditional drift gillnet fishery in District 111 began on Sunday, June 16, 2024 (week 25). Effort in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery remained below average throughout the season, with a peak of 74 boats fishing in week 30 (Figure 32).

The escapement goal range for Taku River large Chinook salmon is 19,000 to 36,000 fish with a management objective of 25,500 fish. In years of high abundance, directed Chinook salmon fisheries can be implemented to harvest fish in excess of escapement needs. The 2024 preseason terminal run forecast for the Taku River of 17,300 large Chinook salmon did not allow for any directed Chinook salmon fisheries in District 111 and significant restrictions in time, area, and gear were implemented in the first two directed sockeye salmon openings (weeks 25–26) to minimize Chinook salmon harvest. The total seasonal Chinook salmon harvest of 810 fish was 84% of average (Figure 33).

Several Chinook salmon stocks contribute to the Juneau area sport fishery, including those from the Taku, Chilkat, and King Salmon Rivers, and local hatchery stocks, but the major contributor of mature wild fish in the spring is often the Taku River. Nonretention of Chinook salmon in Districts 110, 111, 112, 115, and parts of Districts 113 and 114, was implemented in the sport fishery from April 1 through June 14, with an extended nonretention period in Taku Inlet through June 30. These nonretention periods resulted in minimal harvest of wild fish in the sport fishery. The genetic stock identification (GSI) based District 111 harvest estimates of Taku River large Chinook salmon during the accounting period are 99 fish in the drift gillnet fishery and 265 fish in the sport fishery, plus an estimated 10 fish harvested in the personal use fishery, for a total of 374 fish. Harvests of Taku River large Chinook salmon in these fisheries from week 30 onwards were minimal and resulted in a total harvest well below the U.S. base level catch of 3,500 fish. The postseason escapement estimate of Taku River large Chinook salmon is 24,520 fish, which was within the escapement goal range of 19,000 to 36,000 fish.

A bilaterally agreed to MSY escapement goal range of 40,000 to 75,000 Taku River sockeye salmon with a management objective of 58,000 wild fish was adopted for the current Annex period. Inseason run size estimates, calculated by an ongoing mark-recapture project, taking into account tag dropout rates established by recent radiotelemetry studies, as well as size selectivity in the mark (Canyon Island fish wheels) and recapture (Canada commercial setnet and drift gillnet) gear. The 2024 Taku River wild sockeye salmon terminal run forecast of 200,000 fish, based on a combination of models used to forecast each major age class (0.2, 0.3, 1.2, and 1.3), was above the 2014–2023 average of 161,200 wild fish. DIPAC forecasted

126,000 enhanced sockeye salmon returning through District 111 waters to Snettisham Hatchery.

Peak harvests of sockeye salmon occurred in weeks 30 and 31 (late July; Figure 34). The total harvest of 89,343 fish was 104% of average (Table 7; Figure 34). Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon returns were below forecast and the Speel Arm THA initially opened in week 34 for common property fishing with good escapement of wild fish into Speel Lake. A 6-inch minimum mesh size restriction was utilized south of the latitude of Circle Point in weeks 28–31 to reduce harvest of Port Snettisham wild sockeye salmon. The Speel Lake weir was operated in 2024 and the escapement of 6,580 sockeye salmon was within the sustainable escapement goal range of 4,000 to 9,000 fish. DIPAC sockeye salmon returning to the Snettisham Hatchery contributed a minimum of 21,000 fish to the traditional District 111 harvest. The postseason escapement estimate of Taku River sockeye salmon is 112,700 fish, which is above the escapement goal range of 40,000 to 75,000 fish. The postseason harvest estimate of Taku River sockeye salmon in the District 111 drift gillnet and personal use set gillnet fisheries is 63,000 fish.

An escapement goal range of 50,000 to 90,000 Taku River coho salmon with a management objective of 70,000 fish was adopted in early 2015. New harvest sharing provisions between the U.S. District 111 drift gillnet fishery and the Canadian inriver fisheries are in place, specified in the 2019 PST agreement, and the U.S. management intent in 2024 was to achieve the U.S. allowable catch and escapement objective. The 2024 preseason Taku River forecast was for an above average terminal run of 123,000 coho salmon, and DIPAC forecast a run of 46,000 enhanced coho salmon from releases in Gastineau Channel. DIPAC forecasted runs totaling 1.2 million enhanced chum salmon returning to Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet, which was above the recent average.

The 2024 traditional District 111 coho salmon harvest of 32,896 fish was 127% of average and the peak weekly harvest of 8,410 fish occurred in week 37 (Figure 35). Approximately 95% of the coho salmon were harvested in Taku Inlet, which was above the 10-year average of 80%, and 5% were harvested from Stephens Passage. Coho salmon stocks harvested in District 111 include returns to the Taku River, Port Snettisham, Stephens Passage, and local Juneau area streams as well as Alaska hatcheries. Alaska hatchery (all DIPAC) coho salmon first appeared in the District 111 harvest in week 34 and comprised substantial proportions of the harvest for the next five openings. DIPAC coho salmon contributed 36% of the 2024 District 111 traditional drift gillnet harvest. The postseason escapement estimate of Taku River coho salmon is 64,996 fish, which is within the escapement goal range of 50,000 to 90,000 fish. The postseason harvest estimate of Taku River coho salmon in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery is 12,200 fish, which is approximately 106% of the recent 10-year average.

Weekly chum salmon harvests were well above average through early August, and approximately 827,000 fish were harvested from mid-June to mid-August (Figure 37). The vast majority of the summer-run chum salmon harvest in District 111 consists of DIPAC hatchery fish returning to release sites in Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet. The 2024 District 111 traditional fishery chum salmon harvest of 827,552 fish was 202% of average and comprised almost entirely of summer run fish (Figure 37). The summer chum salmon run continues through mid-August (week 33) and is mostly comprised of domestic hatchery fish

and small numbers of wild stocks. Chum salmon returning to DIPAC release sites in Gastineau Channel and Limestone Inlet contributed a major portion of the harvest, but quantitative contribution estimates are not available. Approximately 53% of the District 111 chum harvest was taken in Taku Inlet, and 47% in Stephens Passage. The harvest of 575 chum salmon caught after week 33 was 33% of the 2014 to 2023 average. Many of these chum salmon are probably fall-run wild fish of Taku and Whiting Rivers origin, but late summer-run fish can also contribute significantly, especially in years with large returns.

Pink salmon harvests were far below average throughout the fishery, and the harvest of 6,554 fish was only 6% of average (Figure 36). Pink salmon escapements were within the Northern Southeast Inside subregion escapement goal range, but the District 111 escapement index was below the lower end of the management target range.

Table 7. Weekly salmon harvest and fishing effort in the Alaskan District 111 traditional commercial drift gillnet fishery, 2023.

Week	Start Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Days	Boat Days
25	16-Jun	222	554	5	0	10,237	12	2	24
26	23-Jun	126	2,207	6	0	33,039	34	2	68
27	30-Jun	168	2,132	17	25	109,193	56	3	168
28	7-Jul	127	7,150	34	8	177,922	58	3	174
29	14-Jul	64	11,105	72	107	190,309	61	4	244
30	21-Jul	53	23,433	398	550	181,070	74	5	370
31	28-Jul	27	33,319	930	1,580	97,350	64	5	320
32	4-Aug	6	7,791	1,329	3,195	26,405	50	4	200
33	12-Aug	1	1,042	941	917	1,452	20	4	80
34	18-Aug	2	490	4,744	145	331	14	4	56
35	25-Aug	5	100	6,126	27	156	22	5	110
36	1-Sep	3	18	6,120	0	42	18	4	72
37	8-Sep	4	2	8,410	0	29	22	5	110
38	15-Sep	2	0	3,130	0	17	15	4	60
39	22-Sep	0	0	634	0	0	7	5	35
40	29-Sep	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Total		810	89,343	32,896	6,554	827,552	110	64	2,091
2014–2023 Average		960	85,736	25,885	107,005	409,428	162	52	2,410
2024 as % of Average		84%	104%	127%	6%	202%	68%	123%	87%

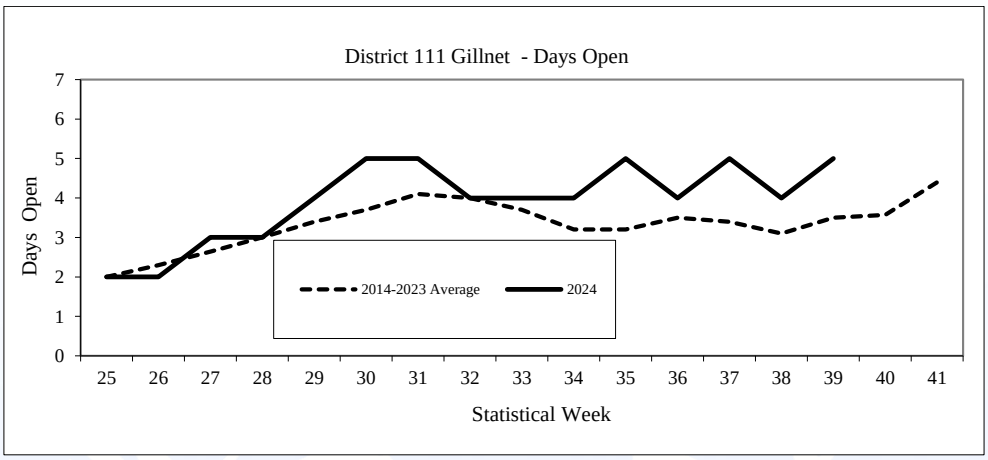


Figure 31. Days open by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

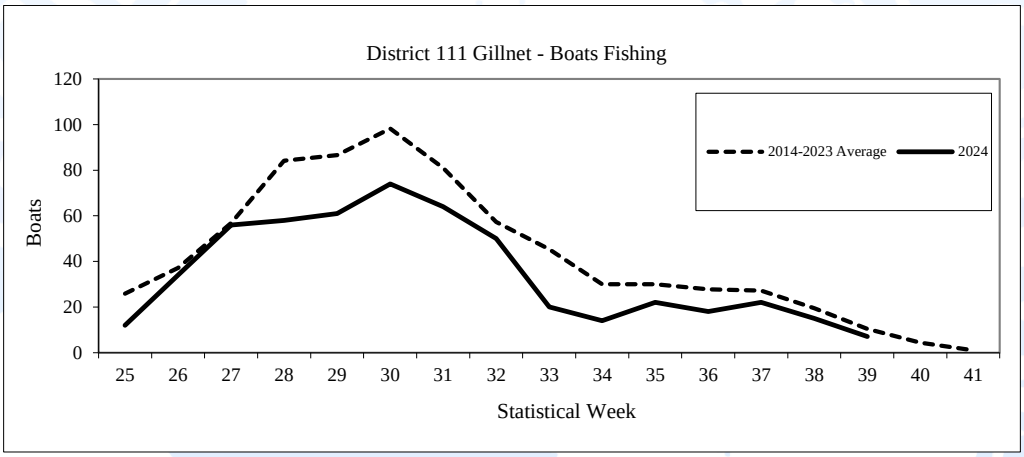


Figure 32. Number of boats fishing by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

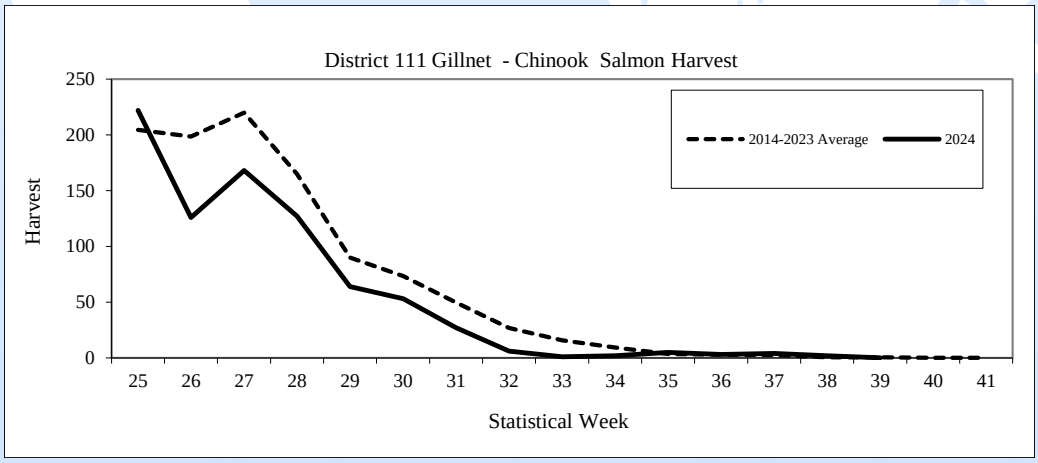


Figure 33. Chinook salmon harvest by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

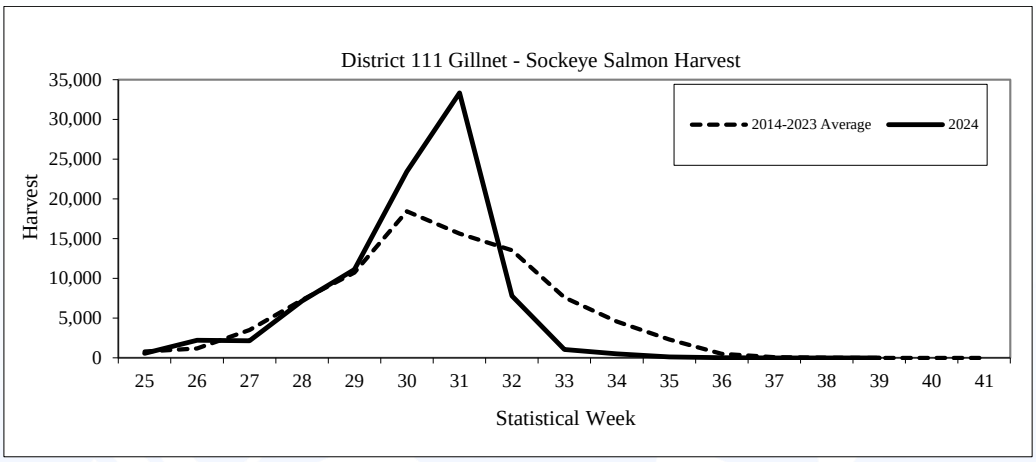


Figure 34. Sockeye salmon harvest by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

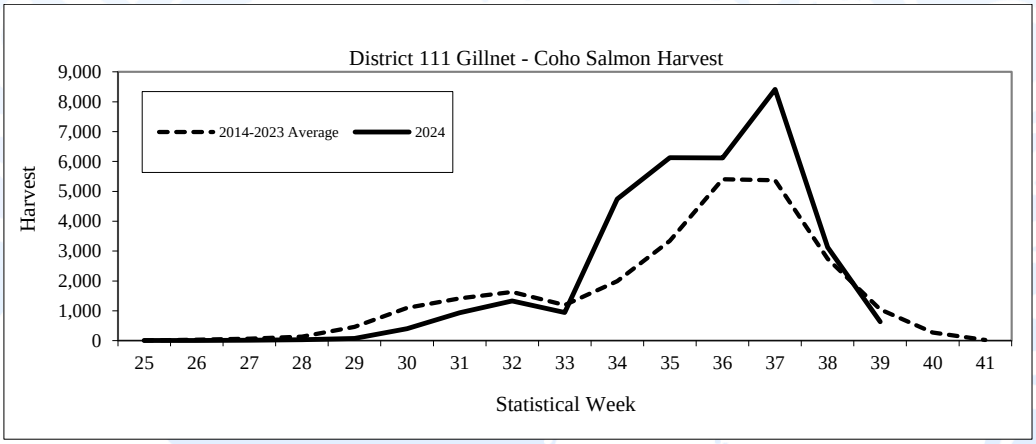


Figure 35. Coho salmon harvest by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

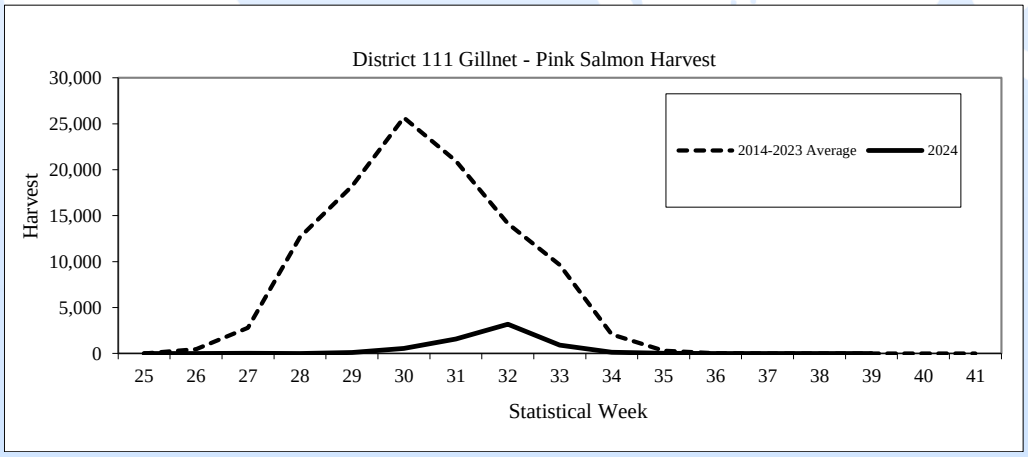


Figure 36. Pink salmon harvest by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

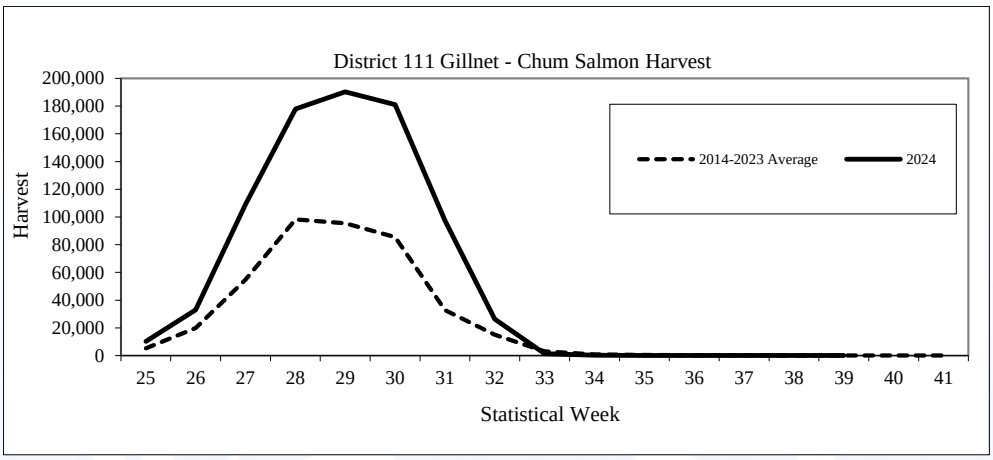


Figure 37. Chum salmon harvest by week in the District 111 drift gillnet fishery, 2024.

Transboundary River Joint Enhancement

The transport of sockeye salmon fry from the Snettisham Hatchery facility back to Canadian lakes was completed on May 21, 2024. Approximately 3.28 million fry were released in Tahltan, Tatsamenie, and Trapper Lakes in Canada. The overall green egg to fry survival for brood year (BY) 2023 releases was 72% (Table 8). After transporting BY23 fry back to their respective lakes, all TBR modules, incubators, and short-term fry rearing containers were broken down, cleaned, and disinfected prior to receiving green eggs from BY24 egg takes.

Brood year 2024 egg takes began on September 2 at Trapper Lake, September 13 at Tahltan Lake, and September 17 at Tatsamenie Lake. An estimated total of 5.1 million green eggs were collected from the three donor lakes. Tahltan Lake egg takes were completed on September 19 after collecting an estimated 2.0 million eggs in 4 lots. Trapper Lake egg takes were completed on September 09 after collecting 1.0 million eggs in 3 lots. Tatsamenie Lake egg takes were completed on October 8 after collecting 2.2 million eggs in 6 lots. DFO contractors collected adult sockeye salmon tissue samples on the spawning grounds and shipped them to the ADF&G Juneau Fish Pathology laboratory via Snettisham Hatchery per the 2019 PST Agreement.

Table 8. Summary of numbers and survival rates of brood year 2023 sockeye salmon fry released May 2024.

Brood stock	Release site	Number of trips	Survival rate to eyed stage	Survival rate to release	Number released
Tahltan	Tahltan Lk	3	80.2%	63.2%	1,592,100
Tatsamenie	Upper Tatsamenie Lk	2	70.5%	54.7%	910,100
Tatsamenie	Extended Rearing	2	75.4%	67.3%	312,200
Trapper	Trapper Lake	2	53.7%	46.5%	464,300
	Average/Totals	9	72.0%	57.8%	3,278,700

During the 2024 season, the ADF&G Thermal Mark Lab processed 11,895 sockeye salmon otoliths collected by ADF&G and DFO staff as part of the U.S./Canada fry-planting evaluation program. These collections came from commercial fisheries in both U.S. and Canadian

waters on the Taku and Stikine Rivers over a 12-week period. The laboratory provided estimates on hatchery contributions for 55 distinct sample collections. Estimates of the percentage contribution of hatchery fish to commercial catches were provided to ADF&G and DFO fishery managers 24 to 48 hours after samples arrived at the lab.

Alsek River Area Fisheries

Although harvest sharing arrangements of Alsek River salmon stocks between Canada and the U.S. have not been specified, the 2019 PST Agreement calls for the development and implementation of cooperative abundance-based management plans and programs for Alsek River Chinook and sockeye salmon. Escapement goals are in place for Alsek River Chinook and sockeye salmon spawning at the Klukshu River, a tributary that flows into the Tatshenshini River, approximately 80 km northeast of its junction with the Alsek River. The principal escapement-monitoring tool for Chinook, sockeye, and coho salmon on the Alsek River is the Klukshu River weir, operated by DFO in cooperation with the Champagne-Aishihik First Nation since 1976. In 2013, the U.S. and Canada adopted a biological escapement goal range of 7,500 to 11,000 sockeye salmon through the Klukshu River weir. The current biological escapement goal range for Alsek River Chinook salmon, adopted in January 2018, is a range of 3,500 to 5,300 fish.

ADF&G manages the Alsek River commercial set gillnet fishery to achieve the agreed upon escapement goal ranges. Time and area openings are adjusted by monitoring fishery performance data and comparing it to historical CPUE. The duration of weekly fishing periods is based on fishery performance data (CPUE). Historically, gillnets have often been restricted to a maximum mesh size of 6 inches through July 1 to minimize Chinook salmon harvest. The U.S. commercial set gillnet sockeye salmon fishery commenced on June 2 with a 48-hour opener and a 6-inch maximum mesh restriction was in effect through July 16 as a Chinook salmon conservation measure.

Preseason expectations were for above average Chinook and above average sockeye salmon runs in 2024. The overall Alsek River drainage sockeye salmon run was expected to be approximately 136,700 fish, which was above the 2014–2023 average run size of approximately 89,599 sockeye salmon. The preseason outlook for 2024 was based on a predicted run of 31,400 Klukshu River sockeye salmon derived from a Klukshu River stock-recruitment model and an assumed Klukshu River contribution rate of 23% to the total run (based on mark–recapture results from 2000–2004 and run size estimates using genetic stock identification (GSI) from 2005–2006 and 2011–2014). Principal contributing brood years for the 2024 run were 2019 and 2020. The Klukshu River escapements in 2019 and 2020 were 18,749 and 4,287 sockeye salmon respectively, compared to the 2014–2023 average of 13,380 fish.

The 2024 Alsek River set gillnet fishery opened Sunday June 2 (week 23). The total number of individual permits fished during the season was 11, which was below the 2014–2023 average of 13 permits. The commercial fishery was opened for a total of 38 days which was below the 10-year average of 48 days. The overall effort in boat-days was 81% of the average due to no effort after early August (Table 9). Harvests of Chinook salmon in June were below average. Harvests of sockeye salmon were also below average throughout the season, and the total

harvest of 3,901 fish was 43% of the 2014–2023 average of 9,135 fish (Table 9). There was no effort after early August. In the past several years there has been reduced fishing effort during the coho salmon season due to economic struggles and lack of pilots to transport fish to town. In 2024, no coho salmon were harvested (Table 9).

The Klukshu River weir escapement count of 10,381 sockeye salmon was within the 7,500 to 11,000 fish escapement goal range. The Alsek River drainage escapement estimate of 5,956 Chinook salmon was above the escapement goal range of 3,500 to 5,300 fish.

Table 9. Weekly salmon harvest and fishing effort for the Alaska Alsek River commercial set gillnet fishery, 2024.

							Effort		
Statistical	Start			Catch					Boat
Week	Date	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Boats	Days	Days
23	2-Jun	67	297	0	0	0	7	2	14
24	9-Jun	35	263	0	0	0	6	2	12
25	16-Jun	60	935	0	0	0	8	2	16
26	23-Jun	8	877	0	0	0	8	2	16
27-41	30-Jun	18	1,529	0	0	0	9	30	36
Total		188	3,901	0	0	0	11	38	95
2014-2023 Avg.		254	9,135	79	0	2	13	48	117
2023 as % of Avg.		74%	43%	0%		0%	85%	79%	81%

SOUTHEAST ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY

All Gear Harvest

The SEAK Chinook salmon fishery is managed to stay within the annual all-gear PST preseason allowable catch limit and to meet escapement goals for 6 SEAK and TBR stocks. For the 2024 season, the limit was determined from Table 1 of Chapter 3 of the Treaty, using the pre-season abundance index (AI). Management of the 2024 SEAK Chinook salmon fishery was configured based on the pre-season AI of 1.44, which translated into an all-gear PST allowable catch limit (ACL) of 211,400 Treaty Chinook salmon. Management plans established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries allocate the Treaty catch limit among gear types and prescribe management measures for both commercial and sport fisheries [5AAC 29.060(b) and 47.055].

Under provisions of domestic regulatory action plans to conserve SEAK and TBR wild Chinook salmon stocks, ADF&G was given direction by the 2022 Alaska Board of Fisheries, through emergency order authority, to take management actions necessary that provide conservation for SEAK and TBR wild Chinook salmon stocks while continuing to identify harvest opportunities that maintain conservation of these stocks. The conservation measures for all gear types that were implemented during 2018–2023 continued for the 2024 season, apart from the late winter troll fishery. All inside waters of the winter troll fishery closed early on March 15 but select outer coastal areas in state waters remained open from March 16–31. Spring troll fisheries were restricted to near terminal areas or areas on the

outside coast, and summer troll fishery primary corridors and waters directly adjacent to the terminus of the Unuk, Chilkat, and Stikine rivers were closed to the retention of Chinook salmon. Retention of Chinook salmon in the purse seine fishery outside designated terminal harvest areas was delayed until July 25 and opened for a total of 4.5 days, with the final opening occurring August 12–13. Drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 106 and 108 (near the mouth of the Stikine River) were delayed to the latter part of June. Drift gillnet fisheries in Districts 111 and 115 (near the mouths of the Taku and Chilkat Rivers) were subject to time, area, and gear restrictions through mid-July. Openings in terminal harvest areas were delayed until June. Similarly, retention of Chinook salmon in sport fisheries throughout the inside waters of Southeast Alaska was delayed until mid-June with longer periods of nonretention in terminal areas of the Unuk, Chilkat, Taku, and Stikine Rivers. The sport fishery was closed to retention of king salmon across Southeast Alaska, August 26 through September 30, 2024. In addition to these conservation measures, all fisheries were managed conservatively and monitored closely inseason to avoid exceeding the all-gear catch limit associated with the Table 1 allowable catches.

The total Chinook salmon harvest by all SEAK commercial fisheries was 176,754 fish and the sport fish harvest was 59,322 fish, for a total all-gear harvest of 236,076 fish (Table 10 and Table 11). This includes an all-gear harvest of 2,055 in the Annette Island Metlakatla Indian Community tribal fishery that is not managed by the State of Alaska. The all-gear harvest of Treaty Chinook salmon was 207,811 fish including 1,130 fish from the Annette Island Metlakatla Indian Community tribal fishery. The 2024 all-gear Treaty harvest of 207,811 fish was below the pre-season ACL of 211,400 fish.

Chapter 3, Paragraph 4(f) of the 2019 PST Agreement establishes a limit for the level of Treaty incidental mortality (IM) in the SEAK AABM fishery of 59,400 Chinook salmon. The 2024 Treaty IM for the SEAK AABM fishery was 40,505 Chinook. Of that total, the troll fishery had an IM of 13,765, the sport fishery had an IM of 15,209, and the net fisheries had an IM of 11,531.

Table 10. Estimated all-gear Chinook salmon catch in 2024.

Gear	Total Harvest	AK Hatchery Harvest	Wild Terminal Exclusion	Alaska Hatchery Addon	Treaty Harvest
Troll	151,355	10,840	0	7,400	143,955
Sport	59,322	8,750	0	6,563	52,759
Purse Seine	18,882	9,581	0	9,284	9,598
Drift Gillnet	6,412	5,418	0	5,018	1,394
Set Gillnet	105	0	0	0	105
Total Net	25,399	14,999	0	14,302	11,097
Total All Gear	***236,076***	***34,589***	***0***	***28,265***	***207,811***

Note: Annette Island Metlakatla Indian Community tribal harvest of 2,055 Chinook salmon are included of which 1,130 were Treaty fish. This includes a total harvest of 489 troll, 472 drift gillnet, and 1,094 purse seine fish, of which 261 troll,152 drift gillnet, and 717 purse seine were Treaty fish.
Note: Terminal area harvests are included.

Table 11. Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon landed catch for aggregate abundance-based management fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission (2015–2024). Values are in thousands of fish.

Year	Total Catch	Add-on and Exclusion Catch	Treaty Catch Limit[1]	Treaty Catch	Treaty Incidental Mortality	Treaty Total Mortality
2015	403.3	68.3	237.0	335.0	49.1	384.1
2016	387.0	36.1	355.6	350.9	51.0	401.9
2017	207.1	31.6	209.7	175.4	46.6	222.0
2018	164.7	37.0	144.5	127.8	31.2	159.0
2019	175.1	34.8	140.3	140.3	56.7	197.0
2020	234.8	30.2	205.2	204.6	39.1	243.7
2021	236.2	34.1	205.2	202.1	55.5	257.6
2022	275.8	37.2	266.6	238.6	43.4	282.1
2023	235.2	32.4	206.0	202.7	45.1	247.8
2024	236.1	28.3	211.4	207.8	40.5	248.3

[1] 2009–2018 Treaty Catch Limit determined by pre-season PSC Chinook Model AI
2019–2022 Treaty Catch Limit determined by CPUE Model
2023 Treaty Catch Limit determined by multivariate PSC Chinook/CPUE Model
2024 Treaty Catch Limited determined by pre-season PSC Chinook Model AI

Troll Fishery

The accounting of Chinook salmon harvested by trollers begins with the winter fishery in October and ends with the summer fishery in September. The winter troll fishery is managed for a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 45,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, with a guideline harvest range of 43,000−47,000 non-Alaska hatchery-produced fish, plus the number of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon harvested during the winter fishery. The 2023–2024 winter troll fishery was open from October 11, 2023, through March 15 in all waters of the region, but was extended through March 31, 2024, in select outer coastal waters. The extension of the late winter fishery in select outer coastal areas provided additional harvest opportunities as compared to the 2018–2021 seasons but maintained conservation actions for SEAK and TBR wild Chinook salmon stocks. A total of 48,099 Chinook salmon were harvested. Of these, 2,835 fish (6%) were of Alaska hatchery origin, of which 1,916 fish counted toward the Alaska hatchery add-on, resulting in a Treaty harvest of 46,183 fish (Table 12).

The spring troll fisheries target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon and are conducted along migration routes for hatchery fish or close to hatchery release sites. Terminal area fisheries, which begin during the spring, occur directly in front of hatcheries or at remote release sites. While there is no ceiling on the number of Chinook salmon harvested in the spring fisheries, the take of Treaty Chinook salmon is limited according to the percentage of the Alaska hatchery fish taken in the fishery. Non-Alaska hatchery fish are counted towards the annual Treaty catch limit of Chinook salmon, while most of the Alaska hatchery (add-on) fish are not.

In 2024, spring troll fisheries occurred between May 1 and June 30. To help reduce encounters of wild SEAK and TBR Chinook salmon during May and June, spring troll fisheries

located in known wild Chinook salmon migration corridors did not open. A total of 13 spring troll Chinook salmon fisheries opened, which is a 62% reduction from the number of areas opened prior to 2018 (when SEAK and TBR conservation measures began). The combined harvest for spring troll fisheries was 16,378 Chinook salmon, of which 5,902 fish (36%) were of Alaska hatchery origin and 4,062 fish counted toward the Alaska hatchery add-on, resulting in a Treaty harvest of 12,316 fish.

The 2024 summer troll fishery included a single Chinook salmon retention period, from July 1–8. Following the 8-day traditional summer retention period, an allocated non-competitive limited harvest fishery was conducted from September 1–10 during the second summer coho-directed fishery to harvest the remaining portion of the annual all-gear Treaty Chinook salmon allocation. In 2024, a maximum of 12 Chinook salmon per permit could be retained over the 10-day limited harvest fishery period, during which trollers harvested a total of 3,157 fish. A total of 86,326 Chinook salmon were harvested during the summer fishery, of which 1,766 fish (2%) were of Alaska hatchery origin and 1,194 fish counted toward the Alaska hatchery add-on. The resulting Treaty Chinook salmon harvest was 85,132 fish.

The total harvest for all troll fisheries in the 2024 accounting year was 151,355 Chinook salmon, of which 143,955 fish were Treaty Chinook salmon. This includes a total harvest of 489 fish in the Annette Island Metlakatla Indian Community tribal troll fishery; 261 of which were Treaty Chinook salmon.

Table 12. Troll fishery Chinook salmon harvest by season, 2024.

Gear/Fishery	Total Harvest	Alaska Hatchery Harvest	Alaska Hatchery Add-on	Terminal Exclusion Harvest	Total Term. Exclusion/ Alaska Hatchery Add-on	Treaty Harvest
Winter Troll	48,099	2,835	1,916	0	1,916	46,183
Spring Troll[a]	16,416	5,902	4,062	0	4,062	12,354
Summer Troll						
First Period	83,169	1,540	1,041	0	1,041	82,128
LHF[b]	3,157	226	153	0	153	3,004
Total Summer	86,326	1,766	1,194	0	1,194	85,132
Total Traditional Troll	150,841	10,503	7,172	0	7,172	143,669
Annette Is. Troll	489	337	228	0	228	261
Confiscated	25	0	0	0	0	25
Total Troll Harvest	**151,355**	**10,840**	**7,400**	**0**	**7,400**	**143,955**

[a] Spring troll harvest includes 38 terminal and wild terminal exclusion harvests for year.
[b] The limited harvest fishery (LHF) occurred during the second Chinook Non-Retention coho-directed fishery.

Net Fisheries

A total of 6,412 Chinook salmon were harvested in the drift gillnet fisheries in 2024, of which 5,418 fish (84%) were of Alaska hatchery origin and 5,018 fish counted toward the Alaska hatchery add-on, resulting in a Treaty harvest of 1,394 fish (Table 10). This includes a harvest of 472 fish in the Annette Island Metlakatla Indian Community tribal drift gillnet fishery of

which 152 fish were Treaty Chinook salmon. A total of 18,882 Chinook salmon were harvested in the purse seine fisheries, of which 9,581 fish (51%) were of Alaska hatchery origin and 9,284 fish counted toward the Alaska hatchery add-on, resulting in a Treaty harvest of 9,598 fish. This includes a harvest of 1,094 fish in the Metlakatla Indian Community tribal purse seine fishery; of which 717 fish were Treaty Chinook salmon. A total of 105 Chinook salmon were harvested in the set gillnet fisheries, none of which were of Alaska hatchery origin, resulting in a Treaty harvest of 105 fish (Table 10).

With the exception of directed gillnet harvests of Chinook salmon in SEAK terminal area regulatory Districts 108 and 111, when those fisheries occur, as provided in the Transboundary Rivers chapter of the PST (Chapter 1), harvests of Chinook salmon in net fisheries are primarily incidental to the harvest of other species, and in 2024 only constituted a small fraction (<1.0%) of the total net harvest of all species.

Sport Fishery

The SEAK Chinook salmon sport fishery is managed under the directives of the *Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan* [5 AAC 47.055]. This plan prescribes management measures based upon the allocation available to the sport fishery.

The following regulations applied during the 2024 sport fishery through August 25 as prescribed by the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan:

Regulations effective April 1, 2024:

Alaska Resident

- The resident bag and possession limit was two Chinook salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

Nonresident

- The nonresident bag and possession limit was one Chinook salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.
- From January 1 through June 30, a nonresident's annual harvest limit was three Chinook salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.
- From July 1 through July 15, a nonresident's annual harvest limit was two Chinook salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through June 30 applied toward the two fish annual catch limit.
- From July 16 through December 31, a nonresident's annual harvest limit was one Chinook salmon, 28 inches or greater in length, and any Chinook salmon 28 inches or greater in length harvested by a nonresident from January 1 through July 15 applied toward the one fish annual catch limit.

The sport fishery was monitored closely throughout the 2024 season and managers were provided with weekly projections of harvest. On August 26, 2024, the sport fishery for Chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska was closed to retention in all salt waters of the region, effective through 9/30/2024. The retention of Chinook salmon in sport fisheries throughout

the inside waters of Southeast Alaska was delayed until mid-June with longer periods of nonretention in terminal areas of the Unuk, Chilkat, Taku, and Stikine Rivers. Increased harvest opportunity was provided in select areas and times where Alaska hatchery-produced salmon were returning to terminal areas.

The contribution of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook was estimated as approximately 15% of the total harvest, an increase over the 9% estimated for 2023. The 2024 sport fishery had an estimated total harvest of 59,322 Chinook salmon, of which 52,759 fish counted as Treaty harvest (Table 10).

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COHO SALMON FISHERIES

Attachment B of the 1999 PST specifies provisions for inseason conservation and information sharing for northern boundary coho salmon. In 2024, following a bilateral review of the SEAK Troll Area 6 (Southern Inside) coho salmon CPUE data for SW 27–29, which indicated a SEAK CPUE of 7, it was determined there was an insufficient number of landings sampled to provide an adequate indicator of abundance from the SEAK troll CPUE. Alternatively, the incidental coho salmon CPUE in the Northern British Columbia (NBC) A-B Line troll pink salmon fishery was considered in the determination of the necessity of a boundary area closure. In 2024, the SW 27–29 A-B line troll fishery coho salmon CPUE of 97 was 42% above 2020–2023 average CPUE when the directed coho salmon fishery remained closed in July. In addition to the A-B Line fishery CPUE, consideration was also given to the reduced harvest of stocks transiting Dixon Entrance during the assessment period due to the closure of the NBC directed troll coho salmon fishery in 2024. Similar to 2023, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans announced preseason that the directed troll coho salmon fishery in NBC would be closed for the season in 2024.

Considering the coho salmon CPUE in the A-B line fishery, the reduced harvest of stocks transiting Dixon Entrance during the assessment period due to reduced SEAK effort and the closure of the NBC directed troll coho salmon fishery, both parties agreed that additional boundary area restrictions, beyond the existing closure of the NBC directed troll coho salmon fishery, were not warranted.

The 2024 regionwide summer troll coho salmon fishery began by regulation on June 1 and continued in all waters of SEAK through September 30. The 2024 all-gear catch of coho salmon totaled 1.39 million fish, of which 1.13 million fish (82%) were taken in commercial fisheries (Table 13). The troll harvest of 579,000 coho salmon was 53% below the 2014–2023 average of 1.25 million fish and accounted for 51% of the commercial catch. Power troll wild coho salmon CPUEs were above the 2004–2023 average for the majority of the summer season. The overall wild stock abundance (wild troll catch divided by an index of the troll harvest rate) was estimated at 2.5 million fish, 38% below the recent 20-year average (4.02 million). The purse seine coho salmon harvest of 205,814 fish was 16% below the 2014–2023 average and accounted for 18% of the commercial catch. The drift gillnet harvest of 239,267 fish was 4% below the 2014–2023 average and accounted for 21% of the commercial catch. The set gillnet harvest of 109,577 fish in the Yakutat area was 2% above the 2014–2023 average, with 91% of the catch taken in the Situk-Ahrnklin Lagoon. The final estimate of the

SEAK sport catch (290,167 fish) is approximately 10% above the 2014–2023 average (263,771 fish).

Wild production accounted for 847,547 fish (75%) in the commercial catch compared with a recent 2014–2023 average of 1.40 million fish (75% wild). The hatchery percentage of the commercial catch was 25%. Of the estimated hatchery contribution of 286,564 fish, over 99% originated from facilities in SEAK, with facilities located within inside waters accounting for an estimated 73% of the harvest, while hatchery runs on or near the outer coast contributed to the remaining 27%.

Preliminary all-fishery coho salmon harvest rate estimates are 15% for Auke Creek, 47% for Berners River, and 48% for Hugh Smith Lake. The all-fishery harvest rate for the Hugh Smith Lake and Auke Creek stocks were below the 25-year (1999–2023) average of 53% and 33% respectively. The harvest rate for Berners River coho salmon was above the 25-year average of 43%. Most of the reduction in the all-fishery harvest rate was driven by decreases in the troll fleet harvest rate, while the increased harvest rate for Berners River can be attributed to increased drift gillnet harvests. The troll fishery harvest rate on the Hugh Smith Lake stock of 17% was below the 25-year (1999–2023) average of 25%. Troll fishery harvest rates on northern inside stocks were also below average though increased from recent years. The troll harvest rates are estimated at 4% for Auke Creek and 6% for the Berners River compared with 25-year averages of 20% for both systems. While troll harvest rates were below average, drift gillnet harvest rates were above or at the 25-year averages: drift gillnet fisheries accounted for an estimated 11% of the Auke Creek return (25-year average: 9%), 40% of the Berners River return (25-year average: 20%), and 11% of the Hugh Smith Lake return (25-year average: 11%).

Estimates of coho salmon escapement were generally high across the region. The total escapement of 1,186 adult coho salmon to Hugh Smith Lake was within the biological escapement goal of 500–1,600 spawners. Coho salmon escapement on the Berners River was 10,159, above the escapement goal range of 3,600–8,100 spawners. Coho salmon escapements were within or above the respective goal ranges for six other northern Southeast Alaska stocks (Peterson Creek, Auke Creek, Tahwah River, Situk River, Chilkat River and Taku River); surveys were not able to be completed on the Tsiu River. Coho salmon escapement was below the goal range for Montana Creek. The combined peak count of spawners in five streams in the Sitka area of 1,968 spawners was above the escapement goal of 400–800 spawners. Similarly, the combined peak count of 36,290 coho salmon in the 14 surveyed streams in the Ketchikan area was above the escapement goal of 4,250–8,500 spawners.

Total adult production varied among the coho salmon indicator stocks monitored for CWTs. For example, at Hugh Smith Lake the estimated total run size of 2,419 adults was below the 25-year average (3,420). The total estimated adult coho salmon run size in Berners River was 24,039, which is above the 25-year average (20,065) and the highest total run size since 2014. The total coho salmon run in Auke Creek was 1,078, above the 25-year average (850) and also the highest total run size since 2014.

Coho salmon marine survival was below average for both northern and southern indicator stocks. The preliminary Hugh Smith Lake coho salmon marine survival rate (5%) is below the 25-year average (11%). Similarly, the marine survival for the Berners River (8%) and Auke Creek (13%) stocks were both lower than the 25-year mean survival rates (12% and 15%, respectively). Marine survival for the northern inside coho salmon stocks has been low in recent years, however both Berners River and Auke Creek marine survival rates are higher than the recent 5-year averages (7% and 8% respectively).

Table 13. Coho salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska by gear type (preliminary), 2024.

Gear Type	Harvest
Troll	579,453
Purse Seine	205,814
Drift Gillnet	239,267
Set Gillnet	109,577
Sport (marine and freshwater)	290,167
Total	1,424,278

2024 CHINOOK AND COHO SALMON FISHERIES IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the conduct of United States (U.S.) fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) that occurred during 2024 in the area north of Cape Falcon, Oregon and south of the U.S./Canada border. These fisheries were conducted under pre-season management plans that were consistent with Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST 2019) including obligations defined within Chapter 3 for Chinook individual stock based management regimes (ISBM) and Chapter 5 for Southern Coho Management.

An overview of the Chinook (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) and Coho (Oncorhynchus kisutch) salmon conservation challenges facing managers during the 2024 pre-season planning process in this region is provided in the following section. The conduct of major fisheries is described, and estimates of landed catch, where available, are compared to pre-season catch limits or expectations for Chinook (Table 15) and Coho (Table 16). For perspective, landed catches for those fisheries since 2015 are also presented. Information on the occurrence of 2024 mark-selective fisheries (MSF) is presented in Table 17. Where available, preliminary estimates of the number of Chinook or Coho salmon released by anglers in 2024 MSFs are presented within some sections of this report, by area and fishery. All estimates for the 2024 fisheries are preliminary and subject to change. Estimates of spawning escapements and abundance of Coho and Chinook stocks during 2024 are not available at this time.

PRE-SEASON PLANNING

Pre-season planning for Southern U.S. (i.e., excluding Alaska) fisheries of interest to the PSC is a coordinated activity involving Tribal, State and Federal management entities, with the involvement of conservation and fishing interests. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) conducted a series of public meetings to consider options for ocean fishery season structures while the Tribes and States conducted government-to-government and public, open meetings throughout the region to develop and analyze alternative season structures for fisheries in the inside waters of the Columbia River, coastal Washington and Puget Sound. Participants in these various planning sessions evaluated the biological and socio-economic consequences of the alternative season structures for the outside (ocean) and inside (marine and freshwater) fisheries (Figure 38) including the anticipated impacts on U.S. southern origin stocks in fisheries conducted under the PST in Canada and Southeast Alaska. Agreement was reached on season structures expected to achieve conservation goals, domestic fishery objectives and legal obligations, including the PST, assuming fisheries are conducted as planned and pre-season abundance estimates are accurate.

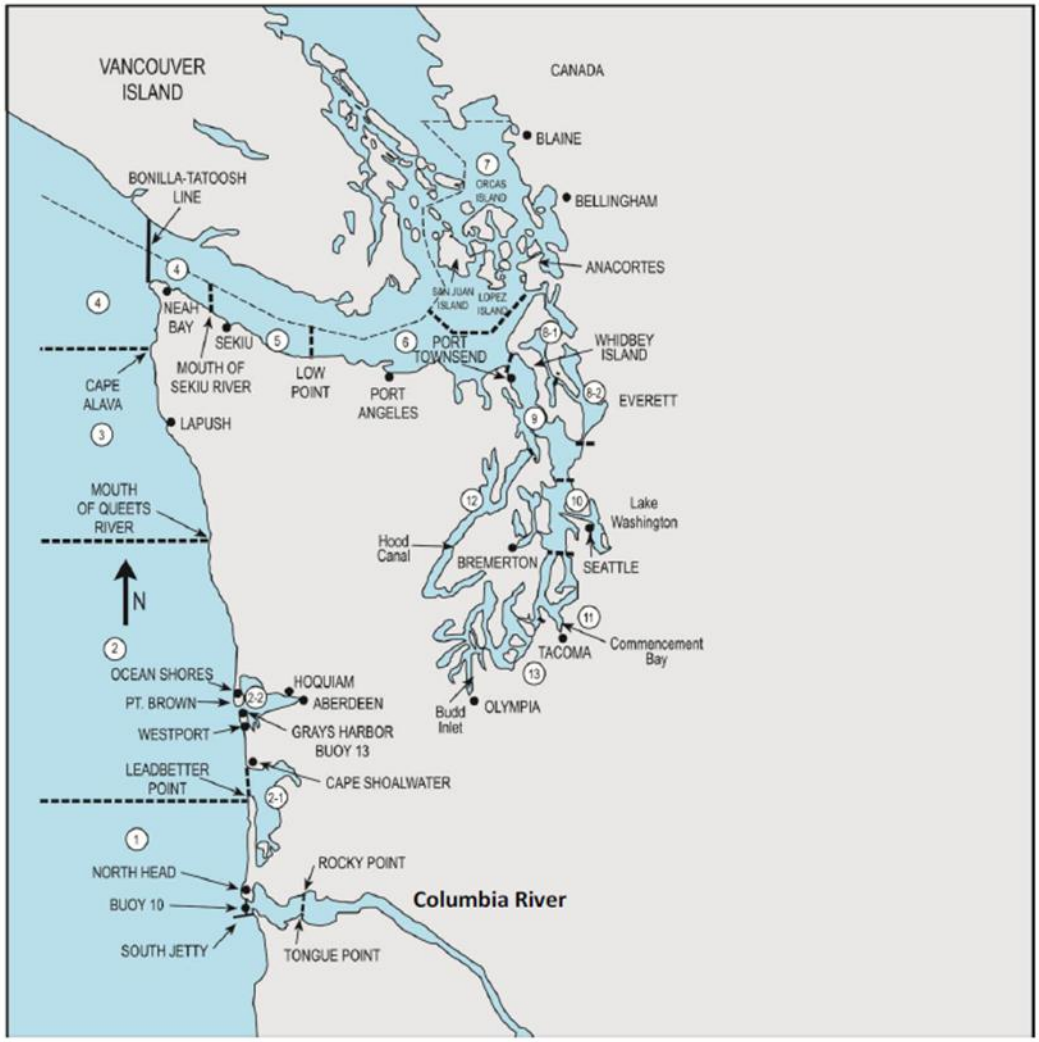


Figure 38. Map of Western Washington marine catch areas of the Washington coast (Areas 1 through 4) and Puget Sound (Areas 5 through 13) (WAC 220-22-030). Inside (Columbia River) fisheries reported in this document extend beyond the scope of this map.

Chinook Salmon Management

Under the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement, Southern U.S. fisheries are subject to the Individual Stock Based Management provisions of Annex IV, Chapter 3. These provisions require that Southern U.S. fisheries on Chinook stocks shall be managed to limit the total adult equivalent mortality to the limits listed in Attachment I of Chapter 3.

Conservation obligations associated with the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) for threatened and endangered Chinook salmon stocks originating from Puget Sound and the Columbia River have been more constraining to Southern U.S. fisheries than PST obligations. Catch quotas for the 2024 U.S. ocean fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon, Oregon, were defined by the impact limits on ESA-listed lower Columbia River natural tule fall Chinook stocks, ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook stocks, and the abundance of other healthy, harvestable Chinook salmon stocks contributing to fisheries in this area. Puget Sound fishing

seasons were structured to provide fishing opportunity on healthy salmon species or stocks within the impact limits defined for ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook.

Coho Salmon Management

During the pre-season fishery planning process of 2024, Canadian fishery managers informed the U.S. that the Interior Fraser management unit was again expected to be in the low categorical abundance status, and U.S. fisheries were constrained to ensure that the exploitation rate on this management unit did not exceed 10.0% as defined by the PST Southern Coho Management Plan. Of the U.S. natural spawning Coho management units (MUs) managed under the PST, the Snohomish, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Hood Canal, and Quillayute MUs were predicted to be in moderate status, while the Skagit, Stillaguamish, , Hoh, Queets, and Grays Harbor MUs were forecasted to be in abundant status.

The impacts of planned southern U.S. fisheries on natural Coho stocks, seasons, and catch limits were predicted using the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM; https://framverse.github.io/fram_doc/index.html). The total exploitation rate on the Interior Fraser Coho management unit was predicted to be 10.0% in Southern U.S. fisheries. Seasons and Coho quota levels for U.S. ocean fisheries were constrained by the management objective of ESA-listed lower Columbia River natural Coho. Limits to fisheries in marine areas within northern Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca were likewise constrained by management objectives reflecting rebuilding plans for some Puget Sound natural Coho stocks.

NORTH OF CAPE FALCON OCEAN FISHERIES

Details regarding North of Cape Falcon ocean salmon fishing plans were reported in Preseason Report III, published by the Pacific Fishery Management Council in April 2024 at: https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2024/04/2024-preseason-report-iii.pdf/.

Fisheries in this area are managed to meet conservation objectives for ESA-listed stocks, natural stocks and brood stock goals for hatchery stocks. Within these stock management objectives, ocean fishing seasons are defined that meet legal requirements of Tribal treaties and allocations between Non-Tribal troll and sport fisheries. Ocean fishery seasons are also constructed to ensure a balance of opportunity for harvest with the inside fisheries. Lower Columbia River hatchery Coho and Columbia River fall Chinook have historically been the major stocks contributing to catches of ocean fisheries in the North of Cape Falcon area.

Chinook and Coho salmon catch quotas were established for the 2024 ocean Tribal, Non-Tribal troll and sport fisheries. Ocean fishery quotas for Chinook salmon were defined by exploitation rate limits on several ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook stocks as well as the total exploitation rate limit of 41% on ESA-listed lower Columbia River natural tule fall Chinook stocks in all fisheries.

Non-Tribal Troll Fishery

Pre-season quota levels for the Non-Tribal troll fisheries were 41,000 Chinook and 15,200 Coho with a clipped adipose fin, hereinafter referred to as marked. The Chinook quota was adjusted in-season on an impact-neutral basis to account for Chinook catch in the May 1 –

June 29 season; the adjusted Chinook quota was 39,234. The preliminary estimate of Non-Tribal harvest in the 2024 North of Falcon troll fishery is 38,000 Chinook (95% of the coast-wide adjusted quota) and 11,300 Coho (74% of the pre-season coast-wide Non-Tribal troll quota). Fishers harvested 25,400 Chinook in the May 1 – June 29 fishery, and the remaining 13,400 Chinook were harvested in the summer all-species fishery between July 1 and September 30. All Coho were harvested during the summer all-species fishery, which was conducted as Coho mark-selective on all open days.

Tribal Troll Fishery

The Makah, Quinault, Quileute, and Hoh Tribes opened their May-June Chinook Tribal Troll fisheries on May 1. The May 1 through June 30 Chinook Treaty Troll fishery harvested 7,349 Chinook salmon, or 34.6% of the 21,250 Chinook sub-quota. There were 205 landings during the May-June portion of the fishery.

The Makah, Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Tribes opened their all-species Tribal Troll fisheries on July 1. The all-species portion of the fishery ran from July 1 through September 5.

The fishery harvested 11,486 Chinook and 42,739 Coho, or 32.7% of the 35,151 Chinook sub-quota and 52.5% of the 57,000 Coho quota. The summer Chinook sub-quota was 38,402, which included the original sub-quota (21,250 Chinook) plus the remaining spring quota which was rolled over on an impact-neutral basis (13,901 Chinook). There were 341 landings during the all-species portion of the fishery.

Overall, the 2024 Treaty Troll fishery harvested 44.3% of the 42,500 Chinook quota and 100.7% of the 42,500 Coho quota. The total ocean salmon harvest for the 2024 Treaty Troll fishery was 18,835 Chinook and 42,801 Coho across 546 total landings. The majority of the Treaty Troll catch was taken in Area 4, with smaller amounts taken in Areas 2, 3, and 4b. Coho landings were highest in August accounting for 87.8% of the overall catch, followed by July at 9.0%. Chinook effort was highest in August, which accounted for approximately 31.8% of the overall Chinook catch.

Ocean Sport Fisheries

Pre-season quotas for the Washington coastal sport fishery (Ocean Areas 1 through 4) were 41,000 Chinook and 79,800 marked Coho. Preliminary total catch estimates for the ocean sport fisheries north of Cape Falcon were 24,400 Chinook (60% of the pre-season coast-wide quota) and 77,100 Coho (97% of the pre-season coast-wide sport quota). A description of the season structure and catches by management area follows.

Columbia River Area (including Oregon)

Salmon sport fishing opened for all species in Ocean Area 1 (Columbia River Area) on June 22. A pre-season quota of 39,900 marked Coho and a guideline of 12,510 Chinook were in place. The season opened with a limit of no more than one Chinook in the two-fish daily limit. A Coho mark-selective sport fishery was conducted in Area 1 on all open days (June 22 through August 11, August 19 – 22, September 4) in 2024. Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 1 Coho mark-selective fishery are shown in the table below. The fishery closed initially after August 11, prior to the

scheduled closing date of September 30, upon projected attainment of the marked Coho quota; sufficient marked Coho quota remained for the fishery to reopen August 19-22 and on September 4. The catch estimates for Area 1 were 6,700 Chinook (54% of the guideline) and 38,900 Coho (97% of the pre-season quota). The Chinook minimum size limit was 22 inches, and the Coho minimum size limit was 16 inches with a sub-area closure in the Columbia Control Zone. A preliminary overall legal-sized Coho mark rate of 63% was calculated from on-water data collection in this area.

Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 1 Coho mark-selective sport fishery, June 22 – September 4, 2024.			
Coho retained	Coho released	Total encounters	Mark %
38,900	22,800	61,700	63%

Westport, Washington

Salmon sport fishing opened for all species in Ocean Area 2 (Westport, WA) on June 30. A pre-season quota of 29,530 marked Coho and a guideline of 17,430 Chinook were in place.

The season opened five days per week, Sunday through Thursday, before opening for seven days per week beginning July 14, with a limit of no more than one Chinook in the two-fish daily limit. A Coho mark-selective sport fishery was conducted in Area 2 on all open days (June 30 – July 4, July 7 – 11, July 14 – August 24, September 4) in 2024. Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 2 Coho mark-selective fishery are shown in the table below. The fishery closed initially after August 24, prior to the scheduled closing date of September 15, upon projected attainment of the marked Coho quota; sufficient marked Coho quota remained for the fishery to reopen on September 4. The catch estimates for Area 2 were 11,000 Chinook (63% of the pre-season guideline) and 28,800 Coho (98% of the pre-season quota). The Chinook minimum size limit was 22 inches, and the Coho minimum size limit was 16 inches. A preliminary overall legal-sized Coho mark rate of 47% was calculated from on-water data collection in this area.

Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 2 Coho mark-selective sport fishery, June 30 – September 4, 2024.			
Coho retained	Coho released	Total encounters	Mark %
28,800	32,500	61,300	47%

La Push, Washington

Salmon sport fishing opened for all species in Ocean Area 3 (La Push, WA) on June 22. A pre-season quota of 2,070 marked Coho and a guideline of 1,630 Chinook were in place. The season opened with a limit of no more than one Chinook in the two-fish daily limit.

A Coho mark-selective sport fishery was conducted in Area 3 on all open days (June 22 – August 20 in 2024. Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 3 Coho mark-selective fishery are shown in the table below. The fishery closed after August 20, prior to the scheduled closing date of September 15, upon projected attainment of the marked Coho quota. The catch estimates for Area 3 were 700 Chinook (43% of the overall guideline) and 2,000 Coho (97% of the pre-season quota). The Chinook

minimum size limit was 24 inches, and the Coho minimum size limit was 16 inches. A preliminary overall legal-sized Coho mark rate of 43% was calculated from a combination of on-water data collection and dockside interviews in this area.

Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 3 Coho mark-selective sport fishery, June 22 – August 20, 2024.			
Coho retained	Coho released	Total encounters	Mark %
2,000	2,700	4,700	43%

Neah Bay, Washington

Salmon sport fishing opened for all species in Ocean Area 4 (Neah Bay, WA) on June 22. A pre-season quota of 8,300 marked Coho and a guideline of 9,430 Chinook were in place. The season opened with a limit of no more than one Chinook in the two-fish daily limit.

A Coho mark-selective sport fishery was conducted in Area 4 on all open days (from June 22 – September 2 in 2024. Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released) and mark rate in the Area 4 Coho mark-selective fishery are shown in the table below. The fishery closed after September 2, prior to the scheduled closing date of September 15, upon projected attainment of the marked Coho quota. The catch estimates for Area 4 were 6,100 Chinook (65% of the guideline) and 7,400 Coho (89% of the pre-season quota). The Chinook minimum size limit was 24 inches, and the Coho minimum size limit was 16 inches. A preliminary overall legal-sized Coho mark rate of 48% was calculated from a combination of on-water data collection and dockside interviews in this area.

Preliminary estimates of Coho encounters (retained and released), in the Area 4 Coho mark-selective sport fishery, June 22 – September 2 2, 2024.			
Coho retained	Coho released	Total encounters	Mark %
7,400	8,000	15,400	48%

NORTH OF CAPE FALCON INSIDE FISHERIES

WASHINGTON COASTAL RIVER FISHERIES

North Washington Coastal Rivers

Net and sport fisheries directed at salmon in this region were implemented based upon pre-season, Tribal-State agreements and were subject to in-season adjustments. Tribal, primarily net, harvest includes non-selective catch from the Tsoo-Yess, Quillayute, Hoh, Queets, and Quinault Rivers. The 2024 Tribal net fisheries in north coastal rivers harvested an estimated 6,285 Chinook salmon and 9,695 Coho salmon through mid-November 2024.

Pre-season planning of recreational salmon fisheries in the Hoh River included open salmon fishing from September 16 through November 30, with a daily limit of 2 (only 1 adult,), and open December 1 through December 15 with a daily limit of 1 Coho. However, observed in-season conditions of low flows in the fall resulted in an emergency regulation closing the river to all fishing from September 23 through September 29. The Quileute River was closed

to tribal fishing March 25 through April 7, September 30 through October 4, October 14 through October 18, and October 28 through November 24.

The Tsoo-Yess River was open for 3 days per week starting October 3 through October 5, for 6 days per week starting October 7 through November 14, and closed on November 14.

Recreational fisheries conducted during 2024 in the Quillayute River systems included mark-selective fisheries targeting hatchery Chinook and Coho. On the Quillayute and Sol Duc rivers, pre-season plans established open recreational salmon fishing from February 1 through August 31, with a daily limit of 4 (only 2 adults, release wild adult Chinook, wild adult Coho, and Sockeye), as well as open salmon fishing from September 1 through December 15 with a daily limit of 6 (up to 4 adults, no more than 1 wild Chinook, release wild adult Coho and Sockeye), and open fishing from September 16 through December 15 with a daily limit of 6 (up to 3 adults including no more than 1 wild Chinook, release wild adult Coho and Sockeye).

For the Bogachiel, Calawah, and Dickey rivers, pre-season planning set open recreational salmon fishing from July 1 through August 31 with a daily limit of 4 (only 2 adults, release wild adult Chinook and wild adult Coho), as well as open fishing from September 1 through September 15 with a daily limit of 3 (only 2 adults, no more than 1 wild Chinook, release wild adult Coho and Sockeye), and open fishing from September 16 through December 15 with a daily limit 3 (only 1 adult, release wild adult Coho and Sockeye).

Pre-season plans for recreational salmon fisheries in the Quillayute basin were modified by two emergency regulations. The first one was for steelhead conservation and closed the Quillayute to all fishing April 1 through April 30, including the salmon fishery on the Quillayute and the Sol Duc rivers. The second, in effect from September 10 until December 15 (or until rescinded), reduced the salmon daily limit to 1 fish, due to concerns with low flows impeding fish movement.

Pre-season planning set salmon fisheries in the Queets River system to open September 1 through November 30 with a daily limit of 3, of which only 2 could be adults, release all Chinook. Sport salmon fisheries in the upper Quinault River were scheduled for July 1 through November 30, allowing harvest of 2 adults. Harvest or impact estimates for these fisheries are not available at the time of this report.

Grays Harbor, Washington

Harvest numbers reported for Grays Harbor include catch from both the Humptulips and

Chehalis Rivers through mid-November, 2024. The non-selective Tribal net fisheries in Grays Harbor, and including fisheries in the Humptulips and Chehalis Rivers, harvested an estimated 961 Chinook salmon and 13,264 Coho salmon.

The Non-Tribal commercial fishery in the northern portion of Grays Harbor near the Humptulips River (Area 2C) was open for three days and had no fish landed. In the Non-Tribal commercial gillnet fishery in Areas 2A and 2D, there were 12 marked Chinook salmon (mark-selective fishery), 1,638 Coho, and 3,524 Chum harvested.

Sport salmon fisheries in the marine waters of Grays Harbor, catch area 2-2, were scheduled in the North Bay from August 1 to September 15 with a daily limit of one salmon and required the release of wild (unclipped) Chinook and Coho. Recreational salmon fisheries were scheduled in the East Bay area from September 16 through November 30 with a two fish limit and required the release of all Chinook.

Sport salmon fisheries in the Humptulips River were scheduled from September 1 through December 31 and required the release of wild Chinook and wild Coho for the duration of the fishery. From September 1 through October 24, retention of one adult was allowed. Beginning October 25, required the release of all Chinook.

Sport salmon fisheries opened on September 16 in the lower Chehalis River mainstem and on October 1 in tributaries and the upper river. These fisheries were scheduled to be open through December 31, allowing two adults to be retained but required the release of adult Chinook through November. Beginning on December 1, the daily limit was reduced to one adult and required the release of all Chinook. Estimates of total recreational catch in these fisheries are not available at the time of this report.

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERIES

Tribal and Non-Tribal net and sport salmon fisheries were implemented in the winter/spring (January-June 15), summer (June 16-July) and fall (August-December) periods. All fisheries were constrained by impacts on ESA-listed stocks. Winter/spring fisheries were constrained by impacts on ESA-listed upper Columbia River spring Chinook, Snake River spring/summer Chinook, and Willamette River spring Chinook. Summer season fisheries were constrained by harvest limits on upper Columbia summer Chinook and impacts to ESA-listed Sockeye and upriver summer Steelhead. Fall fisheries were constrained by harvest limits on Upriver Bright fall Chinook and impacts to ESA-listed lower Columbia tule fall Chinook, lower Columbia natural Coho, and upriver summer Steelhead.

Columbia River salmon fisheries are developed and regulated to meet conservation standards. Fisheries are managed to operate within the impact limits set for ESA-listed stocks, meet the objectives for healthy Columbia River natural stocks, and ensure broodstock needs are met for hatchery salmon. Mainstem Columbia River fisheries are also developed and managed to remain within the requirements of the 2018–2027 US v. Oregon Management Agreement (MA), which includes Treaty Tribal/Non-Treaty sharing agreements. All data are preliminary and subject to change. The following section includes harvest numbers from Columbia River fisheries that are considered to be of interest to PSC; therefore, the data may not match other reports that include total harvest.

Winter-Spring Fisheries

Non-Tribal Net

The mainstem winter/spring commercial fishery operated under MSF regulations during 2002-2016, 2022, and 2024. As a result of guidance provided by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions, winter/spring Non-Tribal commercial salmon fisheries did not occur in the mainstem Columbia River from 2017-2021 and 2023. A MSF spring Chinook

period in commercial Zones 1-5 using tangle net gear and other live-capture techniques occurred on May 20, 2024 and resulted in 42 adult adipose fin clipped Chinook kept and 17 adult non-adipose fin clipped Chinook released (71% of handled Chinook were kept) in Zones 1-5. Commercial non-MSF during the winter/spring timeframe did occur in off-channel areas (Select Areas) in the Columbia River estuary but are not reported in this document.

Sport

Mainstem recreational MSFs for spring Chinook began in 2001. In 2024, areas below Bonneville Dam were open from January 1-April 11, May 17-19, May 24-27, and June 1-15 for hatchery Chinook retention. Catch estimates for this area totaled 5,705 hatchery adult spring Chinook kept and 1,100 non-adipose fin clipped Chinook released (84% of the handled Chinook were kept). From Bonneville Dam upstream to the Washington-Oregon state line, Chinook retention was open April 1-29 and June 8-15, with 1,463 hatchery adult spring Chinook kept and 218 non-adipose fin clipped Chinook released (87% of handled Chinook were kept). The Snake River fishery structure included one specific catch area open on a days-per-week rotation May 2-12 and May 23-29. Catch in the Snake River fishery totaled 889 hatchery adult spring Chinook kept and 147 non-adipose fin-clipped released (86% of handled Chinook were kept). Fisheries also occurred in tributaries but are not reported in this document.

Tribal

Tribal mainstem winter/spring fisheries typically occur from January 1 through June 15. Tribal mainstem fisheries are not mark-selective. Tribal fisheries are primarily conducted in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam (Zone 6). Some additional harvest occurs just downstream of Bonneville Dam in platform and hook-and-line fisheries. Spring season fisheries may include three fishery sectors, a ceremonial permit gillnet fishery, a platform and hook-and-line fishery. In some years a commercial gillnet fishery has been implemented if abundances make it feasible (during winter and periodically in the spring, after ceremonial needs have been met).

During 2024, the platform and hook-and-line fishery was open for subsistence fishing in the winter/spring period through May 2 and then re-opened on a weekly schedule from Thursdays through Saturdays beginning May 16. Then the schedule changed to Wednesdays through Saturdays beginning June 5. Commercial sales of platform and hook-and-line caught fish were not authorized in 2024. There was no commercial gillnet fishing in the spring management period. Preliminary harvest estimates from the combined spring season fisheries totaled 6,731 upriver spring Chinook (includes a small number of fish harvested downstream of Bonneville Dam). Tribal harvest in tributaries is not included in this report.

Summer Fisheries

Non-Tribal Net

As a result of direction from the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions, non-Treaty commercial fisheries did not occur in the summer management timeframe. Commercial non-MSF during the summer timeframe did occur in off-channel areas (Select Areas) in the Columbia River estuary but are not reported in this document.

Sport

The summer recreational Chinook MSF was open June 16-19 and closed to retention from June 20 – July 31 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge, near the mouth of the Columbia River, upstream to Bonneville Dam with 798 hatchery adult Chinook kept and 670 non-adipose fin clipped Chinook released (54% of handled Chinook were kept). The summer recreational Chinook MSF from Bonneville Dam to the Snake River was open June 16-30 and from the Snake River to Priest Rapids Dam was open June 16 – July 2 with a combined estimate of 115 hatchery adult Chinook kept and 52 Chinook released (69% of handled Chinook were kept). The MSF above Priest Rapids Dam (including sub-area closures) was open July 1 – August 15 with 3,320 hatchery adult Chinook kept, 574 adult Chinook released (85% of handled Chinook were kept). In-river allocation agreements dictate that a substantial share of the non-treaty harvestable catch be provided to fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam.

Tribal

Summer season Tribal fisheries occurred from June 16 through July 31. Tribal mainstem fisheries are not mark-selective. Tribal fisheries are primarily conducted in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam (Zone 6). Some additional harvest occurs just downstream of Bonneville Dam in platform and hook-and-line fisheries. There were six weekly commercial gillnet fishing periods conducted from June 17 – July 24. Platform and hook-and-line fisheries also occurred throughout the season. Fish were allowed to be sold commercially during the entire summer season. Tribal fisheries within the mainstem harvested a total of 7,053 upper Columbia summer Chinook.

Fall Fisheries

Non-Tribal Net

Fall season mainstem fisheries are typically categorized into early- and late-fall seasons. The early-fall season encompasses the month of August and in some years, early September, whereas the late-fall season generally begins in mid-September and may continue through October. Time, area, and gear restrictions were in place for fall season commercial gillnet fisheries. Fall gillnet fisheries are non-mark selective.

Limited mark-selective Chinook and coho seine (beach and purse) fisheries were conducted using Individual Fishery Quotas (IFQs) and were limited to three participants. A mark-selective coho tangle net fishery (non-MSF for Chinook) also occurred in 2024.

The early fall season consisted of nine nine-hour fishing periods between August 7-30 in commercial Zones 4-5 (Warrior Rock to Beacon Rock) and resulted in 28,002 Chinook and 2,045 Coho harvested. The late-fall season consisted of 21 fishing periods between 10-12 hours in duration from September 12 – November 1 in the same area and resulted in 17,235 Chinook and 1,742 Coho harvested. The MSF seine fishery was open to fishing from August 8 – October 31 on weekdays in commercial Zones 1-3 and resulted in 74 kept adult hatchery Chinook, 34 released non-adipose clipped Chinook, 14 kept hatchery coho, and 9 released non-adipose clipped coho (69% and 61% of handled Chinook and coho, respectively, were kept). The tangle net fishery occurred September 16 – October 31 in commercial Zones 1-3 that consisted of 33 periods and resulted in 1,344 Chinook kept, 5,099 hatchery coho kept,

and 2,570 non-adipose coho released (resulted in 66% of handled coho being kept). Commercial non-MSF during the fall timeframe did occur in off-channel areas (Select Areas) in the Columbia River estuary but are not reported in this document.

Sport

Fall season recreational fisheries are mark-selective for Coho downstream of the Hood River Bridge, and occasionally include some mark-selective periods for Chinook in the Buoy 10 area primarily and less frequently in the 69-mile stretch of the lower Columbia River between the Buoy 10 fishery and Warrior Rock, which is near the mouth of the Willamette River. The MSFs for Chinook in the mainstem Columbia River during 2024 occurred in the Buoy 10 fishery from August 1-29 and in the fishery from west Puget Island to Warrior Rock from September 5-11.

The Buoy 10 fishery was open August 1 – December 31. Chinook retention was allowed August 1 – September 3 and September 12 – December 31 and the coho MSF remained open throughout the entire fall season. Additional regulations for the Buoy 10 fishery included minimum size limits for Chinook (>24-inches) and coho (≥16-inches). Released Chinook typically consisted of fish that did not meet the minimum size requirement, fish released during MSF period, and any voluntary releases of legal Chinook throughout the season. Buoy 10 catches during the Chinook MSF included 12,247hatchery Chinook (16,016 released Chinook) and resulted in 43% of handled Chinook being kept; the remaining season included 3,339Chinook harvested (2,229released Chinook). The Buoy 10 catches during the Coho MSF included 35,520 hatchery Coho kept (22,821 released Coho) and resulted in 61% of Coho handled being kept.

The lower Columbia River (LCR) mainstem sport fishery from the west Puget Island line upstream to Warrior Rock was open August 1 – September 11 and September 20 – December 31. The LCR fishery from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam was open August 1 – December 31. The LCR fisheries were mark-selective for coho and non-mark selective for Chinook with one exception - the west Puget Island to Warrior Rock fishery from September 5-11. The west Puget Island to Warrior Rock Chinook MSF catches resulted in 916 kept hatchery Chinook (2,389 released); this resulted in 28% of the handled Chinook being kept. The remainder of the LCR sport fishery included 30,225 kept adult Chinook (1,891 released) and 6,135 kept hatchery Coho (2,506 released); this resulted in 71% of Coho handled being kept.

The mainstem sport fishery from Bonneville Dam to the Highway 395 Bridge (near Pasco, Washington) was open August 1 – December 31 and included MSF regulations for Coho downstream of the Hood River Bridge. Adult catch estimates for the Bonneville to Highway 395 Bridge totaled 11,241 fall Chinook (3,572 released) and 5,215 Coho (789 released); this resulted in 87% of Coho handled being kept. Additional fisheries occurred on the Columbia River, including tributaries, Hanford Reach area (downstream of Priest Rapids Dam), and in the Snake River, but are not reported in this document.

Tribal

Fall season Tribal fisheries occur from August 1 through December 31. Tribal fisheries are not mark-selective. Tribal fisheries are primarily conducted in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam (Zone 6). Platform and hook-and-line fisheries will remain open through December 31.

The Tribal commercial gillnet fishery consisted of nine weekly fishing periods from August 19 through October 17 (39.5 days). Commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish were allowed throughout the fall management period. Preliminary harvest estimates for all fall season fisheries total 82,108 adult fall Chinook and 11,501 adult Coho; however, some additional fish may be landed in the ongoing platform fisheries. Harvest estimates reported herein do not include catch from tributary fisheries.

PUGET SOUND FISHERIES

Puget Sound marine fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission were regulated to meet conservation and allocation objectives for Chinook, Coho, Chum, and Sockeye salmon stocks, per Tribal-State agreement. For Puget Sound Chinook listed under the ESA, fisheries were managed according to the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (PSIT and WDFW 2010). This management plan defines limits to total exploitation rates for natural stocks and was determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to be consistent with requirements specified under the ESA 4(d) Rule.

Release requirements were applied to many sport and net fisheries for Chinook, Coho, and Chum salmon -- the latter to protect ESA-listed Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca summer Chum.

Puget Sound marine fisheries were constrained by the need to meet management objectives for ESA-listed Puget Sound Chinook and due to conservation concerns for some Puget Sound Coho stocks. The primary constraining Puget Sound Chinook stocks during 2024 pre-season planning included Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Skagit Summer/Fall, and Nooksack Spring Chinook. Snohomish, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Hood Canal and Thompson Coho were the primary Coho management units of concern for developing fisheries in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, and Puget Sound.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Sport

Marked Chinook retention was allowed for sport fishing in marine salmon management Area 5 in the winter/spring season from March 1 through April 30, 2024. Sport fishing regulations allowed retention of marked Chinook in Area 5 in the summer season daily from July 1 through July 31. Sport fishing regulations allowed retention of marked Chinook from July 1 through August 15 in Area 6. Marked Coho retention was also permitted from July 1 through September 26 in Area 5 and Area 6. Unmarked Coho retention was permitted in Areas 5 and 6 from September 27 – October 15. Dungeness Bay was open for marked Coho retention during the month of October. Preliminary estimates of Chinook and Coho encounters (retained and released fish) and the legal-size mark rate in the Area 5 and Area 6 sport mark-selective fisheries are presented in the following tables.

Preliminary estimates of **Chinook** retained, released (legal and sub-legal size), and the legal-size mark rate in the **Area 5** sport mark-selective fishery, July 1 – July 31, 2024.			
Chinook retained	Chinook released	Total encounters	Mark % (legal size)
3,280	17,386	20,666	48.8%

Preliminary estimates of **Coho** retained, released (legal and sub-legal size), and the legal-size mark rate in the **Area 5** sport mark-selective fishery, July 1 – October 15, 2024.			
Coho retained	Coho released	Total encounters	Mark % (legal size)
18,195	31,658	57,583	37.8%

Preliminary estimates of **Chinook** retained, released (legal and sub-legal size), and the legal-size mark rate in the **Area 6** sport mark-selective fishery, July 1 – August 15, 2024.			
Chinook retained	Chinook released	Total encounters	Mark % (legal size)
7,182	7,525	9,577	75.0%

Preliminary estimates of **Coho** retained, released (legal and sub-legal size), and the legal-size mark rate in the **Area 6** sport mark-selective fishery, July 1 – October 15, 2024.			
Coho retained	Coho released	Total encounters	Mark % (legal size)
6,275	7,298	13,573	39.9%

A detailed report of this summer period sport fishery, including estimated catch, effort and other results of the sampling and monitoring programs, will be available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in early 2025.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Tribal Troll (Area 4B, 5, 6, and 6C)

During the winter Tribal troll fishery in Areas 4B, 5, 6, and 6C (November 1, 2023 – April 15, 2024), 3,400 Chinook and zero Coho were caught. In the summer Tribal troll fishery in Areas 5, 6, and 6C only (June 1 – September 30, 2024), 3,800 Chinook and 1,800 Coho were caught. The Tribal catch estimates from this area do not include catch from Area 4B during the May-September PFMC management period, which have been included in the North of Cape Falcon Tribal ocean troll summary.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Tribal Net

Preliminary estimates of the 2024 catch in the Strait of Juan de Fuca Tribal net fisheries (no Non-Tribal net fisheries in the Strait of Juan de Fuca) are 600 Chinook and 400 Coho salmon.

San Juan Islands Net (Areas 6, 7, and 7A)

Preliminary estimates of the 2024 catch in the San Juan Island net fishery directed at Sockeye salmon totaled 8 Chinook and 2,046 Coho salmon in the Non-Tribal fishery. Tribal fishery landings from this area for all gear types totaled 300 Chinook and 4,800 Coho.

San Juan Islands (Area 7) Sport

Marked Chinook retention was allowed in Area 7 during the summer season. The summer fishery was originally scheduled for one Thursday - Saturday opening, but was extended based on in-season management for three additional days over the next three weeks. Running July 18 - 20, July 26, August 4, and August 13. The southern Rosario Strait and eastern portions of Area 7 were closed for the season to protect Puget Sound Chinook salmon. Additional sub-area closures are described in the 2024-25 Washington State Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet. The table below presents estimated Chinook encounters (retained and released) and the legal-size mark rate in the Area 7 sport mark-selective fishery during July and August 2024.

Estimated Chinook retained, released (legal and sub-legal size) and the legal-size mark rate in the Area 7 sport mark-selective fishery, July and August 2024.

Chinook retained	Chinook released	Total encounters	Mark % (legal size)
2,495	2,494	4,989	65.9%

Puget Sound Marine Sport (Areas 8-13)

Mark-selective sport fisheries (MSFs) targeting adipose fin-clipped (marked) hatchery Chinook were conducted in Area 10 (Seattle-Bremerton), Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island), and Area 13 (South Puget Sound) during the winter (October 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024). Additionally, mark-selective fisheries occurred during the summer season Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet), Area 10, Area, Area 12, and Area 13. Specific dates of these winter and summer mark-selective fishery seasons, by area, are shown in the table below.

Puget Sound Chinook mark-selective sport fisheries conducted in marine areas during 2024.

Areas	Season
9	Summer: July 18 –20; August 4, 2024.
10	Winter: –March 1 – April 15, 2024. Summer: July 18 – 20; July 25 – 27; August 4; August 11-12 2024; Sinclair Inlet: July 16 – September 30, 2024.
11	Winter: March 1 – April 15, 2024. Summer: June 5 – 8; June 12 - 15; June 19 – 22; June 23 – 30; July 18 – 20; July 25 – 27; August 1 – September 30, 2024.
12	Summer: July 1 – September 30, 2024 (South of Ayock Point).
13	Year round: January 1 – December 31

Post-season reports detailing results of these Chinook MSFs, including estimates of retained and released encounters, effort and mark rates from sampling and monitoring programs, will be available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Spring of 2025.

Mark-selective sport fisheries directed at marked Coho were conducted in the following marine areas during 2024: Areas 5 and 6 from July 1 – September 26; Area 7 from July 18 – 20, July 26, and August 1 - August 31; Area 9 from July 18 – 20, and August 1 – September 23; and in Area 13 from January 1 – May 14, and May 16 - December 31. Marked and unmarked Coho retention was permitted in Area 5 and Area 6 from September 27 - October 15; Area 7 from September 1 – 29; Area 9 from September 24 – 30; Tulalip Bay from May 24 –

September 23 (on Fridays through noon on Mondays only); in Area 10 from June 1 – September 30; in Area 11 from June 5 – 22 (Wednesdays through Saturdays), June 23 – 30, July 18 – 20, July 25 - 27, August 1 – September 30,; and in Area 12 from July 1 – September 30 South of Ayock, August 1 – September 30, 2024 North of Ayock, and from August 1 – August 31, 2024 in Quilcene Bay.

Puget Sound Marine Net (Areas 8-13 & 7B-D)

To achieve conservation objectives for natural Puget Sound Chinook, limited marine net fishing opportunities directed at returns of hatchery Chinook and both hatchery and natural Coho were planned for 2024. Chinook and Coho were also intercepted in fisheries directed at Chum salmon.

A total of 40,721 Chinook and 305,323 Coho were landed in Tribal net fisheries in marine terminal areas of Puget Sound (Areas 8-13 & 7B-D). Non-Tribal net fishery landings from these areas totaled 13,251Chinook and 16,005 Coho. Chinook landings in the Non-Tribal net fishery occurred during Chinook-directed fisheries in Areas 7B, 7C, and 12C, with 10 Chinook reported as landed in during the Area 10 Chum fishery.

Puget Sound Rivers Fisheries

Tribal net and Non-Tribal sport fisheries were implemented in freshwater systems based upon pre-season, Tribal-State agreements and subject in part to in-season adjustment. Harvest of Chinook and Coho in the Tribal in-river net fisheries (includes catch from river systems in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Hood Canal, and Puget Sound) totaled 21,800 Chinook and 95,900 Coho during 2024.

Also, recreational fisheries targeting Chinook salmon were conducted in nine Puget Sound Rivers that have PSC Chinook coded wire tag (CWT) exploitation rate indicator stocks or double index tag (DIT) groups, as listed in the table below. Of these, six rivers had mark-selective fisheries and three rivers had non-selective fisheries, as follows:

Chinook mark-selective sport fisheries conducted in Puget Sound rivers during 2024.	
River	Season
Nooksack River	August 1 – September 30 mainstem from Lummi Indian Reservation boundary to the yellow marker at the FFA high school barn in Deming; October 1 – 15 South Fork from the mouth to Skookum Creek.
Cascade River	May 29 – June 25, Wednesdays through Saturdays only, June 26 – July 15.
Skagit River	April 24- May 31 from the Highway 536 bridge to Gilligan Creek, May 29-July 15 from Highway 530 Bridge to Cascade River Road (Marblemount Bridge)
Skykomish River	September 1 – October 31
Carbon River	August 16 – October 31**,** from 11th Street Bridge to Carbon River closed Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays.
Puyallup River	July 1 – November 15 from mouth to Kalama Creek, August 11-September 30 closed Sundays through Tuesdays, October 1 – November 15 closed Sundays, Mondays.
Nisqually River	August 1 – September 30 mainstem from Lummi Indian Reservation boundary to the yellow marker at the FFA high school barn in Deming; October 1 – 15 South Fork from the mouth to Skookum Creek.
Chinook non-selective sport fisheries conducted in Puget Sound rivers during 2024.	
River	Season
Samish River	August 1 – September 30 from the mouth to Thomas Rd. Bridge. Between the mouth and the yellow marker open on September 14th to veterans only.
Green River	August 20 – December 31 from Tukwila International Blvd./Old Hwy. 99to South 212 St. Bridge.
Nooksack River	Oct 1- Dec 31 mainstem from the Lummi Indian Reservation boundary to the confluence of the North and South forks, Oct 1- Nov 30 North Fork from the confluence with the South Fork up to Maple Creek, Oct 16- Dec 31 South Fork from mouth to Skookum Creek.

During the 2024 season there were mark-selective sport fisheries targeting hatchery Coho in the rivers of Puget Sound that have PSC Coho CWT exploitation rate indicator stocks or DIT groups. A mark-selective fishery was open on the Samish River from August 1 - September 30, on the Dungeness River from October 23 through November 30, on the Nisqually River from July 1 – November 15. Recreational non-selective Coho fisheries were conducted on the Skagit River, Nooksack River, Snohomish River, Stillaguamish River, Cascade River, Green River, Carbon River, Wallace River, Puyallup River, and Quilcene River.

REFERENCES

Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Act of 1985. 2019 Agreement. U.S.-Canada. Public Law 99-5, 16 U.S.C. 3631.

Puget Sound Indian Tribes and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (PSIT and WDFW). 2010. Comprehensive Management Plan for Puget Sound Chinook: Harvest Management Component. Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, Washington. 237 p.

Table 15. Preliminary 2024 Landed Chinook Catch for Washington and Oregon Fisheries of Interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission, compared to landed Chinook values from previous years. Values are presented in number of fish rounded to the nearest 100. [9/]

	2024			Landed								
	Preseason [5/]											
Fisheries	Total Mortality [1/]	Landed [2/]	Preliminary Landed	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
OCEAN FISHERIES												
Commercial Troll												
Neah Bay and La Push (areas 3,4,4B) [3/]	62,900	55,500	25,800	38,200	31,600	12,000	7,600	39,100	33,700	35,200	28,100	73,600
Columbia Ocean Area and Westport (area 1,2) [4/]	41,000	28,000	31,900	32,600	22,500	15,500	6,800	3,400	13,900	24,700	14,200	50,900
Sport (see text for quota information)												
Neah Bay (area 4)	10,500	9,200	6,100	5,500	4,900	4,400	2,000	3,900	3,000	7,300	3,300	8,500
La Push (area 3)	2,100	1,800	700	1,100	900	300	20	600	400	500	300	2,400
Westport (area 2)	19,200	17,400	11,000	13,900	11,300	7,100	4,800	2,400	4,900	6,600	8,400	19,100
Columbia Ocean Area (area 1)[13/]	14,300	12,500	6,700	9,800	7,800	6,000	800	4,000	2,300	7,600	6,000	12,200
INSIDE FISHERIES												
Sport [10/]												
Strait of Juan de Fuca (area 5,6)	21,900	12,200	9,600	10,300	19,700	18,400	6,600	11,300	14,300	9,900	9,700	11,800
San Juan Islands (area 7)	3,900	2,200	2,200	2,100	4,100	3,300	3,400	7,100	7,300	11,300	6,200	8,600
Puget Sound Marine (area 8-13)	33,300	20,200	-	16,400	23,900	29,200	11,200	20,500	29,900	22,800	14,400	8,800
Puget Sound Rivers [12/]	15,600	15,100	-	22,300	16,800	17,700	11,300	9,900	13,300	18,500	8,600	11,100
North WA Coastal Rivers	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,500	600	2,200

Fisheries	2024 Preseason [5/] Total Mortality [1/]	2024 Preseason [5/] Landed [2/]	2024 Preliminary Landed	Landed 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Grays Harbor [7/]	-	-	-	800	900	1,400	1,500	1,700	3,700	2,700	2,800	3,400
Columbia River (Spring) [6/]	-	-	7,200	5,800	13,900	5,700	2,000	2,000	8,100	9,100	14,100	21,300
Columbia River (Summer) [6/]	-	-	900	2,100	3,500	2,200	1,300	-	1,100	3,800	3,600	5,000
Columbia River (Fall) (incl. Buoy 10) [6/]	-	-	60,800	62,000	48,000	45,800	40,800	22,000	22,400	60,400	48,700	91,300
Commercial[11/]												
Strait of Juan de Fuca net and troll (area 4B,5,6C)	4,800	3,800	7,800	5,200	10,900	1,800	900	1,700	3,600	1,900	700	5,900
San Juan Islands (area 6,7, 7A)	6,400	6,300	300	9,900	4,700	2,000	-	3,600	3,400	2,600	100	4,800
Puget Sound Marine (8-13,7B-D)	34,900	34,300	53,800	69,900	70,600	49,000	35,400	72,200	70,500	90,400	55,800	33,100
Puget Sound Rivers[12/]	32,900	32,600	21,800	24,400	25,300	34,200	19,000	38,300	41,700	53,700	23,300	21,200
North WA Coastal Rivers	-	-	6,300	13,100	13,000	11,300	16,700	12,200	11,400	14,400	9,400	17,200
Grays Harbor (area 2A-2D) [7/]	1,200	1,100	1,000	400	1,500	2,400	3,600	2,400	2,700	3,700	2,100	10,500
Columbia River Net (Winter/Spring) [8/]	-	-	6,800	12,200	16,300	4,400	4,400	4,700	10,900	8,100	20,700	38,400
Columbia River Net (Summer) [8/]	-	-	7,100	11,100	16,200	11,200	8,400	5,600	9,500	16,300	23,500	41,700
Columbia River Net (Fall) [8/]	-	-	128,700	149,400	208,300	91,400	136,600	81,100	64,200	140,400	189,600	371,100

Table 15 Footnotes:

[1/] Estimates of total mortality (not adjusted for adult equivalents) include non-retention mortality. Total mortality is estimated by Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) as catch + incidental mortality, where incidental mortality = drop off + non-retention mortality (PFMC 2008).

[2/] For the ocean fisheries, this column shows the Chinook troll and recreational quotas used for 2024 pre-season fishery planning as distributed by ocean area (Landing Quotas = Landed). See text for any in-season adjustments.

[3/] Includes Area 4B catch during the PFMC management period (May 1 – September 15); Area 4B Treaty troll catch outside PFMC period included under Strait of Juan de Fuca net and troll (October-April).

[4/] Includes Oregon troll catch in Area 1.

[5/] FRAM modeled pre-season fishery impacts cover the current fishery planning year, for Chinook defined as May 1 through April 30.

Table 15 Footnotes:

[6/] Mainstem retained adult sport catch only (upstream to McNary Dam for spring, Priest Rapids Dam for summer and to Hwy 395 for fall). See tables 5, 8, 24-25 in the current Joint Staff Report regarding spring and summer Chinook and tables 25-27 in the annual fall report; available online at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/compact/other-information.

[7/] Includes Grays Harbor catch, as well as catch from the Chehalis and Humptulips Rivers and their tributaries for sport and Chehalis and Humptulips Rivers for net estimates.

[8/] Mainstem retained catch only. Includes Tribal C&S and Commercial from all gear types and Non-Tribal (Columbia River mouth upstream to McNary Dam). Excludes Non-treaty Select Area commercial catches. Fall season does not include seine catch. Catch data from annual Joint Staff Reports. Winter and spring catch Tables 5 (Tribal) and 17 (Non-Tribal). Summer catch is in Table 8 and 18. Fall catch from annual fall report Tables 21, 22, 23 and 29; available online at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/compact/other-information.

[9/] Includes catch from mark-selective fisheries as shown in Table 17, this report.

[10/] Sport data for the most recent two years are preliminary. All data subject to change.

[11/] Includes Non-Tribal & Tribal commercial, as well as Tribal C&S for all gear types.

[12/] Chinook fisheries in Puget Sound Rivers are modeled using the Terminal Area Management Module (TAMM), based upon FRAM output of terminal run sizes. Total Mortality is estimated in TAMM as catch + non-retention mortality (PFMC 2008).

[13/] Includes Oregon sport catch in Area 1.

Table 16. Preliminary 2024 Landed Coho Catch for Washington and Oregon Fisheries of Interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission, compared to landed Coho values from previous years. Values are presented in number of fish rounded to the nearest 100. [6/]

	2024			Landed								
	Preseason [9/]											
Fisheries	Total Mortality [1/]	Landed [2/]	Preliminary Landed	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
OCEAN FISHERIES												
Commercial Troll												
Neah Bay and La Push (area 3,4,4B) [3/]	37,700	33,300	41,000	31,000	34,800	25,400	14300	55,100	11,400	13,300	-	4,100
Columbia Ocean Area and Westport (area 1,2) [10/]	20,900	13,000	13,200	9,500	11,800	4,500	800	5,900	1,300	1,800	-	4,800
Sport (see text for quota information)												
Neah Bay (area 4)	10,600	8,300	7,400	5,700	2,600	2,600	3,100	6,200	4,900	3,500	100	7,800
La Push (area 3)	2,600	2,100	2,000	1,600	2,200	1,300	200	1,800	1,000	1,750	-	600
Westport (area 2)	37,100	29,500	28,800	20,900	32,500	20,700	7,900	20,200	15,400	15,750	-	30,700
Columbia Ocean Area (area 1)[12/]	50,200	39,900	38,900	31,500	44,000	39,500	12,800	53,500	20,600	21,600	18,600	44,600
INSIDE FISHERIES												
Sport [7/]												
Strait of Juan de Fuca (area 5,6)	34,700	29,800	26,900	23,900	33,600	37,100	42,100	15,800	19,400	4,800	100	62,000
San Juan Islands (area 7)	7,000	6,600	20,000	1,900	2,400	500	10,800	5,800	4,800	100	100	3,800
Puget Sound Marine (area 8-13)	72,300	67,000	-	79,500	62,700	65,600	44,400	43,000	50,100	31,400	4,900	76,900
Puget Sound Rivers	24,100	22,600	-	29,400	19,100	39,100	21,300	25,100	19,600	16,700	11,400	18,700
North WA Coastal Rivers	3,800	3,600	-	3,300	2,500	2,500	2,700	3,900	2,000	4,900	1,600	3,600
Grays Harbor [5/]	20,400	19,400	-	16,900	16,000	4,700	4,400	13,500	4,000	9,200	3,700	8,200
Columbia River Buoy 10[4/,11/]	32,500	25,000	35,000	9,800	8,800	37,000	7,100	22,800	6,800	18,800	9,200	36,900
Commercial [8/]												

	2024			Landed								
	Preseason [9/]											
Fisheries	Total Mortality [1/]	Landed [2/]	Preliminary Landed	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Strait of Juan de Fuca net and troll (area 4B,5,6C)	15,600	14,900	2,200	500	4,200	2,500	1,800	600	5,000	1,200	700	1,700
San Juan Islands (area 6,7,7A)	17,300	13,100	6,800	4,600	16,400	9,000	5,200	1,900	3,900	3,400	4,100	4,000
Puget Sound Marine (area 8-13,7B-D)	137,200	134,400	323,300	150,300	92,100	162,700	118,200	46,300	119,700	126,300	210,900	28,800
Puget Sound Rivers	105,800	103,700	97,500	54,000	125,000	141,200	76,300	43,200	117,100	65,500	65,400	17,800
North WA Coastal Rivers	34,800	34,100	9,700	16,500	41,200	22,700	30,800	13,400	22,300	63,700	57,800	18,400
Grays Harbor (area 2A-2D) [5/]	40,100	39,300	14,900	7,100	25,600	13,300	6,500	10,200	9,800	12,700	3,200	14,700

Table 16 Footnotes:

[1/] Estimates of total mortality include non-retention mortality. Total Mortality is estimated by Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) as catch + incidental mortality, where incidental mortality = drop off + non-retention mortality (PFMC 2008).

[2/] For ocean fisheries this column shows the Coho troll and recreational quotas used for 2024 pre-season fishery planning as distributed by ocean area (Landing Quotas = Landed). See text for any in-season adjustments.

[3/] Includes area 4B catch during the PFMC management period (May 1 – September 15); area 4B Treaty troll catch outside the PFMC period included under Strait Juan de Fuca net and troll (October-April).

[4/] Retained catch only. See table 26 in the current fall Joint Staff report available online at https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/compact/other-information.

[5/] Includes Grays Harbor catch, as well as catch from the Chehalis and Humptulips Rivers; their tributaries are included in sport estimates only.

[6/] Includes catch from mark-selective fisheries where estimates are available.

[7/] Sport data for the most recent two years are preliminary. All data subject to change.

[8/] Includes Non-Tribal and Tribal commercial and take-home fish, as well as Tribal ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) for all gear types. Starting in 2012, the Copalis, Moclips, and Ozette Rivers have been removed from landed catch.

[9/] FRAM modeled pre-season fishery impacts cover the current fishery planning year, for Coho defined as January 1 through December 31.

[10/] Includes Oregon troll catch in Area 1.

[11/] For Buoy 10, see tables 25 in the annual fall report.

[12/] Includes Oregon sport catch in Area 1.

Table 17. Mark-Selective Chinook and Coho Fisheries by Area and Year. "Yes" denotes that a mark-selective fishery occurred, even if it only occurred in a subset of the fishing area, season, gear type, or user group.

Selective Coho	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Ocean Troll														
Cape Flattery & Quillayute (Areas 3/4)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Columbia R & Grays Harbor (Areas 1 & 2)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ocean Sport														
Neah Bay (Area 4)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
LaPush (Area 3)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Grays Harbor (Area 2)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Col. R. (Leadbetter Pt. to Cape Falcon)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sport														
Juan de Fuca (Areas 5 & 6)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
San Juan Islands (7)	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Puget Sound Sport (Areas 8-13 all year)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Puget Sound Rivers	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
North WA Coastal Rivers	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Grays Harbor (Areas 2-2)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Willapa Bay (Area 2-1)	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Columbia River Buoy 10	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Commercial														
North WA Coastal Rivers	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Grays Harbor (Areas 2A-2D)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Willapa Bay (Area 2-1)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Columbia River Net/ - Fall	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Strait of Juan de Fuca (Areas 4B/5/6C) Net & Troll	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
San Juan Islands (Areas 6, 7 & 7A)	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Puget Sound Marine (Areas 8 - 13)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Puget Sound Rivers	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no

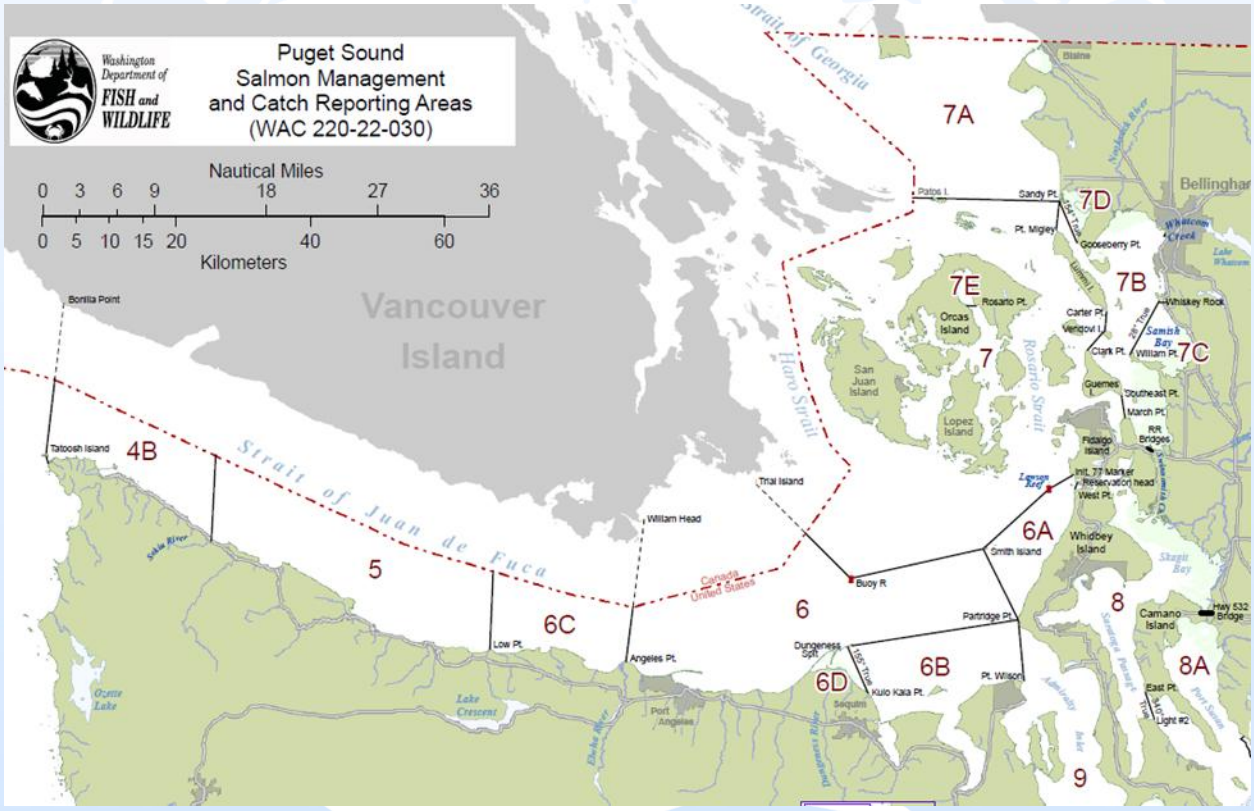
Selective Chinook	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Ocean Troll														
Cape Flattery & Quillayute (Areas 3/4/4B)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Columbia. R & Grays Harbor (Areas 1&2)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Ocean Sport														
Neah Bay (Area 4)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
La Push (Area 3)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Grays Harbor/Westport (Area 2)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Col. R./Ilwaco (Leadbetter Pt. to Cape Falcon)	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Sport														
Juan de Fuca (Area 5&6)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
San Juan Islands (Area 7)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Puget Sound Sport (Areas 8-13)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Puget Sound Rivers	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
North WA Coastal Rivers	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Grays Harbor (Areas 2-2)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Columbia River Sport - Winter/Spring	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Columbia River Sport - Summer	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Columbia River Sport - Fall	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Willapa Bay (Area 2-1)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Commercial														
North WA Coastal Rivers	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Grays Harbor (Areas 2A-2D)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Willapa Bay (Area 2-1)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Columbia River Net-Winter/Spring	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Columbia River Net - Summer	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Columbia River Net - Fall	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Strait of Juan de Fuca(4B/5/6C) Net & Troll	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
San Juan Islands (Areas 6, 7 & 7A)	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Puget Sound Marine (Areas 7B-D,8 - 13)	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes
Puget Sound Rivers	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

REVIEW OF THE 2023 WASHINGTON CHUM SALMON FISHERIES OF INTEREST TO THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

This summary report provides a preliminary review of the 2024 U.S. Chum salmon (Oncorhynchus keta) fisheries conducted by Puget Sound salmon co-managers (Puget Sound Treaty fishing tribes and the State of Washington) in the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 4B, 5 and 6C), the San Juan Islands and the Point Roberts area (Areas 7 and 7A) (Figure 39), conducted in compliance with provisions of Chapter 6 of Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST 2019). The harvest and abundance information provided are based on preliminary data reported through November 15, 2024. These preliminary data are subject to correction and revision as additional information becomes available.

Figure 39. Puget Sound Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas with Chum salmon fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission.



MIXED STOCK FISHERIES

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C

As in recent years, the 2024 Chum salmon fishery in Areas 4B, 5 and 6C experienced very limited effort by Tribal fishers using gillnets. The fall Chum-directed salmon fishery opened the week of October 13, with a schedule of six days per week and continued through November 16. A total of 27 Chum salmon were harvested during this period (Table 18). During the fall Chum fisheries in Areas 4B, 5, and 6C, there was reported by-catch of 404 Coho, and zero Chinook or Steelhead.

Table 18. Preliminary 2024 Chum salmon harvest report for Washington Salmon Catch Reporting Areas 4B, 5, and 6C.

Areas 4B, 5, 6C	
Treaty Indian, Gill Net Only	
Time Periods	GN
Through 9/21	2
9/22-9/28	0
9/29-10/5	0
10/6-10/12	10
10/13-10/19	0
10/20-10/26	15
10/27-11/2	0
11/3-11/8	0
11/10-11/16	0
Total	27

Areas 7 and 7A

Chum salmon fisheries in Areas 7 and 7A are regulated to comply with a base harvest ceiling of 125,000 Chum salmon, unless Canada estimates Chum stocks migrating through Johnstone Strait ("Inside Southern Chum salmon") are below the critical threshold of 1.0 million (PST 2019). Chapter 6 of Annex IV specifies that U.S. commercial fisheries for Chum salmon in Areas 7 and 7A will not occur prior to October 10. For Inside Southern Chum run sizes below the critical threshold, Paragraph 10 (b) states the U.S. catch of Chum salmon in Areas 7 and 7A will be limited to those taken incidentally to other species and in other minor fisheries and shall not exceed 20,000.

On October 8, 2024, Canada notified the U.S. that the Inside Southern Chum aggregate was estimated to be above the critical threshold of 1.0 million. Following this notification, the U.S. initiated commercial Chum fisheries in Areas 7 and 7A on October 10. Chum fisheries in Areas 7 and 7A remained open through October 16, at which time the U.S. harvest ceiling of 125,000 Chum was estimated to have been reached.

Paragraph 9 (d) states that Canada will provide an in-season estimate of Fraser River Chum salmon run size no later than October 22. If that estimate is below 1,050,000, then the U.S. will limit its fishery in Areas 7 and 7A to not exceed a catch of 20,000 additional Chum salmon from the day following notification. If the Fraser River Chum run size estimate is between 1,050,000 and 1,600,000, the U.S catch ceiling remains at 125,000. If the Fraser River run size estimate is above 1,600,000, the U.S. catch ceiling is revised to 160,000.

On October 22, 2024, Canada notified the U.S. that the Fraser River Chum run size was estimated to be 1.126 million fish, between the 1.05 million and 1.6 million thresholds identified in the Treaty. Therefore, the U.S. catch ceiling remained at 125,000, and this quota having already been reached, Areas 7 and 7A remained closed to commercial Chum fisheries through the remainder of the Chum management period.

Non-Tribal reef net fisheries targeting Coho salmon were conducted following the end of Fraser Panel control, with Chum and unmarked Chinook retention prohibited prior to October 1. Retention of unmarked Coho prior to October 1 was capped at 972 fish, per the co-managers' List of Agreed to Fisheries.

The total 2024 Chum salmon catch by all gears in Areas 6, 7, and 7A (reported through November 16) was 138,343 Chum (Table 19). Non-Tribal reef net gear caught 5,735 Chum in Area 7 (Table 19). Bycatch in Chum salmon-directed fisheries in Areas 6, 7, and 7A totaled 6,443 Coho, 352 Chinook, and zero Steelhead. Bycatch numbers include both landed and estimated non-landed fish.

Table 19. Preliminary 2024 Chum salmon harvest report for Puget Sound Salmon Catch Reporting Areas 6, 7 and 7A, by management week and gear type[1/].

	Area 6	Area 7				Area 7A			Area 6,7,7A
Time Periods	GN	PS	GN	RN	**Area Total**	PS	GN	**Area Total**	**Total**
Through 9/21					**0**			**0**	**0**
9/22-9/28					**0**			**0**	**0**
9/29-10/5				1643	**1,643**			**0**	**1,643**
10/6-10/12		34,287	85	3,862	**38,234**	8,639	10,889	**19,528**	**57,762**
10/13-10/19		42,622	325	230	**43,177**	16,698	19,063	**35,761**	**78,938**
10/20-10/26					**0**			**0**	**0**
10/27-11/2					**0**			**0**	**0**
11/3-11/8					**0**			**0**	**0**
11/10-11/16					**0**			**0**	**0**
Total	**0**	**76,909**	**410**	**5,735**	**83,054**	**25,337**	**29,952**	**55,289**	**138,343**

[1/] Gear Type Abbreviations: GN=Gill Net; PS=Purse Seine; RN=Reef Net

Acknowledging the imprecision inherent in fisheries management, Paragraph 9 (h) of the Treaty defines the U.S. harvest levels in Catch Areas 7 and 7A that would constitute a catch overage at each catch ceiling, and 9 (i) prescribes the mechanism for payback in subsequent years. When the U.S. chum catch ceiling is 125,000, as in 2024, a U.S. catch in Areas 7 and 7A of up to 135,000 chum salmon does not result in an overage calculation, whereas catch exceeding 135,000 shall result in an overage, to be calculated by subtracting 125,000 from the total Area 7/7A U.S. chum catch. Payback of overages occurs by reducing the U.S. annual catch ceilings in up to two subsequent non-critical Inside Southern chum salmon years.

PUGET SOUND TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES AND RUN STRENGTH

Pre-season forecasts for Chum salmon returns to Puget Sound in 2024 predicted a fall Chum run size totaling approximately 818,793 fish, with 254,900 Chum predicted to return to Hood Canal and 486,582 predicted to return to South Puget Sound. As of the date of this report (November 2024), in-season estimates indicate that overall, Chum returns to Puget Sound

are well above forecast. In-season run size estimates indicate that South/Central Puget Sound fall Chum are expected to return at least 185% of the pre-season forecast, while Hood Canal fall Chum run are expected to return at 408% of the pre-season forecasted abundance.

Terminal fisheries in mixed-stock marine areas were pursued in 2024 both in South Puget Sound and in Hood Canal. As of the date of this report, spawning escapement surveys are in progress for most Puget Sound stocks and therefore escapement estimates are not yet available. Early indications from these surveys suggest that many natural fall Chum stocks in South Puget Sound are exceeding escapement objectives. North Puget Sound Chum stocks also saw higher returns than have been observed in recent years.

REFERENCES

Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Act of 1985. 2019 Agreement. U.S.-Canada. Public Law 99-5, 16 U.S.C. 3631.

REVIEW OF 2024 UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE AND PINK FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Fraser River Panel fishing season was implemented under Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), and guidelines provided by the Pacific Salmon Commission to the Fraser River Panel. The treaty establishes a bilateral (U.S. and Canada) Fraser River Panel (Panel) that develops a pre-season management plan and approves in-season fisheries within Panel Area waters directed at Sockeye and Pink salmon bound for the Fraser River (Figure 40). In partial fulfillment of Article IV, paragraph 1 of the PST, this document provides a season review of the 2024 U.S. Fraser River salmon fisheries as authorized by the Panel. Catch and abundance information presented is considered preliminary.

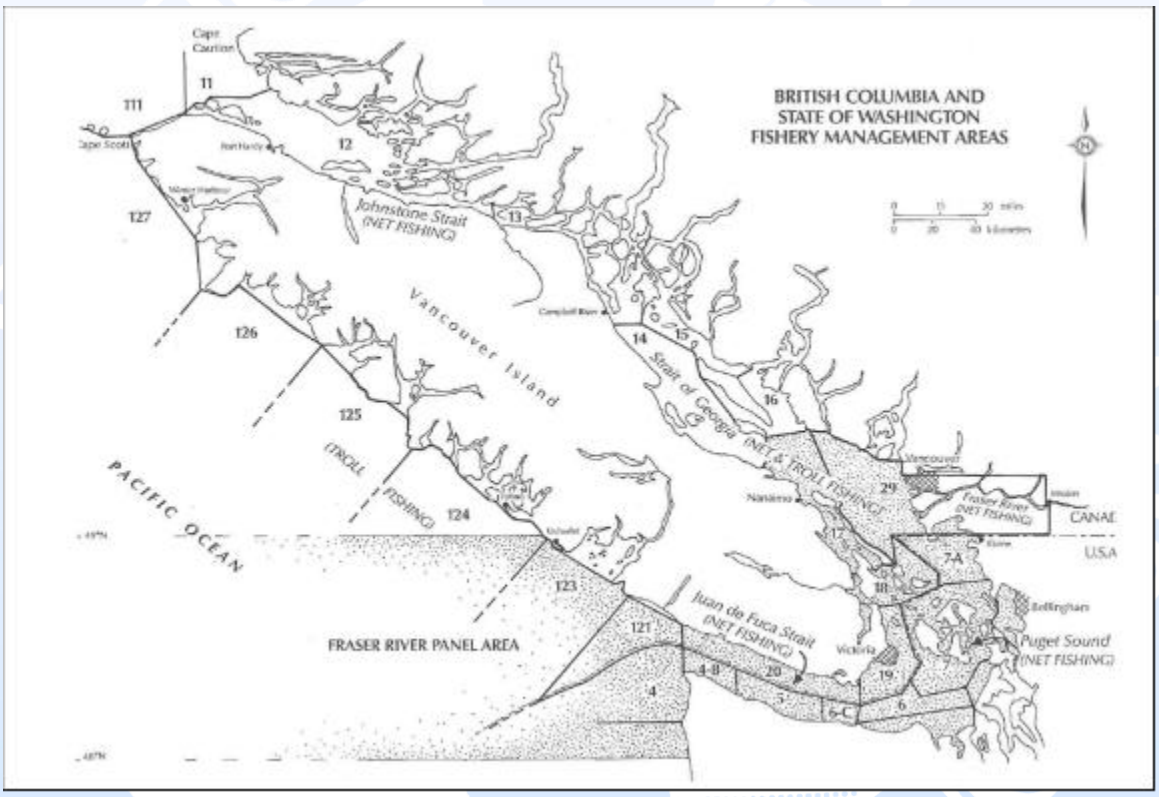


Figure 40. British Columbia and State of Washington Fishery Management Areas, 2024. The shaded area in the figure represents the marine waters managed by the Fraser River Panel.

PRE-SEASON EXPECTATIONS AND PLANS

Forecasts and Escapement Goals

Pre-season run size forecasts and escapement goals by run-timing group (run) at various probability levels were provided to the Panel by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada (DFO). Pre-season Sockeye forecasts were based on the 50 percent probability level, which represent the mid-point of the range of forecast run sizes (Table 20). The total Fraser Sockeye return was forecasted at 567,000 making 2024 the lowest forecast on record. Escapement goals for the Sockeye run-timing groups based on the pre-season forecast of

abundance (Table 20). The escapement goals for all runs can change in-season as the run size estimates are updated.

Table 20. 2024 pre-season Fraser River Sockeye forecasts and escapement goals by run-timing group.

	Early Stuart	Early Summer	Summer	Late	Total
Forecast of Abundance	181	158,950	379,247	28,958	567,336
Escapement Goal	181	131,200	379,247	28,958	539,586

Northern Diversion Rate

Northern diversion rate is defined as the percentage of Fraser Sockeye migrating through Johnstone Strait (rather than the Strait of Juan de Fuca) in their approach to the Fraser River. The pre-season forecast for diversion was 33% which was in-line with the average of the recent three years on the same cycle line (2012, 2016, 2020;).

Management Adjustment (MA) and Environmental Conditions

Management adjustments (MA) for Sockeye salmon reflect the anticipated difference between escapement estimates at Mission (minus catch above Mission) and actual spawning escapements. Adjustments adopted by the Panel are added to the gross escapement goal, effectively increasing the spawner escapement goal for the respective run-timing group. MAs are modeled using forecasts of environmental conditions and return timing or median historical differences between estimates. Table 21 provides the pre-season projected MAs that were used for planning fisheries in 2024. In-season management adjustments use models that are based on both measured and forecasted temperatures and discharges or, for Late-run Sockeye, upstream migration timing.

Table 21. 2024 pre-season proportional management adjustment (pMA) and corresponding proportional difference between estimates (pDBE1) for each run-timing group.

Early Stuart		Early Summer		Summer		Late	
pDBE	pMA	pDBE	pMA	pDBE	pMA	pDBE	pMA
-0.54	1.17	-0.36	0.56	-0.22	0.28	-0.33	0.49

[1] Early Stuart pDBE = “all years” historical median (1995-2023); Early Summer pDBE = ”all years” historical median; Summer pDBE = “preseason T&Q” model median; Late pDBE = ”all years” historical median (1996-2023, excl. Dominant Cycle years).

Run Timing

Run timing is temporal information about the presence of a salmon stock in a specific time and area. Run timing is an important variable when planning fisheries and updating run sizes in-season. The following Area 20 50% dates (the dates when 50% of the run is forecast to have passed through Area 20) were predicted pre-season for the major Fraser River Sockeye run groups.

Table 22. 2024 Area 20 median 50% run-timing dates and updated pre-season timing forecasts in June.

Run-Timing Group	Area 20 50% Run-Timing (Median)	Area 20 50% Run Timing (June)	Area 20 50% Run Timing (In-season)
Early Stuart	July 4	July 7	N/A
Early Summer	July 28	July 19	July 14
Summer	August 7	July 30	August 1
Late	August 17	August 7	August 12

U.S. Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Following Annex IV of the PST, U.S. TAC is calculated as 16.5% of the TAC for international sharing for Sockeye salmon and 25.7% for Pink salmon. Pre-season, the U.S. TAC was established at zero Sockeye at the p50 modelled run size (Table 23).

Table 23. 2023 U.S. total allowable catch (TAC) by run-timing group[1].

Run Timing Group	Pre-season U.S. TAC
Early Stuart	0
Early Summer	0
Summer	0
Late	0
Total	0
Pink Salmon	199,100

[1] Based on Panel-approved final pre-season model run.

Pre-season Management Plans

During the pre-season planning process the Panel evaluates and adopts management approaches for Fraser Sockeye that address conservation and harvest objectives for each major run-timing group. The Panel develops fishing plans and in-season decision rules with the objective of meeting management goals. Managing Fraser River Sockeye salmon involves a trade-off between catching abundant runs while meeting escapement objectives for less abundant run-timing groups.

Given the constraints imposed by low returns to all Fraser Sockeye management groups and the potential for adverse Fraser River conditions, pre-season plans were developed which indicated that both Canada and the United States were unlikely to have harvest opportunities at the median forecast for Sockeye salmon. Specifically, based on pre-season forecasts, no Fraser Sockeye salmon run-timing groups had pre-season U.S. TAC (Table 23). Therefore, the U.S. did not plan to prosecute Fraser origin Sockeye salmon directed fisheries unless an in-season adopted run-size created available TAC based on pre-season modeled management scenarios. The Fraser River Sockeye management objectives based on the pre-season forecasts placed high priority on achieving Fraser Sockeye escapement goals.

IN-SEASON MANAGEMENT

In-season, the Pacific Salmon Commission staff analyzes a variety of information to produce best estimates of northern diversion, management adjustments, timing, abundance, and harvest by run-timing group. Stock identification information (both genetic data and scales), age data, test fishing data, escapement counts past Mission, harvest data, and environmental information are all used to provide in-season estimates that are critical to the Fraser Panel for making management decisions.

Run Assessment

The final in-season total Sockeye abundance estimated by the Fraser River Panel in 2024 was 474,000 (Table 24), which was the second lowest return on record and about 16% below the pre-season forecast. The 2024 Sockeye return was larger than (20%) the 2020 brood year return (0.4M), but 85% below the historical cycle-line median return (3.1M). The return of Summer-run Sockeye, the group with the largest pre-season forecast, was approximately 19% below the pre-season forecast.

The 2024 Fraser Sockeye run timing varied from predicted timing across all run-timing groups. The Early Stuart run timing was not evaluated in 2024, since Area 12 test fisheries were not operated until July 14. The Early Summer run was five days earlier than expected. Summer-run Sockeye arrived two days later than expected, while Late-run Sockeye were five days later than expected (Table 22).

Table 24. Comparison of 2024 pre-season to final adopted in-season abundance estimates for Fraser River Sockeye salmon, by run-timing group.

Run Timing Group	Pre-Season 50% Probability Forecast	In-Season Run Size Estimate[1]	Comparison: In-Season / Pre-Season
Early Stuart	181	N/A	N/A
Early Summer	158,950	142,000	-11%
Summer	379,247	307,000	-19%
Late	28,958	25,000	-14%
Total Sockeye	567,336	474,000	-16%

[1] As of September 27, 2024.

Season Description

The Fraser Panel held 16 regular meetings either in-person or by conference call from July 12 through September 25 (usually on Tuesdays and Fridays) to receive updates from PSC staff on the abundance and timing of the Sockeye salmon returns and to review migration conditions in the Fraser River watershed. During the 2024 season, high water temperature and low flow conditions were a major factor affecting management decisions because of the perception that there would be high enroute mortality within the Fraser River and poor spawning success. Additionally, on July 31 a significant landslide blocked the entire width of

the Chilcotin River approximately 28 km upstream of the confluence with the Fraser River. The Chilcotin River landslide likely impacted or delayed the migration of Chilko and Taseko Sockeye salmon, which comprise 46% of the Summer run management group and 31% of the total Fraser Sockeye forecast for the 2024 season. The last Fraser Panel in-season meeting was held on September 25. Table 25 summarizes changes to run sizes made by the Fraser Panel during the 2024 season and the effect on U.S. TAC.

The following summarizes the major decisions related to U.S. fishing during the 2024 season.

Week ending August 4, 2024

United States Fraser River Panel area waters remained closed to commercial salmon fishing. The panel adopted a run size of 136,000 Early Summer-run Sockeye.

Week ending August 11, 2024

United States Fraser River Panel area waters remained closed to commercial salmon fishing. The panel adopted a run size of 140,000 Early Summer-run Sockeye and a reduced run size of 300,000 Summer-run Sockeye.

Week ending August 18, 2024

United States Fraser River Panel area waters remained closed to commercial salmon fishing. The panel adopted a run size of 142,000 Early Summer-run Sockeye and a reduced run size of 18,000 Late-run Sockeye.

Week ending August 25, 2024

United States Fraser River Panel area waters remained closed to commercial salmon fishing. The panel adopted a run size of 143,000 Early Summer-run Sockeye, a reduced run size of 275,000 Summer-run Sockeye, and an increase to 38,000 Late-run Sockeye.

The Fraser Panel relinquished control of U.S. fishery areas as follows:

- Areas 4B, 5 6C at 11:59 p.m. September 2, 2024
- Areas 6, 6A, 7 and 7Aat 11:59 p.m. September 4, 2024

Table 25. Summary of changes to Fraser River Sockeye and Pink run sizes adopted by the Fraser Panel during the 2024 season and U.S. TAC.

Meeting Date	Run-Timing Group	Change Made	U.S. Sockeye TAC
Pre-season			0
August 2, 2024	Early Summer	Increased to 136,000	0
August 9, 2024	Early Summer Summer	Increased to 140,000 Decreased to 300,000	0

August 16, 2024	Early Summer Late Late	Increased to 142,000 Decreased to 18,000	0
August 23, 2024	Early Summer Summer Late	Increased to 143,000 Decreased to 275,000 Increased to 38,000	0
September 25, 2024	Early Summer Summer	Decreased to 142,000 Increased to 307,000	0

Harvest

Based on the pre-season forecasts, U.S. harvest opportunities in 2024 were not anticipated for Sockeye given the cycle line and forecasts for all run components, resulting in a preseason U.S. TAC of zero for Sockeye salmon at the p50 pre-season forecasted run size (Table 26).

Table 26. Preliminary summary of 2024 U.S. catches of Fraser River Sockeye salmon in Panel area waters.

	Treaty Tribes	All Citizens
Ceremonial and Subsistence (all Areas)	2,370	
Commercial Catch in Areas 4B/5/6C	0	
Commercial Catch in Areas 6/7/7A	0	0
Total Catch	0	0
% of U.S. Catch	100%	0%

The 2024 Fraser Sockeye and Pink salmon season presented some management challenges, as follows:

- The total Fraser Sockeye return of 474,000 was 20% above the brood year, but 85% below the historical cycle-line average. did not have any harvestable surplus
- Due to low abundances, there was not harvestable surplus for Fraser Sockeye.
- Extremely low discharge and associated high temperatures gave concern that en-route mortality and spawning success would be poor. However, fish condition was good and there was no direct evidence of losses.
- The Chilcotin landslide blocked and delayed passage for Chilko and Taseko Sockeye, likely impacting future productivity for those respective systems.

POST-SEASON REPORT FOR THE 2024 CANADIAN TREATY LIMIT FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The chapters in Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) outline the joint conservation and harvest sharing arrangements between Canada and the United States of America (U.S.) for key stocks and fisheries subject to the Treaty. In August 2018, the PSC recommended new provisions, under Annex IV of the PST, to the Governments of Canada and the U.S. for review and ratification. Both governments agreed to the provisional application of the new agreements as of January 1, 2019, while the ratification process was completed. Effective May 3, 2019, the Annex IV amendments came fully into force through the exchange of diplomatic notes between Canada and the U.S. and will remain in place for 10 years. Chapter 4 (Fraser River Sockeye and Pink) expired on December 31, 2019. In February 2019, agreement-in-principle was reached, and the proposed amendments were referred to the Governments of Canada and the U.S. for review and ratification. Both governments agreed to the provisional application of the amendments as of January 1, 2020, while the ratification process is completed. The new amendments came into force in Spring 2020 and will remain in place for 9 years, bringing Chapter 4 into alignment with the five other fishing Chapters under the PST.

Annex fisheries are reported in the order of the Chapters of Annex IV. Fishery summaries include expectations and management objectives, escapements (where available and appropriate) and catch results by species. The focus is on those stocks and fisheries covered by the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and not all Canadian domestic salmon fisheries are covered in this document.

Annually, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) releases a Salmon Outlook which is referenced in various sections of this report; this document provides a categorical indication of salmon production (using a 4 point rating scale), and associated fishing opportunities by geographic area and species stock groups called an Outlook Unit for the coming season. Pre-season quantitative forecasts are documented where they are produced.

The catch information reported in this document provides the best information available at this time. The catches are based on in-season estimates (hailed statistics), on-grounds counts by DFO, logbooks, dockside tallies, landing slips (First Nation fisheries), fish slip data (commercial troll and net), creel surveys, and observer information (recreational and commercial). Appendix 1 summarizes catches from years 2013 to 2024 in Canadian fisheries that have at some time been under limits imposed by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. More detailed catch data is provided for the current year for commercial, recreational, First Nations, Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements (ESSR), and test fisheries in Appendices 2 to 7.

TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

STIKINE RIVER

Following the 2024 pre-season meeting of the Transboundary Panel, the Canadian fishery strategy for Stikine River salmon was developed based on the catch sharing and management arrangements outlined in PST Annex IV, Chapter 1. Canada's intent was to achieve the following objectives: 1) to harvest the Canadian share (42.5%) of the total allowable catch (TAC) of Stikine River Sockeye salmon through the First Nation food, social, and ceremonial (FSC) fishery; 2) to provide harvesting opportunities for Sockeye salmon that were surplus to spawning requirements; and 3) to harvest up to 5,000 Coho salmon through a directed fishery. The pre-season forecast of 12,900 large Chinook salmon was well below the Chapter 1 fishery forecast run size threshold of 24,500 and did not allow for a directed Canadian fishery. The 2024 Chinook salmon pre-forecast also resulted in the cancellation of the 2024 assessment fishery. The pre-season forecast of 130,000 Sockeye salmon was sufficient to allow for a directed Canadian commercial fishery in 2024.

The 2024 Canadian lower Stikine River commercial Sockeye salmon fishery opened on July 3 (statistical week 27) and ended on July 24 (statistical week 30) for a combined total of fourteen fishing days. Subsequently, the lower Stikine River commercial Coho salmon fishery opened on August 25 (statistical week 35) and ended September 21 (statistical week 38). Commercial fishing gear authorized for use was limited to one 135-metre (443 ft.) gill net with a maximum mesh size of 204 mm (8") per licence holder. The lower Stikine Rover commercial fishing zone covered the area from the international (U.S./Canada) border upstream to near the confluence of the Porcupine and Stikine Rivers, and included the lower 10 km (6 mi.) reach of the Iskut River.

The upper Stikine River commercial fishing area is located upstream of the Chutine River to the mouth of the Tuya River and was open for a total of 6 fishing days in 2024. Openings in the upper Stikine River commercial fishery mirrored those in the lower river but lagged by one week. The Canadian Stikine River First Nation Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) fishery, located near the community of Telegraph Creek, British Columbia (B.C.) was active from July 12 to the second week of August. To facilitate Chinook conservation, measures were implemented within the fishery to minimize incidental catch of Chinook salmon.

Canadian recreational fishery effort was minimal for the majority of the 2024 season due to area, retention, and size restrictions for Chinook salmon. Recreational fishery effort for Coho salmon was low in 2024.

CHINOOK SALMON

The pre-season forecast of 12,900 large Chinook developed by the Transboundary Technical Committee (TTC) did not provide for a total allowable catch allocation in 2024. The current bilateral fishery management strategy specifies that a pre-season forecast run size of <24,500 precludes either Party from administering directed Chinook fisheries. As a result, specific fishery management measures were implemented within all Canadian fisheries to minimize the likelihood of interception of Chinook in 2024.

The 2024 total Canadian fishery catch of Chinook was 49 large fish and 223 jacks (all of which occurred within the First Nation FSC fishery). This level of catch well below the 10-year average of 435 large Chinook Salmon and 259 jack Chinook. No Chinook were harvested within recreational or commercial fisheries as retention was prohibited.

The post-season terminal run estimate of 9,921 large Chinook was not sufficient to achieve the lower end of the escapement goal range (14,000).

SOCKEYE SALMON

The forecast for Stikine River Sockeye developed by the TTC was for a terminal run size of 130,000 fish, comprised of approximately 100,000 Tahltan Lake origin Sockeye (60,000 wild and 40,000 enhanced) and 30,000 non-Tahltan wild Sockeye. The 2024 Stikine River Sockeye terminal run size forecast was above the 10-year average of approximately 102,000 fish.

The Stikine River terminal Sockeye run size estimate is based on: the in-river run reconstruction of the Tahltan Lake Sockeye run expanded by run timing; stock identification data from lower river assessment projects; and, estimated harvest of Stikine River Sockeye in U.S. terminal gill net fisheries. The post-season estimate of the terminal Sockeye run size is 193,000 and is comprised of 125,000 Tahltan Lake-origin fish and 68,000 fish from the non-Tahltan stock group.

A total of 78,415 adult Sockeye returned to Tahltan Lake in 2024. The current Tahltan Lake Sockeye escapement goal range is 11,000 to 25,000 while the most recent 10-year average return is 33,000. A total of 1,634 adult Sockeye were removed from Tahltan Lake for the 2024 Stikine Sockeye Enhancement Production Plan program. Four hundred Sockeye were removed for stock identification purposes, and it is estimated that 78,019 Sockeye spawned in Tahltan Lake in 2024.

The spawning escapement for the non-Tahltan Lake Sockeye stock group is calculated using stock identification, assessment fishery, and in-river commercial catch and effort data. The non-Tahltan Sockeye spawning escapement goal range is 13,000 to 33,000 while the most recent 10-year average return is 35,800. The 2024 escapement estimate for non-Tahltan Lake Sockeye of 55,884 indicates the current spawning escapement objective was achieved.

Based on in-season run size information, there was an allowable catch allocation of Stikine River Sockeye in 2024, allowing for First Nation and limited directed commercial Sockeye fisheries (noting that the start of the commercial fishery was delayed to reduce potential incidental catch of Chinook and to confirm Sockeye salmon abundance and allowable harvest).

The total 2024 Canadian fishery harvest of Stikine River Sockeye was 30,617, slightly below the 10-year fishery harvest average of 31,000 fish. The estimate of enhanced Sockeye harvested in Canadian fisheries will be determined post-season based on the thermal mark analysis results.

COHO SALMON

The total Canadian fishery harvest of Coho during the 2024 directed fishery period between statistical weeks 35 to 38 was 2,682, which was well below the recent 10-year average of

5,203 fish. An assessment fishery was not conducted in 2024, while the catch per unit effort (CPUE) observed in the commercial Coho fishery was below average. Aerial surveys of index spawning sites were completed in 2024.

JOINT SOCKEYE SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

In fall 2023, 2.52 million Sockeye eggs were collected from Tahltan Lake. All eggs were hatched and reared at Snettisham Hatchery (Alaska) over the 2023/2024 winter period, and fry were mass-marked via thermally induced otolith marks for identification and assessment purposes. Green egg to released fry survival was approximately 63%. Enhancement programs can experience Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHNv) outbreaks as the disease is naturally occurring in Stikine Sockeye stocks. Disinfection procedures are used in accordance with the World Health Organisation protocols during egg collections to limit the risk of transmission. Subsequent to the 2023 egg collection and rearing at Snettisham Hatchery, no losses to IHNv occurred. On May 16 and 17, 2024 approximately 1.7 million emergent Sockeye fry were transported to Tahltan Lake for release.

For 2024, the Stikine River Enhancement Production Plan (SEPP) identified an expected egg collection range of 2.5 to 3.5 million to a maximum of 5.0 million Sockeye eggs from Tahltan Lake. In-season, the 2024 Tahltan Lake Sockeye egg collection target was confirmed at 2.0 million eggs using escapement and smolt assessment information. A preliminary total of 2.0 million Sockeye eggs were collected from Tahltan Lake in the fall of 2024 for rearing and release in 2025.

TAKU RIVER

Following the 2024 pre-season meeting of the Transboundary Panel, the Canadian fishery strategy for Taku River salmon was developed based on the catch sharing and management arrangements outlined in Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST. Accordingly, the Canadian fishery strategy incorporated specific conservation considerations and contained the following harvest objectives: 1) to harvest the Canadian share (23% of the TAC) of Taku River Sockeye (adjusted according to projections of the number of enhanced adult Sockeye returning in 2024), plus harvest of Sockeye in excess of spawning and brood stock needs; 2) to harvest enhanced Taku River Sockeye incidentally to wild Sockeye; and, 3) to harvest 5,000 Coho salmon plus Canada's share of the TAC and any Coho surplus to spawning needs.

The 2024 commercial fishing season on the Taku River opened on June 30 (statistical week 27) and closed on September 24 (statistical week 39). Fishing gear was limited to one drift gillnet and one set net per licence and incorporated the maximum gill net length of 36.6 metres.

The Taku River commercial fishing area in Canada consists of the mainstem of the river from the international border upstream approximately 18 km (11 mi.), to a geological feature known locally as Yellow Bluff. The majority of commercial fishing activity takes place in the lower half of this area, downstream of the Tulsequah River / Taku River confluence.

The First Nation Taku River FSC fishery occurs in the lower Taku River, in the same general area as the Canadian commercial fishery. Small numbers of fish are also harvested at Inklin Junction, on the lower Nakina River, and at the outlets of Kuthai and King Salmon lakes.

Canadian recreational fishery effort was minimal for the majority of the 2024 season due to area, retention, and size restrictions for Chinook salmon. Restrictions were implemented within the recreational fishery to prohibit the harvest of Chinook as abundance was well below the minimum spawning escapement requirement. Recreational fishery effort for Coho was low in 2024.

CHINOOK SALMON

The bilateral pre-season forecast was for a terminal run of 17,000 large Chinook, approximately 16% above the previous 10-year average of 15,000 fish. A run size of 17,000 fish was below the management objective of 25,500 fish, and as a result, there was no allowable catch (AC) for either the U.S. or Canada. Canada implemented measures in fisheries targeting other species to avoid the incidental catch of Chinook. An in-river Chinook assessment fishery was not conducted to facilitate passage of adult Chinook to spawning grounds.

The 2024 Taku River large Chinook terminal run estimate of 24,914 was above the lower end of the escapement goal range (19,000) but below the management objective of 25,500. The most recent 10-year average spawning escapement was 13,800 large Chinook.

Harvest of large Chinook in 2024 Canadian fisheries was: 0 in commercial Sockeye and Coho fisheries; 22 in the First Nation FSC fishery; and 0 in the recreational fishery. The total base level and test/assessment fishery harvest of 22 large Chinook was well below the Chapter 1 Canadian fishery allowance of 2,900 fish.

The total Canadian catch of large Chinook was 22, which was well below the 10-year average of approximately 300 fish (excluding test/assessment fisheries).

SOCKEYE SALMON

The bilateral pre-season forecast for wild Sockeye was 200,000 fish, approximately 24% above the most recent 10-year average total run size of 161,000 fish. In addition, approximately 7,000 adult Tatsamenie Lake origin and a small number of Trapper Lake origin Sockeye were expected to return from fry outplants from the Taku Sockeye Enhancement Program. The forecasted return of enhanced Tatsamenie Lake origin Sockeye was anticipated to be average.

The 2024 Taku River Sockeye terminal run size estimate was 189,237 wild fish. Subtracting the management objective of 58,000 from the terminal estimate resulted in a TAC of approximately 131,000 wild fish. The 2024 Canadian allowable catch, based on a 23% harvest share (associated with an enhanced Sockeye return range of 15,001 to 25,000 fish), was 30,000 wild fish. The total 2024 Canadian fishery harvest of Sockeye was approximately 19,854 fish. The estimated total spawning escapement of Canadian-origin wild Sockeye was 109,000, which is above both the management objective (58,000) and the upper end of the spawning escapement goal range of 75,000 fish.

To reduce the likelihood of incidental harvest of Chinook, the directed commercial Canadian Sockeye fishery commenced on June 30 (statistical week 27) which is two weeks later than the historical start date. Additionally, retention of incidentally caught Chinook in the directed commercial Sockeye fishery was prohibited. The maximum permissible mesh size in the first

three weeks of the directed Sockeye fishery was 140 mm (5.5”), which was intended to reduce likelihood of entanglement of large Chinook and facilitate live release. Projected estimates of the total wild Sockeye run size, TAC and total escapement were made weekly throughout the fishing season. As in past years, projections were based on the joint mark-recapture program, the estimated catch of Taku River Sockeye in U.S. fisheries, the catch in the Canadian fishery and historical run timing information.

The total Canadian fishery catch of Sockeye was 19,854 fish, 18,510 of these were Canadian-origin wild fish, and 1,344 fish originated from enhancement activities described in the bilateral Taku Enhancement Production Plan determined by lab analysis of otolith thermal marks.

COHO SALMON

The 2024 Taku River Coho terminal run size was 90,553 fish. The 2024 spawning escapement estimate is 65,000 Coho which is below the management objective of 70,000 fish but within the escapement goal range of 50,000 to 90,000 fish.

The 2024 total Canadian fishery catch of 12,574 coho was 19% above the 10-year average of 10,500 fish. the catch during the directed commercial/assessment coho fishery (after statistical week 33) was 9,055 fish.

JOINT SOCKEYE SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

In the fall of 2023, 2.1 million Sockeye eggs were collected from Tatsamenie Lake and 1.0 million eggs were collected from Little Trapper Lake. All eggs were hatched and reared at Snettisham Hatchery (Alaska) over the 2023/2024 winter period, and fry were mass-marked via thermally induced otolith marks for identification and assessment purposes. One incubator assigned to Tatsamenie Lake fry rearing tested positive for Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHNv), which resulted in destruction of approximately 127,000 fry prior to their planned release. IHNV was not detected in any other Sockeye fry destined for Tatsamenie Lake or Trapper Lake in 2024; however, the Trapper Lake eggs experienced very low total survival. Of the 1.2 million fry transported to Tatsamenie Lake, approximately 0.3 million fry were released into net pens for rearing at 0.2 grams, as part of an extended rearing evaluation project, while the remaining fry were released directly into the lake. Fry were reared from May 21 until July 4, 2024, and subsequently released into Tatsamenie Lake at approximately 1.5 grams. A sub-sample of Tatsamenie Lake Sockeye smolts out-migrating in 2024 are being assessed to evaluate both enhanced contribution and survival rates.

For 2024, the bilateral Taku River Enhancement Production Plan (TEPP) identified collection of up to 2.5 million Sockeye eggs from Tatsamenie Lake and 1.0 million Sockeye eggs from Little Trapper Lake for transport to Snettisham Hatchery for incubation and thermal marking. Approximately 2.2 million Sockeye eggs were collected from Tatsamenie Lake and approximately 1.0 million eggs were collected from Little Trapper Lake for rearing and release in 2025.

ALSEK RIVER

Although abundance-based harvest sharing provisions for Alsek River salmon stocks have not yet been established, Annex IV, Chapter 1 of the PST obligates Canada and the U.S. to cooperatively develop and implement abundance-based management plans and programs for Alsek River Chinook and Sockeye. In 2013, biological escapement goals for Alsek River Chinook and Sockeye were adopted (3,500 to 5,300 for Canadian-origin Chinook and 24,000 to 33,500 for Canadian-origin Sockeye). Additionally, escapement goals were revised for Klukshu River Chinook (800 to 1,200) and Klukshu River Sockeye (7,500 to 11,000). The principal escapement-monitoring tool for Canadian-origin Chinook, Sockeye, and Coho stocks on the Alsek River is the Klukshu River assessment program, which has been operated jointly by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada since 1976.

In 2024, the Parties continued the development and design of basin-wide stock assessment programs to support the implementation of abundance-based management and to more accurately assess annual adult Chinook and Sockeye returns to the watershed. Current abundance assessment and spawning escapement monitoring programs include: the Klukshu River multi-species video enumeration system; the Village Creek multi-species video enumeration; Chinook and Sockeye mark-recapture; and genetic stock identification of samples collected from U.S. terminal fisheries. The long-term comparative escapement index for Alsek River drainage salmon stocks is the Klukshu River counts. Additional Chinook abundance assessment programs continue to be implemented annually on the Blanchard and Takhanne rivers (Year 5 and 7 respectively) to develop an improved understanding of Alsek River Chinook production. Currently, assessment of Alsek River Coho is limited to a partial count at the Kulkshu River assessment program site.

The preliminary total return of Sockeye to the Klukshu River in 2024 was 10,391while the spawning escapement was estimated to be 10,047 fish. Both the return and spawning escapement were below the most recent 10-year average of 13,700 and 13,400 respectively, and below the upper end of the escapement goal range (11,000). The 2024 total Sockeye count at Village Creek was 824 fish, which is above the most recent 10-year average of 436 fish (noting that this most recent 10-year period has experienced several years of very low returns).

The preliminary total return of Chinook to the Klukshu River in 2024 was 1,363 while the spawning escapement was 1,343 fish. Both the return and spawning escapement were above the most recent 10-year average of 1,078 and 1,065 respectively.

The preliminary (partial) 2024 Klukshu River Coho count was 9,255. Although the annual count does not represent total abundance, when used as a partial indicator of run strength the 2024 count was significantly above the most recent 10-year average of ~2,800.

In response to ongoing concerns over low returns of Chinook and early migrating Sockeye, the recreational fishery (public angling) for salmon in the Alsek River was prohibited until August 15, and retention of both Chinook and Sockeye was prohibited for the duration of the 2024 season.

NORTHERN B.C.

NORTHERN B.C. CHINOOK AGGREGATE ABUNDANCE-BASED MANAGEMENT (AABM) FISHERIES

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Chinook fisheries in Northern B.C. are managed as either Aggregate Abundance-Based Management (AABM) or Individual Stock-Based Management (ISBM) fisheries. AABM fisheries are managed to an annual total allowable catch (TAC) based on the forecast abundance of the aggregate stocks that contribute to each fishery. Allowable harvest impacts in the AABM areas are determined by provisions in the PST and subject to conservation considerations and allocation priorities. Chinook AABM fisheries in Northern B.C. include the Northern British Columbia (Area F) troll and Haida Gwaii recreational fisheries.

In Canada, conservation is the first priority in fisheries management. Once conservation obligations are met, priority is provided for First Nations for food, social, ceremonial and treaty commitments. Once those obligations are met, access to Chinook is provided to the recreational fishery, with commercial fisheries last in priority. Management constraints that inform fisheries planning include impacts on stocks of conservation concern and non-target species and minimizing fisheries where Chinook must be released.

Escapements of Northern BC Chinook have declined in recent years. Reduced survival rates and reduced productivity have been observed across British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. Domestic actions in Northern AABM fisheries are driven by stocks of conservation concern, and to pass other co-migrating Chinook stocks to higher priority fisheries in Southern B.C.

The forecasted pre-season Chinook abundance index was 1.48 of the PST base period; therefore, under Treaty provisions, the maximum allowable catch was 179,400 Chinook for Northern B.C. AABM fisheries.

The pre-season distribution of the North B.C. AABM TAC by fishery is shown in Table 27 below. The total Chinook catch in the Area F Troll fishery and Haida Gwaii recreational fishery can be found in Appendix 3.

Table 27. Pre-Season Total Allowable Catch Estimate and In-Season Catch for NC AABM Chinook

	Pre-Season	In-season	Catch
NC B.C. Troll AABM and Haida Gwaii Sport Abundance Index	1.48	1.48	-
NC B.C. Troll AABM and Haida Gwaii Sport Chinook TAC	179,400	179,400	-
NC B.C. Troll AABM Chinook TAC	142,800	142,800	Actual catch: 76,717
Haida Gwaii Sport Chinook TAC	36,600	36,600	Actual catch 29,329
Total NBC AABM	179,400	179,400	Actual catch: 106,046

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The Northern B.C. AABM recreational Chinook fishery takes place in the waters surrounding Haida Gwaii in Areas 1, 2, 101, 102, and 142. In Area 1, the recreational salmon fishery primarily occurs between Masset and Langara Island along the north shore of Graham Island. In Area 2W, the recreational salmon fishery primarily occurs between Englefield Sound and Port Louis. The majority of the fishery occurs between mid-May and mid-September with little effort in the winter.

Recreational fishing effort continues to be lower than in previous years due to reductions in the number of operating lodges on Haida Gwaii. Estimated catches are significantly lower than the pre-season TAC forecast. While the harvest of Chinook in Area 2E is unknown, based on limited observations of effort it is assumed to be fewer than 500 pieces and a small proportion of the recreational catch in Areas 1 and 2W. Recreational effort (>98%) primarily occurs in Area 1 and 2W.

Domestic Chinook management measures are in place in the AABM areas to protect Skeena, Fraser, and WCVI Chinook stocks. In 2024, the daily and possession limits for Chinook in Areas 1, 2, 142, and that portion of Area 101 West of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West Longitude were reduced to 1 daily and 2 in possession from July 2 to July 31 to protect passing Skeena and Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern. The annual Chinook limit remained at 10 across the region. A minimum size limit of 45 cm was in effect and barbless hooks are mandatory in the sport fishery. The majority of all sport releases in AABM areas are of legal size.

Estimates of AABM recreational catches near the mainland coast of Northern B.C. were obtained from creel surveys and lodge catch reports from lodges operating on Haida Gwaii.

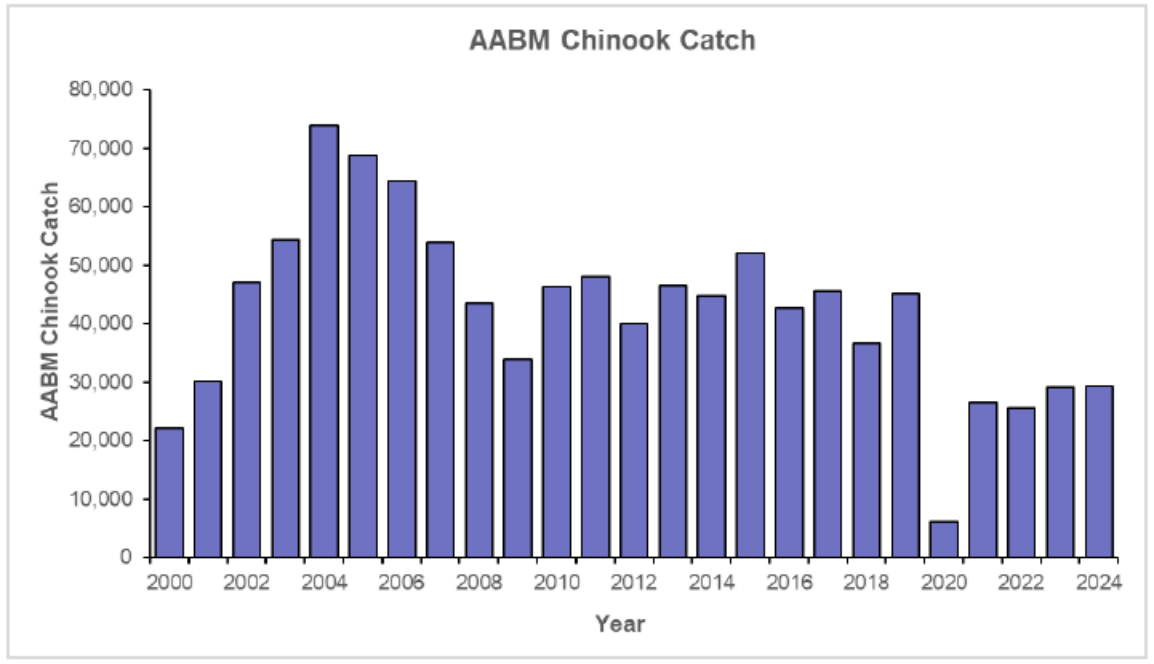


Figure 41. Northern B.C. Recreational AABM Catch – Chinook, 2000-2024.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The Northern AABM fishery includes commercial troll (Area F) caught Chinook in Pacific Fishery Management Areas 1 to 5, 101-105 and 142. The North Coast B.C. troll fishery opening for Chinook fishing open from August 16 to September 30 as part of fishery restrictions designed to pass through Fraser Chinook stocks of concern, Fraser Summer 41 (South Thompson) Chinook, and WCVI Chinook to Southern fisheries .

The 2024 Northern B.C. troll fishery was conducted under a system of individual transferable quotas. The minimum size limit was 67 cm and barbless hooks and revival boxes were mandatory.

NORTHERN B.C. CHINOOK INDIVIDUAL STOCK-BASED MANAGEMENT (ISBM) FISHERIES

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Northern B.C. Chinook Individual Stock-Based Management (ISBM) Fisheries include all First Nations fisheries, all commercial gillnet and seine fisheries, all freshwater recreational fisheries, marine recreational fisheries in Pacific Fishery Management Areas (PFMAs) 3 to 10, 103 to 110 and 130, and troll fisheries in PFMAs 6 to 10, 106 to 110 and 130. The PST obligations in these fisheries are for a general harvest rate reduction (estimated in aggregate across fisheries) for ocean mixed stock fisheries and for stock-specific objectives (i.e., achieving the escapement goal or catch year exploitation rate, Catch Year Exploitation Rate (CYER) objectives where populations are below escapement goals).

Declines in escapement of Northern B.C. stocks have resulted in management actions to reduce exploitation rates on Chinook stocks in these areas. Nass and Skeena in-river recreational fisheries and marine Chinook directed commercial fisheries were not implemented in 2024, other than three 24-48 hour commercial gillnet openings in PFMA 8. Conservation measures in tidal recreational fisheries were implemented again in 2024 and are described in the section below.

The estimated total landed catch in tidal recreational ISBM fisheries was 30,284 fish. Catch summaries can be found in Appendix 3.

STOCK STATUS

The Skeena River is the escapement indicator stock for Northern B.C. and it does not have a PSC-agreed escapement goal. The Kitsumkalum River is a tributary of the Skeena River and is the CWT indicator stock for the Skeena River. High quality Mark Recapture (MR) escapement data have been collected for Kitsumkalum River Chinook annually since 1984. There is an agency escapement goal based on Smsy of 5,214 large Chinook (Winther et al. 2021) and 2024 escapement was 5,451 large Chinook, which was above the goal.

The estimated Skeena River escapement was 29,883 using a genetic based estimate using the proportion of Kitsumkalum River fish measured from genetic samples collected at the Tyee test fishery and from Kitsumkalum River Chinook Salmon escapement estimates from independent Mark-Recapture programs. The Chinook escapement estimate to the Nass River

was 11,855 fish (based on mark-recapture data), which was below the escapement goal of 15,000.

The estimated total escapement in the Bella Coola/Atnarko River in 2024 was 10,479 natural-origin spawners, above agency escapement goal based on Smsy of 5,009 Chinook.

FIRST NATIONS FSC FISHERIES

Chinook FSC Fisheries were not restricted in Northern B.C. in 2024. First Nations catch summaries from the Nass, Skeena, and Central Coast can be found in Appendix 3.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal Waters

Domestic management of ISBM tidal sport fisheries was driven by the decline in Northern Chinook escapement since 2017. Restrictive management measures have been implemented since 2018 in response to this decline in returns. A precautionary approach was implemented again in 2024 to support the rebuilding of these stocks.

The minimum size limit for Chinook is 45 cm for Northern B.C. ISBM sport fisheries.

The following regulations were in place for the tidal waters of Areas 3, 4, and 5 in 2024:

- April 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024 – Two (2) Chinook per day.
- Effective June 14,2024 to June 22, 2024 – One (1) Chinook per day.
- Effective June 23, 2024 to July 17, 2024 - Zero (0) Chinook per day.
- Effective July 18, 2024 to August 10, 2024 – One (1) Chinook per day.
- Effective August 11, 2024 to March 31, 2025 - Two (2) Chinook per day.

The above reductions were planned pre-season, and were designed to address concerns for a weak 2024 forecast for Skeena Chinook, and to provide for FSC priority access.

Additionally, in response to concerns over Nass Chinook the Nass River was closed to recreational fishing for Chinook on June 17, 2024.

In 2024, tidal sport fisheries were monitored by the Area 3 & 4 Creel Program which collects catch information from the recreational fishery surrounding Prince Rupert and Port Edward on the North Coast of B.C. The Area 3 & 4 Creel Program operated from May 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024.

Areas 6 to 10 had a daily limit of two Chinook per day for the 2024 season.

Tidal recreational catch from lodges operating in the Smith Inlet, Rivers Inlet, Hakai Pass, and Bella Bella areas were estimated from a recreational log book program.

Non-tidal waters

Domestic management of ISBM non-tidal sport fisheries in 2024 were driven by the low abundance of Nass and Skeena Chinook.

Nass River (Area 3)

The Nass River watershed was closed for recreational fishing for Chinook as of June 17, 2024.

Skeena River (Area 4)

Effective June 14, 2024, the entire Skeena River watershed was closed to fishing for Chinook to address concerns for Skeena Chinook. The closure included the entire Skeena River watershed and all rivers and lakes in Freshwater Region 6 that flow into PFMAs 3 to 6, not including the Nass and Kitimat rivers, to fishing for Chinook Salmon for the remainder of the 2024/2025 fishing season.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Area C

Areas 3 to 7,9,10

There were no Area C gill net fisheries with directed harvest or bycatch retention permitted for ISBM Chinook in these areas in 2024.

Area 8

A Chinook targeted gill net fishery opened for 24 hours on June 3, 2024, 48 hours on June 10, 2024, and 24 hours on June 17, 2024. In total, there were 3 openings in Area 8, with a total effort of 33 boat days. Additionally, there was a small-scale commercial demonstration fishery conducted on June 25, 2024 by the Nuxalk First Nation under the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) with a total effort of 4 boats.

Refer to Appendix 3 for Chinook catch totals.

NORTHERN B.C. PINK SALMON FISHERIES

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

In 2024, Canada was to manage the Area 3-1 to 3-4 Pink-directed net fisheries to achieve an annual catch share of 2.49% of the annual allowable harvest (AAH) of Alaskan Districts 101, 102, and 103 Pink Salmon. Canada was also to manage the Area F (NBC) troll fishery to achieve an annual catch share of 2.57% of the annual allowable harvest (AAH) of Alaskan Districts 101, 102, and 103 Pink Salmon.

With a total return of approximately 36.66 million Pink Salmon, the Alaskan Districts 101, 102 and 103, the AAH was approximately 25.91 million Pink Salmon. The resulting Area 3-1 to 3-4 and Area 1 (Area F Troll) Canadian commercial net total allowable catch of this AAH was approximately 0.64 million and 0.67 million Pink Salmon of Alaskan Districts 101, 102 and 103 origin, respectively.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Areas 3-1 to 3-4 Pink Net Catch

In the Canadian Northern Boundary Area 3, the p50 estimate of Total Return to Canada (TRTC) for Nass Pink Salmon was 583,000 with a range of 477,000 (75% probability) to 713,000 (25% probability) and was projected to return above average (362,000) based on returns from 1994-2023 Actual returns in Area 3 exceeded the escapement target of 225,000. Pink returns to Area 4 were above average.

The Area A seine fishery management is designed to meet stream-specific escapement goals while keeping within the PST annex considerations. Targeted Pink fisheries are based upon identified surpluses with consideration for stocks of concern. In Area 3, due to ongoing concerns for wild Chum populations, Pink directed fisheries in Area 3 close the end of July when wild Chum abundance in the fishery area increases.

The Area A catch in 2024 occurred in eleven openings from July 9 to August 5. Catch is summarized in Appendix 3.

Area F (NBC) Pink Troll Catch

The Canadian commercial troll fishery targeting Pink Salmon with retention of Coho Salmon was open in the northern portion of Area 101 (Dixon Entrance AB Line) from July 1 to August 15. Pink and Coho retention was also permitted during the Chinook directed fishery, in Area 101 and portions of Area 1, 2W and 142, which opened from August 16 to September 30. Total catch in the Area F Troll fishery and recreational fishery can be found in Appendix 3.

NORTHERN B.C. SOCKEYE SALMON FISHERIES

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

In Northern B.C. two Sockeye Salmon populations are relevant under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Skeena and Nass Rivers Sockeye.

As described in Annex IV, Chapter 2 of the PST, the U.S. shall manage the Alaskan District 104 purse seine fishery prior to statistical week 31 to achieve an annual catch share of Nass and Skeena Sockeye of 2.45% and manage the Alaskan 101 drift gillnet fishery to achieve an annual catch share of Nass Sockeye of 13.8%. Both parties agree that the 50% probability (p50) of the run size forecasts may be used to make management decision regarding fishing plans for Canada and U.S., respectively.

In the Skeena River, the escapement target is 900,000 Sockeye, below this escapement there are no Canadian commercial marine harvests and the U.S. undertake measures to reduce impacts in the D104 fishery. For domestic Canadian management, commercial fisheries in the Skeena River do not proceed until escapement past Tyee is forecast to be above 1.05 million Sockeye. The allowable commercial exploitation rate is 0% for returns to Canada less than 1,050,000. The allowable exploitation rate increases linearly from 0% at 1,050,000 to 20% at a run size of 2.0 million, 30% at 3.0 million, and up to a maximum of 40% at a return of 4.0 million or greater. Management plans for the Skeena River Sockeye include considerations for weak and wild stocks as well as bycatch species, such as wild Chum and Steelhead trout.

In the Nass River, the escapement goal is 200,000 Sockeye, where below this escapement commercial Canadian marine harvests are not permitted. Below this escapement, the U.S. undertake measures to reduce the impact of D101 and D104 fisheries on Nass Sockeye. Domestically in Canada, actual in-season harvest opportunities are dependent on in-season stock assessments. Fisheries that target Nass Sockeye in Canada are managed to meet commitments with the Nisga'a Final Agreement (NFA), First Nations FSC goals, Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations, and to provide commercial fisheries harvest opportunities.

STOCK STATUS

Nass River

Nass River Sockeye returns were forecast to be below average, compared to historical returns, with an expected total return from 370,000 (75% probability) to 761,000 (25% probability) and a point estimate of 530,000 (50% probability) based on a sibling-regression model. This forecast is an improvement compared to 2020, which was the lowest return to the Nass River since 1992. The total return to Canada forecast is also below the long term average (616,000, 1994-2023) with an expected TRTC of 440,000 (p50) ranging from 307,000 (75% probability) and 631,000 (25% probability).

In-season decisions are made for Nass River fisheries based on escapement information from the Nisga'a Fishwheel Program conducted at test fishing sites near Gitwinksihlkw on the Nass River, fish counts at the Meziadin fishway, fish counts at Kwinageese weir, and stream inspections. Returns in 2024 showed a return above the pre-season forecast, with a p50 TRTC estimate of 524,000.

Skeena River

The Skeena Sockeye return was forecast to be below average compared to the long-term average of 1.6 million (2009-2021) with a pre-season return forecast from 727,000 (90% probability) to 3.27 million (10% probability) and a point estimate of 1.54 million (50% probability) based on the sibling model. In-season, the Tyee Test fishery is the main in-season stock assessment tool for estimating TRTC of Skeena River Sockeye. The post season TRTC estimate of ~2.68 million, and total run size estimate of ~2.80 million.

FIRST NATIONS FSC/TREATY FISHERIES

First Nations FSC Fisheries targeting Sockeye were not restricted in Northern B.C. in 2024. First Nations catch summaries from the Nass, Skeena, and Central Coast can be found in Appendix 3.

In the Nass River, the Nisga'a implemented their Treaty harvest and individual sales fisheries in 2024. Catch information can be found in Appendix 3.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal Waters

Recreational fisheries directed on Nass and Skeena Sockeye occurred in 2024. The marine recreational fishery was opened to Sockeye retention in Skeena and Nass marine waters from July 26, 2024 until March 31, 2025. Recreational salmon fishing occurs in the tidal waters adjacent to the Skeena River, with the peak of the season being from June to August. The daily limit for Sockeye in Areas 3 and 4 is four (4) per day, unless otherwise varied, and open based on in-season estimates of escapement at the Tyee Test Fishery. The minimum size limit for Sockeye is 30 cm, in tidal waters and freshwater. Catch information can be found in Appendix 3.

Non-Tidal Waters

The Nass River mainstem opens from July to September. The minimum size limit is 30 cm, and daily and total possession limits are in effect. The trigger to open the Meziadin Lake recreational Sockeye fishery to 2 per day is120,000 Sockeye at the Meziadin Fishway. The daily limit in Meziadin Lake increases to 2 per day after 160,000 pass the Fishway.

For the 2024 season, the daily limit for Sockeye was zero (0) per day from the start of the season until the commercial Sockeye fishery opened in the Skeena watershed.

Non-tidal Sockeye directed fisheries also took place in the following areas:

- Nass River watershed: Meziadin Lake on July 26, 2024 with a daily limit of one (1) Sockeye per day. Daily limit increased to two (2) per day on August 3, 2024 in response to escapement trigger in Meziadin Fishway being reached.
- Skeena River watershed: Mainstem waters opened July 18, 2024 with a daily limit of one (1). Increased to four (4) per day on July 27, 2024.
- Babine Lake opened on August 1, 2024 with a daily limit of one (1) per day. Daily limit was increased to two (2) per day on August 3, 2024.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

There were directed Sockeye fisheries on Nass Sockeye in 2024. One commercial demonstration fishery was approved in 2024 targeting Meziadin Sockeye. This fishery opened on July 30, on the Meziadin River with a total catch of 13,755 pieces.

For the 2024 fishing season, there were eleven Area A seine openings in Area 3 targeting Nass Pink with Sockeye retention between July 9 and August 5. Chum retention was permitted between July 9 and July 23, with all other opportunities being Chum non-retention to protect weak Canadian origin Chum in Area 3.

For the 2024 fishing season, there were six, one-day Area C gillnet openings, July 8, 9, 16, 17, 23 and July 24. Pink and Chum retention was also permitted in this fishery.

For the 2024 fishing season there were two, four-day seine ITQ fishery openings targeting Skeena Sockeye in Area 4 from July 25 until August 5. Pink Salmon retention was also permitted in these fisheries.

In the 2024 fishing season, there was 11 gillnet fishing days between July 13 and August 9.

Catch information is included in Appendix 3.

There were both marine and in river commercial demonstration fisheries targeting Skeena Sockeye in 2024. There were seven marine openings from July 16 until August 9, with a total of 15 vessels participating. In 2024, there were five in river Sockeye directed demonstration fishery openings, all of which use beach seines or dip nets.

EXCESS SALMON TO SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

One ESSR fishery targeted Nass River Sockeye in 2024. The Meziadin River ESSR opened from August 20, 2024 to September 9, 2024.

In the Skeena watershed, one ESSR fishery was opened in 2024. The Babine large Sockeye ESSR targeting Fulton River Sockeye opened on August 31, 2024 until September 18, 2024. Catch information is available in Appendix 7.

SOUTHERN B.C. CHINOOK SALMON

SOUTHERN B.C. AGGREGATE ABUNDANCE-BASED MANAGEMENT (AABM) CHINOOK

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Chinook fisheries are managed by either an aggregate abundance-based management (AABM) or individual stock-based management (ISBM) regime. Allowable harvest impacts in AABM areas are determined by provisions in the PST and subject to domestic considerations, such as conservation and allocation. In Southern B.C., all AABM Chinook fisheries are located off the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI), including components of the recreational fishery, First Nations fisheries, and the Area G troll fishery.

For the period of October 2023 through September 2024, the forecast Chinook abundance index was 0.92 of the PST base period; therefore, under Treaty provisions, the maximum allowable catch was 105,000 Chinook for WCVI AABM fisheries, which includes a 12.5% reduction consistent with the Treaty provisions that came into effect in January 2019.

Domestic considerations for managing Chinook catch in WCVI AABM fisheries are driven by concerns regarding the low status of natural WCVI, Lower Strait of Georgia (LGS), and Fraser River Chinook, as well as Interior Fraser Coho and Interior Fraser River (IFR) Steelhead populations. Management measures in AABM Chinook fisheries to limit impacts to these domestic stocks of concern are summarized in the fishery subsections.

To protect Fraser Chinook stocks of concern, retention of Chinook was not permitted in the offshore area (seaward of 1 nautical mile outside the surfline) of WCVI between April 1 and July 15 for Five Nations' right-based sale and recreational fisheries. Area G troll fisheries were closed through a portion of the summer and a 27-day rolling window closure was applied in portions of September/October to protect IFR Steelhead. The additional restrictions for Fraser Chinook stocks of concern that were added in 2023 were continued in 2024 and included reducing the recreational daily limits to 1/day from July 15-31 in Areas 121 and 123 and delaying the Area G summer troll opening until August 16.

The pre-season distribution of the total WCVI AABM TAC for planning by fishery is shown in Table 28 below. There was also a demonstration fishery for Area G in the inshore areas of the WCVI for the spring period (see section 4.1.4).

AABM Chinook catch and release information from all fisheries can be found in Appendix 4.

Table 28. Pre-Season Total Allowable Catch Estimate for October 2023 to September 2024 WCVI AABM Chinook

	Pre-Season TAC	Actual Catch
WCVI AABM Abundance Index	0.92	
WCVI AABM Chinook TAC	105,500	
AABM Recreational Harvest Projection	35,000	39,175
First Nations Harvest Projection (FSC)	10,000	7, 356
Maa-nulth First Nations Treaty Allocation (FSC)	3,744	6443,506
Five Nations Allocation	15,431	15,878 (+1,389 Area G allocation)
Area G Troll Allocation	34,825	24,154
Total AABM	105,000	88,596

FIRST NATIONS DOMESTIC AND FSC FISHERIES

The 2024 WCVI AABM FSC Chinook preliminary reported catch can be found in Appendix 4. Catch from Maa-nulth Nations Treaty domestic fisheries can also be found in Appendix 4.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

Five Nations Communal Sale Fishery

In 2024, the Department provided right based communal sale fishery opportunities for the Five Nations (five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht) that included AABM Chinook. These opportunities were categorized as Offshore Integrated Hook and Line communal sale fisheries.

The AABM Chinook allocation was 15,431 with the inclusion of additional Area G mitigated commercial access. The fishery was carried out in portions of Areas 24, 25, 26, 124, 125, and 126 on the west coast of Vancouver Island from December 1, 2023 to August 4, 2024. A 100% independent dockside monitoring program was in place for the entire season. Sale of Chum, Pink, and hatchery-marked Coho caught as bycatch was also permitted.

In August, the Department provided an additional opportunity for the Five Nations through an in-season transfer of forecast and uncaught Area G catch. This opportunity included an initial transfer of 1,000 pieces August 16, with another 3,214 pieces provided on August 30. The in-season transfer catch occurred in two openings: one opening from August 16 to 18, and another August 30 to September 15. Equivalent conservation measures to the Area G fishery were required for these opportunities based on an uncaught commercial allocation transfer.

Total salmon catch from the Five Nations AABM Chinook fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

For the 2023/2024 Chinook year (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024), fisheries were shaped by conservation concerns for the following domestic stocks: Fraser River Spring 42

Chinook, Fraser River Spring 52 and Summer 52 Chinook, WCVI wild Chinook, LGS Chinook, IFR Coho, and IFR Steelhead.

The distribution of the WCVI AABM TAC between fisheries is shown above in Table 28.

Area G Troll

The Area G troll annual management plan is designed to maintain exploitation rates (ERs) on domestic stocks of concern within established limits through the use of fishing time and area closures in conjunction with fishing effort limits. The management plan is subject to change when required to address specific conservation concerns. For the 2024 fishing season, the following change was retained from the 2023 season:

Additional conservation measures to further protect low returns of Fraser River Chinook were implemented for Area G troll including an additional 15 day closure from August 1 to 15 to conserve Fraser River Summer 52 Chinook. The fishery was closed from June 1 to August 15 in 2024.

A 27-day rolling window closure starting in September was applied to protect IFR Steelhead.

The Area G catch in 2024 occurred in three openings: one winter opening from December 1, 2023 to March 15, 2024; a second spring opening in inshore areas only (PFMAs 23 to 27) from April 1 to May 16; and a third summer opening from August 16 to September 15. Catch is summarized in Appendix 4.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The WCVI AABM recreational Chinook fishery primarily takes place in offshore Areas 121 to 127 from June to September. Chinook catch from inshore Areas 25 to 27 prior to July and Areas 21 to 24 prior to August are also included in the AABM estimate. Catch and effort are largely driven by abundance and weather, and together both have impacts on annual harvest. Previous sampling has indicated that there is minimal AABM catch and effort outside of this period.

Domestic Chinook management measures are in place in the near-shore AABM areas to protect migrating WCVI-origin Chinook. In 2024, management measures continued to include finfish closures in several areas, increasing terminal Chinook non-retention areas, and focusing recreational opportunities in areas where DNA samples indicated that WCVI Chinook presence is lower.

The domestic management actions that were first implemented in 2019 and increased in 2023 were continued in 2024, designed to further protect Fraser River Chinook populations. This includes a Chinook non-retention area in effect from April 1 to July 14 (inclusive) in Areas 121 to 127 seaward of a 1 nm surfline boundary and a maximum size to 80 cm for Chinook from July 15 to July 31. In addition, from July 15 to July 31 the daily limit in Areas 121 and 123 is only one Chinook per day.

Chinook catch in the AABM recreational fishery is estimated through several catch monitoring programs, including a creel survey, a logbook program and DFO's electronic survey information (iREC). The Chinook recreational catch estimate from the creel survey for the 2024 WCVI AABM fishery is provided in Appendix 4.

See Figure 42 below which illustrates catch and effort from 2000 through 2024.

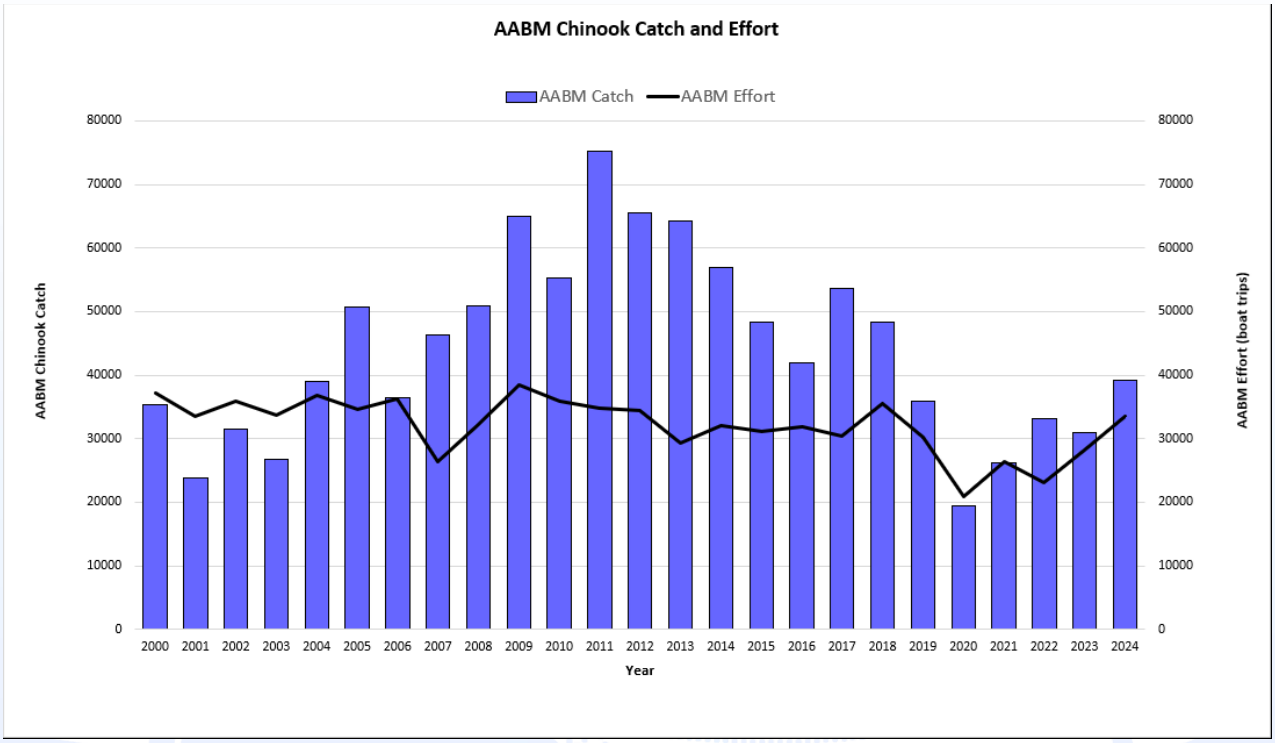


Figure 42. WCVI Recreational AABM Catch and Effort- Chinook, 2000-2024

SOUTHERN B.C. CHINOOK INDIVIDUAL STOCK BASED MANAGEMENT (ISBM) FISHERIES

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

In addition to the objectives agreed to in the PST, Canada implemented management actions to ensure conservation of Canadian-origin Chinook and to meet domestic allocation requirements. Chinook fisheries are managed based on harvest rates caps for individual stocks.

Measures were taken in 2024 in First Nations FSC, recreational, and commercial Chinook fisheries to protect West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI), Southern Strait of Georgia, and Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern.

Specific management actions were taken to protect WCVI-origin Chinook in Canadian ocean fisheries, the harvest of which is managed to an ER of 10%. Most Southern B.C. fisheries were managed such that impacts on WCVI wild Chinook stocks were minimized, with the exception of more terminal fisheries focussed on enhanced stocks.

Prior to 2022, the objective for Lower Strait of Georgia (LGS) Chinook was to continue rebuilding through a comprehensive set of fishery, hatchery, and habitat related actions. In 2022, the focus shifted from the Cowichan fall run population, which has shown signs of recovery, to summer run populations in the Nanaimo and Puntledge watersheds. Specific recreational fisheries closures were implemented in more terminal approach areas while additional protection was afforded by broader non-retention regulations overlapping with peak run timing.

A suite of precautionary fishery restrictions intended to provide a high degree of protection to at-risk Fraser Spring 42, Spring 52, and Summer 52 Chinook were continued in 2024. This was expected to reduce overall Canadian fishery mortalities on these populations to low levels. First Nations FSC management actions in the Fraser River included time and area closures and reduced fishing times. Specifically, Fraser River First Nations FSC fisheries were restricted to unplanned events (e.g., funerals) or First Fish ceremonies until July 15, followed by opportunities to target healthy Summer 41 Chinook primarily in August.

South Coast FSC fisheries on mixed stocks was permitted in marine areas with the exception of the approaches to the Fraser River (Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9, and 29-10). To improve the collective understanding of stocks of concern, in terms of their migration routes, timing and fisheries impacts, First Nations were encouraged to collaborate with the Department on shaping a catch monitoring and biological sampling plan for fisheries between April 1 and July 15 to provide stock composition information for Chinook. Recreational fisheries in Johnstone Strait, Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait, and the approach waters to the Fraser River were managed to Chinook non-retention between April 1 and varying dates between July 14 and August 31, with a maximum size limit of 80 cm in effect where Chinook retention was permitted before August 31. In 2024, commercial fisheries in Area 23 and Area 25 targeted hatchery ISBM Chinook. Chinook non-retention was in place for other Southern B.C. commercial fisheries (excluding AABM Chinook).

ISBM Chinook catch and release information from all fisheries can be found in Appendix 4.

STOCK STATUS

West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook

Wild WCVI Chinook are identified as a stock of concern in the Southern British Columbia Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP). A decline in abundance occurred in the mid-1990s due in part to consecutive El Nino events from 1991–1993 and again 1997–1998. Marine ecosystem changes affected early marine survival of these ocean-type Chinook. Two areas on the WCVI are key indicators of wild Chinook status: Kyuquot Sound (Nootka-Kyuquot Conservation Unit) and Clayoquot Sound (SWVI Conservation Unit). Chinook returning to Clayoquot Sound have remained below its lower biological benchmark for aggregate spawner abundance since the early 1990's. In addition, the genetic and demographic diversity of Chinook populations across the WCVI are declining as a result of numerous pressures, such as introgression of hatchery fish into natural populations, size-selective fishing and predation, hatchery mating practices, and global climate change effects on the ocean ecosystem.

In other areas of the WCVI, hatchery production supports terminal fisheries directed at surplus production with management measures in place to reduce impacts on wild origin stocks. These areas include Alberni/Barkley, Nootka, and Nitinat. In these areas, catch is primarily of the hatchery stock; therefore, higher ERs are permitted than in times and areas where wild WCVI Chinook stocks make up more of the catch.

In 2024, the first half of the Chinook upstream migration period (September) was affected by the prolonged summer drought. However, WCVI streams were inundated by several

significant rainfall events in October that appear to have allowed most Chinook access to their spawning habitats prior to the onset of significant holding-related mortalities. Returns to the index systems were mixed with the NWVI index (Kaouk, Artlish, and Tahsish) moderately improved compared to 2023, but returns to the SWVI index (Megin, Moyeha, Bedwell) down approximately50% compared to 2023 driven largely by a weak return to Bedwell. Strong returns of Chinook to the Robertson Creek hatchery (Stamp River) and to the Conuma River hatchery have been observed for 2024.

Strait of Georgia Chinook

Fall Season

Adult returns of fall-run Chinook to northern Strait of Georgia systems were average to above average in 2024, with the exception of Puntledge River escapement which was below average with 5,986 Chinook returning compared to the 4 year average of 8,590. Big Qualicum River escapement was just above the 4 year average of 12,860 with 13,157 fish. Area-Under-the-Curve (AUC) estimation in the Little Qualicum River was below the 4 year average of 9,420 at 7,924 but above the 12 year average of 6,520.

Chinook escapements to most Southern Strait of Georgia streams with enhancement programs were variable in 2024. Nanaimo River abundance was below the four-year average of 10,000 with an AUC estimate of 7,501 adults and jacks. Cowichan River escapement estimates were above the target of 6,500 naturally spawning adults for the ninth year in a row with a fence count of 8,859 adults and 6,143 jacks. An expanded mark-recapture estimate using PIT tags resulted in a total return to river estimate of 42,569 Chinook, which is well above the 4 year average of 28,130. Hatchery brood collection in addition to the fence count was 427 adults. The AUC estimate from swims in the Englishman River was 282 fish which was lower than the 4-year average of 680.

On the mainland side of the northern Strait of Georgia, Sliammon Creek and Lang Creek hatcheries continue to have lower escapements. Chinook returns to Sliammon Creek were low in 2024 with 13 fish observed compared to the 12-year average of 130. Lang Creek returns are now available in season with 594 fish enumerated compared to the 4-year average of 900. There are a few small, wild populations in the Theodosia and those rivers entering Jervis Inlet (Skwawka and Tzoonie Rivers) where assessment data are poor or not available. Historically, a large proportion of the Chinook stock aggregate originating from rivers north of Nanaimo migrate into Central and Northern B.C. and Alaska. Exploitation Rates (ER) on this stock aggregate have gradually been reduced over the last 15 years, thus the stable trend in annual returns to rivers over this period suggests a reduction in marine survival. In 2024, five Chinook were counted in Theodosia, nine in Chapman Creek, and no surveys were completed in Skwawka or Tzoonie Rivers.

Spring/Summer Season

The Puntledge, Nanaimo, Cowichan, and Chemainus systems have identified early runs of Chinook in the Strait of Georgia. Efforts to recover Puntledge summers to viable levels have resulted in improved returns to the river since 1999, with the exception of the past couple years. The 2024 escapement estimate for Puntledge was 89, down from 200 last season and

less than the four-year average of 390 adults. This was expected due to reduced hatchery releases in contributing brood years. Monitoring of Nanaimo spring/summer Chinook escapement included an ARIS/video system in the lower river in addition to a series of swims from April through October. A comprehensive review of ARIS and video data produced an estimate of 954 summer run fish for 2024 which is above the 4-year average of 680. The Chemainus River showed a slight increase from the previous year low of five fish, with 10 Chinook observed during summer swim surveys in 2024. Recent counts in this system have been very low but the rockslide in the lower canyon was cleared naturally in winter 2018/2019, restoring access to a significant portion of the system upstream of Copper Canyon. A handful of Chinook are typically observed in the annual mid-summer trout survey in the Cowichan River with 10 reported in 2024.

Johnstone Strait Mainland Inlet Chinook

Currently, Chinook Salmon escapement is consistently monitored in three systems in the North Island/Mainland Inlets region. In Area 12, the Nimpkish River is assessed using standardized swim surveys by hatchery staff. In Area 13, the Campbell/Quinsam and Phillips Rivers are assessed by intensive mark-recapture programs. The Campbell/Quinsam is a long-term Chinook indicator, assessed yearly since 1984. Since 2021, the department has expanded snorkel survey coverage on the Adam/Eve and Salmon Rivers, established a video counting system on Devereux Creek (Knight Inlet) and an intensive mark-recapture program on the Southgate River (Bute Inlet). Our surveys targeting Pink Salmon in the Mainland Inlets also allow us to monitor Chinook Salmon returning to those systems, as their return timing is similar. Other systems are covered using intermittent visual surveys.

Nimpkish River

In 2024, Chinook Salmon have been observed in the Department's snorkel survey program (peak count >1,067), but conditions have been difficult due to high water and extensive watershed area that stores significant amounts of water for long periods of time. Hatchery broodstock targets have not yet been met, but broodstock efforts are ongoing.

Campbell/Quinsam System

The Campbell Quinsam Chinook return estimate consists of hatchery removals, freshwater catch estimates, fence counts, and a deadpitch mark recapture program. In 2024, the Chinook return estimate was 4557 (with 2762 natural spawners), which is below both the 4 and 12 year return averages (6762 and 6224, respectively). A total of 1,416 Chinook were taken for broodstock and none were removed by the recreational freshwater fishery. High levels of bear and seal predation have been reported for both live and dead Chinook, which may affect the escapement estimate.

Phillips River

The Phillips Chinook return estimate is obtained from an intensive mark recapture program. In 2024, the Chinook return estimate was 4202, which is above the 4 and 12 year averages (2720 and 2441, respectively). High river temperatures delayed tagging activities during late July and most of August; although tag application levels remained consistent with past years, they were not proportionally applied across the run. There was a low female spawn success

in the lower Phillips River in 2024. The 2019 brood was the final enhanced release of Phillips Chinook with 2024 as the last year with marked returns.

Fraser River Chinook

Fraser River Chinook are assessed as five naturally spawning stock groups for PSC management under the 2019 PST agreement, including Fraser Spring 4_2, Fraser Spring 5_2, Fraser Summer 5_2, Fraser Summer 4_1, and Fraser Fall 4_1.

Within the Fraser, there are four active and one discontinued CWT-indicator stocks: Nicola River (Fraser Spring 4_2), Lower Shuswap (Fraser Summer 4_1), Harrison River and Chilliwack River (Fraser Fall 4_1), and Dome Creek (Fraser Spring 5_2) that was discontinued in 2005. Two new CWT-indicator stocks are under development: Lower Chilcotin River (Fraser Spring 5_2) to replace Dome Creek and Chilko River (Fraser Summer 5_2).

In 2019, the Big Bar landslide on the Fraser Mainstem obstructed the migration of some populations in the Fraser Spring 5_2 and Fraser Summer 5_2 stock groups. For Chinook returning to rivers upstream of the landslide, only 13% of the Spring and 48% of the Summer Chinook were estimated to be able to pass the landslide and return to their spawning grounds in 2019. Preliminary analysis indicates considerable improvement of survival estimates past the slide site in 2021 and 2022, in addition to higher passage thresholds for Chinook. Salmon passage at the Big Bar landslide was not considered an issue for the 2024 season due to mitigation efforts in previous years, which aided natural salmon passage through the slide area. SONAR counts downstream and upstream of the landslide indicated no significant delays through the landslide area.

On early July 31, a significant land slide event occurred in the lower Chilcotin River, a major tributary to the Fraser River. The landslide resulted in a complete blockage of the Chilcotin River channel with information indicating the slide was 1,000 meters in length (with the depth of material approximately 30 meters). All water conveyed by the Chilcotin River upstream of the blockage extended 16 kilometers upstream. The Chilcotin River contributes approximately 15% of the total upper Fraser River volume. The Chilcotin River supports populations of Sockeye, Chinook and Coho salmon and Steelhead trout. The primary stocks of interests in the Chilcotin River are Chinook, Sockeye and Coho salmon which spawn upstream of the slide location.

On August 5, river flows breached through the landslide material, releasing large volumes of water, sediment and debris downstream. Following the breach, initial drone observations indicated hydraulics at the slide site was impassable to salmon extremely high turbidity in both the Chilcotin and Fraser rivers. As discharge continued to widen the slide area, the hydraulics improved quickly but turbidity and sediment became the impediment to fish passage. On August 26, an overflight of the Chilcotin River observed very small groups of Sockeye Salmon entering the mouth of the Chilcotin River.

A sonar was installed upstream of the slide site on August 8 to inform salmon migration upstream of the slide. Observations on August 28 indicated turbidity levels improved and migration past the sonar increased daily for both Sockeye and Chinook. A total of and 6,741 Chinook were observed past the slide by October 9.

Ongoing turbidity and slope stability monitoring continues to understand future locations of potential additional slide locations as stability below the slide remains volatile, post season assessments will include geomorphology and slope stability, hydrology, sediment transport, fish passage rates and delay, enroute mortality, and physiological effects to spawning salmon. These assessments will be critical to planning mitigations or interventions to manage the risk to fish and life stages that are dependent on this habitat through the winter and spring, and to be prepared to mitigate risks to migrating salmon in 2025.

2024 Fraser Chinook escapements were below the long-term average for the Spring 4_2 (5,984), Spring 5_2 (13,946), and Summer 5_2 (11,894), but above the long-term average for Summer 4_1 (167,751) and Fall 41 (132,197). All Fraser indicator stocks except Harrison (131,544) and Chilliwack (38,811) had escapements below their long-term average in 2024 (Nicola 2,056; Lower Chilcotin 1,577; Chilko 4,666; Lower Shuswap 16,445; Middle Shuswap 1,334).

The 2016 to 2021 period saw six consecutive years of low escapements to the three Fraser stock groups with yearling smolt life history (Spring 4_2, Spring 5_2, and Summer 5_2) and also to the Harrison (Fall 4_1). In 2022 and 2023, improved escapement was observed compared to the past 6 years, particularly for Harrison, which exceeded its escapement goal of 75,100 for the third consecutive year in 2024. These four stock groups remain of conservation concern as the generational escapement averages are still low and returning from low brood year escapements. Canadian marine and Fraser River fisheries were restricted in 2024 to continue to address these conservation concerns.

FIRST NATIONS DOMESTIC AND FSC FISHERIES

WCVI FSC Fisheries and Treaty Domestic Fisheries

Somass First Nations (Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations) caught Chinook by gill net, rod and reel, and as bycatch during other salmon fisheries in Area 23. Maa-nulth Treaty Nations harvested Chinook through rod and reel, gill net, and troll. Preliminary catch reports for Maa-nulth Treaty harvest and other WCVI Nuu-chah-nulth FSC harvest can be found in Appendices 1 and 4.

Strait of Georgia FSC Fisheries and Treaty Domestic Fisheries

Chinook Salmon FSC and Treaty Domestic fisheries were not restricted in the Strait of Georgia in 2024. Effort was low in the mixed stock areas; effort almost exclusively using hook and line gear. Tla'amin Treaty and other First Nations catch reports in the Strait of Georgia can be found in Appendix 4.

Johnstone Strait FSC Fisheries

Chinook Salmon FSC Fisheries were not restricted in Johnstone Strait in 2024. Fisheries in the mixed stock areas were mainly with hook and line gear. Preliminary First Nations catch summaries from Johnstone Strait can be found in Appendix 4.

Fraser River FSC Fisheries

Chinook-directed FSC fisheries took place in the Lower Fraser River (LFR) between the mouth and Sawmill Creek from April through September 2024. The total number of Chinook

harvested from Chinook-directed, and Chum-directed FSC openings can be found in Appendix 5. Chinook and hatchery-marked Coho bycatch retained for an FSC dual fishing pilot during the Chum-directed EO fishery is listed in the appendices. Pink, Coho, and Chum bycatch that occurred during Chinook-targeted FSC openings is also listed in the appendices. Chinook-directed FSC fisheries in the LFR also occurred in the Sumas and Chilliwack River (July to August), the Chehalis River (July to August), and the Birkenhead River (April to June).

Chinook-directed FSC fisheries took place in the Fraser River and tributaries above Sawmill Creek from July through early October 2024. The total number of Chinook harvested, as well as bycatch estimates, can be found in Appendix 5.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

Somass Economic Opportunity

Agreements were reached with the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations for Economic Opportunity (EO) fisheries for 2024. Robertson Creek hatchery Chinook is a targeted species for these fisheries. These terminal Chinook fisheries occurred in portions of Subareas 23-1 and 23-2, in upper Alberni Inlet, including the tidal portion of the Somass River. Initial pre-season TAC was 27,464 and was revised in-season to 31,471. The total EO Chinook catch can be found in Appendix 4.

Five Nations Communal Sale Fishery

In 2024, the Department provided communal sale fishery opportunities for the Five Nations (five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Tla-o-qui-aht) that included ISBM Chinook. These opportunities were categorized as Nearshore Integrated Hook and Line, terminal salmon fisheries, and a Surplus to Escapement Salmon fishery.

The Nearshore Integrated Hook and Line fisheries occurred in Area 25 and targeted Conuma River enhanced Chinook using troll and gillnet gear. Fishery openings for Conuma Chinook occurred between July 1 and October 2. The initial pre-season TAC was 13,810 Chinook. While the Conuma Chinook run size estimate increased in-season, there was a in-season TAC swap resulting in a revised TAC of 12,949 Chinook. The in-season TACs swap was a 2,450 piece reduction in Conuma Chinook with the Area D Harvest Association for 2,450 pieces of Muchalat Inlet Chinook.

The terminal fishery targeted Burman and Gold River enhanced Chinook returns in Muchalat Inlet using gillnet and troll gear, along with beach-seine gear in the lower reaches of the Gold River. Fishery openings occurred between August 9 and October 2. The TAC for this fishery was 6,300 Chinook, which includes the additional 2,450 pieces swapped with Area D Harvest Association for Conuma Chinook.

The Surplus to Escapement Salmon fishery targeted Conuma River enhanced Chinook in the tidal and non-tidal portions of the Conuma River using beach seine gear to harvest excess salmon to spawning requirements. The fishery occurred from September 8 to 25. Surpluses to escapement were identified in-season based on Conuma Hatchery and stock assessment information indicating that broodstock requirements and escapement needs would be met.

The total Chinook catch from the Five Nations communal sale fisheries targeting Conuma, Burman, and Gold Rivers Chinook, can be found in Appendix 4. Hatchery marked and wild Coho caught in Nearshore and Terminal Chinook directed fisheries were also permitted to be sold.

Maa-nulth Treaty Communal Sale Fishery

Under a Maa-nulth Treaty Arrangement, the Huu-ay-aht Nations conducted a terminal, mark-selective communal sale fishery on Sarita River Chinook. The 4-year Arrangement is pursuant to treaty provision 10.5.0 (Stewardship and Enhancement) of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement. The fishery targets hatchery-marked Sarita River Chinook Salmon and takes place in September in the Sarita River using beach seines. Unmarked Chinook may not be retained. Catch can be found in Appendix 4.

Fraser River Economic Opportunity and Inland Demonstration Fisheries

EO or inland demonstration fisheries did not occur in 2024 for ISBM Chinook in either the upper or lower reaches of the Fraser River as part of additional management actions to provide protection for Fraser Chinook stocks.

In 2024 there were no EO/demonstration fisheries for Fraser Sockeye in the lower reaches of the Fraser River.

In 2024, Fraser Chum EO fisheries occurred in the Lower Fraser that allowed retention of Fraser Chinook and hatchery-marked Coho for FSC as part of the dual fishing pilot.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Area B Seine

Due to a relatively large pre-season forecast for Robertson Creek Hatchery Chinook, Area B seine fisheries occurred in Area 23. The fisheries occurred in portions of Subareas 23-1 and 23-2, in upper Alberni Inlet, targeting Chinook. The fisheries were operated using a pool system with only designated vessels permitted to fish. Initial pre-season TAC was 9,821 Chinook and was revised in-season to 9,157. The seine Chinook catch can be found in Appendix 4. Due to 'moderate' WCVI Coho forecasted returns, Coho retention was not permitted in any commercial fisheries.

Area D Gill Net

Area D gillnet fisheries occurred in Area 23. The fisheries occurred in portions of Subarea 23-1 and 23-2, in upper Alberni Inlet, targeting Chinook with no retention of Coho permitted. Initial pre-season TAC was 19,643 and was revised in-season to 12,314. The fisheries were opened one night a week in the last two weeks of August and for one night on September 3. Fisheries were also opened continuously from September 4 to 8, September 8 to 20, September 20 to October 4, and October 4 to 11 due to low effort and catch rates. The total gillnet Chinook catch can be found in Appendix 4.

An Area D gillnet fishery occurred in Area 25, in Tlupana Inlet (portions of Subarea 25-4 and 25-5). The fishery targeted enhanced Conuma River Chinook with no retention of Coho or

Chum permitted. There were two openings; the first for nine hours on August 12-13, and the second for two hours on August 13. Total gillnet Chinook catch can be found in Appendix 4.

Area E Gill Net

There were no Area E gill net fisheries for ISBM Chinook on WCVI in 2024.

There were no Area E gill net commercial salmon openings in the Fraser River (Area 29) in 2024.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

ISBM Chinook catch and release information from all fisheries can be found in Appendix 4.

West Coast Vancouver Island

In 2024, strong returns of Chinook were observed to the Robertson Creek hatchery (Stamp River) and the Conuma River hatchery while Nitinat hatchery were more modest. Full limit recreational opportunities were available in terminal areas targeting these hatchery stocks.

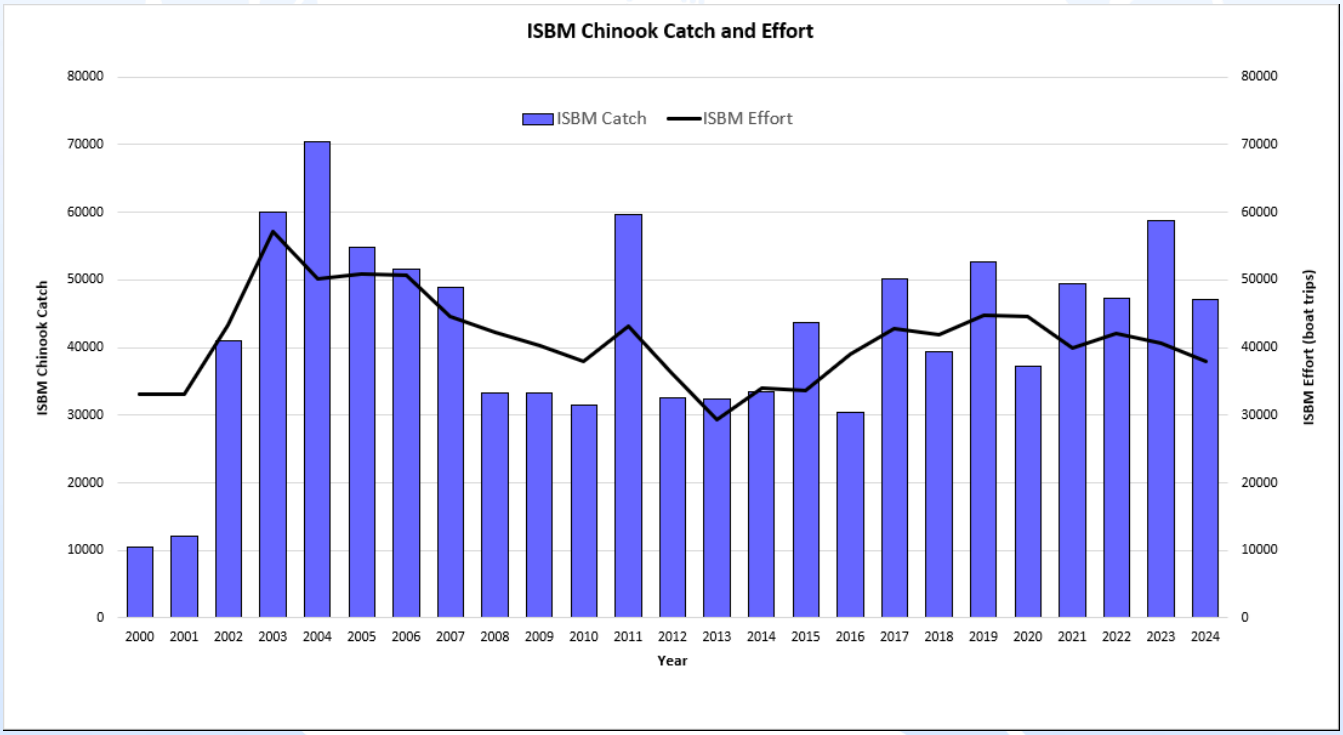


Figure 43. Recreational WCVI Chinook ISBM Catch and Effort, 2000 to 2024.

Inside Areas: Johnstone Strait, Strait of Georgia and Juan de Fuca Strait

The 2024 recreational fisheries in the Inside Areas of Johnstone Strait, Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait, and the approach waters to the Fraser River were managed to Chinook non-retention between April 1 and varying dates between July 14 and August 31. There was a maximum size limit of 80 cm in effect where Chinook retention was permitted before August 31 to minimize impacts on returning Fraser River Chinook stocks of concern. Salmon closures and Chinook non-retention areas were also implemented in portions of the Fraser River approach waters, Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca Strait to support the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

The following regulations were in place for the inside areas for 2024:

Queen Charlotte and Johnstone Straits (Subareas 12-1 to 12-13, 12-15 to 12-48):

- January 1 to March 31, two (2) Chinook per day;
- April 1 to July 14, Chinook non-retention;
- July 15 to August 16, one (1) Chinook per day with a maximum size limit of 80 cm;
- August 17 to August 31, one (1) Chinook per day;
- September 1 to December 31, two (2) Chinook per day.

Strait of Georgia - North - Areas 13 to 17, Area 28 and Subareas 29-1 and 29-2:

- January 1 to March 31, two (2) Chinook per day;
- April 1 to July 14, Chinook non-retention;
- July 15 to August 31, one (1) Chinook per day with a maximum size limit of 80 cm;
- September 1 to December 31, two (2) Chinook per day.

*Except in Subareas 14-7 to 14-10, 14-15, and portions of Subareas 14-4 and 14-5:

- August 5 to August 31, two (2) Chinook per day with a maximum size of 80 cm;

*Except in Subarea 14-11

- August 16 to August 31, two (2) Chinook per day with a maximum size of 80 cm.

Strait of Georgia – South; and Juan de Fuca - East - Areas 18, 19, 28 and Subareas 20-3 to 20-7, 29-3 to 29-5 and 29-8:

- January 1 to March 31, two (2) Chinook per day*;
- April 1 to July 31, Chinook non-retention;
- August 1 to August 31, one (1) Chinook per day with a maximum size limit of 80 cm;
- September 1 to December 31, two (2) Chinook per day.

*Except in Subareas 19-1, 19-3, 19-4 and 20-4 to 20-7:

- March 1 to March 31, two (2) Chinook per day, hatchery-marked only (regulation change new in 2024).

Juan de Fuca – West - Subareas 20-1 and 20-2

- January 1 to March 31, two (2) Chinook per day.
- April 1 to July 14, Chinook non-retention;
- July 15 to July 31, one (1) Chinook per day with a maximum size limit of 80 cm;
- August 1 to December 31, two (2) Chinook per day.

Area 111

- January 1 to July 14, two (2) Chinook per day.
- July 15 to July 31, one (1) Chinook per day with a maximum size limit of 80 cm;
- August 1 to December 31, two (2) Chinook per day.

Area 11 and Subarea 12-14:

- Two Chinook per day, year-round

In 2024, pilot recreational mark-selective fishing opportunities for Chinook were also approved in a time period from April 1 to July 31 in the following areas:

Subareas 12-27, 12-28, 12-35, 12-38, and 12-40 and portions of Subareas 12-26 and 12-39; Subarea 13-21 and portions of Subarea 13-19; portions of Subareas 15-5 and 15-6:

- April 1 to July 14, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery marked and unmarked Chinook with a maximum size limit of 80 cm on unmarked Chinook.

Subareas 16-6, 16-9, and 16-12 and portions of Subareas 16-7, 16-8, 16-10, 16-11 and 16-13:

- April 1 to July 14, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery marked only.

Subareas 17-6 and 17-9:

- April 1 to July 14, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery marked only.

Subareas 18-7; Subareas 19-7 and 19-8:

- April 1 to July 31, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery marked only.

Subarea 18-6; Subareas 19-1, 19-3, 19-4, 19-5, 19-6:

- April 1 to May 31, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery marked only.

Portions of Subarea 18-6:

- June 1 to July 31, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery marked only.

Portions of Subarea 20-5:

- April 1 to July 31, one (1) Chinook per day, hatchery-marked only.

Commencing in 2021 and continuing through 2024, changes to the management measures in Area 14 were used in order to provide increased protections for Puntledge Summer Chinook which included:

- Subareas 14-8, 14-9, 14-10, 14-15; and a portion of Subarea 14-13:July 15 to July 31, Chinook non-retention.

Subarea 14-11:

- July 15 to August 15, closed to fishing for finfish.

The annual limit of 10 Chinook per year first implemented in 2019 in B.C. tidal waters, including the inside areas listed above and have continued each year since. Chinook management measures also include a minimum size limit of 62 cm in the Johnstone Strait/Queen Charlotte Strait and Strait of Georgia, and Areas south to Cadboro Point (Subarea 19-5). For the Canadian portion of Juan de Fuca Strait and south of Cadboro Point, the minimum size limit is 45 cm.

Salmon fishing closures were also implemented in the following portions of the Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca to support Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW):

- May 8 to November 30: Subareas 18-9 and portions of 18-2, 18-4 and 18-5.
- July 15 to October 31: portions of Subarea 20-1.
- August 1 to October 31: portions of Subarea 20-4 and 20-5.
- August 1 to September 30: portions of Subarea 29-3.

In 2024, marine sport fisheries were monitored by creel surveys in three main areas: 1) Juan de Fuca including Victoria south of Cadboro Point (subareas 19-1 through 19-4 and Juan de Fuca Strait east of Sheringham Point (subareas 20-5 and 20-6); 2) Portions of the Strait of Georgia including Areas 14 through 18, that portion of Area 19 north of Cadboro Point, Areas 28 and 29; and 3) Johnstone Strait including Areas 11 to 13 and 111. Creel survey monitoring of these fisheries includes using an access point (landing site) survey for collecting catch, CPUE, and biological information combined with an aerial survey for effort counts. In addition, logbook programs directed at estimating the sport catch by fishing guides during guided trips, were conducted in the Campbell River and intermittently throughout other areas in the South Coast. The Avid Angler program and the Area 13 remote lodges around Stuart Island typically provide the majority of logbook program data. Electronic survey estimates from the iREC program will also be used to produce catch estimates for those areas where creel surveys did not take place.

The creel survey in Juan de Fuca Strait ran between March and October 2024.

The Strait of Georgia creel survey for Areas 13 and 14 was conducted from April to October, for Area 15 from mid-April to September, for Area 16 from April to September, for Areas 17 and 18 from April to September, and for Areas 19 and the Strait of Georgia portion of Area 20 from March to October.

The Johnstone Strait creel survey for Areas 11 and 12 was conducted from June through August.

Effort, catch and release information from marine fisheries are summarized in Figure 43.

Region 1 Vancouver Island Tributaries

River conditions in most tributaries on Vancouver Island were improved compared to previous years. Water flow conditions did not significantly deteriorate due to moderate levels of precipitation throughout the spring, summer, and early fall. In the summer of 2024, all systems in Region 1 that are typically open remained open, with the exception of Regions 1-1 to 1-6 tributaries that are managed using seasonal closures between July 15 to August 31 due to annually high-water temperatures and low flow conditions. Many Chinook systems on the east and west coasts of Vancouver Island saw strong returns in 2024; particularly those from enhanced systems. These returns provided early and productive opportunities for recreational freshwater fisheries. The Qualicum River, Little Qualicum River, Puntledge River, Nitinat River, Somass River, and Conuma River all provided some recreational opportunities to harvest Chinook stocks during this time period.

Fraser River Mouth (Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10):

January 1 to December 31, fishing for Chinook Salmon remained closed in this area.

Tidal Fraser River:

In the tidal waters of the Fraser River the following regulations were in place for 2024:

January 1 to December 31, fishing for salmon was not permitted, with the exception of Chum and Coho opportunities from October 31 to November 30. Chinook and Pink could not be retained in this opening. This recreational fishery was not assessed in 2024.

Non-Tidal Fraser River:

Region 2: Bridge at Mission, to the Highway 1 Bridge at Hope, January 1 to December 31, fishing for salmon was not permitted, with the exception of Chum and Coho opportunities from November 2 to November 30. Chinook and Pink could not be retained in these openings. This recreational fishery was not assessed in 2024.

Region 3: January 1 to December 31, fishing for salmon was not permitted on the Fraser River.

Region 5: January 1 to December 31, fishing for salmon was not permitted on the Fraser River.

Region 7: January 1 to December 31, fishing for salmon was not permitted on the Fraser River.

Fraser River Tributaries:

<u>Fraser River Tributaries - Region 2</u>

There were several tributaries of the Fraser River where Chinook retention was permitted, as follows:

- Alouette River: daily limit of one Chinook from September 1 until November 30;
- Chehalis River: daily limit of one Chinook from June 1 until August 31 and a daily limit of four Chinook with only one over 62 cm from September 1 until December 31;
- Chilliwack/Vedder River: daily limit of one from July 1 until August 31, daily limit of four with two over 62 cm from September 1 to December 31;
- Coquitlam River: fishing for salmon was permitted but Chinook Salmon could not be retained from September 1 to December 31;

The Chilliwack/Vedder River recreational fishery was assessed from September 16 to November 30 in 2024. Catch estimates can be found in Appendix 5. The Alouette River, Chehalis River, and Coquitlam River recreational fisheries were not assessed in 2024.

During 2024, there were limited non-tidal openings for Chinook on the following systems which enter Boundary Bay:

- Little Campbell River: daily limit of one hatchery-marked Chinook per day from August 15 until September 15 and fishing for salmon was permitted but Chinook Salmon could not be retained from September 16 until December 31.
- Nicomekl River: daily limit of one Chinook from September 1 until November 30 and fishing for salmon was permitted but Chinook Salmon could not be retained from December 1 until December 31.
- Serpentine River: daily limit of one Chinook from September 1 until November 30 and fishing for salmon was permitted but Chinook Salmon could not be retained from December 1 until December 31.

The Little Campbell River recreational fishery was assessed from August 15 to September 15 in 2024. Catch estimates can be found in Appendix 5.

Nicomekl River and Serpentine River recreational fisheries were not assessed in 2024

<u>Fraser River Tributaries - Region 3</u>

Thompson River: That portion of the Thompson River from the white triangular fishing boundary (WTFB) signs just downstream of Gold Pan Provincial Park to the easterly border of the Skihist Ecological reserve along the Thompson River located at 50°15'N, 121°31'W; this is approximately 5 km northeast of Lytton at Skihist Park.

- August 28 to September 22, daily limit of four Chinook, zero over 50 cm.

Thompson River: From Kamloops Lake outlet downstream to the fishing boundary signs just downstream of Gold Pan Provincial Park, except at Deadman, Juniper, and Ashcroft. Three closures are key First Nations fishing sites.

- No fishing for salmon.

Kamloops Lake: In the waters of Kamloops Lake upstream of the fishing boundary signs at the outlet of Kamloops Lake.

- August 28 to September 22, daily limit of four Chinook, only one over 50 cm.

South Thompson River: That portion of the South Thompson River from the green can buoy near outlet of Little River, including Little Shuswap Lake, to the fishing boundary sign approximately 100 m downstream of Campbell Creek.

- August 16 to September 22, daily limit of four Chinook, only two greater than 50 cm. There is a monthly limit of six Chinook over 50cm from the South Thompson River.

Fraser River Tributaries - Region 5

January 1 to December 31, fishing for Chinook was not permitted in any portion of the Fraser watershed in Region 5.

Fraser River Tributaries - Region 7

January 1 to December 31, fishing for Chinook was not permitted in any portion of the Fraser watershed in Region 7.

Fraser River Tributaries - Region 8

Note: there is a monthly limit of four Chinook in Region 8.

Mabel Lake: That portion of Mabel Lake that is both northerly of a line drawn from a white triangular fishing boundary sign situated at the northern edge of Mabel Lake Provincial Park to the prominent point of land on the western shore; and southerly of a line drawn between two white triangular fishing boundary signs located on opposite shores approximately 1 km from Wap Creek.

- August 16 to September 12, daily limit of four Chinook, only two over 50 cm.

Middle Shuswap River: No fishing for salmon.

Lower Shuswap River: That portion of the Lower Shuswap River upstream from white triangular fishing boundary signs upstream of the Mara Bridge to Mable Lake, except no fishing in those waters 50 metres upstream and downstream of the Trinity Valley Road Bridge.

- August 16 to September 12, daily limit of four Chinook, only two over 50 cm.

EXCESS SALMON TO SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

The Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations were issued a joint Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements (ESSR) Licence for Chinook at the Robertson Creek Hatchery facility.

The Ditidaht First Nation was issued an ESSR Licence for Chinook at Nitinat Lake and Nitinat hatchery.

Chinook Salmon ESSR fisheries for the Qualicum First Nation took place at the Big Qualicum Hatchery in 2024.

There were ESSR fisheries at the Capilano, Chilliwack, and Chehalis hatcheries in 2024 that harvested Chinook Salmon.

No Johnstone Strait ESSR opportunities on Chinook occurred in 2024.

There were no Interior B.C. ESSR opportunities on Chinook in 2024.

All ESSR harvest information can be found in Appendix 7.

FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE AND PINK SALMON

SOCKEYE SALMON

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

In 2024, the Fraser River Panel (FRP) adopted the median (p50 probability) run size forecast for all four stock management units (567,000 Fraser Sockeye) for pre-season planning purposes. Due to the low forecast abundance, there was no international TAC anticipated to be available for any of the stock management units. There was forecast to be a small Canadian TAC (i.e., Aboriginal Fishery Exemption (AFE)) on the Early Summer stock management unit at the p75 forecast abundance, and additionally on the Summer stock management unit at the p90 forecast abundance. However, the less-abundant Early Stuart and Late-run stock management units were anticipated to pose a substantial constraint on attempts to harvest any possible surplus. Pre-season fishery planning focused on minimizing impacts on less abundant stock groups and other species of concern. Actual in-season harvest opportunities were dependent on in-season stock assessments.

Fishing plans incorporate provisions to meet escapement and conservation objectives for stocks of concern while considering other international and domestic objectives. Fishing plans include the following assumptions and guiding principles in no particular order:

- The FRP operated in accordance with the relevant articles of the PST, noting in particular, Article VI and Annex IV, Chapter 4.
- The four stock management units identified in Annex IV generally contain stocks with similar timing in the marine approach areas.
- The U.S. share of the annual Fraser River Sockeye international TAC, harvested in the waters of Washington State, was set at 16.5% of the aggregate Fraser River Sockeye. To the extent practicable, the FRP shall manage U.S. fisheries to implement a fishing plan that concentrates harvest on the most abundant management group or groups.
- It is understood that the U.S. harvest may exceed 16.5% of the international TAC for one or more of the less abundant management units by a small but acceptable amount despite concentrating the harvest in this manner.
- For computing international TAC by stock management units, the AFE of 400,000 Fraser River Sockeye, shall be allocated to management groups as follows: the Early Stuart Sockeye exemption shall be up to 20% (maximum 80,000) of the AFE, and the balance of the exemption shall be based on the average proportional distribution of FSC catch for the most recent three Sockeye cycles, modified annually as required to address concerns for Fraser River Sockeye stocks and other species of concern, or as otherwise agreed to by the FRP.
- Canada's escapement plan for Fraser River Sockeye incorporates a number of harvest rule parameters for each of four stock management units that set out an

abundance-based management approach to ensure conservation outcomes are achieved for each management unit. The proportion of a stock that may be harvested depends on abundance (a larger number of spawners equates to a larger harvest rate), from 0% up to a maximum rate of 50%. The maximum rate is called the Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) cap. This is the rate applied when the number of spawners is greater than the Upper Reference Point. When the number of spawners is less than the Lower Reference Point, directed fisheries typically do not occur and the harvest rate is the Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER). The LAER is a threshold to stay below, allowing for incidental harvest in fisheries on co-migrating stocks and species.

- The proportion of a stock that may be harvested depends on abundance (a larger number of spawners equates to a larger harvest rate), from 0% up to a maximum rate of 50%. The maximum rate is called the Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) cap and it describes the upper range of the total mortality (including management adjustments and exploitation rate (ER)). This is the rate applied when the number of spawners is greater than the Upper Reference Point. Similar to 2023, the TAM cap remained at 50% for all stock management units, and 20% for the Early Stuart management group to address recent poor productivity and low forecast.
- At low abundances, the low abundance exploitation rate (LAER) was implemented to protect 90% or more of the stock management unit, while allowing for fisheries on more abundant co-migrating run timing groups and/or other species. In 2024, Canada's escapement plan permitted up to a 5% LAER for Early Stuarts, 7% for Early Summers and 10% for all other stock management units.
- The allowable harvest in a LAER situation is not a target; the objective is to allow as many fish as possible to pass to the spawning grounds. In most circumstances, acceptable harvests under a LAER scenario would be incidental harvest or bycatch directed on other species; however, in some circumstances, limited directed harvest in terminal areas may be considered for First Nations with no other fishery access.
- An Early Sockeye window closure and other fishing restrictions were planned for commercial, recreational, and First Nations fisheries to protect >90% of the Early Stuart return and a significant portion of the early-timed Early Summers. Window closures are defined periods of time where a portion of the migration route is closed to fishing to protect fish as they migrate through the area. In 2024, the measures included a five-week rolling window closure based on Early Stuart run timing. This is an increase from the three-week window which has been used in the past and was intended to provide additional protection to the earlier-timed components of the Early Summer stocks that have had persistent conservation concerns (i.e., Bowron, Taseko).
- Conservation concerns for Sockeye stocks and other salmon species continued to impact the planning of Fraser River fisheries in 2024. The stocks and species of concern included: Cultus Lake Sockeye, Nimpkish River Sockeye, Sakinaw Lake

Sockeye, Interior Fraser River Coho, Southern B.C. Chinook including Fraser River Chinook, and Interior Fraser River Steelhead.

STOCK STATUS

Please Note: Table 30 and Figure 44 are adapted from, or courtesy of, the PSC.

Pre-season assessment

Pre-season expectations (Table 29) were for a median run size (p50) of 567,000 Fraser River Sockeye with a 50% chance the run size would be between 299,000 (p25) and 1,121,000 (p75)

Table 29. 2024 pre-season run size abundance forecast range by management group for Fraser Sockeye.

Stock Management Group	Probability that returns will be at/or below specified run size				
	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Early Stuart[1]	75 (500)	100 (800)	200 (1,400)	300 (2,000)	400 (2,200)
Early Summer	58,000	93,000	159,000	281,000	465,000
Summer	101,000	192,000	379,000	774,000	1,554,000
Late	8,000	15,000	29,000	66,000	154,000
Total	167,000	299,000	567,000	1,121,000	2,173,000

[1]Brackets denote a highly uncertain hatchery component based on 2020 brood release and proxy survival

The pre-season diversion rate forecast for Fraser River Sockeye through Johnstone Strait was 33%. Predicted Area 20 50% migration timing dates were July 7 for Early Stuart, July 19 for Early Summer, July 30 for Summer, and August 7 for Late-run Sockeye. Pre-season run timing forecasts were some of the earliest on record, with some stock-specific run-timings adjusted to 90th-percentile of the historical median.

Pre-season spawning escapement goals were based on a modified 2020 (brood year) escapement plan that allowed for some harvest (at the p75 or higher for Early Summer and p90 for Summers), while protecting all stock management groups at low abundance levels. At the p50 forecast run size, escapement goals were as follows: 200 Early Stuart, 159,000 Early Summer, 379,000 Summer, and 29,000 Late-run Sockeye for a total of 567,000 (Table 30).

Table 30. Fraser Sockeye 2024 Pre-season (top) and Final In-season (bottom) Values for Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Other Management Parameters.

Date	Mgmt Group	Total Abundance	SET	TAM	pMA	MA	LAER	Test Fishing	AFE	Total Deductions	TAC	Allowable Harvest (AFE incl.)	Max Allowable Catch (incl. LAER)	50% Migration Date (Area 20)	JST Diversion Rate
June 15 Pre-Season	Early Stuart	200 (1,400)	1,600	0.00	1.17	1,800	0.05	-	0	3,400	0	0	78	7-Jul	
	Early Summer	158,950	159,950	0.17	0.56	73,500	0.07	1,561	0	206,561	0	0	11,100	19-Jul	
	Summer	379,250	379,250	0.00	0.32	106,200	0.10	4,700	0	490,915	0	0	37,925	30-Jul	
	Late	29,000	29,000	0.00	0.54	15,600	0.10	549	0	45,149	0	0	2,896	7-Aug	
	Fraser Sockeye														33%
September 27 Post-season	Early Stuart	200 (1,400)	1,600	0.00	1.94	69,700	0.05	-	0	532	0	0	9	N/A	
	Early Summer	142,000	131,200	0.00	0.56	73,472	0.07	1,590	0	206,233	0	0	9,940	14-Jul	
	Summer	307,000	307,000	0.00	0.56	171,920	0.10	4,000	0	483,621	0	0	30,700	1-Aug	
	Late	24,700	24,700	0.00	0.43	10,750	0.10	210	0	36,299	0	0	2,470	15-Aug	
	Fraser Sockeye														42%

The goals for each stock management unit were established by applying Canada's spawning escapement plan to the forecasted, pre-season run size. For pre-season planning purposes, the harvest rule for all management groups was constrained by varying LAER limits (see Table 31). Harvest rules were further constrained by a 20% TAM cap for Early Stuart and a 50% TAM cap for the other three stock management groups (Table 31).

Table 31. Fraser River Sockeye Salmon 2024 Escapement Plan and Application of the Plan to each Stock Management Group across a Range of Forecast Abundances

	Harvest Rule Parameters				
Management Unit	**Low Abundance ER (LAER)**	**TAM Cap**	**Lower Fishery Reference Point**	**Upper Fishery Reference Point**	**Pre-season pMA @p50**
Early Stuart	5%	20%	108,000	135,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o misc)	7%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.59
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	640,000	1,280,000	0.28
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	300,000	600,000	0.54

Management Unit		Pre-season Forecast Return				
		p10	p25	p50	p75	p90
	lower ref. pt. (w misc)	108,000	108,000	**108,000**	108,000	108,000
	upper ref. pt. (w misc)	135,000	135,000	**135,000**	135,000	135,000
Early Stuart	forecast	570	940	**1,567**	2,220	2,696
	TAM Rule (%)	0%	0%	**0%**	0%	0%
	Escapement Target	570	940	**1,567**	2,220	2,696
	MA	700	1,100	**1,800**	2,600	3,200
	Esc. Target + MA	1,270	2,040	**3,367**	4,820	5,896
	LAER	5%	5%	**5%**	5%	5%
	Available ER at Return	0%	0%	**0%**	0%	0%
	Max. Allowable ER	5%	5%	**5%**	5%	5%
	Max. Allowable Harvest	29	47	**78**	111	135
	2024 Performance					
	Projected S (after MA)	200	400	**700**	1,000	1,200
	BY Spawners	30	30	**30**	30	30
	Proj. S as % BY S	667%	1333%	**2333%**	3333%	4000%
	cycle avg S	42,694	42,694	**42,694**	42,694	42,694
	Proj. S as % cycle S	0%	1%	**2%**	2%	3%

Management Unit		Pre-season Forecast Return				
		p10	p25	**p50**	p75	p90
Early Summer (w/o RNT)	*lower ref. pt. (w misc)*	154,800	140,400	**131,200**	124,300	122,500
	upper ref. pt. (w misc)	309,600	280,700	**262,300**	248,600	245,000
	forecast (incl. misc)	57,795	92,596	**158,950**	281,036	464,523
	TAM Rule (%)	0%	0%	**17%**	50%	50%
	Escapement Target	57,795	92,596	**131,200**	140,518	232,262
	MA	34,100	51,900	**73,500**	78,700	137,000
	Esc. Target + MA	91,895	144,496	**204,700**	219,218	369,262
	LAER	7%	7%	**7%**	7%	7%
	Available ER at Return	0%	0%	**0%**	22%	21%
	Max. Allowable ER	7%	7%	**7%**	22%	21%
	Max. Allowable Harvest	4,000	6,500	**11,100**	61,800	95,300
	2024 Performance					
	Projected S (after MA)	34,100	54,700	**94,000**	139,200	234,300
	BY Spawners	80,300	80,300	**80,300**	80,300	80,300
	Proj. S as % BY S	42%	68%	**117%**	173%	292%
	cycle avg S	144,327	144,327	**144,327**	144,327	144,327
	Proj. S as % cycle S	24%	38%	**65%**	96%	162%

Management Unit		Pre-season Forecast Return				
		p10	p25	**p50**	p75	p90
Summer (w. RNT & Har)	*lower ref. pt. (w misc)*	769,600	814,000	**891,400**	1,001,700	1,119,400
	upper ref. pt. (w misc)	1,539,300	1,628,000	**1,782,800**	2,003,300	2,238,700
	forecast	101,268	191,874	**379,247**	774,186	1,554,481
	TAM Rule (%)	0%	0%	**0%**	0%	28%
	Escapement Target	101,268	191,874	**379,247**	774,186	1,119,400
	MA	28,400	53,700	**106,200**	216,800	313,400
	Esc. Target + MA	129,668	245,574	**485,447**	990,986	1,432,800
	LAER	10%	10%	**10%**	10%	10%
	Available ER at Return	0%	0%	**0%**	0%	8%
	Max. Allowable ER	10%	10%	**10%**	10%	10%
	Max. Allowable Harvest	10,127	19,187	**37,925**	77,419	155,448
	2024 Performance					
	Projected S (after MA)	70,200	132,500	**260,500**	528,400	1,055,400
	BY Spawners	186,916	186,916	**186,916**	186,916	186,916
	Proj. S as % BY S	38%	71%	**139%**	283%	565%
	cycle avg S	667,166	667,166	**667,166**	667,166	667,166
	Proj. S as % cycle S	11%	20%	**39%**	79%	158%

Management Unit		Pre-season Forecast Return				
		p10	p25	**p50**	p75	p90
Late (w/o Har)	*lower ref. pt. (w misc)*	302,000	302,000	**302,000**	302,000	302,000
	upper ref. pt. (w misc)	604,000	604,000	**604,000**	604,000	604,000
	forecast	8,060	14,666	**28,958**	65,541	154,011
	TAM Rule (%)	0%	0%	**0%**	0%	0%
	Escapement Target	8,060	14,666	**28,958**	65,541	154,011
	MA	3,600	6,900	**15,600**	41,900	130,900
	Esc. Target + MA	11,660	21,566	**44,558**	107,441	284,911
	LAER	10%	10%	**10%**	10%	10%
	Available ER at Return	0%	0%	**0%**	0%	0%
	Max. Allowable ER	10%	10%	**10%**	10%	10%
	Max. Allowable Harvest	806	1,467	**2,896**	6,554	15,401
	2024 Performance					
	Projected S (after MA)	5,000	8,900	**17,000**	35,800	74,300
	BY Spawners	6,563	6,563	**6,563**	6,563	6,563
	Proj. S as % BY S	76%	136%	**259%**	545%	1132%
	cycle avg S	445,337	445,337	**445,337**	445,337	445,337
	Proj. S as % cycle S	1%	2%	**4%**	8%	17%
Allowable Harvest (TF, US, CDN)		14,961	27,201	**51,999**	145,884	266,284
Total projected spawners		109,500	196,500	**372,200**	704,400	1,365,200

At low abundances, the harvest strategy also employs a LAER. For example, a 10% LAER is intended to protect 90% of the stock management unit while allowing for fisheries on more abundant co-migrating run timing groups and/or other species. It was apparent that for the entire range of pre-season run size forecasts in2024 that implementation of LAER management was necessary to support escapement targets.

Pre-season Management Adjustments (MAs) are adjustments to the spawning escapement targets to account for en route migration mortality, assessment error, and management error with the objective of increasing the likelihood of achieving the targets. At the p50 forecast run size, the pre-season MAs were as follows: 200 for Early Stuart, 73,500 for Early Summer, 106,200 for Summer, and 15,600 for Late run Sockeye (Table 31).

Pre-season MAs were derived from historical proportional differences (pDBEs) between in-season estimates at Mission, and spawning ground escapements estimates. A retrospective analysis was completed pre-season to assess the most suitable methods for predicting pre-season pDBE for each stock management group. Pre-season predictions of pDBE were as follows: Early Stuart -0.54 (all-years [1995-2023] median); Early Summer -0.36 all-years median); Summer -0.22 (pre-season temperature and discharge model); Lates -0.33 (all-years median [1996-2023] excluding dominant cycle years).

Pre-season harvest planning model runs indicated there would be no international TAC on any management group and any forecasted return level. In Canada, a small Sockeye TAC was not predicted to be available for directed harvested (i.e., AFE) at forecasts levels below the p75 forecast abundance. Expected timing indicated that access to one stock group without incidentally impacting another would be difficult given the overlap in run timing (Figure 44).

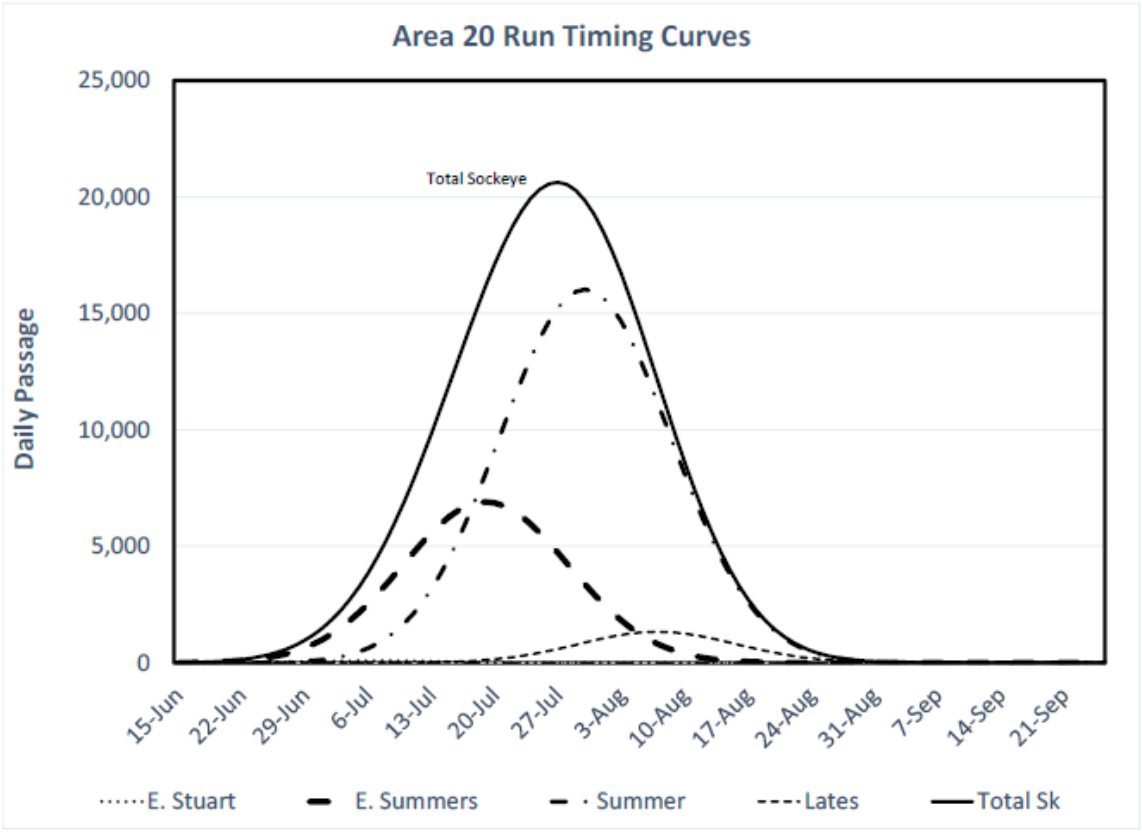


Figure 44. Pre-Season Projections of Daily Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Abundance by Management Group

IN-SEASON ASSESSMENT

Due to the extremely low forecast for Early Stuarts (200), no in-season updates for this management group were provided.

Overall, marine migration timing (50% passage date at A20) relative to pre-season timing forecasts varied with Early Summers returning 5 days earlier than forecasted (July 14 in-season vs. July 19 pre-season), Summers were two days later (August 1 vs. July 30) and Lates were five days later (August 12 vs. August 7).

The post-season Johnstone Strait diversion rate estimate (42%) was slightly higher than the pre-season forecast rate of 33%.

As of October, 2024 returns for all stock management groups were below median pre-season forecast levels:

- Due to the low run size, in-season or post-season estimates for Early Stuarts could not be provided.
- The return of Early Summers was 142,000, which is 11% lower than the p50 forecast of 159,000.
- The return of Summers was 307,000, which is 19% lower than the p50 forecast of 379,000.

- The return of Lates was 25,000, which is 14% lower than the p50 forecast of 29,000.
- Note, post-season run size estimates presented above are preliminary and may change as spawning escapement and fisheries data are collected and incorporated.

Updated monitoring programs for the 2024 season were in place for the Big Bar area on the Fraser River upstream of Lillooet. Over the winters in 2019-2021, substantial work was undertaken by a unified command team consisting of representatives from First Nations, DFO, and the Province of British Columbia. This work significantly improved fish passage at Big Bar. The main mitigation measures continued in 2024 were the emergency conservation enhancement programs for salmon populations most heavily affected by migration barriers (e.g., Early Stuart and early-timed Early Summer run Sockeye).

Similar to 2023, the Big Bar landslide was not considered a significant salmon passage impediment in 2024 due to mitigation efforts in the winter/spring of 2021, which aided natural salmon passage through the slide area. Estimates of passage success past the slide site in 2024 indicate considerable improvement from 2019 and 2021. Similar to 2023, in 2024, relatively low flows occurred in June and July and persisted throughout the season. SONAR estimates from downstream and upstream of the slide site, along with field observations, indicated no significant delays or mortality directly attributed to the slide during the early migration season, compared to very poor passage and survival estimates in 2019 and 2020.

As discussed above, record low flows and high water temperatures persisted throughout the province for most of the adult salmon migration period in 2024. This resulted in in-season increases to the MAs for both Early Stuarts and Summers to support attaining escapement objectives (Table 31). Consequently, the increase in the MAs eliminated the possibility of a harvestable surplus (AFE or TAC) on any stock management groups and the focus shifted to conservation and LAER management.

On July 31, 2024 a major landslide occurred in the lower reach of the Chilcotin River (upstream of Farwell Canyon Bridge), resulting in a complete blockage of the river (approximately 1,000m in length, 30m in water depth, and, at maximum stage height, a 16 km-long backwatered reach). Water began to breach the landslide on August 5, with peak discharge reaching 3,500 m3/s, increasing water levels in the Fraser River by a maximum of 2.7 m. Salmon species potentially affected by the landslide included Taseko and Chilko River Sockeye, Upper/Lower Chilcotin River Chinook (Spring 5-2), Taseko, Elkin and Chilko River Chinook (Summer 5-2), Interior Fraser Coho (Chilcotin Stocks), and Chilcotin Steelhead.

BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness led the emergency response to the landslide with the immediate focus being human health and safety. Tŝilhqot'in National Government (TNG) established a local Emergency Salmon Task Force to serve as a forum between TNG, DFO and consultants to coordinate response activities. British Columbia, Esk'etemc and Williams Lake First Nations collaborating through a Senior Officials Committee and technical working group meetings, and the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) worked with upper Fraser River First Nations to coordinate activities and share information. Monitoring work included the temporary hydroacoustic site at Hanceville as well as existing sites upstream at Chilko Lake, Taseko Lake and the Little

Chilcotin River, hydrometric stations and remote cameras, photogrammetry and imagery to collect information on site conditions and material movement, and turbidity monitoring stations at Hanceville, the Chilcotin/Fraser confluence, and in the Fraser River upstream and downstream of the confluence.

Upstream salmon passage was completely blocked from July 31 to August 22, initially by the physical barrier of the landslide, and then by high discharge and suspended sediment levels. High sediment continued to delay salmon migration into September and October. Approximately 49,000 Chilko Sockeye eventually reached their spawning grounds. 50% arrival date at Chilko Lake (September 18) was about 2 weeks later than the historical average, with sex ratio highly skewed to males (70:30), and below average spawning success for females.

POST-SEASON ASSESSMENT

The preliminary (i.e. late October) post-season estimate of the return of adult Fraser Sockeye (474,000) is approximately 16% lower than the pre-season median (p50) forecast of 567,000 (Table 29). The 2024 estimate is ~42% above the 2020 brood year run size (396,000) but 85% below the historical 2024 cycle-line average (3.1M). Like the 2019 brood year, the 2020 brood (age-4 returns in 2024) was impacted by low productivity with the historical low return further impacted by the Big Bar landslide. Unlike 2023, the majority of Fraser Sockeye stocks had a higher proportion of four-year-old fish returning in 2024.

Due to the expected low returns in 2024, combined with the poor migration condition and elevated MAs, all stock management groups remained in a LAER management scenario, and no Sockeye-directed fisheries were authorized in Panel waters. A small FSC fishery was authorized under the LAER on the Nadina and Birkenhead rivers (see Section 5.1.9). Overall, fisheries impacts on Sockeye were limited to levels well below the respective LAER limits identified in the escapement plan.

At the post-season meeting on September 25, the Fraser River Panel adopted end-of-season run sizes where applicable. In some cases, this reduced the ER relative to the final in-season distribution; however, additional changes to ERs are anticipated once escapement data is finalized later in the year. The total Canadian Fraser Sockeye catch can be found in Appendix 1, 2 and 5. The total post-season ER is estimated to be 4.8%, which includes test fishing, but not Fishery-Induced Mortalities (FIMs). See Table 32 for projected post-season ERs relative to allowable ERs.

Table 32. 2024 Post-Season Exploitation Rate Estimates for All Fraser Sockeye Catch by Management Group

Management Group	Early Stuart	Early Summer	Summer	Late	Total
Preliminary Exploitation Rate	N/A	1.7%	6.9%	0.7%	4.8%
Preliminary ER including FIM	N/A	1.8%	7.6%	0.9%	5.2%
Allowable Exploitation Rate*	5%	7%	10%	10%	5-10%
LAER*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* The Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER) is not a target. All efforts were made to minimize fisheries impacts to Fraser Sockeye.

1. The Fraser River Panel work plan has identified future work based on topics that were highlighted during the 2024 season. The Panel will continue discussions on methods for determining allowable impacts on non-target stocks and species, and necessary conservation actions, in Panel Area fisheries. This will include discussions of small but acceptable harvest during Pink directed fisheries.
2. The Panel will advance bilateral Indigenous relationships to help with fisheries planning and negotiations.
3. The Panel will review the 2018 test fishing report "Summary of a Review of Fraser River Test Fisheries" and the 2022 report "Overview of pre-season and in-season assessment methods for Fraser River Sockeye Salmon" to identify if test fishing objectives need to be refined following increased conservation concerns in recent years.
4. The Panel and Technical Committee will review the effectiveness of the alternative test fishing location at Brownsville Bar, near New Westminster, for in-season assessment of Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon.
5. The Panel and Technical Committee will continue to review the work to improve species composition methods, both at Mission and at Qualark. Thus far, year 1 of a four-year project has been completed.
6. The Panel will review recommendations to improve the Run Size Adjustment (RSA) process following the scientific peer review process conducted through the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS).
7. The Panel will identify and track issues for Chapter 4 renegotiations

FIRST NATIONS FSC AND TREATY DOMESTIC FISHERIES

As no TAC was identified throughout the 2024 season, Fraser Sockeye-directed FSC harvest opportunities for Treaty and non-Treaty First Nations were not authorized in 2024, except for small-scale fisheries in the Nadina and Birkenhead terminal areas. Fisheries were authorized in instances where local Nations do not have access to another source of FSC fish. These

terminal fisheries were managed under the LAER for the corresponding stock management unit as generally described below. Impacts to Fraser Sockeye from FSC and Treaty domestic fisheries primarily occurred via fishery-induced mortalities (FIMs) in fisheries targeting other species (Chinook and Pink) and/or unauthorized retention.

In the Nadina watershed, a small FSC fishery was authorized on Nadina Sockeye (with an assumed small impact on co-migrating Stellako Sockeye based on migration timing) as First Nations in the area have no other access to salmon. Estimated total mortality is approximately 112 pieces, with a negligible impact on the LAER for the stock management units.

Marine Areas

On May 30, a fishery notice was posted as a reminder of Sockeye non-retention in FSC fisheries in effect in Areas 11 to 21, 28, 111, 121, 123 to 127 and Subareas 27-4, 29-1 to 29-6 to protect Early Stuart and the early-timed stocks of the Early Summer stock management group. Sockeye non-retention in FSC fisheries remained in place throughout the 2024 season.

Catch estimates are provided in Appendix 5. Post-season total mortality estimates include unauthorized retained catch where estimates are available.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

Five Nations Communal Sale Fishery

As no TAC was identified throughout the 2024 season, no communal Sockeye sale fishery opportunities for the Five Nations (five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht) were provided. There was no Sockeye catch reported for this period. Total salmon catch from the Five Nations Salmon fisheries is provided in Appendix 5.

Interior Fraser First Nations Commercial Fisheries

There were no economic opportunity (EO) or demonstration fisheries targeting Sockeye in 2024.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

As no TAC was identified throughout the 2024 season, no commercial fisheries directed on Fraser River Sockeye in Canada, or the U.S. were authorized in 2024. In Canada, Fraser River Sockeye were managed to a stock management unit-specific LAER (5-10%), which is intended to protect the stock management unit while allowing for fisheries on more abundant co-migrating run timing groups and/or other species.

As there were no commercial Pink opportunities in 2024, there were no associated Fraser River Sockeye FIMs reported. Catch estimates are provided in Appendix 5.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

As no Fraser Sockeye TAC was identified throughout the 2024 season, recreational fisheries directed on Fraser River Sockeye did not occur in 2024.

FRASER SOCKEYE STOCK-SELECTIVE FISHERIES

There were no Fraser Sockeye Stock-Selective FSC fisheries (SSFSC; formerly ESSR) approved in 2024. Under the SS-FSC framework in Section 13.56 of the IFMP, SS-FSC fisheries for individual stocks may be considered if the projected number of effective spawners is expected to exceed the freshwater productive capacity of the system(s). In a manner consistent with previous SS-FSC fisheries, stock-specific spawning requirements were determined based on Wild Salmon Policy Benchmarks (e.g., Smsy), and projected number of effective spawners, which takes into consideration estimates of pDBEs and unsanctioned harvest, similar to aggregate TAC calculations. In addition, given inherent uncertainty in estimates of in-season run sizes, harvest and pDBEs, only a portion of the identified surplus was allotted for harvest. See section 13.5.6.5 of the 2024/25 IFMP for further details.

Detailed catch estimates are provided in Appendix 5.

PINK SALMON

Pink salmon only return in abundance to the Fraser River on odd years (e.g., 2023, 2025). As such, pre-, in- and post-season stock status information are only provided in those years. However, the following provides an overview of the objectives and management process for Fraser Pink that is consistent among years

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Similar to Fraser Sockeye, the Fraser River Panel adopts a pre-season fishing plan at the p50 probability run size forecast for Fraser Pink Salmon for pre-season planning purposes. Given the linear harvest control rule for Pink Salmon, some TAC for international sharing is available at all run sizes and is taken into consideration during development of pre-season harvest plans. Fishery planning focuses on minimizing impacts on less-abundant stock groups or other species. Actual in-season harvest opportunities are dependent on in-season stock assessments and conservation requirements for co-migrating species. Fishing plans incorporate provisions to meet escapement objectives and meet conservation objectives for stocks of conservation concern while considering international and domestic objectives. Fishing plans include the following assumptions and guiding principles (in no particular order):

- The FRP operated in accordance with the relevant articles of the PST, noting in particular, Article VI and Annex IV, Chapter 4.
- The U.S. share of the annual Fraser River Pink salmon TAC, harvested in the waters of Washington State shall not exceed 25.7% of the TAC.
- To the extent practical, the FPR should minimize the impacts on overlapping Sockeye stock management groups with little or no TAC. It is understood that the overlapping of Sockeye and Pink salmon migrations may result in a small but acceptable rate of incidental harvest on one or more overlapping Sockeye stock management groups that have little or no TAC.
- Canada's escapement plan specified escapement requirements that varied with run size.

- The escapement target varies with run size with a maximum exploitation rate cap of 70% (at run size >20 million).
- Harvest of Fraser River Pink salmon may be constrained by management objectives for Fraser River Sockeye and other species/stocks of concern, particularly Interior Fraser River Coho and Interior Fraser River Steelhead.

Due to conservation concerns for other species, alternative fishing gear and fishing strategies may be employed to access Fraser River Pink TAC. Alternative gears used in the past have included beach seines, shallow seines, and fish wheels in the Fraser River. In marine areas, varying fishing strategies and gear are considered such as allowing purse seines with independent observer coverage to access areas at the mouth of the river and possibly within the river.

Further, when Pink TAC is available, and there are bycatch constraints for other species (e.g, Fraser River Sockeye), the Department may consider decision rules similar to recent years where the total Sockeye mortalities associated with a gear-specific Pink fishery must be 1% or less for Sockeye. This calculation takes into account the release mortality rate of the gear being used to harvest Pink Salmon as well as the estimated proportion of Sockeye expected to be encountered in the fishery.

STOCK STATUS

Stock status information is only provided in odd years.

Post-Season Assessment

Ongoing work will continue to review 2023 assessment challenges, which include:

1. **Impacts of the Big Bar landslide:** Work to understand the effects of the Big Bar slide is ongoing, and monitoring future passage conditions will continue.
2. **In-season data used to estimate the daily abundance of Pink Salmon:** Test fishery expansion lines and the incorporation of various data sources (e.g., U.S. Area 7 commercial fishery data has proven useful), daily passage estimates of Pink Salmon past the Mission hydroacoustic site including high density passage days, and the incorporation of behaviour anomalies observed (spread of the run and migration speed).

FIRST NATIONS FSC AND TREATY DOMESTIC FISHERIES

Pink Salmon return to the Fraser River in significant numbers in odd years only; negligible numbers of Pink Salmon returned to the Fraser River in 2024, therefore there were no directed fisheries.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

Pink Salmon return to the Fraser River in significant numbers in odd years only; negligible numbers of Pink Salmon returned to the Fraser River in 2024, therefore there were no directed fisheries.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Pink Salmon return to the Fraser River in significant numbers in odd years only; negligible numbers of Pink Salmon returned to the Fraser River in 2024, therefore there were no directed fisheries.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Pink Salmon return to the Fraser River in significant numbers in odd years only; negligible numbers of Pink Salmon returned to the Fraser River in 2024, therefore there were no directed fisheries.

Non-Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Pink Salmon return to the Fraser River in significant numbers in odd years only; negligible numbers of Pink Salmon returned to the Fraser River in 2024, therefore there were no directed fisheries.

EXCESS SALMON-TO-SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

Pink Salmon return to the Fraser River in significant numbers in odd years only; negligible numbers of Pink Salmon returned to the Fraser River in 2024, therefore there were no directed fisheries.

Catch estimates can be found in Appendix 7.

SOUTHERN B.C. COHO

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Management of Southern B.C. Coho stocks is subject to Abundance Based Management provisions outlined in Chapter 5 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, which defines allowable exploitation rates (ERs) for Canada and the U.S. based on the status of Coho Management Units (MUs). There are three Canadian Coho MUs identified within the Southern Coho Management Plan section of Chapter 5. These are: Interior Fraser River Coho, Lower Fraser River Coho, and Strait of Georgia Coho.

Given the limited stock assessment data available for Strait of Georgia and Lower Fraser River Coho MUs, Canada's management approach is currently driven by the status of the Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho MU. Progress is being made on estimating survival and abundance data for the Lower Fraser MU but results are considered preliminary at this time. Assessment of the Strait of Georgia MU continues to be constrained by the mainland inlets. IFR Coho status determination is based on an integration of marine survival rates and spawner abundance. Under this approach, bilateral ER caps are set at 20%, 30%, and 45% for Low, Moderate, and Abundant status. The Canadian ER caps are 10%, 18%, and 30% for those same status levels. Canada is required to confirm the status of the Interior Fraser River Coho MU to the U.S. in March of each year.

IFR Coho have been in a low productivity regime since the mid-1990s and were assessed to be within the Low status level in 2024, which limited the Canadian ER on IFR Coho to 10%.

However, given the ongoing low productivity of this MU, Canada has opted to manage domestic fisheries to an exploitation rate cap of 3% to 5% for this MU in recent years.

While Chapter 5 includes three Canadian MUs under the provisions of the PST, domestically, Southern B.C. Coho management includes two additional MUs: Johnstone Strait and West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI). For completeness in reporting and understanding of Canadian Coho fisheries management and stock status, details for these additional MUs are contained within this report.

STOCK STATUS

STOCK STATUS - INTERIOR FRASER RIVER

The 2024 escapement estimate for IFR Coho was 104,000. The pre-fishery abundance forecast for IFR Coho was 85,813 with an 80% forecast range of 76,573 – 128,544. The preliminary 3-year geometric mean spawner abundance for 2022-2024 exceeded the long-term conservation objective of 40,000 IFR Coho. In relation to the Pacific Salmon Treaty reference points for IFR Coho, the moderate aggregate MU escapement goal was met in each of 2018-2024. However, the 2024 estimate of IFR Coho smolt-to-adult survival was 2.9%, resulting in the MU remaining in a Low status designation for 202. Three consecutive years of 3% survival or greater (combined with three consecutive years achieving the escapement goal) are required to change from Low to Moderate status.

STOCK STATUS – LOWER FRASER RIVER

Currently, there is no whole system escapement estimate available for Lower Fraser River Coho. A mark-recapture program was initiated in 2020 to provide an escapement estimate for this system, funded in part by the PST. A hatchery Coho indicator stock at Inch Creek hatchery, along with catch monitoring and escapement work, provides estimated rates of survival and exploitation on marked LFR Coho. Further details of the LFR Coho escapement program can be obtained through the PST Coho Technical Committee. The project continued in 2024.

STOCK STATUS - STRAIT OF GEORGIA

Coho Salmon production within the Strait of Georgia has declined dramatically since the early 1990s. Marine survivals have been fluctuating in the 1 to 4% range since the decline, which has constrained productivity. 2024 in-season escapement estimates are average to above average, while forecasts based on recent returns and ocean conditions throughout the Strait of Georgia were conservative in some systems. New data from PIT tag programs indicate modest increases in adult return rates to the 4%-8% range for some systems.

Hatchery stocks

Coho returns to most hatchery supported systems north of Nanaimo were variable in 2024. Escapement to the Puntledge River was above the 12-year average of 6,850 at 9,143. The Big Qualicum River was also above average with 19,230 fish compared to the 12-year average of 11,760. Swim surveys of the Little Qualicum River produced an Area-Under-the-Curve (AUC) estimate of abundance that was above average. Nanaimo River returns were below average with an AUC estimate of 4,881 fish compared to the 12-year average of 5,710.

Wild stocks

The Englishman River AUC estimate was 2,429, which is below average of 4,310 over the last 4 years. No count was completed in the Colquitz River (near Victoria) in 2024 to compare to the 12-year average of 530 fish. Returns to Craigflower Creek were 678 which is above average compared to the 4-year average of 310 and Millstream Creek return of 414 was above the 12-year average of 140. Shawnigan Creek experienced an historic high return with 8,845 fish moved above the falls. The previous high of 7,317 was observed on the dominant brood year in 2021.

New Coho escapement and survival indicators are currently under development in several systems with PST funding. A camera and PIT tag system has been in operation at the Sakinaw Lake fence since 2019 and 2024 was the highest escapement since with 1,374 Coho returning to the lake. A camera has been operated in the Skutz Falls fishway at Cowichan River since 2019 in conjunction with a PIT tag antenna system. The PIT tag program is used to expand fishway counts for a Peterson mark-recapture population estimate relative to the detection array at the Chinook counting fence. The adult return rate for smolts tagged in the lower river has averaged 5.5% over the last three ocean entry years and is currently estimated at 8.0% for the 2023 cohort. Similar methodology produced an escapement estimate of 25,734 adults in 2024 suggesting improved returns which is consistent with the higher survival estimate. Over 5,000 smolts were PIT tagged in the lower river in spring 2024 which should contribute to tag returns in fall 2025. As this cohort was affected by the fish kill observed in summer 2023, the fall 2025 escapement estimate is expected to reflect the scale of the impact on the population.

Black Creek is the primary wild stock indicator in the Strait of Georgia. The 2024 enumeration program at the counting fence estimated 11,681 adults and 2,929 jacks for a total of 14,610 compared to the 4-year average of 5,164. The parental brood year (2021) estimate was 6,247 fish. The smolt production contributing to 2023 return (2022 smolt year) was 108,655. This is well above the long-term average of 62,922 smolts.

STOCK STATUS - WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND

For 2024 returns, the observed marine survival of 5.1% for the Robertson Creek Hatchery (RBT) indicator was between the two pre-season forecasts considered last year (7% - SST; 4% - NPGO) and was lower than the observed 2023 marine survival of 6.7%. The observed 2024 marine survival of the wild indicator at Carnation Creek was 0.88% which was lower than both the pre-season forecasted marine survival (2.4%) and the observed 2023 survival (1.99%). The outlook for WCVI Coho in 2025 is based on forecasted marine survival of RBT Coho and of Carnation Creek wild Coho. The best-performing marine survival model for Robertson Hatchery (brood 2022, ocean-entry year 2024, returning in 2025) is forecasting 5.5%, a slight increase relative to the 2024 return and slightly below the 2024 forecast. The marine survival for the wild indicator at Carnation Creek is forecast to be 0.9% matching the 2024 return and a decrease from last year's forecast

The RBT indicator is forecasting "Low" marine survival status while the wild Carnation Creek indicator is forecasting a "Critical" marine survival status. For management purposes in 2025, DFO will be using a "Low" status to guide the management regime of WCVI inshore fisheries.

The 2024 aggregate WCVI escapement for the Robertson Creek Hatchery/Stamp Falls system was 19,984 adults, a moderate-to-low Coho return to the Robertson Creek Hatchery/Stamp Falls system. The Carnation return was 97 adults, an improvement from last year and close to the 12-year average, plus 84 jacks.

STOCK STATUS - JOHNSTONE STRAIT AND MAINLAND INLETS

The Keogh River plays an important role as the wild Coho indicator stock for the upper Johnstone Strait area. Historically, the Keogh River adult Coho Salmon return has averaged 2,700 (range: 230 to 9,465), while the juvenile abundance has averaged 62,213 (range 26,940 to 129,200). Following a peak in adult abundance in 2014 (9,465), annual escapement decreased to reach its lowest level in 2016 (230). The return in 2024 was 1,725 (95%CI 1,627-1,833), which indicates marine survival continues to be poor for this indicator. Coho tend to be extremely productive at low abundance, and individual productivity has increased dramatically in recent years, peaking with the 2016 brood year at 270 smolts per spawner (average 38 smolts per spawner, brood years 1998 to 2015).

Quinsam River Coho are the marine survival indicator for Area 13. In 2024, the Coho return estimate was 21,841 (16760 adults and 5081 jacks), which is above the 4 and 12 year adult averages (8,225 and 7,492, respectively). This estimate may be biased slightly low as high water conditions necessitated a three day opening of the counting fence during migration. The Quinsam Hatchery removed 1,193 adults and 2,049 adults were estimated to be removed by fisheries.

In 2024, Village Bay Creek on Quadra Island continued the video monitoring program for returning Coho. A total of 2,116 adults and 289 jacks migrated upstream of the fence.

Heydon Bay Creek in Loughborough Inlet is in the process of being developed into a mainland inlet Coho indicator system. A total of 163 adults were counted through the fence in 2024, however, a new fence was installed that was not fully fish-tight. Some fish may have bypassed the structure without being counted, so this can be considered a minimum escapement estimate. The historical average is 839 (adults and jacks combined) from 1998-2003 and 2009-2012 when the fence was previously operational.

FIRST NATIONS DOMESTIC AND FSC FISHERIES

WCVI FSC and Treaty Fisheries

First Nations Coho catch reports are preliminary at this time. Estimates based on catch reports from Maa-nulth Treaty harvest and Nuu-chah-nulth FSC harvest can be found in Appendix 4.

Lower Fraser FSC Fisheries

There were no Coho-directed fisheries in the Lower Fraser in 2024. Hatchery-marked Coho were authorized to be retained in Chinook-directed FSC fisheries and hatchery-marked and wild Coho were authorized to be retained in Chum-directed FSC fisheries. Hatchery-marked Coho were authorized to be retained in Chum-directed EO fisheries as FSC as part of the dual fishing pilot. The total hatchery-marked and wild Coho harvested and released during Chinook and Chum FSC, and Chum EO, fisheries can be found in Appendix 5.

Interior Fraser FSC Fisheries

Most FSC fisheries in the area target Sockeye or Chinook. In 2024, First Nations harvesters were requested to release unharmed any incidentally caught Coho.

Directed opportunities on Coho are permitted in some terminal areas subject to abundance. In 2024, small fisheries were licenced in the following streams Dunn Creek, Deadman River, Louis Creek, Salmon River, Lemieux Creek, Eagle River, Lyon Creek, Tranquille Creek, Upper Adams River, Sinmax Creek and Harbour Creek. Hatchery-marked Coho were removed from the Coldwater River by request of DFO to fulfill the Coded Wire Tag sampling requirements of the Pacific Salmon Commission indicator stock program, and where desired provided for FSC purposes. The total Coho catch (either directed or bycatch) in First Nations fisheries can be found in Appendix 5.

Strait of Georgia FSC Fisheries and Treaty Domestic Fisheries

Coho Salmon FSC fisheries of very limited effort occurred in the Strait of Georgia from June to early September using primarily Rod & Reel in 2024. Coho Salmon were harvested terminally in the Puntledge and Qualicum rivers using hatchery brailing and hand-picking/sorting methods. Estimates based on catch reports from Tla'amin Treaty harvest and non-treaty First Nations harvest can be found in Appendix 4.

Johnstone Strait FSC Fisheries

Coho Salmon were harvested in Johnstone Strait by hook and line, rod and reel, and net gear in 2024. Terminal harvests also took place in the Campbell River. Estimates for the Johnstone Strait are found in Appendix 4.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

WCVI Economic Opportunity Fisheries

In 2024, Economic Opportunity agreements were in place with Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations; however, Coho abundance did not permit an EO opportunity.

Five Nations Communal Sale Fishery

In 2024, communal sale fishery opportunities for the Five Nations (five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Tla-o-qui-aht) included Southern B.C. Coho. These opportunities are categorized as: offshore integrated hook-and-line communal sale fisheries; nearshore integrated hook-and-line communal sale fisheries; and terminal communal sale fisheries. Hatchery-marked Coho were permitted for sale as bycatch in Chinook and groundfish directed fisheries. After September 15, a Coho directed fishery was authorized with a TAC of 2,000 hatchery-marked and unmarked Coho to be retained for sale in offshore waters. Additionally, hatchery-marked and unmarked Coho were permitted for sale in the Nearshore hook and line fishery targeting Conuma Chinook and the terminal fishery targeting Burman and Gold River Chinook. The nearshore Coho allocation in Area 25 was 2,000 including both hatchery-marked and unmarked Coho. Total Coho catch in these fisheries can be found in Appendix 4.

Lower Fraser First Nations Commercial Fisheries

There were no directed Coho fisheries in the Lower Fraser in 2024.

Interior Fraser First Nations Commercial Fisheries

There were no EO or demonstration fisheries in the B.C. Interior (Fraser River above Sawmill Creek) targeting Coho in 2024.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Southern B.C. commercial fisheries are regulated so that impacts on Coho, in particular Interior Fraser River Coho stocks, are minimized. Retention of Coho bycatch was not permitted in most of these fisheries, including the Fraser River. Some limited opportunities for Coho retention occurred in terminal fisheries targeting Chinook and Sockeye in areas where IFR Coho were not present.

WCVI Offshore Area Commercial Coho Fisheries

Coho retention was not permitted in the 2024 Area G WCVI AABM Chinook troll fishery.

WCVI Terminal Area Commercial Coho Fisheries

In 2024, hatchery Chinook-targeted commercial gill net and seine fisheries occurred in Area 23 (Alberni Inlet) and gill net fishery in Area 25 (Tlupana Inlet). Retention of Coho was not permitted. The total WCVI Coho bycatch in commercial terminal fisheries can be found in Appendix 4

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

TIDAL RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal recreational fisheries can be categorized as occurring in either mixed-stock areas, where multiple stocks are found concurrently, or in terminal areas where local stocks dominate the catch. Areas where mixed stocks occur typically have more restrictive management measures in place that are designed to protect Interior Fraser River Coho stocks. In terminal areas, opportunities may be permitted based on expectations of wild abundance and production from local Coho enhancement programs. The table below outlines the mixed-stock fishing areas in Southern B.C. and the general Coho regulations pertaining to them.

Table 33. General Southern B.C. Coho Fishery Regulations for mixed-stock areas in 2024

Mixed stock fishing area*	Daily limit (marked or unmarked)	Minimum size limit (cm)	Coho Season
Johnstone Strait	2, 1 may be unmarked	30	June 1 – July 31
Johnstone Strait	2 marked	30	Aug 1 – Dec 31
Strait of Georgia - north	2 marked	30	June 1 – Dec 31
Strait of Georgia - south	2 marked	30	June 1 – Dec 31
Strait of Georgia (19)	2, 1 may be unmarked	30	Oct 1 – Dec 31
Juan de Fuca Strait	2 marked	30	June 1 – Sept 30
Juan de Fuca Strait	4, 1 may be unmarked	30	Oct 1 – Dec 31
WCVI – Inshore	2 marked or unmarked**	30	June 1 – Dec 31
WCVI- Offshore	2 marked	30	June 1 – Dec 31

*for in-season management measures in specific areas refer to the information provided in the Fishery Notices
**some terminal portions of Areas 23 and 25 had higher daily limits of Coho (4 per day, 2 of which can be unmarked) from August 1 – Dec 31 (portions of Area 23) and from July 15 – Dec 31 (portions of Area 25).

In 2024, the Department continued an assessment fishery (started in 2021) that allowed retention of some unmarked Coho in Area 13, 14 and 15 (excluding Subarea 15-1) from September 1 to September 30 in order to gather samples to better understand the status information of Georgia Basin Coho.

Catch and release information for Coho from these fishing areas can be found in Appendix 4.

WCVI – Inshore Recreational Fisheries

In 2024, Coho retention was limited to two per day marked or unmarked in Areas 23 to 27. Some terminal areas in portions of Area 23 (23-1 to 23-3) and 25 (25-4 to 25-5) had daily limits of four per day, with unmarked retention remaining at two to target hatchery stocks.

Fraser River – Tidal Water Recreational Fisheries

In the tidal waters of the Fraser River downstream of the Port Mann Bridge (29-11 to 29-14, and 29-17), from October 31 to November 30, the retention of two hatchery-marked Coho per day was permitted.

In the waters from Mission Bridge downstream to the Port Mann Bridge (29-15 and 29-16), from November 2 to November 30 the retention two hatchery-marked Coho per day was permitted.

The Fraser River Coho recreational fishery was not assessed in 2024.

NON-TIDAL RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Vancouver Island Tributary Recreational Fisheries

Non-tidal recreational fisheries for Coho occur in many Vancouver Island Tributaries. Retention opportunities primarily exist where there is hatchery Coho production. However, some limited retention opportunities exist in rivers with high natural production.

Northern Vancouver Island Tributary Recreational Fisheries

Typical non-tidal openings for Coho were available on:

- Campbell/Quinsam River from October 1 to December 31 for four (4) hatchery-marked only per day, only two of which could be marked over 40 cm;
- Cayeghle River (including the Colonial River) from April 1 to March 31 for one (1) per day;
- Cluxewe River from April 1 to March 31 for two (2) per day, hatchery-marked only;
- Nahwitti River from April 1 to March 31 for one (1) per day; and
- Quatse River from June 15 to March 31 for two (2) per day, hatchery-marked only..

Anglers were restricted to the use of barbless hooks. Catch is estimated on the Quinsam and Campbell rivers through a creel survey program.

Strait of Georgia Tributary Recreational Fisheries

In 2024, Coho openings were provided on:

- Courtenay River from October 1 to October 14 for one (1) hatchery-marked Coho per day; October 15 to November 30 four (4) Coho per day (hatchery-marked or unmarked);
- Little Qualicum River from October 1 to November 30 for one (1) hatchery-marked Coho per day;
- Nanaimo River and its tributaries from October 15 to March 31 for one (1) Coho per day, maximum size limit of 35 cm; Nanaimo River from November 1 to December 31 for two (2) hatchery-marked Coho per day;
- Puntledge River from October 1 to October 14 for one (1) hatchery-marked Coho per day; October 15 to November 30 hour (4) Coho per day (hatchery-marked or unmarked)
- Chemainus River from October 15 to March 31 for one (1) per day, maximum size limit of 35 cm.
- Qualicum River from September 15 to December 31 for four (4) hatchery-marked only per day.
- Cowichan River from November 1 to December 31 one (1) Coho per day.
- Kokisilah River from April 1 to March 31 for one (1) per day, maximum size limit of 35 cm

Catch is estimated on the Puntledge River through a creel survey program.

WCVI Tributary Recreational Fisheries

Typical non-tidal openings for Coho were available on:

- Somass/Stamp River from August 25 to December 31 the daily limit was two, hatchery-marked or unmarked. A single, barbless hook restriction is in effect all year and there was a bait restriction in the Upper Somass and Stamp rivers from May 1 to October 31.
- Nitinat River from August 25 to December 31 the daily limit for Coho was two, hatchery-marked or unmarked. A two-week closure occurred between October 1 and October 14 to protect Chinook Salmon during their peak spawning period. The area above Parker Creek is closed to fishing. A single barbless hook restriction and bait restriction is in effect all year.
- Conuma River from August 25 to December 31 with a daily limit of two Coho, hatchery-marked.
- Washlawlis River and Waukwass River and other west coast rivers are open year-round with a daily limit of one Coho, hatchery-marked or unmarked. Barbless hooks are required. No creel survey information is collected. Other rivers receiving some directed catch and release effort for Coho stocks are the Wakeman, Artlish, Zeballos, Tahsis, Burman, Ash, Taylor, Pacheena, Toquart and Leiner. The quota for all west coast streams, unless identified above, is zero (0)

Catch is not estimated in these freshwater fisheries, and based on limited observations of effort harvest is expected to be low.

Fraser River and Tributaries – Non-tidal Recreational Fisheries

Region 2: The retention of two hatchery-marked Coho per day was permitted following the Interior Fraser Coho and Interior Fraser Steelhead window closure dates in the following area:

From the CPR Bridge at Mission, B.C. upstream to the Highway #1 Bridge at Hope - November 3 to 30. This recreational fishery was not assessed in 2024.

There are no directed Coho openings in the Fraser River or tributaries upstream of the Highway #1 Bridge at Hope, B.C. This includes all of Regions 3, 5, 7, and 8.

The following tributaries to the Fraser River in Region 2 were open during the dates stated below:

- Alouette River and tributaries from October 1 to December 31 for one hatchery-marked Coho per day.
- Chehalis River from September 1 to December 31 for four hatchery-marked Coho per day.
- Chilliwack River/Vedder from September 1 to December 31 for four hatchery-marked Coho per day.

- Coquitlam River from September 1 to December 31 for one hatchery-marked Coho per day.
- Harrison River from September 1 to December 31 for four hatchery-marked Coho per day.
- Kanaka Creek from November 1 to November 30 for one hatchery-marked Coho per day.
- Nicomen Slough, Norrish Creek and the Stave River from September 1 to December 31, for four hatchery-marked Coho per day, with only two over 35 cm.

In 2024, the Chilliwack/Vedder recreational fishery was assessed from September 16 to November 30 and the Nicomen/Norrish fishery was assessed from October 1 to December 15. Fisheries are currently underway and catch estimates are not yet available. No assessments were conducted on the recreational fisheries occurring on the remaining rivers listed above.

During 2024, there were limited non-tidal openings for hatchery-marked Coho on the following systems that enter Boundary Bay:

- Little Campbell River for one hatchery-marked Coho per day from September 16 to December 31.
- Nicomekl River and the Serpentine River for one hatchery-marked Coho per day from September 1 to December 31.

These recreational fisheries were not assessed in 2024.

EXCESS SALMON-TO-SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

WCVI ESSR Fisheries

The Somass First Nations were issued an ESSR licence at the Robertson Creek Hatchery in 2024 that included Coho Salmon.

The Ditidaht First Nation was issued an ESSR Licence for Nitinat hatchery Coho.

All ESSR harvest information can be found in Appendix 7.

Lower Fraser ESSR Fisheries

In 2024, ESSR fisheries were licenced for the harvest of hatchery-marked Coho Salmon at the Chilliwack, Inch Creek, and Chehalis hatcheries. Preliminary ESSR harvest information can be found in Appendix 7.

Strait of Georgia ESSR Fisheries

A Coho Salmon ESSR fishery took place at Big Qualicum Hatchery and at Puntledge Hatchery in 2024.

All ESSR harvest information can be found in Appendix 7.

Johnstone Strait ESSR Fisheries

For 2024, there were no ESSR opportunities on Coho in Johnstone Strait.

SOUTHERN B.C. CHUM

JOHNSTONE STRAIT CHUM

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

The Johnstone Strait Chum Salmon fishery targets Southern B.C. Chum that spawn primarily in the Fraser River and in tributaries of Johnstone Strait and the Strait of Georgia. This fishery also intercepts a small proportion of Puget Sound Chum. Since 2002, the Johnstone Strait Chum fishery has been managed using a 20% fixed ER strategy. This approach has provided predictable harvest opportunities for the commercial sector and has increased the probability of meeting escapement goals across the many populations contributing to this fishery. Of the 20% ER, 15% is allocated to commercial fisheries and the remaining 5% is set aside for test fisheries, First Nations FSC, sport harvesters and to also provide a buffer to commercial exploitation. Since the implementation of this management strategy, annual fisheries have been planned well in advance of the Chum return.

On July 11, 2019, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia announced a joint Steelhead Action Plan identifying new conservation measures for Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead Trout (two population components of the Interior Fraser River (IFR) Steelhead aggregate). Based on our current understanding, there is considerable overlap in the timing and location of the return migration of IFR Steelhead and several South Coast salmon fisheries. The timing of this stock of concern is particularly overlapped with that of Fraser River Chum. Given the potential for salmon fisheries to incidentally harvest co-migrating IFR Steelhead, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans implemented a series of window closures for fisheries occurring in times and areas that overlap with the IFR Steelhead migration, in both marine and freshwater fishing areas.

The announcement of these closures precipitated significant changes to the 20% fixed ER strategy for the Johnstone Strait Chum fishery. Continuing for 2024, the pre-season commercial fishing plan was modified to maintain opportunity in Johnstone Strait, while ensuring that fishing did not occur within the outlined IFR Steelhead closure times and areas. With the window closures reducing access to the earlier timed components of the Inside Southern Chum (ISC) run, fisheries were planned at a reduced ER (below the typical 20% ER).

Originally in 2021, the Minister announced the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI), which included immediate conservation measures that resulted in commercial salmon fishery closures for the 2021 season to protect stocks of conservation concern. As a result of these closures, the Area D gill net Johnstone Strait mixed stock Chum fishery was closed beginning for the 2021 season. This closure was extended into 2022 and identified as a longer-term closure for the Area D gill net Johnstone Strait mixed stock Chum fishery. This closure will remain in effect until stocks of concern have recovered sufficiently to permit re-opening.

As outlined in Chapter 6 of the PST, commercial Chum fisheries in Johnstone Strait are suspended when an abundance estimate of less than 1 million Chum Salmon migrating through Johnstone Strait is expected. Johnstone Strait mixed stock commercial Chum fisheries proceeded in 2024 as a result of the 1.0 million critical threshold being met.

STOCK STATUS

Johnstone Strait In-season Assessment

The Johnstone Strait Test Fishery provided timing and abundance information for the 2024 return, allowing Canada to assess the likelihood of exceeding the 1.0 million Critical Threshold where fisheries in Canada and treaty fisheries in the United States can occur. Chum Salmon migrating through this corridor are returning to the Fraser, Strait of Georgia, Southern Mainland Inlets, and Puget Sound. The age structure of these populations typically reflects dominance of four-year-old fish, with lesser contributions of three and five-year-olds. Expectations for Chum Salmon in 2024 were mixed; Chum Salmon have experienced low productivity since 2017, but progeny of the brood years contributing to the 2024 return experienced improved ocean conditions. Below average returns were expected, but with improvements against the contributing brood years.

The Johnstone Strait test fishery ran from September 23 through October 26, providing timing and abundance information for the 2024 return. The Test Fishery CPUE was improved against recent years where the return fell below 1.0 million, and similar to 2015, where the return approached 3.0 million. As testing continued into October, DFO assessed it highly likely abundance would exceed the 1.0 million critical level (Figure 46). The U.S. was notified and Johnstone Strait Commercial fisheries were conducted. The abundance of females in test fishery samples was consistently higher than expected based on historical observations.

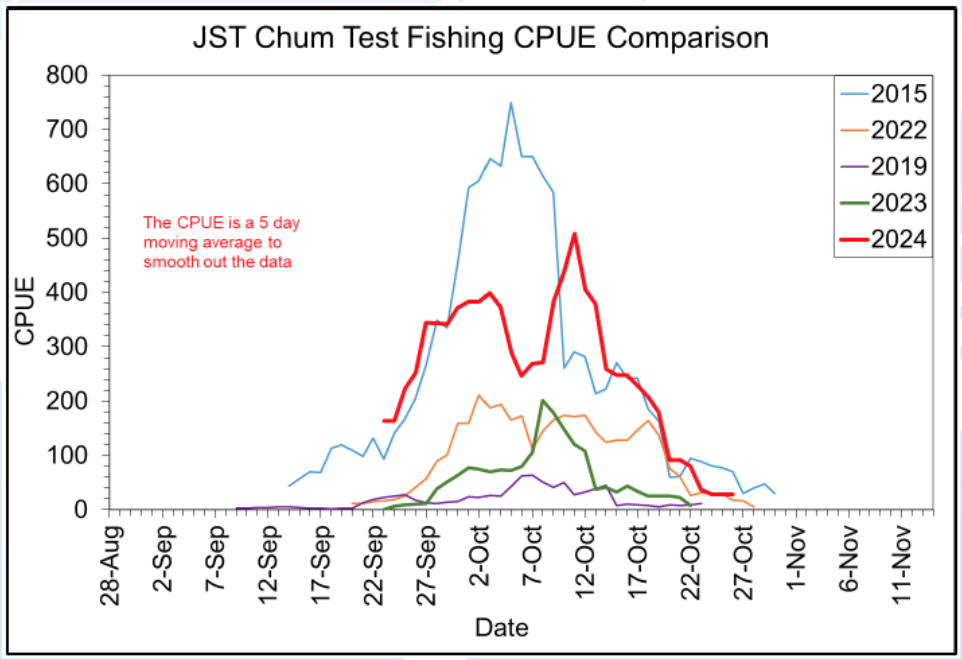


Figure 46. 2024 Johnstone Strait Chum Test Fishery CPUE compared to 2020 (dominant brood year), 2019 and 2023 (failed to meet 1 million critical threshold) and 2015 and 2022 where the critical threshold was exceeded.

FIRST NATIONS DOMESTIC AND FSC FISHERIES

Johnstone Strait First Nations fisheries for Chum Salmon were not subject to IFR Steelhead restrictions in 2024. Chum Salmon harvests took place using gill nets and seine nets in

Johnstone Strait in 2024. The total preliminary Chum Salmon catch in the Johnstone Strait FSC fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

There was no First Nations commercial harvest of Johnstone Strait Chum in 2024.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Johnstone Strait commercial Chum fisheries in 2024 were planned as per Chapter 6 of the PST. A modified approach was taken to maintain opportunity in the Johnstone Strait mixed stock area while aligning with the intent of the Interior Fraser Steelhead rolling window closure. Fisheries historically have been scheduled to achieve a 20% fixed ER on ISC stocks passing through Johnstone Strait with 15% ER for commercial and 5% ER for test, FSC, recreational, and a commercial buffer. Shares of the 15% commercial ER are usually shared among the Area B seine (11.56%), Area D gill net (2.54%) and Area H troll fleets (0.90%). In 2024, Area D participation in the Johnstone Strait commercial fishery continued to be closed under the IFMP as a Longer Term Closure. With the Steelhead window closure reducing access to a portion of the ISC aggregate and the Longer Term Closure of the Area D fishery, the 2024 fisheries were planned pre-season to a reduced commercial ER of 6.66%, shared between the Area B seine (5.27%), Area D gill net (0.00%) and Area H troll (0.1.39%) fleets.

In 2024, there was a high probability that the 1 million critical threshold would be met, and as a result Johnstone Strait mixed commercial Chum fisheries did proceed.

Area B Seine Fisheries

In 2024, the pre-season plan for seines was to have one 10-hour opening on October 21 followed by one 6-hour opening on October 22 with the possibility of an extension based on effort observed on October 21. The fishery was extended by four hours on October 22. The fishery was open for Chum Salmon retention in portions of Areas 12 and 13. This fishery proceeded this year due to the high probability of the 1 million critical threshold being met.

Area D Gill Net Fisheries

A Longer Term Closure continued for the Area D gill net fishery in Johnstone Strait. This fishery did not proceed in 2024.

Area H Troll Fisheries

In 2024, the pre-season plan for Area H troll Individual Transferrable Effort (ITE) demonstration fishery was to open one fishing period from October 12 to October 31. The fishery would be closed on the first day of the Area B Seine fishery on October 21. Each licence would be allocated nine boat days during the fishing period, which could be transferred between licences and fished at any time within the fishing period. The fishery was initially modelled based on 180 boat days. This fishery did proceed this year due to the high probability of the 1 million critical threshold being met. The fishery was extended until November 9.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Chum opportunities are typically open to full limits in the Johnstone Strait area but may be reduced if Chum returns are low. In 2024, given the expectations presented in the Preliminary 2024 Salmon Outlook, where South Coast systems are at Category 1 or 2, and not expected to reach their management targets; and the Lower Fraser Chum Outlook is at Category 2, the Department started the 2024 recreational salmon fisheries with Chum non-retention regulations in place across Southern BC. Non-retention measures for Chum were implemented on August 9, 2024. The Johnstone Strait test fishery indicated significant Chum abundance in the fall of 2024 and recreational daily limits for Chum were increased to two (2) on October 5 and four (4) on October 12 in Areas 111, 11 to 20, Subareas 29-1 to 29-5 and 29-8. Peak participation in the recreational Chum fishery typically occurs through mid-October during the Browns Bay Chum derby. Activity is usually driven by abundance.

The Strait of Georgia creel survey for Areas 13 and 14 was conducted from April to October. Recreational catches were reported as low. The majority of the recreational Chum Salmon fishing effort occurs in Area 13, which is included in the Strait of Georgia catch estimate.

Non-Tidal Recreational Fisheries

There are no Chum-retention fisheries in non-tidal waters in the Johnstone Strait area. Some catch-and-release fisheries do take place and are considered to be very minimal.

EXCESS SALMON-TO-SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

There were no ESSR opportunities for Johnstone Strait Chum in 2024.

FRASER RIVER CHUM

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Chum Salmon return to the Fraser River from September through December, with the typical peak of migration through the lower River occurring in mid- to late October. Spawning locations are predominately located in the Fraser Valley downstream of Hope, B.C., with the major populations spawning within the Harrison River (including Weaver Creek and Chehalis River), the Stave River, and the Chilliwack River. No spawning locations have been identified upstream of Hell's Gate.

The escapement objective for Fraser River Chum is 800,000. Since 2001, this objective has been achieved in all but eight years; escapement to spawning grounds in 2009, 2010, 2017 through 2021, and 2023 did not meet the escapement goal.

Fraser River Chum are typically harvested in Johnstone Strait, the Strait of Georgia, U.S. waters of Area 7 and 7A, and in the Fraser River.

Within the Fraser River, Chum-directed fisheries include First Nations FSC, recreational, and commercial fisheries. In recent years, significant conservation measures have been implemented in-river during the Fraser River Chum migration period to protect co-migrating stocks of concern (including IFR Coho and IFR Steelhead). Depending on the fishery, these

measures have included both time and area closures and gear restrictions. These conservation measures have restricted Fraser River Chum fishing opportunities in recent years.

In 2024, the Department continued with management measures to reduce the incidental impacts of Chum fisheries on co-migrating IFR Steelhead (Thompson and Chilcotin River populations). Measures introduced in 2019 continued to be implemented in 2024, including additional restrictions for set gill net fisheries in the Fraser River introduced in 2020. A moving window closure, 42 days in duration, was put in place for commercial gill net and seine salmon fisheries located along the migratory route of IFR Steelhead, including Southern B.C. marine waters and the Fraser River downstream of Thompson and Chilcotin River Steelhead spawning areas. This 42-day rolling window closure also applied to recreational salmon fisheries within the Fraser River (including areas immediately off the Fraser River mouth). Commercial troll fisheries in the marine area and First Nations' FSC salmon fisheries occurring within the Fraser River downstream of Thompson and Chilcotin River Steelhead spawning areas were subjected to a 27-day moving window closure. As of 2020, following the closure window, set gill net gear was further restricted to operate during daylight hours only, while attended by a harvester.

STOCK STATUS

The number of adult Chum Salmon arriving at the mouth of the Fraser River each fall (terminal return) is estimated in-season with a Bayesian model based on Albion test fishery catch.

In 2024, the Fraser River Chum test fishery at Albion operated every other day from September 1 until October 21, alternating days with the Albion Chinook test fishery. From October 22 until November 9, the Chum net fished every day and then every other day from November 11 until November 23. Chum catch for the Albion test fishery can be found in Appendix 6.

DFO provided an in-season terminal return estimate on October 18 of 1,081,000 Fraser Chum Salmon. The estimated 50% migration date of the run was October 18. A subsequent estimate of the Fraser River Chum terminal return was provided on October 23. The estimated terminal return on that date was 1,128,000 (80% probability that the run is between 628,000 to 2,121,000), with a 50% migration date through the lower River of October 20. It was estimated that there was a 76% chance the run would exceed the escapement goal of 800,000 natural origin (i.e., non-hatchery) spawners.

Fraser River Chum Salmon return to numerous spawning locations in the Lower Fraser River and its tributaries. Spawning escapement for Fraser River Chum Salmon is currently assessed for five of the largest Chum-producing systems, as well as for several smaller tributaries. The largest observed escapement of Fraser River Chum (greater than 3 million fish) was seen in 1998. From 1999 to 2010, Fraser Chum Salmon escapement (for the annually assessed systems) trended downward. The escapement decline was then halted and reversed with an estimated 1.1 million spawners reported in 2011. Spawning escapement had remained stable through 2016 and achieved the escapement goal in each year (2011-2016 estimated escapement averaged 1.3 million spawners). However, estimates of spawning escapement in

2017 (660,000), 2018 (680,000), 2019 (300,000), 2020 (600,000), and 2021 (530,000) were below the escapement goal of 800,000 Chum spawners. In 2022, the escapement went up to 1,140,000. The 2023 Fraser Chum Salmon escapement was estimated at 620,000, below the escapement goal of 800,000. The 2024 Fraser Chum Salmon escapement was estimated at 1,870,000.

FIRST NATIONS DOMESTIC AND FSC FISHERIES

First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Chum-directed gill net fisheries commenced October 23 (below Port Mann Bridge) and October 25 above Port Mann Bridge until Sawmill Creek, following closures to protect co-migrating IFR Coho and IFR Steelhead.

The total Fraser River Chum catch (either directed or bycatch) in First Nations FSC fisheries can be found in Appendix 5.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

In 2024, Chum EO fisheries occurred in the Lower Fraser that allowed retention of Fraser Chinook and hatchery-marked Coho as FSC as part of the dual fishing pilot. The total Fraser River Chum catch (either directed or bycatch) in First Nations commercial fisheries can be found in Appendix 5.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Area B Seine Fisheries

In 2024, there was an Area B seine fishery directed on Fraser Chum in Area 29; there was non-retention of all non-target species in this fishery, except for Pink Salmon. Bycatch of salmon released at sea, and incidental mortalities of Pink counted during offloads in this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

Area E Gill Net Fisheries

Commercial Area E salmon gill net fisheries in the Lower Fraser River (below Mission) remained closed in 2024 as part of the 2021 decision to implement long-term closures in areas where stocks of conservation concern may be intercepted while targeting other stocks or as bycatch.

Area H Troll Fisheries

In 2024, there was an Area H troll fishery directed on Fraser Chum in Area 29; there was non-retention of all non-target species in this fishery. Bycatch of salmon released at sea can be found in Appendix 4.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

<u>Tidal Recreational Fisheries</u>

Fraser River – Tidal Recreational Fisheries

In the tidal waters of the Fraser River downstream of the Port Mann Bridge (29-11 to 29-14, and 29-17), from October 31 to November 30, the retention of four Chum per day was permitted.

In the waters from Mission Bridge downstream to the Port Mann Bridge (29-15 and 29-16), from November 2 to November 30 the retention of four Chum per day was permitted.

The recreational fishery in this area was not assessed in 2024.

Non-Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Non-tidal recreational fisheries in the Fraser River in Region 2 between Mission and Hope, B.C. occurred in 2024 and the decision to open the fishery was based on the Fraser Chum in-season update, which indicated a sufficient run size of returning Fraser Chum to allow for recreational opportunities in the Fraser River. Fraser River Chum Salmon are not known to migrate into Regions 3, 5, 7, or 8.

Fraser River – Non-Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Region 2: The retention of two Chum per day was permitted following the Interior Fraser Coho and Interior Fraser Steelhead window closure dates in the following area:

- From the CPR Bridge at Mission, B.C. upstream to the Highway #1 Bridge at Hope - November 3 to 30.

The following tributaries to the Fraser River in Region 2 were open during the dates stated below:

- Alouette River and tributaries from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.
- Chehalis River from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.
- Chilliwack River/Vedder from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.
- Harrison River from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.
- Nicomen Slough from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.
- Stave River from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.

There are no directed Chum openings in the Fraser River or tributaries upstream of the Highway #1 Bridge at Hope, B.C. This includes all of Regions 3, 5, 7, and 8.

In 2024, the Chilliwack/Vedder recreational fishery was assessed from September 16 to November 30 and the Nicomen/Norrish fishery was assessed from October 1 to December 15. Fisheries are currently underway and catch estimates are not yet available. No assessments were conducted on the recreational fisheries occurring on the remaining rivers listed above.

During 2024, there were limited non-tidal openings for Chum on the following systems which enter Boundary Bay:

- Serpentine River from October 26 to November 30 for two Chum per day.

This recreational fishery was not assessed in 2024.

EXCESS-TO-SPAWNING REQUIREMENT (ESSR) FISHERIES

ESSR fisheries in 2025 may harvest Chum Salmon at Chilliwack, Inch Creek, and Chehalis River hatcheries and at Weaver Spawning Channel (TBD).

Preliminary ESSR harvest information can be found in Appendix 7.

STRAIT OF GEORGIA CHUM

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Strait of Georgia Chum fisheries consist of terminal opportunities for Chum returning to their natal spawning streams. Many of the terminal fishing areas have enhancement facilities and/or spawning channels associated with adjacent river systems. Terminal fishery strategies consist of monitoring and assessing stocks (escapement and returning abundance), with the objective of ensuring adequate escapement and providing harvest opportunities where possible. Stock assessments may include test fisheries, escapement enumeration including swim surveys, stream walks, channel entry counts, fence counts, sonar (DIDSON/ARIS) counts and over flights. In some areas where stocks receive considerable enhancement or where stocks have above average productivity, limited fishing may occur prior to escapement objectives being reached.

STOCK STATUS

In 2024, escapement was forecast to be above target in Nanaimo and Goldstream, and below target in Puntledge, Big Qualicum, Little Qualicum, and Cowichan (Table 34). However, the adjusted "Like Last Year" forecast model estimated returns to be below both the normal forecast and target escapement given poor survival in recent years. In 2024, most systems on the SEVI and Mainland Inlets outperformed forecasts. Nanaimo River escapement was above the escapement target of 40,000 with a final estimate of 52,631 Chum which was above the normal and "Like Last Year" forecasts. The final estimate from the Cowichan River sonar (ARIS) at river km 2.2 was well above escapement target of 160,000 with 214,719 Chum. Of these, 59,326 were also counted passing through the Skutz Falls fishway (km 34) while Coho enumeration was underway. Goldstream River stream walks resulted in an AUC estimate of 24,509 which is above the escapement target of 15,000 and well above the 2023 escapement of 4,238.

Mid-Vancouver Island rivers, which include Puntledge, Big Qualicum, and Little Qualicum with a combined escapement target of 230,000 had a mid-range forecast of 63,200 and a "Like Last Year" forecast of 77,200. Aggregate returns for 2024 in these mid-Vancouver Island systems were 96,832 with all three systems surpassing the forecasts but none reaching their escapement target. The combined escapement estimate for Jervis/Narrows Inlet rivers was 130,014 compared to the escapement target of 85,000. By system, AUC estimates were above the averages and exceeded the high range and "Like Last Year" forecasts. Escapement at Sliammon Creek was well above last year's count of 5,483 Chum at 32,076 and well above the middle limit reference point of 11,000. In Theodosia River, the return of 6,198 Chum in 2023 was eclipsed in 2024 with the highest estimate to date of 85,633 which was also well above the high range forecast of 21,000. Okeover Creek abundance was estimated to be

5,596 fish which was also well above the 2023 returns (1,444) and low-range forecast of 1,800 but just below the escapement target (6,000). The return through the fence at Lang Creek was 8,561 Chum which is well above last years' total of 2,088 and high range forecast of 1,900. See Table 34 below for further details.

Table 34. 2024 final escapements of Chum in Strait of Georgia Rivers along with the low and high forecast values for 2024, the like last year model forecast for 2024, the 2023 escapement and the 2024 escapement targets.

Forecast Area	2024 Forecast		2024 Like Last Year Forecast	2023 Escapement	2024 Escapement Target	2024 Escapement
	Low	High				
Mid-Vancouver Island	50,600	75,800	39,900	23,755	230,000	96,852
Puntledge	21,800	32,600	18,500	11,989	60,000	35,567
Big Qualicum	10,200	15,400	14,500	6,336	85,000	45,453
Little Qualicum	19,200	28,800	8,600	5,430	85,000	15,832
Jervis/Narrows Inlets	19,800	29,800	20,400	9,869	85,000	130,014
Nanaimo River	38,400	57,600	23,800	22,219	40,000	52,631
Cowichan River	106,900	160,300	32,900	31,095	160,000	214,719
Goldstream River	14,700	22,100	2,600	4,238	15,000	24,509
Sliammon Creek	5,800	8,600	8,200	5,483	11,000	32,076
Theodosia River	14,100	21,100	15,200	6,198	21,000	85,633
Okeover Creek	1,800	2,800	5,100	1,444	6,000	5,596
Lang Creek	1,300	1,900	1,400	2,088	2,500	8,561

FIRST NATIONS DOMESTIC AND FSC FISHERIES

Strait of Georgia First Nations FSC fisheries for Chum Salmon were not restricted in 2024. Effort in this fishery was low in 2024. Chum Salmon catch summaries from Tla'amin Treaty and non-Treaty First Nations FSC fisheries in the Strait of Georgia can be found in Appendix 4.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

Area 14 First Nations Commercial Fisheries

In 2024 the Area 14 Chum CSAF assessment fishery occurred for three short openings between October 20 and November 6, 2024. This was a limited-entry fishery for 10 vessels; two of the 10 spots were held K'ómoks and Qualicum First Nations. Qualicum First Nation

chose not to participate in the assessment fishery in 2024. The escapement targets to commence full-fleet fisheries were not met in 2024 so the K'ómoks First Nation Area 14 Chum demonstration fishery did not occur.

Area 17 First Nations Commercial Fisheries

A pre-season meeting to discuss preliminary forecast returns, potential harvest benchmark triggers, and fishing plans to harvest surplus Nanaimo Chum was held on September 18, with weekly in-season Nanaimo Harvest Roundtable conference calls initiated on October 2 to discuss stock status and potential fishing opportunities in Area 17. On October 30, with escapement of 28,710 (as of October 26) Chum into the Nanaimo River system, the decision was agreed by consensus at the Harvest Roundtable to begin the demonstration fishery opportunity for Snuneymuxw First Nation on October 31. The total catch from this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

Area 18 First Nations Commercial Fisheries

A pre-season meeting to discuss preliminary Chum forecast returns, Coho, and Chinook returns-to-date, potential harvest benchmark triggers, and fishing plans to harvest surplus Cowichan Chum was held on September 24, with weekly in-season Cowichan Harvest Roundtable conference calls initiated on October 8 to discuss the local stock status (Chum, Coho, and Chinook) and potential fishing opportunities in Area 18. On October 29, with escapement of 134,613 Chum into the Cowichan River system, the decision was agreed to by consensus at the Harvest Roundtable to begin the demonstration fishery for Cowichan Tribes on October 30. The total catch from this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

Area 19 First Nations Commercial Fisheries

A pre-season meeting with the W̱SÁNEĆ Nations to discuss preliminary Chum forecast returns, potential harvest benchmark triggers, and fishing plans to harvest surplus Goldstream Chum was held on September 23, with weekly in-season W̱SÁNEĆ Nations conference calls initiated on October 8 to discuss the stock status and potential fishing opportunities in Area 19. On November 7, the escapement into Goldstream River jumped quickly to 14,491 Chum. At this time, it was agreed with W̱SÁNEĆ Nations to begin a demonstration fishery opportunity on November 10. The total catch from this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Area 14 Commercial Fisheries

Chum returning to this area have been enhanced since the late 1960s and terminal fisheries have occurred in October and November since the 1970s. The returning Area 14 Chum abundance is forecasted pre-season using brood escapement, average survival and age composition. In-season run size is assessed by escapement counts to the three major river systems and DFO hatcheries contributing to the stock aggregate.

The Area 14 Chum fishery is directed at the enhanced stocks of three systems: Puntledge, Qualicum, and Little Qualicum Rivers. The Qualicum River is often referred to as the 'Big' Qualicum River, to better distinguish it from the Little Qualicum River. The escapement goals

for the three river systems are 60,000 for Puntledge River, 85,000 for Little Qualicum River, and 85,000 for Qualicum River, adding up to an overall interim escapement goal of 230,000 Chum, not including enhancement facility requirements (about 10,000 Chum, bringing the total escapement goal to 240,000).

Area 14 commercial Chum fisheries are managed based on forecasted abundance. In-season, the management strategy for considering fishery openings falls under one of two categories depending on whether the pre-season forecast is greater than or less than 340,000 Chum. When the pre-season forecast is greater than 340,000, early Chum openings can target up to 65% of the anticipated surplus above 340,000. When the pre-season forecast is less than 340,000, river-specific escapement levels for the three major river systems must be almost achieved (70% of Puntledge, and 75% of Little Qualicum and of Big Qualicum) in order to consider fisheries. An early-timed limited effort gill net assessment fishery may be used to augment in-season escapement information and evaluate the mid-Vancouver Island (MVI) aggregate abundance. The gill net assessment fishery did proceed in 2024. The total catch from this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

Area 16 Commercial Fisheries

This fishery targets wild Chum stocks returning to river systems in the Jervis Inlet area. The main systems are Tzoonie, Deserted, and Skwawka Rivers. The overall escapement goal for rivers in Jervis/Narrows Inlet is 85,000. Terminal fisheries may occur in these areas when the individual or combined escapement goals have been assured, but fishing opportunities do not occur on a regular basis. There were no commercial fisheries in Area 16 in 2024.

Area 17 Commercial Fisheries

This fishery is a terminal fishery targeting Nanaimo River stocks. The Nanaimo River Chum stocks are supplemented by the Nanaimo River hatchery. Hatchery supplementation occurs on a sliding scale, where increased enhancement occurs during poor escapement years. Escapements fluctuate annually and fishery openings are planned in-season based on escapement estimates.

Nanaimo River assessments include swims by Nanaimo River Hatchery staff and a sonar counting system (ARIS). The escapement target of 40,000 Chum was exceeded on November 2, and commercial fisheries began for Nanaimo Chum on November 5. The total catch from this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

Area 18 Commercial Fisheries

This fishery is directed at Cowichan River stocks, with some incidental harvest of Goldstream-bound Chum anticipated to occur. To minimize impacts on the Goldstream River stocks, fisheries are initially limited to the western portion of Satellite Channel. Chemainus River stocks may also be impacted if fisheries occur earlier in November, but likely to a lesser extent.

Fishery openings are planned in-season based on escapement estimates from in-season from a DIDSON counter. Management is also guided by advice from the Cowichan Harvest Roundtable, and an in-season Chum Escapement Forecast Tool based on the DIDSON count

and date. The overall escapement goal for the Cowichan River is currently 160,000 Chum passing the DIDSON counter.

A weekly conference call was held with the Cowichan Harvest Roundtable to discuss stock status and potential fishing opportunities in Area 18. The escapement target of 160,000 Chum was on track to be met with escapement of 136,639 Chum on October 29, and commercial fisheries began on October 31. The escapement target was reached on November 3, and commercial fisheries continued. The total catch from this fishery will be found in the final report in Appendix 4.

Area 19 Commercial Fisheries

This fishery is directed primarily at Goldstream River stocks, although some Cowichan River Chum Salmon are likely harvested. To minimize impacts on the Cowichan stocks, fishery openings are limited to the southern portion of PFMA Area 19and south into Saanich Inlet. The overall escapement goal for the Goldstream River is currently 15,000 Chum counted by the bi-weekly stream walks conducted by Goldstream Hatchery staff. Enumeration via stream walks began October 23, 2024. The escapement target of 15,000 Chum was met on November 7, and commercial fisheries began on November 9. The total catch from this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal Recreational Fisheries

In 2024, given the expectations presented in the Preliminary 2024 Salmon Outlook, where South Coast systems are at Category 1 or 2, and not expected to reach their management targets; and the Lower Fraser Chum Outlook is at Category 2, the Department started the 2024 recreational salmon fisheries with Chum non-retention regulations in place across Southern BC. Non-retention measures for Chum were implemented on August 9, 2024. The Johnstone Strait test fishery indicated significant Chum abundance in the fall of 2024 and recreational daily limits for Chum were increased to two (2) on October 5 and four (4) on October 12 in Areas 111, 11 to 20, Subareas 29-1 to 29-5 and 29-8. Catch estimates for Chum in the marine recreational fisheries can be found in Appendix 4.

Non-Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Chum retention fisheries in Region 1 (Vancouver Island) were permitted on the Puntledge, Courtenay, Nanaimo and Cowichan Rivers in 2024. Recreational freshwater retention opportunities are typically based on escapement estimates from hatchery operations, and where escapement goals are expected to be met, opportunities are provided.

Non-tidal Chum retention opportunities:

- Courtenay River from November 1 to November 30, for two Chum per day.
- Cowichan River from November 1 to November 12, for two Chum per day; November 13 to December 31, for four Chum per day.
- Nanaimo River from November 1 to November 12, for two Chum per day; November 13 to December 31 for four Chum per day.

- Puntledge River from November 1 to November 30, for two Chum per day.

EXCESS SALMON-TO-SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

There were no Chum ESSR fisheries in the Qualicum, Puntledge, or Goldstream Rivers in 2024.

Chum Salmon ESSR fisheries were authorized on the Nanaimo and Cowichan Rivers in 2024; however, no harvest took place…

All ESSR harvest information can be found in Appendix 7

WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND CHUM

OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Commercial Chum Salmon fisheries normally occur on the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) from late September to early November in years of Chum abundance. Targeted Chum fisheries on WCVI typically occurred targeting stocks at Nitinat Lake (Area 21), Barkley Sound (Area 23), Clayoquot Sound (Area 24), Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet (Area 25) and Kyuquot Sound (Area 26).

Commercial fisheries for WCVI Chum employ a two-tiered strategy for managing harvest; either a constant harvest rate strategy or a surplus-to-escapement goal strategy.

Fixed Harvest Rate Strategy (fisheries targeting natural origin stocks, hatchery stocks at low abundance):

For those fisheries where a significant component of the target stock is from naturally spawning populations, a constant harvest rate strategy of 10 to 20% is implemented. The maximum harvest rate is set at a precautionary level relative to stock-recruit derived optimal ER for WCVI Chum; which are in the order of 30 to 40%. This approach allows limited harvest while protecting the biodiversity of Chum stocks and permitting rebuilding when the population is low. In areas of low quality data or only naturally spawning stocks, including Barkley (Area 23), Clayoquot Sound (Area 24), Esperanza Inlet (Area 25) and Kyuquot Sound (Area 26), the maximum allowable harvest rate is 10 to 15%. In Nootka Sound, up to 20% harvest is permitted given the prevalence of hatchery production in the area. The harvest rate is controlled by limiting effort (i.e. number and duration of openings and, in some areas, the number of permitted vessels) and limiting fishing areas to approach areas only (i.e. to those areas where fish are migrating not holding).

Commercial fisheries for Nitinat, Barkley and Clayoquot Chum were closed in 2021 as part of the salmon fishery closures announced through the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative.

STOCK STATUS

The recent stock status of wild WCVI Chum has generally been poor relative to historic levels, with spawning abundance for wild indicator stocks frequently below Lower Fishery Reference Points (LRPs) despite the implementation of a precautionary harvest regime (fixed harvest rate). The 2024 forecast for WCVI Chum was improved, stemming from increases in productivity for most populations on WCVI. Returns to Nitinat in 2024 were consistent with

the upper range of the forecast, and well above those observed in 2023. Migration conditions were favourable for September and October throughout the WCVI region, and Chum returns were strong relative to recent years.

FIRST NATIONS FSC AND TREATY FISHERIES

The preliminary Chum reported catch can be found in Appendix 4, which includes fish retained for food, social and ceremonial purposes from Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and Treaty harvests from Maa-nulth Nations.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL HARVEST

WCVI Economic Opportunity Fisheries

In 2024, EO agreements were in place with Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations during the Chum season; however, abundance did not permit a targeted opportunity.

Five Nations Communal Sale Fishery

In 2024, there was a Chum fishery for the Five Nations (five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Tla-o-qui-aht) in Area 25. This fishery targeted Tlupana Inlet Chum which are an aggregate of hatchery supported Chum returning to Conuma River, Canton Creek, Sucwoa River, and Tlupana River. The combined pre-season forecast for Tlupana Chum was 82,659. Total catch for this fishery can be found in Appendix 4.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Nitinat (Area 21/121) Commercial Fisheries

In 2024, commercial fisheries targeting Nitinat Chum remained closed due to longer term closures implemented as part of the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative.

Nootka Sound (Area 25) Commercial Fisheries

Based on the pre-season forecast being below the lower fishery reference point, no fisheries were planned on wild Chum in the approach waters of Nootka Sound.

Tlupana Inlet (Area 25) Commercial Fisheries

This fishery targets Tlupana Inlet Chum which are an aggregate of hatchery supported Chum returning to Conuma River, Canton Creek, Sucwoa River, and Tlupana River. Based on a combined pre-season forecast of 82,659, a limited effort fishery occurred in Tlupana Inlet. Two vessels fished for 4 daylight openings over 3 weeks starting on October 1, 2024. Total gillnet Chum catch can be found in Appendix 4.

Esperanza Inlet (Area 25) Commercial Fisheries

Based on the pre-season forecast being below the lower fishery reference point, no fisheries were planned in Esperanza Inlet.

Kyuquot Sound (Area 26) Commercial Fisheries

Based on the pre-season forecast of 26,614 being above the lower fishery reference point, a limited effort fishery occurred in Kyuquot Sound. Four vessels fished for 1.5 days per week for 3 weeks starting on October 1, 2024. Total gillnet Chum catch can be found in Appendix 4.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Tidal Recreational Fisheries

Daily limits of Chum in the WCVI recreational fishery are dependent on pre-season abundance forecasts relative to biologically based targets. In 2024, areas where the forecast was below lower fishery reference points (Area 23 - Barkley, Area 24 - Clayoquot, Area 25 - Nootka, and Area 25 - Esperanza,), the daily limit was set to zero (0). Areas above the lower fishery reference point (Area 26), or in terminal areas with Chum hatcheries (Tlupana Inlet – A25, Nitinat Lake – A22), the daily limit was four (4).

Offshore WCVI was closed to retention based on poor pre-season forecasts for Fraser and Strait of Georgia Chum but increased to 2/day on October 5 and 4/day on October 12 based on in-season abundance information. Anglers are restricted to the use of barbless hooks and there is a minimum size limit of 30 cm.

EXCESS SALMON TO SPAWNING REQUIREMENTS (ESSR) FISHERIES

The Ditidaht First Nation was issued an ESSR Licence for Nitinat hatchery Chum.

The total Chum ESSR catch can be found in Appendix 7.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. CATCHES IN CANADIAN TREATY LIMIT FISHERIES, 2013 TO 2024

Fisheries/Stocks	Species	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Stikine River (all gears)	Sockeye	30,617	17,288	11,802	4,705	11,576	16,213	16,915	41,749	86,729	60,046	42,800	36,146
	Coho	2,682	4,841	5,081	4,521	5,103	5,228	3,685	5,502	5,346	5,619	4,992	4,835
	Chinook-lg	49	69	386	515	389	570	-	593	2,731	4,157	3,308	3,415
	Chinook-jk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	788	794	1,537	759	1,594
Taku River (commercial gill net)	Sockeye	19,887	16,753	28,028	18,569	11,793	21,500	17,948	30,209	37,624	19,747	17,872	21,163
	Coho	12,545	11,034	7,765	10,880	7,036	12,252	9,503	7,726	9,513	7,886	14,568	10,374
	Chinook-lg	22	-	57	341	94	10	-	246	1,021	868	2,472	738
	Chinook-jk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88	205	-	657	N/A
Alsek River (all gear)	Sockeye	689	880	1,700	1,519	218	653	-	644	815	1,084	1,140	508
	Coho	20	31	-	6	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	29
	Chinook	40	22	14	42	22	37	-	74	10	87	39	73
Areas 3 (1-4)* (commercial net)	Pink	1,089,905	728,631	623,772	165,688	1,816	-	101,267	704,450	430,435	80,266	450,671	1,249,570
Area 1 (commercial troll)	Pink	87,541	168,401	99,915	91,777	136,890	60,003	266	38,763	32,343	41,551	31,775	84,216
North Coast (troll + sport)	Chinook	106,046	87,822	121,440	115,696	38,104	88,001	106,976	143,330	190,180	158,903	221,001	115,914
		76,717 + 29,329	51,785 + 36,037	70,243 + 51,197	76,565 + 39,131	30,096+ 8,008	42,801+ 45,200	70,276 + 36,700	97,730 + 45,600	147,381+ 42,800	106,703 + 52,200	172,001 + 49,000	69,264 + 46650
West Coast Vancouver Island (troll + sport + FN)**	Chinook	84,102	83,713	218,672	220,103	80,385	67,635	76,958	103,260	93,294	113,293	178,558	108,710
		41,421 + 39,175 + 3,850	39,868 + 31,012 + 12,833	26,962 + 175,979 + 15,731	26,692 + 178,855 + 14,556	11,350+ 56,539+ 12,676	23,195+ 35,867+ 8,573	28,840 + 45,233 + 2,885	54,411 + 46,707 + 2,143	55,168 + 37,809 + 317	60,572 + 48,775 + 3,946	127,177 + 48,365 + 3,655	43,043 + 61,712 + 3955
Fraser River Canadian Commercial Catch	Sockeye	0	203	229,484	-	-	-	3,682,561	-	-	-	7,945,474	2,124
	Pink	0	522,407	299	33,480	-	-	91,337	-	-	452	-	2,855,441
Fraser River U.S. Commercial Catch	Sockeye	0	0	307,545	-		-	989,459	-	-	44,100	691,000	4,609
	Pink	0	572,353	-	192,047		232,904	-	105,930	-	334,700	-	3,057,222
West Coast Vancouver Island (commercial troll)	Coho	630	221	3,875	15,172	5	-	-	331	774	18,126	32,992	5,499
Johnstone Strait (commercial catch)	Chum	269,529	-	63,319	-	149,199	-	52,139	401,957	1,333,478	492,841	318,984	597,003

*ALL PINK CATCHES FOR YEARS 1995-2012 IN AREAS 3(1-4) AND AREA 1 HAVE BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT FINAL ESTIMATES.

**FIVE NATIONS CATCH INCLUDED AS COMMERCIAL CATCH.

NOTE 1: CATCHES FOR YEARS 2020 TO 2021 HAVE BEEN UPDATED TO MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY IN CATCH REPORTING WITH PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS DATA MAY BE SUBJECT TO FINAL REVIEW.

APPENDIX 2. TRANSBOUNDARY CATCH TABLE

Licence Group	Fishing Area	Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Released	Coho Kept	Coho Released	Pink Kept	Pink Released	Chum Kept	Chum Released	Chinook Kept	Chinook Released
First Nations FSC and Treaty											
	Stikine	7,709	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	-
	Taku	537	-	502	-	-	-	-	-	22	-
	Alsek	689	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-
Total First Nations FSC Catch		**8,935**	**-**	**502**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**111**	**-**
Commercial											
	Stikine	22,908	3	2,682	1	1	7	64	201	-	68
	Taku	19,350	-	12,043	-	-	887	-	223	-	183
Total Commercial Catch		**42,258**	**3**	**14,725**	**1**	**1**	**894**	**64**	**424**	**-**	**251**
Recreational											
Total Recreational Catch		**-**	**-**	**20**	**13**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTALS		**51,193**	**3**	**15,247**	**14**	**1**	**894**	**64**	**424**	**111**	**251**

APPENDIX 3. NORTHERN B.C. CATCH TABLE

Licence Group	Fishing Area	Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Released	Coho Kept	Coho Released	Pink Kept	Pink Released	Chum Kept	Chum Released	Chinook Kept	Chinook Released
First Nations FSC and Treaty											
	Skeena	48,269	-	891	-	5,537	-	63	-	1,847	-
	Nass	76,039	4	373	-	4,651	-	878	1	-	54
	Central Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total First Nations FSC Catch		**124,308**	**4**	**1,264**	**-**	**10,188**	**-**	**941**	**1**	**1,847**	**54**
Commercial											
Area A Seine	Nass	33,220	-	-	3,161	799,438	-	73,315	30,000	-	814
Area A Seine	Skeena	49,171	2	-	1,263	233,531	350	-	3,077	-	261
Area C Gillnet	Central Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	171	1
Area C Gillnet	Skeena	123,423	-	-	1,502	56,936	13,193	-	5,807	-	397
Area F Troll	Haida Gwaii AABM	-	81	46,381	306	5,728	7,770	-	8,176	76,717	7,800
Area F Troll	Haida Gwaii Pink/Coho	359	13	44,539	98	81,813	1,978	-	1,217	-	6,409
Total Commercial Catch		**206,173**	**96**	**90,920**	**6,330**	**1,177,446**	**23,291**	**73,315**	**48,323**	**76,888**	**15,682**
Recreational											
	Skeena/Nass	45	-	29,253	-	2,036	-	27	-	10,523	12,405
	Central Coast	-	-	4,520	-	106	-	85	-	19,671	22,828
	Haida Gwaii	92	-	31,449	8,630	795	-	2,506	-	29,329	15,738
Total Recreational Catch		**137**	**-**	**65,222**	**8,630**	**2,937**	**-**	**2,618**	**-**	**59,523**	**50,971**
TOTALS		**330,618**	**100**	**157,406**	**14,960**	**1,190,571**	**23,291**	**76,874**	**48,324**	**138,258**	**66,707**

APPENDIX 4. SOUTHERN B.C. CATCH TABLE

Licence Group	Fishing Area	Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Released	Coho Kept	Coho Released	Pink Kept	Pink Released	Chum Kept	Chum Released	Chinook Kept	Chinook Released
First Nations FSC and Treaty											
	WCVI - Inshore ISBM	-	-	3,771	-	-	-	4,228	-	6,160	-
	WCVI - Offshore AABM	-	-	15,196	-	-	-	9	-	7,356	-
	Strait of Georgia	-	-	1,216	-	-	-	338	-	673	-
	Johnstone Strait	-	-	1,553	334	-	-	23,865	-	2,148	47
Total First Nations FSC Catch		-	-	**21,736**	**334**	-	-	**28,440**	-	**16,337**	**47**
First Nations Commercial											
EO	WCVI - Inshore ISBM	2,062	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,073	-
Total First Nations Commercial Catch		**2,062**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**28,073**	-
Five Nations											
	WCVI - Offshore AABM	-	-	630	-	-	-	-	-	17,267	-
	WCVI - Inshore ISBM	-	-	126	-	-	-	288	-	7,952	1
Total Five Nations Catch		-	-	**756**	-	-	-	**288**	-	**25,219**	**1**
Commercial											
Area B		22,530	4,907	86	4,897	-	4	240,496	34	8,416	341
Area D		303	94	46	1,215	-	6	25,913	952	21,694	10
Area E		-	-	-	129	-	-	55,628	-	-	1
Area G		-	-	-	4,581	-	-	-	5	24,154	1,404
Area H		-	-	-	278	-	10	37,538	-	-	36
Total Commercial Catch		**22,833**	**5,001**	**132**	**11,100**	-	**20**	**359,575**	**991**	**54,264**	**1,792**
Recreational											
	Johnstone Strait	-	11	5,881	12,044	3,993	14,908	-	-	11,353	11,969
	Strait of Georgia	9	264	63,022	207,542	10,456	10,647	2,353	1,435	70,762	174,033
	Juan de Fuca	-	148	16,136	43,420	43	78	45	24	21,421	38,830
	WCVI - Inshore ISBM	1,655	259	22,321	12,388	89	631	10	18	47,132	34,521
	WCVI - Inshore AABM	40,824	3,142	6,604	2,275	14	204			16,402	43,811
	WCVI - Offshore AABM	-	16	10,814	19,848	76	73	5	-	22,773	12,176
Total Recreational Catch		**42,488**	**3,840**	**124,778**	**297,517**	**14,671**	**26,541**	**2,413**	**1,477**	**189,843**	**315,340**
TOTALS		**67,383**	**8,841**	**147,402**	**308,951**	**14,671**	**26,561**	**390,716**	**2,468**	**313,736**	**317,180**

APPENDIX 5. FRASER RIVER CATCH TABLE

Licence Group	Fishing Area	Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Released	Coho Kept	Coho Released	Pink Kept	Pink Released	Chum Kept	Chum Released	Chinook Kept	Chinook Released
First Nations FSC and Treaty											
	Fraser	548	4,196	4,607	415	396	161	51,929	26	35,093	44
Total First Nations FSC Catch		**548**	**4,196**	**4,607**	**415**	**396**	**161**	**51,929**	**26**	**35,093**	**44**
First Nations Commercial											
	Fraser	-	-	10	5	-	-	213	-	-	-
Total First Nations Commercial Catch		**-**	**-**	**10**	**5**	**-**	**-**	**213**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Five Nations											
	Fraser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Five Nations Catch		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial											
	Fraser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Commercial Catch		**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Recreational											
	Fraser	-	-	34,117	31,011	-	-	3,969	35,853	36,096	42,430
Total Recreational Catch*		**-**	**-**	**34,117**	**31,011**	**-**	**-**	**3,969**	**35,853**	**36,096**	**42,430**
Other Catch											
	Fraser	17,321	2,576	32	82	6	-	-	-	2,612	38
Total Other Catch*		**17,321**	**2,576**	**32**	**82**	**6**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,612**	**38**
TOTALS		**17,869**	**6,772**	**38,766**	**31,513**	**402**	**161**	**56,111**	**35,879**	**73,801**	**42,512**
*May include unauthorized directed retention or unauthorized bycatch retention in fisheries directed at other species											

APPENDIX 6. TEST FISHING CATCH TABLE

Test-Fisheries	Start Date	End Date	Boat Day	Sockeye kept	Sockeye released	Coho kept	Coho released	Pink kept	Pink released	Chum kept	Chum released	Chinook kept	Chinook released	GRAND TOTAL
Albion Chinook Gillnet	21-Apr-24	20-Oct-24	157	227	0	122	0	0	0	1174	0	1711	0	3,234
Area 23 Sockeye Seine	3-Jun-24	30-Jul-24	18	9,861	14,101	-	14	-	-	-	16		258	24,250
Area 23 Chinook Seine	12-Aug-24	10-Sep-24	10	1	1,576	-	479	-	-	-	18	984	435	3,493
Skeena Tyee	10-Jun-24	23-Sep-24	106	4,790	37	398	6	3780	52	59	66	475	7	9,670
Round Island Sockeye Gillnet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Round Island Sockeye Gillnet AT 90 Mesh Net Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Whonnock Gillnet	28-Jun-24	8-Sep-24	73	681	54	71	18	0	0	5	0	409	96	1,334
San Juan Sockeye Gillnet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cottonwood Gillnet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Brownsville Bar Gillnet	8-Jul-24	25-Aug-24	48	1,658	28	2	3	7	0	0	0	163	117	1,978
San Juan Sockeye Seine	15-Jul-24	3-Aug-24	20	1,132	500	-	374	-	2	-	17	-	667	2,692
Gulf Troll Sockeye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Blinkhorn Sockeye Seine	14-Jul-24	4-Aug-24	21	1,487	1,431	-	119	-	258999	-	321	-	112	262,469
Area 13 Sockeye Seine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Albion Chum Gillnet	1-Sep-24	23-Nov-24	53	14	0	735	0	0	0	6911	0	1454	-	9,114
Area 12 Chum Seine	23-Sep-24	29-Oct-24	68	-	3	-	553	-	19	40507	45119	-	10	86,211
Juan de Fuca Chum Seine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Qualark Gillnet	18-Jul-24	6-Sep-24	50	1,023	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	371	5	1,414
LFFA Lower Fraser CO Assessment	10-Sep-24	6-Nov-24	25	0	1	175	378	0	6	0	723	0	108	1,391
WCVI Juvenile Salmon Seine	28-May-24	19-Sep-24	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Maquqwin / Brooks Chinook Troll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Naka Creek Sockeye Gillnet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
GST Troll Coho Sampling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Grand Total				20,874	17,731	1,503	1,959	3,787	259,078	48,656	46,280	5,567	1,815	407,250

Notes

All test fish catches include assessment and non-assessment sets

* Did not operate in 2024

** New for 2024

Note: Jacks & Juveniles are included in the above test fishing catches, if encountered

APPENDIX 7. ESSR CATCH TABLE

Hatcheries	Sockeye kept	Sockeye released	Coho kept	Coho released	Pink kept	Pink released	Chum kept	Chum released	Chinook kept	Chinook released	GRAND TOTAL
Babine Jack Sockeye											-
Babine Large Sockeye	205,766										**205,766**
Meziadin Lake Sockeye	32,798	347	-	24						4	**33,173**
Moricetown Canyon											-
Robertson Creek	298		4,685						25,484		**30,467**
Quinsam					704,643						**705,144**
Puntledge			774								**774**
Big Qualicum			6,128		33,850				6,905		**46,883**
Little Qualicum											-
Nanaimo											-
Cowichan											-
Weaver Spawning Ch.											-
Chehalis Hatchery							7,325				**7,325**
Inch Hatchery			9,627				11,442				**21,069**
Inch Sockeye Satellite											-
Chilliwack Hatchery			27,123	-					8,913	-	**36,036**
Capilano Hatchery			8,269						138		**8,407**
Tenderfoot Hatchery											-
Gates Creek											-
Nitinat			149				29,815		1,718		**31,682**
	238,862	**347**	**56,755**	**24**	**738,493**	**-**	**48,582**	**-**	**43,158**	**4**	**1,126,726**

2024 UPDATE REPORTS FOR SALMONID ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Article V of the Pacific Salmon Treaty requires that information be exchanged annually regarding operation of and plans for existing enhancement projects, plans for new projects, and views concerning the other country's enhancement projects.

In February 2016, the Pacific Salmon Commission agreed that Article V enhancement activity reporting requirements are met through the current electronic exchange of data and through established channels of communication between the Parties, the Commission, and the Panels.

It adopted a revised annual work plan template for Panels and Committees at that time to highlight issues in enhancement reporting and data exchange.

Publications of the Pacific Salmon Commission

Reports published by the Pacific Salmon Commission after March 31, 2000 including Commission annual reports, annual reports of the Fraser River Panel, Joint Technical Committee reports and technical reports of the Pacific Salmon Commission are available on the Commission's website at www.psc.org.

Documents listed here are those which were published during the period from 2024/25 inclusive. For previous publications, please refer to the Pacific Salmon Commission's website at www.psc.org/publications.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Pacific Salmon Commission. *2023/2024 Thirty Ninth Annual Report*. January 2025.

REPORTS OF THE JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Chinook Technical Committee

TCCHINOOK (24)-01. *Annual Report of Catch and Escapement for 2023*. July 2024.

TCCHINOOK (24)-02. *Pacific Salmon Commission Chinook Model Calibration*. September 2024.

TCCHINOOK (25)-01. *2024 Exploitation Rate Analysis*. January 2025.

Chum Technical Committee

TCCHUM (24)-1. *2020 Post Season Summary Report*. July 2024.

Coho Technical Committee

No reports were finalized for publication during this reporting period.

Technical Committee on Data Sharing

No reports were finalized for publication during this reporting period.

Northern Boundary Technical Committee

No reports were finalized for publication during this reporting period.

Transboundary Technical Committee

TCTR (24)-01. *Salmon Management and Enhancement Plans for the Stikine, Taku and Alsek Rivers, 2024*. May 2024.

Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee

No reports were finalized for publication during this reporting period.

Yukon River Joint Technical Committee

For the latest reports of the Yukon River Joint Technical Committee refer to their website.

REPORTS OF THE FRASER RIVER PANEL

Report of the Fraser River Panel to the Pacific Salmon Commission on the 2023 Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Season. December 2024.

TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

PSC Technical Report No. 53. *Estimating Calendar Year Exploitation Rates for Chinook Salmon Escapement Indicator Stocks Impacted by Mark-Selective Fisheries*. July 2024.

PSC Technical Report No. 54. *Data Summary for Sockeye Salmon Spawning in the Canadian Portion of the Stikine River Basin (data through 2020)*. October 2024.

PSC Technical Report No. 55. *Estimates of a Biologically-Based Spawning Goal and Management Benchmarks for the Canadian-Origin Stikine River Sockeye Salmon Stocks*. November 2024.

PUBLICATIONS BY PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION SECRETARIAT STAFF

Xie, Y., Hornsby, R., Hanot, W., Bartel-Sawatzky, M., Nelitz, J. *Identifying fish and estimating abundance and swim velocities of migrating Pacific salmon using adaptive resolution imaging sonar in mobile surveys*. ICES Journal of Marine Science. doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsae088. July 2024.

REPORTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Responsibility for maintenance of the library of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, on its termination December 31, 1985, was transferred to the Pacific Salmon Commission. Documents in the Library include historical archival papers which are available to researchers and other interested parties through contact with the Pacific Salmon Commission's Publications Manager.

Publication of John F. Roos' *Restoring Fraser River Salmon: A History of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission*, and P. Gilhousen's *Estimation of Fraser River Sockeye Escapements from Commercial Harvest Data, 1892-1944* ended all publication series of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission.

Copies of all Progress Reports, Bulletins, and Annual Reports of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission are available on our website.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE PARTIES

In compliance with provisions of the Treaty, the Parties provide annual post-season fishery reports and updates on their respective salmonid enhancement programs to the Commission. Documents received during 2024/25 were:

1. *Post Season Report for 2023 Canadian Treaty Limit Fisheries.* Fisheries and Oceans Canada. October 2024.
2. *2023 Post Season Report United States Salmon Fisheries of Relevance to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.* United States Section. October 2024.

Report of the Auditors for 2024/2025

Financial Statements
(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended March 31, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Commissioners of the Pacific Salmon Commission

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Pacific Salmon Commission (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025
- the statement of operations and fund balances for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements as at and for the year ended March 31, 2025, of the Entity are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Chapter IX of the Pacific Salmon Commission Bylaws amended and adopted March 5, 2025.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the ***"Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Financial Reporting Framework

We draw attention to Note 2(a) in the financial statements, which describes the applicable financial reporting framework and the purpose of the financial statements.

As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Chapter IX of the Pacific Salmon Commission Bylaws amended and adopted March 5, 2025; this includes determining that the applicable financial reporting framework is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

  The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, Canada
October 10, 2025

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Statement of Financial Position
(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	General Fund	Restricted: Working Capital Fund	Restricted: Test Fishing Fund	Restricted: Special Research and Project Fund	Restricted: Capital Assets Fund	Restricted: Capital Asset Replacement Reserve Fund ("CARRF")	Restricted: Total	2025	2024
Assets									
Current assets:									
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 972,296	$ -	$ 381,630	$ 2,316,530	$ -	$ -	$ 2,698,160	$ 3,670,456	$ 4,997,294
Short-term investments	524,632	120,231	850,000	1,411,814	-	198,672	2,580,717	3,105,349	3,325,857
Accounts receivable	158,206	1,554	31,517	302,266	-	-	335,337	493,543	221,791
Prepaid expenses	274,648	-	-	-	-	-	-	274,648	248,283
Due from Yukon River Fund (note 6)	28,858	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,858	-
Due from Northern Fund (note 6)	35,554	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,554	25,416
Due from Southern Fund (note 6)	172,231	-	-	-	-	-	-	172,231	69,117
	2,166,425	121,785	1,263,147	4,030,610	-	198,672	5,614,214	7,780,639	8,887,758
Prepaid expenses	1,616,555	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,616,555	1,812,404
Capital assets (note 4)	-	-	-	-	985,774	-	985,774	985,774	486,695
	$ 3,782,980	$ 121,785	$ 1,263,147	$ 4,030,610	$ 985,774	$ 198,672	$ 6,599,988	$ 10,382,968	$ 11,186,857
Liabilities and Fund Balances									
Current liabilities:									
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 1,251,132	$ -	$ 2,697	$ 208,355	$ -	$ -	$ 211,052	$ 1,462,184	$ 1,070,786
Government remittances payable	49,578	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,578	43,981
Deferred revenue (note 3)	1,762,655	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,762,655	3,788,391
	3,063,365	-	2,697	208,355	-	-	211,052	3,274,417	4,903,158
Accrued employee future benefits (note 5(b))	719,615	-	-	-	-	-	-	719,615	672,941
	3,782,980	-	2,697	208,355	-	-	211,052	3,994,032	5,576,099
Fund balances:									
Unrestricted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	-	121,785	1,260,450	3,822,255	-	198,672	5,403,162	5,403,162	5,124,063
Invested in capital assets	-	-	-	-	985,774	-	985,774	985,774	486,695
	-	121,785	1,260,450	3,822,255	985,774	198,672	6,388,936	6,388,936	5,610,758
Contractual obligations (note 7)									
	$ 3,782,980	$ 121,785	$ 1,263,147	$ 4,030,610	$ 985,774	$ 198,672	$ 6,599,988	$ 10,382,968	$ 11,186,857

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Commission:

Chair, Standing Committee on Finance and Administration

Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Finance and Administration

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Statement of Operations and Fund Balances
(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	General Fund	Restricted: Working Capital Fund	Restricted: Test Fishing Fund	Restricted: Special Research and Project Fund	Restricted: Capital Assets Fund	Restricted: Capital Asset Replacement Reserve Fund ("CARRF")	Restricted: Total	2025	2024
Revenue:									
Contributions from contracting-parties (note 3)	$ 4,376,564	$ -	$ 603,812	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 603,812	$ 4,980,376	$ 5,328,338
Special contributions - pension (note 3)	292,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	292,200	285,898
Special contributions - site remediation (notes 3, 4)	43,336	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,336	-
Grants	416,260	-	-	1,438,216	-	-	1,438,216	1,854,476	101,236
Interest	114,782	3,993	54,552	161,580	-	-	220,125	334,907	379,653
Administration fees	665,985	-	-	-	-	-	-	665,985	302,466
Test fishing	-	-	93,615	-	-	-	93,615	93,615	330,776
Foreign exchange gain	16,820	-	8,848	136,080	-	-	144,928	161,748	1,786
	5,925,947	3,993	760,827	1,735,876	-	-	2,500,696	8,426,643	6,730,153
Expenses:									
Amortization	-	-	-	-	147,985	-	147,985	147,985	177,722
Salaries and employee benefits	4,057,850	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,057,850	3,832,734
Unfunded pension liability payments	292,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	292,200	285,897
Travel and transportation	175,377	-	-	-	-	-	-	175,377	181,601
Rents and communication	150,485	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,485	152,474
Contract services	691,157	-	-	-	-	-	-	691,157	842,049
Materials and supplies	42,542	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,542	52,179
Test fishing	-	-	557,689	-	-	-	557,689	557,689	1,105,512
Consultations and workshops	-	-	-	1,533,180	-	-	1,533,180	1,533,180	599,806
Foreign exchange loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,202
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,590
	5,409,611	-	557,689	1,533,180	147,985	-	2,238,854	7,648,465	7,244,766
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	516,336	3,993	203,138	202,696	(147,985)	-	261,842	778,178	(514,613)
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	117,792	1,058,316	3,619,559	486,695	328,396	5,610,758	5,610,758	6,125,371
Interfund transfers:									
Contribution to CARRF	(223,000)	-	-	-	-	223,000	223,000	-	-
Investment in capital assets	-	-	-	-	352,724	(352,724)	-	-	-
Investment in capital assets for Test Fishing	-	-	(1,004)	-	1,004	-	-	-	-
Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Trust Fund	(250,000)	-	-	-	250,000	-	250,000	-	-
Contributions for site remediation (note 4(b))	(43,336)	-	-	-	43,336	-	43,336	-	-
Fund balance, end of year	$ -	$ 121,785	$ 1,260,450	$ 3,822,255	$ 985,774	$ 198,672	$ 6,388,936	$ 6,388,936	$ 5,610,758

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

Statement of Cash Flows
(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Cash provided by:		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	$ 778,178	$ (514,613)
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization	147,985	177,722
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	13,590
Accrued employee benefits	46,674	88,236
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivables	(271,752)	378,909
Prepaid expenses	169,484	95,001
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	391,398	(453,009)
Government remittances payable	5,597	6,640
Due from Yukon River Fund, Northern Fund and Southern Fund	(142,110)	(21,462)
Deferred revenue	(2,025,736)	1,759,989
	(900,282)	1,531,003
Investments:		
Purchase of capital assets	(647,064)	(120,504)
Redemption of short-term investments	7,125,857	7,880,821
Purchase of short-term investments	(6,905,349)	(7,425,857)
	(426,556)	334,460
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,326,838)	1,865,463
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	4,997,294	3,131,831
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 3,670,456	$ 4,997,294

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

1. Nature of organization:

Pacific Salmon Commission (the “Commission”) was established by a Treaty between the Governments of Canada and the United States of America (the “Contracting Parties”) to promote cooperation in the management, research, and enhancement of Pacific Salmon stocks. The Treaty was ratified on March 18, 1985 and amended through June 2023.

2. Significant accounting policies:

(a) Basis of accounting:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Chapter IX of the Pacific Salmon Commission Bylaws amended and adopted March 5, 2025. The financial reporting provisions of Chapter IX of the Pacific Salmon Commission Bylaws require the financial statements to be prepared in a manner consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) with the following exceptions:

(i) Expenses are recognized at the time that the commitment for goods and services are made through purchase orders, rather than at the time the goods or services are received. This exception is to comply with Chapter IX, Section D, Rule 10 of the Bylaws.

(ii) The Commission uses the triennial pension valuation report provided by the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (“IFCPS”) to determine the minimum yearly pension expense. The pension expense will, at a minimum, consist of the employer portion of the current service pension contribution plus any additional yearly payments required by the IFCPS (as shown in the current valuation report) that are necessary to extinguish the unfunded portion of the pension obligation. Lump sum payments received in advance from a Party will be recognized over time to match the payments received from the other Party with the view of achieving funding parity between the Parties during the respective fiscal periods. Other post-employment benefits such as extended medical plans and life insurance are recorded as an expense in the fiscal year in which the respective invoice is dated. This exception is to comply with Chapter IX, Section D, Rule 11 of the Bylaws.

GAAP has been interpreted to mean Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook (“Not-for-Profit Standards”).

The purpose of these financial statements is for the Entity to meet its obligations to the Contracting Parties. As a result, these financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less.

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Fund accounting and revenue recognition:

The Commission follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions related to general operations are initially deferred and recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year they are received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

The Fund classifications are as follows:

(*i*) The General Fund includes funds provided annually through contributions from the Contracting Parties. By agreement of the Contracting Parties, any unexpended balance remaining at the end of one fiscal year may be used to offset contributions in the following year or may be used to offset a shortfall between contributions and approved expenses in the following year. As a result, all amounts are recognized as revenue once received or receivable.

(*ii*) The Working Capital Fund represents monies contributed by the Contracting Parties to be used on a temporary basis to satisfy the capital requirements of the Commission until receipt of new contributions from the Contracting Parties at the beginning of a fiscal year, or for special programs not contained in the regular budget but approved during the fiscal year. Any surplus above a pre-determined fixed limit in the account at the end of the fiscal year is transferred to the general fund and is treated as unrestricted income.

(*iii*) The Test Fishing Fund is established as a revolving fund in which a portion of net test fishing revenues realized in years of high abundance are reserved, to be used to support test fishing programs in years of low abundance and when conservation concerns are an issue.

(*iv*) The Special Research and Project Fund represents monies set aside to fund additional programs as determined by the Contracting Parties, including, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awards for projects, Chinook Sentinel Stocks Program, Mark-Selective Fishery, Genetic Stock Identification Workshop, and Yukon River Canadian-origin Chinook Salmon Rebuilding Plan project.

(*v*) The Capital Assets Fund reflects the Commission's capital asset transactions. Amortization is charged to the Capital Assets Fund.

(*vi*) The Capital Asset Replacement Reserve Fund ("CARRF") was established to ensure regular availability of funds for lifecycle replacement of capital assets. On an annual basis, a fixed amount, as determined by the Commission, shall be transferred from the General Fund to the CARRF. The fund is to be used for the Commission's capital asset purchases.

Transfers between the funds are reviewed and approved by the Commissioners.

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Commission has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Commission determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Commission expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

(e) Capital assets:

Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Costs of repairs and replacements of a routine nature are charged as a current expense while those expenses which improve or extend the useful life of the assets are capitalized. Amortization is provided using the straight-line method as follows:

Asset	Rate
Automobiles	5 years
Boats	5 years
Computer equipment and software	3 years
Equipment	5 years
Furniture and fixtures	10 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term of 10 years
Site Remediation	20 years

(f) Income taxes:

The Commission is exempt from income taxes under the *Foreign Missions and International Organizations Act* (1991).

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(g) Post-employment benefits:

(i) Pension plan:

The Commission has a defined benefit pension plan covering its employees. The benefits are based on years of service and highest average salary. The Commission also sponsors a defined benefit life insurance and health care plan for substantially all retirees and employees. In accordance with the basis of accounting (note 2(a)), the Commission recognizes, annually, an expense equal to the amount of the required payment set forth by the pension plan, which is based on a triennial pension valuation. The Commission does not recognize an unfunded obligation related to the defined benefit pension plan, as referenced in note 5(a).

(ii) Severance:

Severance is accrued based on employees' current salary and number of years of service.

(h) Foreign exchange translation:

Transactions originating in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency at the year-end date are translated to equivalent Canadian amounts at the rate of exchange in effect at that date. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from translation are included in the determination of excess or deficiency of revenue over expenses.

(i) Measurement uncertainty:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(j) Short-term investments:

The short-term investments, consisting of Guaranteed Investment Certificates with interest rates ranging from 2.25% to 3.30% (2024 - 2.25% to 5.74%), are due on dates between April 2025 and November 2025. These investments are managed by an external investment manager and are recorded at cost plus accrued interest.

(k) Life insurance and medical benefits:

The Commission recognizes, annually, an expense equal to the total amounts invoiced by health and life insurance benefit providers during the fiscal year.

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(l) Related party transactions:

Monetary related party transactions and non-monetary related party transactions that have commercial substance are measured at the exchange amount when they are in the normal course of business. Where the transaction is not in the normal course of operations, it is measured at the exchange amount when there is a substantive change in the ownership of the item transferred and there is independent evidence of the exchange amount. All other related party transactions are measured at the carrying amount.

3. Related party transactions and deferred revenue:

During the year ended March 31, 2025, the Commission recognized operating contributions from the Contracting Parties totaling $4,376,564 (2024 - $4,587,528). The Commission recognized $146,100 (2024 - $142,949) from the Government of Canada and $146,100 (2024 - $142,949) from the Government of the United States of America in special contributions relating to future payments to International Fisheries Commission Pension Society for the unfunded pension liability. The Commission also recognized special contributions for the site remediation project from the Contracting Parties totaling $43,336 (2024 - nil).

The Commission retains $195,633 (2024 - $190,272) of funding provided by Canada, to be used upon authorization from the Government of Canada to help fund test fishing operations administered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and/or other parties in non-Panel-approved area waters.

The office and warehouse premises of the Commission are provided by the Government of Canada at no charge.

Deferred revenue consists of unspent funds provided by the Contracting Parties that are reserved for future operating and capital expenditures of the Fund.

	2025	2024
Balance, beginning of year	$ 3,788,391	$ 2,028,402
Recognized as revenue	(2,025,736)	(142,949)
Special Contribution	-	23,302
Operating contribution for 2025	-	1,879,636
Balance, end of year	$ 1,762,655	$ 3,788,391

4. Capital assets:

(a) Schedules:

March 31, 2025	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
Automobiles	$ 231,607	$ 231,607	$ -
Boats	225,893	117,581	108,312
Computer equipment	467,872	423,956	43,916
Computer software	303,409	286,872	16,537
Equipment	1,732,942	1,629,648	103,294
Furniture and fixtures	296,535	260,034	36,501
Leasehold improvements	303,550	230,409	73,141
Site remediation (note 4(b))	604,073	-	604,073
	$ 4,165,881	$ 3,180,107	$ 985,774

March 31, 2024	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
Automobiles	$ 231,607	$ 231,607	$ -
Boats	155,354	102,611	52,743
Computer equipment	487,831	436,163	51,668
Computer software	292,868	280,481	12,387
Equipment	1,785,331	1,614,588	170,743
Furniture and fixtures	297,319	249,729	47,590
Leasehold improvements	303,550	212,723	90,827
Site remediation (note 4(b))	60,737	-	60,737
	$ 3,614,597	$ 3,127,902	$ 486,695

(b) Site remediation:

The Commission is undertaking a bank remediation and floating dock implementation project (“the Project”) at its Mission hydroacoustics site. As of March 31, 2025, the project is near completion, pending rectification of certain deficiencies. All Project costs will begin to be amortized when the Project goes into use, over the expected useful life of the project, which is 20 years.

At the February 13, 2024, the Finance and Administration Committee meeting, the Contracting Parties agreed to provide supplementary contributions to fund the Project for any costs incurred after March 31, 2024 that exceed funding from other sources, including the Capital Asset Replacement Reserve Fund ($250,000), and the Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Trust Fund ($250,000). The Commission has recognized $43,336 of special contributions revenue from the Parties to cover the excess costs.

5. Employee future benefits:

(a) Pension plan:

The Commission and its employees contribute to the Pension Plan of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society for Employees of Participating Commissions, a multi-employer defined benefit plan, with Headquarters in Canada. The Plan covers 96 employees, of which 53 are current or past employees of the Commission.

The last actuarial valuation for the pension plan was performed as at January 1, 2023 and the next valuation is scheduled for January 1, 2026. Selected information about the Commission's defined benefit plan is as follows:

	January 1, 2023
Fair value of plan assets	$ 17,583,000
Benefit obligation	19,044,000
Funded status - plan deficit	$ (1,461,000)

The funded status of the plan is not included in the statement of financial position.

A significant actuarial assumption adopted in measuring the Commission's benefit obligation is the use of a discount rate of 5.9% and expected rate of return on assets of 5.9%.

During the year ended March 31, 2025, the Commission made payments totaling $146,100 (2024 - $166,250) with respect to the unfunded pension obligation.

(b) Severance, life insurance and medical benefits:

The Commission also provides employee future benefits including severance, life insurance and medical benefits. Employees are entitled to severance payments calculated based on the length of continuous service completed by the employee. The accrued liability associated with these benefits is included in the statement of financial position.

6. Trust funds:

The Commission administers and holds, in trust, the following funds, which are not included in the Commission's financial statements:

(a) Northern Boundary and Transboundary River Restoration and Enhancement Trust Fund and Southern Boundary and Transboundary River Restoration and Enhancement Trust Fund:

Northern Boundary and Transboundary River Restoration and Enhancement Trust Fund ("Northern Fund") was created by the Governments of the United States of America and Canada to manage their interests in the Commission to promote cooperation in the management, research and enhancement of Pacific Salmon stocks.

The Northern Fund is exempt from income taxes under the *Foreign Missions and International Organizations Act* (1991). The income earned on these contributions is distributed by the Commission staff as directed by the Northern Fund Committee.

Southern Boundary and Transboundary River Restoration and Enhancement Trust Fund ("Southern Fund") was created by the Governments of the United States of America and Canada to manage their interests in the Commission to promote cooperation in the management, research, and enhancement of Pacific Salmon stocks. The Southern Fund is exempt for income taxes under the *Foreign Missions and International Organizations Act* (1991). The income earned on these contributions is distributed by the Commission staff as directed by the Southern Fund Committee.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, the Commission received funding for projects from the Northern Fund and Southern Fund totaling $335,699 (2024 - $163,493). During the year, the Northern Fund and Southern Fund paid $446,504 (2024 - $451,002) to the Commission for administrative services. As at March 31, 2025, the Commission had a net receivable from the Northern Fund and Southern Fund of $207,785 (2024 - $94,533).

(b) Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund:

Under the terms of an interim Yukon River Salmon Agreement in 1995, the United States and Canada established the Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement ("R&E") Fund and the Commission created an account to hold associated monies. The R&E Fund and its governing Yukon River Panel were finalized in the 2002 Yukon River Salmon Agreement and associated treaty amendments. The Commission Secretariat administers and holds R&E trust funds on behalf of the Yukon River Panel. The Yukon River Panel provides direction on how the monies are to be disbursed from the Fund. These amounts have been excluded from the statement of financial position and statement of operations and fund balances of the commission.

During the year, the R&E Fund paid $99,781 (2024 - $92,000) to the Commission for administrative services. As at March 31, 2025, the Commission had a net receivable from the Yukon River Fund of $28,858 (2024 - nil).

6. Trust funds (continued):

(c) Summary of trust fund balances:

	Northern Fund	Southern Fund	Yukon River Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Assets	$ 202,247,266	$ 182,943,422	$ 1,972,423	$ 387,163,111	$ 362,777,093
Liabilities	$ 116,915	$ 248,462	$ 46,868	$ 412,245	$ 352,497
Fund balances	202,130,351	182,694,960	1,925,555	386,750,866	362,424,596
	$ 202,247,266	$ 182,943,422	$ 1,972,423	$ 387,163,111	$ 362,777,093

	Northern Fund	Southern Fund	Yukon River Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Fund balance, beginning of year	$ 190,421,128	$ 169,970,898	$ 2,032,570	$ 362,424,596	$ 342,003,520
Revenue	20,256,566	18,167,754	1,852,702	40,277,022	34,598,121
Expenses	8,547,343	5,443,692	1,959,717	15,950,752	14,177,045
	11,709,223	12,724,062	(107,015)	24,326,270	20,421,076
Fund balance, end of year	$ 202,130,351	$ 182,694,960	$ 1,925,555	$ 386,750,866	$ 362,424,596

	Northern Fund	Southern Fund	Yukon River Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Cash flow provided by (used in): Operations	$ (2,712,138)	$ 19,464	$ (268,063)	$ (2,960,737)	$ (2,175,739)

The Commission also administers amounts, in trust, on behalf of the Governments of the United States of America and Canada that are not included in the notes to the financial statements.

7. Contractual obligations:

The Commission has entered into a number of project grant contracts as at March 31, 2025 for the future funding of research projects to be completed subsequent to the year-end.

These contractual obligations are funded in installments and payments are due based on conditions included in the contract being satisfied. As such, no liability has been accrued in the financial statements as the Commission is not liable until these conditions have been met.

As at March 31, 2025, the research project contractual obligations are $1,185,706 (2024 - $916,713).

8. Financial instruments and concentration of risks:

(a) Credit risk:

Credit risk is the risk that a third party to a financial instrument might fail to meet its obligations under the terms of the financial instrument. For cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments, the Commission deposited cash and restricted cash and made investments with reputable financial institutions, from which management believes the risk of loss to be remote.

(b) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will not be able to meet its obligations associated with financial liabilities.

The Commission manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash and available credit facilities with its banking provider, which include a credit line that bears interest at prime plus 1% and no amounts were drawn as of March 31, 2025. The Commission monitors the cash flow to ensure a sufficient continuity of funding from the Contracting Parties.

(c) Interest rate risk:

The Commission is not exposed to significant interest risk as it does not have amounts payable that are charged interest.

(d) Currency risk:

The Commission has some exposure to foreign exchange risk through fluctuation of the United States dollar. The Commission receives contributions from the Government of the United States of America and also funds various projects in the United States.

There has been no change to the risk exposures from 2024.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

Northern Fund Projects for 2024/2025[1]

PSC Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved funding (USD equivalent)
Project Type: Information				
NF-2025-I-1	Transboundary Rivers Otolith Thermal Mark Recovery	Aaron Foos	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 36,861.84
NF-2025-I-2	Taku River –Salmon Fishery Monitoring	Aaron Foos	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 124,173.36
NF-2025-I-3	Taku River – Chinook, Sockeye, and Coho Salmon Stock Assessment	Aaron Foos	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 264,079.44
NF-2025-I-4	Stikine River- Tahltan Lake Sockeye Salmon Smolt and Adult Enumeration and Monitoring	Jody Mackenzie-Grieve	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 168,058.80
NF-2025-I-5	Stikine CWT and Chinook Mark Recapture	Jody Mackenzie-Grieve	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 288,293.76
NF-2025-I-6	Stikine River- Sockeye and Coho Salmon Fishery Monitoring and Sockeye Assessment	Jody Mackenzie-Grieve	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 127,729.44
NF-2025-I-7	Stikine River- Tahltan River Chinook Sonar and Coho Mark-Recapture Feasibility	Jody Mackenzie-Grieve	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 251,402.40
NF-2025-I-8	Alsek River – Chinook and Sockeye Salmon Assessment	Teresa Wallace	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 161,769.60
NF-2025-I-9	Feasibility of Using Multiple Beam Sonar for Enumeration of Tatsamenie Lake Smolt Outmigration	Nicholas Starr	Metla Environmental Inc.	$ 27,007.20
NF-2025-I-12	Taku River Salmon Stock Assessment	Jeff Williams	Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)	$ 451,112.00
NF-2025-I-13	Alsek River Chinook and Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Evan Fritz	Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)	$ 501,690.00
NF-2025-I-14	Stikine River Salmon Stock Assessment	Julie Bednarski	Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)	$ 656,804.00
NF-2025-I-19	Northern Boundary Sockeye Run Reconstruction Model Update	Charmaine Carr-Harris	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 63,091.44
NF-2025-I-22	Kitwanga River Salmon Enumeration, 2025	Jordan Beblow	Gitanyow Huwilp Society	$ 54,000.00
NF-2025-I-23	2025 Babine Lake watershed smolt mark recapture population estimation	Cassie Seibert	Lake Babine Nation	$ 157,680.00

[1] Final reports can be found on the PSC website once they have been published.

PSC Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved funding (USD equivalent)
NF-2025-I-25	Area 3 Chum, Odd-year Pink and Chinook Escapement Surveys 2025	Richard Alexander	LGL Ltd	$ 102,960.00
NF-2025-I-26	Nass Sockeye Salmon Fishwheel Genetic Stock ID 2025	Richard Alexander	LGL Ltd	$ 14,760.00
NF-2025-I-30	2025 Bear River and Stephens Creek Autonomous Salmon Enumeration Fences Operation	Janvier Doire	Skeena Fisheries Commission	$ 50,922.00
NF-2025-I-31	Boundary Area Coho Salmon Escapement	Kristin Courtney	Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)	$ 106,719.00
NF-2025-I-32	Northern Boundary Area Sockeye Salmon Genetic Stock Identification for 2025	Wesley Larson	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	$ 155,500.00
NF-2025-I-34	Development of an Aggregate Escapement Goal for Nass Chinook Salmon: Technical Data Compilation 2025-2026	Richard Alexander	LGL Ltd	$ 18,511.20
NF-2025-I-37	Nass Chinook Salmon Mark-Recapture and Genetic Project 2025	Richard Alexander	LGL Ltd	$ 97,200.00
NF-2025-I-38	Skeena Chinook Run Reconstruction and Data Review	Angela Addison	North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society	$ 41,091.12
NF-2025-I-39	Quantifying effects of thiamine deficiency on marine survival of Chinook Salmon in the Gulf of Alaska	Charlie Waters	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	$ 85,736.00
NF-2025-I-40	Zymacord River Coho Salmon Escapement Estimate	Laura K. Elmer	All Fish Consulting Inc.	$ 104,060.16
NF-2025-I-42	Northern Boundary Coho Salmon Genetic Baseline Augmentation	Ryan Whitmore	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 43,200.00
NF-2025-I-43	Skeena River Aggregate Coho Salmon Escapement Estimator (Year 7)	Ryan Whitmore	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 102,960.00
NF-2025-I-45	Toboggan Creek Coho Indicator Program	Kristen Peck	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 93,600.00

PSC Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved funding (USD equivalent)
NF-2025-I-47	Genetic Stock Identification of Chinook and Coho salmon caught in Northern British Columbia Troll fisheries 2025	Chelsea May	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 49,320.00
NF-2025-I-49	Yakoun River, Haida Gwaii, annual chinook & coho assessments	Victor Fradette	Haida Nation Fisheries	$ 36,000.00
NF-2025-I-51	Area 3 and 4 Creel Survey, 2025	Angela Addison	North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society	$ 200,353.68
NF-2025-I-57	Multi-species Salmon Assessment for the Waanukv (Wannock) River, 2025	Jason Slade	Wuikinuxv Nation	$ 36,756.00
NF-2025-I-58	Productivity, Migration Timing, and Survival of Sockeye, Coho, and Pink Salmon at Auke Creek	Scott Vulstek	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	$ 68,500.00
NF-2025-I-59	Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring	Wesley Strasburger	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	$ 40,300.00
NF-2025-I-60	Second-generation consequences of sockeye salmon enhancement in Auke Creek, Alaska, Final Year	Megan McPhee	University of Alaska Fairbanks	$ 96,029.00
				$ 4,878,231.44

Project Type: Enhancement

NF-2025-E-2	2025 Tahltan Lake Limnology and Productivity Investigations – Year 3	Sean Collins	Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 53,123.04
NF-2025-E-6	Recovery Enhancement of Kilbella-Chuckwalla Chinook, 2025-2026	Andra Forney	Wuikinuxv Nation	$ 71,589.60
				$ 124,712.64

$5,002,944.08

USD Total Approved Funding

APPENDIX B

Southern Fund Projects for 2024/2025

Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved Funding (USD equivalent)
SF-2025-H-1	Feasibility of Flow Management for Threatened McKinley Creek Salmon – Phase 2	Stewart Pearce	DFO	$ 68,324.40
SF-2025-H-6	hiłsyaqƛis (Tranquil) Watershed sa̓cup (Chinook) Restoration and Recovery Initiative	Jessica Hutchinson	Redd Fish Restoration Society	$ 144,000.00
SF-2025-H-7	Nanaimo River Watershed Habitat Enhancement	Danny Swainson	BC Conservation Foundation	$ 64,825.92
SF-2025-H-9	Little River Habitat Restoration Project 2025	G. Henry Ellis	Little River Enhancement Society	$ 28,800.00
SF-2025-H-10	Central Estuary Chinook Salmon Restoration Project	Edith Tobe	Squamish River Watershed Society	$ 300,960.00
SF-2025-H-12	Restoring tidal marsh and testing optimal methods in Southern BC estuaries	Dominic Janus	Guardians of our Salish Estuaries Society (GooSE)	$ 23,760.00
SF-2025-H-20	Similk Estuary Restoration Phase 1 - riparian planting	Colin Wahl	Skagit River System Cooperative	$ 70,060.00
SF-2025-H-21	Ennis Creek Fish Barrier Removal	Jonathan Boehme	City of Port Angeles	$ 300,000.00
SF-2025-H-22	South Fork Nooksack River Cavanaugh Phase 2 Restoration	Kelley Turner	Lummi Indian Business Council	$ 298,429.00
SF-2025-H-23	Smokehouse Dike setback final design and permitting	Devin Smith	Skagit River System Cooperative	$ 150,000.00
SF-2025-H-24	2025 Middle Skagit Floodplain Restoration Project – Kaaland Site	Brenda Clifton	Skagit River System Cooperative	$ 65,000.00
SF-2025-H-25	Maylor Marsh Enhancement Feasibility	Eric Mickelson	Skagit River System Cooperative	$ 74,140.00

Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved Funding (USD equivalent)
SF-2025-H-26	Lower Kenney Creek Acquisition	Alex Jeffers	Whatcom Land Trust	$ 275,000.00
SF-2025-SP-5	Estimating Aggregate Coho Salmon Escapement to the Lower Fraser Management Unit	Sara Martin	DFO	$ 69,120.00
SF-2025-SP-6	Independent Evaluation of Wild Coho Marine Survival Rates in the Straight of Georgia (Black Creek) – Year 8	Derek LeBoeuf	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	$ 31,449.60
SF-2025-SP-8	Enumeration of Coho Salmon in the Lower Chilcotin River	Morgan Dunne	DFO	$ 48,240.00
SF-2025-SP-9	Big Qualicum River Chum Size-at-Release Strategy	Aaron Burgoyne	DFO	$ 7,905.60
SF-2025-SP-10	AI assisted aerial salmon enumerations across river systems on Vancouver Island	Thor Veen	Lumax	$ 46,105.92
SF-2025-SP-11	Improved estimates of escapement, survival, and exploitation for Nicomen Slough Coho	Rory Cleveland	DFO	$ 79,200.00
SF-2025-SP-12	Applying Habitat Indicators to Fraser River Chum Salmon Ground Spawning Survey Life Estimates	Matt Townsend	DFO	$ 81,494.64
SF-2025-SP-14	An investigation into Nanaimo River Chinook ecotype (summer and fall) and Coho run timing and return rates	Jamieson Atkinson	BC Conservation Foundation	$ 39,780.72
SF-2025-SP-15	Parentage Based Tagging of Southern BC Enhanced Chum	Jessica Bell	DFO	$ 72,520.56
SF-2025-SP-20	Nooksack and Skagit Watersheds Chum Biological Collection Analysis	Chanice Davies	WDFW	$ 286,628.00

Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved Funding (USD equivalent)
SF-2025-SP-22	Phase II Modifications to the Chum Genetic and Environmental Management Model (ChumGEM), a run reconstruction computer model (Year 2 of 2)	Karl English	LGL Ltd	$ 63,936.00
SF-2025-FRP-2	Investigating potential behavioral impacts of a DFO counting fence on downstream sockeye salmon smolt migrations	Scott Hinch	University of British Columbia	$ 60,480.00
SF-2025-FRP-5	Incorporating demography to understand decreased productivity of Fraser River Pink Salmon	Dylan Glaser	DFO	$ 20,492.64
SF-2025-FRP-6	Automatic Measurement of Fish Length from ARIS Imaging Data	Li Ding	Vitech Innovative Research and Consulting	$ 21,600.00
SF-2025-FRP-7	Towards Robust Detection and Classification of Salmon Species with Imaging Sonar	Li Ding	Vitech Innovative Research and Consulting	$ 36,000.00
SF-2025-FRP-8	Collaborative improvement of Lower Fraser species composition estimates: development of models and evaluation using Qualark and Mission data (Phase I-II)	Catarina Wor	DFO	$ 212,400.00
SF-2025-FRP-9	Improving the accuracy of Sockeye spawner estimates to the Harrison River	Sean Everitt	DFO	$ 35,309.52
SF-2025-FRP-10	Increasing robustness to changing river conditions at the Mission Hydroacoustic Site: Bank Remediation and Dock Implementation	Rachael Hornsby	Pacific Salmon Commission	$ 126,000.00

Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved Funding (USD equivalent)
SF-2025-FRP-11	Transitioning GSI methodology for Fraser pink salmon	Steve Latham	Pacific Salmon Commission	$ 43,472.16
SF-2025-FRP-15	Experimental evaluation of the potential impacts of set nets on the quality of the Mission estimates	Natasha Youngchief	Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation	$ 43,200.00
SF-2025-CTC-2	Improved escapement estimates and evaluation of the representativeness of the exploitation rate indicator stock for the Fraser River Chinook Summer Run age-0.3 stock group	Tommy Pontbriand	DFO	$ 190,800.00
SF-2025-CTC-4	A live-tagging pilot to improve the escapement estimate of the Quinsam Chinook indicator stock	Théa Rachinski	DFO	$ 17,995.68
SF-2025-CTC-6	Estimating Late Marine Survival on Cowichan River Chinook Related to Log Boom Presence, Seal Abundance, and other Environmental Factors	Jamieson Atkinson	BC Conservation Foundation	$ 33,485.76
SF-2025-CTC-11	Estimating Cowichan River Wild Chinook Freshwater Smolt Production through a PIT tag based Mark Recapture Program	Jamieson Atkinson	BC Conservation Foundation	$ 29,967.84
SF-2025-CTC-12	Delineation of Non-Natal Stream Rearing Habitat for Juvenile Chinook Salmon in the Upper Fraser River Watershed	Brian Toth	Lheidli T'enneh First Nation	$ 78,485.76
SF-2025-OWG-1	A workshop to identify science needs in advance of possible removal of Enloe Dam and salmon colonization of the upper Similkameen watershed	Sean Naman	DFO	$ 18,798.48

Project ID	Project Title	Lead Proponent	Lead organization	Approved Funding (USD equivalent)
SF-2025-OWG-2	Osoyoos Lake Hypolimnetic Aeration/Oxygenation and Thermal Barrier Mitigation Feasibility Study	Elinor McGrath	Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department	$ 90,046.80
SF-2025-OTHER-1	Evaluating Electronic Monitoring (EM) & Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies for Catch Monitoring in Commercial Salmon Fisheries	Dennis Klassen	DFO	$ 107,939.52
SF-2025-OTHER-3	Building Scalable & Affordable AI solutions for Pacific Salmon Catch Monitoring	Lucy Gordon	OnDeck Fisheries AI Inc	$ 136,804.32
SF-2025-OTHER-5	Evaluating the risk of thiamine deficiency to Coho salmon in British Columbia	Anna McLaskey	UBC	$ 32,927.04
SF-2025-OTHER-7	Increasing the robustness of PSC management frameworks to environmental change - Year 3 Workshops	Alex Hall	ESSA Technologies Ltd.	$ 90,432.00
SF-2025-OTHER-12	Evaluation of factors influencing mortality and growth of juvenile Hanford Reach fall Chinook Salmon	Casey Justice	Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission	$ 217,292.00
SF-2025-OTHER-13	Coordinating Tribal and First Nations Salmon Restoration and Preservation Efforts (Phase II)	Maya Kocian	Earth Economics	$ 163,330.00
				$ 4,496,939.88

APPENDIX C

Appointment of Officers for 2024/2025

Effective December 1, 2024 a new slate of officers for the Pacific Salmon Commission was identified as follows:

OFFICE	COUNTRY	REPRESENTATIVE
Commission Chair	Can	Andy Thomson
Commission Vice-Chair	U.S.	Doug Vincent-Lang
Fraser River Panel Chair	Can	Adam Keizer
Fraser River Panel Vice-Chair	U.S.	Jason Gobin
Northern Panel Chair	Can	Sandra Davies
Northern Panel Vice-Chair	U.S.	Andrew Piston
Southern Panel Chair	Can	Linda Higgins
Southern Panel Vice-Chair	U.S.	Joe Oatman
Transboundary Panel Chair	Can	Steve Gotch
Transboundary Panel Vice-Chair	U.S.	Troy Thynes
Stan. Comm. on F&A - Chair	Can	Andrew Thomson
Stan. Comm. on F&A - Vice-Chair	U.S.	W. Ron Allen
Stan. Comm. on Scientific Cooperation - Chair	Can	Brendan Connors
Stan. Comm. on Scientific Cooperation - Vice-Chair	U.S.	John Carlile
Technical Committee on Data Sharing - Co-Chair	Can	Nicolas Komick
Technical Committee on Data Sharing - Co-Chair	U.S.	Nancy Leonard
Fraser River Panel Technical Committee - Co-Chair	Can	Scott Decker
Fraser River Panel Technical Committee - Co-Chair	U.S.	Gordon Rose
Northern Boundary Technical Committee - Co-Chair	Can	Charmaine Carr-Harris
Northern Boundary Technical Committee - Co-Chair	U.S.	Bo Meredith
Transboundary Technical Committee - Co-Chair	Can	Bill Waugh
Transboundary Technical Committee - Co-Chair	U.S.	Edgar Jones
Enhancement Subcommittee of the Transboundary Technical Committee - Co-Chair	Can	Corino Salomi
Enhancement Subcommittee of the Transboundary Technical Committee - Co-Chair	U.S.	Garold Pryor
Chinook Interface Group Co-Chair	Can	Andrew Thomson
Chinook interface Group Co-Chair	U.S.	Phil Anderson
Technical Committee on Chinook - Co-Chair	Can	Laura Tessier
Technical Committee on Chinook - Co-Chair	U.S.	Milo Adkison/Jon Carey
Technical Committee on Coho - Co-Chair	Can	Dawn Lewis
Technical Committee on Coho - Co-Chair	U.S.	Gary Morishima
Technical Committee on Chum - Co-Chair	Can	Brittany Jenewein
Technical Committee on Chum - Co-Chair	U.S.	Bill Patton
Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee - Co-Chair	Can	Angus Straight
Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee - Co-Chair	U.S.	Ryan Lothrop

APPENDIX D

Approved Budget FY 2024/2025

	Forecast results 2023/2024	Proposed Budget 2024/2025
1 INCOME	(pink)	(none)
A. Contribution from Canada (Notes 1, 2)	2,240,484	2,346,164
B. Special contribution pension CA (Note 3)	166,250	146,100
C. Contribution from U.S.A.	2,240,484	2,346,164
D. Special contribution pension U.S.A. (Note 3)	166,250	146,100
Sub total	4,813,468	4,984,528
E. Interest	145,000	120,000
F. Other income	317,000	588,500
G. Carry-over from previous fiscal year	173,481	0
H. Total Income	5,448,949	5,693,028
2 EXPENDITURES		
A. 1. Permanent Salaries and Benefits	3,448,481	3,851,314
2. Unfunded pension liability payments (Note 3)	332,500	292,200
3. Temporary Salaries and Benefits	284,855	199,992
4. Total Salaries and Benefits	4,065,836	4,343,506
B. Travel	157,208	179,820
C. Rents, Communications, Utilities	189,790	239,270
D. Contractual Services	764,429	649,364
E. Supplies and Materials	48,686	58,068
F. Equipment	223,000	223,000
G. Total Expenditures	5,448,949	5,693,028
3 BALANCE (DEFICIT)	0	0
Carry-over generated (expended) in the year	($173,481)	$0

APPENDIX E

Pacific Salmon Commission Secretariat Staff as of March 31, 2025

John Field
Executive Secretary

Catherine Ball
Scale and Otolith Analyst

Sascha Bendt
Fund Manager, Restoration & Enhancement Funds

Julie Ehrmantraut
Publications and Web Content Manager

Merran Hague
Stock Assessment Biologist

Rachael Hornsby
Hydroacoustics Fisheries Biologist, Program Lead

Witty Lam
Senior Accountant

Christina Langlois
Administrative Assistant, Restoration & Enhancement Funds

Koey Lu
Accountant (Mat Leave)

Fiona Martens
Director, Fisheries Management Programs

Mark McMillan
Database Manager

Jacqueline Nelitz
Senior Hydroacoustic Technician

Angela Phung
Stock ID Biologist

Kimberly Bartlett
Meeting Planner

Dejan Brkic
Assistant Quantitative Biologist

Maxine Forrest
Environmental Salmon Biologist

Kristen Hayward
Assistant Fisheries Biologist

Victor Keong
Program Assistant - Restoration & Enhancement Funds

Steve Latham
Manager, Stock ID

Amy Liu
Salmon Coordinator

Sai Chandra Madduri
Database Developer

Jordan Maguire
Fisheries Technician

Ilinca Manisali
Director of Finance

Catherine Michielsens
Director, Fisheries Management Science

Julie Sellars
Manager, Scale Lab

John Son
Information Technology Manager

Tosh Sutherland
Test Fishing Operations Manager

Angela Xu
Administrative Assistant

Eric Taylor
Quantitative Fisheries Biologist

Serena Wong
Data and Assessment Biologist

Jessy Yang
Accountant

PSC Staff Retreat October 2024

APPENDIX F

Membership Lists for Standing Committees, Panels, Joint Technical Committees and other Appointments as of March 31, 2025

CANADA	UNITED STATES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Andrew Thomson (Chair)	Mr. W. Ron Allen (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Randy Atwal	Mr. William F. Auger
Mr. Gordon Moore	Ms. Michelle Lorenzo
Mr. Matt Sweeting-Woods	Ms. Christine Mallette
	Mr. Mike Matylewich
	Mr. Dimitri Varmazis

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Mr. John Field (ex. Officio)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Ms. Helena Lam	Ms. Lilan Ise

NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

Ms. Helena Lam	Ms. Lilah Ise

FRASER RIVER PANEL

Mr. Adam Keizer (Chair)	Mr. Jason Gobin (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Michael Frost	Dr. Mickey Agha
Mr. Mike Griswold	Mr. Robert F. Kehoe
Chief Ken Malloway	
Mr. Aaron Murray	
Mr. Robert Rezansoff	

FRASER RIVER PANEL - ALTERNATES

Dr. Mike Hawkshaw	Mr. Ronald G. Charles
Mr. Shaun Hollingsworth	Mr. Edward Eleazer
Mr. Darrel McEachern	Mr. Jack R. Giard
Mr. Tony Roberts Jr.	Mr. Anthony “Tony” Siniscal
Mr. Marcel Shepert	
Mr. Greg Witzky	

CANADA	UNITED STATES
SOUTHERN PANEL	
Ms. Linda Higgins (Chair)	Ms. Laurie Peterson (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Rodney Cootes	Mr. Joe Oatman
Dr. Don Hall	Mr. Burnie Bohn
Mr. Jeremy Maynard	Mr. Joseph C. Peters
Mr. Laurie Milligan	Mr. Anthony “Tony” Siniscal
	Mr. Aldrich J. “Butch” Smith
SOUTHERN PANEL - ALTERNATES	
Mr. Michael Baird	Mr. Vincent “Kyle” Adicks
Mr. Len Carr	Ms. Denise Hawkins
Ms. Marilyn Murphy	Mr. Edward Johnstone
Mr. Jeffrey Radford	Mr. Mark Newell
Mr. Gordon Sterritt	Mr. John North
Mr. Phil Young	Ms. Setrina Wilson
NORTHERN PANEL	
Ms. Sandra Davies (Chair)	Mr. Andrew Piston (Vice-Chair)
Ms. Angela Addison	Mr. Clay Bezenek
Mr. Jason Harris	Mr. Mitchell Eide
Chief Harry Nyce Sr.	Ms. Deborah Lyons
Ms. Joy Thorkelson	Dr. Jamal Moss
Mr. Mike Wells	Mr. Russell Thomas
NORTHERN PANEL - ALTERNATES	
Dr. William Atlas	Mr. Eric Bezenek
Mr. Mark Cleveland	Mr. John Carle
Mr. Jeff Grout	Ms. Andrew K. Gray
Mr. Rick Haugan	Mr. Tom Meiners
Mr. Greg Knox	Mr. Anne Reynolds-Manney
	Mr. Dennis Watson

CANADA	UNITED STATES

TRANSBOUNDARY PANEL

Mr. Steve Gotch (Chair)	Mr. Troy Thynes (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Kerry Carlick	Mr. Travis Bangs
Mr. Richard Erhardt	Mr. Larry Edfelt
Ms. Cheri Frocklage	Mr. Jacob Miller
Mr. Kevin Gould	Ms. Patrick Robbins
Ms. Melina Hougen	Mr. Scott Vulstek
Mr. Chris Kendel	Mr. Max Worhatch
Mr. Jason Williams	
Ms. Linaya Workman	
Mr. Dennis Zimmerman	

YUKON RIVER PANEL

For a complete list of Yukon River Panel members please refer to their website.

YUKON RIVER PANEL JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

For a complete list of Yukon River Panel Joint Technical Committee members please refer to their website.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

Dr. Brendan Connors (Chair)	Mr. John Carlile (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Cameron Freshwater	Dr. Brian Beckman

COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION LIASION GROUP

Mr. Andrew Thomson	Mr. William F. Auger
	Mr. Rick Klumph

NORTHERN FUND COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Gotch (Co-Chair)	Mr. Douglas S. Vincent-Lang (Co-Chair)
Chief Russ Jones	Mr. William F. Auger
Mr. John McCulloch	Dr. Jamal Moss

SOUTHERN FUND COMMITTEE

Mr. Neil Davis (Co-Chair)	Mr. Jim Scott (Co-Chair)
Mr. Mike Griswold	Mr. Peter Dygert
Dr. Don Hall	Mr. Joseph Oatman

CANADA	UNITED STATES
CWT/R AND CEII COMMITTEE	
Dr. Katrina Connors	Mr. Jonathan Carey
Ms. Nicole Frederickson	Mr. Tommy Garrison
Mr. Aaron Foos	Ms. Christine Mallette
Dr. Antonio Velez-Espino	Mr. Randy Peterson
CWT/R AND CEII COMMITTEE - ALTERNATES	
Ms. Karen Burnett	Ms. Anne Reynolds-Manney
Ms. Kyla Warren	Dr. Charles D. Waters
MSF FUND COMMITTEE	
Ms. Erika Watkins (Co-Chair)	Mr. Craig Bowhay
Mr. Janvier Doire	Ms. Danielle Evenson
Mr. Laurie Milligan	Dr. Jake Kvistad
	Ms. Marianne McClure
MSF FUND COMMITTEE- ALTERNATES	
Mr. Peter Hall	
CHUM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Ms. Brittany Jenewein (Co-Chair)	Mr. Bill Patton (Co-Chair)
Ms. Kim Charlie	Mr. Scott Bass
Mr. Matt Clarke	Dr. Mike Ford
Ms. Nicole Frederickson	Ms. Christina Iverson
Ms. Claire Rycroft	Dr. Todd Seamons
Mr. Joe Tadey	Mr. Ben Starkhouse
FRASER RIVER PANEL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Mr. Scott Decker (Co-Chair)	Mr. Gordon Rose (Co-Chair)
Ms. Kelsey Campbell	Mr. Matt Bogaard
Mr. Colin Schwindt	Mr. Mark Nelson
Mr. Mike Staley	
Ms. Maxime Veilleux	

CANADA	UNITED STATES

CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ms. Laura Tessier (Co-Chair)	Dr. Milo Adkison (Co-Chair)
Dr. Antonio Velez-Espino (Co-Chair)	Mr. Jonathan Carey (Co-Chair)
Dr. Norah Brown	Mr. Ethan Clemons
Ms. Sabrina Crowley	Mr. Tim Dalton
Ms. Katherine Davidson	Dr. Derek Dapp
Mr. Michael Folkes	Mr. Brian Elliott
Ms. Lauren Gill	Ms. Danielle Evenson
Mr. Nicolas Komick	Mr. Gary R. Freitag
Ms. Chelsea May	Ms. Elisabeth Fox
Ms. Elinor McGrath	Mr. Tommy Garrison
Ms. Sarah Power	Mr. Jim Jasper
Dr. Teresa Ryan	Dr. Galen Johnson
Mr. Noel Swain	Mr. Edgar Jones
Ms. Heidi Van Vliet	Dr. Jake Kvistad
Ms. Erika Watkins	Mr. David Leonard
Ms. Lauren Weir	Mr. Martin Liermann
Dr. Catarina Wor	Mr. Scott Marshall
	Ms. Marianne McClure
	Dr. Oliver Miler
	Dr. Gary S. Morishima
	Mr. Jeff Nichols
	Mr. Randy Peterson
	Ms. Anne Reynolds-Manney
	Mr. Mark H. Sorel
	Dr. Charles D. Waters

OKANAGAN CHINOOK WORK GROUP

Mr. Chuck Parken	Mr. Michael Matylewich
Ms. Susan Farlinger	Mr. McCoy Oatman
Ms. Elinor McGrath	Mr. Bill Tweit

CHINOOK INTERFACE GROUP

Mr. Andrew Thomson (Co-Chair)	Mr. Phil Anderson (Co-Chair)
Chief Russ Jones	Mr. McCoy Oatman
Mr. John McCulloch	Mr. Douglas Vincent-Lang

CANADA	UNITED STATES
CALENDAR YEAR EXPLOITATION RATE WORK GROUP	
Dr. Norah Brown (Co-Chair)	Mr. Jim Scott (Co-Chair)
Mr. Nicholas Komick	Dr. Milo Adkison
Ms. Chelsea May	Mr. Jonathan Carey
Mr. Chuck Parken	Mr. Ethan Clemons
Ms. Laura Tessier	Mr. Tim Dalton
Dr. Antonio Velez-Espino	Mr. Tommy Garrison
Dr. Catarina Wor	Dr. Galen Johnson
	Dr. Jake Kvistad
	Mr. David Leonard
	Mr. Ryan Lothrop
	Dr. Oliver Miler
	Mr. Randy Peterson
	Mr. William Templin
COHO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Ms. Dawn Lewis (Co-Chair)	Dr. Gary S. Morishima (Co-Chair)
Mr. Richard Bailey	Mr. John Brady
Mr. Roger Dunlop	Ms. Carrie Cook-Tabor
Mr. Kristopher Hein	Dr.
Ms. Sara Martin	Mr. Tyler “Ty” Garber
Mr. Michael O’Brien	Dr. Diego Holmgren
Mr. Kevin Pellett	Ms. Cassandra R. Leeman
Ms. Ashlee Prevost	Dr. Marisa Litz
	Ms. Stephanie Thurner
	Dr. Laurie Weitkamp
	(NORTHERN COHO)
	Mr. Grant Hagerman
	Ms. Michele Masuda
	Mr. Justin Priest

CANADA	UNITED STATES
COHO WORKING GROUP	
Ms. Linda Higgins(Co-Chair)	Mr. Joseph Oatman (Co-Chair)
Mr. Richard Bailey	Mr. Vincent “Kyle” Adicks
Mr. Rod Cootes	Ms. Carrie Cook-Tabor
Mr. Roger Dunlop	Mr. Tyler Garber
Dr. Don Hall	Ms. Denise Hawkins
Ms. Dawn Lewis	Dr. Diego Holmgren
Ms. Sara Martin	Mr. Edward Johnstone
Mr. Jeremy Maynard	Mr. Jeromy Jording
Ms. Laurie Milligan	Dr. Marisa Litz
Ms. Marilyn Murphy	Dr. Gary S. Morishima
Mr. Michael O’Brien	Mr. Joseph C. Peters
Mr. Kevin Pellett	Ms. Laurie Peterson
Ms. Ashlee Prevost	Dr. Laurie Weitkamp
Mr. Jeffrey Radford	
Mr. Gordon Sterritt	
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DATA SHARING	
Mr. Nicholas Komick (Co-Chair)	Dr. Nancy Leonard (Co-Chair)
Mr. Jonathan Martin	Mr. P. Brodie Cox
Mr. Michael O’Brien	Mr. Gabriel T. Garza
Mr. Brock Ramshaw	Mr. Eric Keller
	Mr. Eric Lardizabal
	Mr. Gilbert Lensegrav
	Mr. James R. Longwill
	Mr. Mike Matylewich
	Dr. Gary S. Morishima
	Mr. Ken Phillipson

CANADA	UNITED STATES
NORTHERN BOUNDARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Ms. Charmaine Carr-Harris (Co-Chair)	Mr. Bo Meredith (Co-Chair)
Mr. Mark Cleveland	Mr. Patrick Berry
Ms. Jennifer Gordon	Ms. Whitney Crittenden
Mr. Peter Katinic	Ms. Teresa Fish
Mr. Mark Spoljaric	Mr. Grant Hagerman
Mr. Blair Stewart	Mr. Chase Jalbert
Dr. Anna Tigano	Ms. Michele Masuda
Ms. Kyla Warren	Ms. Sara Miller
Mr. Ryan Whitmore	Mr. Justin Priest
	Mr. Troy Tydingco
NORTHERN COHO SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
Mr. Bill Waugh	
Mr. Ryan Whitmore	
SELECTIVE FISHERY EVALUATION COMMITTEE	
Dr. Angus Straight (Co-Chair)	Mr. Ryan Lothrop (Co-Chair)
Ms. Angela Addison	Ms. Jill Cady
Dr. Norah Brown	Mr. Trevor R. Clark
Mr. Roger Dunlop	Ms. Carrie Cook-Tabor
Ms. Erika Watkins	Ms. Lara Erikson
	Ms. Danielle Evenson
	Dr. Jake Kvistad
	Ms. Marianna McClure
	Dr. Gary S. Morishima
	Ms. Sarah Richardson
	Mr. Ashley P. Shaffer
	Mr. Eric Keller
	Ms. Michelle A. Varney

CANADA	UNITED STATES

TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Bill Waugh (Co-Chair)	Mr. Edgar Jones (Co-Chair)
Mr. Kerry Carlick	Ms. Julie Bednarski
Mr. Mark Connor	Mr. Scott Forbes
Mr. Michael Folkes	Mr. Patrick Fowler
Mr. Aaron Foos	Mr. Rick Hoffman
Ms. Jody Mackenzie-Grieve	Mr. Darion Jones
Mr. Marc Ross	Mr. Phil Richards
Mr. Johnny Sembsmoen	Mr. Kyle Shedd
Mr. Sean Stark	Ms. Katie Taylor
Ms. Kimberly Tuor	Mr. Jeffrey Williams

ENHANCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Corino Salomi (Co-Chair)	Mr. Garold “Flip” Pryor (Co-Chair)
Mr. Adam Brennan	Ms. Katie Harms
Mr. Sean Collins	Mr. Eric Prestegard
Mr. Mark Connor	Mr. Josh Russell
Ms. Cheri Frocklage	