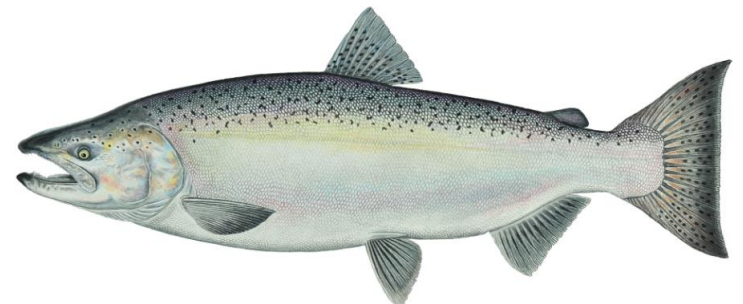




Chinook Evaluation Framework – Recreational MSF and Area G Proposals

Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning:
April 20-22, 2021



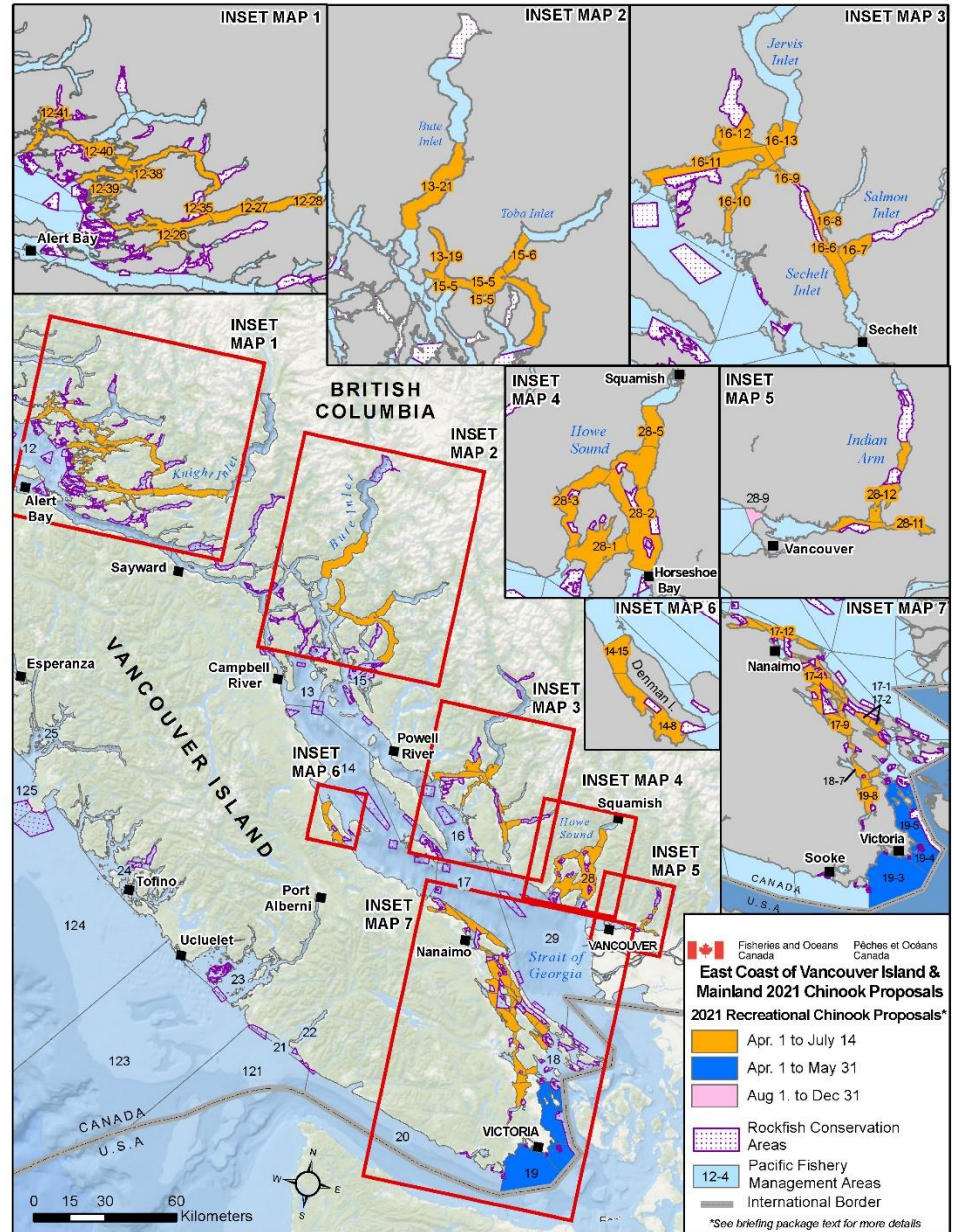


Recreational MSF / Area G Proposals

- During the development of Chinook management measures in 2020, there were a number of proposals for additional fishery opportunities beginning in the Spring 2021 period (current IFMP)
- Proposals were submitted by:
 - [Sport Fishing Advisory Board \(SFAB\)](#) proposed number of Chinook fishery opportunities utilizing mark selective fishery (MSF) regulations in Southern BC waters beginning in April 2021
 - [Area G Harvest Committee](#) proposed a Chinook directed fishery (non-selective) in the waters inside 1nm seaward of the surf line on the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) in April and May 2021.
- See locations on following maps

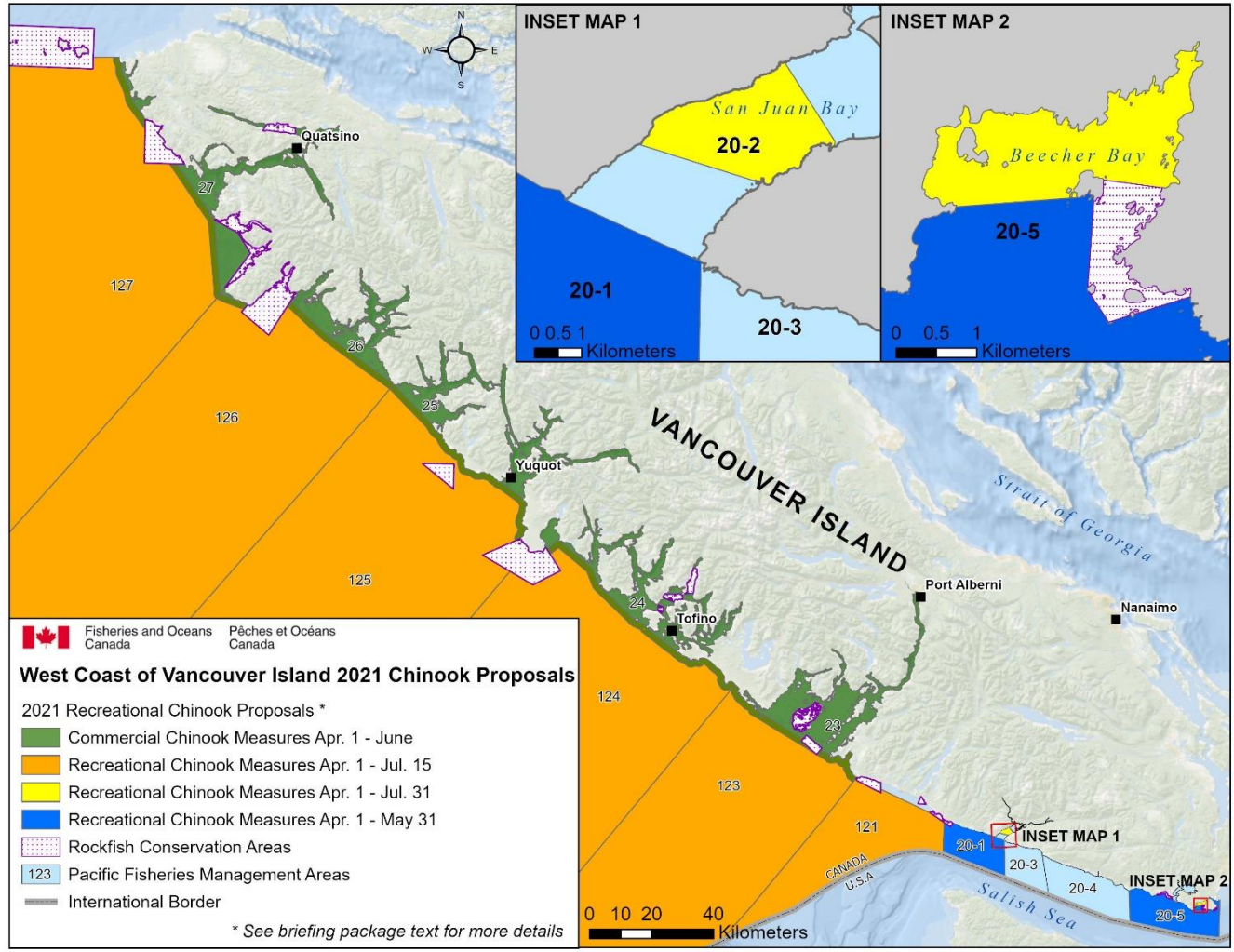


ECVI and Mainland Recreational Proposals





WCVI Recreational and Troll Proposals





Process

- DFO used an evaluation framework that was originally developed last year to assess fishing proposals submitted as part of the 2020/21 IFMP.
 - Summary presentation and evaluation results circulated for feedback (Feb. 22, 2021)
- Preliminary information on evaluation of proposals intended to support provision of feedback from First Nations and stakeholders on concerns, possible mitigations and level of support to inform decision making
- Internal work is underway to develop a framework to support discussion on mass marking (MM) and mark selective fisheries (MSF); expected to outline technical feasibility (benefits, risks, implementation challenges, key gaps, mitigation, etc.)
 - further consultations on this work have not yet been scheduled.



How did DFO review fishery proposals?

- **Summaries:** high level overview of proposals and potential issues for each area.
- **Fishery Description:** summary of past/proposed regulations, main stocks/stocks of concern that may be caught, current monitoring in area, anticipated 2021 effort if proposal proceeds.
- **Mark rates:** Estimated proportion of adipose fin clipped Chinook based on encounter information from various sources (e.g. recreational creel survey, log book, iRec or WCVI troll data). Mark rates represent the entire statistical area (i.e. Area 12) and therefore may not represent the actual mark rates in smaller proposed fishery areas.
- **Stocks of Concern:** Information on samples available and potential encounters of stocks of concern.
- **Ecosystem Issues:** Potential ecosystem interactions. E.g. Chinook prey availability for Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- **Monitoring:** Potential issues and suggested improvements to fishery monitoring and biological sampling.
- **Compliance:** Potential issues related to compliance and enforcement.
- **Other issues (e.g. allocation, gear conflict):** e.g. Potential impact on FN FSC harvest or gear conflicts that could arise.
- **Suggested mitigations:** Additional adjustments that could be considered to address issues identified in the review.



Important Considerations

- Low conservation risk to Fraser River Chinook, other Chinook stocks of concern and ecosystem, including consideration of:
 - available data and uncertainty.
 - Potential for increase in fishing effort (e.g. potential increased impacts of MSF on wild stocks depending on risk factors such as the relative contribution of the stock to the fishery, mark rate and uncertainty associated with release mortality.)
- Availability of First Nations food, social and ceremonial access.
- Provision of sustainable fishery opportunities where possible consistent with conservation objectives and salmon allocation priorities
- Ability to implement additional fishery monitoring, catch reporting and biological sampling to support evaluation and PST obligations.
- **Decisions on fishery proposals have not yet been made. Information will be released by Fishery Notice(s) and posted to the DFO web-site.**



DFO Monitoring Plans: Overview

- DFO planned enhancements for recreational creel survey in 2021:
 1. Increase surveys during the shoulder periods (outside the main June-early Sept period).
 2. Increase dockside observers and shifts to increase angler interview rate and sampled catch.
 3. Increase DNA sampling through Avid Anglers, guides, and First Nations FSC.
 4. Assess the use of cameras to independently monitor at-sea releases.
 5. Improve monitoring in remote areas such as the mainland inlets.
 6. Collaborate with the partners to improve understanding of Fishery Related Incidental Mortality (FRIM).
 7. Increase sampling rates in iREC and iARC internet surveys of recreational fishing licence holders.
 8. Assess alternative methods to estimate numbers of vessels fishing to improve precision in effort estimates.
- See separate DFO memo: *Marine Recreational Fishery Monitoring Plan for 2021*.



Background

Presentation and technical information:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kesf7jgfdpl8myw/AADvVLiLqy2fJhPNISuio1-0a?dl=0>

Recording of February 26 webinar:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9ziwfw7t60305a/AACA ZJvhNjptrXjmJs6URQkqa?dl=0>