



Pacific Salmon  
Strategy Initiative

Initiative de la Stratégie  
relative au saumon du Pacifique

# Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

Harvest Transformation  
Fraser and Approach Salmon Forum  
April 4, 2023



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada


Canada





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# A Federal Response to Pacific Salmon Declines

Launched in June 2021, the **Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)** aims to **stem historic declines in key Pacific salmon stocks and rebuild** these species to a sustainable level **in collaboration with others.**

The PSSI is a ***transformative horizontal initiative*** that spans the Department. It also implicates many Indigenous groups, partners and stakeholders.

*Work in close collaboration with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations and implicated communities to implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy*

*- excerpt from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard's December 2021 Ministerial Mandate Letter*



# PSSI Five Year DFO Implementation Strategy: Road Map

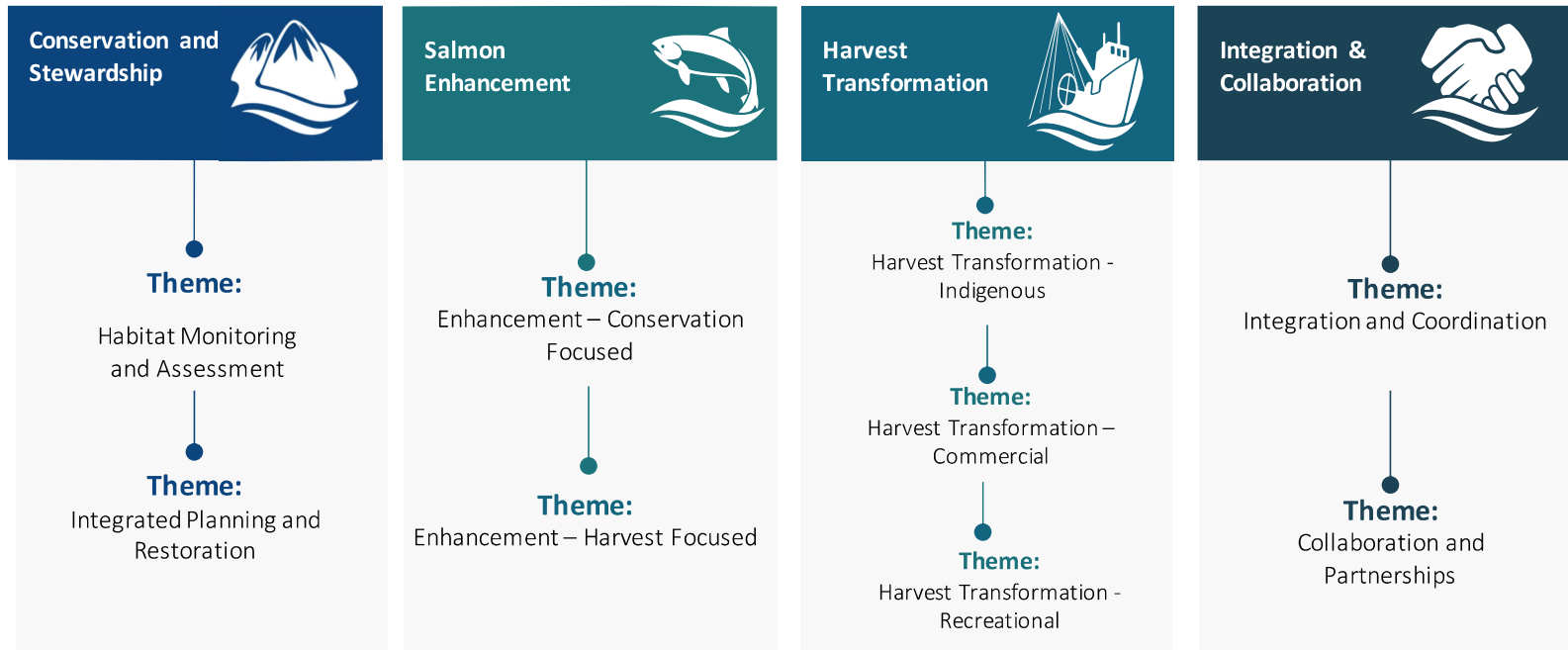
**Working Vision**

*Working together to conserve and restore Pacific salmon-stocks and their ecosystems, for those who depend on them.*

**Ultimate Result**

Priority Pacific salmon stocks are conserved and restored through targeted action in collaboration with partners .

**Pillars**  
Program and policy levers



**Horizontal Principles**

*Indigenous Reconciliation \* Innovative Solutions \* Prioritization \* Enhanced Transparency, Data & Trust \* Partnership & Collaboration*







# Areas of Early Action

## Conservation and Stewardship



## Salmon Enhancement



## Harvest Transformation



## Integration & Collaboration



**BC Flood Recovery enabled under PSSI (Ongoing)**

High Seas Inspections in the Pacific Ocean including surveillance of International waters (Ongoing)

High Seas International Collaborative Surveys (Ongoing)

BCSRIF Phase 2 Launch

Determining Stocks of Concern for Rebuilding Planning (Underway)

Launch of The Salmon Stewardship Directorate, including The Habitat Restoration Centre of Expertise

Launch of Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems pilot projects

**Mass Marking Discussion Paper & Engagement (Underway)**

Strengthening the Conservation Focus in Hatcheries (Ongoing)

Early Salmon Rebuilding Activities (Ongoing)

Setting Up Programs, Tools, and Data Solutions for Transformative Shifts (Underway)

Community Economic Development Program Hatcheries Transformation (Underway)

**Commercial Conservation-Based Closures (Complete)**

Mark Selective Fisheries Discussion Paper & Engagement (Underway)

Salmon Allocation Policy Review (Underway)

New & Innovative Harvest Opportunities (First Nations) (Underway)

Commercial Salmon Licence Retirement Programs (underway)

Electronic recreational licences with digital electronic catch records (Underway)

Establish the PSSI Secretariat (Completed)

First Nations Collaborative Process on Pacific Salmon Conservation (Underway)

**Ministerial Advisory Panel on Pacific Salmon Conservation (In planning)**

Pacific Salmon Data Strategy Implementation (Underway)

Pacific Salmon Results Strategy Development (Ongoing)



# Harvest Transformation Background

Harvest transformation under the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) aims to move all harvesting sectors (Indigenous, commercial, and recreational) toward greater viability, sustainability, and resilience by:

- Embracing more **precautionary approaches** to harvesting and strengthening the use of **selective harvesting methods**
- Better **managing harvest capacity** (e.g. commercial license retirement, new regulatory tools to manage capacity, etc.)
- Reviewing and updating the **Salmon Allocation** and other policies as necessary (e.g. Excess to Salmon Spawning Requirements – ESSR)
- Reviewing, updating, and modernizing **fishery licensing, regulatory, and management frameworks**
- Improving the timeliness, accuracy, and confidence in fishery **monitoring and catch reporting programs**



# Salmon Allocation Policy Review

- Separate processes are underway in British Columbia and Yukon to review and update the 1999 Allocation Policy, in collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders
- A final Terms of Reference to guide the BC review were approved by the Minister and distributed to all First Nations in Fall 2022
  - Thank you for the views you shared with us throughout Phase One
- The Terms of Reference include a commitment to conduct the review in a way that reflects the nation-to-nation relationship
  - Identifies multiple options for how First Nations can participate and engage in the review (e.g., First Nations-DFO Committee, bilateral meetings)
- Next steps are to convene committees and working groups to gather information and conduct analysis (Phase Two) this spring

[See Initiative to update the Salmon Allocation Policy | Pacific Region | Fisheries and Oceans Canada \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\) for more information](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)





# Indigenous Harvest Transformation

- After conservation, DFO has a legal obligation to provide priority access for FSC and Treaty & Rights-based Fisheries.
- In recent years some First Nations communities have not been able to fish their harvest allocations because of low salmon returns.
- Under PSSI, DFO will engage and consult with First Nations to explore new ways to provide fishing opportunities that address First Nation legal and constitutional fishing priorities.







# Indigenous Harvest Transformation

## Key Activities

### Transitioning to selective harvesting methods for FSC

- **Identifying** where FSC fisheries may impact stocks of conservation concern
- **Investigating** selective fishing options
- **Providing capacity** to First Nation communities to transition to more selective fishing methods

### Investigating new, innovative, and/or terminal fishing approaches

- Exploring where new, innovative and/or terminal fishing approaches **may provide enhanced FSC fishing opportunities**, including fishing opportunities to access harvestable surpluses in terminal areas, like Excess to Salmon Spawning Requirement (ESSR)

### Improving catch monitoring and reporting

- Exploring opportunities to improve catch monitoring programs and **support consistent and standardized reporting** with Departmental catch reporting databases



# Indigenous Harvest Transformation

## Improving management approaches

- Review and seek **operational management improvements**
- Explore co-governance models for managing fisheries (implementation of the Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement)

## Pacific Salmon Indigenous Communal Commercial Alternation Program

- Allows Category F and N Indigenous communal commercial salmon licence eligibility holders to alternate their licence in return for financial support to transition to non-salmon commercial fisheries access



# Commercial Harvest Transformation

- **Commercial fishery closures**
- **Modernizing management frameworks**
- **Pacific Salmon Commercial Licence Retirement Program**
- **Derelict vessel and gear disposal program**







# Commercial Fishery Closures

- A key feature of DFOs fisheries management approach will be embracing a more precautionary and selective approach to fishing to reduce fishery impacts on stocks of concern.
- Long-term commercial harvest closures will further support the actions taken in the 2021 fishing season and are necessary in some areas where there are significant conservation concerns for salmon stocks.
- After consultation with stakeholders, 22 longer-term closures were identified beginning in the 2022 season.
- These closures are expected to remain in place until there are clear signs that salmon populations are rebuilding. This is expected to take a minimum of 5 to 10 years, that is 1 to 2 salmon generations.





# Commercial Modernizing Management Frameworks

Along with transitioning to a more precautionary, selective fishing approach and reduced fleet size, DFO also propose to explore ways to better manage the commercial fishing fleet by:

- Exploring additional improvements such as investigating the merits of expanding the use of share-based management systems
- Review and update the regulatory and licensing framework where necessary
- Improving the transparency of information on commercial salmon harvests, access and allocations
- Improving monitoring and assessment programs to better understand the impacts of catch and by-catch





# Commercial Licence Retirement Program

- The Pacific Salmon Commercial Licence Retirement Program (LRP) was announced on December 14 2022 and is underway.
- The LRP is a voluntary program that allows commercial salmon licence eligibility holders to retire their licence eligibilities permanently for market value through reverse auction.
- All commercial salmon licence eligibility holders are eligible to apply for this program provided they own a vessel that holds one or more salmon seine, gillnet or troll licences in a valid or renewal status.

## Derelict Vessels and Disposal Program and Gear Disposal Program

- This licence retirement program will be supported by a derelict vessel mitigation and gear disposal program designed to dispose of vessels and gear that may no longer be needed once salmon licence(s) have been retired and no other licenses are associated with the vessel.





# PSSI Recreational Fishery Harvest Transformation

Modernized and Flexible Management Approaches	Improved Information	Improved Accountability
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Electronic licensing</li><li>2. Mark-Selective Fisheries (MSF)</li><li>3. Gear Regulations</li><li>4. Conditions of licence</li><li>5. Licence fees</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. New/improved catch monitoring programs</li><li>2. Fishing Related Incidental Mortality (FRIM) studies</li><li>3. Communications</li><li>4. Data management</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Increased service provider responsibilities</li><li>2. Enforcement</li></ol>





# Modernized and Flexible Management Approaches

## 1. Electronic licensing

DFO is working with SFI to allow FishingBC app to upload electronic licences (PDF) with catch recording capabilities and linkage to the National Recreational Licence System (NRLS)

## 2. Mark-selective fisheries (MSF)

DFO is exploring further use of mark-selective fisheries as a management tool

## 3. Gear regulations

Amendments to include recreational gear to regulations so that they can be varied in-season instead of depending on annual licence conditions (e.g. leader lengths, hook types, etc.).



# Modernized and Flexible Management Approaches

## 4. Conditions of licence

Move items from the existing Conditions of Licence (COL) to regulations where appropriate to simplify/reduce the length of the COL.

## 5. Licence fees

Explore increased fees to support recreational fishery management (e.g. catch monitoring programs, build partnerships, new research)







# Improved Information

## 1. New/improved catch monitoring programs

New programs to support information needs for managing mark-selective fisheries (e.g. biological sampling, monitoring releases, creel surveys & explore licence-based monitoring)

## 2. Fishing Related Incident Mortality (FRIM) studies

BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) projects with SFI and UBC

## 3. Communications

DFO will be looking to improve the public's understanding of recreational catch monitoring programs and fishing regulations

## 4. Data management

Database interoperability (e.g. allow for better linkages between databases used by Science, C&P, Licensing, Resource Management)



# Improved Accountability

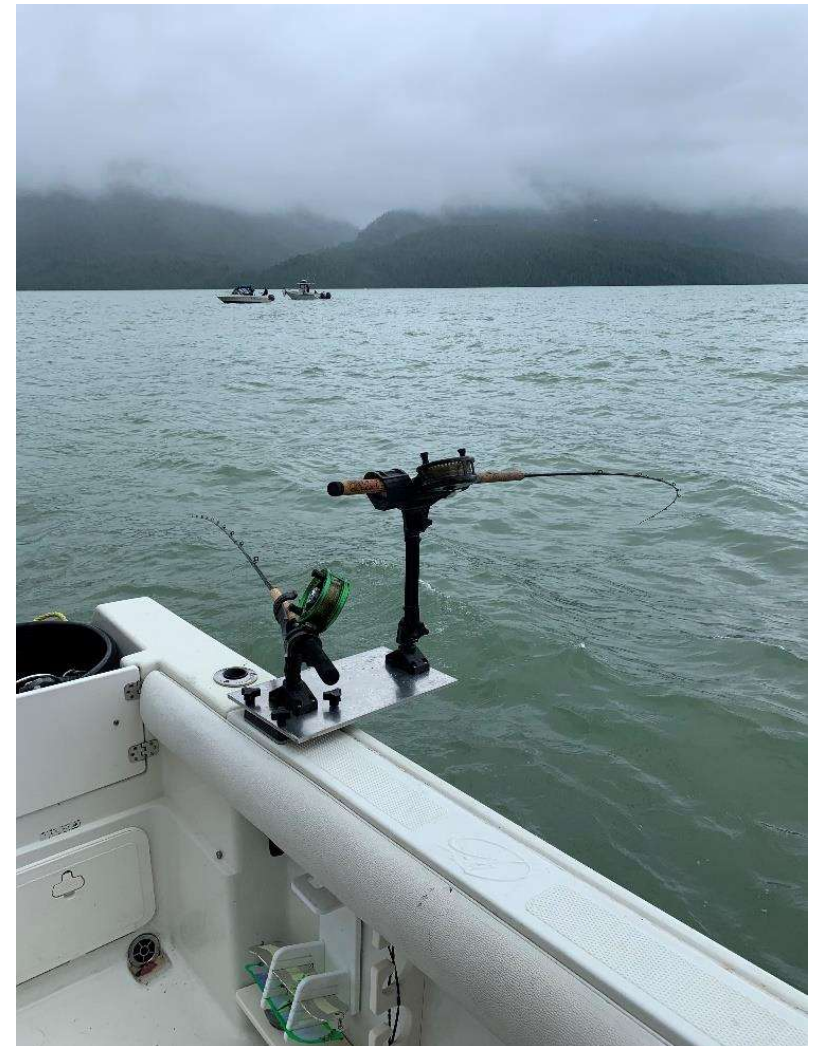
## 1. Increased service provider responsibilities

Explore mandatory catch reporting and/or biological sampling requirements for guides and/or lodges

Exploration of new licence category

## 2. Enforcement

Increased resources for C&P and exploring innovative approaches to recreational enforcement





# Additional Salmon Related Work

- DFO has established a Habitat Restoration Centre of Expertise to provide advice on community-level hatchery work.
- In August, DFO announced the doubling of the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (or BCSRIF) to support groups or applicants with ideas to address salmon declines.
- DFO plans to build two new hatcheries operated by the Department but will also be establishing up to two new community-operated hatcheries. Our new hatcheries will be nimble and flexible to address conservation and rebuilding objectives for priority stocks.
- DFO will also be advancing planning, scientific assessment, data solutions, and other work to identify prioritized Pacific salmon stocks in an evidence-based way to ensure that our collective actions achieve concrete results for Pacific salmon recovery in the long term.
- DFO will also be taking action against illegal, unregulated, and unreported fisheries on the high seas.







# Upcoming PSSI Engagement Opportunities

## Conservation and Stewardship



## Salmon Enhancement



## Harvest Transformation



## Integration & Collaboration



Fish Stocks Provisions Salmon Rebuilding Plan Engagement (Fall 2022- Winter 22/23)

**Integrated rebuilding/conservation plans – prioritization (Targeted) (Winter 22/23)**

Regional Restoration Framework (Targeted) (Fall 2022 – Winter 22/23)

Restoration Webinar Series (Targeted)

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Fund (Fall - Winter 22/23)

Indigenous technical capacity (targeted - informal) (Fall 2022)

Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems: Yukon Sub-Regional Planning

Thompson-Nicola Sub-Regional Planning (targeted engagement Fall 2022, targeted participant workshop Winter 22/23)

Community Economic Development Program (CEDP) Phase 1 Investment (Targeted) (Fall 2022 - Ongoing)

Salmon Enhancement Program Overview (Targeted) (Winter 2022-2023)

**Hatchery Modernization (Targeted) (Winter 2022-2023)**

Interim DFO Policy Framework (Targeted) (Winter 2022-2023)

Advice for Enhancement Communication and Engagement Development (Targeted) (Winter 2022-2023)

Hatchery Production Changes via IFMP Process (Targeted) (Winter 2022-2023)

**Support for FSC fisheries, including testing selective approaches and exploring terminal fisheries (Winter 2022 – Spring 2023)**

Commercial pilots to test share-based management and enhanced monitoring; identify priorities for regulation changes. (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)

Recreational Regulatory, Licensing and Catch Monitoring improvements (Targeted) (Fall 2022 – Winter-Spring 2023)

Salmon Allocation Policy Review Process: *Convene working groups for BC Salmon Allocation Policy Review Phase 2 Discussions on Information Gathering and Analysis* (Targeted) **(Late Fall 2022)**

**First Nations Collaborative Table Development and Launch of Interim Working Group (Nov 2021 – ongoing)**

Pacific Salmon Results Strategy (Targeted engagement) (late Fall 2022 – Winter 22/23)

Pacific Salmon Data Engagement (Targeted & Public) (Planned Spring 2023 – Fall 2023)



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# Let's Talk Pacific Salmon Platform



## Join Let's Talk Pacific Salmon

**REGISTER**

Let's Talk Pacific Salmon is a platform for Canadians to have their say on Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) strategies and programs related to Pacific salmon. It will provide DFO with direct feedback to help us plan and implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI).

<https://letstalkpacificsalmon.ca/>



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Implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)