

Fisheries Management Measures to Support Recovery of Steelhead

From the DRAFT 2023/24 Salmon IFMP
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Fisheries Management Measures to Support Recovery of Steelhead

- In the coming year, DFO will protect IFR Steelhead from incidental fishing mortality occurring in salmon fisheries using the window closure approach implemented since 2019
- With additional restrictions applied to set gill net fisheries in the Fraser River.
- Moving window closures will apply to most salmon fisheries located along the migratory route of Thompson and Chilcotin River Steelhead, including southern BC marine waters and the Fraser River mainstem downstream of Thompson and Chilcotin River Steelhead spawning areas.



Marine FSC Fisheries

- Marine FSC salmon fisheries remain open with a requirement for Steelhead release.
- Any salmon fisheries occurring in terminal areas that are not considered to overlap with the migratory pathway of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead will not be subject to these closures.



Freshwater FSC Fisheries

- First Nations' Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) salmon fisheries occurring within the Fraser River mainstem downstream of Thompson and Chilcotin River Steelhead spawning areas are closed for a 27-day moving window.
- Following the closure window, set gill net gear will be further restricted to operate during daylight hours only, while attended by a harvester at all times.



Marine Recreational Fisheries

- Recreational salmon fisheries within the Fraser River mainstem (including areas immediately off the Fraser River mouth), are closed for a moving window period of 42 days.
- Other marine recreational salmon fisheries remain open with a requirement for Steelhead release.



Commercial Fisheries

- Extensive window closures to protect IFR Steelhead from incidental impacts of salmon fisheries are planned for 2023
 - The closure window for commercial gill net and seine fisheries (including purse seine, beach seine, and shallow seine gear) is 42 days
 - Commercial troll fisheries will be closed for 27 days.
- Following the closure window, set gill net gear will be further restricted to operate during daylight hours only, while attended by a harvester at all times.



BC and Canada

- The responsibility for conservation and recovery of IFR Steelhead is shared with the Province of British Columbia.
- The Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia are committed to working collaboratively to address threats, reduce fish mortality, and promote growth for these populations.
- In 2023, the BC will continue to implement measures to limit impacts of provincially managed recreational trout fisheries on Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead.
- Additional actions to be taken by the Province to support recovery of these populations are being developed in conjunction with DFO, as part of the Joint Steelhead Action Plan.
- Both DFO and the Province have had staffing changes for the steelhead file; Senior DFO and BC staff plan to meet in the short term, and DFO will extend an invite to the next forum if group is interested.