



Southern BC Chinook

2024 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS



Southern BC Chinook: 2024 Management Objectives

- Maintaining management objectives for Spring 4₂, Spring 5₂, and Summer 5₂ Fraser Chinook to **manage Canadian fisheries in highly precautionary manner to allow as many fish to pass through to spawning grounds as possible**
 - The **Fraser Salmon Management Board recommends** that the precautionary management for **Summer 5₂ Chinook** should be continued to ensure fishery **mortalities** remain low, between **10% to 14%**. The Department is seeking feedback on management measures to maintain these levels in line with the priority allocation for First Nations FSC after conservation.
 - Five-year-old Chinook returning in 2024 are the brood of the 2019 fish that were significantly impacted by the Big Bar landslide. An estimated 80% of Spring 5₂ and 50% of Summer 5₂ Chinook stocks that migrate over the slide died enroute to the spawning grounds. In 2020, approximately 20% of the Spring 5₂ stocks died due to migration challenges over the slide.
- Restrictions for Fraser Chinook covering wide times/areas of Southern BC and parts of Northern BC also benefit other co-migrating Chinook; additional stock-specific measures will be identified in IFMPs



2024 Chinook Management Pacific Salmon Treaty objectives

January 2024 - PST post-season meeting:

- Commission asked CTC to ensure non-retention impacts are being appropriately incorporated into the exploitation rate analysis (ERA) for Canadian ISBM fisheries where non-retention has been used as a tool to reduce ISBM fishery impacts.
- CTC investigation into this task determined the non-retention impacts were not properly incorporated into the 2023 ERA.

February 2024 - PST annual meeting:

- CTC was tasked with revising Tables 8–11 of the 2023 Commissioner's Summary Report using results from the 2024 ERA (which incorporates the corrected CNR files) as soon as practical after 2024 Chinook Model calibration is complete.
- Once this information is available a call between Commissioners should be scheduled in late April, if the updated tables indicate one or more stocks trigger the requirements under PST paragraph 7(c) for Canada.



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MSF Implementation Framework

- Outlines the **regulatory and policy context** for Pacific Salmon Management along with the operational context for MSF.
- A set of key criteria based on the MSF objectives and context have been developed to assist in MSF decision-making and to evaluate risk to stocks.
- Considerations included:
 - **Conservation** – stocks of concern, local stocks, and ecosystem concerns (e.g., SRKW)
 - **Salmon Allocation Priority** - consistency with policy and priority for FN FSC after conservation
 - **Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST)** obligations
 - Estimated recreational effort, impacts on stocks of concern and other target stock(s)
 - Mark-rate, stock composition and abundance of target stock(s)
- **Catch Monitoring** – Framework identifies enhanced monitoring to meet our Pacific Salmon Treaty and other fishery monitoring / catch reporting obligations.



New for 2024/25: Southern Chinook

- DFO seeking feedback on management measures that maintain very **low fishery mortalities in the range of 10% to 14% for Summer 5₂** and consistent with salmon allocation priorities for First Nations FSC after conservation (**FSMB LINKAGE**)
- **Cowichan River Chinook** has exceeded annual escapement target of 6500 adult spawners since 2016. DFO seeking feedback on their management measures in approach waters of Subareas 17-4 to 17-7, 17-9, 17-11 to 17-13, 17-15 to 17-20, 18-6 to 18-8, 18-10, 19-7 to 19-12.



New for 2024/25: WCVI Chinook

- Area G requested an **earlier start date** for Area G Troll Chinook summer fishery: returning to Aug 1 start
- Area G submitted a change to existing inshore **Chinook CSAF proposal**: to fish within the existing 1 nm seaward of surflines area from April 1 - May 31, 2025
- Five Nations have proposed removing the max 80cm size restriction for the sale of Chinook during the July 15-31 WCVI offshore fishery.
- DFO considering potential use of **mark-selective fishery regulations** for the **recreational fishery in Area 25**
- DFO evaluating request from Area D Harvest Committee to change existing **mid-August terminal Chinook fishery in Area 25** from TAC-based to **effort-based**