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# Southern Chum

2024 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS  
PREPARED FOR THE FRASER FORUM  
MARCH 6, 2024 - NANAIMO

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## New for 2024/25: Southern Chum

- Given the expectation 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 Fraser Chum Outlook is at Category 2, the Department is proposing **both recreational and commercial fisheries will start the 2024 season with non-retention regulations** in place across Southern BC (including offshore WCVI, and tributaries of the Fraser River).
- For inshore portions of WCVI, this will be further evaluated when pre-season forecasts are finalized in Summer 2024.
- Should in-season estimates of abundance indicate a sufficient harvestable surplus of Chum, fisheries will be considered and announced by Fishery Notice.
- Brood year 2020 was poor; preliminary expectations are not strong for 2024 for either the Fraser River or the South Coast Chum stocks.
  - ECVI/Mainland Inlets Outlook **1-2**
  - WCVI Outlook **2**
  - Fraser Outlook **2**

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Table 13.2-4: Summary of key decision points for the management of the ECVI recreational Chum fishery when Critical Abundance Threshold <1 Million

JST Chum Abundance	Fraser River Run Size	ECVI Monitored Systems*  (Puntledge River, Qualicum River, Little Qualicum River, Nanaimo River, Cowichan River, Goldstream River)	Marine Recreational Fishery
<1 Million Critical Threshold not achieved	916,000 to 1,050,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Open full limits
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	
	800,000 to 916,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Consider reduced Chum retention limits
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	
	500,000 to 800,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Consider reduced Chum retention limits
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Chum non-retention
	<500,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Chum non-retention
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	

Current decision points for in-season management of Chum fisheries, we are proposing starting the season closed to align with this summary.



## New for 2024/25: Southern Chum

- Area H Harvest Committee submitted a **CSAF proposal** for a small, **limited entry Chum-directed fishery in PFMA 13** during the latter period of the 27-day IFR Steelhead window closure. 100% at-sea monitoring would be required, and the demonstration fishery would stop immediately upon encounter of a Steelhead.
- Area H Harvest Committee will be conducting **poll** of all **Area H troll licence holders** to determine whether current **process for boat day allocations will remain the same** (divided equally amongst licence holders and issued as ITE) **for the Johnstone Strait mixed-stock Chum fishery**, or if the **total number of Area H boat days will be issued to the fleet instead**, starting in 2024. The final decision will be made by the majority vote of licence holders and will be outlined in the final IFMP.