

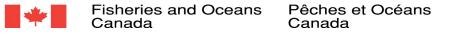
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada



Southern Chum

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





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.
 - o ECVI/Mainland Inlets Outlook 1-2
 - o WCVI Outlook 2
 - o 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

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

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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 Chun 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	





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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.

