



Special Concern Salmon SARA Listing Consideration

April 10, 2024



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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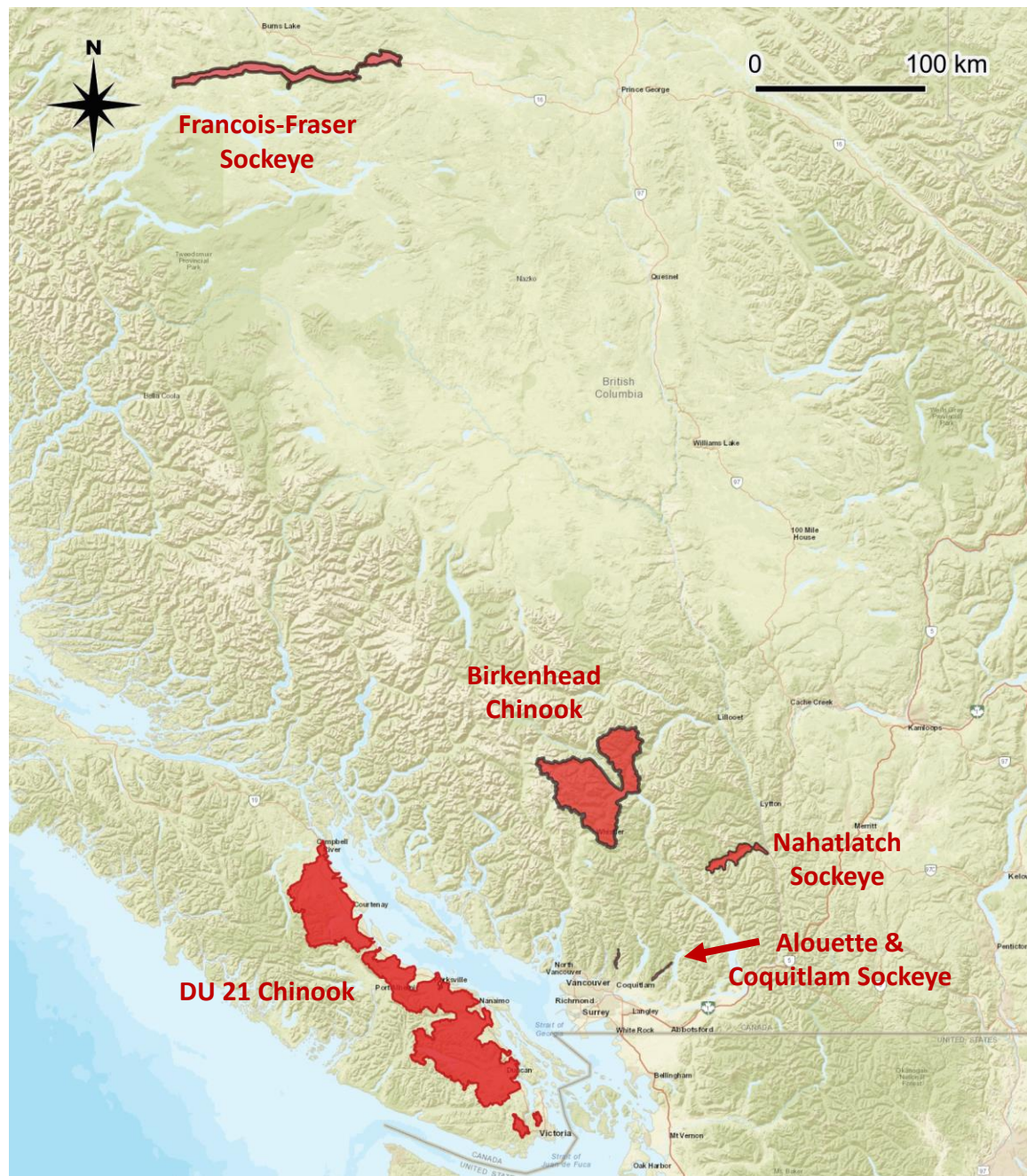
Purpose of this session

- Provide an overview of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) listing options for six Pacific salmon designatable units (DUs)
 - List as special concern – management plan must be developed
 - Do not list – no actions taken under SARA
- Invite any additional information on Indigenous cultural significance of the six salmon DUs
- Receive input on the level of support for or against listing one or more of these six salmon DUs as special concern under SARA



Spawning distributions of six special concern salmon DUs

Four sockeye, two Chinook

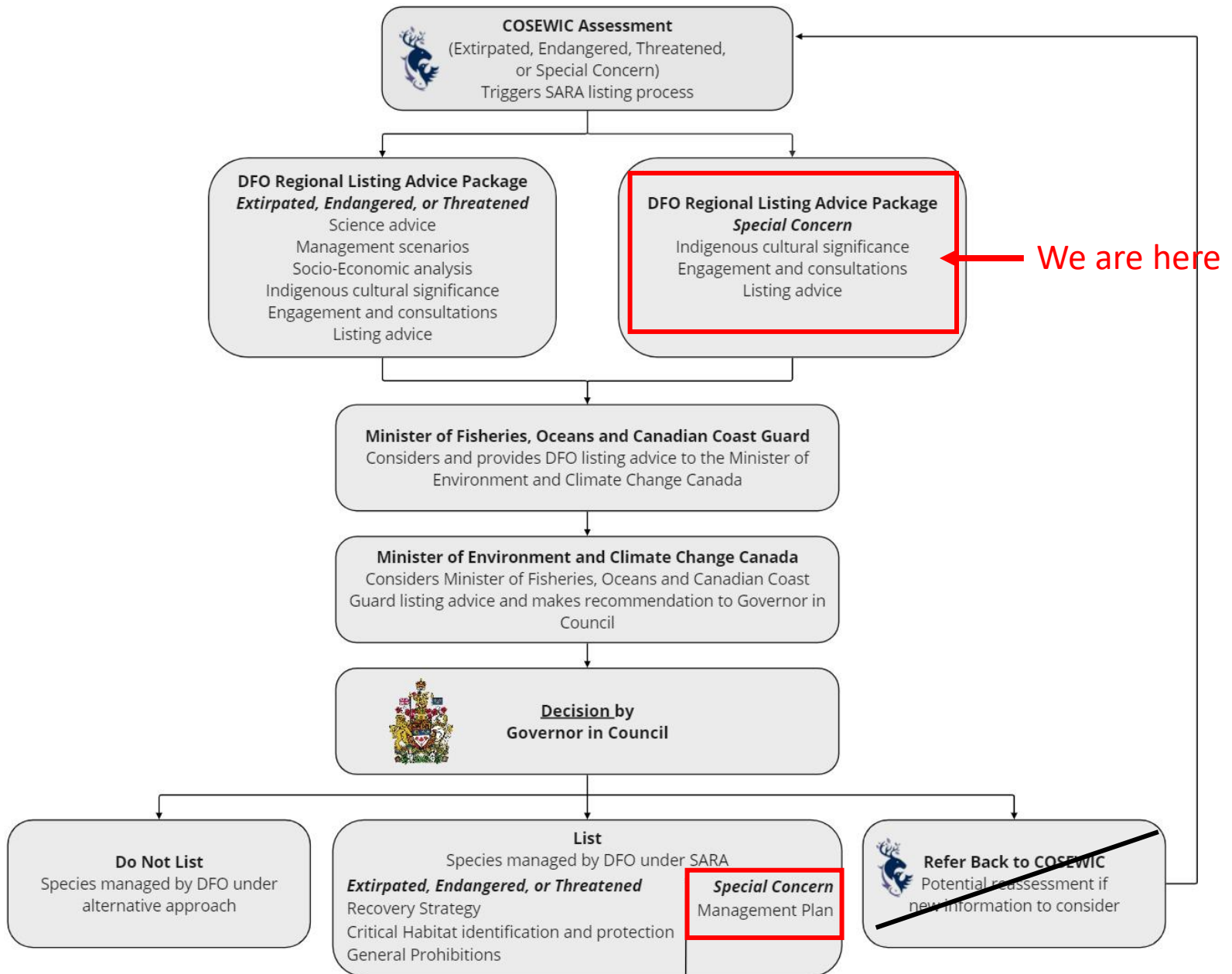


COSEWIC assessments



- **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada**
 - Independent advisory panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change
 - Wildlife biology experts: academia, government, non-governmental organizations and private sector
 - Meets twice a year to assess the status of wildlife
- Six DUs of Pacific salmon were assessed by COSEWIC as special concern between 2017 and 2021, initiating the current SARA listing processes





Reasons for COSEWIC special concern designation: four sockeye salmon DUs

Sockeye DU 7 Francois-Fraser-S	Sockeye DU 13 Nahatlatch-ES	Sockeye DUs 196 Alouette-ES & 197 Coquitlam-ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of spawners in the three generations prior to COSEWIC's 2017 assessment had decreased • Suggested DU may become threatened if there were further declines of spawners • Declines in habitat quality in both marine and freshwater areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened by poor marine survival, relatively high harvest rates, habitat modification, and potential competition and gene flow from hatchery-origin fish • Suggested DU may become threatened if these factors are not properly managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2007, an estimated 0-103 and 0-9 spawners have returned each year in Alouette and Coquitlam reservoirs, respectively • No indication of decline in total population size (>20,000 and ~14,000 in Alouette and Coquitlam, respectively) • Threats include declines in habitat quality and bycatch in other salmon fisheries



Reasons for COSEWIC special concern designation: two Chinook salmon DUs

Chinook DU 3 Stream, Spring	Chinook DU 21 Ocean, Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of spawners in the three generations prior to COSEWIC's 2018 assessment had decreased• Suggested DU may become threatened if there were further declines of spawners• Declines in habitat quality in both marine and freshwater areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threatened by poor marine survival, relatively high harvest rates, habitat modification, and potential competition and gene flow from hatchery-origin fish• Suggested DU may become threatened if these factors are not properly managed



Photo: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Implications if not listed as special concern under SARA

- Status quo management measures continue (i.e., management via *Fisheries Act* tools)
- Become ineligible for most SARA-related grants and contributions funding



Implications if listed as special concern under SARA

- The general prohibitions of SARA (e.g., against killing, harming, possessing, collecting, etc., as well as against damage or destruction of residences) do not apply to species of special concern, and there is no requirement to identify or protect critical habitat
- Remain eligible for SARA-related grants and contributions funding
- A **management plan** must be developed



Implications if listed as special concern under SARA

If listed as special concern:

SARA s. 65 requires preparation of a management plan for the species and its habitat. The plan must include appropriate measures for the conservation of the species and may apply with respect to more than one species

SARA s. 66 (1): to the extent possible, the management plan must be prepared in cooperation with (d) every Indigenous organization that the competent minister considers will be directly affected by the management plan



How is your input/feedback used?

- Level of support (or lack of support) for SARA listing is provided to the Minister for their consideration
- Indigenous cultural significance information (in the form it is provided) is provided to the Minister for their consideration
- Feedback on whether the species should be listed or not will be incorporated into the listing advice package



Engagement and consultations: February 5 to April 5, 2024

Contact the Species at
Risk Program Directly

[DFO.PACSAR-LEPPAC.MPO@dfo-
mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.PACSAR-LEPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Mailing Address:

Pacific Region Species at Risk Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

200-401 Burrard Street

Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 3S4

Phone: 604-666-7907

or

Visit the Engagement &
Consultation Websites

SARA Listing Survey:

[https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f
/s.aspx?s=fcee28d9-ca1f-4c0e-80a8-
a7f392adb357&lang=EN](https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?s=fcee28d9-ca1f-4c0e-80a8-a7f392adb357&lang=EN)



Questions, input, and discussion

- What are your thoughts about SARA listing or not listing these six salmon DUs?
- Do you support listing one or more of these six salmon DUs as special concern?
- Do you have feedback on potential involvement in development of a management plan?

