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2024 MANAGEMENT CHUM and STEELHEAD

FORUM 3 - KAMLOOPS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 2024



2024 Chum Plan: Recreational

- The Department heard from various First Nations and commercial harvesters, that they did not support Recreational fisheries targeting Chum to begin the season open.
- DFO included the following language in the DRAFT IFMP:
 - *“For 2024, given the expectations 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 Lower Fraser Chum Outlook is at Category 2, the Department is proposing that both recreational and commercial salmon fisheries will start the 2024 season with Chum non-retention regulations in place for Southern BC (including offshore WCVI). 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.”*



2024 Chum Plan: Recreational

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

- 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
- Planning to start the recreational fishery as Chum non-retention
 - **Openings would be based on in-season estimates of JS abundance, Fraser River run size, and terminal abundances in ECVI systems in Fall 2024**
 - **For inshore portions of WCVI, this will be further evaluated when pre-season forecasts are finalized in Summer 2024**

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	



2024 Steelhead Window Closures

- Details of the 2024 Steelhead window closures were presented to Forum 2 in Nanaimo and are attached as an appendix to this presentation.
- As part of that discussion, questions were presented regarding the rationale for the window closures. Have provided two documents that were previously presented to Forum in 2018 that provide a detailed explanation.
 - Information Paper titled “Proposed 2018 Fisheries Management Measures to Support Recovery of Interior Fraser River Steelhead”
 - Presentation titled “2018 Draft IFMP – Key Changes – Steelhead Window Closure”
- These documents describe the Emergency Listing assessment in 2018, as well as the rationale for the window closures based on timing to the Albion Test Fishery.
- The window closure option was the option that was selected by the Minister in 2018, as the option that would be less restrictive to Salmon fisheries when compared to the SARA listing scenario.



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Questions?



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Appendix Slides

- Following Slides were presented to Forum 2 in Nanaimo, and the tables are taken from the Draft 2024/24 Southern Salmon IFMP that describe the window closures in detail



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.



FSC Fisheries

Marine FSC

- 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

- 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.



Fishery Location		27-day window closure (commercial troll fisheries and FSC fisheries occurring in the Fraser River)		42-day window closure (commercial drift and set gillnet, purse seine, beach seine, and shallow seine fisheries and recreational fisheries occurring in the Fraser River)	
		Start	End	Start	End
Fraser River	Area 29: 29-6, 29-7, 29-9, and 29-10	26-Sep	22-Oct	19-Sep	30-Oct
	Mouth to Port Mann Bridge	26-Sep	22-Oct	19-Sep	30-Oct
	Port Mann Bridge to Mission	28-Sep	24-Oct	21-Sep	1-Nov
	Mission to Hope	29-Sep	25-Oct	22-Sep	2-Nov
	Hope to Sawmill Creek	3-Oct	29-Oct	26-Sep	6-Nov
	Sawmill Creek to Lytton (Thompson Confluence)	5-Oct	31-Oct	28-Sep	8-Nov
	Lytton to Texas Creek	8-Oct	3-Nov	1-Oct	11-Nov
	Texas Creek to Kelly Creek	10-Oct	5-Nov	3-Oct	13-Nov
	Kelly Creek to Deadman Creek	13-Oct	8-Nov	6-Oct	16-Nov
	Deadman Creek to Chilcotin River	16-Oct	11-Nov	9-Oct	19-Nov
	Chilcotin River	19-Oct	14-Nov	12-Oct	22-Nov
	Thompson River – Thompson Confluence to Bonaparte	8-Oct	3-Nov	1-Oct	11-Nov
Thompson River – Bonaparte River to Kamloops Lake	12-Oct	7-Nov	5-Oct	15-Nov	



Fishery Location		27-day window closure (commercial troll fisheries and FSC fisheries occurring in the Fraser River)		42-day window closure (commercial drift and set gillnet, purse seine, beach seine, and shallow seine fisheries and recreational fisheries occurring in the Fraser River)	
		Start	End	Start	End
Strait of Georgia	Area 29: 29-8	28-Sep	24-Oct	21-Sep	1-Nov
	Area 29: 29-1 to 29-5	23-Sep	19-Oct	16-Sep	27-Oct
	Area 28	23-Sep	19-Oct	16-Sep	27-Oct
	Area 18	24-Sep	20-Oct	17-Sep	28-Oct
	Area 17	23-Sep	19-Oct	16-Sep	27-Oct
	Area 16	22-Sep	18-Oct	15-Sep	26-Oct
	Area 15	21-Sep	17-Oct	14-Sep	25-Oct
	Area 14	21-Sep	17-Oct	14-Sep	25-Oct
Johnstone Strait	Area 13	17-Sep	13-Oct	11-Sep	22-Oct
	Area 12	12-Sep	8-Oct	6-Sep	17-Oct
	Area 11	11-Sep	7-Oct	5-Sep	16-Oct
	Area 111	10-Sep	6-Oct	4-Sep	15-Oct
West Coast Vancouver Island	Area 19	22-Sep	18-Oct	15-Sep	26-Oct
	Area 20	19-Sep	15-Oct	12-Sep	23-Oct
	Area 21	18-Sep	14-Oct	11-Sep	22-Oct
	Area 121	18-Sep	14-Oct	11-Sep	22-Oct
	Area 123	16-Sep	12-Oct	9-Sep	20-Oct
	Area 124	13-Sep	9-Oct	6-Sep	17-Oct
	Area 125	11-Sep	7-Oct	4-Sep	15-Oct
	Area 26	8-Sep	4-Oct	1-Sep	12-Oct
	Area 126	8-Sep	4-Oct	1-Sep	12-Oct
	Area 27	6-Sep	2-Oct	30-Aug	10-Oct
Area 127	6-Sep	2-Oct	30-Aug	10-Oct	