



# 2025/26 Southern B.C. Salmon IFMP: Chinook

Fraser and Approach Forum 2  
Executive Hotel, Richmond BC  
February 25-27, 2025

Presented by Mike Hawkshaw





# Presentation Outline

Purpose – share IFMP timelines, DFO objectives for Chinook, some information, and set up the FSMB Discussion

- IFMP timeline
- Chinook management objectives
- Management Considerations
- MSFs
- Set up for FSMB Fraser River Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook option discussions

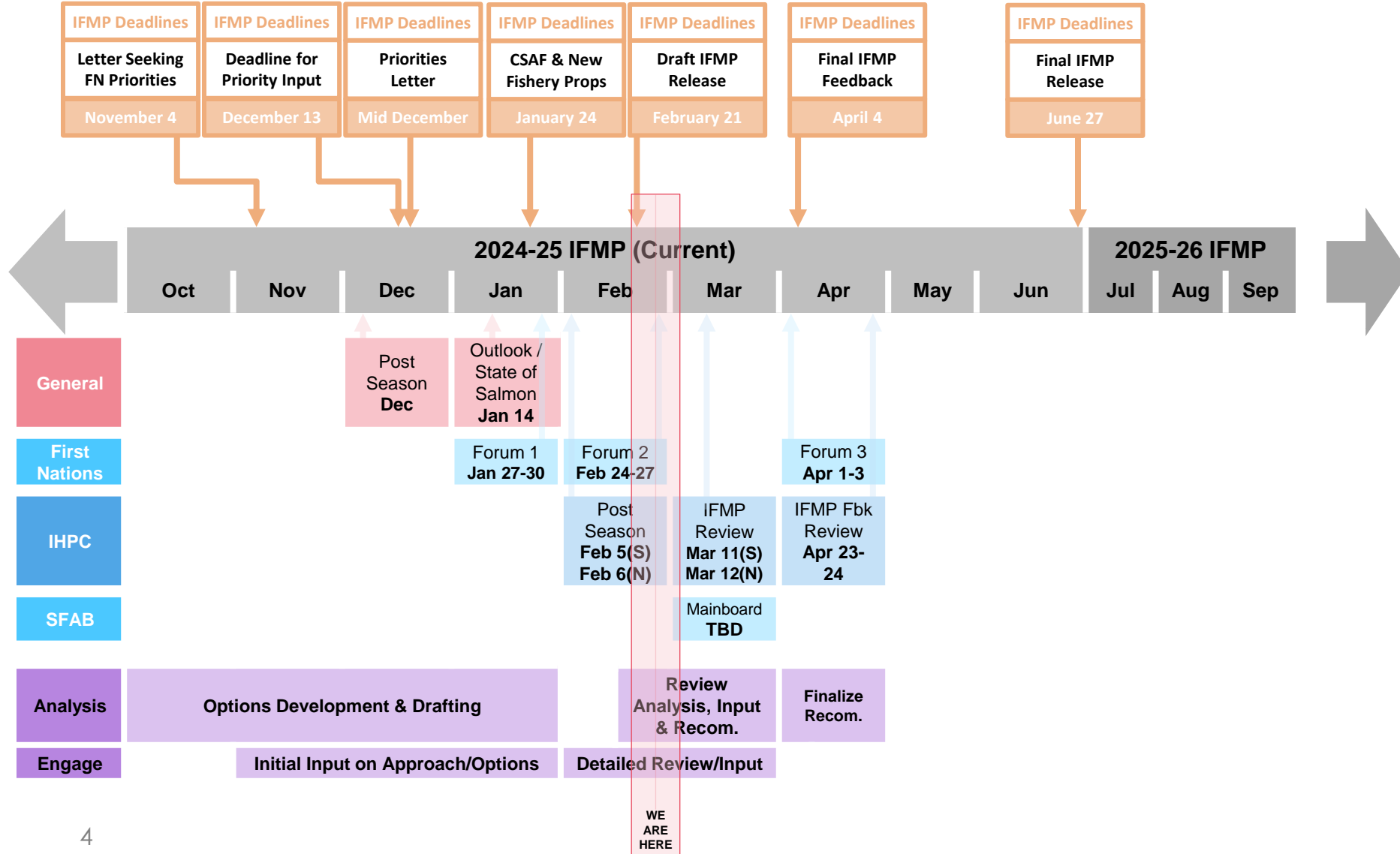


# 2025 IFMP Consultation Timeline

Activity	Proposed Timelines
Deadline for new Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) proposals	January 24, 2025
Deadline for any new fishery proposals to be included in the Draft IFMP for comment	January 24, 2025
Meetings to review and discuss potential changes to IFMPs and opportunity for focussed discussion on key IFMP issues	Fraser Forum: January 28 – 30,, 2025 Northern IHPC: February 7, 2025 Southern IHPC: February 5, 2025
Draft IFMPs released for public review & comment	February 24, 2025
Meetings to review draft IFMP	Fraser Forum: February 25-27, 2025 Southern IHPC: March 11, 2025 Northern IHPC: March 21, 2025
Submission deadline for comments on IFMP Draft. All proposals for new fisheries are due on this date; Input provided after this date will not be considered for the 2025/26 IFMP.	April 4, 2025
Final meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback	Fraser Forum: April 1-3, 2025 Full IHPC: April 23-24, 2025
Target for public release of salmon IFMP	June 27, 2025



# 2025-26 Timelines – Decision Making



# DFO Chinook Management Objectives

- Key drivers for management of Chinook fisheries in 2025 are:
  - Conservation measures for Fraser stream-type Chinook
  - Conservation measures for WCVI and Skeena Chinook
  - Prey availability measures for SRKW
  - Treaty obligations PSC CYER limits and Escapement Goals
  - Priority access for FSC
  - Recreational and commercial fisheries
  - **FSMB work on the Conservation concerns for Fraser River Summer 5<sub>2</sub> will shape most of our Southern Chinook management**



# Southern BC Chinook: Other Considerations for 2025

- PST obligations
  - Harrison – target 75 100 escapement, or CYER under 15%.
    - 2024 – Escapement was 131 500, CYER was roughly 11%
  - Snohomish - CYER limit has been exceeded (3-year average for 2021-2023) and Chapter 7(c) has been triggered
    - Awaiting 2024 results from CTC
- The Department is reviewing recent UBC study on release impacts
  - For 2025/6 Considering changes to hook regulations for recreational Chinook fisheries



# Southern BC Chinook: Mark Selective Fisheries

- The Department continues to consider MSFs for Fisheries Management to support conservation and hatchery-genetic management objectives, and to create selective harvest opportunities
- Past work included a technical workshop process and DFOs development of a draft **MSF Implementation Framework** which was consulted on with the 2024/25 Southern Salmon IFMP
  - Considerable feedback was received and is being reviewed
- The Department is evaluating next steps for MSF and MM
- MSFs outlined in approved 2024/25 IFMP are set to reopen April 1, 2025



# Southern Resident Killer Whales

## 2025 Management Measures

- Fisheries management measures [announced June 2024](#)
- Vessel management measures under consultation (Jan 10 – Feb 26)
  - Provide your feedback [via survey](#) to inform the proposed 2025 and 2026 vessel measures. Alternatively, send written feedback or requests to organize bilateral meeting to [TC.SRKW-ERS.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.SRKW-ERS.TC@tc.gc.ca)

## Species at Risk Act Emergency Order

- In November 2024, it was [determined that Southern Resident Killer Whales are facing imminent threats to their survival and recovery](#), building on the 2018 Imminent Threat Assessment
  - Due to the outcome of the 2024 ITA, Ministers must recommend an Emergency Order to the Governor in Council
- The **Southern Resident Killer Whale 2025-26 management measures and process timelines are subject to change depending on the outcome of the Emergency Order Process**. We will consult on any potential new and/or adjustment of potential management measures, if necessary, as a result of the forthcoming Governor in Council's decision to establish, or decline to establish, an Emergency Order.
  - Please contact [DFO.PACSAR-LEPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.PACSAR-LEPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) for more information.



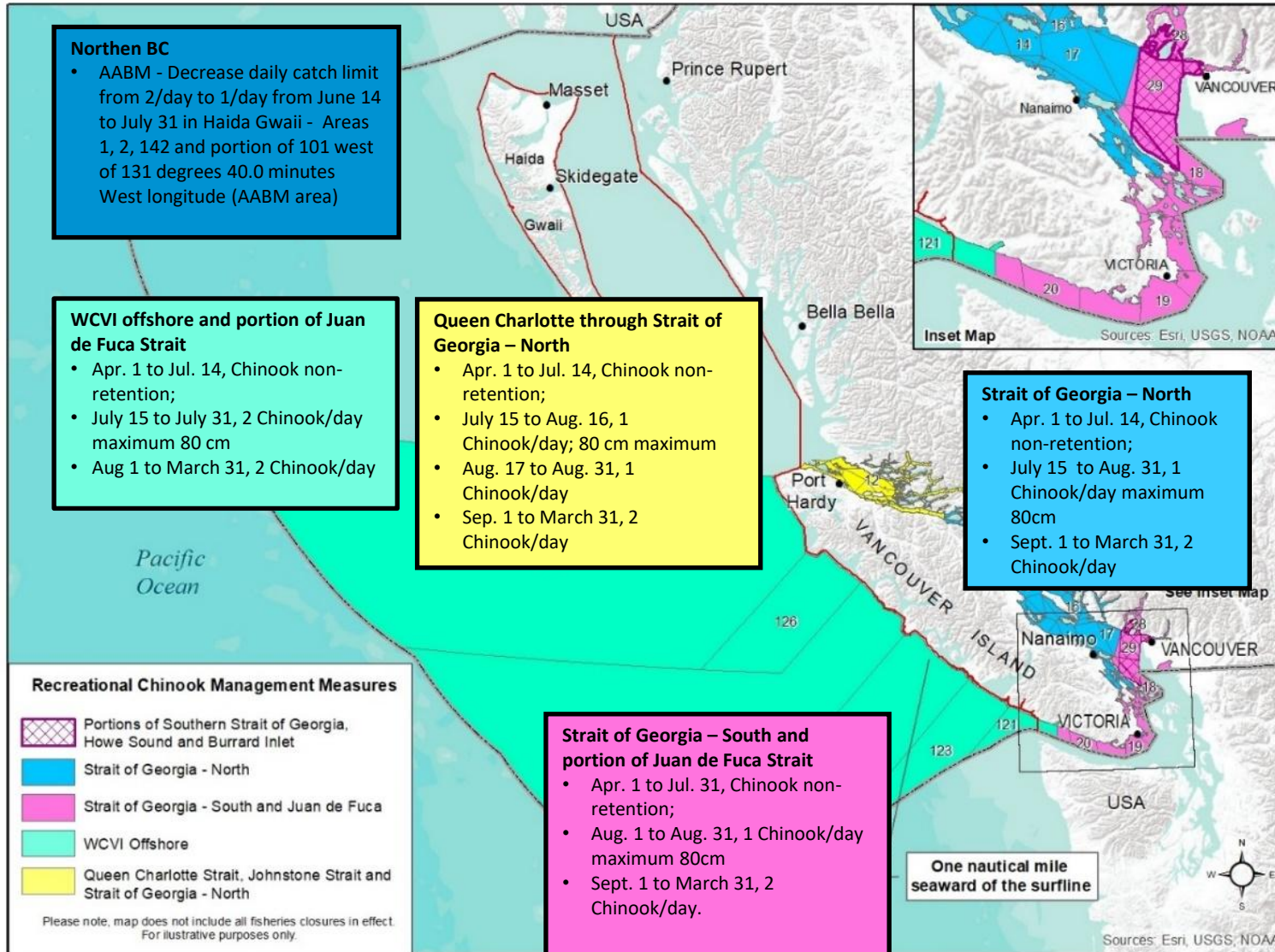


# 2024 Chinook Management

- Provision of priority access for First Nations FSC harvests in South Coast and Fraser River.
  - South Coast FSC fisheries opportunities on mixed stocks were permitted in marine areas with the exception of the approaches to Fraser River (Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10).
  - Very limited Fraser River FSC fisheries opportunities were permitted in June and July to limit impacts on at-risk Fraser Chinook, with opportunities to target healthy Summer 4<sub>1</sub> Chinook in August.
- Commercial troll fisheries delayed into August to avoid Fraser Chinook encounters.
  - Area F (Northern BC) – Chinook non-retention until August 16 (directed fishery also closed)
  - Area G (WCVI) – Delayed start until August 16
- Recreational measures are summarized on following slides and in detail in the Post Season Review
  - In addition, small number of pilot opportunities provided in terminal areas away from main Fraser Chinook migratory corridors/rearing areas with additional FN consultation and catch monitoring/sampling to address potential concerns;
  - Additional details to be provided by Fishery Notice and maps on DFO website:  
<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/salmon-saumon/fraser-chin-mgmt-gest-quin-eng.html> .



# 2024 Recreational Chinook management measures



**Northern BC**

- AABM - Decrease daily catch limit from 2/day to 1/day from June 14 to July 31 in Haida Gwaii - Areas 1, 2, 142 and portion of 101 west of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude (AABM area)

**WCVI offshore and portion of Juan de Fuca Strait**

- Apr. 1 to Jul. 14, Chinook non-retention;
- July 15 to July 31, 2 Chinook/day maximum 80 cm
- Aug 1 to March 31, 2 Chinook/day

**Queen Charlotte through Strait of Georgia – North**

- Apr. 1 to Jul. 14, Chinook non-retention;
- July 15 to Aug. 16, 1 Chinook/day; 80 cm maximum
- Aug. 17 to Aug. 31, 1 Chinook/day
- Sep. 1 to March 31, 2 Chinook/day

**Strait of Georgia – North**

- Apr. 1 to Jul. 14, Chinook non-retention;
- July 15 to Aug. 31, 1 Chinook/day maximum 80cm
- Sept. 1 to March 31, 2 Chinook/day

**Strait of Georgia – South and portion of Juan de Fuca Strait**

- Apr. 1 to Jul. 31, Chinook non-retention;
- Aug. 1 to Aug. 31, 1 Chinook/day maximum 80cm
- Sept. 1 to March 31, 2 Chinook/day.

**Portions of Southern Strait of Georgia, Howe Sound and Burrard Inlet (hatched area)**

- April 1 to August 31: No fishing for Chinook
- September 1 to March 31: 2 Chinook per day.

**New regulations in 2023 (continued in 2024)**

One Chinook/day:

- Northern AABM - Areas 1, 2, 142, 101
- Southwest Vancouver Island - Subareas 20-1 and 20-2
- Portions of offshore WCVI - Areas 121 and 123
- Northern Vancouver Island - Area 111

**Recreational Chinook Management Measures**

- Portions of Southern Strait of Georgia, Howe Sound and Burrard Inlet
- Strait of Georgia - North
- Strait of Georgia - South and Juan de Fuca
- WCVI Offshore
- Queen Charlotte Strait, Johnstone Strait and Strait of Georgia - North

Please note, map does not include all fisheries closures in effect. For illustrative purposes only.

One nautical mile seaward of the surfline

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA





# 2024 Recreational management measures – Fraser River



**Approaches to Fraser River - Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 to 29-17 and the non-tidal waters of the Fraser River from Mission Bridge to the confluence with Sawmill Creek:**

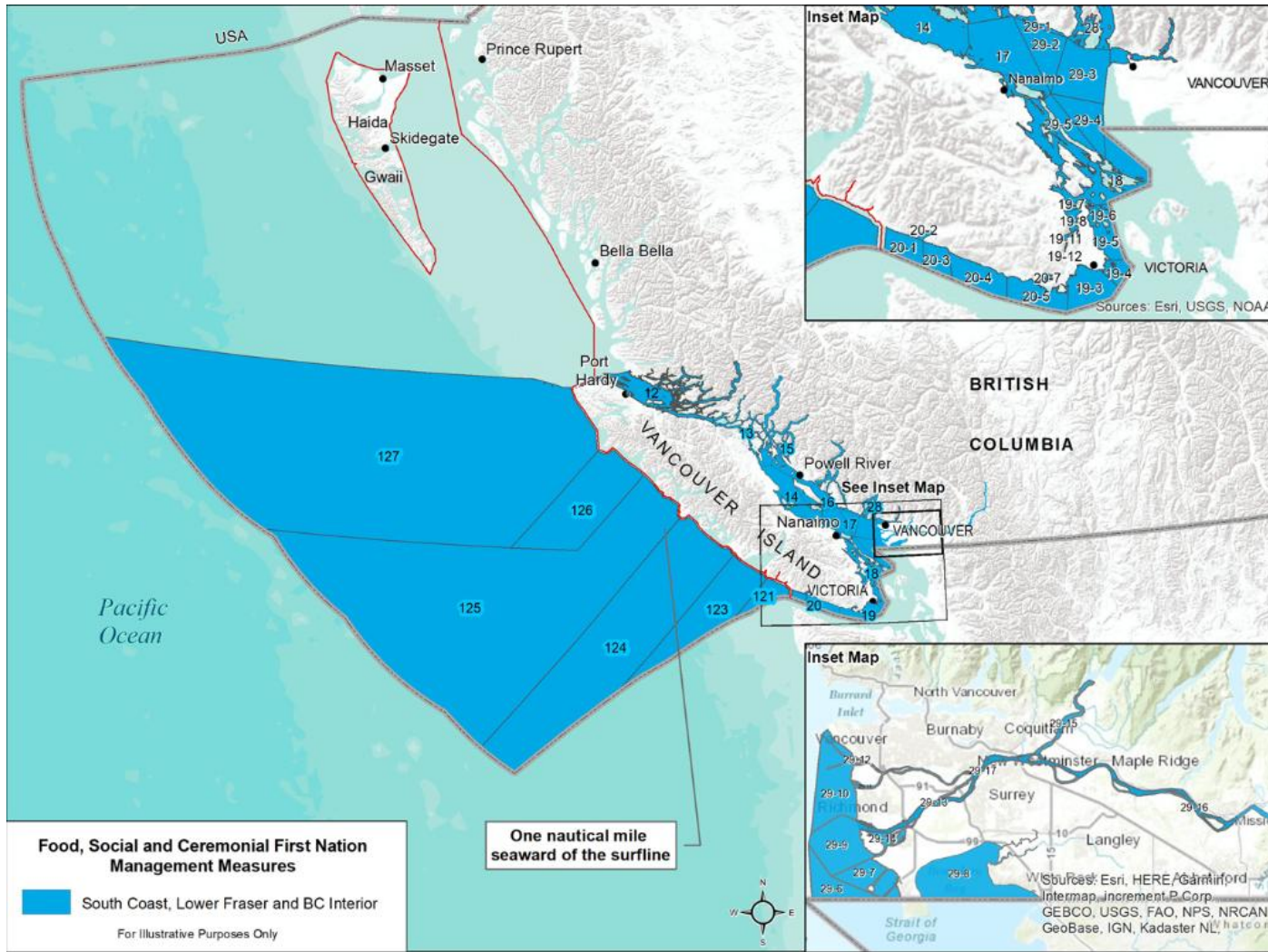
- January 1 to November 1: No fishing for salmon
- (Fishing opportunities for specific salmon stocks were considered)

**Freshwater Regions 3,5,7 & 8: Year-round:**

- Closed to fishing for salmon
- (Fishing opportunities for specific salmon stocks may be considered)



# 2024 First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial

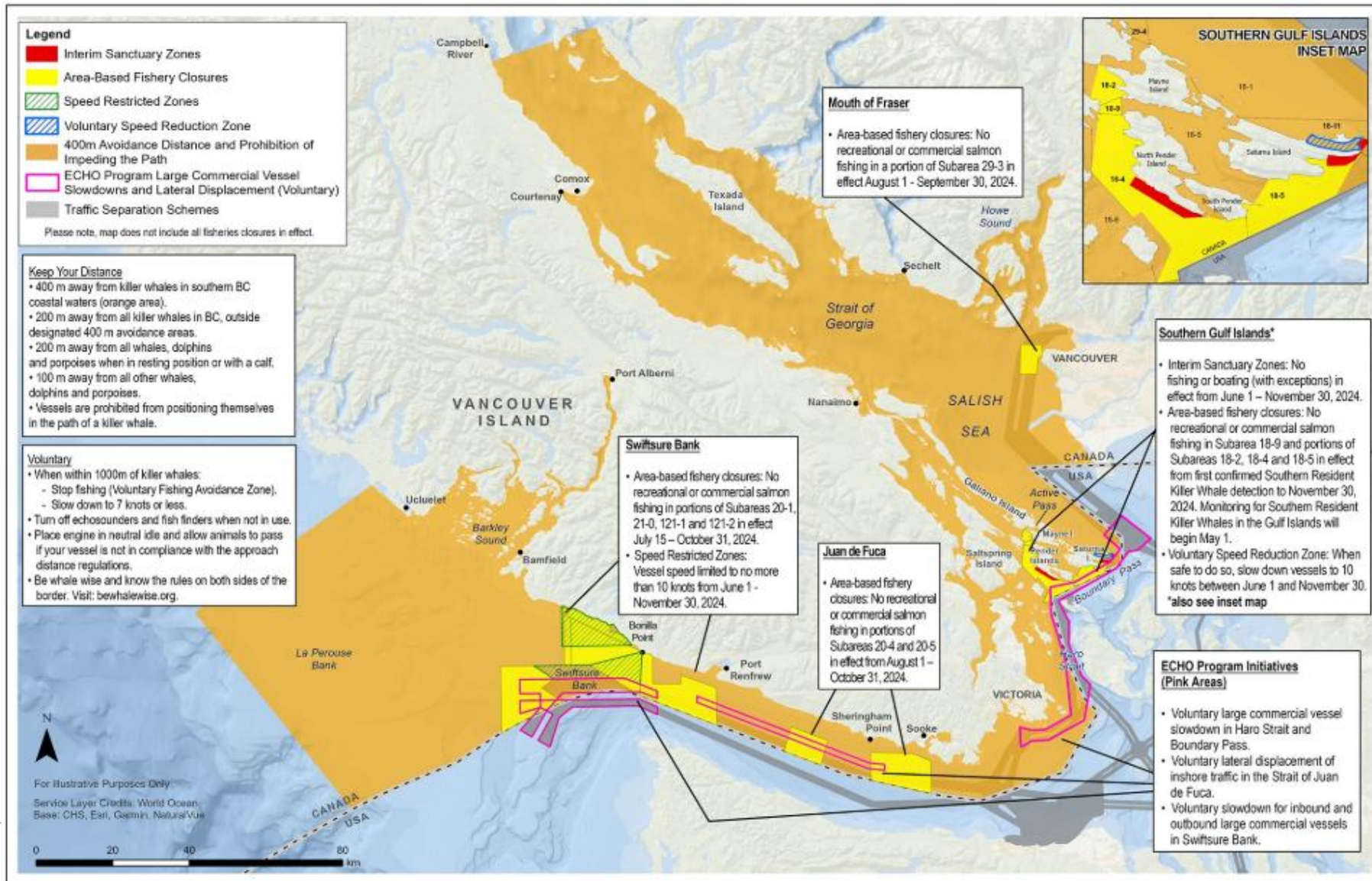


- Southern BC marine waters:**
- Fisheries opportunities on mixed stocks in marine areas (exception of the approaches to Fraser River)
- Lower Fraser and BC Interior:**
- Very limited access prior to July.
  - Opportunities to target Summer 41 Chinook in August





# 2024 SRKW Management Measures



# Annex





# 2024 Chinook Data Review + Timelines

Fishery evaluation data available in Winter/Spring of following year for Chinook including:

1. Spawner abundance (Jan/Feb)
2. Catch Estimates
3. Big Bar impacts – improved passage at landslide since 2020 (hydro-acoustics / telemetry analysis of passage success).
4. 2023 Reconstruction of Fraser terminal return / run size (March/April)
5. 2023 fishing impacts (March / April):
  - a) Coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries
  - b) Exploitation rate analysis (ERA) results for CWT Indicators 2 years lagged
  - c) Estimated fishing mortalities via genetic stock identification (GSI) analysis



# Initial field-season update - 2024 Fraser Chinook

- The following 2024 estimates **will change** and should only be viewed as an initial update from the field season. They should not be used in any analyses or comparisons.
- Caveats include missing estimates from some systems, verification, infilling and mark-recapture estimation are all incomplete.

SMU	2024 Field Escapement Estimate
Spring 4 <sub>2</sub>	5,000
Spring 5 <sub>2</sub>	11,000
Summer 5 <sub>2</sub>	13,000
Summer 4 <sub>1</sub>	166,000
Harrison	125,000





# Canadian Chinook Indicators w/ Defined Objectives

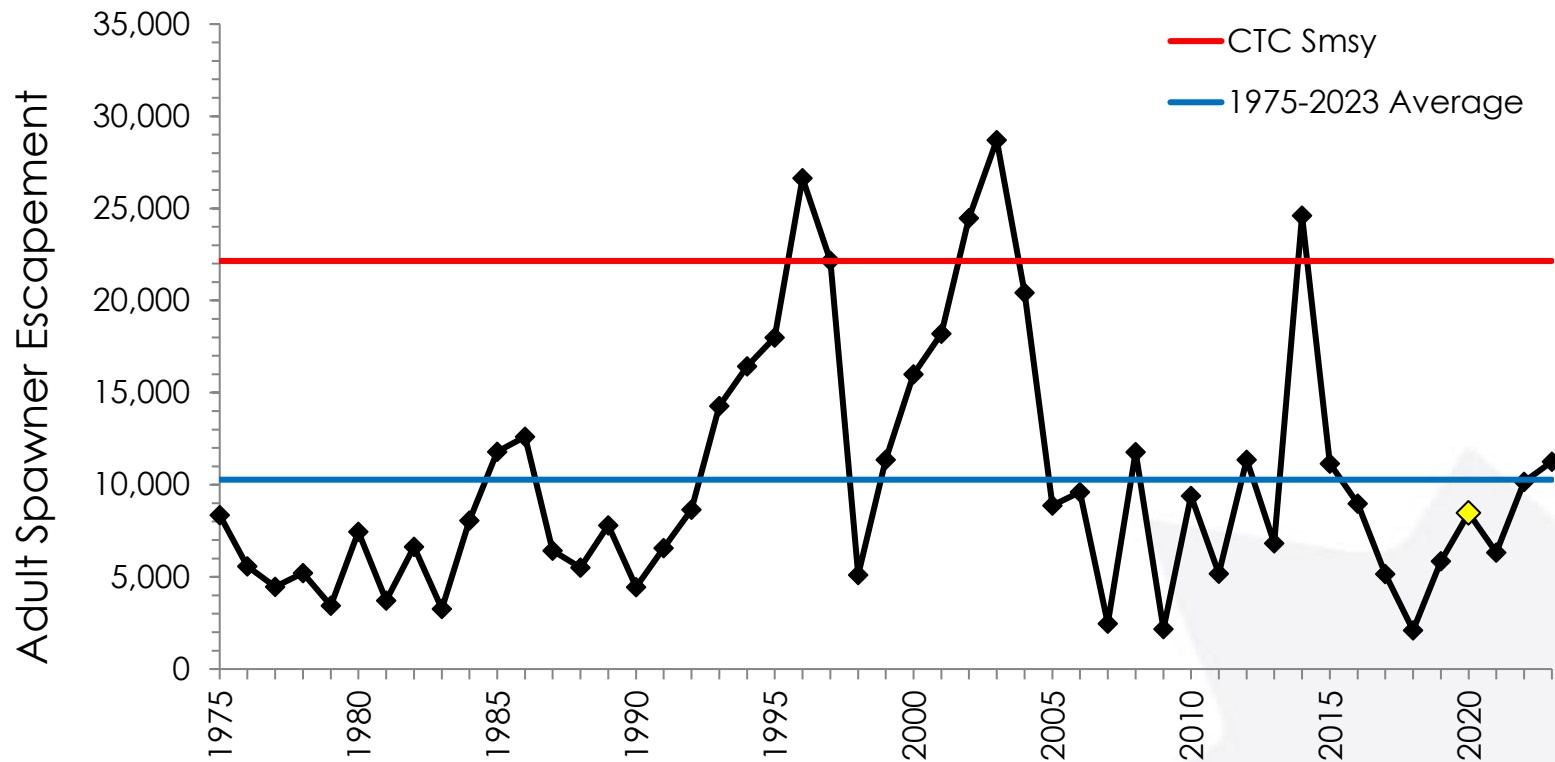
Country	CWT Indicator	Escapement Indicator	Preliminary 2024 Escapement	Management Objective
CAN	ATN	Atnarko	N/A	5,009
CAN	COW	Cowichan	~23,000	6,500
CAN	SHU	Lower Shuswap	~16,000	12,300
CAN	HAR	Harrison	~125,000	75,100

Atnarko – escapement estimate is being reviewed; Management Objective is 5,009 natural origin spawners



# Escapement - Fraser Spring 4<sub>2</sub> Chinook

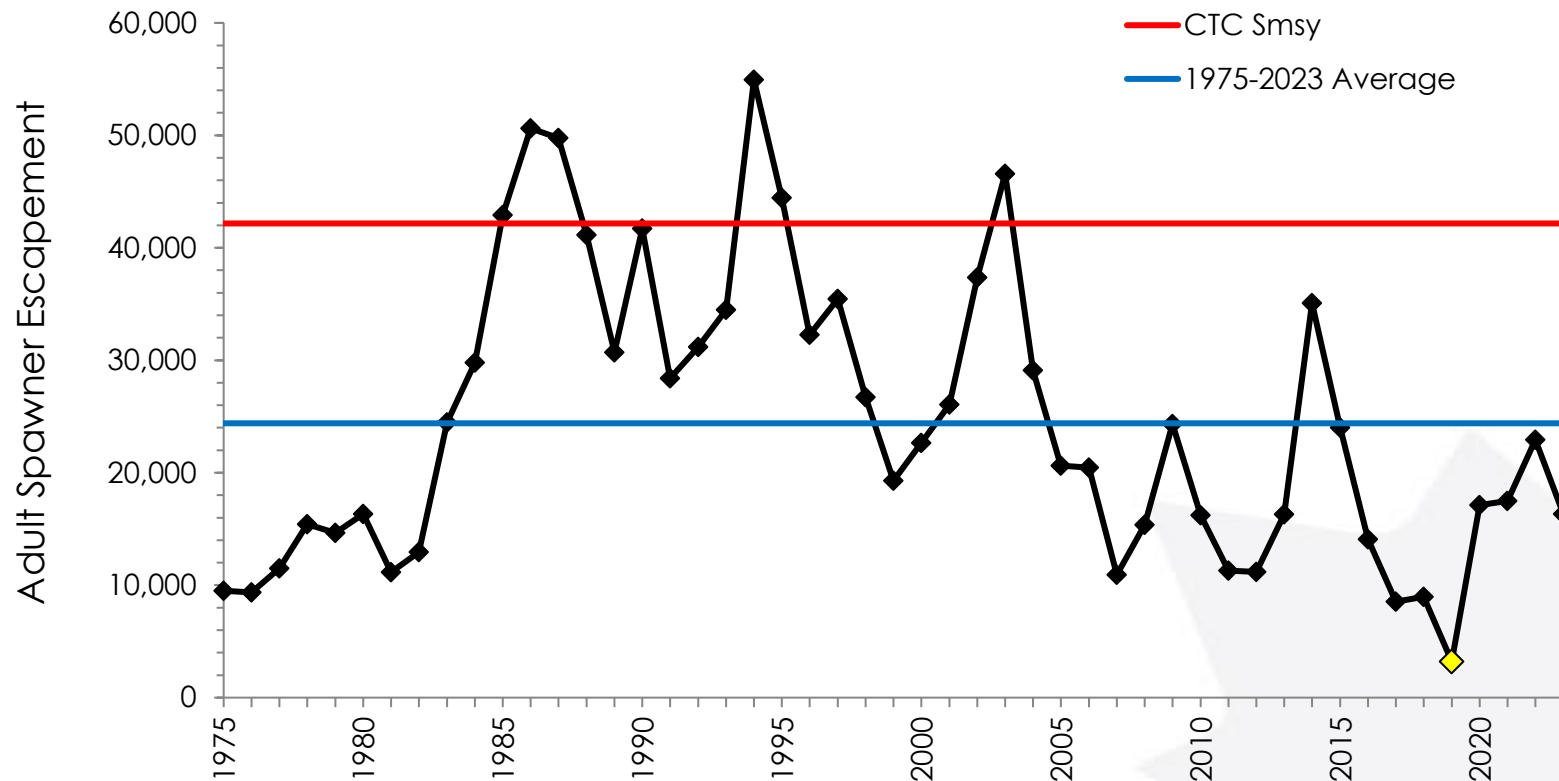
- 2024 brood year escapement (2020) was below the recent average.
- The final **2023** escapement estimate is 11,262.





# Escapement - Fraser Spring 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook

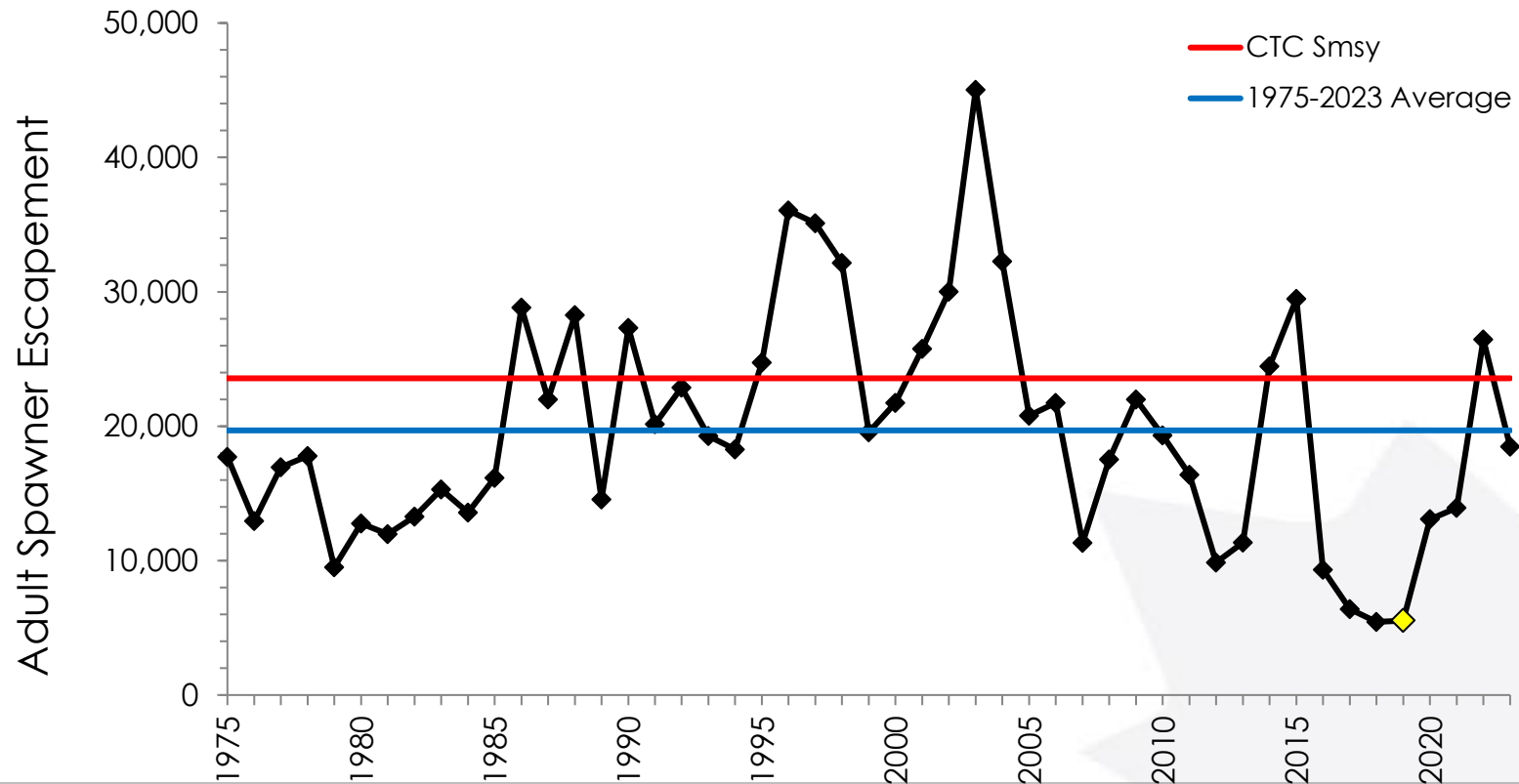
- 2024 brood year escapement (2019) was below the recent average.
- The final **2023** escapement estimate is 16,321.





# Escapement - Fraser Summer 5<sub>2</sub> Chinook

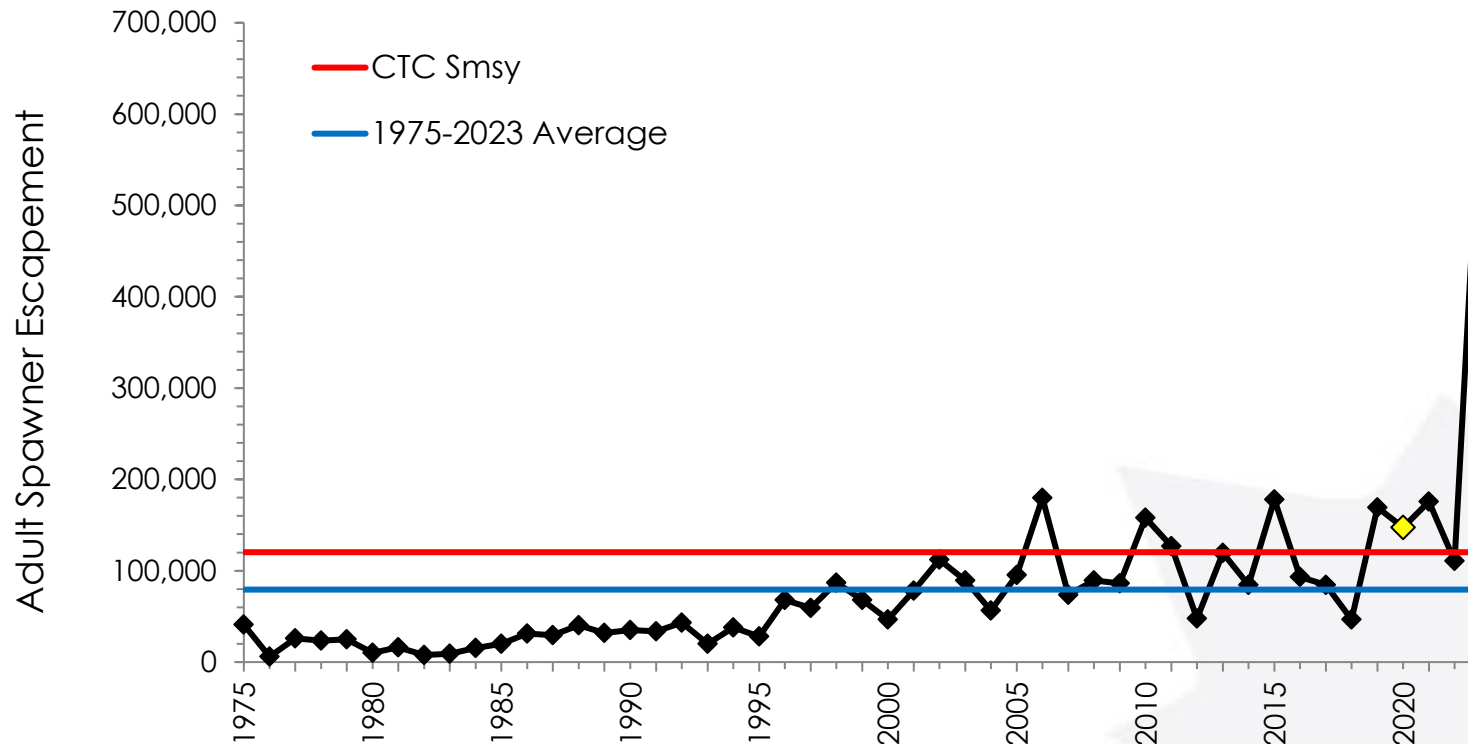
- 2024 brood year escapement (2019) was below the long-term average.
- The final **2023** escapement estimate is 18,482.





# Escapement - Fraser Summer 4<sub>1</sub> Chinook

- 2024 brood year escapement (2020) was above  $S_{msy}$  and recent average.
- The final **2023** escapement estimate is 626,919.





# Escapement - Fraser Fall 4<sub>1</sub> Chinook

- Harrison brood year escapement (2020) below escapement goal and recent average.
- The final **2023** escapement estimate is 146,498.

