



2025/26 Southern B.C. Salmon: Chum and Coho

Fraser and Approach Forum 2

Richmond BC

February 25 - 27, 2025





Presentation Outline

- Consultation Outline
- 2025 Southern BC Chum Plans
- 2025 Chum CSAF Demo Proposals
- 2025 Southern BC Coho Plan
- 2023 Modeled IFR Coho Exploitation Rate
- Questions and Planning for Forum 3





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 Southern BC Chum: Overview

- Given the expectation presented in the Preliminary 2025 Salmon Outlook, where South Coast systems are at Category 2 or 3 and not expected to reach their management targets, and the Fraser Chum Outlook is at Category 2, the Department is proposing the following suite of management actions:
 - **Commercial** Chum opportunities will be determined using in-season estimates of abundance.
 - The Department is proposing marine **recreational** fisheries will start with **reduced retention limits** in place,
 - **Fraser River** recreational fisheries will begin the season with **non-retention** regulations in place.
- For inshore portions of WCVI, this will be further evaluated when pre-season forecasts are finalized in Summer 2025.
- Should in-season estimates of abundance indicate a sufficient harvestable surplus of Chum, commercial fisheries will be considered and announced by Fishery Notice. Should these estimates show commercial fishing opportunities are unlikely, recreational fishery closures can be expected.

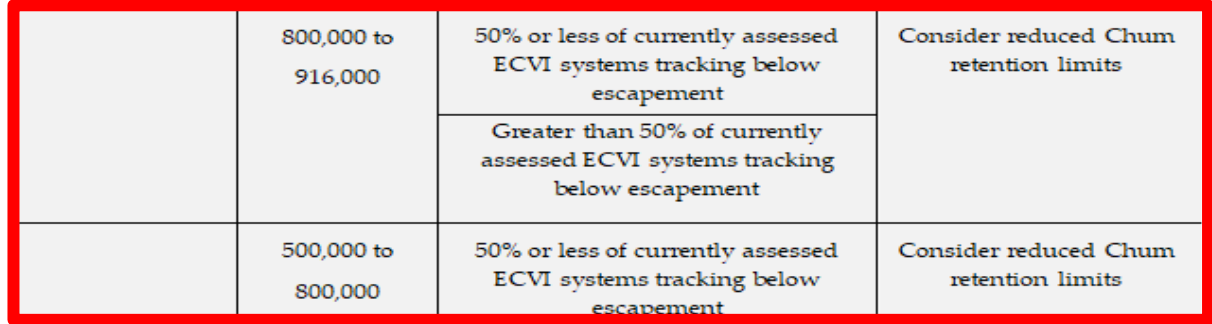


2025 Southern BC Chum: Marine

- Brood year 2021 was poor; preliminary expectations are modest for 2025 for either the Fraser River or the South Coast Chum stocks
 - ECVI/Mainland Inlets Chum Outlook 2-3
 - WCVI Chum Outlook 3
 - Fraser Chum Outlook 2
- Based on the moderately improved Outlook from 2024, we are proposing starting the season with **reduced retention limits** in place for **marine** recreational Chum fisheries.
- Commercial fishing opportunities are anticipated in 2025, but will be determined in-season, and remain subject to considerations for other species.

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	





2025 Fraser River Chum

- Continuing in 2025, given the relatively poor outlook for Fraser Chum Salmon, all **recreational** fisheries targeting Chum Salmon in the Lower Fraser River and tributaries will remain closed until the in-season run size estimate is available.
- Recreational fishery openings directed on Fraser Chum will depend on the **in-season abundance** estimate and associated key decision points for management outlined in the IFMP
- **New for 2025/26:** The preliminary in-season run size estimate (rather than solely the final in-season estimate) may be considered to open Fraser River tributaries to non-retention if the modelled estimate suggests the run size is very unlikely (0-10% probability) to be less than 500,000



Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) Demonstration Proposals

New or Revised for 2025:

- **REVISED:** Snuneymuxw First Nation Chum Demonstration Fishery
 - *fishery to operate in a manner similar to an 'assessment fishery' using set logs to determine abundance*
- **NEW:** ƛAʔAMĪN (Tla'amin) Nation Led Fishery on TOQ^wANƏN Chum Salmon within the Treaty-Defined Terminal Harvest Area
 - *proposing a cultural and economic fishery on toq^wanən River Chum Salmon to occur in the Treaty-defined THA of Okeover Inlet*

Included in Appendix 4

- Area 14 Terminal Chum (K'omoks First Nation)
- Nanaimo Terminal Chum (Snuneymuxw First Nation)
- Mainland Inlet Pink & Chum Fishery: Area 12 Broughton Archipelago (Area H)
- Cowichan Chum (Cowichan Tribes)
- Goldstream Chum (W̱sáneć Nations)
- Bute Inlet Chum (Homalco First Nation)
- Sockeye, Pink and Chum Alternate Gear (Area E)
- Qualicum and Puntledge Chum (Area D)
- Bute Inlet Chum (Area D)
- Mainland Inlet Pink & Chum–Jervis Inlet (Area H)
- Bute Inlet Chum (Area H)
- Fraser Chum ITQ (Area E)



2025 Southern BC Coho Plan

- Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho is managed using a decision framework under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) that identifies status based on a combination of marine survival rates and spawner abundance
- In 2024, there had been interest from various groups to explore increasing this ER while remaining under the 10% cap. Throughout the consultation period, it was clear that there was no consensus to moving away from the existing strategy in the absence of planning tools.
- **PRELIMINARY:** 2024 Natural origin spawning escapement estimate of Interior Fraser River Coho salmon for is 93,800
 - The pre-season recruitment forecast for 2024 was estimated at 86,000 Coho with an 80% forecast range of 76,500-128,500
- DFO plans to continue managing to the goal of **3-5% ER** on IFR Coho in **2025**
- In the absence of these tools, the Department may consider proposals for **terminal FSC fisheries** where abundances permit, but does not intend to move off the existing management goal of **3-5% ER** on IFR Coho.



Interior Fraser River Coho: 2023 Exploitation

- IFR Coho has been in Low status for many years and remains the primary constraining stock for Southern BC Coho planning purposes.
 - Under **Low** status: 20% ER cap for US and Canada combined.
 - Each country has a 10% ER cap at Low status. A county may choose to manage to a lower ER domestically.
- Summary of the report prepared by the Bilateral Coho Technical Committee of the Southern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission, and approved in February 2025
 - 2023 **Canadian** Post-Season Exploitation: **4.4%**
 - 2023 **US** Post-Season Exploitation: **6.9%**
 - 2023 **Total** Post-Season Exploitation: **11.5%**
 - Total Escapement: **68,435**
 - Total Abundance: **77,348**



Questions

- Forum members to provide their perspectives on Draft IFMP.
- These comments will be used to inform what the Department considers for the final IFMP
- What does the group want to cover at Forum 3?

