



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



Fraser Salmon Management Board

Fraser Sockeye

2025-26 IFMP

Objectives Of Presentation

1. Share the Sockeye Escapement Plan options for consideration drafted by the Fraser Salmon Management Board & Joint Technical Committee and included in the draft 2025-26 IFMP.
2. Seek feedback on Fraser Sockeye Escapement Plan options

- ✓ Context
- ✓ Sockeye Escapement Plan
- ✓ Discussion & Questions



Photo Credit:
Secwepemc
Fisheries
Commission



Workplan

2024-25 FSMB/JTC Workplan



Summer 5₂ Chinook Management

Photo Credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission

The Summer 5₂ Chinook management workplan item includes reviewing previous management, consultation on potential management approaches, and option development.



Fraser Sockeye Management

Fraser Sockeye escapement plans are also on the workplan; it is anticipated that the FSMB will engage on this work through the IFMP process.

The workplan includes a number of other topics, details can be found in the reference slides.

Sockeye Escapement Plan

2025 Process

Building on work for the 2024-25 IFMP, the FSMB is implementing an engagement process to develop the Fraser Sockeye escapement plan options for the 2025-26 IFMP:

- JTC working group (2 FSMC & 2 DFO) involved to develop Sockeye escapement plan options.
- Collaborative development of escapement plan options began in December.
- JTC provided escapement plan options to FSMB for review
- Options have been finalized by the FSMB and included in the draft IFMP for engagement.
- The FSMB will seek feedback through the IFMP process, including presenting at key meetings (such as the IHPC and the Fraser Forums) on draft escapement plan options. **(Current stage)**
- FSMB will review feedback and seek to arrive at a consensus recommendation on a final Fraser Sockeye escapement plan.

Sockeye Escapement Plan

Terminology

Total Allowable Mortality (TAM) cap: Maximum allowable mortality for a Management Unit, expressed as a percentage

Lower Fishery Reference Point (LFRP): Describes the numerical escapement target when the run size is between the Lower and Upper Fishery Reference Points. Below the LFRP, the escapement target is the estimated run size.

Upper Fishery Reference Point (UFRP): Describes the run size above which the TAM is maintained at the cap, remaining proportion goes to escapement

Low Abundance Exploitation Rate: When run size is below the LFRP, this is the maximum percentage of incidental mortalities allowed from fisheries directed on co-migrating stocks and species. Not a harvest target.

proportional Management Adjustment (pMA): May be added to escapement goals to account for differences between Mission hydroacoustic estimates of fish passage and spawning ground escapement estimates

Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI): Process undertaken to develop escapement strategies for Fraser River Sockeye. Evaluated a range of harvest rules (TAM rules).

Sockeye Escapement Plan

2025 Draft Options

Option 1 - Brood Year Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	Pre-season pMA @p50
Early Stuart	10%	50%	108,000	216,000	1.17
Early Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	100,000	200,000	0.59
Summer (w/o misc)	10%	50%	1,250,000	2,500,000	0.09
Late (w/o misc)	10%	50%	300,000	600,000	1.70

- 2021 escapement plan, described as precautionary in 2021.
 - 2021 had a reduced TAM cap (50% instead of 60%) and lower LAERs (10% instead of 20%) compared to previous years.
- For 2025, this TAM rule results in a harvestable surplus at p50 and above.

Sockeye Escapement Plan

2025 Draft Options

Option 2 - Pre-2020 Escapement Plan

Management Unit	Harvest Rule Parameters				Pre-season pMA @p50
	Low Abundance ER (LAER)	TAM Cap	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Upper Fishery Reference Point	
Early Stuart	10%	60%	108,000	270,000	1.17
Early Summer <i>(w/o misc)</i>	10%	60%	100,000	250,000	0.59
Summer <i>(w/o misc)</i>	10%	60%	1,250,000	3,125,000	0.09
Late <i>(w/o misc)</i>	10%	60%	300,000	750,000	1.70

- Based on the generally used reference points, LAER and TAM caps that were informed from the last FRSSI process. Similar values applied from 2011-2019, with minor annual adjustments based on forecasts.
 - Has an increased TAM cap relative to the brood year plan.
- For 2025, this TAM rule results in a harvestable surplus at p50, the same as Option 1. At p75 and above, there is increased harvestable surplus and reduced escapement relative to Option 1.

Sockeye Escapement Plan

2025 Draft Options

- The FSMB is interested in initiating a process to identify alternative escapement plan options that may better support rebuilding of Fraser Sockeye Conservation Units.
- This could include potential adjustments or improvements to the current escapement plan and harvest control rules to take into account changing conditions, variation in productivity of Fraser Sockeye populations and key uncertainties.
- The FSMB will consider all input provided, including alternative options, to inform the recommended 2025 escapement plan. The final escapement plan that will be included in the IFMP may differ from the two options described in this draft IFMP based on input received.

Discussion & Questions



- ✓ Any aspects that are unclear with the approach?
- ✓ Any feedback on Sockeye Escapement options?





Fraser Salmon Management Board Reference Slides

Photo Credit: Spruce City
Wildlife Association

Background

Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement (FSCMA)

FSCMA was signed on July 5, 2019

DFO & Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC)

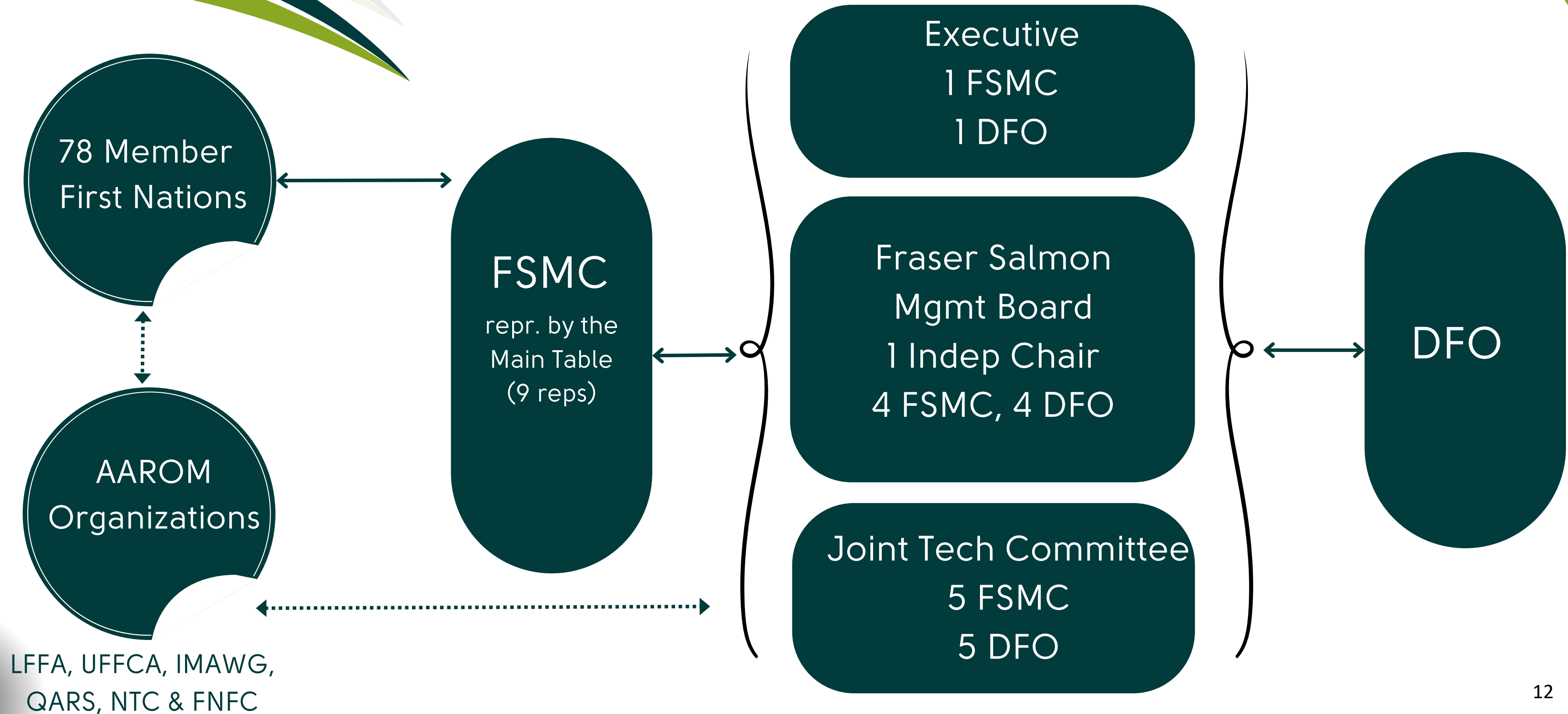
- FSMC is a mandated organization currently including 78 signatory First Nations from the Fraser River and approach waters
- The FSCMA created a joint table called the Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB)

Photo Credit:
Secwepemc Fisheries
Commission

Full text of the Agreement: 

https://frasersalmon.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/20190705_FSMC-DFO-signed-agreement.pdf

FSCMA Governance



Agreement Context

Creates, promotes and supports government-to-government, nation-to-nation structures for Collaborative Governance and Management and conservation of Fraser salmon (*FSCMA S2.1*)



CONSENSUS

Provides a framework for government-to-government **consensus** decisions and recommendations to the Parties via the FSMB.

PRIORITY BASED

Implementation of the agreement will be **incremental** and based on priorities identified in the FSMB's annual workplan.

TRANSFORMATIVE

Recognizes **transformative** change in Collaborative Governance is required to support reconciliation.

Agreement Implementation

All Fisheries

Highlights that the FSMB can consider fisheries management measures related to **all fisheries** with directed or induced mortality.

Precautionary Principle

Indicates the **Precautionary Principle** will be followed, defined as a lack of information not being a reason delay action to avoid serious harm.

FSC Rights

Recognizes and affirms section 35(1) FSC fishing rights and that those rights have **top priority** after conservation.

External Processes

Identifies the need to develop and implement **processes** for groups external to the FSCMA to provide advice and recommendations.

Background

2024/25 IFMP Process

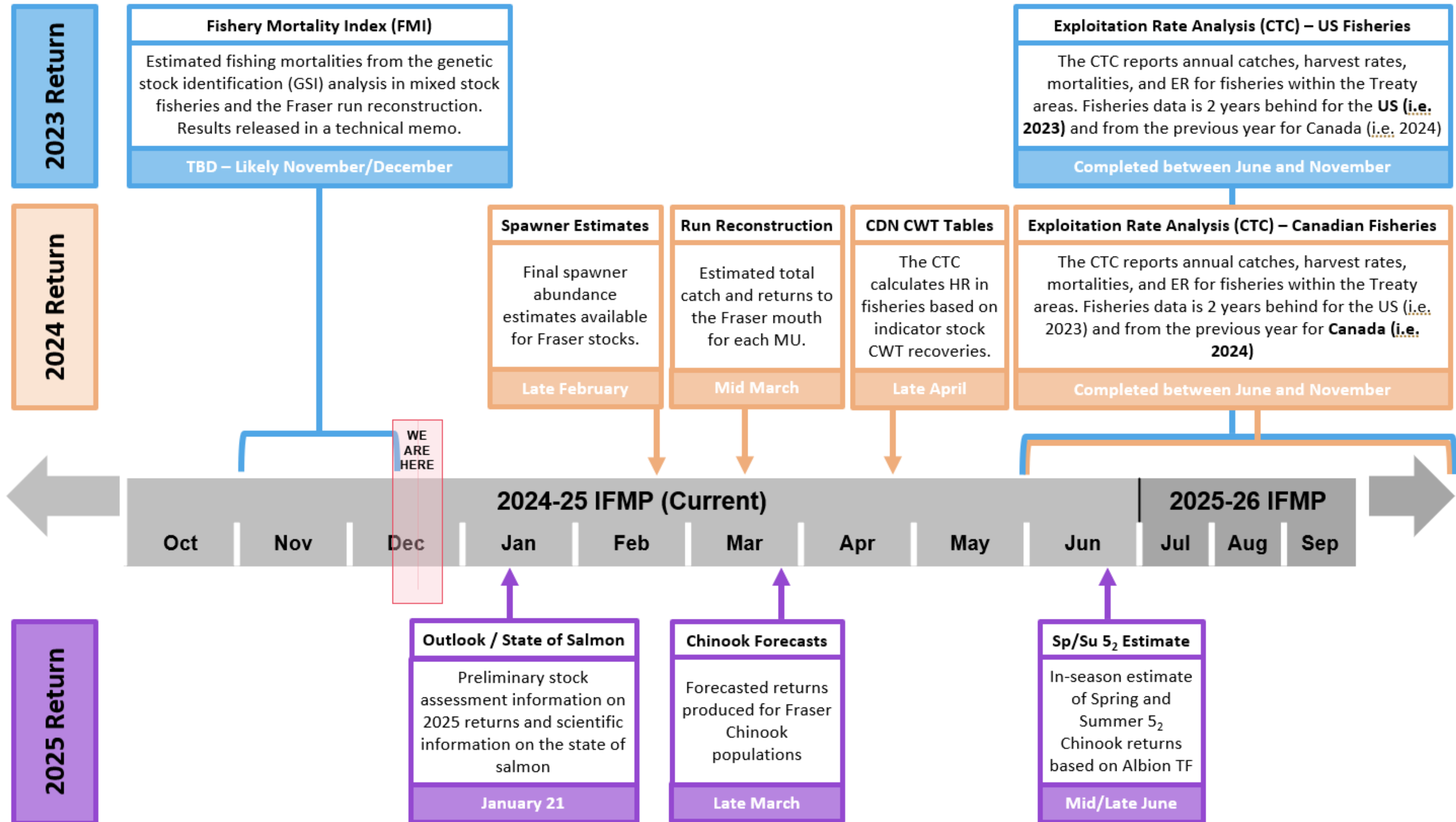
- The 2024/25 draft IFMP included a FSMB recommendation on Summer 5₂ to “maintain very low fishery mortalities in the range of 10% to 14%”.
- Significant feedback was received including proposing major changes to fisheries following the consultation process. These proposals were not explicitly consulted on in the IFMP process.
- FSMB did not reach consensus on a Summer 5₂ management recommendation in 2023 or 2024.
- Ministerial decision to maintain management measures implemented in 2023/24 for 2024/25.
- FSMB did provide a consensus recommendation on the 2024/25 Fraser Sockeye escapement plan, which was implemented.
- Spring Chinook FMI limit 5% or less was agreed to in 2024/25



Photo Credit: Secwepemc Fisheries Commission



Chinook Timelines – Data & Analysis



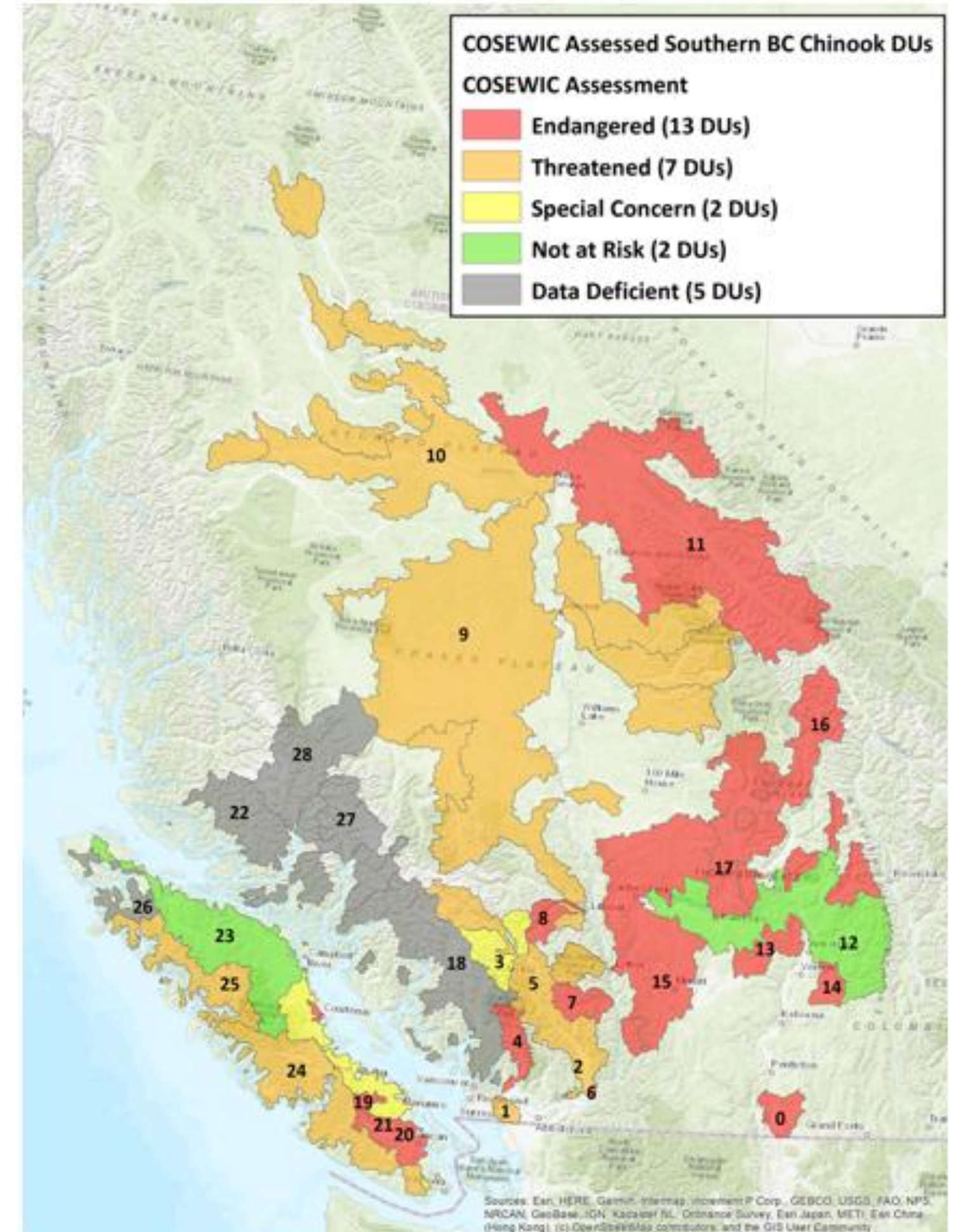
Southern BC Chinook Status

A total of **29 Southern BC Chinook populations** have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), with **13 assessed as Endangered**, **seven Threatened**, **two Special Concern**, **two Not at Risk**, and **five Data Deficient**.

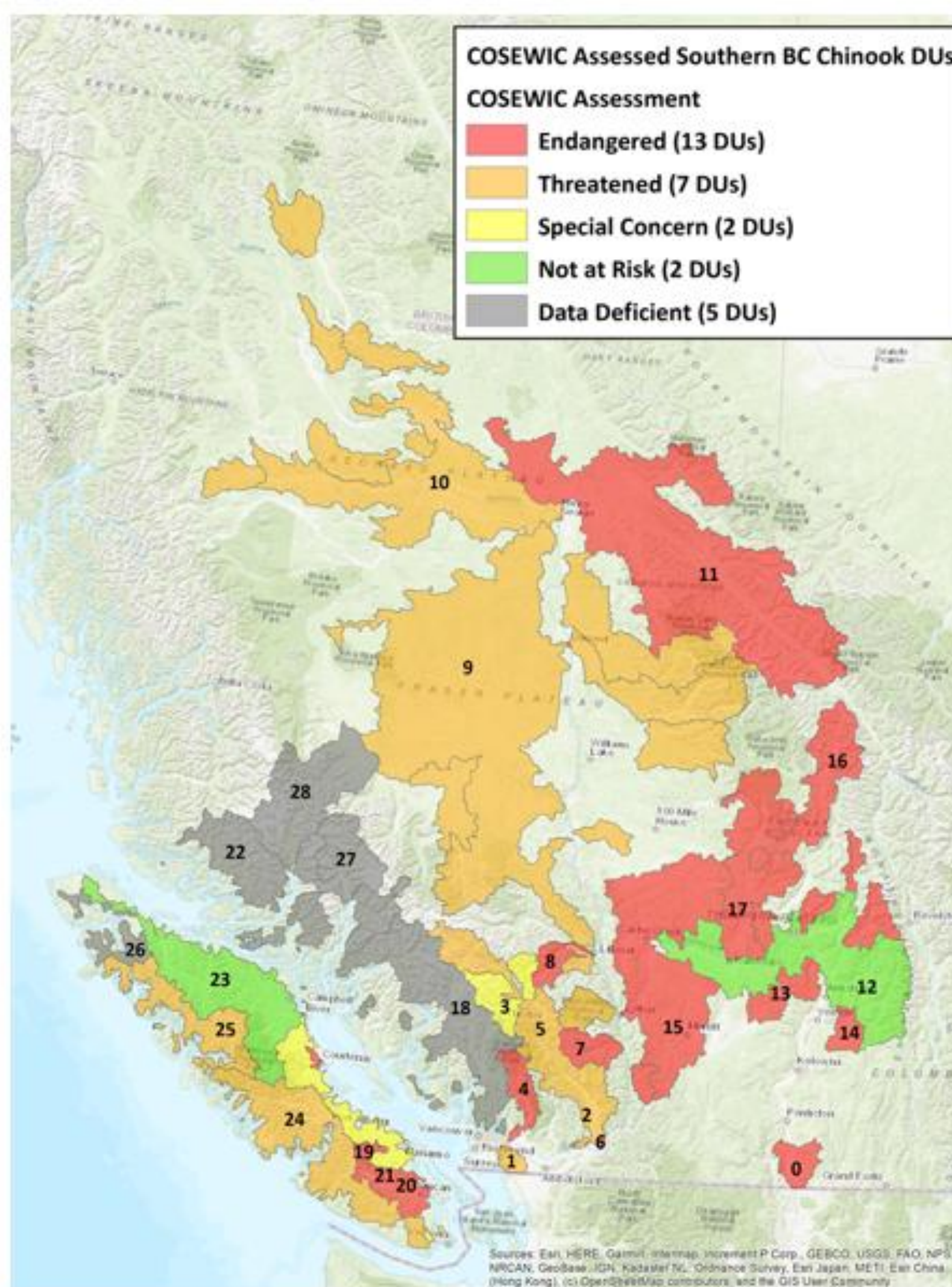
Fraser Summer 5₂ Chinook: 6 DUs including (4-**EN**, 5-**TH**, 8-**EN**, 10-**TH**, 13-**EN**, 17-**EN**)

Since 2019, significant restrictions to Chinook fishery management were implemented to:

- Support conservation by reducing total fishery mortalities



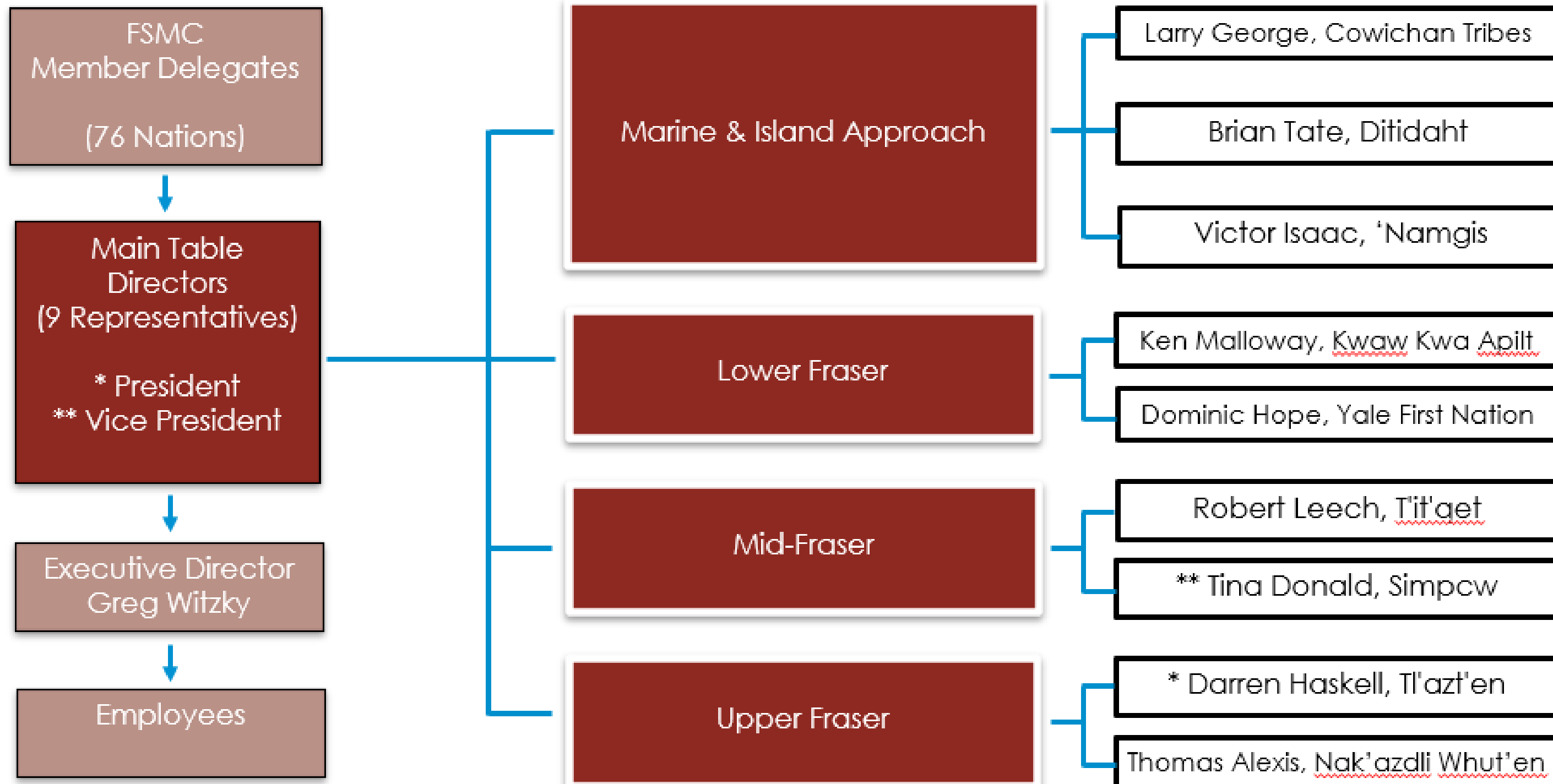
COSEWIC Status of Southern BC Chinook DUs



DU #	Name	Status
0	Okanagan Chinook	EN
1	Mainland Boundary Bay, Ocean, Fall	TH
2	Lower Fraser, Ocean, Fall	TH
3	Lower Fraser, Stream, Spring	SC
4	Lower Fraser, Stream, Summer (U.Pitt)	EN
5	Lower Fraser, Stream, Summer	TH
6	Lower Fraser, Ocean, Summer	EN
7	Mid Fraser, Stream, Spring	EN
8	Mid Fraser, Stream, Fall	EN
9	Mid Fraser, Stream, Spring (MFR+GStr)	TH
10	Mid Fraser, Stream, Summer	TH
11	Upper Fraser, Stream, Spring	EN
12	South Thompson, Ocean, Summer	NAR
13	South Thompson, Stream, Summer 1.3	EN
14	South Thompson, Stream, Summer 1.2	EN
15	Lower Thompson, Stream, Spring	EN
16	North Thompson, Stream, Spring	EN
17	North Thompson, Stream, Summer	EN
18	SC - Georgia Strait, Ocean, Fall	DD
19	East Vancouver Island, Stream, Spring	EN
20	East Vancouver Island, Ocean, Summer	EN
21	East Vancouver Island, Ocean, Fall	SC
22	SC – Southern Fjords, Ocean, Fall	DD
23	East Van. I., Ocean, Fall (EVI + SFj)	NAR
24	West Van. I., Ocean, Fall (South)	TH
25	West Van. I., Ocean, Fall (Nootka & Kyuc)	TH
26	West Van. I., Ocean, Fall (WVI + WQCI)	DD
27	Southern Mainland, Ocean, Summer	DD
28	Southern Mainland, Stream, Summer	DD



FSMC Leadership



2024-25 FSMB/JTC Workplan

#	Title	Goal
1	Chinook Management Approach	<i>Develop Chinook fisheries management measures that achieve identified conservation objectives and provide for priority access for food, social and ceremonial fisheries.</i>
2	Sockeye Management Approach	<i>Identify a recommended Sockeye escapement plan option(s), management approaches for stocks of concern and support discussions of FSC sharing for First Nations on an annual basis.</i>
3	Interior Fraser Coho Management Approach	<i>Identify and recommend fishery management approaches for Interior Fraser Coho (IFC).</i>
4	General Fraser Salmon Management Approach	<i>Identify and recommend general fishery management approaches for topics related to all Fraser Salmon.</i>
6	Governance and Process Development	<i>Support implementation of recommendations arising from the 2022 joint governance sessions, developing and finalizing process documents, and Forum renewal</i>
7	FSC Access & Allocation	<i>Support discussions, develop understanding of and recommendations on FSC access and allocations. FSC sharing, Aboriginal Priority, and FSC allocations of Fraser salmon for First Nations to be discussed as part of the <u>long term work</u> and annually.</i>