



Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

Implementation Update – Winter 2025



Overview

- **Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative:** The Government of Canada's response to address the decline of Pacific Salmon
- Implementation Updates
- Federal UNDA Action Plan and Measure 41





PSSI: The Government of Canada's response to address the decline of Pacific salmon

“Working together to conserve and restore Pacific salmon stocks and their ecosystems, for those who depend on them”

Outcome 1: Restoring vulnerable populations of Pacific salmon and their habitat

Outcome 2: Supporting sustainable fishing opportunities and reducing impacts on vulnerable stocks

Outcome 3: Building capacity and working with partners to achieve better outcomes for Pacific salmon

Guiding Principles: *Indigenous Reconciliation * Innovative Solutions * Prioritization
Enhanced Transparency, Data & Trust * Partnership & Collaboration*





Climate Emergency Response and Habitat Restoration



Collaborative Governance for Salmon Climate Emergencies

- 3G+ Salmon Event Action Support (SEAS)
- 3G Response to the 2021 Atmospheric River
- 3G Big Bar 2019 Landslide Response
- 3G Chilcotin River 2024 Landslide Response



Collaborative Response to Climate Threats

2023 Responded to 100+ drought threats to salmon and salmon habitat with partners

2024 Highlight: Enabled migration of 300,000 adult pink salmon to spawning grounds in partnership with Tsleil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver



Habitat Restoration in Action

- Over 18.5 million m² of salmon habitat restored since 2021
- 219 habitat restoration projects and 617 partners supported



Habitat Restoration Priority Plan

- 2023/24: Engagement with First Nations and Stakeholders on draft priority plan
- 2025: First draft plan scheduled for release



Climate Research to Support Actions

- Over 50 new research and monitoring projects informing our work, topics include understanding factors in salmon declines, ecosystem risks, salmon genetics and the variable effects of climate change



Salmonid Enhancement Program: Hatchery Adaptation & Science

Conservation & Rebuilding Enhancement

- 44 lines of production & 12.2M juvenile salmon released for conservation and rebuilding (2021-2023 brood year average)*

**Data from EPAD (Enhancement Planning & Assessment Database)*

- Improved guidelines and hatchery management practices to optimize rebuilding and sustainable harvest outcomes for salmon
- Operational and planning contributions to rebuilding processes under Fish Stock Provisions, Species at Risk and PSSI

Science to Support Hatchery Decisions

- Supporting scientific research on fish health, genetics, operational assessment & monitoring, and ecosystems science
- Hatchery Adaptation Strategy
- Engaging on comprehensive strategy to drive sustainable and modern hatchery practices

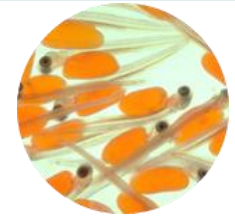
Managing hatchery risks

- Mass marking to support **Chinook rebuilding** initiatives on the west coast of Vancouver Island
- Number of Chinook marked in 2023: 9M





Salmon Planning Processes in BC & Yukon



Integrated Salmon Rebuilding Process



- Co-development of rebuilding plans for vulnerable salmon stocks
- Strong collaboration amongst DFO salmon experts e.g. DFO Science, Lakes Research Program, Area Stock Assessment, Salmonid Enhancement, Habitat Stewardship & Fisheries Management branches.
- Projects include:
 - Lake Babine Sockeye Rebuilding Process
 - Smith Inlet Sockeye Rebuilding Process (being advanced independently by GNN)



Harvest Transformation



✓ More precautionary harvest to protect stocks of concern

- Implemented 22 longer-term commercial fishery closures to protect stocks of concern
- 417 commercial salmon licences retired - 21% decrease in total Pacific salmon licence holders
- Relocated fisheries to terminal areas avoiding stocks of conservation concern
- Disposed of 10 derelict commercial vessels and 270,000 kg of gear recycled

✓ Improved fishery monitoring and catch reporting

- 500+ rivers and streams monitored; new data collected for 30% of CUs*
- Advancing Aboriginal Harvest Management System development for First Nations fishery reporting
- Introduced interim independent monitoring requirements for the commercial fishery (to be implemented in 2025/26 fishing season)
- Improved recreational fishery creel surveys

**Pacific Salmon Conservation Units*

✓ Improved fishery management systems

- Improving collaborative engagement with First Nations
- Established new pilot share-based approaches in commercial fisheries
- Developed an Interactive Regulations Map and enabled digital licensing and catch reporting in the recreational fishery industry
- Recreational regulatory reform and licence fee review underway





Spotlight: Indigenous Harvest Transformation



Program efforts to date have:

- Supported successful partnerships with 40+ First Nations and Indigenous Groups to deliver more than 60 projects
- The projects support First Nations to implement selective harvest methods and improve fishery monitoring
- Resulted in:
 - increased opportunities to selectively harvest healthy stocks of Pacific salmon while protecting stocks of conservation concern
 - Improved collaboration
 - Shared information, and
 - Expanded use of selective fishing gear types



Looking forward:

- Continued collaborative engagement
- Expand First Nations fishery monitoring opportunities
- Improve relationships and create stronger partnerships





Salmonid Enhancement Program: Using Hatcheries to Provide Sustainable Fishing Opportunities

To support an increase in mass marking, three portable Autofish mass marking trailers and several non-automated resources have been procured



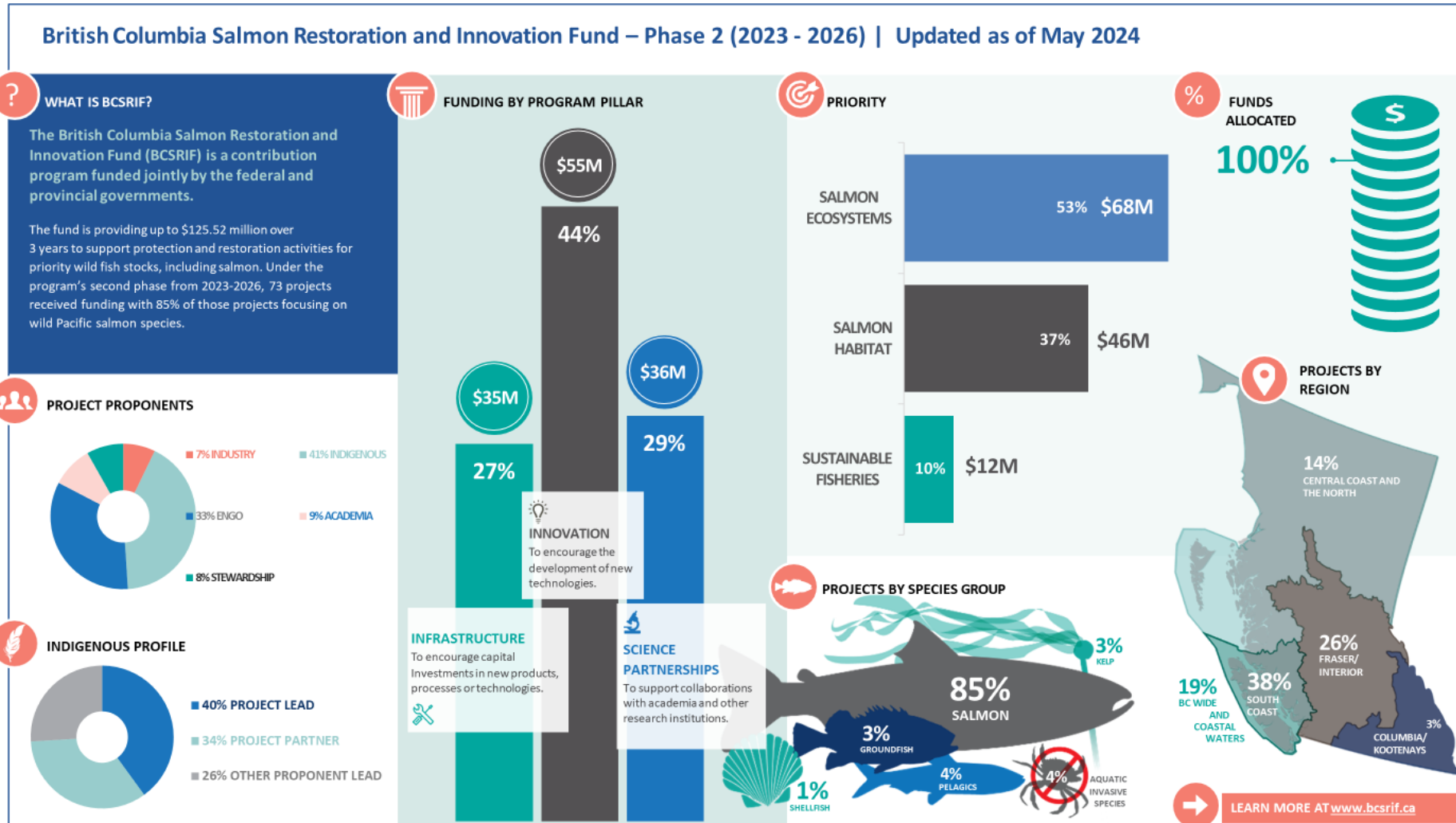
SEP continues to produce fish for harvest, including providing opportunities that minimizes impacts on stocks of concern

- Retrofits at DFO hatcheries to support more flexible, adaptive programming in a changing climate
- Expansion of mass marking program capacity to support potential future mark selective fisheries
- Pilots under way on the Sarita River/WCVI to support terminal harvest opportunities for First Nations
- Significant chum salmon hatchery adjustments made in 2022/23 linked to PSSI harvest transformation
- Working collaboratively with First Nations and harvest stakeholders to develop specific harvest goals for hatchery programs



Outcome 3: Building capacity and working with partners to achieve better outcomes for Pacific salmon

BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund (BCSRIF 2.0)





Outcome 3: Building capacity and working with partners to achieve better outcomes for Pacific salmon

Working together under PSSI

New Trilateral Accord to address the decline of Wild Pacific Salmon to coordinate and align conservation and restoration efforts to improve outcomes for Pacific salmon

The **Indigenous Salmon Stewardship Partnership Program** is funding Salmon Biologists, Guardians and Project Lead positions to support First Nation communities

Better understanding of ways to adapt Pacific salmon to a changing climate, through **\$8.6M to date in new and expanded climate research investments** to address impacts to salmon populations

Testing (Alpha) version of new DFO Salmon Data Portal launched to support public accessibility of DFO salmon data

Field operations conducted to improve our understanding of salmon ecosystems, effects of climate change and other stressors on salmon; **46 conducted in partnership with First Nations**

The first Canadian-led high seas patrol, **Operation North Pacific Guard**, undertaken in 2023 to detect and deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the North Pacific

New relationship with BC First Nations, DFO and Province of BC

Follow the Fish project in partnership between DFO, First Nations, academics, and NGOs

Annual, multi-national high-seas fisheries enforcement effort



SEP: Building capacity through partnerships

New Hatchery Infrastructure

- Work towards one new major hatchery and two community hatcheries in partnership with local First Nations

Community Involvement Program Retrofits

- 20 Partner-operated hatcheries undergoing major infrastructure investments to improve biosecurity, conservation capacity, climate resilience and reliability

Supporting First Nations & Community Partnerships

- ~10,000 volunteers participate in hatchery-related activities annually
- 98 Community Involvement Partners (24 indigenous)

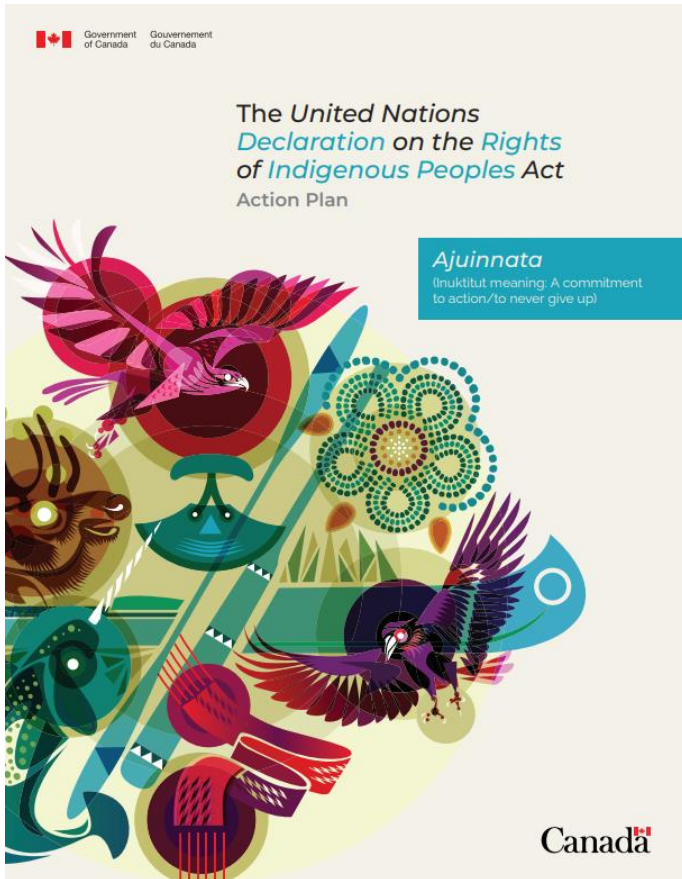
CEDP/PIP contributions to partners:

- 2023/24 - \$3.37M in G&C investments to Community Involvement Program hatcheries:
 - 2023/24 - \$1.6M in G&C Investments to CEDP's
 - 2023/24 - \$999K in G&C Investments to PIP's
- 2023/24 - \$770K in G&C Investments to support Upper Fraser salmon conservation





UNDA Action Plan (2023-2028)



UNDA Action Plan Measure 41

“Through meaningful consultation and collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous groups and British Columbia and Yukon partners, DFO will implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative to protect and revitalize salmon populations and their habitats”.

Key PSSI implementation principles



Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples: Positive relationships and collaboration with First Nations will help to achieve solutions and shared objectives



Partnerships and collaboration: PSSI initiatives will be delivered through enhanced collaboration with Indigenous groups, provincial/territorial governments, internal partners, industry stakeholders and the general public



Featured PSSI Stories

Learn about some of the key activities we have supported through PSSI on our website.

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative featured stories

Tangible examples of solutions and collaborative actions undertaken through the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative to support Pacific salmon for the long term.

Latest stories



[Working together to protect Pacific salmon impacted by drought in 2024](#)

November 2024

[Read more >](#)



[Historic Trilateral Accord signed to save wild Pacific salmon](#)

August 2024

[Read more >](#)

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 Restoring salmon habitat promotes the long-term health of Pacific salmon populations	Story	2024-10	Conservation and stewardship





Thank You

Further information on PSSI is available here:

<http://www.canada.ca/Pacific-Salmon-Strategy>

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)

Key Contacts:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/pss-ssp/contact-eng.html>

