Looking Forward: 2021 Salmon Fisheries

Preliminary Pre-season Planning Considerations

Southern BC Post-season Review Meetings

December 16, 2020

Outline

A. IFMP Planning Considerations:

1. First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries
2. Big Bar Landslide
3. COSEWIC and SARA Listing Timelines
4. Chinook Management
5. Southern Resident Killer Whales
6. Interior Fraser Steelhead
7. Fraser River Sockeye
8. Interior Fraser Coho
9. CSAF Demonstration Fisheries

B. IFMP process timelines

A. IFMP Planning Considerations

- Key planning considerations reflect areas where Department expects discussion on potential changes to management approaches and decision guidelines for 2021 fishing season
- A letter will be sent to First Nations and stakeholders with further details on planning priorities and seeking feedback.
- Consultations with First Nations and stakeholders will occur as part of process to develop the draft salmon IFMP and includes a 30 day public comment period prior to finalizing the 2021/22 salmon IFMPs.

1. First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries

- Departmental staff will consult with First Nations on fishing plans that achieve conservation objectives and provide FSC fishery harvest opportunities.
- Restrictions in commercial and recreational fisheries may be required to provide for First Nations harvest opportunities.
- Meetings planned with First Nations Forum to discuss Fraser salmon fishing plans as part of the IFMP process
- The Department is also working to with the Fraser Salmon Management Board (FSMB) to develop a work plan and it is anticipated this process will support planning for the 2021 season.

2. Big Bar Landslide

- During the 2020 Fraser salmon migration, two types of monitoring methods were used above and below the Big Bar landslide site to track fish passage – hydroacoustic sonars and radio tagging.
  - Greater than 80% of Spring 5_2 and Summer 5_2 typically spawn upstream of Big Bar in the Upper Fraser.
  - Assessment and mitigation plans were implemented
  - 2020 Fish Counts can be found at: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/big-bar-landslide-eboulement/smon-count-denombrement-eng.html
  - In 2020, increased threshold flow for Chinook passage at flows below 3800 m^3/s compared with approx. 2400m^3/s in 2019 due to rock removal and channel modifications.
  - Chinook spawner estimates will be available later this winter.

3. SARA Listing Timelines - Salmon

- Seven salmon listing processes are underway
- One additional salmon listing process is anticipated to begin in 2021

Species	# of DUs*	COSEWIC Assessment Date	COSEWIC Status	COSEWIC Annual Report Date
Sakinaw Sockeye	1	2016 (April)	EN	Oct 2016
Interior Fraser Coho	1	2016 (November)	TH	Oct 2017
Okanagan Chinook	1	2017 (April)	EN	Oct 2017
Fraser Sockeye (Group I)	24	2017 (November)	8 EN, 2 TH, 5 SC, 9 NAR	Oct 2018
Southern BC Chinook (Group I)	16	2018 (November)	8 EN, 4 TH, 1 SC, 1 NAR, 2 DD	Oct 2019
Southern BC Chinook (Group II)	12	2020 (November)	4 EN, 3 TH, 1SC, 1 NAR, 3 DD	Anticipated Oct 2021
Steelhead Trout (Thompson & Chilcotin) Regular re-assessment	2	2020 (November)	2 EN	Anticipated Oct 2021
Fraser Sockeye (Group II)	7	2021 (April)	TBD	Anticipated Oct 2021

EN – Endangered, TH – Threatened, SC – Special Concern, NAR – Not at Risk, DD – Data Deficient

4. Chinook Status Assessment

2020 Objectives / Results

- In November 2018, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) released the results for an assessment of 16 southern BC chinook designatable units (DUs).
- 3 DUs outside the Fraser river, 1 DU (East Vancouver Island Stream Spring; Nanaimo River) was assessed as endangered and 2 Southern Mainland DUs were data deficient
- COSEWIC assessments of the remaining southern BC chinook populations are expected later in 2020.
- Management objective for Spring 4_2, Spring 5_2 and Summer 5_2 Chinook to manage Canadian fisheries in highly precautionary manner to allow as many fish to pass through to spawning grounds as possible. Approach is expected to reduce overall Canadian fishery mortalities on these populations to very low levels approaching 5%.

Mgmt Unit	# DUs	Designatable Unit Status
Spring 4_2	2	1 *endangered*, (1 *not assessed)*
Spring 5_2	6	4 *endangered*; 1 *threatened*; 1 *special concern*
Summer 5_2	5	2 *endangered*; 2 *threatened*; (1 *not assessed*)
Summer 4_1	2	1 *not at risk*; (1 *not assessed)*
Fall 4_1	1	1 *threatened*
Total	**16**	***7 endangered; 4 threatened; 1 special concern; 1 not at risk; (3 not assessed)***

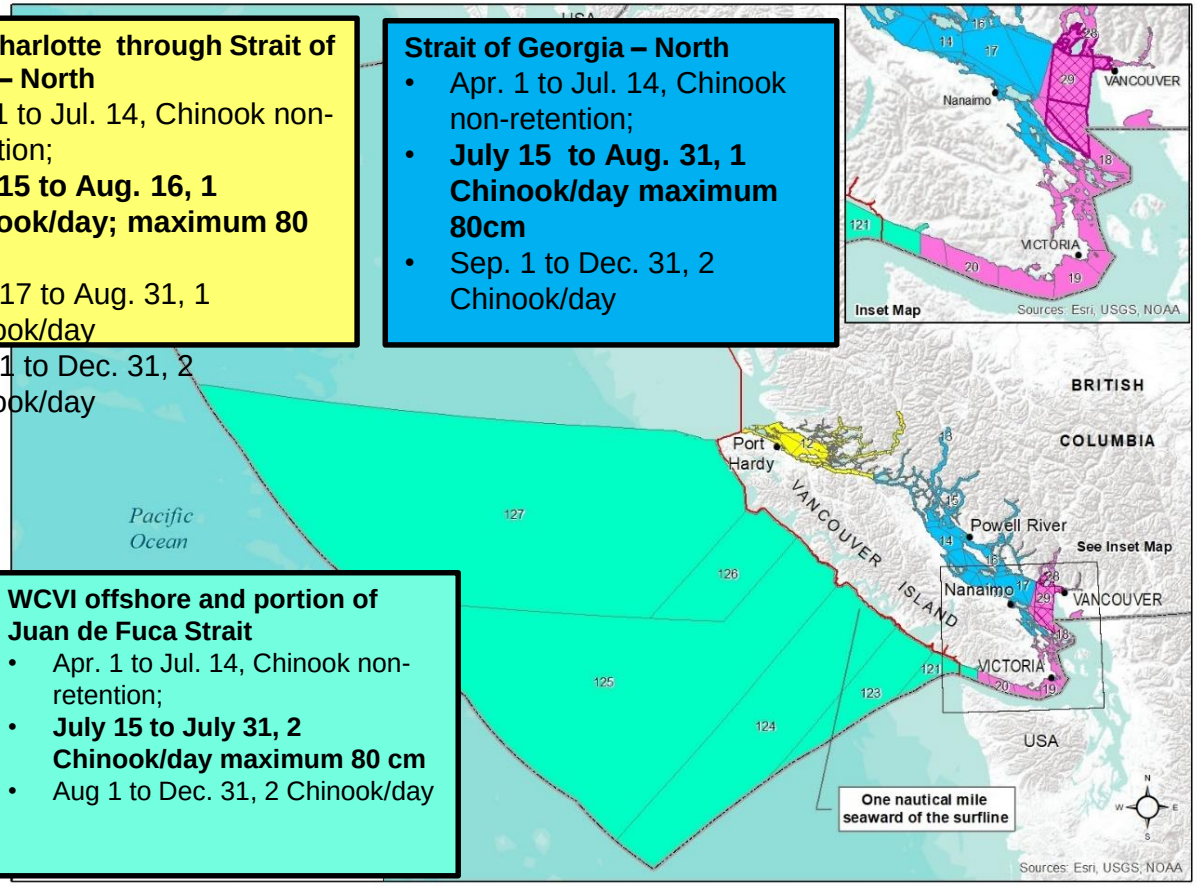
4. 2020 Chinook Management

- 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 into July to limit impacts on at-risk Fraser Chinook, with opportunities to target healthy Summer 4_1 Chinook in August.
- Commercial troll fisheries delayed into August to avoid Fraser Chinook encounters.
  - Area F (Northern BC) – Chinook non-retention until August 15
  - Area G (WCVI) – Delayed start until August 1
- Recreational measures are summarized on following slides
  - 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 .

4. 2020 Recreational management measures

Queen Charlotte through Strait of Georgia – North
- Apr. 1 to Jul. 14, Chinook non-retention;
- **July 15 to Aug. 16, 1 Chinook/day; maximum 80 cm**
- Aug. 17 to Aug. 31, 1 Chinook/day
- Sep. 1 to Dec. 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**
- Sep. 1 to Dec. 31, 2 Chinook/day



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 Dec. 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 December 31: 2 Chinook per 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**
- Sep. 1 to Dec. 31, 2 Chinook/day.

2020 changes noted in bold font

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4. 2020 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 may be considered)

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

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

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4. 2020 Chinook Data Review + Timelines

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

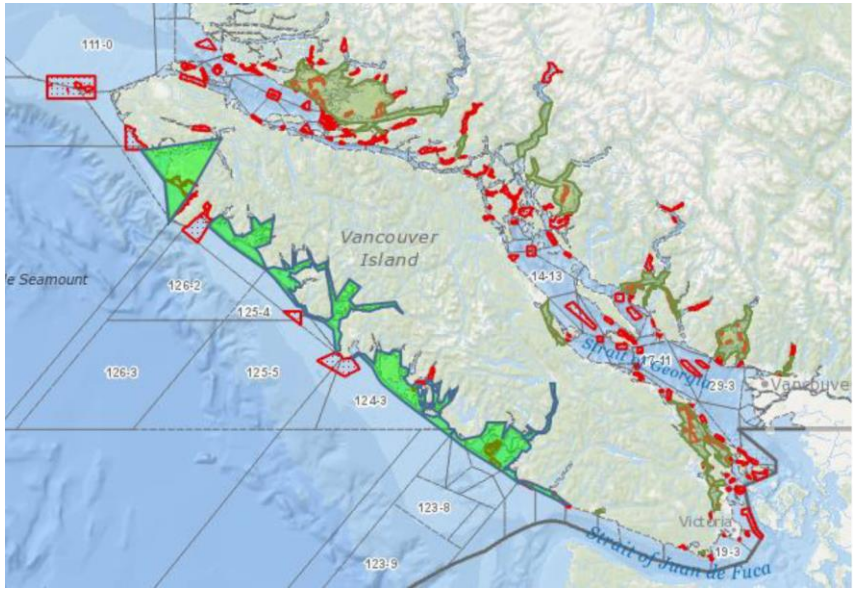
1. Spawner abundance (Jan/Feb)
2. Big Bar impacts – improved passage at landslide in 2020 but very high flows early in season (hydro-acoustics / telemetry analysis of passage success).
3. 2020 Reconstruction of Fraser terminal return / run size (March/April)
4. 2020 fishing impacts on Fraser stocks of concern (March / April):
   a) Coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries
   b) Exploitation rate analysis (ERA) results
   c) Estimated fishing mortalities via genetic stock identification (GSI) analysis

4. 2021 Chinook Management Measures

- Management measures are anticipated to be required for many years given the status of Fraser Chinook
- Fishery management measures are reviewed annually during Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Planning process (IFMP).
- Management measures are anticipated in similar times / areas covering the migratory paths of Fraser River Chinook similar to recent years
- Current 2020/21 Southern BC Salmon IFMP indicates:
  - DFO planning to consult on potential expanded use of mark selective fishery (MSF) regulations (i.e. retention of hatchery Chinook with healed scar in place an adipose fin) in the fall of 2020. MSF opportunities may be considered in additional areas in 2021 subject to the results of the review.
  - see next slide for proposed approach
- 2021/22 IFMP planning process for consideration of NEW proposals for June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022.

4. Chinook 2021 Management Measures

- Further review planned on April-May opportunities covered by current IFMP.
- E.g. April 2020 SFAB proposal for Chinook retention opportunities in **April-May 2021** period covered by current IFMP.
- Planned approach: review proposals for consideration beginning April 2021 with updated evaluation framework developed last spring.
- Consult on evaluation results and identify adjustments to mitigate concerns (as required) to inform decisions.

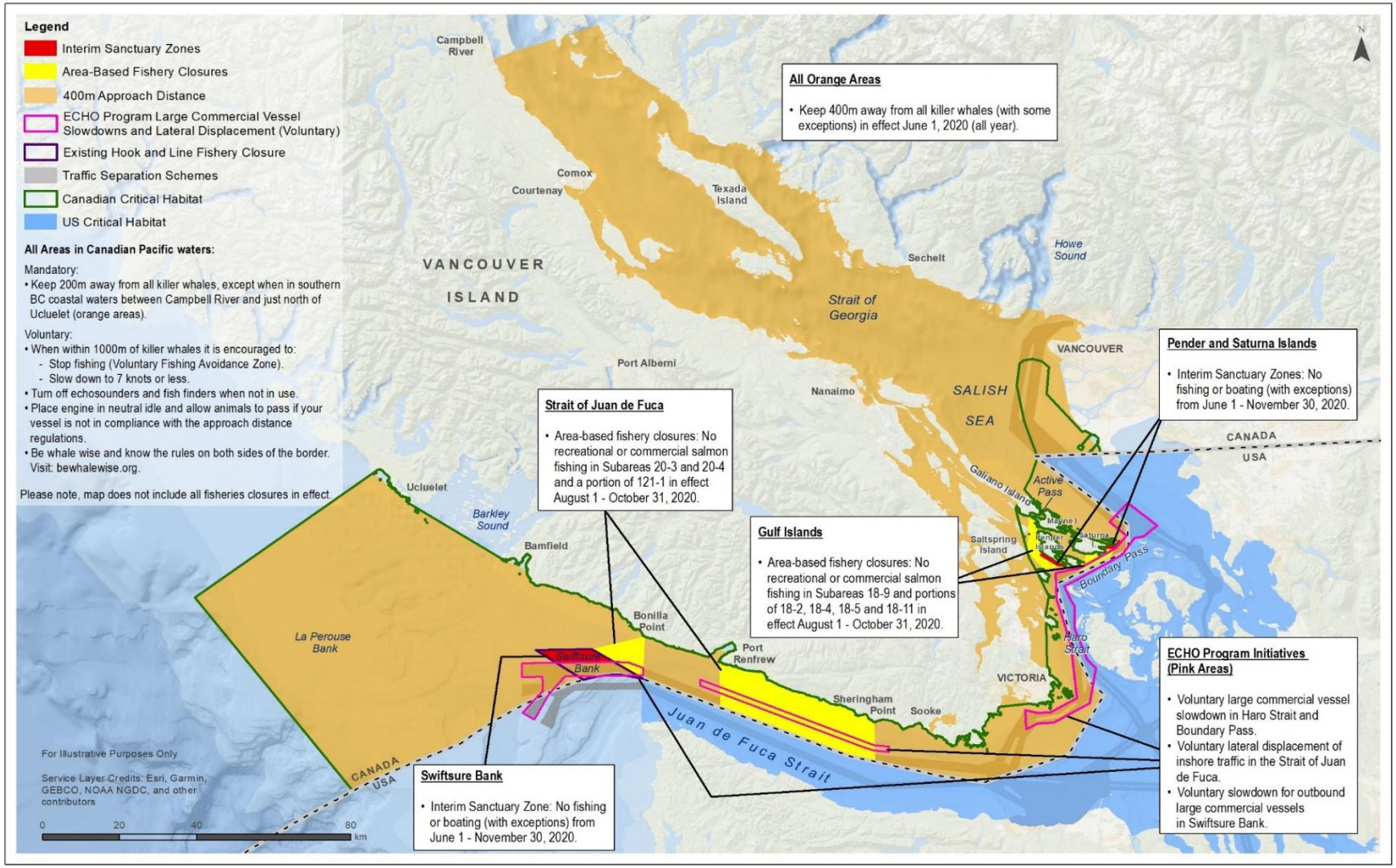


Map from April 2020 SFAB proposal.
Note: Offshore WCVI and Juan de Fuca MSF proposals not shown.

5. Southern Resident Killer Whale

- Southern Resident Killer Whales are endangered – **only 74** remaining
- **Human caused factors** are negatively affecting Southern Resident Killer Whales, and their habitat and prey
- For the **protection and recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales**, the Government of Canada is **collaborating** with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and other governments, including the Province of BC and the US
- Overall goal is to ensure the **long-term viability** of resident killer whale populations by achieving and maintaining demographic conditions that **preserve their reproductive potential, genetic variation and cultural continuity**
- Enhanced **management measures** have been put in place since 2018 to **address the primary threats to their recovery**, including reduced prey availability and physical and acoustic disturbance

5. 2020 Management Measures



Overview of 2020 management measures to protect Southern Resident Killer Whales

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5. Southern Resident Killer Whale – 2021 Planning

- The Government of Canada will be reviewing the suite of 2020 management measures and discussing potential adjustments to measures with Indigenous groups, stakeholders, the Southern Resident Killer Whale Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups
- Potential fishery management measures for 2021 will be designed to provide an accessible food supply and to reduce physical and acoustic disturbance in key Southern Resident Killer Whale foraging areas, as well as reducing disturbance and prey competition in the presence of killer whales
- Further discussion with First Nations and stakeholders on the potential 2021 management measures will be identified as part of IFMP consultation process
- Canada intends to ensure that any updates to actions for the 2021 season can be implemented by spring 2021 to coincide with the return of Southern Resident Killer Whales in typically greater numbers to the Salish Sea

6. IFR Steelhead Status

- Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead were assessed as *Endangered* by COSEWIC in 2018. Neither Designated Unit (DU) was listed under the resulting Species at Risk Act (SARA) Emergency Listing Process that concluded in July 2019.
- Identified threats to these stocks include changes to the marine environment, fishing mortality, degradation of freshwater and marine habitats, predation and competition.
- COSEWIC recently reassessed these two populations as *Endangered*. This will trigger a new SARA Listing Process once the COSWIC Annual Report is published in October 2021. As this is expected to be a “regular” listing process, it will not be completed as quickly as the Emergency Listing Process that occurred for these DU’s in 2018/2019.

6. Interior Fraser River Steelhead Status

- In-season projections of spawning escapements for Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead that returned in 2020 (spawning in spring of 2021) are 186 and 83, respectively.
  - These estimates are produced by BC FLNRORD based on encounters of Steelhead at the DFO Albion Chinook/Chum Test Fishery on the Fraser River. The Albion test fishery encountered 5 Steelhead last year.
- Final Steelhead spawning escapement estimates will be available in late Spring/early Summer of 2021.

Population	Spawning Locations	Recommended Recovery Target From 2018 RPA Science Advisory Report	Escapement (number of spawners)						
			Pre - 1995	1995 to 2004	2005 to 2014	2017 2016 RY	2018 2017 RY	2019 2018 RY	2020 2019 RY
Thompson River	Deadman, Nicola, Bonaparte Rivers	938 spawners	1880	1840	1110	260	150	216	257
Chilcotin River	Chilko, Taseko, Little Chilcotin Rivers	562 to 744 spawners	1150	850	400	187	77	120	38*

* 2020 Chilcotin escapement estimate is biased low due to COVID-based changes to assessment programs.

6. Joint Steelhead Conservation Action Plan

- In conjunction with the announcement of the SARA Listing decision in July 2019, the Fisheries Minister also announced the development of a joint DFO – BC Steelhead Action Plan for Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead that will:
  - reduce mortality and increase survival of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead returning to rivers to spawn;
  - improve freshwater conditions through habitat protection and restoration; and,
  - increase science and monitoring activities.
- DFO and the Province of BC will be responsible for implementing the provisions of this plan. Implementation will consider information on threats as identified through the existing and upcoming SARA Listing Processes, as well as other research. First Nations and stakeholders will be consulted on details of the implementation of this plan as it is further developed.

6. 2020 IFR Steelhead Management Measures

Commercial Fisheries (Fraser River and marine including Nitinat)

- 42 day moving window closure for gillnet
- 42 day moving window closure for seine (including shallow seine and purse seine)
- 27 day moving window closure for troll
- These measures applied to fisheries on the Steelhead migratory route on both the west coast and the east coast of Vancouver Island
- Fisheries targeting terminal stocks in areas outside of the Steelhead migratory route were not affected by these measures

Recreational Fisheries

- No closures to marine recreational fisheries (wild Steelhead release)
- 42 day moving window closure for salmon fisheries in the Fraser River and tributaries downstream of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead spawning and holding areas
- Fisheries occurring in Fraser River tributaries outside of the IFR Steelhead migratory route were not affected by these measures

6. 2020 IFR Steelhead Management Measures

Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries (Fraser River and marine)

- No closures to marine FSC fisheries (wild Steelhead release)
- 27 day moving window closure for gillnet and selective gear in the Fraser River and tributaries downstream of Thompson and Chilcotin Steelhead spawning and holding areas
- **Provisions added to set gillnet fisheries to reduce incidental mortality of IFR Steelhead**
- Fisheries occurring in Fraser River tributaries outside of the IFR Steelhead migratory route will not be affected by these measures

Details of time and area closures and excluded terminal fisheries are contained in Appendix 9 of the 2020/21 Southern BC Salmon IFMP.

6. 2020 Chum Fisheries Recap

- Commercial abundance of chum identified in Fraser River and Johnstone Straits in 2020. Chum fisheries proceeded outside of the Steelhead closure period as outlined in the IFMP. Terminal fisheries not impacted by IFR Steelhead closures proceeded in those systems with identified surpluses to escapement requirements.
- FN FSC opportunities for chum salmon were provided for First Nations in the Fraser River after the closure dates, with mandatory Steelhead release.
- Marine Recreational fisheries remained open with Steelhead release.
- Fraser River recreational fisheries proceeded outside of the Steelhead closure period as outlined in the IFMP. Steelhead release required.
- Fishing time was significantly reduced from pre-2019 levels for all fisheries impacted by the window closures.

6. 2021 IFR Steelhead Planning

- DFO will be consulting with First Nations and stakeholders on conservation measures to protect IFR Steelhead from salmon fisheries as part of the 2020/21 IFMP planning process.
- Given the continued expectation of low IFR Steelhead abundance, measures to protect IFR Steelhead are expected to continue for some time.
- We do not anticipate implementing significant changes to the current IFR Steelhead management approach for salmon fisheries given the current information available.
- Changes to management measures will be considered as new information/analyses come forward (e.g. through the SARA Listing Process).
- DFO will be working with First Nations and stakeholders to ensure that all our programs, including hatchery and habitat management, are aligned to support IFR Steelhead recovery.

7. Fraser River Sockeye Management

- Quantitative forecasts will be available by February 2021.
- The 2017 brood year sockeye return was low (1.49M) but higher than 2020 brood year return (853k). It is expected that the forecast will be below the cycle average.
- Given continued poor productivity, planning will need to consider the potential for a range of returns, as well as, specific management measures for protecting and rebuilding stocks of concern including:
  - duration of the window closure to protect weak stocks returning at start of season;
  - escapement plan for each aggregate;
  - additional management measures for stocks of concern; and,
  - FSC fishery planning for returns at low TAC or below escapement targets

Fraser Sockeye Returns

Return Year	Forecast Probability Level						Actual Returns
	<10%	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%	
1998	NA	4,391,000	6,040,000	6,822,000	11,218,000[G]	18,801,000	**10,870,000**
1999	NA	3,067,000[R]	4,267,000	4,843,000	8,248,000	14,587,000	**3,640,000**
2000	NA	1,487,000	2,449,000	4,304,000[Y]	7,752,000	NA	**5,200,000**
2001	NA	3,869,000	6,797,000[O]	12,864,000	24,660,000	NA	**7,190,000**
2002	NA	4,859,000	7,694,400	12,915,900[Y]	22,308,500	NA	**15,130,000**
2003	NA	1,908,000	2,742,000	3,141,000[Y]	5,502,000[G]	9,744,000	**4,890,000**
2004	NA	1,858,000	2,615,000	2,980,000[Y]	5,139,000[G]	9,107,000	**4,180,000**
2005	NA	5,149,000[O]	8,734,000[O]	16,160,000	30,085,000	53,191,000	**7,020,000**
2006	NA	5,683,000	9,530,000[O]	17,357,000	31,902,000	56,546,000	**12,980,000**
2007	NA[R]	2,242,500	3,602,000	6,247,000	11,257,000	19,706,000	**1,510,000**
2008	NA	1,258,000[O]	1,854,000[O]	2,899,000	4,480,000	7,057,000	**1,740,000**
2009	NA[R]	3,556,000	6,039,000	10,578,000	19,451,000	37,617,000	**1,590,000**
2010	NA	5,360,000	8,351,000	13,989,000	23,541,000[G]	40,924,000	**28,250,000**
2011	NA	1,700,000	2,693,000	4,627,000[Y]	9,074,000	15,086,000	**5,110,000**
2012	NA	743,000	1,203,000	2,119,000[Y]	3,763,000	6,634,000	**2,050,000**
2013	NA	1,554,000	2,655,000	4,765,000[Y]	8,595,000	15,608,000	**4,130,000**
2014	NA	7,237,000	12,788,000	22,854,000[Y]	41,121,000	72,014,000	**20,000,000**
2015	NA	2,364,000[R]	3,824,000	6,778,000	12,635,000	23,580,000	**2,120,000**
2016	NA	814,000[R]	1,296,000	2,271,000	4,227,000	8,181,000	**853,000**
2017	NA	1,315,000[R]	2,338,000	4,432,000	8,873,000	17,633,000	**1,487,000***
2018	NA	5,265,000	8,423,000	13,981,000	22,937,000	36,893,000	**10,725,000***
2019	NA	1,794,000	2,891,000	4,795,000	8,676,000	14,297,000	**485,000***

*preliminary return estimate in 2017-2019

- In the last decade returns have been near or below p50 forecast with exception of 2010.
- In most recent years returns have been well below forecast (~p10-red cells)

← Record return (2010)

← Brood Year (2017)

8. Interior Fraser River Coho

- Abundance based management framework in place for Interior Fraser River coho.
  - 2020 – *LOW* status based on a combination of marine survival rates and spawner abundance for IFR Coho.
- ***Low* status**: No change to 20% ER cap for US and Canada in place since 2002. Note: each country's share of the 20% ER cap (10% each) may be managed to lower ERs based on domestic planning. Canada implemented 3-5% ER on interior Fraser River MU in 2019.
- Preliminary assessment of spawner abundance expected in early 2021.
- Additional work underway to inform development of status framework for Strait of Georgia and Lower Fraser Coho management units.
  - Number of projects proposed/underway to address current data limitations and inform management.

8. IFR Coho Status Zones

	Low	Moderate	Abundant
Survival	S <= 0.03	Three consecutive years 0.03 < S <= 0.06	Three consecutive years S > 0.06
		and	and
Escapement	Monitored in CU's and sub pops but no thresholds	Three consecutive years: Half of sub pops in each CU > 1000 **or** Aggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., 27,000)	Three consecutive years: All IFR sub pops in each CU > 1000 **or** Aggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., revised 40,000)
ER cap (US/Can)	**0.20** (0.10/0.10)	**0.30** (0.12/0.18)	**0.45** (0.15/0.30)

Previous approach included ER caps of 20% for low; 40% for moderate and 65% for abundant

9. CSAF Demonstration Fisheries

- Confirmation of continued interest in existing CSAF demonstrations and submissions of any new demonstration fishery proposals (or substantial changes to existing proposals) should be submitted by proponents to
  - DFO.PacificSalmonRMT-EGRSaumonduPacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and local Fisheries Managers no later than **January 29th, 2021.**
- As in previous years, this is to ensure sufficient time for the Department to evaluate the proposals and provide an opportunity for feedback and discussion though the draft IFMP consultation process.
- Demonstration fishery proposals that are not submitted by this deadline will not be considered for the 2021 season.

2021 IFMP Timelines

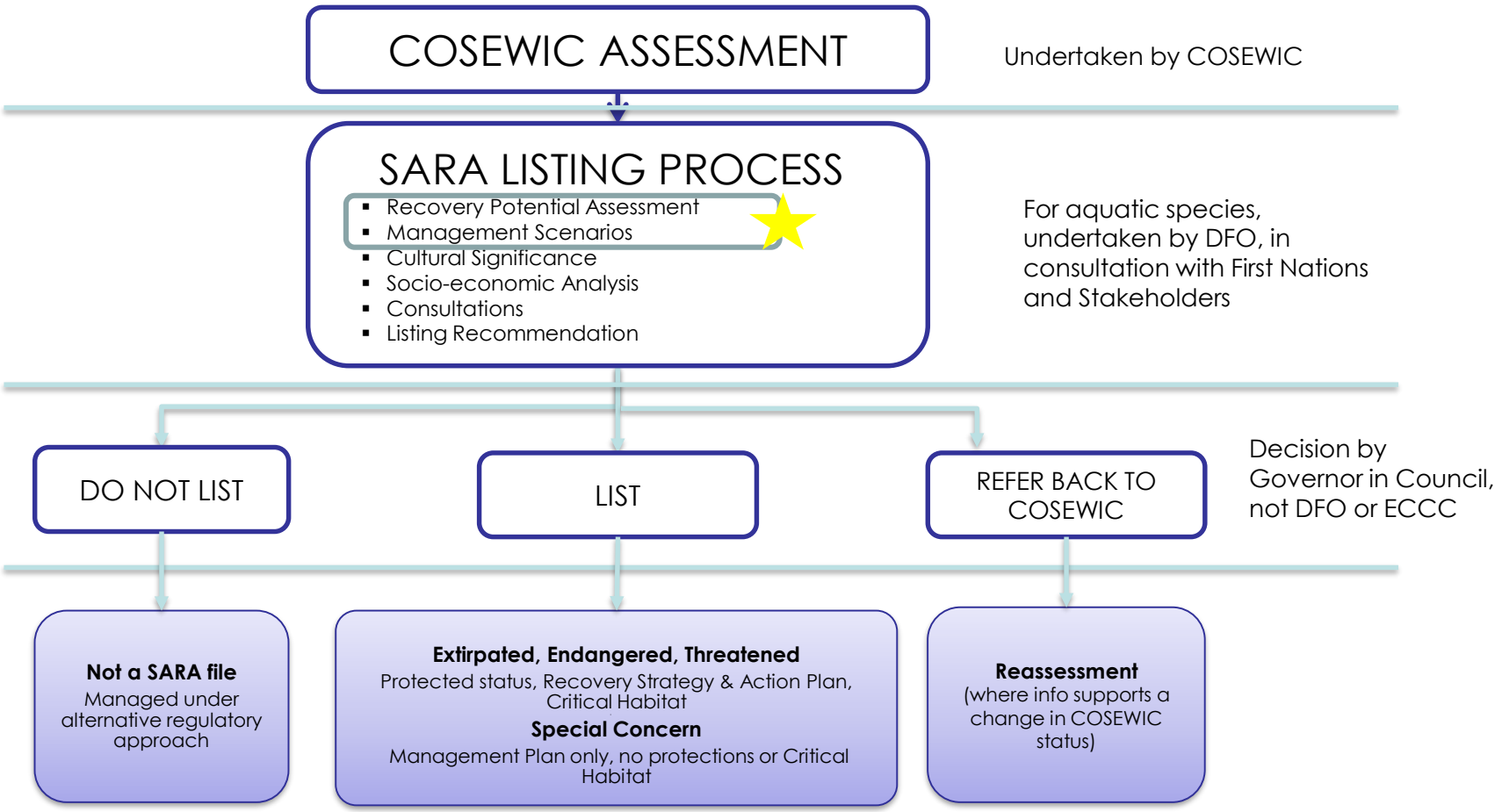
Activity	Proposed Timelines
Salmon Post Season Review Meetings All First Nations and stakeholders invited to attend.	Northern – December 3-4, 2020 Southern - December 16, 2020
2021 Salmon Outlook All First Nations and stakeholders invited to attend.	December 17, 2020
Release of DFO IFMP Planning Letter Letter Identifying key planning priorities and timelines for 2021/22 season	December TBD
Deadline for written submissions from First Nations and advisory groups on issues identified in the DFO IFMP letter. Timelines for commercial demonstration fishery proposals are also identified.	January TBD
Meetings to review and discuss potential changes to IFMPs and opportunity for focussed discussion on key IFMP issues.	FN Forum - February 2-4, 2021 Northern IHPC – February 3, 2021 Southern IHPC - February 4, 2021
Draft IFMPs released for public review & comment	February 24 or March 1, 2021
Meetings to review draft IFMP	FN Forum - March 2-4, 2021 Northern IHPC – March 4 Southern IHPC - March 5, 2021
2021 Revised Salmon Outlook	April 6, 2021
Deadline to submit comments on draft IFMP (30 day comment period).	April 9, 2021
Final Meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback.	FN Forum - Apr 20-22, 2021 Full IHPC - April 28-29, 2021
Target for public release of salmon IFMP	June 30, 2021

BACKGROUND SLIDES:

Southern BC Chinook Committee Update

- The Southern BC Chinook Committee was established in 2019 at the direction of then Minister Wilkinson as part of management measures to address Fraser River Chinook conservation.
- Intent was to provide Regional forum for First Nations, stakeholders, ENGOs and Province of BC to consider and advance common interests in sustaining and recovering salmon.
- Southern BC Chinook Committee raised process issues in four key areas over last year:
  1. The scope of the work and the need to develop a clear Terms of Reference for the committee and technical process;
  2. Shift the focus from short term planning (e.g., fishery measures for 2020) to longer term planning;
  3. The need for the Department to clearly identify the purpose of the committee and technical process; and
  4. Work with First Nations, including Fraser Salmon Management Board, to identify appropriate structures to support this work and appropriate resources to support those
- Currently the Department is reviewing next steps to address these issues

SARA Listing Process



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SARA Context – Default Listing Position

- DFO will advise the List be amended for a species as assessed by COSEWIC, unless there is a Compelling Rationale not to do so.
- When providing Do Not List Advice, DFO must:
  - Provide Compelling Rationale
  - Create and implement work plan if DFO will undertake incremental activities
  - Report on work plan progress after 5 years.
- Compelling Rationale must address:
  - Alternative recovery approach and expected outcomes in absence of listing
  - Net benefits to Canadians of DNL decision.
- Compelling Rational is developed in consideration of multiple sources of information including:
  - COSEWIC Assessment, Recovery Potential Assessment, consultation results, approved management scenarios and their impacts, analysis of costs and benefits.
- *http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/publications/sara-lep/policy-politique/index-eng.html*

Southern Resident Killer Whale 2019 Process

- On October 31, 2018, Government announced a suite of additional bold measures focused on broadening and strengthening protection for the species with an additional $61.5 million is being committed to implement the new measures. (see http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/protectingwhales-protegerbaleines/index-eng.html)

- The Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) continues to serve as a broad forum for engagement and discussion on measures supporting the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whale.
- Technical working groups with policy, technical and scientific experts from federal government, First Nations, environmental groups, industry and other areas were established to propose and advise on specific actions to address imminent threats to the population and facilitate their recovery.
- 5 TWGs established including: Prey Availability and Accessibility; Identification and development of proposed SRKW Sanctuaries; Vessel Noise (commercial vessel noise measures); Vessel Noise (general noise measures); and Contaminants.
- TWGs expected to support identification of and propose:

  a. Immediate actions – can be implemented by the return of the whales in greater numbers to the Salish Sea, in support of measures announced in the Whales Initiative and on October 31, 2019

  b. Longer-term actions – can be implemented and/or will achieve results over longer time frame

SRKW Prey Technical Working Group (TWG) Recommendations to Date

- Recommendations were sought from the Prey Availability TWG that informed 2019 management measures, in addition to feedback received through consultations with Indigenous groups and others stakeholders

- Additionally, the Prey Availability TWG put forward longer-term actions recommendations that address:
  - Chinook habitat protection and restoration
  - Salmon enhancement
  - Reducing predation of Chinook salmon
  - Forage fish management considerations