



Pacific Region Région du Pacifique
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street Piece 200 – 401 rue Burrard
Vancouver, British Columbia Vancouver (C-B.)
V6C 3S4 V6C 3S4

December 10, 2018

To First Nations and Stakeholders,

Re: Salmon 2019/2020 Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) for Northern and Southern British Columbia (BC)

This letter is intended to communicate the Department's key planning priorities for developing the 2019/2020 Northern and Southern BC Salmon IFMPs and alert you to important dates and deadlines for this year's process. Specifically, this letter communicates key planning priorities which reflect areas where potential fishery management changes are under consideration for the 2019 season (see Appendix 1 for details).

Further discussion with First Nations and advisory groups on these priority topics will take place during the consultation process to develop the 2019/20 salmon IFMPs. Further details on specific changes to inform discussions will be identified in the draft IFMPs that will be released at the end of February. If you wish to provide feedback on the planning priorities identified in this letter or other areas where you seek to propose changes for the IFMPs, you are requested to provide feedback in writing by **January 17th, 2019** to the DFO Pacific Salmon Management Team at DFO.PacificSalmonRMT-EGRSaumonduDpacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. The Department intends to share all feedback received with First Nations and stakeholders during meetings in late January / February to support discussion and development of the draft IFMPs. Salmon IFMPs for Northern and Southern BC are developed annually; the plans currently in place are effective June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019. The process to develop the salmon IFMPs is consistent with national guidelines for all IFMPs (see <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/ifmp-gmp/index-eng.htm>).

The current 2018/2019 Salmon IFMPs are available at:

Southern BC – <http://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/40694306.pdf>

Northern BC – <http://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/4069429x.pdf>

Below is a table outlining the important dates for the development of the salmon IFMPs for the coming year.

2019-2020 Salmon IFMPs Process Timelines

Activity	Proposed Timelines
<p>Salmon Post Season Review Meetings for Northern and Southern BC</p> <p>All First Nations and stakeholders invited to attend.</p>	<p>Northern – December 6-7th 2018 in Prince Rupert</p> <p>Southern - December 6th, 2018 by Conference Call/WebEx only</p>
<p>2018 Salmon Outlook and State of the Ocean reports</p> <p>All First Nations and stakeholders invited to attend.</p>	<p>Dec 14th, 2018 from 9 am to 12pm – via Conference Call/WebEx</p>
<p>Deadline for written submissions from First Nations and advisory groups on issues identified in DFO letter.</p> <p>Timelines for commercial demonstration fishery proposals are identified and any additional discussion items for the Salmon IFMPs are also requested.</p>	<p>January 17th, 2019</p>
<p>Integrated Harvest Planning Committee Meetings to review and discuss potential changes to IFMPs and opportunity for focused discussion on key IFMP issues.</p> <p>Additional meetings with First Nations organizations and advisory groups are also identified in the attached calendar.</p>	<p>FN Forum (Jan 29-31)</p> <p>Northern - Prince Rupert (February 5, 2019)</p> <p>Southern IHPC – Vancouver (February 6, 2019) meetings</p>
<p>Release draft IFMPs for public review & comment</p>	<p>Approx. February 22, 2019</p>
<p>Meetings to review draft IFMP</p>	<p>Northern IHPC – Prince Rupert (March 6, 2019); and,</p> <p>Southern IHPC – Vancouver (March 7, 2019)</p> <p>FN Forum (March 12-14)</p>
<p>Deadline to submit comments on draft IFMP (30 day comment period).</p>	<p>April 8, 2019</p>
<p>Final Meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback.</p>	<p>Full IHPC April 24-25, 2019 (Van.)</p> <p>FN Forum (Apr 26 or 30) - WebEx</p>
<p>Target for public release of salmon IFMP</p>	<p>June 2019</p>

The key planning priorities for the 2019 season are listed in Appendix 1. The Department is looking for feedback surrounding options that the First Nations and stakeholders would like considered for each priority through the IFMP planning process.

If you have any comments or concerns about the IFMP process for the coming year, please contact Ashley Dobko at Ashley.Dobko@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Grout". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Grout
Regional Resource Manager, Salmon

Appendix (1):

1. Key planning priorities for the 2019 season

Key planning priorities for the 2019 season:

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1. COSEWIC and SARA Process

Over 60 salmon and two anadromous trout designatable units (DUs) have been recently, or will soon be, assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). COSEWIC's submission of its assessments to the Government of Canada, via its annual report, initiates the process to determine whether or not to list a species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). For regular (non-emergency) processes, the Governor in Council (Cabinet) may, on the recommendation of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, add the species to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk; decide not to add the species to the List; or refer the matter back to COSEWIC.

To inform the recommendation and final listing decision, DFO prepares the following regional information: a Recovery Potential Assessment (science advice); management scenarios (outlining measures to potentially be taken if the species is, or is not listed); Indigenous Cultural Significance information; a Cost-Benefit Analysis; and, consultations with First Nations, Stakeholders, ENGOs and the general public. Management Scenarios will outline measures to potentially be taken under a "Do Not List" and a "List" scenario; the latter will include a focus on how SARA prohibitions may impact fisheries. Consultations to solicit input from First Nations, Stakeholders, ENGOs and the general public are undertaken prior to submitting a regional recommendation (for non-emergency processes) for consideration in a final SARA listing decision. If a species is listed under SARA as Threatened, Endangered, or Extirpated, it would be prohibited to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade the species.

Additional details can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>.

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
Steelhead Trout (Thompson & Chilcotin)	2	2018 (January)	2 EN (Emergency)**	N/A
Southern BC Chinook (Group I)	16	2018 (November)	8 EN, 4 TH, 1 SC, 1 NAR, 2 DD	Anticipated Oct 2019
Fraser Sockeye (Group I)	7	2019 (November)	Assessment not yet	Anticipated Oct 2020
Steelhead Trout (Thompson & Chilcotin)	2	2019 (November)	Re-assessment not yet performed (non-	Anticipated Oct 2020
Southern BC Chinook	12	TBD	Assessment not yet	TBD

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

*DU refers to “designatable unit” or population. DUs and Wild Salmon Policy Conservation Units are similar, and in most cases, the same

**underwent an Emergency Assessment, as per SARA S.28 (1).

Further information on the SARA listing process can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-act-accord-funding/listing-process/act.html>

2. Northern and Southern BC Chinook

DFO implemented fishery management actions in 2018 designed to reduce fishery mortality rates by 25 to 35% to address conservation concerns for Skeena, Nass, small wild Northern BC and all Fraser River Chinook stocks. For Northern BC stocks, preliminary spawning assessments indicate 2018 abundances improved from record lows in 2017 but remain below spawning escapement targets. However, the abundance of Fraser Chinook salmon continued to drop in 2018 with extremely low returns and unprecedented levels of poor productivity for many stocks. The poor returns in these systems are consistent with observations of broad coast-wide declines in Chinook survival, size at age, and fecundity that have been documented for many populations (see http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2018/2018_035-eng.html).

In addition, Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) continue to face threats to their survival and recovery and the Government is planning additional measures to strengthen protection of the species by the time they return to the Salish Sea in late spring. This will include measures aimed at protecting and recovering Chinook salmon stocks that are significant for SRKW.

For 2019, the outlook is for continued unfavorable marine and freshwater survival conditions and low productivity for these Chinook stocks. This will require a continuation of fishery management actions to support conservation and promote rebuilding of these stocks. New management actions will also need to be considered to support conservation and rebuilding of Fraser River Chinook populations and support prey availability for SRKW.

To address conservation concerns for Fraser River Chinook and support prey availability for SRKW, the Department plans to consider new management actions with the objective of identifying opportunities to pass as many Fraser Chinook as possible to spawning areas to support recovery of these stocks. This will require consequential reductions in fisheries impacts in times and areas where these stocks are encountered in Northern and Southern BC including First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries in marine areas and the Fraser River.

Potential new management actions could include:

- New time and area closures to reduce impacts on stocks of concern in key rearing areas and during peak migration periods;
- Reduced fishing effort or harvest allowances in Chinook directed fisheries;
- Chinook non-retention or consideration of mark selective (i.e. hatchery marked) Chinook retention;
- A combination of measures.

Management measures identified in the current Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (effective June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019) will need to be reviewed to consider additional measures that may be required for early season fisheries that start in late winter/early spring 2019, as well as, measures that will be included in the new IFMPs covering the period from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020.

Over the next several months, the Department plans to consult with First Nations and stakeholders to identify specific details of these potential management actions and will seek input on potential biological, cultural, social and economic consequences of potential actions to support decision making.

Additional work is also underway to implement other measures, such as habitat restoration and enhancement actions, to support recovery of these populations.

3. Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW)

The Southern Resident Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) population was listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in 2003. Resident Killer Whale (RKW) populations in British Columbia are presently considered to be at risk because of their small population size, low reproductive rate, narrow prey selection, and the existence of a variety of anthropogenic threats that have the potential to prevent their recovery or to cause further declines. The SRKW population is small and declining, experiencing a decline of 3% per year between 1995 and 2001, and since then has shown little recovery, with 74 individuals in the wild as of 2018. Due to this small population size and low birth rate, threats affecting only a few individuals have the potential to impact their recovery. Even under the most optimistic scenario (human activities do not increase mortality or decrease reproduction), the species' low intrinsic growth rate means that the time frame for recovery will be more than one generation (25 years).

General Approach to Recovery: Key threats to recovery identified in the SARA [Recovery Strategy for Northern and Southern Resident Killer Whale \(*Orcinus orca*\) in Canada](#) (DFO 2008, 2011), include decreased availability and quality of prey, environmental contamination, and both physical and acoustic disturbance.

Fisheries Management Measures to Support SRKW Recovery: The seasonal distribution and movement patterns of Resident Killer Whales are strongly associated with the availability of their preferred prey, chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and secondarily, chum salmon (*O. keta*). During the summer and fall, the principal prey of SRKW appears to be chinook and chum salmon and throughout the Salish Sea, chinook salmon have experienced poor returns in recent years. There is less known about the winter and spring diet and winter distribution of the Southern Residents but recent and ongoing research will further our understanding and help further identify the principal threats facing the population.

For the 2019 salmon fishing season, the Department is reviewing additional fishery management actions to support increased chinook prey availability in key SRKW foraging areas within the SRKW Critical Habitat. Potential measures will be designed to provide an accessible food supply and to reduce physical and acoustic disturbance in key SRKW foraging areas. The Department intends to ensure that actions for the 2019 season can be implemented by May 2019 to coincide with the return of SRKW to the Salish Sea. Further discussion with First Nations and stakeholders on potential measures that may be considered will occur as part of IFMP consultation process.

The Government is also working with an Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG) and is in the process of establishing Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to bring together policy, traditional knowledge, technical and scientific experts from the federal government, Indigenous Peoples, environmental groups, industry and others to advise on specific actions that can deliver on the commitments made by the federal government to address imminent threats to the SRKW and facilitate their recovery. There will be five TWGs convened to focus on the following issues/areas:

1. Prey availability and accessibility;
2. Identification and development of proposed SRKW sanctuaries;
3. Vessel Noise measures related to Large Commercial Vessels;
4. Additional vessel noise measures; and
5. Contaminants.

Departmental staff will be leading work on the first two working groups, while Transport Canada will lead groups 3 and 4, and Environment and Climate Change Canada will lead the group on contaminants. To ensure that actions for the 2019 whale season can be implemented by May 2019, the TWGs will finalize proposals for immediate actions by March 1, 2019. Proposals for initial longer-term actions will be developed by June 2019. DFO plans to consult with Indigenous communities and stakeholders through our established salmon consultation processes on any information or specific actions that may be considered for salmon fisheries.

4. Interior Fraser River Steelhead

SARA Emergency Listing Process

By public request, Thompson River and Chilcotin River Steelhead underwent an emergency assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in January 2018. The Committee assessed both Steelhead populations as Endangered, and they are now being evaluated for

potential listing under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) through an Emergency Listing Process. Under the requirements for this process, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (MECCC) must form an opinion on whether there is an imminent threat to the survival of one or both of these populations. This determination has not yet been made, but is expected any time.

If the Minister's opinion is that an imminent threat to these populations **does not exist**, the Emergency Listing Process ceases. If the Minister's opinion is that an imminent threat **does exist** for one or both of these populations, she must make a recommendation to the Governor in Council (GIC) to list the population(s) as Endangered under SARA. GIC will then determine whether to list the population(s) under SARA based on the Regional Listing Information package that is provided to them through the SARA process. The information package will incorporate the Science Advisory Report for the Recovery Potential Assessment for Thompson River and Chilcotin River Steelhead, management scenarios for List and Do Not List scenarios, a cost-benefit analysis, and any submissions provided to the Department on the cultural significance of these populations to Indigenous communities. The listing package will also contain any written or verbal submissions received by SARA from First Nations and stakeholders throughout the consultation period that ended on December 2, 2018.

No legislative timelines exist for the delivery of a Listing Decision under an Emergency Listing Process. However, the current expectation is that a Listing Decision will be made by GIC in late spring of 2019.

Fisheries Management Measures to Support Recovery of Steelhead

In 2018, DFO implemented significant new management measures to reduce the impacts of salmon fisheries on Interior Fraser River (IFR) Steelhead - the management group that includes Thompson River and Chilcotin River Steelhead. These measures were based on a window closure approach designed to protect IFR Steelhead from incidental fisheries impacts along their migration corridor in marine waters and into the Fraser River and tributaries.

Expectations for IFR Steelhead in 2019 are for continued poor returns, requiring ongoing measures to reduce impacts in salmon fisheries to maximize the number of potential IFR Steelhead spawners. Specific measures to be implemented in 2019 must consider the ongoing Emergency Listing Process for Thompson River and Chilcotin River Steelhead, as the outcome of the Listing Decision will strongly influence the measures that are taken. Due to uncertainty in the timeline for provision of a Listing Decision, it is not yet known whether these populations will be listed under SARA before next fall, and it is quite likely this decision will not be made prior to the conclusion of the IFMP planning process.

Accordingly, the management approach for 2019 will have to consider two distinct sets of management measures. One set of measures will be developed for a scenario where Thompson River and Chilcotin River Steelhead are **not listed under SARA**. Management actions under this scenario are expected to be similar to those taken in 2018, but may be adapted based on feedback received during the 2019 planning process. A second set of measures will also be presented which brings fisheries plans into compliance with SARA, in the event that one or both of the Thompson River and Chilcotin River Steelhead populations are **listed under SARA**. Automatic general prohibitions under Section 32 of the Species at Risk act will necessitate closures to all fisheries using gear to which Steelhead may be vulnerable, and that operate in a time and place that is part of the known migration route of these two populations. This applies to recreational, commercial, and FSC fisheries, and includes marine approach areas on the west and east coasts of Vancouver Island, as well as the Fraser River and tributaries. Specific dates for the closures under a SARA listing are currently under review, but are expected to be a minimum of 60 days in duration. The draft List Management Scenario provided on the SARA Consultation website provides a good overview of the times and areas that are likely to be closed to

fishing if one or both of these steelhead populations is Listed under SARA: https://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/involved/consultation/default_e.cfm

5. Fraser River Sockeye

2019 is the sub-dominant return year for Late run sockeye and a Fraser pink salmon return year. A quantitative forecast of Fraser sockeye and pink returns is expected in early 2019. Fraser sockeye returns have been less than the forecast median (p50) for most of the last decade with 2010 being the only exception. Fraser pink salmon returns have also been on a declining trend for the last two return years with the 2017 return being one of the lowest in the last three decades. As a result, planning will need to consider the potential for a range of returns, as well as, specific management measures for protecting and rebuilding conservation units and/or species of concern.

Key considerations during consultations will include the duration of the window closure to protect weak stocks returning at the start of the season, the escapement plan for Early Stuart, Early Summer, Summer and Late run aggregates and specific management measures for stocks of concern. The Department plans to identify 2 escapement plan options in the draft IFMP for consideration in 2019. Options are usually informed by the escapement plan implemented in the brood year (i.e. 2015-green highlight in table below) and modifications to account for annual considerations including forecast returns. The table below provides information on the fishery reference points implemented in previous years to inform planning. In addition, further discussion will be required on the potential for additional terminal harvest opportunities for Fraser sockeye stocks that may return in abundance.

For each management aggregate, the escapement plan also identifies a Low Abundance Exploitation Rate (LAER) for cases when there is zero or very low total allowable mortality for a run timing group that allows for limited fisheries directed on co-migrating stocks or species. The LAERs have previously been set at 10% for Early Stuart, Early Summer and Summer run timing groups and 20 to 30% for Late run sockeye in past Adams dominant years. In 2019, 20% LAERs were used for Early Summer and Summer run timing groups

Table: Summary of Fraser River sockeye escapement plan / fishery reference points used in previous years.

Mgmt Unit	Early Stuart		Early Summer ^a		Summer ^a		Late ^a	
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper
2007	108,000	270,000	120,000	300,000	600,000	1,500,000	400,000	1,000,000
2008	108,000	270,000	120,000	300,000	520,000	1,300,000	400,000	1,000,000
2009	156,000	390,000	120,000	300,000	520,000	1,300,000	400,000	1,000,000
2010	156,000	390,000	200,000	500,000	1,000,000	2,500,000	1,200,000	3,000,000
2011	108,000	270,000	120,000	300,000	520,000	1,300,000	400,000	1,000,000
2012	52,000	130,000	100,000	250,000	640,000	1,600,000	300,000	750,000
2013	108,000	270,000	100,000	250,000	1,250,000	3,125,000	300,000	750,000
2014	108,000	270,000	180,000	450,000	1,020,000	2,550,000	1,100,000	2,750,000

2015	108,000	270,000	100,000	250,000	1,000,000	2,500,000	300,000	750,000
2016	108,000	270,000	100,000	250,000	640,000	1,600,000	300,000	750,000
2017	108,000	270,000	100,000	250,000	1,250,000	3,125,000	300,000	750,000
2018	108,000	270,000	180,000	450,000	1,020,000	2,550,000	1,100,000	2,750,000

Notes:

- a) For Early Summers, Summers, and Lates, the fishery reference points are scaled up annually to account for the expected contribution of unforecasted miscellaneous stocks in the MU.
- b) A separate management objective is identified for Cultus Lake sockeye in the salmon IFMP and includes an exploitation rate constraint that limits harvest of Late run sockeye.
- c) Beginning in 2010, the maximum allowable exploitation rate for Cultus sockeye was permitted to increase above 20% if conditions were expected to permit continued rebuilding of the population based on in season information on returns of Late run sockeye and potential numbers of effective spawners.

6. Interior Fraser Coho

Consistent with Canada’s commitment under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), Canada's committed to determining status reference points and corresponding exploitation rate (ER) caps for Canadian Southern Coho Management Unities (MUs) under Chapter 5, Annex IV of the PST by December 2018.

As outlined in Chapter 5 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), allowable exploitation rates (ERs) for Canada and the U.S. are identified based on the status of Coho management units (Mus). Canada is responsible for determining the status level for Canadian MUs and setting the corresponding ER caps for both parties. Scientific advice to inform this work was provided by a Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) process in the fall of 2017. A draft Science Advisory Report (SAR), based on the CSAS process, was then used to inform consultations with Canadian First Nations and stakeholders from January to June 2018, including correspondence, two webinars and a technical workshop.

Based on the results of the SAR and recommendations through our domestic consultation process, Canada’s management approach will be driven by the status of Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho MU, based on an integration of marine survival rates (with break points at 3% and 6%) and spawner abundance. Under this approach, ER caps will be set at 20%, 30% and 45% for Low, Moderate and Abundant status. Canada will be required to confirm the status of Interior Fraser River coho MU in March of each year.

Status determination and corresponding ER caps are not contemplated for the Strait of Georgia and Lower Fraser MUs at this time, due to insufficient data. However, we may revisit this approach in the future.

In addition, Canada or the U.S. may choose to manage to a lower ER based on domestic fisheries management considerations as has been done domestically for Coho in previous years (domestically this has been an ER cap of 3%-5%). Domestic management decisions will be discussed through the annual process to develop the Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs). Additional background information as well as a summary report from domestic consultations may be found here: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/smon/pst-coho-tsp/index-eng.html>.

7. Five Nations Fishery Management Plan

Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht (the T'aaq-wiihak First Nations) – each have an Aboriginal right to fish for any species of fish within their court-defined fishing territories and to sell that fish, with the exception of Geoduck.

On Apr. 19, 2018, the British Columbia Supreme Court issued its decision and clarified how the right “to fish and sell fish” should be interpreted. The Five Nations' aboriginal rights to fish and sell fish is to be interpreted as:

- a. *A non-exclusive, small scale, artisanal, local, multi-species fishery, to be conducted in their court defined area for fishing, which extends nine nautical miles offshore, using small, low-cost boats with limited technology and restricted catching power, and aimed at wide community participation;*
- b. *Providing predictable and long term fishing opportunities; and*
- c. *Allowing the sale of fish into the commercial marketplace with the objective, but not the guarantee, of sustainability and viability.*

A BCSC court order of November 1, 2018 directed DFO to provide the Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations (Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht) with an initial multi-species Fishery Management Plan (FMP) by Friday, November 30, 2018. Beginning December 2018 through February 2019, DFO will consult with the Five Nations and also with other Indigenous groups and non-Indigenous stakeholders about the initial plan. After consultations are complete, DFO will take into account the input from the Five Nations and others that may be affected by, or have an interest in, the finalized plan. As required by the Court Order, no later than March 31, 2019, DFO will finalize the Five Nations multi-species Fishery Management Plan, which will provide the Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations with opportunities to exercise their rights in the 2019 fishing season in a manner that addresses the unjustified infringements in the Court Order.

8. Pacific Salmon Treaty Update

Following months of negotiations, the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), made up of representatives from Canada and the U.S., reached agreement on proposed changes to five “fishing chapters” in Annex IV of the *Pacific Salmon Treaty* (PST). In August 2018, the PSC provided their recommendation to the Governments of Canada and U.S. for review and ratification. The Government of Canada is now in the process of ratifying the new agreement with a view to beginning implementation on January 1, 2019. This will create a new 10-year conservation and harvest sharing arrangement under the PST.

The five chapters expiring at the end of 2018 are: Chapter 1 (Transboundary Rivers); Chapter 2 (Northern British Columbia and Southeast Alaska); Chapter 3 (Chinook); Chapter 5 (Coho); and Chapter 6 (Chum). Chapter 7 (General Obligations) does not have an expiry date; however, the PSC has recommended minor updates to “Attachment E” containing general provisions on salmon habitat.

Some of the key elements of the proposed agreement include:

- Implementation of an abundance-based management and harvest sharing arrangement for Taku River Coho salmon;
- New language regarding conservation actions to be taken in Southeast Alaska when Skeena and Nass sockeye are at low abundances;

- Harvest reductions in Canadian and U.S. AABM and ISBM fisheries to address ongoing conservation concerns for Chinook stocks in both countries;
- For Southern Coho, creation of a single Strait of Georgia management unit (MU), replacing two prior MUs and the development of a status-based management approach for Canadian MUs; and,
- Creation of two “breakpoints” for Fraser River chum.

Chapter 4 (Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon) expires December 31, 2019 and renegotiations are currently underway within the PSC regarding renewal of the chapter.

9. Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) Demonstration Fisheries

As part of implementing changes to the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF), the Department is continuing to work with First Nations Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC) and the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB) representatives to implement existing and review new CSAF demonstration fisheries proposals. CSAF demonstration fishery proposals are intended to provide increased flexibility for harvesters to fish their commercial salmon shares. CSAF demonstration fishery proposals are assessed through an Evaluation Framework which outlines Departmental objectives and were developed with support from the SCC and CSAB.

The Department is requesting confirmation of continued interest in existing and submission of any new demonstration fishery proposals be submitted by proponents to Cynthia.Johnston@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and their local Fisheries Manager **no later than January 28th, 2019**. 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 through the draft IFMP consultation process. Demonstration fishery proposals that are not submitted by this deadline will not be considered for the 2019 season.