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NOV 21 2018

Dear First Nations and Stakeholders:

RE: Canada's Approach for Southern Coho Salmon under the Pacific Salmon Treaty

Further to the previous correspondence in January and March of this year, I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on Canada's approach for determining status reference points and corresponding exploitation rate (ER) caps for Canadian Southern Coho Management Unities (MUs) under Chapter 5, Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). This work addresses Canada's commitment under the PST to complete this work by December 2018.

As outlined in Chapter 5, allowable ERs for Canada and the U.S. are identified based on the status of Coho 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 MUs, 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.

This approach will not result in a change to the US ER caps on Canadian MUs of 10% (Low); 12% (Moderate); or 15% (Abundant). 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. Domestic management decisions will be discussed through the annual process to develop the Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs).

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.

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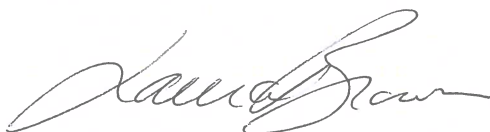
A summary of Canada's approach for the IFR MU under the PST Southern Coho Management Plan is summarized in the table below:

	Low	Moderate	Abundant
Survival	$S \leq 0.03$	Three consecutive years $0.03 < 0.06$	Three consecutive years $S > 0.06$
Escapement	Monitored in CU's and sub-populations but no thresholds	and	And
		Three consecutive years: - Half of sub-pop'ns in each CU > 1000; or - Aggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., 27,000)	Three consecutive years: - All IFR sub-pop'ns 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)

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>. If you have any questions regarding the webinars or engagement process, please contact: Cynthia Johnston at Cynthia.johnston@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; or at 604-562-6123.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank all those that participated in the engagement process for your thoughtful discussion and feedback.

Sincerely,



Laura Brown
Area Director, South Coast
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Cc:

Rebecca Reid: Regional Director General, Pacific Region
Jennifer Nener: Director: Salmon Management and Business Client Services
Laura Brown: South Coast Area Director
Angela Bate: Fraser and Interior Area Director
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