



# Pacific Salmon Treaty Renewal

**Chapter 2 – Northern Boundary**

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***Update***



# Pacific Salmon Treaty Renewal

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- Timelines
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# Pacific Salmon Treaty and Pacific Salmon Commission

- The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) was signed in 1985 – commits Canada and the U.S. to work together on research, conservation and management of Pacific salmon.
- The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) is responsible for the implementation of the Treaty.
- The PSC is a bilateral, multi-level organization with U.S. and Canadian delegates representing federal, state, and provincial fisheries agencies, First Nations and tribal governments, the commercial, recreational and processing sectors, and environmental organizations.
- The Commission is comprised of four Commissioners and four Alternate Commissioners from each country, who are supported by the work of four Panels as well as several species- and area-specific technical committees.
- The Commission’s work is supported by an international “Secretariat” based in Vancouver, B.C.



# Context

Five fishing chapters in Annex IV of the Treaty expire on December 31, 2018. Chapter 4 expires December 31, 2019.

- In February 2015, Commissioners adopted a three-year planning horizon to conduct and complete negotiations on the PST Annex IV – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.
- Chapter 1: Transboundary Rivers
- **Chapter 2: Northern British Columbia and South Eastern Alaska**
- **Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon**
- **Chapter 5: Coho Salmon**
- **Chapter 6: Southern British Columbia and Washington State Chum Salmon**
- Chapter 4 – Fraser River Sockeye and Pink expires December 31, 2019.  
Discussions on approach to renewal at an early stage.
- The parties agreed in October 2015 to aim for completing negotiations by February 2017 for all chapters (except Chapter 3) to allow one year for domestic ratification.  
An update is provided for the relevant chapters.
- Agreement in principle was reached for Chapters 5&6 January 2018.



## Chapter 2

- Canada has concerns with original chapter language and Skeena conservation problems.
- Northern Boundary panel was unable to agree on changes to chapter language; other interim approaches have been proposed by Canada
  - Summer exchanges – SEAK/Skeena 2017
  - Possible side agreement or exchange of letters
- Remains unresolved/work ongoing.



## Chapter 3 - Chinook – Getting here

- Negotiations began on the chinook chapter in 2016; however the US side has been slow to prepare for negotiations (demographics)
- Canada put the first position paper on the table in February 2017; the US paper was first presented in May 2017 with little in common
- June to September focussed on technical work on elements largely proposed by the US, new methods and metrics to address concerns about effectiveness and allocation impacts.
- Canada and the US clarified positions in October 2017 on matter relating to harvest sharing and conservation.
- Improvements to the bilateral chinook model have been slower than anticipated, but are expected in February.



## Chapter 3 – Chinook - Proposals

- January 2017 presentation by Canada and by US on stock status
- Feb 2017 Canadian paper. On the basis of continuing decline in chinook productivity :maintain reductions in Canada from 2009; some further Alaskan reduction
- May 2017 US paper. On the basis of a continuing decline in Puget Sound ESA listed stocks: 25% reduction in all southern BC fisheries, continue NBC practice, no SEAK reductions.
- October 2017. Canadian paper clarified the harvest and conservation balance issue; further on productivity decline; proposed no change in southern BC and some reduction in SEAK
- Nov 2017 and Jan 2018. US dismisses Canadian conservation concerns regarding SEAK; requests more information.



## Chapter 3 – Chinook - Current status

- Some underlying technical matters have been resolved; relationship maintained.
- Canada provided further analysis (February negotiations) to demonstrate need for SEAK reduction, a balance in harvest sharing and concern across the coast for declining chinook productivity.
- Uncertain that an agreement on harvest sharing will be reached in March negotiations; however there is optimism that scenarios currently being modeled will allow progress.
- Canada is reviewing its domestic actions for 2018 at IHPC. Outcomes will inform chapter 3 negotiations.





## Chapter 5 – Coho - What's changed?

- Continued bilateral commitment to conservation-based management approach, acknowledging current environmental uncertainties.
- Continue the current approach to chapter 5 implementation until Canada has finished work on a status-based management approach for Canadian Management Units (MUs) in the PST. The status-determination work will involve establishing reference points for moving amongst Low – Medium – High status (for purposes of annual fishery planning), and the allowable sustainable exploitation rates at each status level.
- Structure of Canadian MUs will be simplified for bilateral management – two Strait of Georgia Management Units have been combined into one.
  - Past information shows U.S. fisheries have similar impact on the two existing SoG MUs
- Until Canada completes this work, bilateral (Canada-U.S.) management will be driven by the status of Interior Fraser Coho (IFR), and based on a “Low” status level. Canada has committed to completing the work for Canadian MUs by the end of 2018. Further information on domestic consultations planned for this work will be communicated in January 2018.



## Chapter 5 – Coho - What's changed?

- For Northern Coho, the following approach was approved by the Co-Chairs of the Northern Panel at the February 2017 PSC annual meeting:
- To facilitate sustainable management in support of optimum production of Coho salmon origination from rivers situated between Cape Caution and Cape Suckling, a Coho subcommittee of the Northern Boundary Technical Committee will produce a report on assignments completed as part of Chapter 5 s.3(a) to 3(h).
- The report will address the state of knowledge on the status of northern Coho stocks, and provide recommendations to improve the management and conservation of these stocks.
- The subcommittee will report out on its progress to the Northern Panel annually, with the final report presented to the Northern Panel and Commission in advance of the 2020 fishing season to inform the Parties consideration of management actions or recommended conservation measures.



# Chapter 6 – Chum - What’s changed?

- The US chum fishery in Areas 7 / 7 A will have a reduced catch ceiling (from current 130,000 to 125,000) in years of moderate Fraser chum run size abundance (run size estimate between 1,050,000 and 1,600,000) and the US will cease their fisheries if the Fraser Run size is less than 1,050,000 . Under the current Chapter, the trigger for ceasing US fisheries is a Fraser run size less than 900,000.
- In exchange, Canada has agreed to allow increased US harvests at high Fraser run sizes (run size estimate in excess of 1,600,000) up to a catch ceiling of 160,000 chum.
- Specific provisions for monitoring and reporting of steelhead encounters in US and Canadian fisheries have been added.

	Current	Proposed	What’s new?
<b>Lower Breakpoint</b> (Fraser Chum Terminal run size estimate)	900,000	1,050,000	U.S. fisheries terminated below this run size – more protection at lower Fraser run sizes
<b>Lower U.S. Catch Ceiling</b> (pieces of chum)	130,000	125,000	Reduced U.S. harvests at low to moderate run sizes
<b>Upper Breakpoint</b> (Fraser Chum Terminal run size estimate)	NA	1,600,000	New inflection point
<b>Upper U.S. Catch Ceiling</b> (pieces of chum)	No change at increased run size – 130,000	160,000	More U.S. harvest flexibility in years of high chum abundance



## Next Steps

- Domestic engagement and consultation for Chapters 1, 5 and 6.
- Further negotiations on Chapters 2 and 3.
- Ratification of all relevant chapters by December 2018 for implementation in 2019