



Renewal of the Canada / United States Pacific Salmon Treaty – Annex IV

Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning
for Fraser Salmon

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Outline

- Background on the *Pacific Salmon Treaty* (PST)
- Context – PST renewal
- Chapter negotiations
- Consultations on PST renewal
- Current status of Chinook, coho, and chum chapter renewals





Pacific Salmon Treaty and Pacific Salmon Commission

- The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) was signed in 1985 – commits the countries 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 comprised of delegates from both Canada and the United States representing federal, state, and provincial fisheries agencies, First Nations and tribal governments, the commercial, recreational and processing sectors, and environmental organizations with an interest in salmon conservation.
- 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 agreement of both Canada and the U.S. is required for any recommendation or decision by the Commission.



Pacific Salmon Treaty Article XI

Article XI – Domestic Allocation

- This Treaty shall not be interpreted or applied so as to affect or modify existing aboriginal rights or rights established in existing Indian treaties and other existing federal laws.
- This Article shall not be interpreted or applied so as to affect or modify any rights or obligations of the Parties pursuant to other Articles and Annexes to this Treaty.



Context – PST Renewal

- Five fishing chapters in Annex IV of the Treaty expire on December 31, 2018.
- 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**
- These chapters are essential to the functioning of the PST and set out the specific conservation and harvest sharing arrangements for stocks and fisheries between Canada and the United States.
- The parties agreed in October 2015 to aim for completing negotiations by December 2017 to allow one year for domestic ratification.



Chapter Negotiations: Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6

- Canada's Panel Chairs (DFO) will lead negotiations and consultations.
 - Panel chairs will work closely with their respective Panel and Technical Committee members to identify negotiating themes, specific chapter language and other work products to support bilateral negotiations.
- Negotiating structure / timelines for each Chapter will vary. Key variables include:
 - Time for each Party to complete domestic reviews; draft and exchange proposals.
 - Complexity of topics.
 - Resources available to attend planned meetings.
- Transboundary, Northern and Southern Panels projected to conclude negotiations by December 2017.



Chapter Negotiations: Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon

- Canada's Chinook Negotiating Team will be led by current lead Commissioner (Susan Farlinger).
- A domestic Chinook Advisory Group (consisting of existing PSC Panel Members with a strong interest / background in Chinook) will also be created.
- Existing PSC Chinook-related bodies (i.e., the Chinook Technical Committee, and the Commissioner-level Chinook Interface Group), will remain active to advise Commissioners on current Chinook chapter implementation.
- DFO will ensure that all Panel Chairs are routinely briefed on Chinook negotiating developments in advance of planned domestic consultations through 2018.



Consultations on PST renewal

DFO will engage in a coordinated, three-phased approach to consultations.

Phase 1 – January – April 2016

Inform First Nations in BC and Yukon about PSC renewal process and PST.

- Information letters
- FNFC and FRAFS communications
- Presentations: Forum, FNFC Assembly, Salmon Coordinating Committee, regional organization meetings (ex. IMAWG, LFFA, UFFCA)

Discussion of issues that arise from Panel and Commissioner led negotiations

Phase 2 – May 2016 – September 2017

Inform and seek feedback on issues that arise from Panel and Commissioner led negotiations

Phase 3 – October 2017 – December 2018

Correspondence to communicate outcomes of negotiation and opportunities to discuss implementation.



Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon

- In January 2016, Canadian and U.S. Commissioners exchanged preliminary ideas on the objectives for Chapter 3 negotiations.
- Through the Chinook Technical Committee, Canada and the U.S. continue to engage in preliminary Chinook model improvements as well as a performance evaluation. Outcomes from this work will help guide future Chinook negotiations.



Chapter 5: Coho Salmon

- Describes international management regimes for southern coho (stocks originating in streams South of Cape Caution).
- Details of management regimes for more northerly coho stocks described in Chapters 1, 2 and 7.
- Southern Panel oversees implementation of the Southern Coho Management Plan with support from the bilateral Coho Technical Committee.



Chapter 5: Coho Salmon

- Chapter 5 constrains exploitation rates on defined southern management units within caps associated with categorical status levels (Low – Moderate – Abundant).
- For Chapter 5, two bilateral issues under discussion are:
 - the ability of the parties to maintain the robust stock and fishery assessment programs required to implement this chapter, and
 - timing of the annual fisheries management cycle between Canada and the U.S.
- Funds have been sought to support two initiatives related to Chapter renegotiations:
 1. Workshop to explore alternative management strategies for Southern Coho.
 2. Determination of status and allowable exploitation rates for Canadian Management Units.



Chapter 6: Southern Chum Salmon

- Implementation of Chapter 6 is overseen by the Southern Panel with support from the Joint Chum Technical Committee.
- Treaty includes provisions relating to fisheries occurring in Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Island Area, Strait of Georgia, Johnstone Strait and the Fraser River.
- Under Chapter 6, U.S. chum fisheries in areas 7 and 7 A (San Juan Islands) are constrained to a harvest ceiling of 130,000 pieces.
- These U.S. fisheries are suspended if Canadian test fisheries in Johnstone Strait and Fraser River show abundances below treaty-defined thresholds.
- To date, no proposals for chapter modification have been brought forward by either Canada or the U.S. through the Southern Panel process.



Future Opportunities with Forum

- Over next two years, how can PST renewal discussions and updates be part of the Forum process?

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For information on the Pacific Salmon Commission www.psc.org

Pacific Salmon Treaty <http://www.psc.org/pubs/Treaty/Treaty.pdf>