



Chinook Planning Priorities 2021/22 Draft Salmon IFMP

First Nations Forum : March 2-4, 2021



1. Fraser Chinook - 2021 Planning

- Continued need for ongoing precautionary fishery management measures to support conservation of stocks of concern;
- Plan for continued restrictions and/or closures to fisheries in times and area where these stocks are encountered in Northern and Southern BC
- While conservation of at-risk Fraser Chinook is the primary objective in managing the resource, the Department is committed to respecting Constitutional and Treaty obligations to provide priority for First Nations harvest opportunities for Food, Social and Ceremonial and Treaty obligations after conservation.
- In 2019 and 2020, additional commercial and recreational fishery restrictions implemented to support increased availability of not-at-risk Summer 4₁ Chinook for First Nations fisheries harvest opportunities during August and September.



Fraser Chinook Management Objectives

Fraser Spring 4₂, Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂

- Management objective for Spring 4₂, Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ 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%.
- Expected fishery mortalities are not intended to be a management target and the objective is to allow as many fish to pass through to the spawning grounds as possible.
- A zoned management approach will not be used to manage Spring and Summer 5₂ Chinook; (however, in season run size will still be assessed at Albion.)
- Fishery impacts are expected to include
 - Mortalities in Fraser River chinook test fisheries (Albion) and incidental mortalities sockeye test fisheries
 - Limited chinook retention or bycatch retention in FN FSC fisheries
 - Release mortalities and incidental mortalities during chinook directed fisheries targeting other stocks.



Fraser Chinook Management Objectives

Summer 4₁ chinook

- PST escapement goal for Lower Shuswap Chinook
- Conservation concern for Maria Slough Chinook (Lower Fraser).
- Run timing overlaps with Summer 5₂ and Fall 4₁ Chinook will require consideration of lower fishery mortalities

Fall 4₁ chinook

- Spawner abundance has not achieved the PST escapement goal in 8 of last 9 years (2012-2020). Harrison Chinook continues to experience low productivity.
- 2020 management measures also intended to further reduce exploitation rates



What were 2020 fishery mortalities?

- Preliminary catch data available. Note: catch in marine fisheries is a mix of Canadian and US Chinook populations. Fraser catch is a mix of Fraser stocks in most areas.
- Assessment of fishery mortalities for specific Chinook management units/indicator stocks will require information from run reconstruction, CWT and DNA data.
 - Exploitation Rate Analysis (fishery mortality) tables for CWT indicators from Chinook Technical Committee (PST) in late March – April: Spring 4₂ (Nicola), Summer 4₁ (Lower Shuswap), Fall 4₁ (Harrison)
 - Run reconstruction and fishery mortality indices for Fraser Chinook (includes Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂) requires spawner abundance, catch, Fraser run reconstruction and genetic stock id (DNA for marine fisheries). (Prelim. results in April subject to DNA data availability)
 - Analysis to assess impacts of 2020 fisheries will need to incorporate evaluation of impacts from Big Bar rockslide for Spring 5₂ and Summer 5₂ (e.g. how many salmon successfully passed rockslide?)



What management measures are currently anticipated for 2021?

The following measures developed in 2020 are anticipated to be in effect but may be modified based on consultations to develop the 2021/22 salmon IFMPs.

First Nations fisheries: Provision of priority access for First Nations FSC harvests in South Coast and Fraser River.

- Fraser River First Nations FSC fisheries opportunities limited to unplanned events or first fish ceremonies into July followed by opportunities to target healthy Summer 4₁ Chinook primarily in August.
- South Coast FSC fisheries opportunities for mixed Chinook stocks will be permitted in marine areas with the exception of the approaches to the Fraser River (Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10).
- Five Nations (Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht) rights-based commercial fishery in 2020 was delayed until July 15 in areas seaward of 1 nautical mile from the surfline on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. A maximum 80cm size limit was in effect from July 16 to July 31. Fishing may be authorized in areas shoreward of 1 nautical mile from the surfline.



What management measures are currently anticipated for 2021? (cont.)

Recreational fisheries*: Chinook restrictions will be implemented in most South Coast areas to address conservation concerns for Fraser River Chinook salmon. See maps with specific details attached in background slides.

- Chinook non-retention beginning April 1 in most south coast waters with exception of WCVI waters inside 1nm from the surfline;
- No fishing for Chinook beginning April 1 in marine approaches to Fraser River; and,
- No fishing for salmon at mouth of Fraser and within Fraser in effect beginning January 1

*additional fishery proposals may be approved following consultations on evaluations.

Commercial troll fisheries*:

- Area F (Northern BC) – Chinook non-retention until August 15; (additional objective to pass additional Summer 4₁ Chinook to Fraser River)
- Area G (WCVI) – Delayed start until August 1

*additional fishery proposals may be approved following consultations on evaluations.



Issues for Discussion

1. What adjustments to the 2020 management approach should be considered moving forward?
2. Specific First Nations Chinook fishery plans / changes from 2020 approach?
 - a. Chinook fishery planning considerations in the event of LAER situation or low TAC for Fraser sockeye
 - b. Are there local fishery opportunities that could provide additional opportunities for harvest while avoiding stocks of concern? (e.g. Chilliwack and Chehalis Rivers in 2020)
3. What additional contingencies should be in place for the Big Bar rockslide?
4. Considerations related to anticipated fishing effort (including effects of travel restrictions / Covid-19) that need to be considered?
5. Are there priorities for monitoring improvements that could mitigate concerns or improve information?
6. Do you have specific questions that should be addressed by technical experts?
7. Do you have feedback on proposed recreational and Area G proposals for April 2021. Comments requested by March 19. (see separate presentation on evaluations)



Additional fishery proposals

Additional adjustments to fishing plans / proposals for 2021/22 IFMP to be updated based on consultations:

1. First Nations – TBC based on feedback from consultations
2. Recreational – TBC
 - Development of decision guidelines outlining conditions under which an SFAB proposal for Chinook Directed fishery on the Fraser targeting Summer 4, Chinook using restricted leader length (Note: Provincial FW licence condition not approved; fishery cannot proceed in 2021).
3. Area F Troll Proposal: requesting an August 1 – September 30 full Chinook and Coho opening (Requires review)
4. Area G Troll Proposal (Requires review):
 - Requesting that the 2021 season open April 26 thru to the end of May in all areas west of Estevan Pt. with a TAC of no more than 30,000 pieces for this period.
 - The fishery will remain closed from end of May until August 1, 2021.
 - Beginning August 1 until Sept 30, the same areas (excluding the summer conservation boundary) will open for any remaining TAC, plus recreational shortfall to date for any gear, with a 4 piece per line restriction. Fin clipped coho, shall be able to be retained during this period.
 - The summer conservation boundary removed Sept.10.

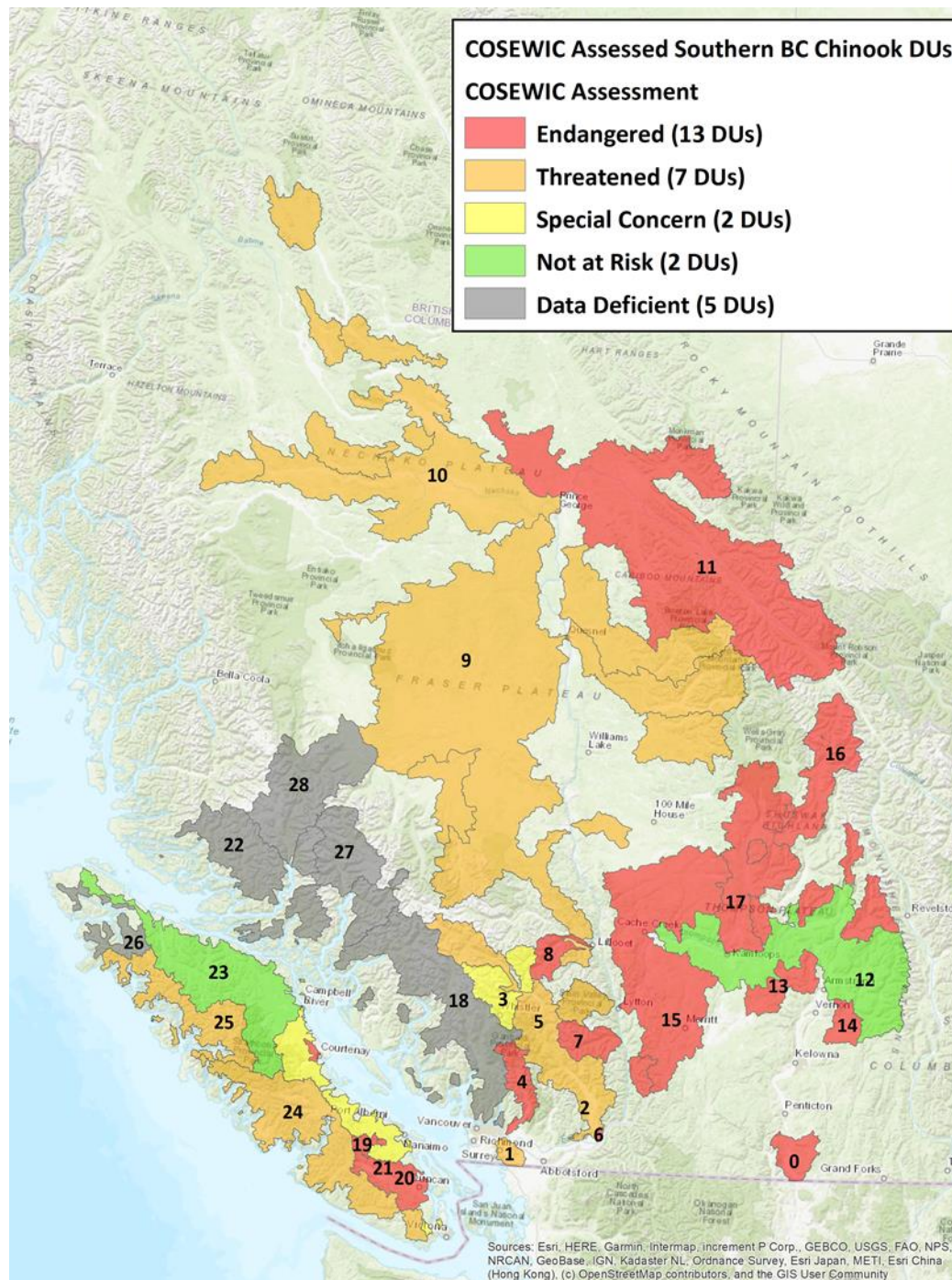
The evaluation framework will be used to assess fishing proposals.



APPENDIX - BACKGROUND



COSEWIC Status of Southern BC Chinook DUs

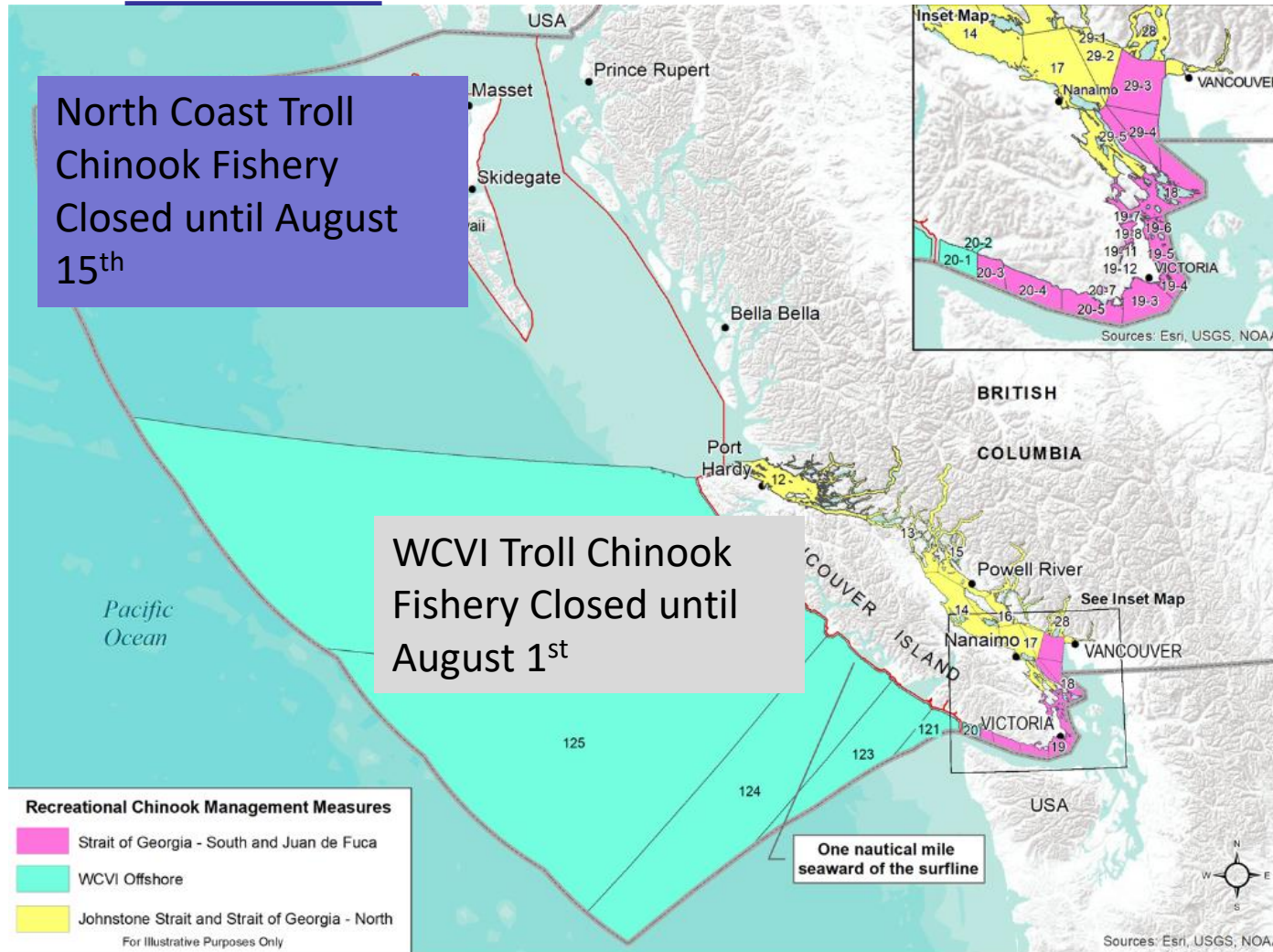


DU #	Name	Status
0	Okanagan Chinook	EN
1	Mainland Boundary Bay, Ocean, Fall	TH
2	Lower Fraser, Ocean, Fall	TH
3	Lower Fraser, Stream, Spring	SC
4	Lower Fraser, Stream, Summer (U.Pitt)	EN
5	Lower Fraser, Stream, Summer	TH
6	Lower Fraser, Ocean, Summer	EN
7	Mid Fraser, Stream, Spring	EN
8	Mid Fraser, Stream, Fall	EN
9	Mid Fraser, Stream, Spring (MFR+GStr)	TH
10	Mid Fraser, Stream, Summer	TH
11	Upper Fraser, Stream, Spring	EN
12	South Thompson, Ocean, Summer	NAR
13	South Thompson, Stream, Summer 1.3	EN
14	South Thompson, Stream, Summer 1.2	EN
15	Lower Thompson, Stream, Spring	EN
16	North Thompson, Stream, Spring	EN
17	North Thompson, Stream, Summer	EN
18	SC - Georgia Strait, Ocean, Fall	DD
19	East Vancouver Island, Stream, Spring	EN
20	East Vancouver Island, Ocean, Summer	EN
21	East Vancouver Island, Ocean, Fall	SC
22	SC – Southern Fjords, Ocean, Fall	DD
23	East Van. I., Ocean, Fall (EVI + SFj)	NAR
24	West Van. I., Ocean, Fall (South)	TH
25	West Van. I., Ocean, Fall (Nootka & Kyuc)	TH
26	West Van. I., Ocean, Fall (WVI + WQCI)	DD
27	Southern Mainland, Ocean, Summer	DD
28	Southern Mainland, Stream, Summer	DD

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

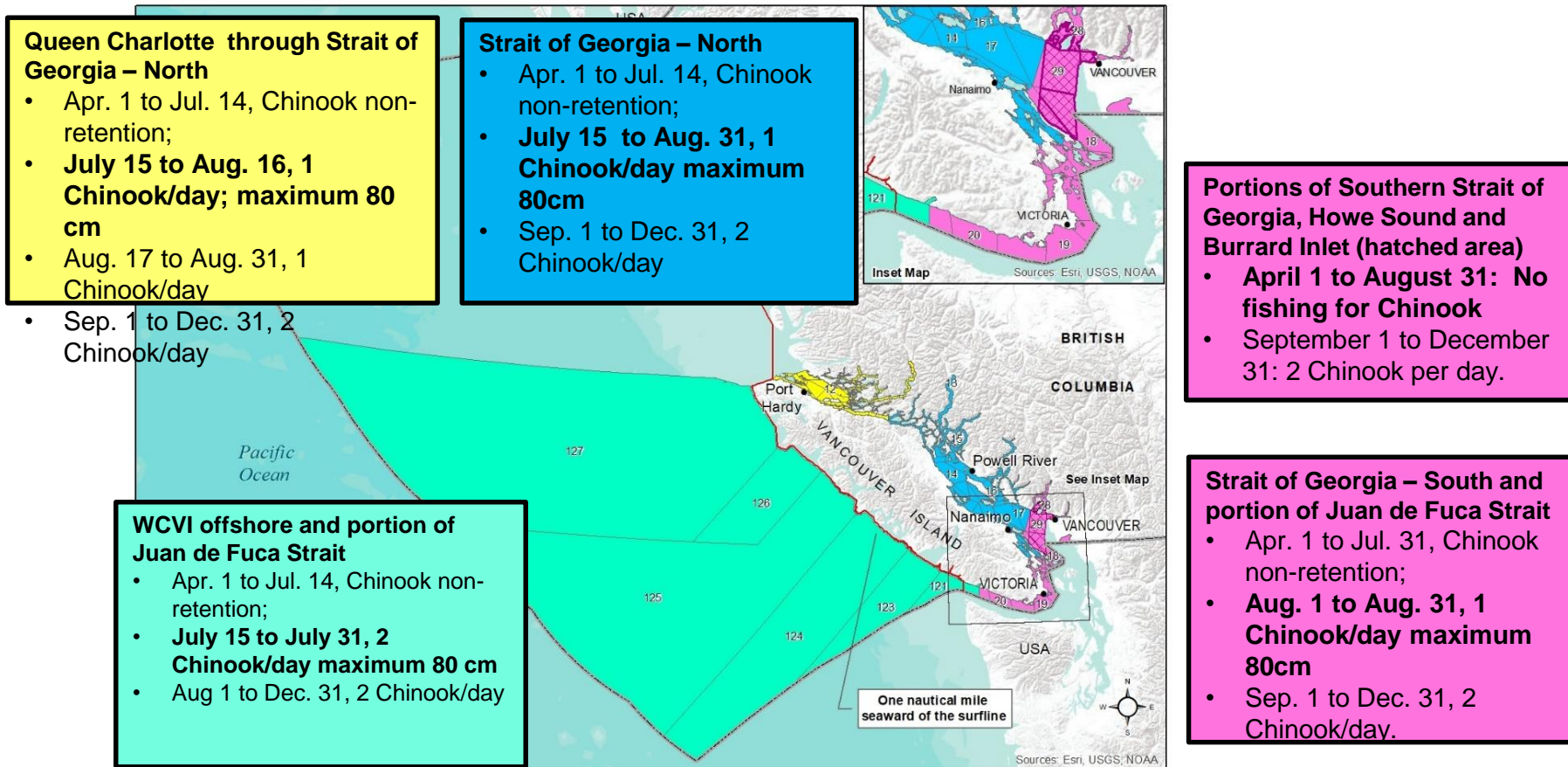


2020 Commercial management measures





2020 Recreational management measures



2020 changes noted in bold font



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)



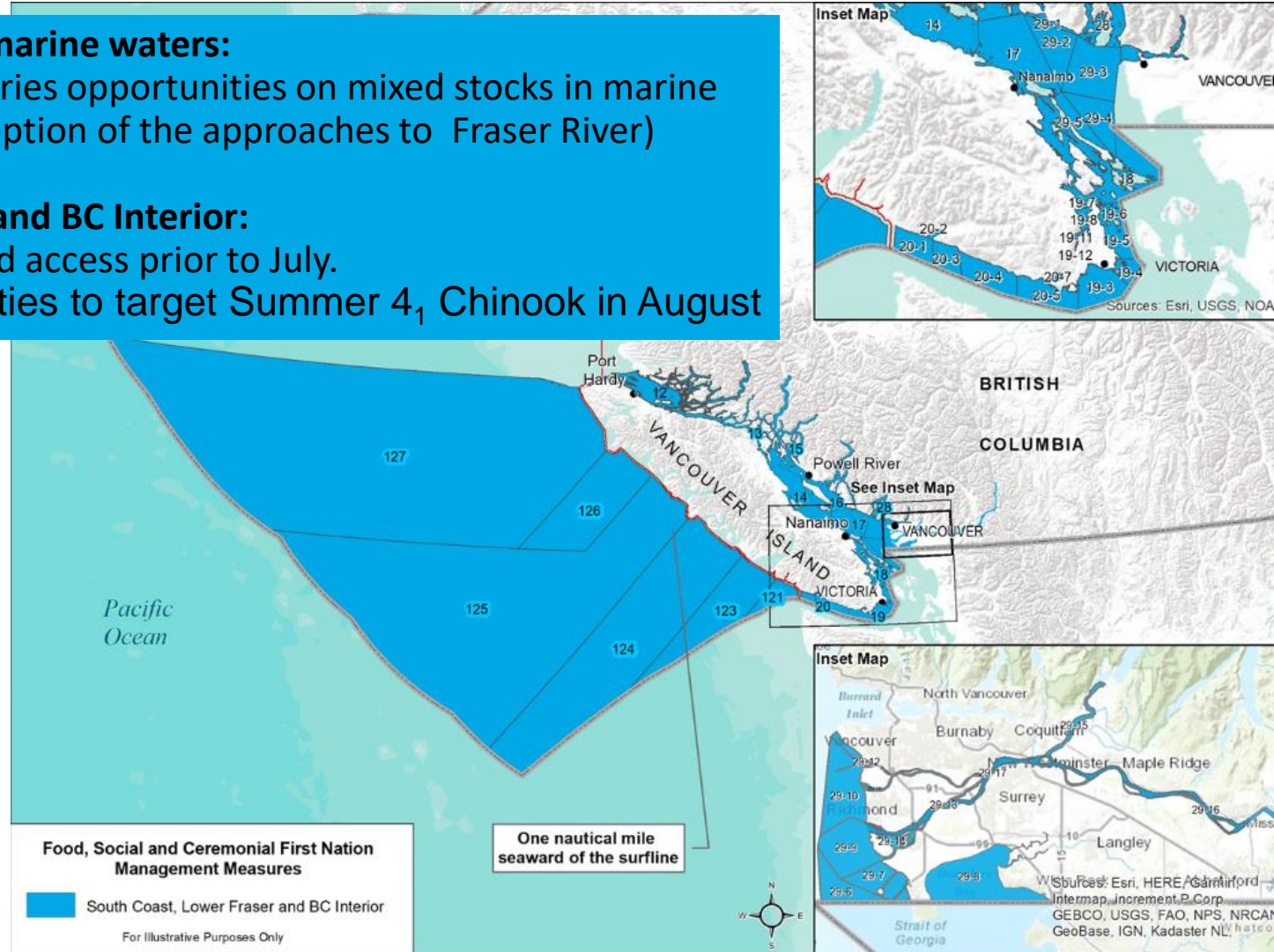
2020 First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial

Southern BC marine waters:

- Some fisheries opportunities on mixed stocks in marine areas (exception of the approaches to Fraser River)

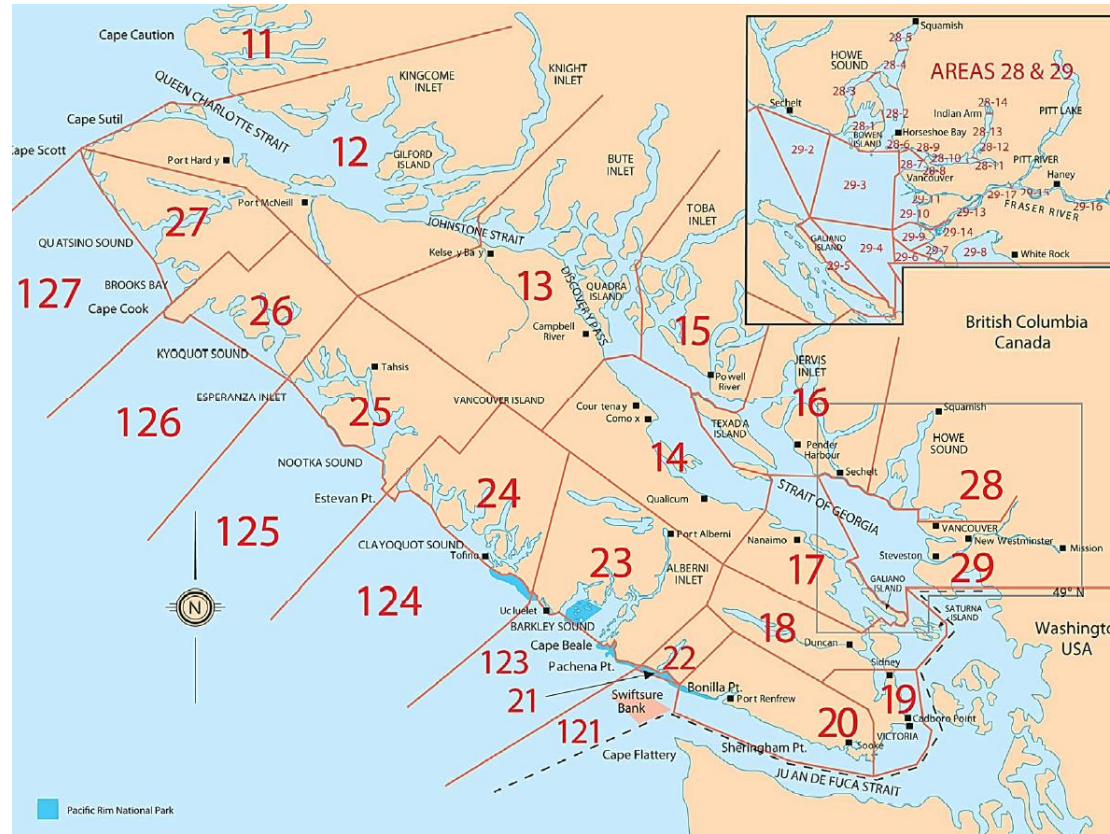
Lower Fraser and BC Interior:

- Very limited access prior to July.
- Opportunities to target Summer 4₁ Chinook in August





Southern BC PFMA Maps





Northern BC PFMA Maps

