



Coho Update

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

April 12, 2022



Interior Fraser Coho Status Update

- Chapter 5 of PST requires Canada to determine status of IFR Coho by mid-March each year
- Status determination is a two-step process

	Low	Moderate	Abundant
Survival (CWT Indicator Programs)	$S \leq 0.03$	Three consecutive years $0.03 < S \leq 0.06$	Three consecutive years $S > 0.06$
		and	and
Escapement	Monitored in CU's and subpops but no thresholds	Three consecutive years: · Half of subpops in each CU > 1000; or · Moderate Aggregate MU esc. objective	Three consecutive years: · All IFR subpops in each CU > 1000; or · Abundant Aggregate MU esc. objective
ER cap (US/Can)	0.20 (0.10/0.10)	0.30 (0.12/0.18)	0.45 (0.15/0.30)



Interior Fraser Coho Status Update

Escapement

Return Year	Escapement	Short Term Escapement Proxy Goal *	Escapement Goal met?	Escapement Goal met in three consecutive years
2015	11,576	23,953	no	no
2016	59,013	26,807	yes	no
2017	24,023	30,032	no	no
2018	32,885	29,716	yes	no
2019	41,500	29,324	yes	no
2020	69,436	29,303	yes	yes
2021	80,500**	TBD	yes	yes

* greater than 1000 in at least half the sub populations in a CU for all 5 Cus

** 2021 Natural-origin escapement still under review



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Marine Survival

Return Year	Marine Survival Rate	Survival Rate Goal Met?	Survival Rate Goal met for previous 3 years?
2015	0.007	no	no
2016	0.013	no	no
2017	0.010	no	no
2018	0.014	no	no
2019	0.016	no	no
2020	0.016	no	no
2021	0.029*	no	no

2022 IFR Coho Status is **Low**



2022 IFR Coho Planning

- 2022 Pre-fishery Abundance forecast: 83,613
- 3-5% exploitation rate objective
- Late-run Fraser sockeye dominant year – pre-season fishery planning will take into account impacts on IFR Coho
- conservation closures for IFR Steelhead will also reduce incidental impacts on IFR Coho



IFR Coho Planning – Commercial Fisheries

Marine Inside

- no fisheries targeting Coho; Coho release during fisheries targeting other species

Marine WCVI

- no offshore fisheries targeting Coho for gillnet or seine
- offshore troll fisheries may retain coho as bycatch after mid-September once IFR Coho have passed through the area (fishery is now closed into October to protect IFR Steelhead)

Fraser

- no commercial fisheries during Coho window closure except for selective gear; Coho release required
- closure to all commercial gear during IFR Steelhead closure dates



IFR Coho Planning – Recreational Fisheries

Marine Inside

- Johnstone Strait / Strait of Georgia – release of wild Coho (except in some terminal areas targeting local coho stocks)
- Juan de Fuca – release of wild coho until October

Marine WCVI

- release of wild coho in offshore areas
- wild coho retention in inshore fisheries targeting local coho stocks when abundance permits

Fraser River

- bait ban and coho release during IFR Coho window closure
- retention of hatchery coho permitted in Lower Fraser following IFR Steelhead closures
- tributary fisheries on hatchery coho



IFR Coho Planning – FSC Fisheries

Marine Inside

- release of wild Coho (except in some terminal areas targeting local coho stocks)

Marine WCVI

- wild Coho release in offshore fisheries; rules for wild retention differ for Treaty and Five Nations right-based sale fishery

Fraser River

- selective gear and release of wild Coho within window closure dates
- directed harvest permitted in terminal systems if in-season abundance is sufficient to support small-scale FSC harvest (e.g. Dunn Creek, Eagle River, McKinley Creek)
- Coho bycatch may be retained in Kamloops Lake sockeye fishery



Other Coho Management Units

Lower Fraser Coho Assessment

- Fraser StAD is piloting a genetic mark-recapture program to estimate escapement of the Lower Fraser Coho MU
- genetic samples taken from assessment fishery in Lower Fraser are combined with escapement from Chilliwack, Nicomen and Lillooet systems

Strait of Georgia Coho Assessment

- South Coast StAD is piloting a program to estimate the escapement of natural-origin Coho in the Strait of Georgia.
- genetic samples taken from FSC and recreational fisheries will be combined with escapement information from ECVI hatcheries to determine the abundance of wild coho within this management unit.
- sample target is 1,000 to 2,000 coho (wild/hatchery mix) during September in Areas 13-15.