



# 2025/26 Southern B.C. Salmon: Chum, Coho, Steelhead

Fraser and Approach Forum 3

Kamloops BC

April 1 - 3, 2025





## Presentation Outline

- Consultation Outline
- 2025 Southern BC Chum Overview
- Southern BC Marine Creel (Chum): Handouts
- 2025 Southern BC Coho and Coho Assessment Fishery: Handout
- Interior Fraser River Steelhead



# 2025 IFMP Consultation Timeline

Activity	Proposed Timelines
Deadline for new Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) proposals	January 24, 2025
Deadline for any new fishery proposals to be included in the Draft IFMP for comment	January 24, 2025
Meetings to review and discuss potential changes to IFMPs and opportunity for focussed discussion on key IFMP issues	Fraser Forum: January 28 – 30,, 2025 Northern IHPC: February 7, 2025 Southern IHPC: February 5, 2025
Draft IFMPs released for public review & comment	February 24, 2025
Meetings to review draft IFMP	Fraser Forum: February 25-27, 2025 Southern IHPC: March 11, 2025 Northern IHPC: March 21, 2025
Submission deadline for comments on IFMP Draft. All proposals for new fisheries are due on this date; Input provided after this date will not be considered for the 2025/26 IFMP.	April 4, 2025
Final meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback	Fraser Forum: April 1-3, 2025 Full IHPC: April 23-24, 2025
Target for public release of salmon IFMP	June 27, 2025





## 2025 Southern BC Chum: Overview

- Given the expectation presented in the Preliminary 2025 Salmon Outlook, where South Coast systems are at Category 2 or 3 and not expected to reach their management targets, and the Fraser Chum Outlook is at Category 2, the Department is proposing the following suite of management actions:
  - **Commercial** Chum opportunities will be determined using in-season estimates of abundance.
  - Department proposed in the DRAFT IFMP that marine **recreational** fisheries will start with **reduced retention limits** in place,
  - **Fraser River** recreational fisheries will begin the season with **non-retention** regulations in place.
- What we heard through **Forum** and **IHPC** for marine fisheries:
  - Forum members highlighted that no fisheries should take place without appropriate consultation
  - Forum members proposed that recreational fisheries continue to start the season closed, and open based on in-season estimates of abundance
  - SFAB participants at IHPC support the reduced retention limits



## Southern BC Chum: Marine Creel

Year	Rec Chum Catch	Prev. 5 Year Average
2024	1944	1792
2023	1338	1655
2022	1078	2041
2021	3017	2040
2020	625	2339

Data reported in South Coast Creel Bulletins (provided) show a review of the annual estimates of recreational fishing effort and fin-fish catch by month in the marine waters of southern British Columbia (Pacific Fishery Management Areas 11 through 29 and 121 to 127). These estimates are generated from data collected by DFO's South Coast Creel Survey, paper and electronic logbooks, and lodge manifests.



## Southern BC Coho

- DFO plans to continue managing to the goal of **3-5% ER** on IFR Coho in **2025**
- In the absence of these tools, the Department may consider proposals for **terminal FSC fisheries** where abundances permit, but does not intend to move off the existing management goal of **3-5% ER** on IFR Coho.
- What we heard from **Forum** and **IHPC**:
  - Forum members have broadly indicated the necessity for continued precautionary approach and to not move off this ER target until impacts on other SBC Coho stocks can be assessed
  - SFAB participants at the IHPC would like to see Canada harvest more of the 10% ER treaty cap of IFR Coho

### Strait of Georgia Coho Assessment Fishery:

- Have included the initial proposal summary as a **handout**
- Objective: estimate aggregate escapement to a major area of the ECVI instead of 1 wild indicator stock at Black Creek. This aggregate would include a broader range of productivity from more populations.
- Currently in the middle of a multi year study
- Lead author is currently on parental leave, and the analysis is currently on hold.



## Interior Fraser River Steelhead: Area 29 Harmonized Approach

- A review of the Interior Fraser River Steelhead Window Closure boundary in portions of Area 29 was conducted to look at harmonizing sub-areas in Area 29
  - Streamline fishery management in Area 29 while continuing to protect IFR Steelhead.
- Simplify management of the fishery in the terminal fishing area. Fleets managed according to the window closures will be provided the opportunity pre-season to choose to follow the harmonized approach
- This approach provides **additional** protection to IFR Steelhead.
- If selected, window closure will also apply on the latter end of other fisheries
  - i.e. Fraser Sockeye/Pink fisheries at the start of the window closure, and Fraser Chum fisheries at the end of the window closure
- All other existing measures to protect Interior Fraser River Steelhead populations will be continued from the 2024/25 Southern BC Salmon IFMP



# Appendix







## 2025 Southern BC Chum: Marine

- Brood year 2021 was poor; preliminary expectations are modest for 2025 for either the Fraser River or the South Coast Chum stocks
  - ECVI/Mainland Inlets Chum Outlook 2-3
  - WCVI Chum Outlook 3
  - Fraser Chum Outlook 2
- Based on the moderately improved Outlook from 2024, we are proposing starting the season with **reduced retention limits** in place for **marine** recreational Chum fisheries.
- Commercial fishing opportunities are anticipated in 2025, but will be determined in-season, and remain subject to considerations for other species.

Table 13.2-4: Summary of key decision points for the management of the ECVI recreational Chum fishery when Critical Abundance Threshold <1 Million

JST Chum Abundance	Fraser River Run Size	ECVI Monitored Systems*  (Puntledge River, Qualicum River, Little Qualicum River, Nanaimo River, Cowichan River, Goldstream River)	Marine Recreational Fishery
<1 Million Critical Threshold not achieved	916,000 to 1,050,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Open full limits
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	
	800,000 to 916,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Consider reduced Chum retention limits
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	
	500,000 to 800,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Consider reduced Chum retention limits
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Chum non-retention
	<500,000	50% or less of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	Chum non-retention
		Greater than 50% of currently assessed ECVI systems tracking below escapement	