

2018 Fraser River Fishery Summary to Accompany December 2018 Presentation for FORUM

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Chinook

FSC

Marine Waters

Chinook directed fisheries were open year round

Below Port Mann

- Gill net openings occurred from April 27 to September 3.
- From June 27 to July 22 gill nets were restricted to 8" mesh (Early Stuart Window Closure).
- Managed to reduced hours to maintain effort consistent with Zone 1 management until July 28th.

Above Port Mann

- Intermittent Gill net openings occurred from April 13 to July 7.
- From June 29 to 30 to July 6 to 7, gill nets were restricted to 8" mesh.
- Managed to reduced hours to maintain effort consistent with Zone 1 management until July 25th.

Mid-Fraser

- Rod and reel, dip net, Gillnets (including 8" mesh) openings from April through to September 30th. Intermittent Gillnets licensed to avoid stocks of concern (Early Stuart window closure (July 4 to July 25) and IFR Coho closure to Gillnets start date rolling from Sept 16th to Sept 23 by Mid-Fraser area.
- Dipnet opening from Oct 1 to Oct 14th from Sawmill to Texas Creek and the Thompson River to Bonaparte.

Upper Fraser*

- Rod and reel, dip net and 8"mesh openings from June 1 to end of season.

Fisheries upstream of the Thompson River do not have any 45% reduction constraints placed on them by DFO as the only chinook that return to these areas are spring and summer 5₂ chinook.

Thompson River

- Licensed July 12 to Oct 1 with no mesh size restrictions.

Recreational

Marine Waters

- FN0173 announced Zone 1 management measures effective March 8, 2018 in Juan de Fuca. Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and Subareas 20-4 to 20-7 (those waters near Victoria between Cadboro Point and Sombrio Point). These measures were extended (and amended) from their original end date of June 15 to July 31, as announced by FN0428.

Daily limit of two (2) Chinook per day. Chinook may be either:

- wild or hatchery marked between 45 cm and 67 cm; or
- hatchery marked greater than 67 cm in length.
- The minimum size limit in these waters is 45 cm in length.

- FN0370 announced Zone 1 management measures in portions of the Strait of Georgia effective May 7, 2018. The daily limit was two (2) Chinook salmon per day of which only one (1) Chinook may be greater than 67 cm. The minimum size limit for Chinook salmon in these waters is 62 cm. These measures were extended (and amended) from their original end date of June 15 to July 31, as announced by FN0428.
- FN0428 announced new measures for 2018. The objective of these measures was to reduce exploitation rates for stocks of concern by 25-35%. The stocks of concern were Fraser River Chinook stocks and some North Coast Chinook stocks (Nass, Skeena, and other small wild populations). A copy of this notice is appended.

Fraser River Mouth

- Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10 were no retention of Chinook salmon from January 1 to May 31, 2018.
- Subareas 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10 were closed to fishing for salmon from June 1 to September 30, 2018 (FN0428)
- Subarea 29-6 was closed to fishing for salmon from June 1 to July 31, 2018. From August 1 to September 30th, there was no retention of chinook in this Subarea.

Fraser River Tidal Waters and Region 2

- Fraser River to Alexandra was closed to fishing for salmon from January 1st to August 5th.
- Fraser River was open to chinook retention from August 6th to September 28th, 2018. The daily limit was 4 chinook salmon, only one greater than 50 cm in length.
- The tidal waters of the Fraser River and Region 2 were closed to salmon fishing from September 29 to October 25.
- October 26 to December 31, tidal waters and Region 2 downstream of Hope, BC, daily limit of 4 chinook only one greater than 62 cm in length.
- There is an annual limit of 10 chinook salmon from all non-tidal waters.

Region 3

- Due to Zone 1 management, chinook fisheries were either delayed or did not occur.
- Fisheries opened later in the season targeted summer 4₁ chinook. i.e. South Thompson River and Kamloops Lake from Aug. 22 to Sept. 22.
- The daily limit is four per day, only two of which may be greater than 50 cm.

Region 5A and 7

- Due to Zone 1 management, chinook directed fisheries did not occur.
Note: All Chinook that return to this area are spring and summer 5₂ chinook.

Region 8

- These fisheries are targeting summer 4₁ chinook and took place this year.

Commercial

Marine Waters

- In 2018 commercial seine and gill net fisheries were not permitted to retain chinook salmon in the Fraser River and in most marine commercial fisheries (see exceptions below).
- Area G Troll chinook fisheries on the west coast of Vancouver Island and Area F Troll chinook fisheries in the north were delayed to reduce impacts on stocks of concern (see FN0428).
- Commercial seine and gill net allowing retention of chinook did occur in terminal areas on the West Coast of Vancouver Island (i.e. Alberni Inlet & Tlupana Inlet).
- The T'aaq-wiihak Nations Demonstration Fishery occurred for AABM Chinook from May 14 – 31 and June 12 – August 28, as well as ISBM Chinook fisheries from July 12 – September 4.

Coho

FSC

Marine waters

Hatchery marked coho may be retained. All efforts and attempts were required to be made in order to release Wild coho, except in certain times and areas where retention is permitted (e.g. terminal fisheries on West Coast of Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Strait & Mainland Inlets).

Lower Fraser

Hatchery marked coho are retained in fisheries targeting other species prior to mid-October.

After mid-October wild coho are caught and retained in fisheries directed at other species. These coho are thought to come from Lower Fraser streams.

Mid and Upper Fraser and Thompson

There is some retention of Interior Fraser coho on certain streams in the terminal area. These are usually streams that have intensive counting systems (fences) in place and harvest amounts are very small. These occurred on the Dunn Creek Fence and the McKinley fence in 2018.

Recreational

Marine waters

Coho fisheries are non-retention in most SC marine waters until June 1 each year. After that date, the retention of two hatchery coho is permitted in most areas until Dec 31. The retention of wild coho is permitted in some areas (e.g. inside the sounds of West Coast of Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Strait & Mainland Inlets).

Fraser River and Region 2 d/s of Hope Bridge

Mouth to Hope –

- August to September 3 – No retention of coho.
- September 3 to September 28th - No fishing for coho and no use of bait while fishing for other salmon species. (
- September 29th to October 25th, the river was closed to fishing for salmon to protect Interior Fraser Steelhead.
- October 26th to December 31, the retention of two hatchery coho is permitted. These dates fluctuate slightly each year dependent on what date Labour Day falls on.

Hope to Sawmill

Fraser River u/s of Sawmill Creek

There is no fishing for coho, in addition to protect coho the following annual closures are in place.

- Sawmill Creek to Lytton – No fishing for salmon Sept. 16 to December 31.
- Lytton to Williams Lake – No fishing for salmon Sept. 23 to December 31
- u/s of Williams Lake – No fishing for salmon Oct. 1 to December 31.

Commercial

Marine waters

There is no retention of coho in commercial gill net and seine fisheries in the marine area or the Fraser River.

The T'aaq-wiihak Nations Demonstration fisheries from June 12 – September 4 permitted retention of hatchery marked coho for sale in troll and gillnet fisheries within their marine fishing area.

Chum

FSC

Marine Waters

Chum directed fisheries were open year round.

Lower Fraser

Chum openings for FSC took place in the Lower Fraser River in 2018. These fisheries were subject to management measures designed to protect Thompson and Chilcotin River steelhead and Interior Fraser coho. During the window closure there were two limited gill net fisheries.

Mid/Upper/Thompson

There are no chum salmon that return to these areas.

Recreational

Marine – the retention of 4 chum per day was permitted year round.

Tidal Fraser – d/s of Mission –The retention of chum salmon in recreational fisheries did not take place in 2018.

Fraser –Non-tidal waters - The retention of chum salmon in recreational fisheries did not take place in 2018.Commercial

Area E had 0 commercial openings for chum in 2018. Directed chum fisheries take place if a commercial TAC is identified. These openings are constrained to reduce impacts on IFR coho and steelhead.

Mixed-stock (Inner South Coast) commercial chum fisheries take place in Johnstone Strait throughout October. Initial openings that were planned pre-season for Early October were cancelled due to the Inner South Coast stock tracking below the minimum threshold. Once the Inner South Coast chum return was identified to be tracking above the 1.0 M threshold identified in the Pacific Salmon Treaty (in Mid-October), limited commercial fisheries took place for the seine, troll, and gill net fleets.

Economic Ops

Economic opportunity fisheries targeting chum salmon did not take place in 2018.

Sockeye

FSC

Marine Waters

Sockeye directed fisheries took place following the Early Stuart window closure with gear restricted to gill net, troll and hook and line gear in the Johnstone Straits and northern Strait of Georgia (seine authorised in those areas as of July 25 and August 15 respectively). Seine gear measures were in place to protect Sakinaw bound sockeye. Sockeye non-retention measures remained in place in the Johnstone Straits north of Lewis Point until the end of July to conserve Nimpkish bound sockeye.

Lower Fraser

Sockeye directed fisheries began July 25, five days following the Early Stuart window closure. This delay in start-up was to protect the earliest timed Early Summer run sockeye for which in-season information was showing low returns to date.

Mid Fraser

- Rod and reel, dip net, gillnets openings from July 27th through to September 30th (Gillnets ended to avoid stocks of concern :!Fr Coho closure to Gillnets start date rolling from Sept 16th to Sept 23 by Mid-Fraser area)
- Dipnet opening from Oct 1 – Oct 14th from Sawmill to Texas Creek and the Thompson River to Bonaparte.

Upper Fraser and Thompson

Sockeye directed fisheries took place following the Early Stuart window closure.

Recreational

Recreational sockeye fisheries were open subject to the following times and daily limits.

Marine waters	August 1 to December 31	four per day.
Fraser River Tidal Waters	August 7 to September 3	four per day.
Fraser River non-tidal waters of Region 2	August 7 to September 3	two per day.
Region 3: Lillooet	August 15 to September 15	two per day.
Region 3: Thompson River and Kamloops Lake	August 15 to September 30	two per day.
Region 5: Horsefly Bay	August 23 to September 15	two per day.
Region 7: Nechako River	August 27 to September 15	two per day.

Commercial

There were many commercial sockeye fisheries that took place in 2018.

Economic Ops

There were economic opportunity sockeye fisheries in the Lower Fraser River in 2018.

Demo fisheries took place on Kamloops Lake and Fraser Lake.

Pink

FSC

Marine Waters

Pink salmon harvest was open year round. Pinks are typically not harvested in directed fisheries by marine First Nations. They are more typically caught in fisheries directed on Fraser bound sockeye.

Fraser River – all areas

Fraser River pink returns are so small in even years that there are no pink directed fisheries.

Recreational

Marine recreational fisheries were open to the retention of pink salmon at full limits of 4 per day.

There were no in-river recreational pink fisheries in 2018.

Commercial

There were no commercial pink fisheries in the Fraser River in 2018. The retention of pink salmon was permitted in marine commercial salmon fisheries targeting Fraser sockeye.

Economic Ops

There were no economic opportunity pink fisheries in the Fraser River in 2018.

This notice provides information on planned conservation measures for Northern and Southern BC Chinook Salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales that will be implemented beginning June 1, 2018.

Chinook Conservation Measures

To address Chinook conservation concerns, DFO is implementing a precautionary 25-35% reduction in exploitation rates for Chinook stocks of concern to support conservation and promote rebuilding. These additional reductions are planned to address conservation concerns for Nass River, Skeena River and many small wild Chinook populations in Northern BC; and, all Fraser River Chinook populations (including Spring 4(2), Spring 5(2), Summer 5(2), Summer 4(1) and Fall 4(1) populations) in Southern BC.

Additional Northern BC Chinook management measures are outlined below, followed by additional Southern BC Chinook management measures.

Northern Commercial Fisheries

Area F Troll - opening of AABM Chinook fishery delay to July 10 in addition to boundary changes. Refer to the subsequent Fishery Notice for details.

Northern Recreational Fisheries

Please note that possession limits for Chinook Salmon are twice the daily limit.

The recreational daily limits of Chinook Salmon are being reduced in North Coast tidal waters as follows:

Haida Gwaii:

Effective June 1, 2018 to July 9, 2018, the daily limit is one (1) Chinook per day in Areas 1, 2, 142, and that portion of Area 101 west of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude

North Coast:

Effective June 1, 2018 to June 15, 2018, the daily limit is one (1) Chinook per day in Areas 3 to 5, 103 to 105, Subarea 102-1, and that portion of Area 101 east of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude

Effective June 16, 2018 to July 9, 2018, there is zero (0) retention of Chinook Salmon in Areas 3 to 5, 103 to 105, Subarea 102-1, and that portion of Area 101 east of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude

Effective July 10, 2018 to July 31, 2018, the daily limit is one (1) Chinook per day in Areas 3 to 5, 103 to 105, Subarea 102-1, and that portion of Area 101 east of 131 degrees 40.0 minutes West longitude

Effective June 1, 2018 to July 31, 2018 the daily limit is one (1) Chinook per day in Areas 6 and 106

Variation Order Number: 2018-RFQ-0307

Management measures for northern BC non-tidal waters were previously announced in FN0372 issued May 8, 2018.

Southern BC Commercial Fisheries

Area G Troll:

There is no commercial fishery for AABM Chinook in June or July.

Area B Seine and Area H Troll:

Effective June 1 to September 30, 2018, there is no commercial salmon fishing in Subareas 20-3, 20-4 and that portion of Subarea 20-5 that lies west of 123 degrees 49.30 minutes west longitude (Otter Point).

Area B Seine and Area H Troll:

Effective June 1 to September 30, 2018 there is no commercial salmon fishing in Subareas 18-2, 18-4, 18-5 and 18-9.

Southern BC Recreational Fisheries:

Southern BC Inside Waters

Areas 13 to 18, 28 and 29 and Subareas 19-1 to 19-6 (except those portions listed below):

Effective June 1, 2018 until September 30, 2018, the daily limit for Chinook Salmon is one (1) per day in Areas 13 to 17, 28 and 29 with the exception of those four areas listed below under the headings Strait of Georgia, Pender Island, Juan de Fuca and Fraser River mouth. Terminal fishing opportunities at full limits for Chinook may be considered in-season if abundance permits.

Effective October 1, 2018 until further notice, the daily limit for Chinook Salmon is two (2) per day in Areas 13 to 19, 28 and 29.

Exceptions:

Strait of Georgia:

Note: this measure came into effect on May 7, 2018 as previously announced in FN0370 issued May 7, 2018.

Effective immediately until June 28, 2018 the daily limit for Chinook salmon is two (2) per day, of which only one may be greater than 67 cm in Subareas 18-1, 18-3, 18-6, 18-11, and 19-5.

Effective June 29, 2018 to July 31, 2018 the daily limit is two (2) Chinook salmon per day between both of which must be less than 85 cm in Subareas 18-1, 18-3, 18-6, 18-11, and 19-5.

Chinook salmon retained in these waters must have a fork length of at least 62

cm.

Pender Island:

Effective June 1 to September 30, 2018 there is no fishing for finfish in Subareas 18-2, 18-4, 18-5 and 18-9.

Juan de Fuca (Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and Area 20):

Effective June 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018 there is no fishing for finfish in Subareas 20-3, 20-4 and that portion of Subarea 20-5 that lies west of 123 degrees 49.30 minutes west longitude (Otter Point)

Effective June 1, 2018 until June 28, 2018 the daily limit for Chinook salmon is two (2) per day which may be wild or hatchery marked between 45 and 67 cm fork length or hatchery marked greater than 67 cm in Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and 20-6 and 20-7 and that portion of Subarea 20-5 that lies east of 123 degrees 49.30 minutes west longitude (Otter Point).

Effective June 29, 2018 until July 31, 2018, the daily limit for Chinook salmon is two (2) Chinook per day which may be wild or hatchery marked between 45 and 85 cm or hatchery marked greater than 85 cm in Subareas 19-1 to 19-4 and 20-6 and 20-7 and that portion of Subarea 20-5 that lies east of 123 degrees 49.30 minutes west longitude (Otter Point).

Fraser River Mouth (Subareas 29-6, 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10):

Effective June 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018, there is no fishing for salmon in Subareas 29-7, 29-9 and 29-10.

Effective June 1, 2018 to July 31, 2018, there is no fishing for salmon in Subarea 29-6.

Effective August 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018, there is no retention of Chinook Salmon in Subarea 29-6.

Variation Order Number: 2018-RFQ-0307; 2018-RCT-0321