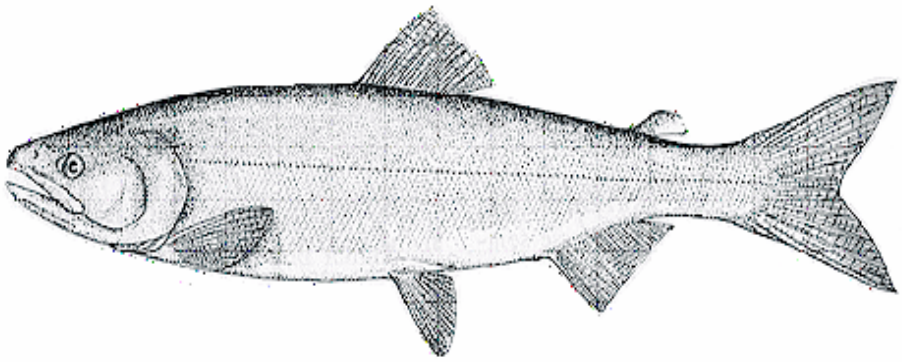
PACIFIC REGION INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

SALMON

NORTHERN B.C.

APRIL 1, 2003 TO MAY 31, 2004



Oncorhynchus spp

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada
Canada

This Integrated Fisheries Management Plan is intended for general purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between the Plan and the Fisheries Act and Regulations, the Act and Regulations are the final authority. A description of Areas and Subareas referenced in this Plan can be found in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.

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DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

A more comprehensive list of contacts can be found on-line at www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/toppages/contacts_e.htm

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Salmon Test Fishery - Pacific Region
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Summary of fishery status, water discharge, watershed temperatures, fishery concerns, and research updates

1. INTRODUCTION

This 2003/2004 Northern B.C. Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) covers the period April 1, 2003 to May 31, 2004 for First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries

directed towards Pacific salmon in the north and central areas of British Columbia (B.C.). The plan encompasses tidal and non-tidal waters from Cape Caution north to the B.C./Alaska boundary. The tidal waters within this area are denoted as Management Areas 1 to 10 inclusive, 101 to 110 inclusive, and 130 and 142. For the purposes of this management plan, non-tidal waters are defined as the watersheds that contain anadromous salmon and flow into Areas 1 to 10. In this plan, Pacific salmon species include sockeye, coho, pink, chum, and chinook salmon.

Management actions outlined in this plan are subject to change in response to in-season information, such as abundance estimates of returning salmon, observed migration routes, and environmental conditions. Salmon fishing opportunities outlined in this plan are expected to occur but are not guaranteed.

The plan recognizes the need for ecosystem-based approaches to management of the resource and alternative approaches to management of fisheries. The 2003 IFMP contains comprehensive decision guidelines (Section 4) which set out the rationale for management decisions, and describes the range of departmental responses to changing in-season information. Decision guidelines have been developed for a broader range of circumstances and an increased number of fisheries as compared to those set out in the 2002 IFMP.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to consult with First Nations, recreational, and commercial fishers throughout the season regarding detailed fishing plans. Specifically, further consultations would occur where in-season revisions are required to address specific conservation concerns, or when in-season conditions are not covered in the decision guidelines.

Other changes to the 2003 IFMP include moving background information, such as details about ongoing policy development and other departmental initiatives to the Pacific salmon web pages (see website index).

To ensure that appropriate revisions can be made and that the plan is of the most value to users, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is looking for further stakeholder feedback on this IFMP, particularly on the structure and content of the decision guidelines.

2. GENERAL CONTEXT

This section provides a brief overview of key policies and the legal context for Pacific salmon management. Additional information is accessible online and can be easily found through the website index (p. 5).

2.1. Background

Significant policy reform has been undertaken by the Department in recent years. These changes are guided by various international and domestic initiatives that promote biodiversity and a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach to the management of marine resources.

2.2. New Directions

Salmon management programs in 2003 will continue to be guided by the *New Directions* policy series. *New Directions* describes the broad policy principles used in the management of Pacific salmon, and provides a framework for the development of operational policies. Key initiatives within this framework are; *An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon*, *A Policy for Selective Fishing*, *Wild Salmon Policy*, *A Framework for Improved Decision Making in the Pacific Salmon Fishery* (IDM), and *Catch Monitoring*.

The *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* and the *Selective Fishing Policy* have been finalized, while the remainder are in various stages of development, consultation and review.

An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon, announced in 1999, contains principles to guide the management and allocation of the Pacific salmon resource between First Nations, commercial and recreational harvesters, and forms the basis for general decision guidelines outlined in Section 4.1 of this plan.

In January 2001, the Department released *A Policy for Selective Fishing in Canada's Pacific Fisheries*. Under the Department's selective fishing initiative, harvester groups have experimented with a variety of methods to reduce the impact of fisheries on non-target species, with a number of measures reaching implementation in fisheries. Experiments will be undertaken in 2003 to explore additional options for improving selective harvesting practices.

The *Wild Salmon Policy* will describe a framework for identifying management units and management responses under a range of circumstances. A draft policy paper outlined many elements of this new approach and is being reviewed while operational guidelines are developed. The operational guidelines will be the subject of consultation in the summer of 2003.

Consultative elements of the IDM discussion paper have been implemented through the establishment of the Consultation Secretariat, which works to improve the flow of information between stakeholders and the Department. Up-to-date information pertaining to ongoing consultations can be found on the Secretariat's website (see website index p. 5).

A discussion paper outlining the potential approaches for commercial salmon fisheries to address the objectives set out in the Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting Framework is expected to be released for consultation in the summer or fall of 2003. Monitoring programs will continue in 2003 to assess harvests (both target and non-target species). These programs will include a variety of measures such as mandatory log-book program, in-season phone-in and postseason mail-in catch reporting programs, and on-grounds observer programs.

2.3. Fraser Sockeye Review

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the First Nations, recreational, commercial, the Fraser River Panel, and environmental organizations have recently completed a review of 2002 Fraser sockeye management. Flowing from the review are several recommendations regarding policy implementation, consultation, enforcement, and improved data collection. An implementation plan is currently being developed. Once complete, results may be found online by accessing the consultation website and following the links (see website index, p. 7).

2.4. Species at Risk Act

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) came into force on June 5, 2003. The purposes of the Act are:

"to prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of a wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened".

The majority of the provisions within the Act will take effect immediately, and some will be phased-in and take effect in June 2004. This includes the prohibitions against killing listed species and destroying their critical habitat. The critical habitat and/or residences of a listed species will be identified in the recovery strategies being developed for each species.

The prohibitions will apply to all fisheries coast-wide. In certain situations an exemption from the prohibitions may be permitted if:

- the activity is scientific research relating to the conservation of the species;
- the activity benefits the species or is necessary to enhance its chance of survival in the wild; and,
- affecting the species is incidental to carrying out the activity but only if:
    i. All reasonable alternatives to the activity that would reduce the impact on the species have been considered and the best alternative has been adopted,
    ii. All feasible measures will be taken to minimize the impact of the activity on the species or its critical habitat or its residence, and
    iii. The activity will not jeopardise the survival and recovery of the species.

In some cases the Department may issue a permit, licence or other similar document permitting an activity that affects the listed species, its critical habitat or its residences if the pre-conditions as set out above (i. - iii.) are all met.

The Department will be reviewing current management measures in the salmon fishery to assess impacts on listed species under SARA. Research in this area is ongoing and management measures may have to be changed based on the conditions noted above.

For more information on SARA please see the Public Registry at: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

2.5. First Nations and Canada's Fisheries Framework

The Government of Canada's legal and policy frameworks identify a special obligation to provide First Nations the opportunity to harvest fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes on a priority basis. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) was implemented in 1992 to address several objectives related to First Nations and their access to the resource. These included:

- improving relations with First Nations,
- providing a framework for the management of the Aboriginal fishery in a manner that was consistent with the 1990 Supreme Court of Canada Sparrow decision,
- greater involvement by First Nations in the management of their fishery, and
- increased economic returns from First Nations fisheries (Allocation Transfer Program and pilot sales).

2.6. Pacific Salmon Treaty

In March 1985, the United States and Canada agreed to co-operate in the management, research and enhancement of Pacific salmon stocks of mutual concern by ratifying the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), established under the PST, provides regulatory and policy advice as well as recommendations to Canada and the US with respect to interception salmon fisheries.

Under the terms of the Treaty the responsibility for in-season management of all species and areas rests with each country, except for the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon, where the Fraser River Panel is specifically delegated the responsibility for in-season management, with assistance from PSC staff.

2.7. Research

Research on B.C. salmon stocks is being conducted across a wide range of activities by Science Branch. Areas of research are being directed to achieve a better understanding of salmon habitat and the impact of natural and manmade events and to assess the abundance of stocks and forecast returns for the upcoming year.

Activities are summarized in scientific papers that are peer reviewed through the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC) and forwarded for review and adoption by Fisheries and Oceans Canada through the Resource Management Executive Committee.

Ongoing research activities in the areas of freshwater and marine habitat and stock assessment will again continue in 2003. Specific areas of focus for 2003 will include:

- continuing investigations into concerns with early entry and high mortality of Late Run Fraser River sockeye,
- reasons for the decline in pink salmon abundance in the Broughton Archipelago, and
- the impact of high spawner density observed in many of the Fraser River tributaries in 2002.

2.8. Fishing vessel safety

Owners and masters have a duty to ensure the safety of their crew and vessel. Adherence to safety regulations and good practices by owners, masters and crew of fishing vessels will help save lives, protect the vessel from damage and protect the environment.

See Appendix 4 for a complete description of Transport Canada required and recommended vessel safety measures and procedures.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. Conservation Objectives

Conservation of Pacific salmon is the primary objective and will take precedence in managing the resource.

The Department manages fisheries with the objective of ensuring that stocks are returning at sustainable levels. When returns decline below sustainable levels, management actions are taken which may include reducing the impact of fisheries on specific stocks, strategic enhancement and habitat restoration.

In 2003, some north coast stocks are expected to return below sustainable levels and will require specific management actions designed to protect and rebuild them. The objective of implementing specific conservation measures is to reduce the impact of harvest and increase the level of escapement for these stocks of concern. The following stocks are of particular concern in 2003.

3.1.1. Rivers and Smith Inlet Sockeye

The objective for Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye is to continue the rebuilding program and avoid harvest of these stocks.

Sockeye from Rivers Inlet, rearing in Owikeno Lake, and Smith Inlet, rearing in Long Lake, once supported the largest fishery on B.C.'s central coast, and have served the FSC needs of local First Nations for many generations. Since 1992, however, these two important sockeye stocks have declined dramatically despite fishery closures. Recognizing the need for action, the Department conducted a technical review and public consultation process. In late 1999 a recovery plan for restoring Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye to acceptable levels was developed. Recovery planning is one part of an overarching process for watershed-based fish sustainability planning in B.C., and aims specifically to rebuild stocks to sustainable levels.

There are no anticipated fishing opportunities directly targeting Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye salmon in 2003. A limited terminal First Nations fishery may occur, depending on stock strength, on Rivers Inlet sockeye in the Wannock River.

3.1.2. Skeena River Sockeye

The objective for Skeena River sockeye is to reduce the exploitation rate in the established mixed stock tidal fishery by 23 percent from historic (1980 to 1999) average levels in order to ensure that the stocks of concern do not further decline.

Maintaining wild Skeena River sockeye stocks is a primary objective. Management of the aggregate sockeye stock will be conducted in a risk averse manner using weekly harvest rates to ensure the total exploitation rate of individual stocks does not exceed conservation goals. The

conservation goals for wild Skeena sockeye stocks are to maintain them at their existing levels and in some cases to rebuild them to higher levels.

3.1.3. Coho

The objective for aggregate north and central coast coho is to operate Canadian domestic fisheries within an exploitation rate ceiling of up to 15 percent. Due to continuing conservation concerns, the exploitation rate ceiling for Skeena coho that migrate past the Babine confluence will be maintained at a lower level.

Coho fisheries in Areas 1 to 10 will be managed to continue to rebuild coho stocks affected by various fisheries. The stock status and forecasts for coho in Areas 1 through 12 have been the basis for the fishing plan development. The coho stocks in Areas 1 through 10 are rebuilding and modest exploitation of these stocks is consistent with the Department's rebuilding program. The coho in Areas 1 through 10 are estimated to have sustainable exploitation rates in the range of 55 to 65 percent (PSARC forecast paper 2002). The coho originating from Areas 3 through 10 are subject to significant Alaskan exploitation averaging between 20 percent and 40 percent reaching as high as 50 percent on some stocks in some years. Coho originating from the Queen Charlotte Islands (QCI) have an exploitation rate of less than 10 percent in Alaska. Canadian exploitation rates of up to 15 percent on these stocks represent a conservative approach that will allow modest fisheries while the stocks continue to rebuild.

The exploitation rate for coho will be calculated on an on-going basis throughout the season using the Skeena Fishery Model and again postseason using Coded Wire Tag (CWT) data.

3.1.4. North Coast Chum

The objective for north coast chum is to minimize fishery impacts on these fish to the greatest degree possible while still maintaining fisheries targeting other species.

While Central Coast and QCI chums are reasonably healthy, north coast chums have been declining in recent years. Management actions will be taken in Areas 3 to 6 to reduce fishery impacts on chum salmon.

3.1.5. West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook

The objective for West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) chinook is to manage Pacific fisheries to an exploitation rate similar to that of 2002 (between 11 and 15 percent). The North Coast troll fishery will be managed to limit the impacts on WCVI stocks to 2002 levels or lower.

WCVI chinook stocks migrate from Alaska in June and July returning to spawning streams from August to early October. For the past several years they have experienced low returns resulting from poor ocean conditions. As a result, fisheries in Canada have been curtailed with the objective of reducing the exploitation rate to less than 10 percent. In 2002, the exploitation rate, based on post-season analysis, was between 11 and15 percent. The forecast for 2003 is similar

to the return observed in 2002. In addition, unlike 2002, all age classes will be present in the 2003 return and the egg deposition is anticipated to be greater given an increased abundance of larger females.

WCVI chinook stocks are harvested in fisheries in Alaska, the north coast and on the WCVI. Wild, non-enhanced stocks are of the highest concern.

This objective will provide for similar opportunities for First Nations and recreational fishers to those in 2002. Special attention will be given to wild WCVI chinook stocks to ensure impacts on these stocks are limited and rebuilding efforts continue.

To evaluate this objective, biological data (DNA, CWT) and catch information will be collected in-season from fisheries in QCI and WCVI to determine the stock composition and exploitation rate for WCVI chinook.

Similar to 2003, there will likely be opportunities for harvesting chinook in the Area F troll fishery in April and May of 2004. Details will depend on the TAC and further consultations.

3.1.6. Skeena Steelhead

The objective for Skeena steelhead is to operate Canadian domestic fisheries within a harvest rate ceiling of up to 24 percent for aggregate Skeena steelhead, and 37 percent for early timed Skeena steelhead.

In November, 1991, the Department committed to reduce steelhead harvest rates in Skeena River approach water net fisheries. The base period (1985 to 1991) Area 4 steelhead harvest was estimated to be 36 percent, and a multi-sector negotiated reduction of 42 percent resulted in a target Area 4 harvest rate for aggregate steelhead of 21 percent. In 1997, the target harvest rates were modified to include outer Area 3 and Area 5 as well. The modified target harvest rates became 24 percent for the aggregate steelhead stock and 37 percent for the early steelhead stock.

Upper Skeena coho and steelhead harvest rates in Areas 3/4/5 are calculated in-season and post-season using the Skeena Fishery Model.

3.1.7. Inshore Rockfish

The objective for inshore rockfish is to introduce conservation restrictions that will reverse declines and ensure stock rebuilding is secured. A fishing mortality rate of less than 1.5 percent (all Pacific Region fisheries) will be required to achieve this objective. For greater clarity, fishing mortality rate is the proportion of the rockfish population in B.C. that dies annually due to fishing activity and includes fish discarded at sea. Closed areas for the protection of inshore rockfish will be required to protect populations and control fishing mortality within selected areas of the B.C. coast.

Management actions to address inshore rockfish conservation concerns are developed to achieve the objectives for fishing mortality rates and closed area coverage. The actions taken to address

fishing mortality objectives will apply to commercial and recreational fisheries. The area closures will apply to recreational fisheries and all commercial salmon gear. To evaluate these objectives, biological and catch data will be collected and analysed, and a stock assessment framework will be developed to monitor the effectiveness of management measures over time and to ensure conservation and rebuilding objectives are achieved.

Details on Interim Areas of Restricted Fishing can be found in Appendix 4. Updates will be posted on the Interim Fishing Restricted Areas for Rockfish Conservation website at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/Groundfish/conservation.htm

3.2. First Nations Fisheries Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries to ensure that, subject to conservation needs, first priority is accorded to First Nations for opportunities to harvest fish for FSC purposes and any treaty obligations.

Feedback from consultation sessions is relied on to measure the performance of providing first priority to First Nations for opportunities to catch fish for FSC purposes and any treaty obligations.

3.3. International Objectives

The objective is to manage Canadian treaty fisheries to ensure that obligations within the PST are achieved.

Details can be found at the PSC website at www.psc.org

Review of the performance of the PST provisions occurs annually at two bilateral meetings of the Northern Panel of the PSC, and those results are published post-season.

3.4. Domestic Allocation Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries in a manner that is consistent with *An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* and the 2003 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan.

The intention is to manage the commercial fisheries to maintain traditional allocations between the gear types. Fishery summaries will be available post-season which will be used to determine if allocation policies have been adhered to.

3.5. Enforcement Objectives

The objective is to ensure compliance with acts and regulations associated with the management of Pacific salmon.

Enforcement Priorities will be given to:

- Habitat protection: Fishery officers will dedicate a large part of their time to enforcing the habitat provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.
- Enforcement of measures designed to protect stocks of concern, e.g. Upper Skeena coho, WCVI chinook and inshore rockfish.
- Monitoring of mandatory selective fishing measures such as brailing, Alaska twist nets, short sets and barbless hooks (recreational and troll).
- Illegal sales of salmon in all areas.
- Routine patrols prior to, during and after fisheries to ensure compliance with licence conditions, closed time/area, and other provisions.

At the end of each season, statistics are compiled on the numbers of checks conducted from various platforms (at-sea, vehicle and foot), the number of charges resulting from these checks and others. Using this information, staff can evaluate whether enforcement priorities were met and whether various enforcement activities were effective. Overall compliance rates for each area and fishery are calculated in order to identify priority areas for enforcement in subsequent seasons.

Postseason review meetings with Conservation and Protection and Resource Management staff are held on an annual basis. From these sessions, staff identify key enforcement issues and recommend strategies for addressing these issues.

More information on enforcement programs is available through the Internet at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca /ops/CP/Default.htm

4. DECISION GUIDELINES

The comprehensive decision guidelines that follow outline management responses that will be invoked under a range of in-season circumstances, and the general rationale to be applied in making management decisions. Decision guidelines are meant to capture general management approaches with the intention of working towards multi-year management plans. Specific fishing plans for 2003 are described in later sections.

4.1. General Decision Guidelines

4.1.1. Pre-season Planning

Development of decision guidelines is part of the pre-season planning process. Development is guided by relevant Departmental policies, scientific advice, consultation with harvesters and other interests, and the experience of fishery managers.

Pre-season decisions may include the development of escapement targets, exploitation ceilings, sector allocations and enforcement objectives.

4.1.2. In-season Decisions

In-season decision points vary from fishery to fishery depending on type, availability and quality of in-season information and the established advisory, consultation and decision-making processes. Decisions include opening and closure of fisheries, level of effort deemed acceptable, gear type restrictions, deployment of special projects, etc.

Where possible, in-season decisions are consistent with pre-season plans. However, the implementation and applicability of decision guidelines and pre-season plans can be influenced in-season by a number of factors, including unanticipated differences between pre-season forecasts and in-season run size estimates, unexpected differences in the strength and timing of co-migrating stocks, unusual migratory conditions and the availability and timeliness of in-season information.

4.1.3. Allocation Guidelines

Allocation decisions are made in accordance with the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon.* Table 1 describes a generalized framework by which fishing opportunities are allocated to different fishing sectors at different abundance levels.

Table 1: Allocation Guidelines

	Low Abundance			High Abundance	
First Nations FSC	Non-retention / closed	By-catch Retention	Directed	Directed	Directed
Recreational	Non-retention / closed	Non-retention	By-catch Retention	Directed	Directed
Commercial	Non-retention / closed	Non-retention	By-catch Retention	By-catch retention	Directed

NOTE: This table describes conceptually how First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries might be undertaken across a range of returns. It does not imply that specific management actions for all stocks exactly follow these guidelines, but rather is an attempt to depict the broad approach.

4.1.4. First Nations - Food, Social and Ceremonial

The *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* provides that after conservation needs are met, FSC requirements and treaty obligations to First Nations have first priority in salmon allocation.

While this opportunity will be provided on a priority basis, it does not mean that fishery targets for First Nations will be fully achieved before other fisheries can proceed. For example, many First Nations conduct their fishery in terminal areas while other fisheries are undertaken in marine areas or approach areas. The general guideline is that the fishing plan must adequately provide for the First Nations FSC harvests that will occur further along the migration route over a reasonable range of potential run sizes.

4.1.5. Recreational Fisheries

Under the Department's *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon,* after FSC fisheries, the recreational sector has priority to directed fisheries for chinook and coho salmon. For sockeye, pink and chum salmon, the policy states that recreational harvesters be provided predictable and stable fishing opportunities. The recreational harvest of sockeye, pink, and chum will be limited to a maximum average of five percent of the combined recreational and commercial harvest of each species on a coast wide basis over the period 1999 to 2005.

If stock abundance information suggests that conservation objectives cannot be attained, closures or non-retention regulation will generally be applied. If information suggests that abundance is inadequate to address First Nations needs, it is possible that recreational fisheries may proceed with a non-retention restriction in place, provided the fishery is not directed on the stock of concern, nor is the impact on the stock of concern significant.

Prior to a directed commercial fishery on chinook and coho, the fishing plan will provide for full daily and possession limits in tidal waters and a removal of species specific restrictions for the recreational sector. Decision guidelines may also identify considerations for changing the area of the fishery, modifying dates or changing daily limits.

4.1.6. Commercial Fisheries

The *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* provides for at least 95 percent of the combined commercial and recreational sockeye, pink and chum harvest to be allocated to the commercial sector. Commercial harvest of chinook and coho salmon will occur when abundance permits, and First Nations and recreational priorities have been addressed.

Specific sector target allocations are: seine 40 percent, gill net 38 percent, and troll 22 percent expressed on a sockeye equivalent basis. The ability to achieve these targets is often compromised by conservation constraints and other factors. Commercial allocation targets by area and by species are outlined in the Appendix 1.

Low impact fisheries generally fish prior to those having a higher impact, particularly at low run sizes, at the start of the run when run sizes are uncertain or when stocks of concern have peaked but continue to migrate through an area.

When one commercial gear type is unlikely to achieve its allocation, the usual approach will be that the same gear type, but in a different area, will be provided opportunities to harvest the uncaught balance. If, however, a similar gear type cannot catch the balance, then the uncaught balance will be shared between groups able to harvest it.

4.1.7. Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements Fisheries

Salmon fisheries are managed with the objective of reaching, but not exceeding required escapement targets. However, uncertain forecasts, inaccurate in-season run size estimates, and mixed-stock concerns can result in escapement to terminal areas that exceed targets. In these cases, Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements (ESSR) fisheries may occur.

Under current policy, commercial and/or recreational fishing opportunities are to be exhausted before considering ESSR fisheries (with a few exceptions).

If ESSR surpluses are identified, the policy assigns priority to addressing outstanding First Nations FSC requirements. Once these are addressed, harvest opportunities are offered to local First Nations groups, with sale allowed under certain conditions.

4.1.8. Selective Fisheries

Selective fishing is defined as the ability to avoid known, non-target species and stocks or, if encountered, to release them alive and unharmed.

The continued development of selective fishing techniques has taken on more importance as a result of heightened conservation concerns on identified stocks as well as a stronger focus on protection of small stocks. The Selective Fisheries Program (1998 to 2001) began the widespread exploration of selective gear and methods. Currently, selective gear and methods are widely used and required in all fisheries. More recently development has focused on refining the most promising techniques.

The Canadian commercial fishing sector has responded positively to this growing conservation consciousness by developing its own Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations. Over 80 percent of Canada's fishing organizations have signed on and ratified the Code that is overseen by a Responsible Fishing Board. Similarly, the recreational sector in the Pacific Region, through the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB), recently developed a Code of Conduct for recreational anglers. First Nations have also embraced the principles of selective fishing by adopting more selective fishing gear, as often these types of gear reflect a traditional way of fishing for many First Nations.

4.1.9. By-catch Management

The inadvertent harvest of different species of concern is referred to as by-catch. The inadvertent harvest of stocks of concern within the same species (i.e. Cultus Lake sockeye when harvesting Summer Run sockeye) is referred to as incidental harvest. Both by-catch and incidental harvest are factored into the calculation of exploitation rates on various stocks, and therefore, fishing plans are designed to be consistent with existing policies and to keep exploitation rates on stocks of concern within the limits described in the conservation objectives (Section 3.1).

All harvest groups have recommended that the Department consult on by-catch/incidental harvest allocations. However, the Department does not allocate by-catch or portions of the acceptable exploitation rate on stocks of concern. Rather the Department considers a number of fishing plan options and attempts to address a range of objectives.

4.2. Queen Charlotte Islands Chums (Cumshewa Inlet Enhanced) Decision Guidelines

4.2.1. Background

The fishery is directed at enhanced chum salmon returning to Pallant Creek at the head of Cumshewa Inlet. The fishing strategy is to harvest chums over the entire migration period. Management is guided by advice from the North Coast Advisory Board (NCAB) which includes representatives from Area A seine, Area C gill net, Area F troll, Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) fisheries representatives, and from the Queen Charlotte SFAB local committee.

Chum stocks harvested within Cumshewa Inlet are managed as enhanced stocks from either Pallant Creek or Mathers Creek. The overall escapement goals for chum are 30,000 to Pallant Creek and 25,000 to 30,000 for hatchery brood stock, and 20,000 to Mathers Creek and 5,000 for hatchery brood stock. Enhancement efforts for Mathers Creek chums are to ensure healthy stocks and allow commercial harvests directed on Pallant Creek surpluses. Fisheries are managed to harvest Pallant Creek surpluses.

Pallant Creek coho are also enhanced to allow for a recreational fishery, retention of coho in commercial fisheries directed at enhanced chum, and limited directed harvest by troll. The increased enhancement of coho, and a rearing program with pens in Mosquito Lake, has significantly increased the abundance of coho.

The Pallant Creek Hatchery facility has been under the management and operation of the Haida Fisheries Program (HFP) with program objectives established through the Haida Tribal Society. Their long term objective is to achieve an economically self-sustaining facility with revenue obtained through cost recovery fishing opportunities.

4.2.2. General Constraints

- A triangle boundary, closed to all fishing, is in place to protect salmon returning to Mathers Creek.
- Retention of coho by-catch is allowed eliminating the need for mandatory brailing by seines.
- For gill net and seine, openings are limited to 12 hour days, which allows for an easier and more manageable fishery during daylight hours, reduces coho by-catch, and is consistent with past years, thus providing a reasonable index of abundance when comparing the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) from previous years.
- Gill net opportunities are normally for two consecutive 12 hour days with a two to five day closure between each two day fishing period.

4.2.3. Preseason Decisions

The initial gill net opening is based on the forecasted return to Pallant Creek. If a poor run were predicted, such that only enough salmon were expected to return to stock the creek, then no fishing would occur unless an actual surplus was identified in-season. Conversely, if a surplus is forecast, then an initial opening will be held, and the returning run will be estimated by the CPUE of the first few openings.

4.2.4. In-season Decisions

- The inner boundary, which is in effect prior to fisheries targeting on identified surpluses, is the line from a boundary sign just east of Beattie Anchorage to a boundary sign near Dawson Cove (referred to as the Dawson Cove line). This boundary is used initially to provide a holding area for salmon that are expected to escape into the creek and provide brood stock. Once the brood stock is collected, or the stock size is estimated to be in excess of requirements, then this boundary can be lowered so fishers have more access to salmon holding in front of the stream.
- When fish are abundant, fisheries are conducted with inner boundaries being from Beattie Anchorage to the easternmost point of Oliver Island, thence from the westernmost point of Oliver Island to a boundary sign on the Moresby Island shore, or from Barge Point to a boundary sign on the opposite shore.
- The preferred share of catch is 45 percent to gill nets and 55 percent to seines, but this can vary from year to year. Since seine vessels can quickly catch more fish than gill nets, this harvest sharing arrangement dictates that the first few openings are conducted with gill nets only. Once it is estimated that the gill net fleet will have a reasonable chance of catching their share, then seine openings can proceed.

<u>Gill nets</u>

- Fishing opportunities for chum salmon will begin Sunday September 7 for gill nets only. Objectives are to determine the strength of incoming chum salmon stocks, to harvest throughout the migration period, and ensure adequate opportunity for gill nets to harvest approximately 45 percent of the chum surplus.
- Gill net opportunities are considered when seine opportunities begin, but only if fleet size is approximately 30 vessels or less to ensure adequate opportunity for the seine fleet, and/or if catch by seines is anticipated to be greater than 55 percent of the total catch after the fishery is complete. Gill net fleet sizes are generally estimated from the size of the fleet during the preceding week.

Seine

- Seine opportunities are normally considered after a minimum of two weeks of gill net opportunities (generally not before the third Monday in September).
- Seine opportunities should only be considered if there is reasonable evidence that escapement and hatchery brood stock objectives are at least 50 percent secure behind the inner boundary. The percentage of secured escapement and hatchery brood stock would increase during later weeks such that fisheries considered late in the season (second Monday in October) would be with the full complement of escapement and brood stock either in-stream, harvested at the fence, protected behind the proposed inner boundary, or a combination of such preferred circumstances.
- Seine only opportunities may be considered if the gill net fleet size is greater than 30 vessels, and/or if the total catch to date for gill nets will likely exceed the 45 percent catch allowance after the seine opportunity is complete. Gill net fleet size will generally be estimated from the size of the fleet during the previous opening.

4.2.5. Cost recovery fishery for Pallant Creek hatchery

The CHN has proposed through the HFP an allocation of a portion of enhanced returns to Cumshewa Inlet. Profits from the sale of the fish will be used to fund Pallant Creek hatchery operations and will help to stabilize hatchery funding and maintain recent production expansions. The Department has agreed to this as long as it has the support of other users of the resource. The commercial fishing fleet, through the NCAB and the Northern Troll Advisory Board, has agreed as long as the Department does not cut funding to Pallant Creek hatchery.

4.2.6. Background

- In the summer of 1997 the HFP developed a proposal to fund and operate the Pallant Creek Hatchery. An earlier evaluation of Salmonid Enhancement Program facilities indicated that the value of hatchery returns was less than the cost of operation. The HFP plan that was subsequently developed aimed to improve hatchery cost-efficiency by increasing production and reducing unit costs. It also identified a cost recovery fishery based on the hatchery expansion as a future revenue source.
- For the 2003 season an allocation will be made to the hatchery of 35 percent of the total allowable catch of chum. There will be no directed cost-recovery fisheries for coho in tidal waters, but all coho caught incidentally to the directed chum fishery will be considered cost-recovery coho. The cost recovery fishery and related allocations will be reviewed annually.

The HFP proposes that profits from the cost recovery fishery would first be applied to operating costs, then to past deficits and finally to future capital costs. This is similar to 2002.

- This agreement relates to the "*Elements of an Agreement on a Cost Recovery Fishery at Cumshewa Inlet"* that the NCAB and the HFP will adhere to in order to have the full support of all parties.
- This fishery will be managed by the local manager in QCI with advice from the In-season Advisory Committee.
- The Pallant Creek cost recovery fishery will not affect the management of outside troll and other fisheries outside Cumshewa Inlet.

4.2.7. Proposed Fishing Pattern (2003 season)

Allocation

- During the management of Cumshewa Inlet, an attempt will be made to maintain traditional shares between seine, gill net, and troll. Traditional net shares of chum are 55 percent seine, 45 percent gill net. Trollers have been able to fish chum, but in the past they have had a very small catch. Trollers will be managed so that their total catch of chum is similar to their recent average annual catch.
- Historically there has been a small effort by trollers on enhanced Cumshewa coho. Trollers will be managed so that their total catch of coho is similar to their recent average annual catch.
- Catches by these three gear types will be included in the coast-wide sharing calculations.

Chum Salmon

- Early commercial gill net fisheries generally indicate the strength of incoming stocks and the likelihood of surpluses. Gill net fisheries will be provided in the outer portion of Cumshewa Inlet beginning Sunday, September 7 and Monday, September 8.
- During the early stages of the terminal season gill net fisheries will indicate whether chum salmon returns will be above or below expected return levels. Because this is an enhanced run there is an expectation that there will be surplus chum salmon beyond in-stream escapement and hatchery brood stock requirements.
- Subsequent gill net only opportunities will be dependent on fleet size and average CPUE from the previous fishery.

Coho Salmon

- Coho salmon are generally managed as a by-catch species in fisheries that are designed to harvest surplus chum salmon.
- During the early stages of the terminal salmon season coho abundance in Cumshewa Inlet and returns into Pallant Creek are anticipated to be high. A commercial troll fishery to target on coho will be permitted in Cumshewa Inlet beginning when the north coast opens to troll.
- Retention of coho as a by-catch will be allowed in all net fisheries.
- Because of the anticipated surplus of coho to Pallant Creek ESSR harvest opportunities at the fence site by the HFP may begin as soon as Sunday, September 1.

- There are no other means of a directed harvest for coho, other than by troll, in Cumshewa Inlet. The only method to harvest surplus coho, without compromising the current chum salmon management objectives, is at the Pallant Creek fence site.

Cost Recovery Fishery

- Opportunities will be made available for an Area A licensed seine, designated by the HFP, to conduct a cost recovery fishery between regular commercial net fisheries. Timing of cost recovery opportunities will be determined co-operatively between the local area manager for Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Program Manager for Haida Fisheries. Efforts will be made to ensure that the total allowable harvest of chum in the cost recovery fishery does not become excessive, and therefore difficult to catch by one vessel over a one or two day period.
- It is anticipated that the first cost recovery effort will be sometime after gill net only fisheries have begun, but prior to the commencement of a commercial seine fishery.
- The cost recovery fishery will be conducted with equal priority to commercial harvests up to a total of 35 percent of the total allowable in-season catch. For example, if the total allowable catch is 10,000 chum, then the commercial harvest would be 6,500 chum, and an opportunity would be provided for a designated seine vessel to harvest up to 3,500 chum for cost recovery (35% of 10,000 = 3,500). Such a fishing pattern would be maintained throughout the terminal season until the run is complete.
- Conservation concerns will always take precedence over normal commercial and/or cost recovery harvests.
- The cost recovery seine vessel will be given a reasonable opportunity to achieve their target but a commercial fishery will not be unduly delayed if the HFP cannot meet their chum target.
- The designated vessel may participate in normal commercial opportunities, but only if fish harvested for cost recovery have been off-loaded.
- Close liaison will need to be maintained between the Program Manager for Haida Fisheries and the local area manager for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Co-operatively they will determine when and where cost recovery efforts will occur in addition to how many chums the designated seine will be allowed to harvest. Cost recovery catch reporting will be from the HFP to the local area manager immediately after harvest is complete.
- The cost recovery fishery will target chum, and coho by-catch will be allowed. This coho will be counted as a portion of the cost recovery coho share.

4.2.8. Prospects for 2003

Returns of enhanced terminal chum salmon to Cumshewa Inlet have been far below forecast levels in recent years resulting in reduced harvest opportunities. Based on recently adjusted survival rates a very modest surplus of only 50,000 chum is anticipated, however the actual abundance may increase or decrease significantly depending on ocean survival, which is very variable and difficult to determine.

4.3. Queen Charlotte Islands Chum (Wild) Decision Guidelines

4.3.1. Background

The QCI have been known to support annual terminal chum salmon opportunities in a variety of wild stock locations. However, over recent years return ratios of chum have declined to levels where surpluses are not as frequent as in the past. Stock assessment fisheries with gill nets may occur throughout the early portion of the season leading up to more intensive fisheries with seines, on identified surpluses, during the last half of the terminal season.

4.3.2. General Constraints

- Stream boundaries must be maintained until escapement objectives are achieved.
- Coho by-catch is a concern and therefore brailing by seines and the use of revival tanks by both gill nets and seines are required.
- Daylight fisheries only, which are generally 12 hours per day during September and are reduced to 10 or 11 hour days in October.

4.3.3. Preseason Decisions

- The initial opening is based on forecasted return and on fish observed to be schooling in front of the various systems. If a poor run is predicted, such that only enough salmon are expected to return to stock the creek, then no fishing will occur unless an actual surplus is identified in-season. Conversely, if a surplus is forecast, then an initial opening will be held, and the returning run will be estimated by the CPUE of the first few openings.

4.3.4. In-season Decisions

- Area 1 chum salmon surpluses are primarily to the Ain River and Awun River systems in Masset Inlet. Catches in early stock assessment fisheries for gill nets in the western portion of McIntyre Bay, outside Masset Sound, are a reliable indicator of run size. In general, an average daily catch of 70 chum or less is an indication of a return which will be below the escapement objectives, 70 to 100 chum indicates that escapement objectives will be achieved, and 100 chum or more indicates surpluses in excess of escapement requirements. In the last scenario seine opportunities would need to be considered near the Ain River in Masset Inlet late in the terminal season.
- In Areas 2 East and 2 West wild stock chum harvest opportunities for both gill nets and seines are considered only when surpluses have been identified. Generally fisheries on wild stock surpluses are timed in conjunction with enhanced stock fisheries in Cumshewa Inlet. Streams which support wild stock chum returns which may present surplus harvest opportunities are located in East Skidegate Inlet, Selwyn Inlet, and Darwin Sound in Area 2 East; and West Skidegate Inlet, Englefield Bay, and Tasu Sound in Area 2 West.

In-season opportunities will take into account the following:

- In Cumshewa Inlet fisheries are conducted on wild stock surpluses in conjunction with enhanced stock opportunities, due to the similar timing of the runs.
- All fisheries are managed so that catch is delivered within two days of being caught. Industry has requested this fishing pattern to ensure quality of the fish and roe at the point of processing.
- Stock assessment fisheries have not been considered during recent years due to the mixed-stock nature of such fisheries. It is preferable to fish more terminally on identified surpluses. The size of the run can usually be determined by observations of fish build-up in front of streams, and the timing of these build-ups in relation to historical run timing for that system.

4.3.5. Prospects for 2003

- There is not expected to be many wild chum surpluses in 2003. However, these could develop depending on various conditions such as good ocean survival. Known areas, such as Lagoon Inlet, Tasu Sound, and Skidegate Inlet, will be monitored to determine incoming runs throughout the season.

4.4. Queen Charlotte Islands Pinks Decision Guidelines

4.4.1. Background

Surplus pink salmon opportunities on the QCI occur only during even years; odd year returns are either minimal or non-existent in most streams. Preseason predictions of pink salmon surpluses are not reliable and for the most part harvest opportunities are normally provided only when surpluses are identified in-season.

The only system in Area 2 East which has consistently shown harvestable surpluses over recent even years has been Pallant Creek; however, the nature of the returning stock is not to school before entering the stream system, making them difficult to catch. Pink salmon returns in Area 2 West over recent even years have provided the most consistent harvest opportunities.

Harvestable surpluses can vary greatly depending on run size and location. Catches can range from 250,000 in a poor year up to 1.5 million in a good year. The main component of this catch is dependant on the survival rate and return to the Yakoun River, which supports the majority of pink salmon spawners to any one system on the QCI in a given even year. The Yakoun River in Area 1 is the only system for which stock assessment openings may be considered within Masset Sound and the eastern portion of Masset Inlet. Fisheries are for both gill nets and seines, although any effort by gill nets is normally non-existent.

4.4.2. General Constraints

- Generally the required escapement is secured within the stream(s) and/or behind boundaries near the estuary location(s) before fisheries are allowed to proceed.

- The by-catch of Yakoun River chinook may be a concern in Masset Inlet, depending on the timing of the pink fishery.
- All fisheries are during daylight hours, generally from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (12 hours). This reduces the amount of unwanted by-catch, and makes the fishery more manageable and enforceable.

4.4.3. Preseason Decisions

- The initial opening is based on forecasted return and on fish observed to be schooling in front of the various systems. If a poor run were predicted, such that only enough salmon were expected to return to stock the creek, then no fishing would occur unless an actual surplus was identified in-season. Conversely, if a surplus is forecast, then an initial opening will be held, and the returning run will be estimated by the CPUE of the first few openings.

4.4.4. In-season Decisions

- Fishing opportunities may begin the second Monday in August with stock assessment openings in Masset Sound and Masset Inlet.
- Harvest opportunities on identified surpluses will normally begin on the third Monday of August and may continue (with subsequent openings) until the end of August. For instance, if the pink fishing in Masset Sound and Inlet was good compared to previous years, this would indicate a good run, and extended openings could occur.
- Although most fisheries are open to gill nets when opportunities for seines are provided they do not actively participate in fisheries for surplus pink salmon.
- When surpluses to various streams in different locations are identified it is preferable to conduct fisheries at the same time to spread out the fishing effort.

4.4.5. Prospects for 2003

- Pink salmon return only in even years to the QCI, and so no pinks returns are expected this year.

4.5. Nass River Sockeye Decision Guidelines

4.5.1. Background

There are 14 sockeye streams in Area 3, two of which are not tributaries to the Nass. The major producers are Bowser River/Lake, Damdochax River/Lake, Kwinageese River and Meziadin River/Lake.

In addition to these sockeye stocks, all five salmon species are present throughout the fishing season.

Fisheries are managed to meet commitments in accordance with the Nisga'a Treaty and the PST. For the Nisga'a treaty fisheries, enough salmon have to enter the Nisga'a area to ensure that

treaty obligations are met. The runs entering the Nass River are estimated by a series of fishwheels operated by the Nisga'a, and a mark-recapture program conducted on some of the species. Close liaison is maintained throughout the season between the Nisga'a Lisims Government fisheries program staff and Department staff. Commercial openings are planned keeping this obligation in mind.

To satisfy Canada's obligation under the PST, certain Subareas in Portland Canal (as well as certain areas on the Alaskan side of the border) will remain closed to commercial net fishing unless agreed to by both the United States and Canada. Pink catches in Subareas 3-1 to 3-4 are restricted to 2.49 percent of the annual allowable harvest of a portion of Southeast Alaska.

The outer portions of Area 3 are managed in conjunction with the Skeena River fishery because of the large numbers of Skeena sockeye and pink present.

4.5.2. General Constraints

- Gill nets have 137 mm maximum mesh restriction. The restriction is in place so that sockeye is targeted selectively and other non-target species such as chum and chinook are impacted to a lesser degree.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the incidental catch of coho. Other coho conservation measures are also in effect, including mandatory brailing for all seine sets and non-retention of coho by the commercial fleet.
- Brailing and mandatory release of coho, chinook, steelhead and chum will be in place for the seine fishery. Net fisheries are scheduled to be non-retention of coho for the season except possibly during net fisheries restricted to the inside of Area 3, depending on in-season run abundance estimates.

4.5.3. Preseason Decisions

Opportunities for a gill net fishery in mid-June are evaluated during the preseason planning process based on brood year escapements. The fishery is implemented to assess sockeye strength. The fishery has very little impact on salmon stocks because it occurs early in the sockeye run, and avoids others species with the use of mesh restrictions. The first fishery is predetermined in the planning process. Other indicators prior to the fishery are not reliable and significant fish harvesting opportunities can be missed in years of large returns if fishing does not start at this time.

Seine fishing usually starts towards the middle of July based on gear type allocation and conservation issues. Immature chinook presence precludes an earlier seine opening.

4.5.4. In-season Decisions

The sockeye gill net fishery continues in some years into August depending upon run timing and strength.

Weekly decisions are made from run size predictions based on:

- Catch data from the Area 3 and Alaskan Tree Point commercial net fishery.
- Escapement information from the test-fishing site near Canyon City on the Nass River and fish counts at the Meziadin fishway.

4.6. In-season Nass River Sockeye ESSR Decision Guidelines

4.6.1. Background

Under ESSR policy guidelines, ESSR fisheries may occur when salmon stocks return to a system after passing through the various fisheries and are at a level in excess of their required natural or hatchery spawning capacity. The current ESSR policy indicates salmon fisheries are managed with the objective of minimizing surpluses to both naturally spawning stocks and returns to federal enhancement facilities.

However, uncertain forecasts, inaccurate in-season run size estimates, and mixed-stock concerns can result in escapement to terminal areas that exceed targets. This in turn means that there will be either escapement in excess of the target or ESSR opportunities. The ESSR policy identifies that commercial and recreational fishing opportunities should first be exhausted before considering these fisheries, and all attempts will be made to harvest surplus stocks in regular commercial fisheries. The ESSR policy provides for any surplus to address outstanding FSC needs of local or more distant First Nations communities.

4.6.2. Nass River ESSR History

Nass River sockeye ESSR fisheries have been directed at surplus stocks returning to the Meziadin system. In past years, harvest has been by selective methods that include fishwheels, beach seines and dipnets. ESSR licences have been issued to the Nisga'a and Gitanyow First Nations who share in the harvest.

4.6.3. Issues

In the past the Nisga'a have harvested their allocation in the mainstem Nass River. In this lower river area, stock composition is mixed in nature and is made up of a number of sockeye stocks co-migrating to the various tributaries of the Nass. Due to concerns over the stock status of the non-Meziadin sockeye systems, future ESSR fisheries will be restricted to a terminal harvest in the Meziadin River.

4.6.4. Nass Sockeye ESSR Fishery: Harvest and Allocation

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement and in consultation with the Gitanyow First Nation, may declare a sockeye surplus and an ESSR harvest opportunity. Once a surplus is declared, a harvest plan and sharing arrangement will be implemented.

ESSR opportunities for Nass sockeye will occur at a yet to be determined harvesting site, preferably above the Meziadin fishway. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nisga'a and the

Gitanyow technical committees will develop guidelines for how a surplus will be declared as well as harvest guidelines. The guidelines will be based on a combination of in-season abundance estimates of the in-river abundance as well as the Meziadin escapements.

4.6.5. Prospects for 2003

Above average returns are forecast for Nass sockeye. Available commercial fishery surplus after Nisga'a Treaty obligations is 300,000 to 400,000 sockeye.

4.7. Nass River Pink and Chum Decision Guidelines

4.7.1. Background

There is no single major chum producer in Area 3. Chum returns start in early July and continue throughout the summer and into October.

Area 3 pink stocks are divided into five major groups. Most Area 3 pink stocks arrive in the fishing area at approximately the same time, mid-July. The outer coastal stocks are an exception arriving in August and early September.

4.7.2. General Constraints

- The fishery must be managed to meet commitments in accordance with the Nisga'a Treaty and the PST.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the incidental catch of coho. Other coho conservation measures may include mandatory brailing for all seine sets and non-retention of coho by the commercial fleet.
- The gill net 137 mm maximum mesh restriction may be removed once the seine fishery starts, depending upon chum stock strength. However, this is not expected to happen in the near future, since the returning chum stocks are expected to be depressed.
- Brailing and mandatory release of coho, chinook, steelhead and chum may be in place for the seine fishery.

4.7.3. Preseason Decisions

Opportunities for pink and chum are evaluated during the preseason planning process based on brood year escapements. The fishery for pinks and chums usually starts in mid-July with the opening of the seine fishery based on brood year escapements and catch information from sockeye gill net fisheries in previous weeks.

4.7.4. In-season Decisions

The fishery is usually a targeted pink fishery with some restrictions such as time, area and gear restrictions in place to pass more chums through to the spawning grounds. Terminal chum

fisheries can occur once a surplus has been identified from spawning ground escapement inspections.

Weekly decisions are based on:
- Catch data from the Area 3 commercial net fishery.
- Catch data from the Tree Point fishery in Alaska.
- Escapement information from individual stream inspections.

4.7.5. Prospects for 2003

Average to above average returns of Nass area pinks are forecast, with an available surplus between 1.5 and 2.5 million.

Area 3 chum returns are expected to be very poor. Fisheries will be managed to avoid and release chum. Terminal fisheries are possible if surpluses are identified in-season.

4.8. Skeena River Decision Guidelines

4.8.1. Background

The Skeena River is the second largest producer of sockeye in B.C. The major stocks in the Skeena River system are the Babine River and the enhanced runs to Fulton River and Pinkut Creek. Historically, the Morice system produced substantial returns as well.

Co-migrating with these strong sockeye runs are weaker runs of wild sockeye, as well as all the other Pacific salmonids. Over time the objective of optimizing the harvest of Skeena River salmon stocks based on enhanced sockeye runs has had the impact of reducing many of these other unenhanced populations. Accordingly, measures have been taken to reduce the impact of the fishery on Skeena River steelhead and coho. These measures include gear modifications and specific timing closures when these stocks are present. Some wild sockeye stocks have not responded to these measures and further reductions are required, particularly for the Morice and Kitwanga populations. Actions to protect these stocks will, in some years, result in large escapements to the enhanced systems.

The Skeena River returns are harvested in Areas 4 and 5 and the outer portions of Area 3.

There are 154 recorded coho streams in Management Area 4. Individual stock arrival timing at the test fishery varies, but generally it is the streams of the upper Skeena (Bulkley, Morice, Babine, Bear) which arrive first (from late July to early August), followed by middle Skeena stocks, then coastal stocks.

In the Skeena River, pinks have returned well from both odd and even year cycles. 128 systems have a recorded pink salmon presence. Tagging studies were conducted in 1982, 1984, and 1985. These studies were designed primarily to provide information on interception rates, but also provided information on stock abundance, migration, and timing. Management stock groupings are upper Skeena, lower Skeena, and coastal.

Chums are the least abundant salmon species in the Skeena system, and return to the fewest number of streams. There are 43 chum streams or rivers in Area 4.

The Skeena is the second largest chinook producer on the B.C. coast. Skeena chinook are taken in all northern B.C. fishing areas as well as southern Alaskan troll and net fisheries. Returning adults tend to follow a north to south migration pattern. Peak timing of chinook past the test fishery is in the first and second weeks of July, with escapements continuing into late August.

Skeena salmon are taken in all northern B.C. and southern Alaskan fisheries. In B.C., directed net fisheries on sockeye and pink salmon occur in Areas 3, 4, and 5. Troll fisheries direct their efforts on pink, chinook, and coho salmon in Areas 1 and 101. Recreational and First Nations fisheries occur on all these salmon species, with chinook and coho being the main targeted species for the recreational fisheries, and sockeye being the major target in the First Nations fisheries.

4.8.2. General Constraints

Coho

There is a 15 percent ceiling on the total Canadian exploitation rate of aggregate north and central coast coho. Exploitation rates will be managed by adjusting the timing and location of fisheries such that impacts will be lower on coho stocks migrating up the Skeena past the Babine River confluence. By comparison, the average Canadian exploitation rate in the years 1985 to 1991 was 40 percent.

The exploitation rate will be divided between First Nations FSC, recreational, commercial troll, commercial gill net, and commercial seine. There will be no explicit preseason allocation of this exploitation rate among users, rather the fisheries will be managed to conservation constraints and allocation arrangements consistent with policy. When it is predicted that the ceiling will be reached prior to the end of the season, various fisheries will close or be curtailed. The impact that various fisheries have on coho will be estimated using a variety of means, but the main tool will be the Skeena Management Model.

For more information on coho management, see the Northern Troll Decision Guidelines.

Steelhead

There is a ceiling on the total Area 3/4/5 harvest rate on steelhead. This ceiling in 2003 is 37 percent on early-timed steelhead, and 24 percent on aggregate steelhead. The impact on steelhead will be estimated by a variety of means, but the primary means will be the Skeena Management Model.

		Steelhead	Early Steelhead
1985 - 91	(Base Period)	36%	42%
2003		24%	37%

Wild Sockeye
Sockeye from various natal streams migrate up the Skeena throughout the salmon season. These wild stocks cannot withstand the same exploitation rate as the enhanced stocks of Pinkut Creek and Fulton River. To ensure these wild stocks are not over-harvested, a reduced harvest rate is applied to the mixed stock fishery in the marine area and the Skeena River downstream of the Babine confluence.

Chum
Chum stocks are expected to return below desirable levels for the next few years. Conservation actions in mainland fisheries such as mandatory release of chum by seine and mesh restrictions of maximum 137 mm by gill net are expected to be implemented.

4.8.3. Preseason Decisions

The fishing plan for the initial openings is based on the expected returns for a given year. If a surplus of chinook or sockeye is predicted, then gill net openings are planned. The initial sockeye opening is planned for the first week of July, prior to information from the Tyee test fishery being available. The early July opening is used in order to protect Nanika stocks which arrive in the latter part of June. If no Skeena sockeye surplus is anticipated, fisheries would proceed once surpluses were identified by the Tyee test fishery.

4.8.4. In-season Decisions

Sockeye (Refer to Table 2)
Conservation Level: Skeena River sockeye migrate up the river in an aggregate of stocks, but the individual stock groupings can be separated to some extent by run timing. At escapement levels of 400,000 or less sockeye into the Skeena River, fishing activity on these sockeye stocks should cease.

FSC Fisheries
There is currently an accounting in communal licences issued to First Nations bands to harvest 150,000 sockeye upstream of the Tyee test fishery. Weekly escapement estimates that indicate a run size estimate of less than 550,000 (400,000 plus 150,000) would trigger consultations with Skeena River First Nations to limit their FSC fisheries.

Recreational Fisheries
The normal bag limits for Skeena recreational sockeye are four per day in tidal waters, and two per day in selected non-tidal waters. These fisheries will be closed prior to any management restrictions taking effect on the First Nations FSC fisheries. Any bag limit reduction will be based on either conservation needs or the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon*.

Commercial Fisheries
Decision guidelines for commercial fisheries need to fall into two categories; the trigger to initiate fisheries, and, once the fishery begins, the intensity of the fishery each week during the season.

In order to initiate commercial fisheries on Skeena sockeye, an escapement in excess of 1,050,000 is required (escapement of 900,000 and FSC requirements of 150,000). In Table 2, the weekly escapement levels necessary to initiate commercial fisheries are laid out.

Once a commercial fishery is initiated on the returning Skeena sockeye run, it will be managed to weekly harvest rate ceilings, as estimated by the Skeena Management Model.

Commercial allocation of Skeena sockeye (Areas 1, 3 to 5, and 101 to 105) is listed in the Appendix 1. The management actions to achieve these allocations are to open the gill net fishery first, followed by the seine fishery, which usually opens mid-July, depending on run size and gill net catch to date. The troll allocation of sockeye is usually achieved by incidental catch on fisheries conducted in outside waters directed at other species.

Table 2- Skeena River Sockeye Decision Points

			Trigger Points							
			No Fishing		**FSC restrictions begin**		**Commercial Opportunities begin**		Weekly Harvest Rates	
Week	Stocks - Timing Major (Minor)	% OF TOTAL RUN	Weekly Esc.	Cumul. Esc.	Weekly Esc.	Cumul. Esc.	Weekly Esc.	Cumul. Esc.	20 Yr. Ave. % (1980-99)	2003 %
June 24 - 30	ENB (EBT, Pinkut)	4%	16k	28k	22k	39k	42k	74k	0.06	0.00
July 1 - Jul 7	ENB (EBT, Pinkut)	7%	28k	56k	39	77k	74k	147k	0.21	0.21
July 8 - 14	Pinkut, EBT, (Fulton)	13%	52k	108k	72k	149k	137k	284k	0.37	0.37
July 15 - 21	Pinkut, Fulton	20%	80k	188k	110k	259k	210k	494k	0.43	0.43
July 22 - 28	Fulton, LNB, Babine R.	21%	84k	272k	116k	374k	221k	714k	0.46	0.35
July 29 - Aug 4	Babine R. (Fulton)	16%	64k	336k	88k	462k	168k	882k	0.39	0.19
Aug 5 - 11	Babine R.	10%	40k	376k	55k	517k	105k	987k	0.30	0.15
Aug 12 - 18	Babine R.	5%	20k	396k	28k	545k	53k	1040k	0.30	0.15
Overall Target				400k		550k		1,050k		

ENB - Early Non-Babine (Alastair, Lakelse, Swan, Motase, and Morice)
LNB - Late Non-Babine (Kitwanga, Kitsumkalum, Bear, and Zymoetz)
EBT - Early Babine Tributaries

Notes: 1. Stock timing and percent are based on average run timing.
2. Late freshets could influence early escapement estimates

Pink

During the second full week of August, the intent in the commercial Area 4 fishery switches from the harvest of sockeye to pink salmon. The management target for pink escapement is one to two million fish. If the escapement was low during the sockeye directed fishery, no management actions would be taken. Once the fishery switches to pink management, if the yearly escapement is not expected to reach one million, the fishery may close. An exception may be made if the sockeye run is still strong at this time. Pink returns between one and two million are managed with a balance between catch and escapement, and this balance depends on escapement distribution and concern for other species.

In 2003, pink management will begin during the week of August 10 to 16.

Chinook

Management actions will be maintained as in recent years, unless a conservation concern arises. These management rules are:

First Nations - Maintain the catch levels as specified in each communal licence.
Recreational - Maintain bag limits of two per day in tidal waters, one per day (over 65 cm) in specified non-tidal waters.
Commercial seine - Mandatory release to the water with the least possible harm to protect stocks with a July/August run timing.
Commercial gill net - Two directed fisheries in River/Gap/Slough portion of Area 4, or 4000 fish, whichever comes first. Any further catch will be incidental to sockeye or pink directed fisheries.
Commercial troll - Directed chinook fisheries occurring in outside portions of Skeena approach waters (Dixon Entrance) managed to a quota.

Chinook returns are expected to be above average for the Skeena River again in 2003.

Pilot Sales Fishery (Sockeye)

For Skeena River sockeye and pink salmon pilot sales fisheries, all harvest for sale purposes will be by selective means, with live release of all non-target species.

For Skeena River sockeye, a surplus will not be declared in-river below the Babine River confluence.

In past years, due to the difference in stock mixes in different parts of the river, the Skeena River ESSR fishery has been separated into an “A” fishery and a “B” fishery. The “A” fishery management actions were based on the stock mix found from the mouth of the Skeena River to the confluence with the Babine River. The “B” fishery management actions were based on the stock mix found once the sockeye enter the Babine River system. Due to the weak sockeye stocks found below the Babine River confluence, there will be no Pilot Sales fisheries conducted in the Skeena River below the Babine.

Conduct of the Pilot Sales Fishery

Once the sockeye return has moved into the Babine River, many of the weaker wild stocks have moved into their natal streams to spawn, and an ESSR fishery may be conducted. This is still a mixed stock sockeye fishery, but to a lesser degree than downstream. Surpluses in Babine Lake immediately in front of the two spawning channels at Pinkut Creek and Fulton River are not mixed-stock, and can be harvested at a much higher exploitation rate. These Babine River and Lake surpluses will be managed as follows.

In the Babine River: When a commercial fishery is conducted at the mouth of the Skeena, and a surplus to spawning requirements enters the river, then a surplus may be declared in the Babine River and Lake. The surplus amount will be half of the estimated overage. This surplus will be split in half again, and half will be available to the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Watershed Authority, to be harvested in the Babine River, while the other half will be available to the Lake Babine First Nation, to be harvested at the Babine Fence or spawning facilities.

Conduct of the ESSR Fishery

In Babine Lake: Lake harvest takes place immediately in front of the Pinkut and Fulton spawning facilities. Amounts specified for harvest will be determined in close liaison with Pinkut Creek and Fulton River hatchery managers to ensure enough sockeye are available to stock the channels.

If the sockeye run is below the requirements to trigger a commercial fishery, then no Pilot Sales fisheries will occur in-river. A lake fishery could occur in front of the spawning channels if a surplus develops and is identified.

4.8.1. Prospects for 2003

Skeena sockeye returns are expected to be poor with a surplus of 100,000 to 200,000 after food social and ceremonial requirements.

Skeena pink returns are expected to be average with a surplus of approximately one million.

Area 4 chum returns are expected to be very poor. Fisheries will be managed to avoid and release chum. Terminal fisheries are possible if surpluses are identified in-season.

4.9. Area 5 - Pink and Chum Decision Guidelines

4.9.1. Background

Area 5 is traditionally managed in conjunction with Area 4 until mid-August when local pink stocks are prevalent. In recent years Area 5 pink fisheries have taken place in August.

4.9.2. General Constraints

Care must be taken not to over-harvest local stocks while conducting the Skeena directed fishery. Otherwise constraints are the same as those listed in the Area 4 Decision Guidelines.

4.9.3. Preseason Decisions

During the Skeena directed fisheries, the same preseason decisions will be taken as those listed in the Decision Guidelines for Area 4. In mid to late August the fishery considers pink salmon brood year escapements to local streams.

4.9.4. In-season Decisions

The same decisions in-season as for Area 4 until mid-August. Seine fisheries for Area 5 pink stocks are then considered based on catch and stream escapement information. There is no one major pink stock in Area 5 but a number of small streams which all contribute to this stock.

4.9.5. Prospects for 2003

Area 5 pink returns are expected to be average. Area 5 chum returns are expected to be very poor. Fisheries will be managed to avoid and release chum. Terminal fisheries are possible if surpluses are identified in-season.

4.10. Area 6 - Kitimat, Kemano, Quaal Pink and Chum Decision Guidelines

4.10.1. Background

Area 6 has been a large pink salmon producer, however, in recent times pink production has been modest, with the exception of the past few years, which have seen both improved catches and escapements. Historically, chum fisheries have been managed along with more abundant pink returns. In recent years the only directed chum fishery has been on stocks returning to the Kitimat Hatchery.

4.10.2. General Constraints

- Gill nets with 149 mm minimum and 165 mm maximum mesh restriction. The restriction is in place so that chum is targeted selectively and other non-target species such as sockeye and chinook are not impacted. Gill net fisheries will be restricted to Douglas Channel.
- Commercial net fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the incidental catch of coho. Other coho conservation measures are also in effect, including mandatory brailing for all seine sets and non-retention of coho by the commercial net fleet.

4.10.3. Preseason Decisions

Opportunities for a gill net fishery are evaluated during the preseason planning process based on Kitimat Hatchery chum production and wild chum stock assessments. Wild chum stocks have declined in recent years. Assessment fisheries will be confined to determining hatchery stock

strength. Terminal wild stock chum fisheries may be considered based on in-stream escapement assessments.

Seine fishing opportunities are usually evaluated preseason for a start in mid-July. The anticipated opening date is determined from brood year escapements, run timing and concurrent openings in other areas.

4.10.4. In-season Decisions

Gill net fisheries continue to be announced based on catch and escapement information. In mid-July seine fisheries are considered. These fisheries will target pink stocks returning to numerous streams with the Quaal and Kemano Rivers being the main producers. Further fishing opportunities are based on the assessments of the fishery, with good catches indicating a strong return. As the season progresses the focus changes increasingly to an assessment of escapements to determine further fishing opportunities.

4.10.5. Prospects for 2003

Area 6 pink returns are expected to be above average with a possible surplus of one to three million.

Area 6 chum returns are expected to be very poor with the exception of returns to the Kitimat Hatchery. The forecast hatchery surplus is 100,000 to 150,000. Chum fisheries will be restricted to the Douglas Channel area to avoid catching weaker stocks. Note: Returns to Kitimat Hatchery have been highly variable and forecasts unreliable.

4.11. Area 7 - Mussel, Kainet, Kitasoo Hatchery, Neekas, Quartcha, Roscoe and McLoughlin Hatchery Chum Decision Guidelines

4.11.1. Background

The major wild chum salmon that are actively managed in Area 7 are the Mussel, Kainet, Neekas, Quartcha and Roscoe stocks. The Kitasoo and McLoughlin Bay Hatcheries contribute to harvests of enhanced stocks. These fisheries occur in terminal areas or the approach areas where timings of these stocks are known. Pink Salmon migrate during a similar time period as chum but are not actively targeted and are caught incidentally. Fisheries for Mussel and Kainet Chum generally occur in August. Early returns of Roscoe and McLoughlin Chum occur in Seaforth Channel in August. While the main return occurs in September. Gill net and seine fleets are generally small for these fisheries with no more than two days per week fishing during good returns and one day per week during an average return. Pink Salmon migrate during the same time period but are not a targeted to the same extend as chum.

4.11.2. General Constraints

- The half-mile radius boundary around Mary's Cove Creek is in effect year-round to conserve Mary's Cove and Lagoon Creek sockeye.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the incidental catch of coho. Other coho conservation measures are also in effect, including non-retention by the commercial fleet.
- Subject to conservation concerns and First Nations FSC requirements, the Klemtu Pass area may be opened to harvest surplus chum and chum returning to the Kitasoo Creek Hatchery. Openings targeting Kitasoo Creek Hatchery stocks and surplus chum in terminal areas would only be considered after August 21 and would follow the pattern of gill nets fishing first and seines second.
- During periods of high pink salmon catches in Area 7 or 8, fisheries will be managed so that there is a maximum of two consecutive days of fishing. This action has been recommended by fishermen and processors to maximize the value of the pink salmon caught.
- Where possible, openings in Areas 6, 7 and 8 will be co-ordinated.

4.11.3. Preseason Decisions

Opportunities for one day gill net and seine assessment fisheries on the last week of July or first week of August are determined preseason based on recent trends in brood year escapement. If recent escapement estimates indicate an increasing or stable run, the assessment fisheries will very likely go ahead, regardless of other information. Since it occurs early in the run, this fishery has little impact on the overall escapement, and still provides an improved indication of run strength. One day assessment fisheries are under consideration for lower Finlayson, lower Mathieson, Sheep Pass and the eastern portion of Seaforth Channel.

4.11.4. In-season Decisions

Last Week of July: One additional day of fishing during daylight hours is considered if the run appears strong on the afternoon of the one-day assessment fisheries. The assessment of run strength and expected escapement is based on a review of hailed catches after 1400 hours on the fishing day to estimate CPUE, salmon escapements to the Mussel and Kainet Rivers to-date, and total catch of chum salmon to-date.

First Week of August until Mid-October: The results of the past week's fisheries and their implications for the status of target stocks and incidental stocks are reviewed at the in-season advisory meeting with Central Coast Salmon Board In-season Advisors. Recommendations on future fishing opportunities are discussed at this meeting. If stock strength permits, fishing opportunities are considered each week until mid-October. Announcements for the next week's opportunities are made on the Thursday or Friday of the week preceding the proposed fishery. Salmon escapements to the Mussel and Kainet Rivers will be monitored in conjunction with CPUE and total catch of chum salmon to estimate the run strength and the resulting escapement.

Subject to in-season discussions with the local advisory board, Lama Pass (McLoughlin Bay) may be open to seines on the August 11. Openings in that area will depend on observed chum abundance. Seines and gill nets alternate fishing each week with seines fishing first in the 2003 season.

Subject to in-season discussions with the local advisory board, portions of Spiller Channel may be opened to seines and gill nets on September 1. Openings in that area will depend on chum escapements to the Neekas River.

Subject to in-season discussions with the local advisory board, portions of Johnson Channel and Roscoe Inlet may be opened to seines and gill nets on or after September 1. Openings in that area will depend on chum escapements to the Roscoe, Quartcha and Clatse Rivers.

4.11.5. General Constraints

First Week of August: Extra fishing time may depend on openings in other areas in the north coast being open to fishing to reduce gear movement.

Second Week of August until Mid-October: A large increase in fleet size could adversely affect small mixed-stock runs in the area, so extra fishing time may depend on openings in other areas in the north coast.

4.11.6. Prospects for 2003

Brood year escapement for chum in the Mussel, Kainet and Roscoe Rivers were all close to the target escapements. Assessment fisheries are planned as follows:

Gill net and Seine: July 28, 0600 h to 2200 h, Subareas 7-4 north of Oscar Pass, 7-5, 7-6 south of Denton Point, a portion of 7-9 north of a line from Guard Point to Stapeleton Point, 7-29, and a portion of Subarea 7-12 east of a line from the north-east point of Athlone Island to the south-east corner of Watch Island.

Pink: With a forecast of 708,500, odd year pink escapements remain strong. A surplus of about 270,000 pinks is expected for Area 7. Streams with predicted surpluses include the Mussel, Kainet, Neekas, James Bay, and Clatse.

Chum: The 2003 forecast of 375,800 is slightly above the escapement target. This forecast predicts a limited surplus of approximately 60,000 chum, which should be from the Mussel, Kainet, Neekas, and Roscoe systems.

4.12. Area 8 - Atnarko Chinook

4.12.1. Background

The Atnarko Chinook stock is an enhanced chinook population that supports FSC, and recreational fisheries as well as a limited commercial chinook gill net fishery. The Nuxalk Band's FSC fishery provides the best indication of run strength and is used like a small test fishery to predict run size. Atnarko chinooks are harvested by the commercial gill net fleet in North Bentinck Arm, a portion of South Bentinck Arm, Labouchre Channel and Burke Channel. A fleet of approximately 40 gill net vessels using large mesh nets is normal for recent years.

4.12.2. General Constraints

- Gill net with 203 mm mesh restriction. The restriction is in place so that chinook are targeted selectively and other non-target species such as sockeye are not impacted.

4.12.3. Preseason Decisions

Opportunities for a one day gill net assessment fishery on the first Monday in June is evaluated during the preseason planning process in November/December. If recent escapement estimates indicate an increasing or stable run, the assessment fishery will very likely go ahead, regardless of other information. This fishery has very little impact on the stock, because it occurs early in the run and the benefits of the stock status information provided by this fishery outweigh the small risks associated with its limited impact. The final decision is made two weeks prior to the actual opening.

4.12.4. In-season Decisions

Second week of June to last week of June - weekly opportunities are evaluated based on in-season data from the previous week, including First Nations FSC fishery catches and gill net catches. The Bella Coola River Chinook Bayesian Run Size Predictor, based on First Nations FSC catches, will be used to determine run strength. A prediction of 15,000 chinook escaping to the Bella Coola River system will justify another one day fishery the next week. Predictions in excess of 20,000 chinook may justify fishing two days each week for the rest of June.

4.12.5. Prospects for 2003

Escapement shows an increasing trend over the last five years. This indicates that the run can sustain a one day gill net assessment fishery on June 2 in Subareas 8-10, 8-11, 8-12 north of Bensins Island, 8-13 and 8-15 north of the south point of Restoration Bay. The final decision will be made on May 22.

The outlook for Atnarko chinook remains above target with an expected surplus similar to previous years. Returns to the Dean River for 2003 are expected to remain well below the target of 12,000.

4.13. Area 8 - Bella Coola, Atnarko, and Kimsquit Pink and Chum Decision Guidelines

4.13.1. Background

Chum fisheries in Area 8 target mainly on Kimsquit and Bella Coola River stocks. Fisheries also occur on returns to Lower Dean Streams (Elcho, Cascade and Jenny) but to a lesser extent. The Bella Coola River system is enhanced while the Kimsquit River is not. Pink fisheries in Area 8 target mainly on Atnarko River stocks but there is a component of Kwatna River and Koeye River pinks that are fished. The pink fishery on Kwatna stocks occurs at the same time as the Atnarko fishery while Koeye pinks are harvested during the later part of August. Fisheries in North Bentinck Arm, Dean Channel and Burke Channel are gill net only while fisheries in Fisher Channel and Fitz Hugh Sound are open for gill nets as well as seines. Conservation measures to protect Rivers Inlet and local sockeye stocks have been put in place in recent years to protect those stocks.

4.13.2. General Constraints

- Gill net with 158 mm mesh restriction when there are sockeye concerns on the central coast, this will be changed to 149 mm after July 27.
- Subareas 8-3, 8-4 east of Daedalus Point to Hergest Point, 8-5, 8-10, 8-11, 8-12 north of Bensins Island, and 8-15.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the incidental catch of coho. Other coho conservation measures are also in effect, including non-retention by the commercial fleet.
- Seines are required to brail and release coho, chinook and steelhead to the water all season and must release sockeye prior to July 27.
- Between July 13 and August 15 weedlines are in effect for gill nets in Subareas 8-5 north of Bold Point and 8-8 for steelhead conservation.
- If the in-season estimate of the Atnarko River pink salmon stock exceeds two million fish, a portion of Subarea 8-13 south of a line from Kelpa Point due west to a boundary sign on King Island may be opened for seines. This would only be done after consultation with Central Coast Advisors.
- The seine opening date will be reviewed in conjunction with other seine openings on the north coast.
- During periods of high pink salmon catches in Area 7 or 8, fisheries will be managed so that there is a maximum of two consecutive days of fishing. This action has been recommended by fishermen and processors to maximize the value of the pink salmon caught.
- Where possible, openings in Areas 6, 7 and 8 will be co-ordinated.

4.13.3. Preseason Decisions

In November/December during the preseason planning process, opportunities for two-day gill net assessment fisheries in the first two weeks of July are evaluated. The evaluation is mainly based on brood year escapements. This fishery is implemented to get an early assessment of run strength. It has very little impact on the stocks because it occurs early in the run and the benefits of the stock status information provided by this fishery outweigh the small risks associated with its limited impact. Two weeks of data are required to obtain sufficient information for an updated run-size estimate. The final decision is made the previous week.

4.13.4. In-season Decisions

Second Week of July: The assessment openings may be extended for a third day if the runs appear strong based on a review of catches to-date. Opportunities for a gill net and seine opening on Monday in the third week in July are considered, based on the results of the assessment fisheries.

- Atnarko pink stocks are weak but Bella Coola and Kimsquit chum stocks are strong. Subareas 8-3, 8-16, and a portion of Subarea 8-4 south of a line from Walker Point to Hergest Point will be closed.
- Kimsquit chum are weak but Bella Coola chum are strong. Subarea 8-5 will be closed.

- Kimsquit chum are very weak but Bella Coola chum are strong. Subareas 8-5 and 8-4 north of Walker Point will be closed.

4.13.5. Prospects for 2003

Brood year escapements for Bella Coola River chum in 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 140,000, 70,000 and 85,000 respectively. The Kimsquit River chum escapements for 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 115,000, 82,000 and 35,000 respectively. The Atnarko pink escapement in 2000 was 1.9 million, exceeding the one million target. There are conservation concerns for Rivers and Smiths Inlet sockeye as well as local Area 8 sockeye stocks. The Bella Coola and Kimsquit River chum had good brood years. The details of the planned gill net and seine fisheries are as follows:

Gill net:
Open June 30 and July 1, 0600 hours to 2200 hours in Subareas 8-4 East of Daedalus Point, to Hergest Point, and North of Bayly Point to Uganda Point, 8-5, 8-10, 8-11, a portion of Bensins Island, and 8-15. Minimum Mesh 158 mm.

Open July 7 and 8, 0600 hours to 2200 hours, in Subareas 8-4 East of Daedalus Point, to Hergest Point, and North of Bayly Point to Uganda Point, 8-5, 8-10, 8-11, a portion of Bensins Island, and 8-15. Minimum Mesh 158 mm.

July 14, 0600 hours to 2200 hours, 8-4 east of Daedalus Point to Hergest Point, 8-5, 8-10 to 8-12 north of Bensins Island and 8-15, mandatory weedlines in 8-5 north of Bold Point. Minimum Mesh 158 mm.

Seine:
July 14, 0600 h to 2200 h, 8-4 east of Daedalus Point to Hergest Point, and 8-5. Mandatory brailing.

An in-season advisory meeting will occur on the Thursday July 17 to discuss future fishing opportunities.

Pink: Preliminary information suggests that the 2003 return of 1.6 million pinks may provide a harvestable surplus of about 140,000. Recent returns have demonstrated improved survival that will hopefully continue for 2003.

Chum: The 2003 forecast for Area 8 chum ranges from 297,500 to 439,700, at the 75 percent to 50 percent probability levels respectively (i.e. there is a 75 percent probability that the total return will exceed 297,500 and a 50 percent probability that the return will exceed 439,700). This range exceeds the escapement target of 267,450 and forecasts a surplus of 170,000 chum (at the 50 percent forecast). Major contributors to this surplus include the Bella Coola and Kimsquit Rivers.

4.14. Area 9 - Rivers Inlet Sockeye Decision Guidelines

4.14.1. Background

The sockeye salmon fishery in Rivers Inlet began in the late 19th century and increased rapidly during the first decade of the 20th century. As boats became faster and more mechanized the fishery moved out of the inlet and farther off shore. Starting in the early 1970's, fishing boundaries were moved progressively shoreward creating a more terminal fishery. Since 1985, all gill net fishing has occurred inside Rivers Inlet with the last fishery occurring in 1995. No gill net fishery has occurred since 1995 because total sockeye returns declined dramatically in 1994. This decline was caused by poor marine survival of the 1990 and 1991 brood years, which migrated to sea in 1992 and 1993. Total returns since that time, as evidenced by escapements, have been poor with 2002 showing a slight improvement with an estimated 100,000 sockeye spawning. These escapement estimates are based on stream walks of approximately 12 tributaries of Owikeeno Lake. The pre-1980 average catch of 808,000 sockeye or the 1979 to 1996 average catch of 150,000 sockeye is an indicator of the production of sockeye that came from this system in the past. Sockeye salmon in Rivers Inlet are still in the recovery mode.

4.14.2. Preseason Decisions

Fishing opportunities for Rivers Inlet sockeye are evaluated preseason based on brood year stock status and indications of marine survival rates.

If indications of ocean survival are poor and Owikeno Lake sockeye stocks continue to be depressed, as in the past five years, no commercial or recreational fisheries are considered for the year. Once Owikeno Lake sockeye reach a level at which they are no longer considered depressed, in-season decisions are based on Docee Fence fish counts.

4.14.3. In-season Decisions

Owikeno Lake sockeye stocks are currently considered to be in the recovery mode and not abundant enough to support commercial fisheries. Once Owikeno Lake sockeye stocks have recovered, opportunities for directed fisheries are evaluated in-season based on Docee Fence fish counts. If the Docee River Fence sockeye count exceeds 50,000 prior to July 15, discussion within the Department will be initiated to evaluate whether a small assessment fishery could occur. This evaluation will take into account the information collected to date on the status of Owikeno Lake sockeye and their recovery as well as other factors that are observed in-season such as jumper activity, timing of the run, weather conditions, marine survival indicators and FSC fisheries. Discussions with interested parties will take place prior to any fishery being initiated.

Rationale for Docee Fence correlation: The strength of the sockeye returns to Rivers and Smith Inlets has been highly correlated in past years. Strong returns to Smith Inlet would indicate that severe marine mortality was not a general problem and this would reduce the concern for a poor return to Rivers Inlet. Based on this reasoning, the Docee River Counting Fence in Area 10 (Smith Inlet) will be used as an initial indicator of returns to Rivers Inlet.

Based on past correlation, there is only a 13 percent chance that the Rivers Inlet run is less than 200,000 when the Docee Fence sockeye count exceeds 50,000 by July 15.

Management options for further openings targeting recovered stocks will be developed.

4.14.4. General Constraints

A maximum mesh restriction of 150 mm is in place to protect Rivers Inlet chinook stocks.

4.14.5. Prospects for 2003

Owikeno Lake sockeye stocks remain depressed. No commercial net fisheries targeting Owikeno Lake sockeye are planned.

4.15. Area 10 - Long Lake Sockeye Decision Guidelines

4.15.1. Background

As was the case in Rivers Inlet, the sockeye salmon fishery in Smith Inlet began in the late 19th century and increased rapidly during the first decade of the 20th century. As boats became faster and more mechanized the fishery moved out of the inlet and farther off shore. Starting in the early 1970's, fishing boundaries were moved progressively shoreward creating a more terminal fishery. Since 1985, all gill net fishing has occurred inside Smith Inlet with the last fishery occurring in 1996. No gill net fishery has occurred since 1996. Sockeye catches in Smiths Inlet during the 1995 and 1996 fishing season were unusually low due to poor marine survival of the 1990 and 1991 brood years. Total returns to the tributaries of Long Lake have remained poor since the fishing closure as evidenced by the sockeye salmon counts at the Docee River enumeration fence at the outlet of Long Lake. In 2002 there was an improvement in the run size with an escapement of 92,000 sockeye to the system. Prior to 1972 annual catches of sockeye salmon averaged 248,000 fish. Between 1972 and 1978 catches averaged 162,000 sockeye while the period between 1979 to 1996, when the last gill net fishery occurred, averaged 202,000 sockeye. Smiths Inlet sockeye remain in the recovery mode.

4.15.2. Preseason Decisions

Opportunities for a one day assessment fishery on Long Lake sockeye are evaluated preseason based on brood year stock status and indications of marine survival. If indications of ocean survival are poor, and Long Lake sockeye stocks continue to be depressed, as in the past five years, no commercial or recreational fisheries are considered for the year. Once Long Lake sockeye reach a level at which they are no longer considered depressed, in-season decisions are made based on Docee Fence fish counts.

4.15.3. In-season Decisions

Long Lake sockeye stocks are currently considered to be in the recovery mode and not abundant enough to support commercial fisheries. Once Long Lake sockeye stocks have recovered, opportunities for directed fisheries are evaluated in-season based on Docee Fence fish counts. If

the Docee River Fence sockeye count exceeds 50,000 prior to July 15, discussions within the Department will be initiated to evaluate whether a small assessment fishery could occur. This evaluation will take into account the information collected to date on the status of Long Lake sockeye and their recovery as well as other factors that are observed in-season such as jumper activity, timing of the run, weather conditions, marine survival indicators and FSC fisheries. Discussions with interested parties will take place prior to any fishery being initiated.

Rationale: The target escapement for Long Lake sockeye is 200,000. If 50,000 sockeye have passed through the Docee Fence by July 15 this should indicate a final escapement near the target escapement by the end of the sockeye run.

Management options for further openings targeting recovered stocks are currently being developed.

4.15.4. General Constraints

A maximum mesh restriction of 150 mm is in place to protect Docee River chinook stocks.

4.15.5. Prospects 2003

Long Lake sockeye remain depressed. No commercial net fisheries are planned that target Long Lake sockeye.

4.16. Northern Troll Decision Guidelines

4.16.1. Background

The troll TAC for chinook afforded under the Aggregate Abundance Based Management (AABM) regime of the PST for northern B.C. for 2003 is 152,000. However, due to concerns and management actions for WCVI chinook, this amount is not expected to be caught.

The coho harvest in western Dixon Entrance and around the QCI is from a wide variety of stocks, mostly from north and central coast mainland streams.

The objective of this troll harvest plan is to harvest the allowable limit of chinook and coho, while minimizing impacts on weaker stocks of both species.

4.16.2. Preseason Decisions

<u>Sockeye</u>
The main producers of sockeye in the north and central coast are the Skeena and Nass Rivers. In 2003, there is not expected to be a large surplus of sockeye to the Skeena, which will result in limited harvest opportunities. In addition, Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye continue to be very weak, and need extra protection. Fraser River sockeye migrating through north coast waters will also be protected.

Coho

Coho will be managed to an exploitation rate of upper Skeena coho and aggregate wild coho stocks. Once the allowable exploitation rate is reached in any given area for any given stock grouping, trolling will close in that area and possibly adjacent areas. If there is still chinook quota available for harvest, then some areas may remain open for chinook.

The exploitation rate will be determined by a management model, with the main contributing variable being the number of troll vessels operating in a given area or group of areas. Thus, if a large fleet is working in an area, it is more likely that the exploitation rate on coho will be reached, and that area will then close to coho. By delaying the coho fishery until August, the exploitation rate of coho is expected to be achieved while catching larger fish, thus providing more economic benefit to the fleet. This delay will also reduce the exploitation rate on upper Skeena coho. Areas 4, 5, 103, and 104 will remain closed to protect migrating upper Skeena and Area 6 coho.

Special Concerns

While most upper Skeena coho stocks are rebuilding some stocks in the upper Skeena plateau area continue to be a particular concern. Exploitation rates can be managed by adjusting the timing and location of fisheries, therefore, Upper Skeena coho exploitation rates are expected to be well below the 15 percent ceiling.

4.16.3. In-season Decisions

Coho Troll Management Model

The coho troll management model will evaluate the impacts of management scenarios preseason and will be used in-season to provide estimates of exploitation rates by fishery for trollers. The model includes fisheries in Areas 1 through 10 and stocks for Areas 1 through 12. The basic concept of the model is to use base period (1985 to 1996) relationships between effort and exploitation rates to predict fishery impacts for 2003 from preseason predicted and then actual in-season effort.

Pink

Pink salmon opportunities are anticipated to remain available throughout the coho fishery. The allowable pink harvest under the provisions of the PST is such that it is very unlikely that the troll fleet will be restricted. To increase the pink catch, the northern section of Dixon Entrance will open to pink salmon fishing on July 25. During this fishery, coho retention will also be allowed.

Chum

Chum salmon returns are expected to be poor in Areas 3 to 6. Chum salmon opportunities are not expected throughout the coho fishery, except in local areas such as Cumshewa Inlet where chum surpluses may be identified.

Chinook

To ensure protection of weak mainland stocks Areas 3 to 10, as well as their offshore counterparts Areas 103, 104, and 108 to 110, will remain closed. These areas are also known for their juvenile chinook abundance, which is an added reason for the closure.

For PST purposes, the accounting year runs from October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003. During the period October 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003, very little catch was attained. The allowable northern B.C. troll catch (Management Areas 1 to 5) is 152,000, but due to conservation concerns with WCVI stocks, this level of catch is not expected to be achieved. For management purposes, the troll TAC will be dependant on the amount of WCVI chinook caught. This will be determined by DNA analysis during the season. This TAC will be divided into three parts: 40 percent of the allowable WCVI catch; 50 percent of the allowable WCVI catch; and the remaining10 percent. The fishery that is open on April 1 will be conducted to attain the first quota. The second fishery will then open on June 15 for 50 percent of the WCVI TAC. The third and final fishery will open in September for the remainder of the TAC.

4.16.4. General Constraints

- Minimize harvest of WCVI chinook.
- Minimize incidental harvest of undersized chinook.
- Minimize by-catch of weak northern mainland stocks, particularly Kwinimass and Khutzemateen River stocks.
- Minimize by-catch of Wannock River stocks due to uncertain returns from the 1999 brood year.
- Ensure accurate catch and release reporting.
- Ensure appropriate biological sampling for CWT, DNA, lengths, and scales.
- Minimize chinook non-retention scenarios in coho fisheries.
- Keep exploitation rates on coho within allowable limits.

4.16.5. Prospects for 2003

Chinook and coho abundance is expected to be good. Chums are weak in Areas 3 to 6. Sockeye are expected to be weak in 2003.

5. FIRST NATIONS FISHING PLAN

5.1. Specific Conservation Measures

When a conservation concern comes up for any individual stock that First Nations harvest, then consultation is undertaken and an acceptable fishing plan is negotiated.

5.2. Communal Licence Harvest Targets

First Nations access to salmon for FSC purposes is managed through Communal Licences. These licences set out the species and target harvest levels by First Nations groups. Dates, times and locations where harvesting may occur, acceptable gear types, and other conditions are described in these licences. Communal Licences can be amended in-season for resource conservation purposes.

Resource Management seeks to provide for the effective management and regulation of the First Nations fisheries through negotiation of mutually acceptable and time-limited Fisheries Agreements. If an agreement cannot be mutually concluded, a communal fishing licence to fish for FSC purposes similar to previous arrangements is issued.

Harvest targets for Communal Licences in the north and central coast of B.C. are outlined below. Note that actual numbers of fish on communal licences are still in negotiation; therefore the numbers listed below are subject to change. Actual catches will be dependent on, among other factors, in-season assessments of actual stock strength and management measures taken to ensure conservation of individual stocks.

Table 3: Communal Licence Harvest Targets

	Sockeye	**Coho**	**Pink**	**Chum**	**Chinook**
Gitanyow First Nation (Nass River)	6,000	250	185	25	620
Gitksan (Skeena River) and **Wet'suwet'en** (Bulkley River)	100,000	2,500	25,000	500	10,000
Haida (Areas 1 and 2)	20,000	5,000	2,500	2,500	3,000
Hartley Bay (Area 6)	2,200	750	140	200	140
Haisla (Area 6)	2,500	2,500	1,000	2,000	1,000
Kitkatla Band Council (Area 5)	5,500	100	600	750	100
Kitselas (Skeena River)	12,000	75	150	60	210
Kitsumkalum Band Council (Skeena River)	12,000	200	1,000	500	1,000

Babine Lake First Nation (Babine Lake and Area)	35,000	500	1,000		100
Metlakatla (Area 4)	5,000	100	500	100	100
Yekooche (Babine Area)	2,000	0	0	0	0
Takla First Nation (Bear/Sustut)	1,050	0	0	0	550
TSIMSHIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL (Areas 3, 4 and 5)	43,300	1,275	2,610	390	4,450
Nisga'a (Area 3, Nass River)	THE NISGA'A TREATY IS NOW IN EFFECT AND AN ANNUAL FISHING PLAN IS DEVELOPED TO IMPLEMENT THE FISHERIES PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY.				
Kitasoo (Areas 6 and 7)	9,000	1,500	1,500	3,000	500
Heiltsuk (Areas 7 and 8)	20,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	2,000
Nuxalk (Area 8)	14,000	3,500	5,000	3,000	5,000
Ulkatcho (Bella Coola/Atnarko Rivers)	500	50	350	50	350
Oweekeno (Subareas 8-1 and 8-2)	2,000	100	1000	1000	100
Oweekeno (Area 9)	500	400	400	400	100
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw (Area 10)	0	20	20	70	100

5.3. Anticipated Food, Social and Ceremonial Opportunities

Salmon fishing for FSC purposes is open April 1, 2003 to May 31, 2004, except closed for nets in the vicinity of commercial net fisheries 24 hours prior to the commercial opening, and until 12 hours after the commercial closure.

6. RECREATIONAL FISHING PLAN

The specific details and management measures are described in the *2003 to 2005 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide* and the *2003 to 2005 British Columbia Freshwater Salmon Supplement*, available at many sport shops throughout the province, and on-line at www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/english/recreation/

6.1. Specific Conservation Measures

There are specific management measures in all management areas of the north and central coast, and these specifics are outlined in the *2003 to 2005 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide*. These restrictions are to protect vulnerable salmon from being over harvested, with many closures occurring at the mouths of streams where salmon school and acclimatize to a fresh water environment prior to entering the stream.

6.2. Tidal

- Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit is two.
- Sockeye, coho, pink and chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit is four.
- The daily limit for coho in the tidal portions of all streams in Areas 1, 2E, and 2W is two.
- Barbless hooks must be used while angling for salmon.
- Aggregate tidal water bag limit is four salmon, possession limit of eight salmon.

6.2.1. Area 1

Chinook salmon open January 1 - December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit four.
Coho salmon open January 1 - December 31. Daily limit two in the tidal portions of all streams

In tidal portions of all streams, only a single, barbless hook may be used.

The waters of Masset Inlet and Sound south of a line from a boundary sign at Griffiths Point to a boundary sign due west on the opposite shore are closed to chinook retention, from May 15 to October 31.

The waters of Masset Inlet and Sound south of a line from Entry Point to Westacott Point are closed to chinook retention, from June 15 to October 31.

6.2.2. Area 2E

Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye salmon open January 1 to December 31 except local closure in 2-1 and 2-2, April 1 to June 30. Daily limit four.

Pink, Chum and Coho salmon open January 1 - December 31. Daily limit four. Daily limit two in the tidal portions of all streams.

In the tidal portions of all streams, only a single, barbless hook may be used.
The tidal portion of Tlell River is closed to the retention of pink salmon.

The waters of Skidegate Inlet shoreward of a line between two boundary signs on either side of Sachs Creek estuary are closed to pink and chum salmon from August 15 to October 31.

The waters of Cumshewa Inlet east of a line from a boundary sign 3.5 km west of Mathers Creek to a boundary sign on McLellan Island and west of a line from this boundary sign to a boundary sign 3.5 km east of Mathers Creek are closed to all finfish (no angling allowed) August 15 to October 31.

6.2.3. Area 2W

Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Coho, Pink, and Chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit four.

Coho salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two in the tidal portions of all streams.

In the tidal portions of all streams, only a single, barbless hook may be used.
The waters of Fairfax Inlet shoreward of a line from Magneson Point to Reid Point, non-retention of sockeye May 15 to August 15.

6.2.4. Area 3

Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit four.

6.2.5. Area 4

Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit four.

The waters downstream of a tidal boundary sign at the water line crossing on Shawatlan Creek to the fishing boundary signs at the mouth of Shawatlan Bar are closed to all finfish (no angling allowed) July 15 to August 15.

The waters from a fishing boundary sign at the mouth of Kloiya Creek to the fishing boundary sign at the mouth of Kloiya Bay are closed to all finfish (no angling allowed) August 1 to September 1.

6.2.6. Area 5

Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit four.

Inside a line drawn from boundary signs located approximately 100 m seaward of the falls at the mouth of the Kumowdah River flowing into Lowe Inlet, closed to all finfish July 1 to October 31. No angling allowed.

6.2.7. Area 6

Chinook salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open January 1 to December 31. Daily limit four.
Coho in the tidal portion of all streams flowing into tidal waters of Area 6 have the same daily limit as the non-tidal portions.

6.2.8. Area 7

Chinook salmon open all year. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open all year. Daily limit four.

The waters of McLaughlin Bay shoreward of a line connecting two fishing boundary signs on each side of the entrance to McLaughlin Bay is closed to fishing for all finfish, from July 1 to October 31.

6.2.9. Area 8

Chinook salmon open all year. Daily limit two.
Sockeye, Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open all year. Daily limit four.

The mouth of Namu River shoreward of a line between two fishing boundary signs located 180 m from a bridge at the mouth of Namu Creek on the west shore and a point on the opposite side of the bay, closed to fishing for all finfish, all year.

6.2.10. Area 9

Chinook salmon open all year. Daily limit two.
Sockeye salmon closed all year. Daily limit zero.
Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open all year. Daily limit four.

There is no fishing for sockeye all year, due to significant conservation concerns for Rivers and Smith Inlets sockeye stocks.

In those waters of Rivers Inlet shoreward of a line connecting two square white boundary signs off the mouth of the Wannock River is closed to fishing for all finfish, June 1 to September 15.

In those waters of Rivers Inlet shoreward of a line connecting two square boundary signs off the mouth of the Chuckwalla and Kilbella Rivers is closed to fishing for all finfish, June 1 to September 15.

In those waters of Rivers Inlet shoreward of a line connecting two square boundary signs located at Rutherford Point and McAllister Point, is closed to fishing with a fishing line or downrigger line which is attached: a) a weight that is greater than 168 grams (6 ounces); or b) an attracting device that is not affixed directly to hook, from July 1 to September 1.

6.2.11. Area 10

Chinook salmon open all year. Daily limit two.
Sockeye salmon closed all year. Daily limit zero.
Pink, Coho and Chum salmon open all year. Daily limit four.

There is no fishing for sockeye all year, due to significant conservation concerns for Rivers and Smith inlets sockeye stocks.

Smith Inlet - The waters of Wyclees Lagoon lying southerly of the boundary sign near the entrance: non-retention of all salmon, June 20 to November 30.

6.3. Non-Tidal

Non-tidal salmon openings and closures are found in the Appendix 6. Specific non-tidal salmon fishing opportunities may be announced in-season based on abundance and the likelihood of achieving escapement targets.

7. COMMERCIAL FISHING PLAN

7.1. Implementation

Due to the uncertainty of both timing and size of returning salmon runs, many commercial openings are not confirmed until a number of days prior to the actual opening. Announcements are at least weekly, usually every Thursday afternoon at 1400 hours, and during days when a fishery is in progress, usually prior to 1600 hours, and at times more frequently. Although it is not stated under each week in each area of this fishing plan, the management plan for any area may change in-season. Fishing Areas, Subareas or portions thereof, provisions for extensions, opening patterns and the duration of the fishing season can all be adjusted based on factors such as weak stock concerns, target stock abundance, fishing effort, rate of gear selectivity, domestic allocations and other factors.

This fishing plan is designed to minimize the incidental harvest of steelhead, chum, coho, and in some areas, chinook and other weak salmon stocks. Special conservation measures for specific stocks are included in this fishing plan. Net fisheries that occur on the north and central coast may be required to release all non-target species to the water with the least possible harm, depending on local stock concerns.

7.2. Mandatory Log-Book and Phone-In Program

Fishermen are reminded that there is a mandatory log-book and phone-in program in place for all commercial fisheries. Refer to your Conditions of Licence for details. In-season decisions could be directly affected by the level of compliance to the phone-in provisions.

7.3. North Coast Non-Retention Species

There will be non-retention of steelhead in all commercial fisheries. For seine fisheries, there will also be non-retention of coho, chum, and chinook in Areas 3 through 6. For gill net fisheries, there will also be non-retention of coho.

There are also local and at times seasonal restrictions on various other salmon species. Please refer to the Fishery Notice that is released prior to every commercial fishery to determine any locally restricted species, or any in-season updates to the above list.

7.4. Net Fishing Times

All north and central coast net fisheries, with only a few exceptions, will normally be restricted to daylight hours (not longer than 16 hours per day, progressively shorter as the daylight hours get shorter). Net fishing times will generally be as follows:

- 16 hours from start of season;
- 15 hours starting the third Sunday in July (July 20 this year) to the third Saturday in August (August 16 this year);
- 13 hours starting the third Sunday in August (August 17 this year)

- 12 hours or shorter on QCI.

The local manager may vary these net fishing times depending on circumstances such as by-catch concerns, strong returns of target species, abundance of prohibited species, weather, or other factors.

7.5. Revival Tanks

Revival tanks conforming to the Conditions of Licence will be required, and all prohibited species captured incidentally must be either revived in the revival tank and released, or released directly to the water with the least possible harm. If in-season indicators show a deterioration of expected stock levels, additional measures may be implemented.

7.6. Collaborative Agreements (Co-management)

A collaborative agreement is a formal co-management arrangement with a legally constituted, representative industry organization and allows for meaningful involvement of stakeholders in fisheries research incremental to that of the department, and in the co-operative development and implementation of fisheries management and stewardship.

When an industry organization can demonstrate that it is representative (greater than 66 percent membership) of the licence holders in that licence area, the department may enter into a collaborative agreement with that group. A collaborative agreement allows the organization to access a small portion of their annual TAC to fund projects (e.g. selective fishing, test fishing, special harvesting initiatives) and cover co-management costs. An organization interested in pursuing a collaborative agreement should initiate the process by contacting the appropriate departmental resource manager.

7.7. Special Projects or Initiatives

In an ever-changing environment such as resource conservation, a group may want to explore special harvesting initiatives or new management approaches. Projects that fall under this category may include investigating quota management in salmon fisheries, fishing in an unconventional area, or testing the abundance of stocks prior to full fleet fisheries.

Special projects or initiatives should be planned well in advance of proposed implementation so that effective planning and approval can take place. Generally a project of this type would be covered under a collaborative agreement, but could be funded from other sources. If an individual or group is interested in pursuing a special project or initiative they should contact the appropriate departmental resource manager. After discussion, the resource manager will likely require a detailed proposal to submit for approval.

7.8. Gill net Construction

In Management Areas 3, 4, and 5, gill nets of two different constructions may be used:

All net configurations may be of the 30 filament type (multistrand) or the six filament type (Alaska twist).

Nets may be hung without a weedline (corkline to web distance 0 to 45 cm), a maximum of 60 meshes deep; or

Nets may be hung with a weedline (corkline to web distance minimum 1.2 m, maximum 1.5 m) a maximum of 90 meshes deep.

All nets greater than 60 meshes depth must have a weedline and have at least every fifth cork of a red or other distinctive colour (not white).

Specific restrictions such as the specifications for net construction and revival boxes are found in the conditions of the individual licences, which are attached to the licence. Fishers are urged to read these conditions carefully to ensure that their vessel and fishing techniques are in accordance with their licence.

7.9. Skeena River Selective Gill net Fisheries

Upper Skeena coho become prevalent in the Chatham Sound fishing area after July 18. In recent years, the gill net fishery has been sharply curtailed after this date to enable sufficient spawners to reach the spawning grounds to ensure rebuilding of these runs continues. Once again, in 2003, these runs need protection. Therefore, after July 18 all fishing opportunities for Skeena sockeye may be conducted by selective means. The decision to implement this selective gill net fishery will be made in-season based on the level of fishing that has occurred to date and the expected impact on upper Skeena coho that will occur during the year.

For the selective gill net fishery, the following rules will apply:

a) Half length nets. Maximum net length will be 100 fathoms, or 187.5 m. It will not be acceptable to have a regular length net on your drum and only set half. It will also not be acceptable to have both halves of the net on your drum. Only one (half-length) net will be allowed on your drum or in the water.

b) 20 minute soak times. The maximum amount of time the net is allowed to be in the water from the time it is completely set to the time it begins to be retrieved is 20 minutes. Note that this “soak time” is designed to equal a 40 minute time from when the first portion of the net enters the water to the when the last portion of the net leaves the water. Times will be monitored on the grounds.

c) Fish handling. Gill net fishers are encouraged to handle prohibited species with the greatest of care. Operating revival boxes are mandatory as in all gill net fisheries. However, if the salmon is in a vigorous condition, it is best to release it directly to the water rather than put it in the revival box. Fishers are asked to use their discretion on which fish should go into the revival box before they are then released to the water.

d) Reduced fishing area. In order to effectively monitor this selective fishery, the fishing area will be reduced. This will be achieved by closing the northern portions of Chatham Sound.

The commercial gill net fleet is reminded that the success of this selective fishery is critical to their future access to Skeena sockeye after July 18. In-season decisions on further fishing days will be directly dependant on compliance to the above restrictions.

7.10. Seine Fisheries

All seine fisheries unless otherwise authorized will be conducted with mandatory brailing and sorting of the catch. Specific restrictions such as the specifications of revival boxes are found in the conditions of the individual licence, which is attached to the licence. Fishers are urged to read these conditions carefully to ensure that their vessel and fishing techniques are in accordance with their licence.

7.11. Anticipated net opening dates

All dates are anticipatory only. Subareas open and hours of fishing will be announced in a Fishery Notice prior to the opening. Seine openings are expected to start July 14 if stocks permit.

Area 1 - September 15 - First anticipated opening for gill net only. This will be a chum salmon assessment fishery. Gill net mesh size minimum 100 mm.

Area 2E - September 7 - First anticipated opening for gill net only. This will be a chum salmon assessment fishery. Gill net mesh size minimum 100 mm.

September 29 - First anticipated opening for seine. Minimum seine bunt mesh size 70 mm.

Cost Recovery and ESSR fisheries on chum and coho are possible in Pallant Creek. Decisions on ESSR fisheries are made in-season if a surplus is identified.

For commercial net openings in Cumshewa Inlet, coho may be retained and seines will be allowed to ramp due to the hatchery origin of the coho.

Area 2W - No gill net or seine fisheries will be directed on passing stocks. Mid-September to October: Possible terminal fisheries directed on identified surpluses of local pink and chum stocks.

Area 3 - June 10 - First anticipated gill net fishery. Maximum mesh size 137 mm. This fishery will assess the returning Nass River sockeye run.

July 14 - First anticipated seine fishery. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

Outside Subareas and portions of Subareas (Skeena approach waters) will be managed based on Skeena run sizes.

If a surplus of sockeye develops at the Meziadin Fishway, an ESSR fishery will be considered.

Area 4 - Mid-June - First anticipated gill net fishery. Minimum mesh size 203 mm. This will be a chinook directed fishery.

July 1 - First anticipated gill net fishery, depending on run strength.

Area 5 - July 1 - First anticipated gill net fishery, depending on Skeena sockeye run strength.

July 14 - First anticipated seine fishery, depending on Skeena sockeye run strength. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

Area 6 - July 7- First anticipated gill net opening, Douglas Channel only. Minimum mesh size 149 mm, maximum mesh size 165 mm.

July 14 - First anticipated seine opening. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

Area 7 - July 28 - First anticipated gill net and seine opening in 7-5, portion of 7-6 (Finlayson), portion of 7-9 (Mathieson), 7-29 (Sheep), and a portion of 7-12 (Seaforth) . Minimum mesh size 100 mm.

August 11 - Possible seine opening in 7-17 (McLoughlin Bay). Gear types will alternate each week.

August 25 - Consideration for terminal chum harvest on Kitasoo Creek Hatchery stocks; gill nets first and seines second.

September 1 - Possible seine and gill net opening in portions of 7-30 (Johnstone Channel), 7-15 (Roscoe Inlet) and 7-13 (Spiller Channel).

Area 8 - June 2 - First anticipated gill net opening in the Bella Coola gill net area. This will be a directed chinook fishery. Minimum mesh size 203 mm.

June 30 - Anticipated gill net opening in the Bella Coola gill net area and Fisher/Fitz Hugh. Minimum mesh size 158 mm.

July 14 - First anticipated seine opening in Fisher/Fitz Hugh. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

July 13 to August 16 - Weedlines are in effect in upper 8-5 (Fisher Ch) and 8-8 (Upper Dean Ch).

July 28 - Mesh size on gill nets changed from 158 mm to 149 mm. Sockeye can be kept by seines.

Area 9 - No anticipated openings.

Area 10 - No anticipated openings.

7.12. Northern Troll

April 1 to a date when 40 percent of the WCVI TAC is estimated to be achieved - Open to chinook:

Areas 1 and 101
Area 2W, 142, and 130-3
Area 2E and 102

Chinook quota: 40 percent of the WCVI TAC. Any underage/overage of this quota will be transferable to the next fishery.

Note: Starting May 12, there will be a 1.0 nautical mile ribbon boundary in Area 1 from Cape Knox to Skonun Point. There will be no commercial trolling shoreward of this ribbon boundary.

June 15 to a date when 50 percent of the WCVI TAC is estimated to be achieved - Open to chinook:

Areas 1 and 101
Note: there will be a 1.0 nautical mile ribbon boundary in Area 1 from Cape Knox to Skonun Point. There will be no commercial trolling shoreward of this ribbon boundary.

Area 2W, 142, and 130-3
Area 2E and 102

Chinook quota: 50 percent of the WCVI TAC modified by any underage/overage from the previous opening. Any underage/overage of this quota will be transferable to the next fishing period.

July 25 - Open to pink and coho. Sockeye will open E of 133 degrees W. Long.

Areas 101-4, 101-5, 101-8, 101-9, and a portion of 101-3 north of 54 degrees 14 minutes 58 seconds north latitude.

August 1 - Open to coho and pink. Sockeye will open in Areas 1 and 101 E of 133 degrees W. Long.

Areas 1 and 101
Note: there will be a 1.0 nautical mile ribbon boundary in Area 1 from Cape Knox to Skonun Point. There will be no commercial trolling shoreward of this ribbon boundary.

Area 2W, 142, and 130-3
Area 2E and 102 (Chum open in Cumshewa Inlet, Sub-area 2-3 and 2-4)

Subareas 3-2, 3-3, 3-7, 3-11, and 3-12
Subareas 6-9, 6-13, 6-17
Subareas 7-1, 7-31
Areas 106 to 107
Area 105 - Special Note: There is a Rockfish Protection Area in Area 105. Open to fishing: That portion of Subarea 105-1 south of 53 degrees 40 minutes north and Subarea 105-2 outside of a line that begins at 53 degrees 27.967 minutes N, 130 degrees 40 minutes W thence true East to 53 degrees 27.967 minutes N, 130 degrees 35.241 minutes W thence to 53 degrees 15.4 minutes N, 130 degrees 18 minutes W thence to 53 degrees 12 minutes N, 130 degrees 10.4 minutes W thence true West 53 degrees 12 minutes N, 130 degrees 18 minutes W thence to 53 degrees 15.7 minutes W, 130 degrees 25.7 minutes N thence to 53 degrees 25 minutes N, 130 degrees 38 minutes W thence to the initiating point.

Coho will be managed to an exploitation rate of wild mainland stocks. Once the allowable exploitation rate is reached, trolling will close. If there is still chinook quota left to be harvested, some areas will remain open for chinook.

September (date to be determined by remaining WCVI TAC) - Open to chinook, coho and pink. Sockeye will open in Areas 1 and 101 E of 133 degrees W. Long. There will be coho closures around QCI.

Areas 1 and 101
Note: there will be a 1.0 nautical mile ribbon boundary in Area 1 from Cape Knox to Skonun Point. There will be no commercial trolling shoreward of this ribbon boundary.
Note: This ribbon boundary will be withdrawn on September 16 if the fishery is still open.

Area 2W, 142, and 130-3
Area 2E and 102 (Chum open in Cumshewa Inlet, Sub-area 2-3 and 2-4)
Subareas 3-2, 3-3, 3-7, 3-11, and 3-12
Subareas 6-9, 6-13, 6-17
Subareas 7-1, 7-31
Areas 106 to 107
Area 105 - Special Note: There is a Rockfish Protection Area in Area 105. Open to fishing: That portion of Subarea 105-1 south of 53 degrees 40 minutes north and Subarea 105-2 outside of a line that begins at 53 degrees 27.967 minutes N, 130 degrees 40 minutes W thence true East to 53 degrees 27.967 minutes N, 130 degrees 35.241 minutes W thence to 53 degrees 15.4 minutes N, 130 degrees 18 minutes W thence to 53 degrees 12 minutes N, 130 degrees 10.4 minutes W thence true West 53 degrees 12 minutes N, 130 degrees 18 minutes W thence to 53 degrees 15.7 minutes W, 130 degrees 25.7 minutes N thence to 53 degrees 25 minutes N, 130 degrees 38 minutes W thence to the initiating point.

Chinook quota: 10 percent of the WCVI TAC modified by any underage/overage from the previous fishery.

Coho will be managed to an exploitation rate of wild mainland stocks. Once the allowable exploitation rate is reached, trolling will close. If there is still chinook quota left to be harvested, some areas will remain open for chinook.

October 1 - December 31, 2003 - Chinook quota of 5,000, unused portion carried forward.

January 1 - March 31 2004 - Chinook quota of 5,000, unused portion carried forward.

April 1 - May 31, 2004 - Open to chinook:

Area 1 and 101
Area 2W, 142, and 130-3
Area 2E and 102

Depending on chinook TAC and further consultations regarding the 2004 fishing plan, this is subject to change.

8. 2002 POST-SEASON REVIEW

In the April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 Northern B.C. Salmon IFMP, a number of objectives were specified in order to conduct a postseason evaluation. An analysis of whether those objectives were achieved is below.

8.1. Conservation Objectives

Conservation of Pacific salmon is the primary objective and will take precedence in managing the resource.

Some of the restrictions in place to attain these goals were area closures, harvest rate limitations, daylight only fisheries, non-retention of stocks of concern, mandatory brailing for seines, on-board observers, half-length gill nets, short gill net sets, revival tanks and proper handling of non-target species.

Chum salmon wild stocks are either stable or decreasing in abundance. This overall low abundance supports a continuing current conservative management approach with additional measures implemented in-season depending on returns. Several areas in 2002 were non-retention for seines and gill nets were managed to limit chum encounters.

8.1.1. Rivers Inlet and Smith Inlet Sockeye

In 2002 there was a significant increase in the number of Sockeye returning to Rivers and Smith Inlets. Sockeye Salmon escapements to the Owikeno Lake streams in Rivers Inlet totaled 100,000 spawners while the returns to Smith Inlet as evidenced by sockeye passing the Docee River fence totaled approximately 92,000 spawners. These returns are well above the 24,500 sockeye escapement, seen in 2001 for Rivers Inlet and the 8,450 sockeye spawners counted in the Smith Inlet streams. Sockeye enhancement took place in both Rivers and Smith Inlet in 2002 with the eggs collected from Owikeno Lake and Long Lake River systems being incubated at the Snootli Creek Hatchery in Bella Coola. They were released as fed fry in their natal streams.

8.1.2. Upper Skeena Coho

The objective for upper Skeena coho is to operate Canadian domestic fisheries within the exploitation rate ceiling of up to 10 percent.

Upper Skeena coho is continuing to rebuild, but coho that migrate past the Babine confluence continue to be weak (e.g. Sustut River). Notably, after July 18 on the Skeena River, coho conservation concerns resulted in commercial gill nets shortening their nets by half and their sets to 20 minutes soak times.

The exploitation rate for Upper Skeena coho was calculated on an on-going basis throughout the season and again post-season when the actual run timings can be determined. The exploitation rate on coho migrating past the Babine confluence was calculated as follows:

Commercial Net	4.9%
Commercial Troll	2.5%
Recreational	2.8%
First Nations	1.8%
Total	12.0%

8.1.3. West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook

The objective for WCVI chinook is to operate Canadian domestic fisheries within an exploitation rate ceiling of up to 10 percent.

WCVI chinook continues to rebuild with average survivals. Several programs were in place to measure and avoid impacts to these stocks. The troll fishery was scheduled to close in July and August, but closed early on June 8 due to a higher than expected concentration of WCVI chinook. The quarterly harvest troll strategy was designed to minimize exploitation rates on WCVI stocks. In order to obtain a better understanding of chinook stocks in the future, 13 troll vessels participated in a test fishing plan in July and August with biological sampling to determine the aggregate composition of stocks in Areas 1, 2W, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

8.1.4. Rockfish

The objective for rockfish is to introduce conservation restrictions that will reverse declines and ensure stock rebuilding is secured. A fishing mortality rate of less than two percent (all Pacific Region fisheries) will be required to achieve this objective.

New areas of restricted fishing applicable to recreational fisheries and commercial fisheries, including all commercial salmon fisheries, were implemented in 2002 in 32 areas on the coast of British Columbia. The status of stocks is still being reviewed and further conservation measures are being considered.

8.2. First Nations Fisheries Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries to ensure that, subject to conservation needs, first priority is accorded to First Nations for opportunities to harvest fish for FSC purposes and the objectives of the Nisga'a Final Agreement are met.

Opportunities for First Nations FSC fisheries were good in B.C.'s north coast. Fishing for all species of salmon was permitted in most areas. Directed coho fisheries were allowed in all areas of the north coast. The post season review in December provided an opportunity for greater insight to the FSC fisheries and how the First Nations perceived their fisheries. Many bands thought Skeena sockeye was low and concern for Nanika and Kitwanga sockeye was highlighted.

The Nisga'a Joint Fisheries Management Committee met on December 5, 2002 to provide an initial review of the 2002 season. The Nisga'a Fishing Plan for the 2003 season will be developed by April 2003.

8.3. International Objectives

The objective is to manage Canadian treaty fisheries to ensure that obligations within the PST are achieved.

Obligations within the PST were met this year with all species under catch quotas. The Area 3-1 to 3-4 net fishery catch was within the annual catch share of 2.49 percent of the Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) of Alaskan Districts 101, 102 and 103 pink salmon.

The Area 1 troll fishery was within the annual catch share of 2.57 percent of the AAH of Alaskan Districts 101, 102 and 103 pink salmon.

The abundance index for north coast B.C. troll and QCI sport fisheries in 2002 was 192,700 chinook in these fisheries. Preliminary estimates indicate a total catch of 142,600 chinook, with 101,300 caught in commercial troll fisheries and 41,300 caught in sport fisheries.

Review of the performance of the PST provisions occurs annually at two bilateral meetings of the northern Panel of the PSC, and these results are published and available from the PSC.

8.4. Domestic Allocation Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries in a manner that is consistent with the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* and the 2002 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan.

Fisheries were managed in accordance with the Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon, and specifically for 2002 in accordance with the 2002 IFMP Appendix 1.

The Allocation Plan for 2002 identified the coast-wide sharing plan as follows: seine 40 percent, gill net 38 percent, and 22 percent troll. In fact, what was achieved was 32 percent seine, 48 percent gill net and 20 percent troll.

8.5. Enforcement Objectives

The objective is to ensure compliance with acts and regulations associated with the management of Pacific salmon.

A post-season enforcement review highlighted several enforcement issues as follows:

- Laundering of FSC fish into commercial fisheries
- Dockside enforcement presence

These issues are being addressed in 2003.

9. ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: 2003 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan

Appendix 2: North and Central Coast Rockfish Interim Areas of Restricted Fishing
Appendix 3: Log Book Samples
Appendix 4: Fishing Vessel Safety
Appendix 5: Maps of Commercial Salmon Licence Areas
Appendix 6: Recreational Non-Tidal Fishing Plan

Appendix 1: 2003 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan

This document describes anticipated licence area allocations for each gear type and for each species of salmon. These anticipated licence area allocations are intended to guide fishing arrangements at the local level and are not fixed entitlements. Application of these sharing arrangements is subject to meeting all conservation objectives, First Nations obligations, international commitments, deliverability and manageability constraints and other management considerations including all conservation measures currently in effect. Where appropriate the potential harvest identified is a range that reflects the most recent PSARC approved forecasts for each stock grouping at a 50 percent and 75 percent probability level. In other cases, the potential harvest represents the informed point estimate of fisheries managers based upon historic average return rates and available PSARC approved analysis.

Although best efforts will be made to achieve these coast-wide allocation targets, no guarantees are offered that target allocations will actually be achieved in any given year. The achievement of these targets will depend upon the ability to fish selectively and the conservation needs of the resource. In the event that target allocations are not achieved, no compensatory adjustments will be made to future allocations. Specifically, as in 2002, "catch up/make up" adjustments to future target allocations will not be considered in the event that a gear type does not meet its target allocation.

The following specific operational guidelines for 2003 are noted:

- Individual licence holders and groups of licence holders will not be permitted to make their own allocation transfer arrangements.
- As in 2002, there will be no directed commercial fisheries for Fraser River sockeye or Fraser River pink salmon in the north (i.e. area licence categories A, C and F).
- Harvest from both full and limited fleet exploratory and assessment fisheries intended to obtain information that will benefit a specific fleet will be considered part of the allocation of the fleet conducting the exploratory fishery.
- Harvest from experimental or selective fisheries, designed to test (new or modified) more selective fishing gear and methods, in most cases will be considered part of the five percent allocation set aside to encourage selective fishing. This will be determined preseason based on approved selective fishing proposals.
- The target allocations for gill net D and gill net E area licences will attempt to equalise the relative average catch per licence in sockeye equivalents.
- The target allocations for troll G and troll H area licences will attempt to equalize the relative average catch per licence in sockeye equivalents.
- If after spawning escapement objectives are met, and despite best efforts, it becomes apparent that an area licence group is unable to achieve its target allocation, subject to conservation requirements, uncaught balances will be given first to the same gear type in a different licence area and, second to different gear types in a manner that reflects their relative target allocations;

It is noted that these are not fixed entitlements but are a projection of available fishing opportunities given present forecasts of stock abundance and best efforts to achieve coast-wide target allocations by gear type. These represent the intentions of fisheries management if abundance is as expected and all other things are equal. However, in many cases in-season adjustments will be necessary to address conservation concerns or other unforeseen events.

1. NORTH COAST

1.1. North Coast Sockeye

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine A	Gillnet C	Troll F
1, 3 to 5, 101 to 105	400K to 600K	25%	74%	1%
6 to 8	3K	25%	75%	0%
9 to 10	0			

1.2. North Coast Pink

Areas	Potential Harvest (pieces)	Seine A	Gillnet C	Troll F
1, 2 (even) and 3 to 5, and 101 to 105	3 to 4 million	80%	18%	2%
6 to 10	5 million	87%	8%	5%

1.3. North Coast Chum

Areas	Potential Harvest (pieces)	Seine A	Gillnet C	Troll F
1,2,101 to 111,130,142	50K	52%	28%	20%
3 to 5	30K	45%	55%	0%
6 to 10	500K	51%	44%	5%

Notes on chum allocations:

- Allocation arrangements in Areas 6 to 10 reflect recent actual catches.
- Anticipate seine non-retention of chums in Area 3-6 except when fishing hatchery chums in Area 6.

1.4. North Coast Coho

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine A	Gillnet C	Troll F
1 to 10, 101, 102, 105-107, 130, 142	150K	5%	5%	90%

Notes on coho allocations:

- There will be opportunities for directed coho harvest in troll fisheries on the north coast of B.C. Most net fisheries will require non-retention of coho in all fisheries targeted at other species except for a few terminally defined locations such as Cumshewa Inlet and near McLoughlin Bay (surplus hatchery production) where by-catch of coho will be permitted.

1.5. North Coast Chinook

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine A	Gillnet C	Troll F
1 to 5,101, 102, 130, 142	30K to 150K	0%	5%	95%
6 to 10	15K	0%	80%	20 %

Notes on chinook allocations:

- There are no directed chinook fisheries on the north coast of B.C. for the seine fleet. Directed gill net fisheries occur in Areas 4 and 8 and there is some by-catch in other north coast fisheries.
- Areas 1-5: The TAC is determined by the PST chinook model. The PST allocation for the Area F troll fleet for October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003 is 152K. However, due to conservation constraints for WCVI chinook the Area F harvest may be reduced.

2. SOUTH COAST

2.1. South Coast Sockeye

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine B	Gillnet D	Gillnet E	Troll G	Troll H
Area 23	90K to 540K	60%	40%		0%	
Fraser River Sockeye	0 to1.3 million	41%	14.5%	30%	0%	14.5%

Notes on sockeye allocations:

- Area 23 sockeye: If due to manageability concerns fleet target catches can not be harvested, efforts will be made to redistribute the foregone harvest to other fishing fleets as per the terms set out in Principle 7 of *An Allocation Policy For Pacific Salmon*. For 2003 a fishing plan similar to 2002 is anticipated for seine, gill net and troll.
- Fraser River sockeye: Protection measures implemented to meet conservation concerns for Sakinaw Lake, Cultus Lake and Late Run sockeye will reduce opportunities to harvest healthy Summer run stocks. Actual harvest may therefore be considerably less than 1.3 million at the 50% probability level identified above.

2.2. South Coast Pink

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine B	Gillnet D	Gillnet E	Troll G	Troll H
Fraser River	0.5-1.0 million	70%	4%	1%	12%	13%
Mainland Inlets (A12)	0	73%	9%	0%	0%	18%

Notes on pink allocations:

- Fraser River pink: based on the 50% probability forecast of 17.3 million and conservation measures to address late run sockeye and Thompson coho, pink catches will be incidental during summer run sockeye directed fisheries.

2.3. South Coast Chum

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine B	Gillnet D	Gillnet E	Troll G	Troll H
11 to 19, 28 to 29	400K	63%	19%	12%	0%	6%
21 to 22	700K	50%		49%	1%	
23 to 27	50K	0%	98%	0%	2%	0%

Notes on chum allocations:

- The new Johnstone Strait chum mixed stock harvest strategy limits total harvest to 20%, of which 15% is allocated to commercial fisheries. Two, one day seine openings in October are fixed pre-season, with gill net and troll openings arranged to follow the seines.
- Commercial allocation sharing arrangements in Johnstone Strait are; seine Area B - 77%; gill net Area D - 17%; and troll Area H - 6%.
- Nitinat Chum (Area 21 to 22) sharing arrangements provide an opportunity for Area G licence holders to harvest stocks produced in the geographical area for which they are licensed. For the 2003 season, Area G trollers will continue to be allocated a small portion of these local stocks.
- The allocation guideline for "early season" Nitinat chum is 50 percent gill net and 50 percent seine with a cap of 200,000 chums for gill nets during the early part of the season. In the "clean-up" phase, fishing will be opened to both gears simultaneously.

- For the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) chums (i.e. Nootka Sound) seine opportunities will be considered when large surpluses are identified.
- For the Fraser River chum, harvest opportunities will be constrained by conservation concerns for Interior Fraser River steelhead.

2.4. South Coast Coho

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine B	Gillnet D	Gillnet E	Troll G	Troll H
11 to 20, 29	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 to 27, 121, 123 to 127	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes on coho allocations:

- Except for potential terminal opportunities, there will be no directed coho fisheries on the south coast of B.C., and there is non-retention of coho in all fisheries targeted at other species.
- There is a potential for significant surpluses at Robertson Creek Hatchery in 2003. Due to possible chinook constraints consideration may be given to harvesting this surplus through selective fishing experiments.

2.5. South Coast Chinook

Areas	Harvest Forecast (Pieces)	Seine B	Gillnet D	Gillnet E	Troll G	Troll H
11 to 20, 29	5K		5%	80%		15%
21 to 27, 121 to 127	130K				100%	

Notes on chinook allocations:

- Troll Area H catch of chinook is by-catch taken during sockeye fishery.
- Areas 21 to 27, 121, 123 to 127, as determined by the PST chinook model, the available harvest for the Area G troll fleet for October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003 is approximately 130K.
- All catch during the calendar year of 2003 will be accounted for in the 2003 allocation plan.
- In addition, potential terminal opportunities for gill net will be considered on enhanced stocks in Areas 23 and 25 as abundances permit.

Appendix 2: North and Central Coast Rockfish Interim Areas of Restricted Fishing

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has restricted fishing activities in selected portions of the B.C. coast to protect inshore rockfish. Recreational and Commercial salmon fishing is prohibited in the following areas:

Stenhouse Shoal

That portion of Subarea 4-1 that lies inside a line that:

begins at	54°23.5' N	131°02.5' W	
then to	54°24.15' N	130°55.3' W	Southerly tip of the Connel Islands)
then to	54°18.397' N	130°54.862' W	(Brown Passage Light and Whistle Buoy D60)
then to	54°20.0' N	131°01.1' W	

then to the beginning point.

West Banks Island

Those waters of Area 105 that lie inside a line that:

begins at	53°27.967' N	130°40.0' W	
then true east to	53°27.967' N	130°35.241' W	(south-western tip of Bonilla Island)
then to	53°15.4' N	130°18.0' W	(near North Danger Rocks)
then to	53°12.0' N	130°10.4' W	
then true west to	53°12.0' N	130°18.0' W	
then to	53°15.7' N	130°25.7' W	
then to	53°25.0' N	130°38.0' W	(near South Rocks)

then to the beginning point.

Kitasu Bay/Laredo Inlet

Subareas 6-18, 6-19 and that portion of Subarea 6-16 that is easterly of a straight line from Dallain Point on Princess Royal Island to Wilby Point on Swindle Island.

Smith Sound

Those portions of Subareas 10-2 to 10-4 that lie shoreward of a line that:

begins at	51°22.45' N	127°46.656' W	(Cranstown Point)
then to	51°22.015' N	127°48.488' W	(Dugout Rocks Light)
then to	51°18.56' N	127°50.66' W	(Thorndike Shoal)
then to	51°14.895' N	127°50.025' W	(Egg Island Light)
then to	51°15.477' N	127°48.238' W	(Table Island)
then to	51°18.283' N	127°41.067' W	(Cathcart Island)
then to	51°18.683' N	127°41.25' W	(Moss Islands)
then to	51°19.55' N	127°42.004' W	(Mainland)

Appendix 3: Salmon Logbook Examples

SALMON GILLNET Logbook I.D. # **G** **Report Catch to: 1-(888) 387-0007** Record all catch in pieces **Page #**

Vessel Name: VRN (CFV#): Skipper:

Net Type [1]: **A** or **M** or **C** Net Length: (fathoms) Weedline Depth [2]: Hang Ratio: **:1** Mesh Size [2]: # of Meshes:

Date Day	Date Mon.	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	# of sets	Sub-area(s)	[3] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	Steel-head	Atlantic	Dogfish	Sturg-eon	Birds	[4] Other Species
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**				Confirmation #:	
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**				Confirmation #:	
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**				Confirmation #:	

Date Day	Date Mon.	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	# of sets	Sub-area(s)	[3] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	Steel-	Atl	Dog	Stu eo	Bir	Other Species
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on **Y** or **N**				Confirmation #:	
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**				Confirmation #:	
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**				Confirmation #:	

1. **Net Types**: circle one (A = Alaska Twist, M = Multi Strand, C = Combination).
2. Give measurement units (in or " = inches, cm = centimeters, mm = millimeters).
3. **Kept** are species retained on board; **Released** are species returned to the ocean.
4. **Other Species**: M= Mackerel, L= Lingcod, H= Halibut, R= Rockfish. Identify marine mammals by species.

2003

SALMON SEINE Logbook I.D. # **S** **Report Catch to: 1-(888) 387-0007** Record daily catch in pieces **Page #**

Vessel Name: VRN (CFV#): Skipper:

Date Day	Date Mon.	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	# of sets	Sub-area(s)	[1] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	Steel-head	Atlantic	Birds	[2] Other Species
						Kept								☒	
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
						Kept								☒	
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
						Kept								☒	
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
						Kept								☒	
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	

Offloading Information (circle one)

Dates Fished First day Day	First day Month	Last day Day	Last day Month	# Days fished	Date offloaded Day	Date offloaded Month	Kept	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	(Other)	Complete if catch pooled with that of another vessel: Received from:	Offloaded to:	Vessel
													☐	☐	Name:
Business and port offloaded to:								Fish slip #:		Confirmation #:					VRN (CFV#):
													☐	☐	Name:
Business and port offloaded to:								Fish slip #:		Confirmation #:					VRN (CFV#):

1. **Kept** are species retained on board; **Released** are species returned to the ocean.
2. **Other Species**: M= Mackerel, L= Lingcod, H= Halibut, D= Dogfish, R=Rockfish. Identify marine mammals to species.

2003

SALMON TROLL Logbook I.D. # **T** **Report Catch to: 1-(888) 387-0007** Record all catch in pieces **Page #**

Vessel Name: VRN (CFV#): Skipper:

Date Day	Date Mon.	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	Zone ☐ or Subarea ☐	Catch frozen or iced?	[1] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	[2] Grilse	Atlantic	[3] Rockfish	[4] Other Species
					F or **I**	Kept						☒			
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept						☒			
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept						☒			
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	

Date Day	Date Mon.	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	Zone ☐ or Subarea ☐	Catch frozen or iced?	[1] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	[2] Grilse	Atlantic	[3] Rockfish	[4] Other Species
					F or **I**	Kept						☒			
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept						☒			
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept						☒			
						Rel.									
Comments:											Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	

1. **Kept** are species retained on board; **Released** are species returned to the ocean.
2. Grilse are juvenile salmon under 30 cm.
3. If possible, rockfish are to be identified by species (using names in accompanying guide); if unsure of species, record as Unknown Rockfish.
4. Other Species: L= Lingcod, H=Halibut, D=Dogfish, M= Mackerel, S= Steelhead, B=Bird.

2003

Appendix 4: Fishing Vessel Safety

Owners and masters have a duty to ensure the safety of their crew and vessel. Adherence to safety regulations and good practices by owners, masters and crew of fishing vessels will help save lives, protect the vessel from damage and protect the environment. All fishing vessels must be in a seaworthy condition and maintained as required by Transport Canada (TC), Workers Compensation Board of British Columbia (WCB) and other applicable agencies. Vessels subject to inspection should ensure that the certificate of inspection is valid for the area of intended operation. Before leaving on a voyage the owner, master or operator must ensure that the fishing vessel is capable of safely making the passage.

Critical factors for a safe voyage include the seaworthiness of the vessel, vessel stability, having the required carriage safety equipment in good working order, crew training, and knowledge of current and forecasted weather conditions.

Useful publications include Transport Canada Publication TP 10038 '*Small Fishing Vessel Safety Manual*' which can be obtained from Transport Canada or printed from the Internet at www.tc.gc.ca/MarineSafety/Tp/Tp10038/tp10038e.htm.

On July 30, 2003 all crew with more than 6 months at sea will be required to have taken minimum Marine Emergency Duties (MED) training or be registered for such training. MED provides a basic understanding of the hazards associated with the marine environment; the prevention of shipboard incidents (including fires); raising and reacting to alarms; fire and abandonment situations; and the skills necessary for survival and rescue.

Fishers are reminded of the importance of paying close attention to current weather treads and forecasts during the voyage. Marine weather information and forecasts can be obtained on VHF channels 21B, W1, W 2, W 3, or W4. Weather information is also available from Environment Canada on the Internet at: www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/marine/region_03_e.html.

Vessel stability is paramount for safety. Care must be given to the stowage and securing of all cargo, skiffs, equipment, fuel containers and supplies, and also to correct ballasting. Fishers must be familiar with their vessel's centre of gravity, the effect of liquid free surfaces on stability, loose water or fish on deck, loading and unloading operations and the vessel's freeboard. Know the limitations of your vessel; if you are unsure contact a reputable marine surveyor or the local Transport Canada Marine Safety office.

Fishers should ensure that all crew are able to activate the Search and Rescue (SAR) system early rather than later by contacting the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). It is strongly recommended that all fishers carry a registered 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicting Radio Beacon (EPIRB). When activated, an EPIRB transmits a distress call which is picked up or relayed by satellites and transmitted via land earth stations to the

Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre (JRCC), which will task and co-ordinate rescue resources.

Fishers should monitor VHF channel 16 or MF 2182 Khz and make themselves and their crews familiar with other radio frequencies. All crew should know how to make a distress call. However, whenever possible, masters should contact the nearest Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) station (on VHF channel 16 or MF 2182 kHz) prior to a distress situation developing. Correct radio procedures are important for communications in an emergency. Incorrect or misunderstood communications may hinder a rescue response.

As of August 1, 2003 all commercial vessels greater than 20m in length are required to carry a Class D VHF DSC radio. A registered Digital Selective Calling (DSC) VHF radio has the capability to alert other DSC equipped vessels in your immediate area and MCTS that your vessel is in distress. Masters should be aware that they should register their DSC radios with Industry Canada to obtain an MMSI number or the automatic distress calling feature of the radio may not work.

A DSC radio that is connected to a GPS unit will also automatically include your vessel's current position in the Distress message. More detailed information on MCTS and DSC can be obtained from the Internet at www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca or by contacting your local Coast Guard MCTS centre. MCTS centres are located at Vancouver**,** Victoria**,** Prince Rupert**,** Comox and Tofino**.**

Fishers must be knowledgeable of the *Collision Regulations* and the responsibilities between vessels where risk of collision exists. Navigation lights must be kept in good working order and must be displayed from sunset to sunrise and during all other times of restricted visibility. To help reduce the potential for collision or close quarters situations which may also result in the loss of fishing gear, fishers are encouraged to monitor the appropriate local Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) VHF channel, when travelling or fishing near shipping lanes or other areas frequented by large commercial vessels. Vessels required to participate in VTS include:

- every ship twenty metres or more in length
- every ship engaged in towing or pushing any vessel or object, other than fishing gear,
- where the combined length of the ship and any vessel or object towed or pushed by the ship is forty five metres or more in length; or
- where the length of the vessel or object being towed or pushed by the ship is twenty metres or more in length.

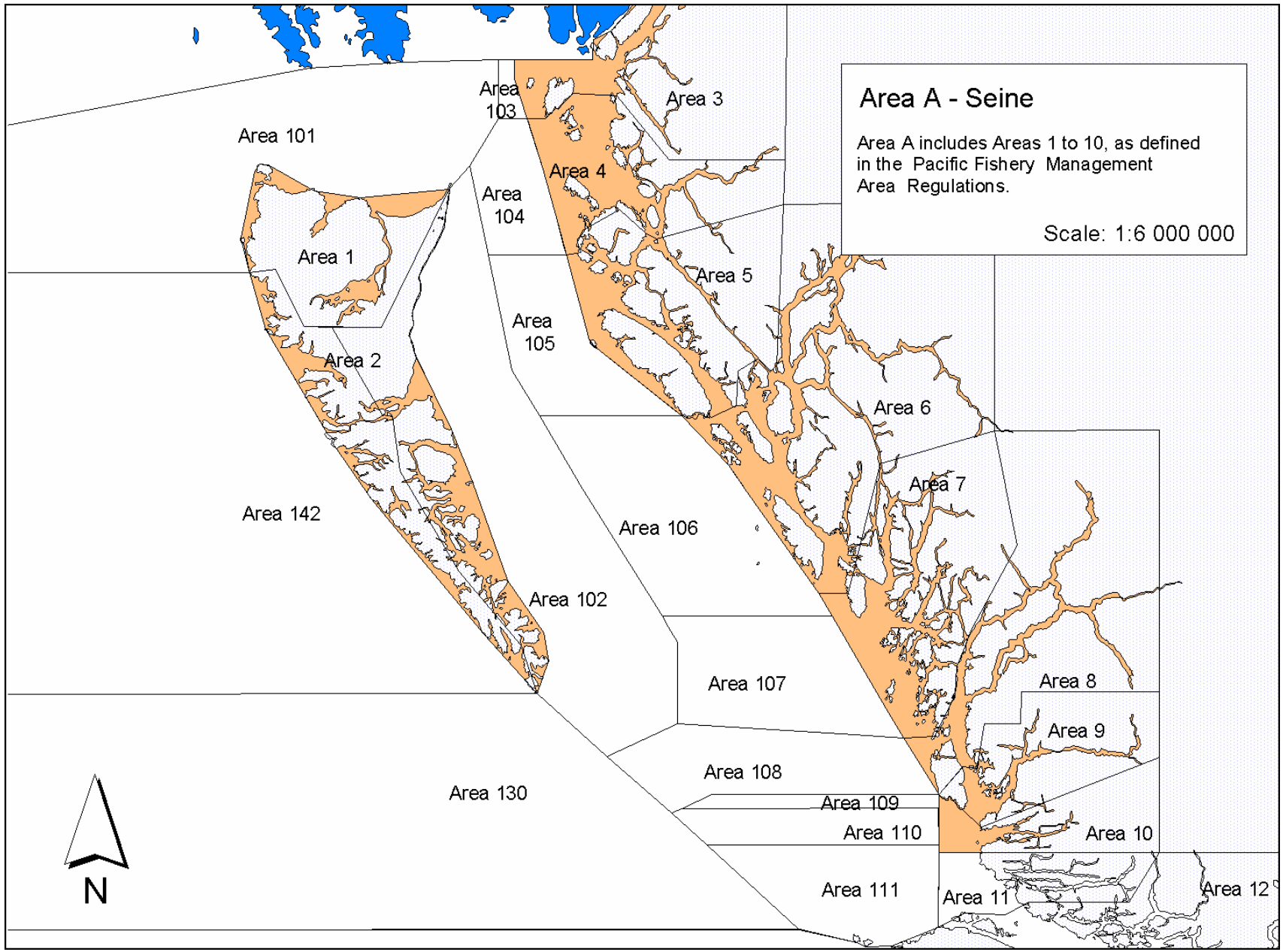
Exceptions:

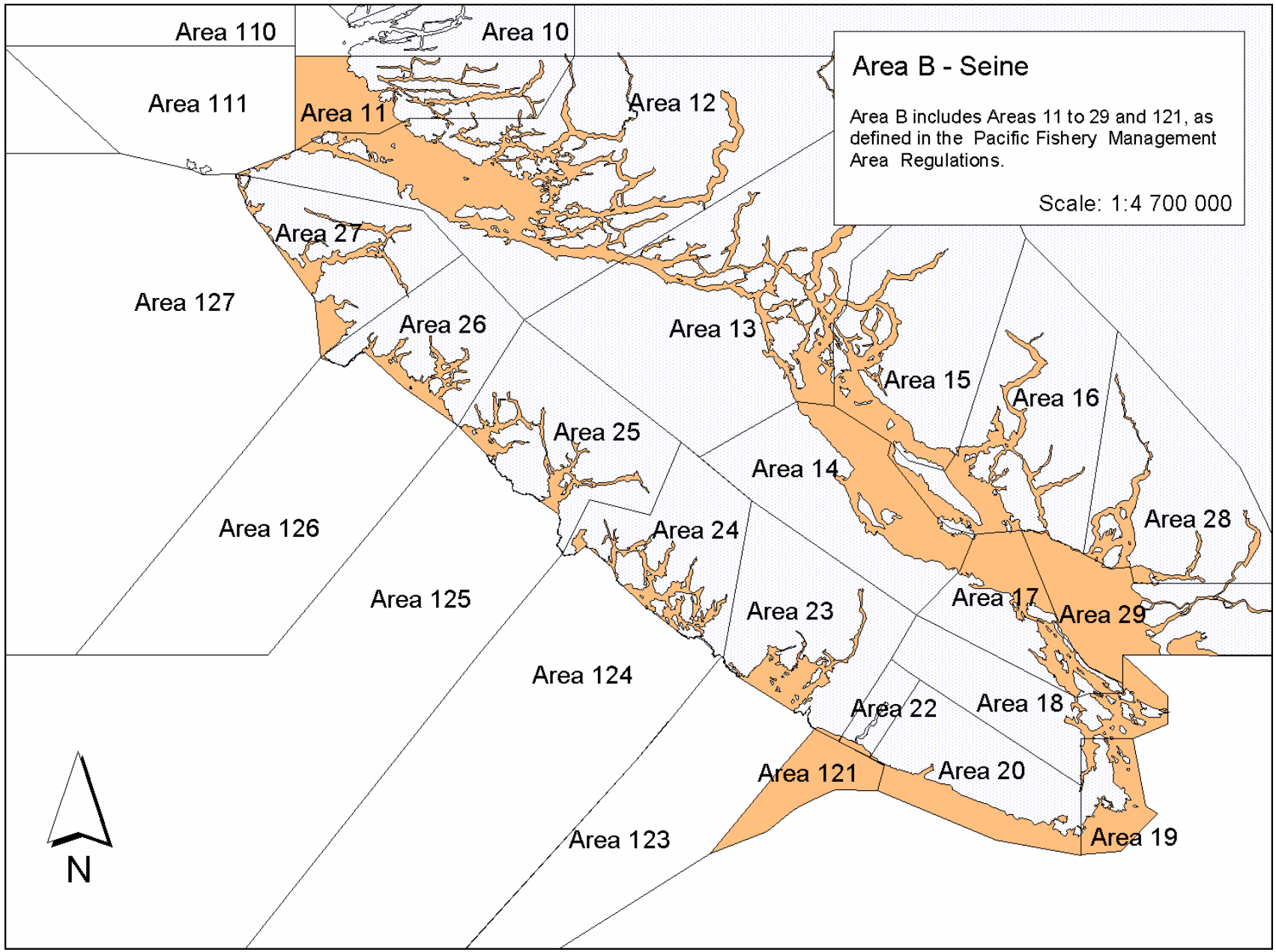
- a ship towing or pushing inside a log booming ground.
- a pleasure yacht *less than* 30 metres in length.
- a fishing vessel that is *less than* 24 metres in length and not *more than* 150 tons gross.

More detailed information on VTS can be obtained from the Internet at www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/mcts-sctm/index_e.htm or by calling (604) 775-8862.

Fishers are encouraged to use the buddy system when transiting, and fishing as this allows for the ability to provide mutual aid. An important trip consideration is the use of a sail plan which includes the particulars of the vessel, crew and voyage. The sail plan should be left with a responsible person on shore or filed with the local MCTS. After leaving port the fisher should contact the holder of the sail plan daily or as per another schedule. The sail plan should ensure notification to JRCC when communication is not maintained which might indicate your vessel is in distress. Be sure to cancel the sail plan upon completion of the voyage.

Appendix 5: Maps of Commercial Salmon Licence Areas

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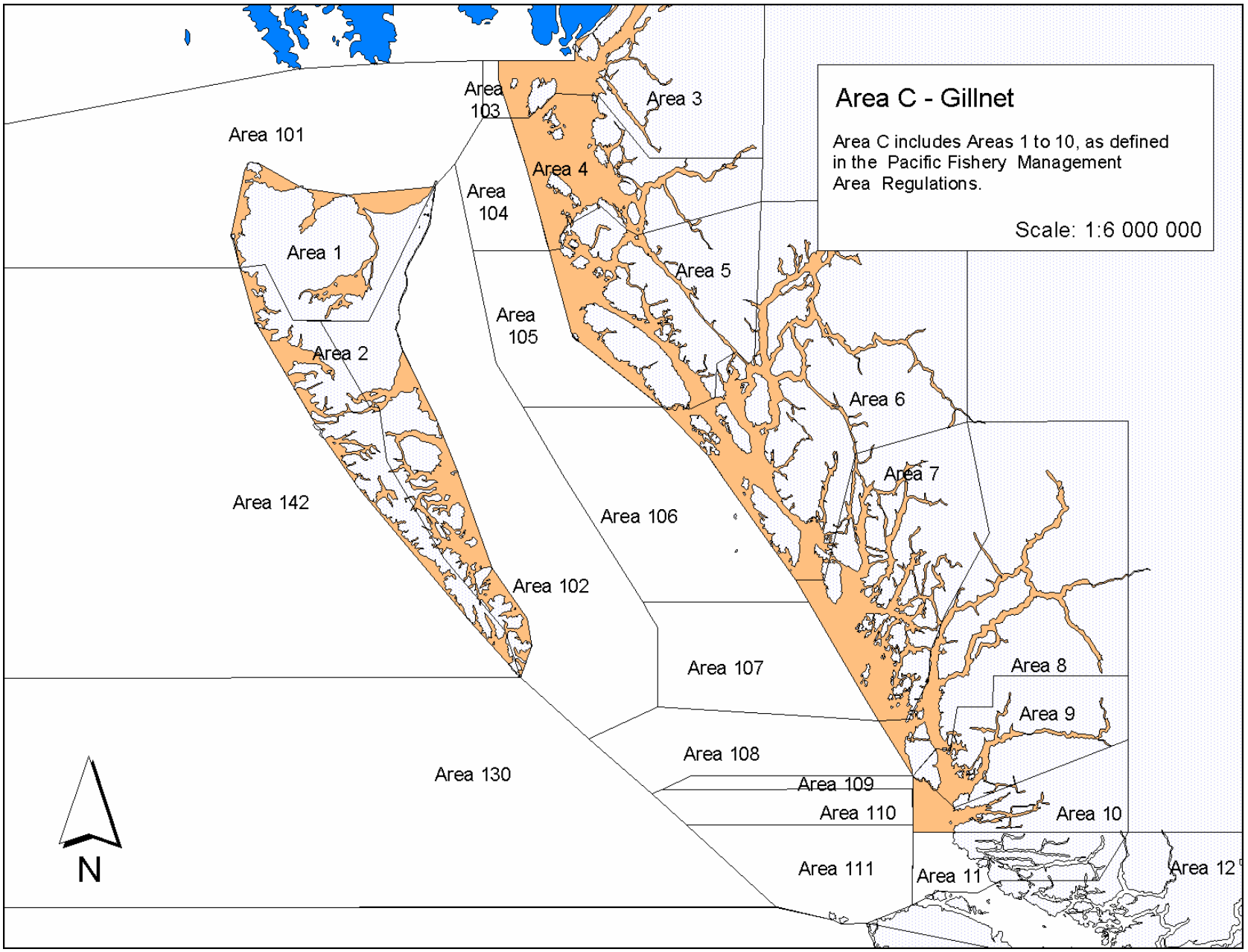
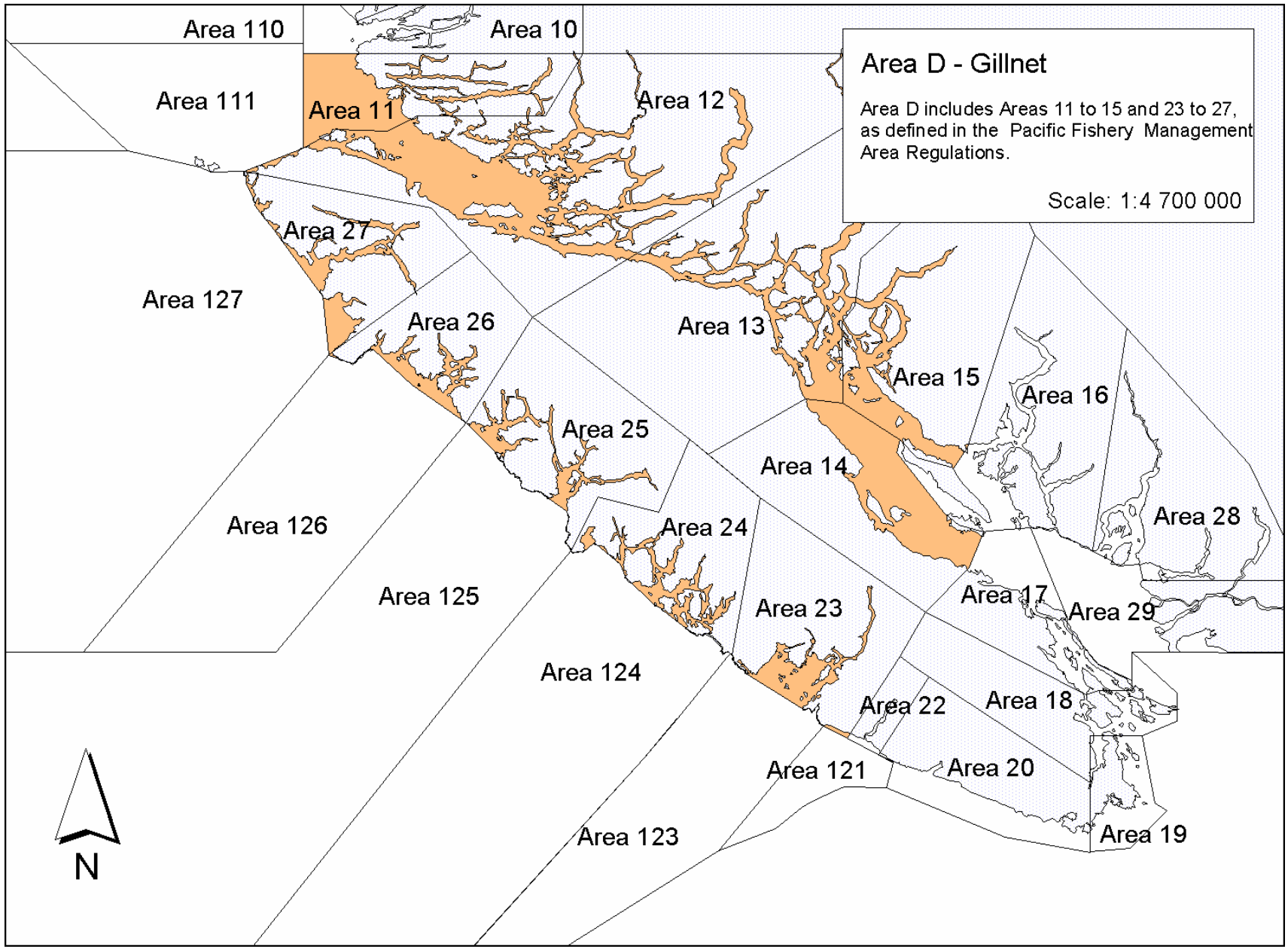
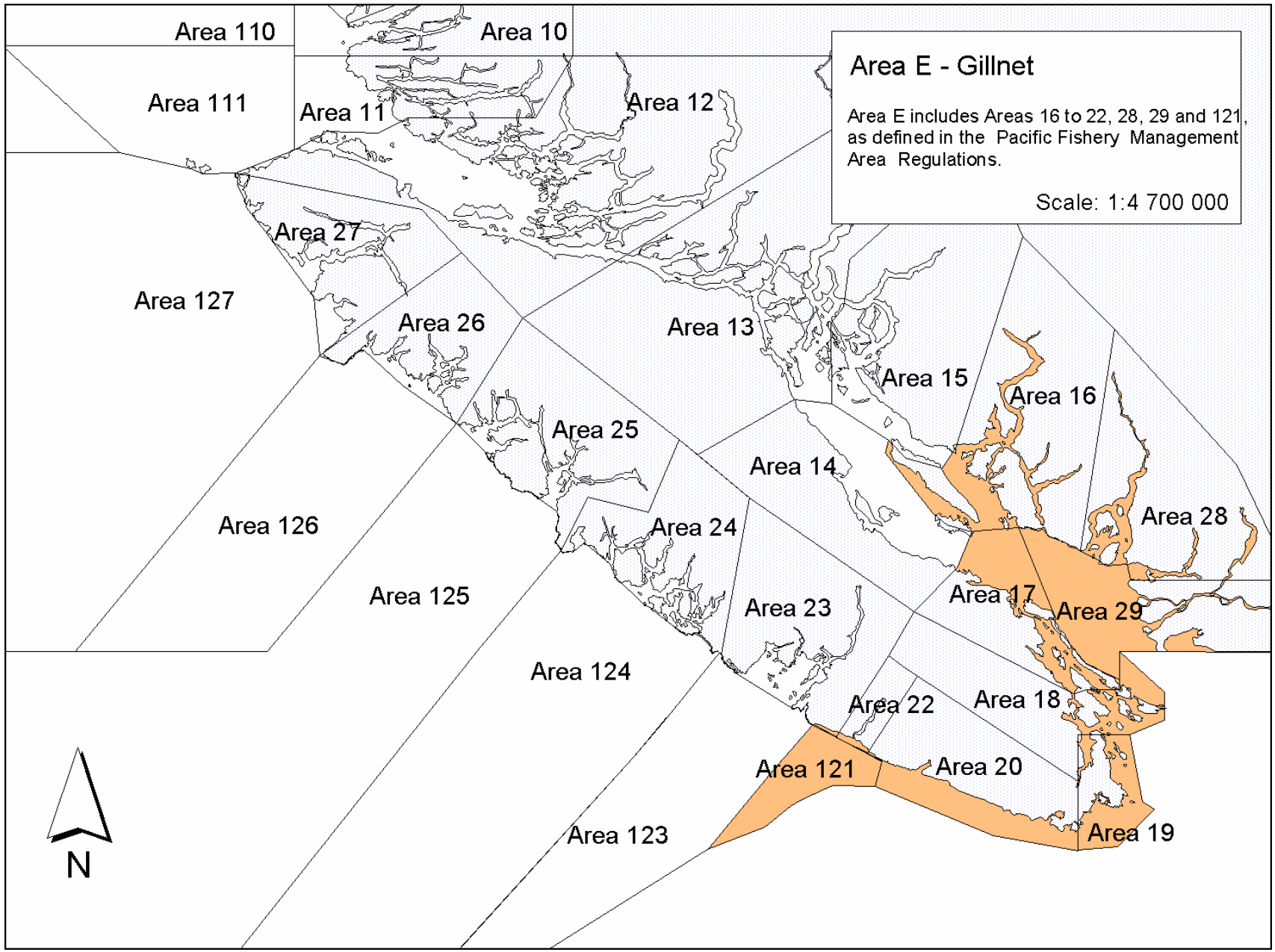
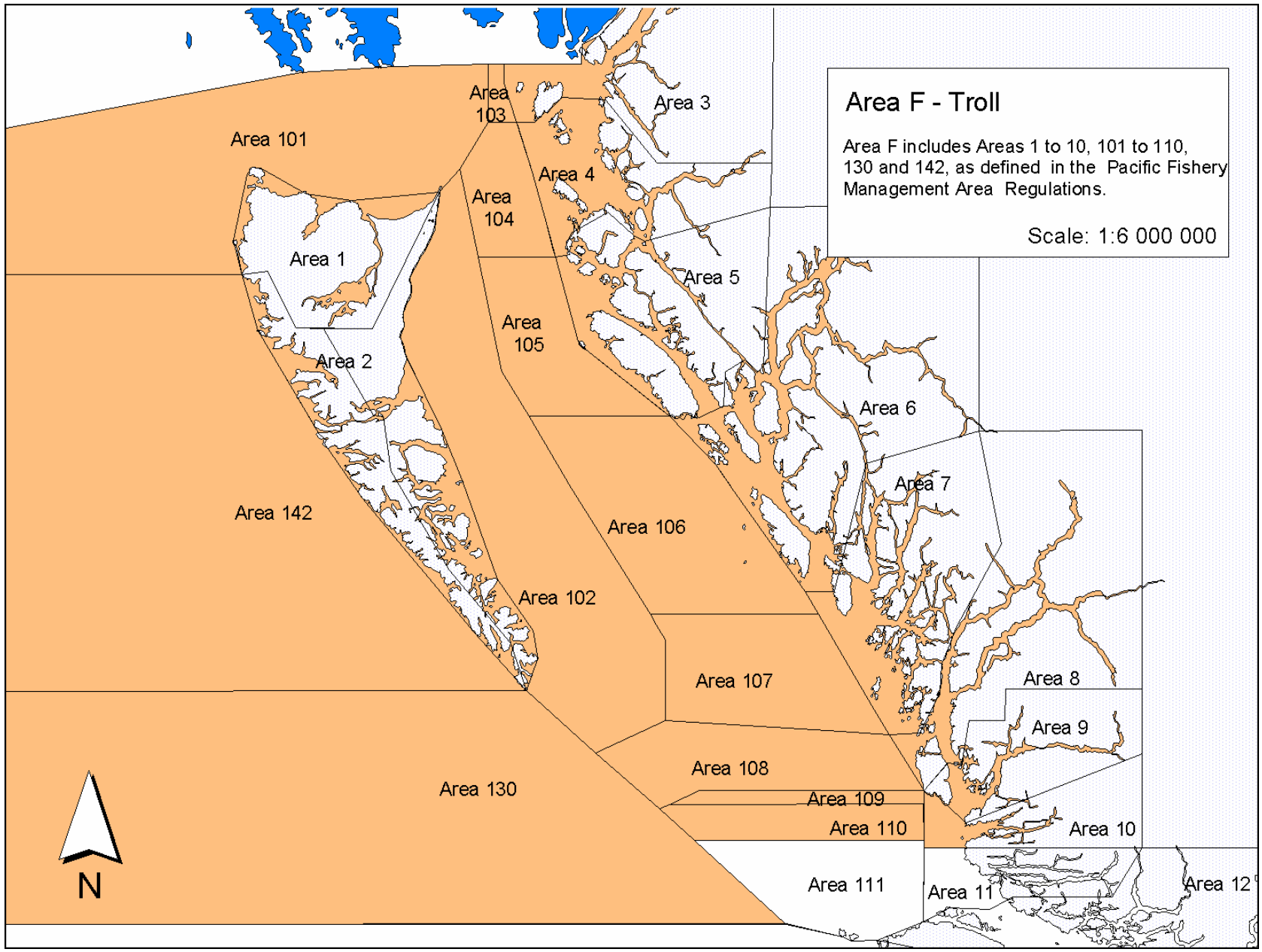
Area 10
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
Area B - Seine
Area B includes Areas 11 to 29 and 121, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
Scale: 1:4 700 000
Area 27
Area 127
Area 26
Area 13
Area 15
Area 16
Area 25
Area 14
Area 126
Area 24
Area 28
Area 17
Area 29
Area 125
Area 23
Area 124
Area 22
Area 18
Area 121
Area 20
Area 123
Area 19
N


Area C - Gillnet
Area C includes Areas 1 to 10, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
Scale: 1:6 000 000
Area 101
Area 103
Area 3
Area 4
Area 104
Area 1
Area 5
Area 105
Area 2
Area 6
Area 7
Area 142
Area 106
Area 102
Area 107
Area 8
Area 9
Area 108
Area 130
Area 109
Area 110
Area 10
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
N


Area 110
Area 10
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
Area D - Gillnet
Area D includes Areas 11 to 15 and 23 to 27, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
Scale: 1:4 700 000
Area 27
Area 127
Area 26
Area 13
Area 15
Area 16
Area 25
Area 14
Area 28
Area 126
Area 24
Area 125
Area 23
Area 17
Area 29
Area 124
Area 22
Area 18
Area 121
Area 20
Area 123
Area 19
N


Area 110
Area 10
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
Area E - Gillnet
Area E includes Areas 16 to 22, 28, 29 and 121, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
Scale: 1:4 700 000
Area 27
Area 127
Area 26
Area 13
Area 15
Area 16
Area 25
Area 14
Area 126
Area 24
Area 28
Area 17
Area 29
Area 125
Area 23
Area 124
Area 22
Area 18
Area 121
Area 20
Area 123
Area 19
N


Area F - Troll
Area F includes Areas 1 to 10, 101 to 110, 130 and 142, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
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Area 103
Area 3
Area 4
Area 104
Area 1
Area 5
Area 105
Area 2
Area 6
Area 7
Area 142
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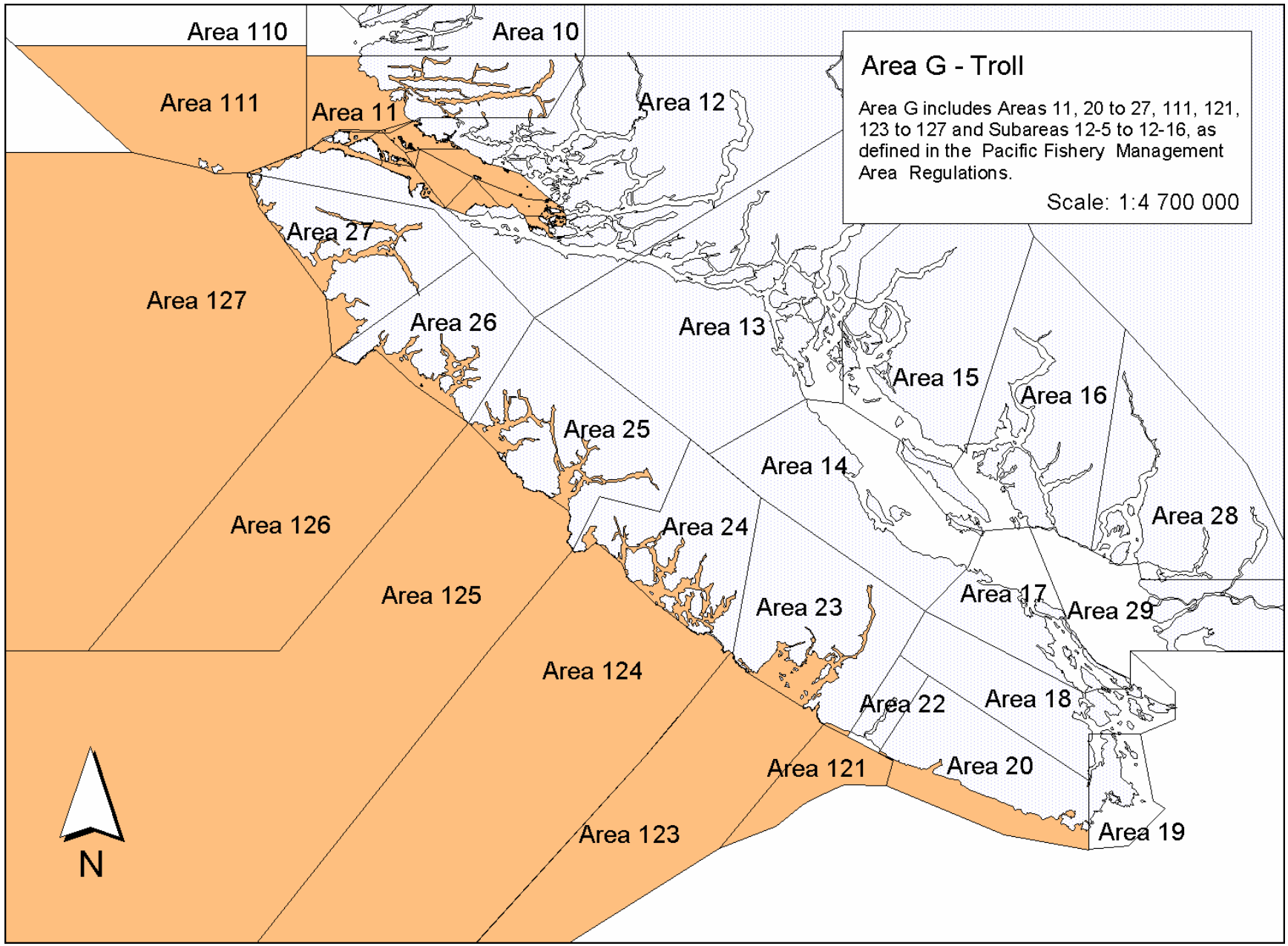
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
N


Area 110
Area 10
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
Area G - Troll
Area G includes Areas 11, 20 to 27, 111, 121, 123 to 127 and Subareas 12-5 to 12-16, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
Scale: 1:4 700 000
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Area 127
Area 26
Area 13
Area 15
Area 16
Area 25
Area 14
Area 126
Area 24
Area 28
Area 125
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Area 124
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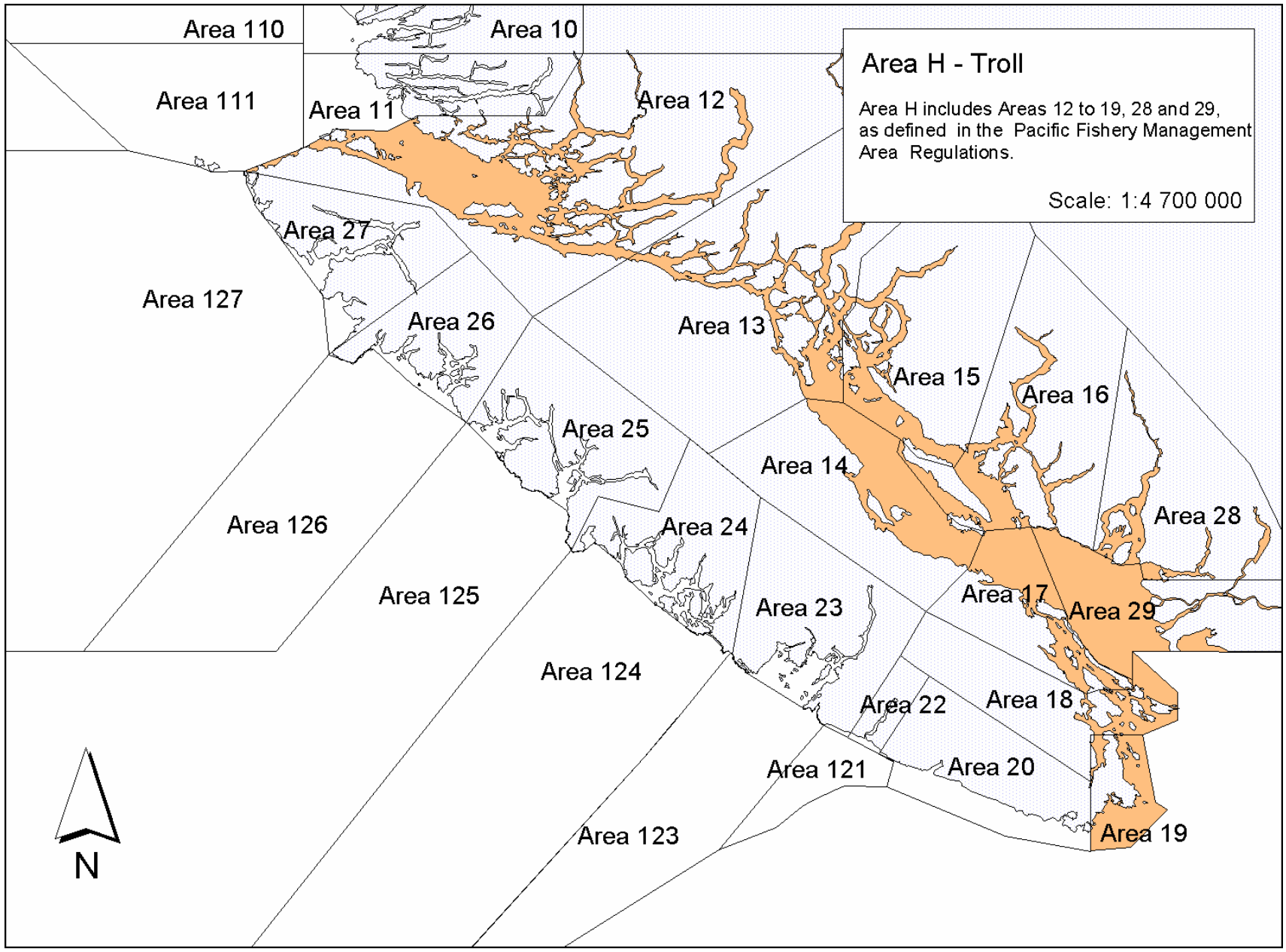
Area 121
Area 20
Area 123
Area 19
N


Area 110
Area 10
Area 111
Area 11
Area 12
Area H - Troll
Area H includes Areas 12 to 19, 28 and 29, as defined in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.
Scale: 1:4 700 000
Area 27
Area 127
Area 26
Area 13
Area 15
Area 16
Area 25
Area 14
Area 28
Area 126
Area 24
Area 125
Area 23
Area 17
Area 29
Area 124
Area 22
Area 18
Area 121
Area 20
Area 123
Area 19
N

Appendix 6: Recreational Non-Tidal Fishing Plan

FRESHWATER SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS **REGION 6 - SKEENA**				
Please read these regulations in conjunction with the Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis. 1. The aggregate daily limit for all species of Pacific salmon (other than kokanee) from tidal and non-tidal waters combined is four (4). 2. All retained chinook, sockeye, pink, coho, and chum must measure 30 cm or more from tip of nose to tail fork. 3. A single, barbless hook is in effect year round for all streams in Region 6. 4. There is an annual limit of 10 adult chinook. All retained adult chinook must be recorded on the back of your freshwater angling licence. An "adult chinook" in Region 6 is defined as being over 65 cm measured from the tip of the nose to tail fork. 5. An adult coho salmon in Region 6 is defined as being greater than 50 cm measured from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail (fork length). "Jack" coho salmon is defined as being a coho between 30-50 cm fork length.				
WATERS	**SPECIFIC AREA**	**SPECIES**	**DATES**	**LIMITS / GEAR**
A. All Region 6 Waters	*Any lake or stream or part thereof in Region 6, unless otherwise stated below. Please review sections B, C, D, and E carefully.*	*Chinook*	*Apr 01-Mar 31*	*4 per day, only 1 over 50cm. Annual limit=10 adult.*
		Coho	*Apr 01-Mar 31*	*4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.*
		Sockeye, Pink, and Chum	*Apr 01-Mar 31*	*0 (non retention)*
B. Skeena River Watershed- Section "A" applies if stream, specific area, time period, quotas or other species restrictions are not listed in the following sections:				
B. Part (i): Skeena River Watershed-Waters upstream of CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace				
All waters in section "B(i)" - Skeena River Watershed upstream of the CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace, unless otherwise stated below		*All*	*Jan 01-Jun 15*	*No fishing for salmon.*
		Coho	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for coho.*
		Sockeye	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for sockeye.*
		Chum	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for chum.*
Babine Lake	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*

Babine Lake	**Not** including tributaries	Sockeye	Aug 01-Sep 15	2 per day. *No fishing for sockeye within a 400 m radial boundary of the following tributaries: Morrison Cr., Pierre Cr., Hazelwood Cr., Four Mile Cr., Six Mile Cr., Pendleton Cr., Twain Cr., Sockeye Cr., Five Mile Cr., Tsezakwa Cr., Tachek Cr., and Big Lo*
Babine River		Chinook	Jun 16-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm. *No fishing for chinook from a point 100m above Fort Babine bridge to Nichyeskwa Creek.*
		Sockeye	Aug 01-Aug 31	2 per day.
	Upstream of the logging bridge located near Sam Green Creek.	Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm
Bear River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Bulkley River		Chinook	Jun 16-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
		Pink	Jun 16-Dec 31	2 per day.
		Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm
Fulton River		Sockeye	Aug 01-Aug 14	2 per day.
Kispiox River (including tributaries)		Chinook	Jun 16-Jul 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm. Monthly quota = 1 over 65 cm.

			Aug 01-Aug 31	4 per day, none over 65cm.
	below boundary signs near Kispiox River Resort	Pink	Jun 16-Aug 31	2 per day. Open downstream of boundary signs located approx. 25 m downstream of fish counting fence.
Kitseguecla River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Kitwanga River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon between boundary signs located approx. 100m upstream and downstream of the fish counting fence.*
Morice Lake	including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Morice River (including tributaries)	above Lamprey Creek	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
	below Lamprey Creek	Chinook	Jun 16-Aug 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
			Sep 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
	Below Lamprey Creek	Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
	From Gosnell Creek to Lamprey Creek – Flyfishing Only.	Coho	Sep 01-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
	From the confluence of the Bulkley and Morice Rivers upstream to the Bymac Bridge on Walcott Road	Pink	Jun 16-Aug 31	2 per day.
	Upstream of the Bymac Bridge on Walcott Road	Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for pink.*

Nilkitkwa Lake		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Pinkut Creek		Sockeye	Aug 01-Aug 14	2 per day. Open downstream of boundary signs located approx. 25 m downstream of fish counting fence.
Shegunia River	between signs located above and below logging road bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Skeena River	mainstem waters only, between Cedarvale and the CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace	Chinook	Apr 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
	mainstem waters only, upstream of Cedarvale	All	Jan 01-May 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
		Chinook	Jun 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
	mainstem waters only, downstream of confluence with Kispiox River to the CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace.	Pink	Jun 16-Dec 31	2 per day.
		Sockeye	Jun 16-Aug 31	2 per day. 0 per day from a boundary sign on the north bank of the Skeena R, 100 m upstream of the confluence with the Kitwanga R. downstream to Mill Creek.

	mainstem waters within 3 white boundary signs located at the confluence of the Skeena River and Kispiox River	Chinook	Jun 01-Jul 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm. Monthly limit=1 over 65cm. Adult chinook caught and retained from these waters must be recorded on your licence as having been caught from the Kispiox River.
			Aug 01-Aug 31	4 per day, none over 65cm.
	Between Boundary signs located at the confluence with the Bulkley River and 500 downstream.	Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
	Between boundary signs located approx. 100 either side of the confluence with the Kitwanga R.	Coho	Aug 30-Sep 15	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
Suskwa (Bear) River		Chinook	Jun 16-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
Sustut River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jun 16-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
Zymoetz (Copper) River		Chinook	Apr 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
	upstream of Highway # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jul 23-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
B(ii). Skeena River Watershed-Waters downstream of CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace				
All waters in section "B(ii)" - Skeena River Watershed downstream of the CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace, unless otherwise stated below		*Sockeye*	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for sockeye.*
		Coho	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for coho.*
Ecstall River (including tributaries)		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
		Chinook	Apr 01-Jul 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.

			Aug 01-Mar 31	4 per day, none over 65cm.
	above signs near confluence with Johnston Creek	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Exchamsiks River (including tributaries)		Coho	to be announced	
	upstream of Highway # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Exstew River (including tributaries)		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
	upstream of Highway # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Gitnadoix River (including tributaries)		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
	upstream of powerline crossing near river mouth	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Kasiks River (including tributaries)		Coho	to be announced	
	upstream of Highway # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Khyex River (including tributaries)	upstream of Highway # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Kitsumkalum River (including tributaries) Note: The mouth of the Kisumkalum River is designated by boundary signs located approx. 1.25 km downstream of the CNR bridge and approx. 200 m east of the CNR bridge.		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
	upstream of signs below lower canyon	Chinook	Jan 01-May 24	4 per day, none over 65cm.
			May 25-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
	downstream of signs below lower canyon	Chinook	Jan 01-Jun 30	4 per day, none over 65cm.
			Jul 01-Aug 06	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
			Aug 07-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
	downstream of railway bridge	Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day.

Kitsumkalum Lake	including tributaries	Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Lakelse River (including tributaries)		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
	below logging road bridge near the mouth	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
	above logging road bridge near the mouth	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Redsand Lake	including tributaries	Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Scotia River	including tributaries	Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Skeena River	mainstem waters downstream of CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace	Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
		Sockeye	Apr 01-Aug 31	2 per day.
		Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day.
		Chum	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chum.*
	from Lakelse River mouth upstream to boundary signs 1.5 km above confluence with Kitsumkalum R.	Chinook	Aug 07-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Treston Lake		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Zymagotitz River (including tributaries)		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	1 per day.
	upstream of Highway # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*

C. Nass River Watershed- Section "A" applies if stream, specific area, time period, quotas or other species restrictions are not listed in the following sections:

All waters in section "C" - Nass River Watershed unless otherwise stated below		*Coho*	Jan 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
		Coho	*Nov 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for coho.*
		Chinook	*Apr 01-Mar 31*	4 per day, only 1 over 65 cm.
Cranberry River	including tributaries NOTE: the section of river from Cranberry-Kiteen junction to Nass R. is part of the Cranberry R.	Chinook	Apr 01-Jul 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65 cm. Monthly Quota = 1 over 65cm.
Iknouk River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Kiteen River	including tributaries	Chinook	Apr 01-Jul 31	4 per day only 1 over 65 cm. Monthly Quota = 1 over 65cm.
Meziadin Lake	including tributaries	Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
	Excluding tributaries	Sockeye	Jul 1-Sep 4	2 per day.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Meziadin River	including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Nass River		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
	mainstem waters downstream of the confluence with the Meziadin River	Sockeye	Jul 1-Sep 4	2 per day.
	mainstem waters upstream of the confluence with the Meziadin River	Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day.
Oweegee Creek		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Oweegee Lake		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*

Tseax River (including tributaries) Note: The mouth of the Tseax river is designated by boundary signs located where what was formerly known as the Nass Back Channel enters the Nass R.	upstream of Nisga'a Hwy Bridge	All	Aug 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
	downstream of Nisga'a Hwy Bridge	Coho	Jan 01-Nov 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jul 01-Sep 15	4 per day only 1 over 65 cm. Monthly Quota = 1 over 65cm.
			Sep 16-Mar 31	4 per day, none over 65cm
Ishkheenickh River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
D. Queen Charlotte Islands Watersheds- Section "A" applies if stream, specific area, time period, quotas or other species restrictions are not listed in the following sections:				
All waters in section "D" - Queen Charlotte Islands Watersheds unless otherwise stated below		*Chinook*	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	*Apr 01 - Oct 31*	*4 per day, only 1 over 50cm*
			Nov 01-Mar 31	*No fishing for coho.*
		All	*Apr 01-Mar 31*	*Single, barbless hook in tidal and non tidal portions of all streams.*
Braverman River		Coho	Apr 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
Pallant Creek	downstream of signs located 100m above fish counting fence	All	Aug 01-Oct 31	*No fishing for salmon.*

Pallant Creek	upstream of signs located 100m above fish counting fence	Coho	Apr 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
Sheldons Creek	Upstream of boundary signs located at the spur 19 bridge	Coho	Jan 01-Oct 31	Daily quota = 0
Tlell River	Anglers should note that tidal water regulations apply to waters below tidal boundary sign located approx. 1.5km above Hwy. 16 Bridge. Refer to the B.C. Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide section of this book.			
E. Other Mainland Watersheds- Section "A" applies if stream, specific area, time period, quotas or other species restrictions are not listed in the following sections:				
All waters in section "E" - Other Mainland Watersheds unless otherwise stated below		*Coho*	*Nov 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for coho.*
All streams flowing into tidal water Area 5 (refer to the B.C. Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide for Area 5 description)		*Coho*	*Jan 01- Dec 31*	*No fishing for coho.*
		Chinook	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No fishing for chinook.*
All streams flowing into tidal water Area 6 unless stated below (refer to B.C. Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide for Area 6 description)		*Coho*	*Jan 01- Oct 31*	*Non-retention of coho.*
Bish Creek	including tributaries	Coho	Jan 01- Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Blanchard River		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
	near Haines Hwy.	Chinook	Jun 10-Aug 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jun 10-Aug 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Brim River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Dala River	including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Endako River		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Giltoyees Creek		Coho	Aug 30-Sep 21	4 per day only 1 over 50 cm.

Illiance River (including tributaries)	upstream of signs located near mouth of river	Coho	Sep 21-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Kemano River		Coho	Aug 30-Sep 21	4 per day only 1 over 50 cm
Khutze River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Khutzeymateen River	including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Kildala River		Coho	Aug 30-Sep 21	4 per day only 1 over 50 cm.
Kiltuish River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Kincolith River		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Kitimat River (including tributaries)	on west bank between signs at Kitimat hatchery outfall	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
	downstream of Highway # 37 bridge	Chinook	Apr 01-July 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65 cm.
			Aug 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Apr 01- Oct 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
			Nov 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
		Chum	Apr 01-Aug 15	2 per day.
	upstream of Highway # 37 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Kitlope River		Coho	Aug 30-Sep 21	4 per day only 1 over 50 cm.
Kitsault River (including tributaries)		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
	upstream of signs located near mouth of river	Coho	Oct 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Kloiya River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*

Kwinimass River (including tributaries)	upstream of lower bridge abutments	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
	downstream of lower bridge abutments	Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Apr 01-Jul 09	4 per day, none over 65cm.
			Jul 10-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Nakina River		Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
Quaal River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Rainy Creek		Chinook	Aug 15-Mar 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Aug 15-Mar 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Stikine River	including tributaries	Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
Swift River	including tributaries	Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	2 per day, only 1 over 65cm. Anglers may now fish this river with either a Yukon or B.C. angling licence.
Tahltan River	including tributaries	Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
Taku River	including tributaries	Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
Tatsamenie Lake's outlet streams	between Tatsamenie L. and Tatsatua Creek	Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.

Tatshenshini River (including tributaries)		Chinook	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Apr 01-Mar 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
	along Haines highway	Chinook	Jun 10-Aug 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jun 10-Aug 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Wahoo River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Weeanie River		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Wilauks Creek (including tributaries)	upstream of signs located near mouth of creek	Coho	Sep 20-Mar 31	*No fishing for coho.*

FRESHWATER SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

REGION 5 : CARIBOO

(PART B: COASTAL WATERSHED)

Management Units: 5-6 to 5-11

Please read these regulations in conjunction with the *Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis*.

1. The aggregate daily limit for all species of Pacific salmon (other than kokanee) from tidal and non-tidal waters combined is four (4).
2. All retained chinook, sockeye, pink, coho, and chum must measure 30 cm or more from tip of nose to tail fork.
3. A single, barbless hook is in effect year round for all streams in Region 5.
4. There is an annual limit of 10 adult chinook. All retained adult chinook must be recorded on the back of your freshwater angling licence. An "adult chinook" is defined as being over 65 cm in the Bella Coola/Atnarko River.
5. Adult coho salmon is defined as being greater than 50 cm measured from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail (fork length). "Jack" coho salmon is defined as being a coho between 30-50cm fork length.

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS / GEAR
All	*Any lake or stream or part thereof in Management Units 5-6 to 5-11 in Region 5B, unless otherwise stated below (i.e. Region 5 not including the Fraser River watershed)*	*Chinook*	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*4 per day, only 1 over 50cm. Annual limit=10 adult.*
		Coho	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*1 per day over 30cm.*
		Sockeye, Pink, and Chum	*Jan 01-Dec 31*	*No retention of sockeye, pink, or chum.*
Atnarko River (including tributaries)		Chinook	Jan 01-Jul 15	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
			Jul 16-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho. (see exception below)*
		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for sockeye.*

Atnarko River (including tributaries)-con't		Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day.
		Chum	Jan 01-Dec 31	1 per day.
	below signs located approx. 50m below Corbould Bridge	Coho	Jan 01-Oct 15	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
			Oct 16-Dec. 31	*No fishing for coho.*
Bella Coola River	including tributaries (not including Atnarko River)	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.* *(See exception below)*
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
		Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day.
		Chum	Jan 01-Dec 31	1 per day.
		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for sockeye.*
	All tributaries to the Bella Coola River.	Chinook	July 16 - Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Chuckwalla River		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Oct 31	1 per day.
			Nov 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*
		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for sockeye.*
		Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for pink.*
		Chum	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chum.*
Docee River		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Kilbella River		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Oct 31	1 per day
			Nov 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*

Kilbella River (con't)		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for sockeye.*
		Pink	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for pink.*
		Chum	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chum.*
Long Lake	including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Wannock River		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*