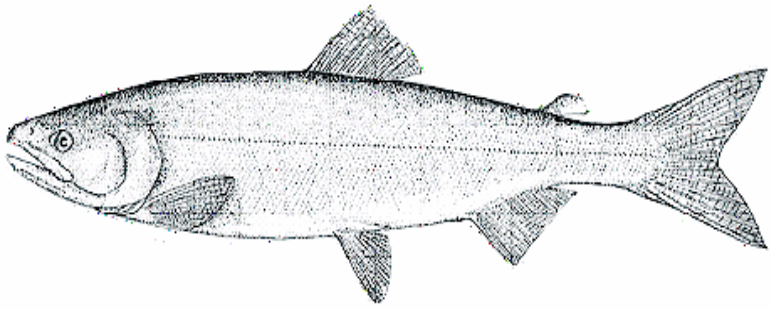
PACIFIC REGION

INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

SALMON
NORTHERN B.C.
JUNE 1, 2006 - MAY 31, 2007



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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 online at:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/toppages/contacts_e.htm

24 Hour Recorded Information (Commercial)	Vancouver	(604) 666-2828
	Toll Free	(888) 431-3474
Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) Office		(604) 684-8081
PSC Test Fisheries (Recorded, In-Season Information)		(604) 666-8200

Recreational Fishing:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish/default_e.htm

Commercial Fishing:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/Commercial/index_e.htm

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A/Director, Conservation and Protection	John Lewis	(604) 666-0604
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Area Chief, Salmon Stock Assessment	Dave Peacock	(250) 627-3467
Area Chief, Habitat and Enhancement	Bruce Shepherd	(250) 627-3453
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Resource Manager - QC Islands (Areas 1 and 2)	Victor Fradette	(250) 559-4467
Resource Manager - Nass/Skeena/Kitimat (Areas 3 to 6)	Dan Wagner	(250) 627-3425
Assistant Resource Manager - (Areas 3 to 6)	Corey Martens	(250) 627-3404
Resource Manager - Selective and Inland Fisheries	Jim Steward	(250) 627-3421
Salmon Management Biologist, North Coast	Mark Potyrala	(250) 627-3459
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Resource Manager, AFS North Coast Interior	Gary Cardinal	(250) 847-5108
Resource Manager – Northern Troll	Dave Rekdal	(250) 627-3476

Resource Manager - Recreational Fisheries	Mark Reagan	(250) 627-3409
Resource Manager - Bella Coola (Areas 7 to 10)	Kristen Smith	(250) 799-5346
Resource Manager - Bella Coola (Areas 7 to 10)	Terry Palfrey	(250) 799-5345

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417 2nd Avenue West
Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1G8

INDEX OF WEB-BASED INFORMATION

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA - GENERAL INFORMATION

Main Page (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/) Our Vision, Latest News, Current Topics

Acts, Orders, and Regulations (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communic/policy/dnload_e.htm)
Examples are: Canada Shipping Act, Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Act, Financial Administration Act, Fish Inspection Act, Fisheries Act, Fisheries Development Act, Fishing and Recreational Harbours Act, Freshwater Fish Marketing Act, Navigable Waters Protection Act, Oceans Act.

Reports and Publications (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publication_e.htm)
Examples are: Administration and Enforcement of the Fish Habitat Protection and Pollution Prevention Provisions of the *Fisheries Act,* Audit and Evaluation Reports - Audit and Evaluation Directorate Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations, Departmental Performance Reports, Fisheries Research Documents, Standing Committee's Reports and Government responses, Sustainable Development Strategy

Waves (http://inter01.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/waves2/index.html)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada online library catalogue

Pacific Salmon Treaty (www.psc.org/about_treaty.htm)
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Recreational Fisheries (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish/default_e.htm)
Fishery Regulations and Notices, Fishing Information, Recreational Fishery, Policy and Management, Contacts, Current B.C. Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide and Freshwater Supplement; Rockfish Conservation Areas, Shellfish Contamination Closures; On-line Licensing

Commercial Fisheries (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/Commercial/index_e.htm)
Links to Groundfish, Herring, Salmon, Shellfish and New and Emerging Fisheries homepages; Selective Fishing, Test Fishing Information, Fishing Areas, Canadian Tide Tables, Fishery Management Plans, Commercial Fishery Notices (openings and closures)

Fisheries Notices
(www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns_reg/index.cfm)
Want to receive fishery notices by e-mail? If you are a recreational sport licence vendor, processor, multiple boat owner or re-distribute fishery notices, register your name and/or company at the web-site address above. Openings and closures, updates, and other relevant information regarding your chosen fishery are sent directly to your registered email. It's quick, it's easy and it's free.

Integrated Fishery Management Plans
(www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/MPLANS/MPlans.htm)
Current Management Plans for Groundfish, Pelagics, Shellfish (Invertebrates), Minor Finfish, Salmon; sample Licence Conditions; Archived Management Plans

Salmon Test Fishery - Pacific Region
(www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/salmon/testfish/default.htm)
Definition, description, location and target stocks

Licensing (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/Licensing/Default_e.htm)
Contact information; Recreational Licensing Information, Commercial Licence Types, Commercial Licence Areas, Licence Listings, Vessel Information, Vessel Directory, Licence Statistics and Application Forms

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Fraser River / B.C. Interior Area Resource Management and Stock Assessment
(www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fraserriver/)
Contact information; Test fishing and survey results (Albion, creel surveys, First Nations); Fraser River sockeye and pink escapement updates; Important notices; Recreational fishing information

North Coast Resource Management (www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/northcoast/default.htm)

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Media Releases; Salmon Updates, Backgrounders, Ministers Statements, Publications; Contacts

Consultation Secretariat
(www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/consult_e.htm)
Consultation Calendar; Policies; National; Partnerships; Fisheries Management, Oceans, Science and Habitat and Enhancement Consultations; Current and Concluded Consultations

Publications Catalogue
(www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/NPubCatalogue/pubs_e.asp)
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Species at Risk Act (SARA)
(www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sara/default_e.htm)
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GLOSSARY

A more comprehensive glossary is available online at:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/salmon/glossary_e.htm

AABM	Aggregate Abundance Based Management
AAROM	Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management
AHC	Area Harvest Committee
AFS	Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy
ATP	Allocation Transfer Program
COHO ABM	Coho Abundance Based Management
COSEWIC	Committee for the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPUE	Catch per unit effort
CSAB	Commercial Salmon Advisory Board
CWT	Coded wire tag
ESSR	Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements
FRP	Fraser River Panel
FSC	Food, social and ceremonial
IHPC	Integrated Harvest Planning Committee
ISBM	Individual Stock Based Management
MVI	Mid Vancouver Island
PSARC	Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
PST	Pacific Salmon Treaty
SARA	Species at Risk Act
SEP	Salmonid Enhancement Program
SFAB	Sport Fishing Advisory Board
SHMF	Selective Hatchery Mark Fishery
TAC	Total allowable catch
WCVI	West Coast Vancouver Island
WSP	Wild Salmon Policy (*Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon)*

MANAGEMENT CHANGES FOR 2006/2007

Lingcod

All vessels that retain and land Lingcod must meet monitoring and catch validation requirements. It is anticipated that there will be new requirements for fishing in conjunction with Salmon Troll. See Section 7.6 for details.

Rockfish

Consultations are currently underway to create additional RCAs within the Strait of Georgia. See Section 3.1.7 for details.

Fisher Identification Number

Starting in 2006, a Fisher Identification Number or FIN will be printed on your Fisher Registration Card (FRC). This number may be used for certain Fisheries Management purposes. See Section 7.2.1 for details.

Alaska Twist Gill Nets

Use of Alaska Twist Gill Nets with four or five filaments of equal diameter in each twine of the web will be permitted in certain gill net fisheries in 2006 providing that an approved study is undertaken. Fishers that wish to use this gear should contact their local fishery manager. See Section 7.11 for details.

Skeena Gill Net Fisheries

Directed chinook fishery reduced to one day, with an option for the second day depending on run strength analysis. Sockeye fishery delayed one week to protect chinook and Morice sockeye, but the exploitation rate will remain the same, so the overall catch of sockeye should not decrease.

North Coast Coho Exploitation Rate

In the previous year, the objective for North and Central coho was not to exceed a Canadian exploitation rate of 15%. This year the objective has been changed to include a total exploitation rate rather than just Canadian impacts. In other words, the objective will be to not exceed a sustainable exploitation rate of 40 to 60% which will include Alaska. This will allow managers to consider all impacts to coho and to only prosecute fisheries where there is room in the total exploitation rate. The management of coho will remain conservative and will be based on this sustainable biological objective.

Logbook Submission

Fishermen should be aware that their 2005 logbook must be completed and submitted before their 2006 licence will be released. See Section 7.2 for details.

1. INTRODUCTION

This 2006/2007 Northern B.C. Salmon IFMP covers the period from June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 for First Nations, recreational and commercial fisheries directed towards Pacific salmon in the north coast and central coast 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 IFMP, 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.

This plan describes the management of Pacific salmon fisheries in northern B.C. and the factors which influence decision-making.

As in 2005, the Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IHPC) met to review the draft IFMP prior to finalization. The committee was provided an updated draft IFMP that was based on advice from First Nations and stakeholders and was invited to discuss issues of concern for each respective sector. Discussions covered a broad range of issues that were noted for consideration by the Minister in the approval process.

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

Details about on-going policy development and other departmental initiatives can be found on the DFO Website. For more specific information, refer to the Index of Internet Based Information.

2. GENERAL CONTEXT

This section provides a brief overview of key policies and the legal context for Pacific salmon management. Additional information is accessible on-line and can be easily found through the Index of Web Based Information.

2.1. Background

Departmental policy development related to the management of fisheries is guided by a range of factors that include international and domestic initiatives that promote biodiversity and a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach to the management of marine resources.

2.2. Policy Framework for the Management of Pacific Salmon Fisheries

Salmon management programs in 2006 will continue to be guided by policy and operational initiatives adopted over the past several years. These include: *Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon* (WSP), *An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon, A Policy for Selective Fishing, A Framework for Improved Decision Making in the Pacific Salmon Fishery,* and *Catch Monitoring*.

The WSP, which was approved in 2005, sets out a process for the protection, preservation and rebuilding of wild salmon and their marine and freshwater ecosystems for the benefit of all Canadians. The policy provides for the identification of genetically discrete groupings of stocks (called "Conservation Units") and the identification of upper and lower abundance benchmarks that are a measure of the status of each of these stock groupings. Other features of the WSP include the monitoring of habitat status and a process for public engagement in the establishment of upper abundance benchmarks that reflect social and economic values. For 2006, work will continue on the identification of Conservation Units and further development of a process establish benchmarks.

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 implemented into fisheries. Experiments will be developed in conjunction with Area Harvest Committees in 2006. See section 7.13 for details.

Consultative elements of an *Improved Decision Making* discussion paper have been implemented through establishment of the Consultation Secretariat, which works to improve the flow of information between stakeholders and the Department. Up-to-date information pertaining to on-going consultations can be found on the Secretariat's website at www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/consult_e.htm.

In response to the recommendations contained in the discussion document as well as the findings in the *Review of the 2002 Fraser River Sockeye Fishery* the Department established the Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IHPC) for salmon. The IHPC is comprised of Aboriginal, commercial and recreational harvesters and environmental representatives for both northern and southern B.C. This committee is recognized to be the primary source of stakeholder input into Integrated Fisheries Management Plans. The current IHPC membership is provided in Appendix 7.

Further information on salmon consultations, including terms of reference, membership, meeting dates and records of consultation can be found on the Salmon Consultation website at:

www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/consultations/salmon/sapdefault_e.htm.

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* was released for consultation in the fall of 2003. Catch monitoring standards for each fishery will be the subject of consultation in 2006. Monitoring programs will continue in 2006 to assess harvests (both target and non-target species) as well as other non-harvest mortalities. These programs include a mandatory log-book and phone in program and in some cases may include an on-grounds observer program.

In April 2005, the Department announced a blueprint for fundamental reform of Pacific Fisheries. This was in response to recognition of conservation concerns, very poor economic returns in the salmon fishery, and recommendations included in reports from the Joint Task Group (JTG) (Drs. P. Pearse and J. McRae) and the First Nations Panel (FNP). Both the JTG and FNP reports call for improved co-management and a clear process based on voluntary license retirement for re-allocating fish stocks to First Nations. Both reports also call for a revised approach to the management of salmon to begin as soon as possible. The reports also make a number of other recommendations which are intended to improve the environmental and economic performance of the fishery.

Reform of Pacific fisheries is based on four key themes. These are:

- Sustaining strong salmon populations by setting clear conservation objectives for each fishery based on the principles of the Wild Salmon Policy;
- Strengthening DFO programs that are critical to salmon conservation, such as habitat protection, enforcement and the scientific assessment of stocks;
- Making progress over time on increasing First Nations' access to economic fisheries in collaboration with First Nations and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and
- Improving the economic performance of fisheries so that they reach their full potential, provide certainty to participants and optimize harvest opportunities.

The announcement also included a statement of the vision and principles to guide discussion on reform:

- Full economic and social potential of the fisheries is achieved.

- First Nations fishing interests are defined and reconciled with the interests of all Canadians.
- There is public, market and participant confidence that the fishery is sustainable.
- Participants are self-reliant and able to self adjust.
- Participants are treated fairly and equitably and are involved in decision-making and share accountability for the conduct of the fishery.
- Costs of management are shared by those who benefit from the harvest.
- All fishery participants enjoy certainty and stability necessary for business planning.
- Equitable treaty-based fisheries are achieved.

For 2006, as it was in 2005, the approach will be to continue to explore ways of working toward these themes, especially improving the manageability and economic viability of the salmon fleet including explorations of elements of quota arrangements. Specifically, the Department has announced its support for demonstration fisheries in both the commercial and First Nations fisheries to test different options to determine which reforms might work for implementation in future years. Commercial demonstration fisheries are being planned for northern troll, southern seine and southern inside troll fisheries. First Nations demonstration fisheries will focus on the Skeena and Fraser River experimenting with strategies to coordinate management activities and sharing benefits among local First Nations.

2.3. Species at Risk Act

The Species at Risk Act (SARA) came into force in 2003. The purposes of the Act are "to prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, and 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".

Endangered and Threatened marine species in Pacific region currently protected under Schedule I of SARA are:

a) Killer whales - northern resident population (Threatened)
b) Killer whales - southern resident population (Endangered)
c) Killer whales - transient population (Threatened)
d) Sea otter (Threatened)
e) Leatherback Turtle (Endangered)
f) Abalone (Threatened)
g) Sei whale (Endangered)
h) Humpback whale (Threatened)
i) Blue whale (Endangered)

In addition to the existing prohibitions under the *Fisheries Act*, it is illegal to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade any of these animals or any part or derivative of an individual. It is also illegal to damage or destroy a listed species residence. These prohibitions apply unless a person is authorized, by a permit, licence or other similar document issued in accordance with SARA, to engage in an activity affecting the listed species or the residences of its individuals.

2.3.1. Other

Marbled murrelet is also listed as threatened on Schedule I of SARA. Marbled murrelet populations are impacted by, among other activities, being entangled in gill nets and drowning. The scope of this concern is not well understood and more research and monitoring is being done to assess the impacts of fishing gear on murrelets in B.C. The Department is working in collaboration with Environment Canada and the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team to determine the impacts of gill net mortality on the B.C. population of marbled murrelets.

Okanagan Chinook was designated in 2005 on an emergency basis as endangered by COSEWIC. Following this emergency designation, a status report for the species is being prepared, and will be assessed by COSEWIC in April 2006. The outcome of this assessment will determine whether Okanagan Chinook will be eligible for possible listing under Schedule 1 of SARA.

More information on SARA or COSEWIC can be found at:
www.cosewic.gc.ca/index.htm
www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/home_e.asp
www.sararegistry.gc.ca/

2.4. 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 purposes. 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 First Nations fishery in a manner that was consistent with the 1990 Supreme Court of Canada Sparrow decision,
- greater involvement of First Nations in the management of fisheries, and
- increased participation in commercial fisheries (Allocation Transfer Program or ATP).

The AFS continues to be the principle mechanism that supports the development of relationships with First Nations including the consultation, planning and implementation of fisheries, and the development of capacity to undertake fisheries management, stock assessment, enhancement and habitat protection programs.

More recently the Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management (AAROM) program has directed resources to aggregations of First Nation groups to build the capacity required to coordinate fishery planning and program initiatives.

AAROM is intended to provide Aboriginal groups with the capacity and tools required to support their engagement with DFO and others in aquatic resource and oceans management. AAROM is focused on developing affiliations between First Nations to work together at a broad watershed or ecosystem level – a level at which there is a certain number of common interests and where decisions and solutions can be based on integrated knowledge of several Aboriginal communities. The key mechanism for supporting this integrated work is the development of

Aboriginal aquatic resource and oceans management institutions or structures (i.e., AAROM bodies / organizations) focusing largely on the provision of technical, administrative and managerial support to member communities. In providing this support, AAROM bodies must demonstrate responsiveness and accountability to the communities that they serve, while working to advance collaborative relationships between member communities, DFO and other interests in aquatic resource and oceans management.

2.5. Nisga'a Final Agreement

In May 2000, the Nisga'a Final Agreement (NFA) became effective when the Nisga'a Nation concluded treaty negotiations with Canada and B.C. The Nisga'a Lisims Government conducts the only example of an operational post-treaty fishery in B.C. The treaty negotiation process provided the parties with ample opportunities to discuss and evaluate alternative approaches to defining catch allocations and the management of the Nisga'a fishery. This process included the development of the Nisga'a Fisheries Program (NFP) that provided critical information for negotiators and an opportunity to test various monitoring and stock assessment systems that would be required to successfully implement a treaty. The NFP continues to provide critical monitoring and stock assessment information for Nass area stocks to DFO.

A guiding principle of the NFA is to harvest the Nisga'a share of the fishery, while improving management of the stocks. This is to be achieved with:

- A community held entitlement to a share of the salmon returns.
- A Joint Fisheries Management Committee (JFMC), consisting of the Nisga'a, B.C. and Canada.
- Sustainable funding through the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust Fund.
- Integrated research, management and harvesting.

The Nisga'a JFMC conducts activities in four areas:

- Fisheries management, in cooperation with DFO, at all planning, assessment, and implementation stages.
- Catch monitoring.
- Escapement monitoring.
- Other scientific programs as needed.

The JFMC strives for decisions by consensus. In the absence of consensus, parties submit their recommendations and advice to the Minister of Fisheries. A Fisheries Operational Guidelines (FOG) document was developed after the signing of the NFA to aid in describing how the JFMC would carry out each of its responsibilities and the establishment of a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) that is the operational arm of the JFMC. Many of the other details related to the seasonal management and assessment of the Nass area salmon stocks are described in the FOG document to help guide the parties in implementing the NFA.

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 United States with respect to interception salmon fisheries.

Under the terms of the Treaty, the responsibility for in-season management of all species rests with the Parties to the agreement, except for the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon, where the Fraser River Panel (FRP) is specifically delegated the responsibility for in-season management, with assistance from PSC staff.

In order to properly account for the full impact of fishing on chinook stocks, the PST specifies that all parties develop programs to monitor all sources of fishing related mortality on chinook. Catch monitoring programs are being modified to include estimates of encounters of all legal and sub-legal chinook, as well as other salmon species, in all major fisheries.

2.7. Research

The research activities of the Department's science branch are summarized in scientific papers that are peer reviewed through the PSARC. The advice is then forwarded to the appropriate sectors for review and adoption as required.

Specific areas of focus for Pacific salmon research in 2006 for the north coast include aassessment of the abundance, distribution and fate of Upper Nass coho salmon stocks and evaluation of the current stock assessment methodology.

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.

Appendix 4 outlines vessel safety measures and procedures required and/or recommended by Transport Canada

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. Conservation Objectives

The goal of *Canada's Policy for Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon (*the *Wild Salmon Policy),* is to restore and maintain healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada in perpetuity.

Fisheries will be managed in accordance with the *Wild Salmon Policy*. The *Wild Salmon Policy's goal* listed above will be achieved by safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild Pacific salmon, maintaining habitat and ecosystem integrity, and managing fisheries for sustainable benefits.

3.1.1. Rivers Inlet Sockeye

The objective for Rivers Inlet sockeye salmon is to continue with rebuilding these stocks to reach escapement goals and achieve a sustainable stock that will support harvest.

Since the mid-1990's, low marine survivals for Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye have precluded any fishing as total returns and escapements have been very low. Since 2002, total returns have shown some improvement, although full recovery of these stocks is expected to take several more years. For 2006, the forecast returns to Rivers and Smith Inlet are 190,000 and 220,000 respectively. Rivers Inlet is still in the rebuilding phase; however, there is the potential for a limited harvest in 2006 in Smith Inlet. See Sections 4.11 and 4.12 for more details.

3.1.2. Skeena River Sockeye

The objective for Skeena River sockeye is to ensure exploitation rates are maintained at sustainable levels.

Managing to sustainable levels means managing salmon stocks in a manner that does not lead to their long-term decline. Maintaining wild Skeena River sockeye stocks is the key objective while providing a harvest of the abundant enhanced stocks. Management of the aggregate sockeye stock will be conducted in a risk averse manner to ensure the exploitation rate of individual stocks does not exceed sustainable levels. For 2006, the Canadian commercial exploitation rate will be guided by estimated run size. For runs of one to two million, an exploitation rate of 26% will be targeted, as long as there is enough weekly escapement to ensure a total annual in-river abundance of 1,050,000. For runs of two to three million, the allowable exploitation rate will be increased to 31%; for runs of three to five million, 41%, and for runs of over five million, the exploitation rate will be capped at 45%.

3.1.3. Coho

The objective for north and central coast coho is to operate Canadian fisheries within a sustainable exploitation range of 40% to 60%.

Coho fisheries in Areas 1 to 10 will be managed to maintain or 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 either rebuilding or have rebuilt, 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 40% to 60%. The coho originating from Areas 3 through 10 are subject to significant Alaskan exploitation averaging between 20% and 40%, reaching as high as 50% on some stocks in some years. Coho originating from the Queen Charlotte Islands (QCI) have an exploitation rate of less than 10% in Alaska. Overall exploitation rates of 40 to 60% on these stocks represent a sustainable harvest level.

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, Kitimat hatchery, and QCI chums are reasonably healthy, other north coast chums have been declining in recent years. Management actions will again be taken in Areas 3 to 6 to reduce fishery impacts on wild chum salmon.

3.1.5. West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook

The objective for West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) chinook is to manage Canadian Pacific fisheries (not including terminal areas) to an exploitation rate of 10%. For North Coast troll, the objective is to catch the amount of chinook allowed under the PST, while managing WCVI chinook to a 3.2% harvest rate of the total return to Canada.

WCVI chinook stocks are harvested in fisheries in Alaska, the north coast and on the WCVI. The 2006 return of wild stocks is forecasted to be slightly higher than in 2005, based on an analysis of the brood years and recent jack returns. Returns to enhanced systems (Robertson Creek, Conuma River) are anticipated to be very strong.

The total allowable catch under the PST for 2006 for Areas 1 and 2 recreational and Areas 1 through 5 commercial troll has been determined at 223,200. It is estimated that 70,000 chinook will be caught by the Areas 1 and 2 recreational fishery. The North Coast troll total allowable catch (TAC) therefore will be 153,200. For management purposes, this equates to 620 chinook per licenced troller for the summer fishery.

The Area F troll harvest will be monitored for WCVI chinook using DNA and managed to a numerical ceiling of WCVI mortalities based on the preseason forecast.

3.1.6. Skeena Steelhead

The objective for Skeena steelhead, as well as all north coast steelhead, is to release to the water with the least possible harm all steelhead caught incidentally in fisheries targeting other species.

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 rate was estimated to be 36%, and a multi-sector committee negotiated

reduction of 42% 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. In recent years, the steelhead impact in net fisheries has been well within these bounds. Steelhead harvest rates in Areas 3, 4 and 5 are calculated in-season using the Skeena Management Model, and post season using a run reconstruction with actual run timing as observed by the Tyee test fishery. The application of selective fishing approaches in recent years has reduced steelhead impacts to well below the harvest ceilings. The results of post-season analysis are listed in the Skeena River decision guidelines.

3.1.7. Inshore Rockfish

The management objective for inshore rockfish is to introduce conservation strategies that will reverse declines and ensure stock rebuilding over time. A fishing mortality rate of less than 2.0% (all Pacific Region fisheries) will be required to achieve this objective.

Rockfish Conservation Areas, (RCAs) are no fishing zones for fishing gear that impacts on rockfish. The RCAs have been implemented within the Strait of Georgia and in all outside waters including the Queen Charlotte Islands. The conservation strategy for rockfish along the coast of British Columbia is long term. Rockfish are a long-lived species with a low level of productivity and therefore rebuilding will take several decades.

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. Not all fishing activity is prohibited in the closed areas; harvesting activities that will not impact on rockfish are permitted. A list of permitted activities within the Rockfish Conservation Areas can be found in Appendix 2.

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.

Updates will be posted on the Rockfish Conservation Strategy website at:
www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/fisheriesmgmt/rockfish/default_e.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 food, social and ceremonial 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 food, social and ceremonial purposes and any treaty obligations. The Nisga'a fishery will be implemented as defined in the NFA,

Nisga'a Harvest Agreement and other related documents. The authority to implement the Nisga'a fishery flows from the NFA and Federal Fisheries Act through the Nisga'a Annual Fishing Plan (NAFP) to the Nisga'a Lisims Government. The NAFP defines the escapement goals required to guide management decisions for Nass salmon stocks, calculates Nisga'a allocations for each salmon species and the general regulatory requirements for catches of each fish species on an annual basis.

3.3. Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries for sustainable benefits, consistent with the Wild Salmon Policy.

A primary objective in the recreational fishery is maintaining the expectation and opportunity to catch fish. In the commercial fishery, the objective is to improve the economic performance of fisheries so that they can reach their full potential, to provide certainty to participants, and to optimize harvest opportunities. Both fisheries will be increased where possible, in accordance with the allocation policy.

3.4. 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 bilateral meetings of the Northern Panel of the PSC, and those results are published post-season.

3.5. Domestic Allocation Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries in a manner that is consistent with the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* and the 2006 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan (Appendix 1).

An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon can be found on-line at:
www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publications/allocation/AllocationPolicyoct201.htm

The Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon identifies the priority for allocation of salmon harvest and sets sharing arrangements for each of the three different commercial gear groups. Throughout 2005 and early 2006 the CSAB considered a range of allocation options for the commercial gear split of the Canadian catch. It has been decided, based on CSAB advice, that for 2006, the sharing arrangements will be similar to past years: 40% seine, 38% gill net, and 22% troll based on information (average weights and prices) gathered coastwide. The allocation targets are used as a general guide and may be adjusted in-season to address unexpected conditions. This is further explained in Section 4.1.8.

Catch estimates and pricing surveys are summarized annually and compared with pre-season objectives.

3.6. Enforcement Objectives

A primary Conservation and Protection (C&P) objective is to ensure compliance with acts and regulations associated with the management of Pacific salmon. C&P staff will be developing comprehensive Operational Plans that will identify and target key compliance and enforcement objectives for salmon. Strategic planning will focus effort on activities and persons that pose a high degree of risk to the resource. Violators will be prosecuted.

Nisga'a Fisheries

Enforcement procedures related to Nisga'a fisheries are defined in the Nisga'a Enforcement Agreement. Federal Fishery Officers and B.C. Conservation officers have the authority to enforce Nisga'a laws and regulations. A Joint Enforcement Committee (JEC) was established to facilitate the implementation of the Enforcement Agreement. The JEC reports directly to the JFMC.

General Enforcement

North Coast Area Compliance and Enforcement activities will be generally applied to:

- Enforcement of measures designed to protect stocks of concern.
- Monitoring of mandatory selective fishing measures such as provisions for revival tanks, brailing, catch reporting requirements (i.e. hail-ins and log books), short sets, barbless hooks (recreational and troll) and non-retention of prohibited species.
- Illegal sales of salmon in all areas.
- Directed patrols prior to, during and after fisheries to ensure compliance with licence conditions, closed time/area, and other compliance provisions.
- Enforcement of recreational fishing regulations.

In 2006, C&P staff will focus Compliance and Enforcement efforts on:

The laundering of FSC fish into the Area 3-4 commercial salmon fisheries;

- Monitoring the expanding recreational charter fleet working in the Prince Rupert, Kincolith and Kitimat areas;
- Enforcing provisions of the Skeena and Nass First Nation Experimental Inland Economic fisheries;
- Ensuring continued compliance within the Area F troll demonstration fishery;
- Monitoring retention of prohibited species; and
- Checking bag limits and closed areas.

3.7. Enhancement Objectives

Objective: Enhancement Operations facilities will continue efforts focussed toward production supporting conservation and sustainable fisheries and provide key support to other priority watershed and public involvement activities.

Objective: DFO will continue working with hatcheries operated by communities under contract to DFO to meet community objectives for public stewardship, community capacity development, habitat conservation and fish production.

The Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) in British Columbia, Canada is comprised of nearly 300 projects across B.C. and the Yukon and includes hatcheries, fishways, spawning and rearing channels, and small classroom incubators. Projects range in size from spawning channels producing nearly 100 million juvenile salmon annually to school classroom incubators releasing fewer than one hundred juveniles (per aquarium).

The following table detail proposed enhancement targets for hatcheries and managed channels operated by DFO staff or contracted to community and native groups. Facilities may also enhance steelhead and cutthroat under the direction of the Province of BC; targets for these species are not included.

Projects operated by volunteers are not included in the tables. Most public involvement projects are focussed toward stewardship, stock rebuilding or educational activities and do not release large numbers of fish. SEP also works with First Nations, industry, community groups and other government agencies to design and implement habitat restoration projects. Habitat related activities are not addressed here.

No major changes in production are proposed for the 2006 brood.

Enhancement is discontinued for Rivers and Smith Inlet sockeye. A minimal enhancement program occurred for 2000-2005 broods as part of the stock recovery program. Currently, the larger conservation units of Long Lake and Owikeno Basin have recovered to the point where they are no longer at risk of extirpation. Assessment of two stocks for 2000 brood has occurred and a summary report will be available once data has been analyzed. Initially, the program included an assessment plan to monitor enhancement results over the full enhancement cycle to 2009. However, the populations have increased more rapidly than expected (the pre-season forecast for both stocks in 2006 is near 200,000) and the planned program may be cost prohibitive. Discussions are underway to modify the assessment program for evaluating the enhancement effort to identify evaluation activities that are feasible for 2006-2009 given the current escapement levels.

Enhancement of Upper Bulkley River coho has been discontinued to allow the Toboggan Creek Society to focus efforts toward Upper Bulkley River chinook which were felt to be more depressed and a higher priority for enhancement. Toboggan Creek coho is the Upper Skeena coho indicator stock and the enhancement program is continuing to provide coded-wire tagged smolts. The three year program to establish coho in Canyon Creek through a transplant of fry was completed with 2005 brood.

Fort Babine Hatchery is shifting some of the focus of their activities from fish culture to stewardship. The project will be conducting sampling for heavy metals which may be affecting Babine sockeye and will increase signage for public education about salmon, salmon habitat and the environment.

Egg targets are determined pre-season for each stock and consider potential adult production based on average marine survival rates, average incubation to release survival rates and average fecundities. Hatcheries may collect additional eggs for other programs for education, research or

stock re-establishment. These additional eggs are not included in the hatchery egg target in the following tables. Expected adults were calculated based on long-term average survivals for the species, area and stage at release and may not reflect current marine survivals.

					2005 Brood Targets		2006 Brood Proposed		
Project	**Run**	**Stock**	**Release Site**	**Stage**	**Eggs**	**Release**	**Eggs**	**Release**	**Exp Adults**
CHINOOK									
Enhancement Operations									
Kitimat R	Spring	Hirsch Cr	Hirsch Cr	Smolt 0+	250,000	200,000	250,000	200,000	800
	Spring	Kitimat R	Kitimat R	Smolt 0+	1,700,000	1,400,000	1,700,000	1,400,000	5,600
Snootli Cr	Summer	Atnarko R Low	Atnarko R Low	Smolt 0+	1,050,000	904,000	1,050,000	904,000	3,616
	Summer	Atnarko R Up	Atnarko R Up	Smolt 0+	1,050,000	904,000	1,050,000	904,000	3,616
	Summer	Noosgulch R	Noosgulch R	Smolt 0+	50,000	43,000	50,000	43,000	172
	Summer	Nusatsum R	Nusatsum R	Smolt 0+	100,000	86,000	100,000	86,000	344
	Summer	Salloomt R	Salloomt R	Smolt 0+	100,000	86,000	100,000	86,000	344
	Summer	Wannock R	Wannock R	Smolt 0+	100,000	86,000	100,000	86,000	344
Community Economic Development									
Fort Babine	Summer	Babine R	Babine R	Smolt 1+	80000	70000	50,000	40,000	160
Kincolith R	Spring	Kincolith R	Kincolith R	Smolt 1+	150,000	101,250	150,000	101,250	405
Masset	Summer	Yakoun R	Yakoun R	Smolt 0+	230,000	166,000	230,000	166,000	6,640
Pallant Cr	Fall	Pallant Cr	Pallant Cr	Smolt 0+	55,000	40,000	55,000	40,000	1,600
Terrace	Summer	Kitsum Abv Can	Kitsumkalum R	Fed Spr	158,000	90,000	150,000	90,000	180
				Smolt 1+		25,000		25,000	100
	Summer	Kitsum Bel Can	Kitsumkalum R	Fed Spr	125,000	100,000	125,000	100,000	200
				Smolt 1+		15,000		15,000	60
Toboggan Cr	Spring	Bulkley R Up	Bulkley R Up	Smolt 1+	60,000	43,000	60,000	43,000	172
COHO									
Enhancement Operations									
Kitimat R	Fall	Kitimat R	Kitimat R	Smolts	600,000	500,000	600,000	500,000	10,000
Snootli Cr	Fall	Snootli Cr	Snootli Cr	Smolts	50,000	40,000	50,000	40,000	800
Community Economic Development									
Fort Babine	Fall	Babine R	Babine R	Smolts	80,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	1,530
Hartley Bay Cr	Fall	Hartley Bay Cr	Hartley Bay Cr	Fed Fall	500,000	320,000	500,000	320,000	3,200
				Smolts		40,000		40,000	800
Heiltsuk	Fall	McLaugh Bay Cr	McLaughlin Bay	Seapen	90,000	60,000	90,000	60,000	1,200
Klemtu Cr	Fall	Kitasoo Cr	Trout Bay	Seapen	90,000	60,000	90,000	60,000	1,200
Masset	Fall	Yakoun R	Yakoun R	Smolts	40,000	27,000	40,000	27,000	1,377
Pallant Cr	Fall	Braver+Pallant	Braver+Pallant	Fed Spr	1,083,000	378,000	1,083,000	378,000	9,639
						540,000		540,000	27,540
Toboggan Cr	Summer	Bulkley R Up	Bulkley Lk	Fed Fall	15,000	10,000	0	0	0
	Summer	Toboggan Cr	Canyon Cr/SKNA	Fed Fall	55,000	10,000	40,000	0	0
			Toboggan Cr	Smolts		30,000		30,000	2,010

4. DECISION GUIDELINES AND SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The following comprehensive decision guidelines 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 2006 are described in sections 5, 6, and 7.

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 (see Section 2), 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.

When possible, in-season decisions will follow a pre-season plan. However, the implementation and applicability of decision guidelines and pre-season plans can be influenced in-season by a number of factors. These include 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. As needed, a multi-sector review of run returns, management actions and by-catch levels will occur.

4.1.3. Allocation Guidelines

Allocation decisions are made in accordance with the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon*.

Table 2 describes a generalized framework by which fishing opportunities are allocated to different fishing sectors at different abundance levels.

Table 2: Allocation Guidelines

	Low Abundance			High Abundance	
First Nations Food, Social, Ceremonial	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 requirements for conservation, the first priority in salmon allocation is to FSC for harvest opportunities under communal FSC licences issued to First Nations, and to treaty rights for harvest opportunities for domestic purposes (consistent with Treaty Final Agreements).

While these opportunities will be provided on a priority basis, it does not necessarily mean that fishery targets for First Nations will be fully achieved before other fisheries can proceed. For example, many First Nations conduct their FSC fisheries 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. First Nations – Nisga'a Allocations

The Nisga'a Final Agreement defines the catch allocations, fisheries management structures and financial commitments related to Nisga'a fisheries and Nass area stocks. Sales of a specific species of salmon caught in Nisga'a fisheries is permitted if DFO permits other commercial or recreational fisheries to target Nass Area stocks of that species.

Nisga'a Lisims Government is responsible for the internal allocation of catch opportunities between Nisga'a fishers and day to day operation of the Nisga'a fishery. The Nisga'a have distributed their salmon catches between three type of fisheries: domestic fisheries for food, social and ceremonial purposes; communal sale fisheries where proceeds are used to support fisheries management programs, and individual sale fisheries that provide commercial catch opportunities and income for Nisga'a fishers. The portion of the annual Nisga'a salmon catch taken in each of these fisheries varies between years and between species depending on stock abundance and Nisga'a preferences. For example, the Nisga'a have chosen to focus their commercial fisheries on the abundant sockeye and coho returns and minimize their catch of chum salmon to promote the restoration of the these stocks.

4.1.6. First Nations – Economic Opportunities

Following the 2003 decision of the Provincial Court of B.C. in R. v. Kapp et al., the Minister of Fisheries announced that DFO would seek to reach arrangements with First Nations that will support the legitimate desire of First Nation communities to enjoy economic benefits from the fishery. The ATP under the AFS (commercial licences are purchased out of the fleet and transferred to First Nation communities) is one means by which First Nations communities may enjoy economic benefits from the fishery, but DFO is exploring what other arrangements may be possible for 2006 salmon fisheries. DFO is undertaking consultations with First Nations and stakeholders to determine options for the 2006 fishery. Similar to 2005, the Skeena Inland Economic Opportunity is being considered. This would involve the transfer of the salmon allocation of some commercial licences inland to be fished by the First Nations of the Skeena. See Appendix 8 for details on this proposed fishery.

4.1.7. Recreational Fisheries

Under the Department's *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon,* after food, social and ceremonial purposes 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. In some cases, recreational fisheries with a non-retention restriction in place will remain open while First Nations food, social and ceremonial purposes fisheries are closed, provided the recreational 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. Decision guidelines may also identify considerations for changing the area of the fishery, modifying dates or changing daily limits.

4.1.8. 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 are considered to have been addressed.

Specific coast-wide 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 occur 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.

Allocation targets are not catch targets for each sector. While DFO will plan and implement fisheries to harvest fish in accordance with allocation targets, opportunities may be provided that are inconsistent with the allocation targets, due to conservation objectives that have a higher priority than allocation objectives.

4.1.9. Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements Fisheries

Salmon fisheries are managed with the objective of reaching escapement targets or harvesting a certain proportion of the run. Uncertain forecasts, inaccurate in-season run size estimates, and mixed-stock concerns can result in escapement to terminal areas that are in excess of their required habitat or hatchery spawning capacity. In these cases, Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirements (ESSR) fisheries may occur.

DFO will attempt, wherever practical, to eliminate or minimize ESSR by harvesting in the food, social and ceremonial, recreational and commercial fisheries. It is not the intention of DFO to establish new ESSR fisheries to displace existing fisheries.

First priority will be to use identified surpluses to meet outstanding FSC requirements which cannot be met through approved food, social and ceremonial fisheries. As a second priority, the local band or Tribal Council may be offered the opportunity to harvest all or part of the surplus under an ESSR licence.

4.1.10. Selective Fisheries

Selective fishing is defined as the ability to avoid non-target fish, invertebrates, seabirds, and marine mammals or, if encountered, to release them alive and unharmed. Selective fishing technology and practices will be adopted where appropriate in all fisheries in the Pacific Region, and there will be attempts to continually improve harvesting gear and related practices.

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.

Selective harvesting standards will be set in the context of the *Policy for Selective Fishing in Canada's Pacific Fisheries* and the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon*. In the future, priority will be given to those who have demonstrated the ability to meet or exceed the selective fishing standards. The Department encourages the incorporation of

selective fishing experiments into regular fisheries where appropriate in order to realize cost savings.

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 Canadian Code of Conduct 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.

4.1.11. 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. Kitwanga sockeye when harvesting Babine Lake 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 including minimizing by-catch and incidental catch.

4.2. Queen Charlotte Islands Cumshewa Inlet 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 chum over the entire migration period. Management is guided by advice from the Area Harvest Committees, the North Coast Commercial Harvest Planning Committee, the Community Board and the In-Season Management Advisory Board.

Chum stocks harvested within Cumshewa Inlet are enhanced stocks from Pallant 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 plus 5,000 for hatchery brood stock. Past enhancement efforts for Mathers Creek chum were to ensure healthy stocks and allow commercial harvests directed on Pallant Creek surpluses. Enhancement of Mathers Creek chum have not occurred in recent years due to facility maintenance requirements and funding shortfalls. 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 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", an area 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 11 or 12 hour days allowing for an easier and more manageable fishery during daylight hours, 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 11 or 12 hour days with a two to five day closure between each two day fishing period.

4.2.3. Pre-season 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 removed 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.

During the management of fisheries in Cumshewa Inlet, an attempt will be made to maintain traditional shares between seine, gill net, and troll. The traditional share of catch is 45% to gill nets and 55% to seines. 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, and then seine openings can proceed. Troll participation in the inlet has been modest and catches low. Troll opportunities will be managed so that the total troll catch of chum and coho is similar to the recent average annual catch.

4.2.4.1. Gill Net

Gill net fishing opportunities for chum salmon are expected to begin in mid September. Objectives are to determine the strength of incoming chum salmon stocks, to harvest throughout the migration period, and to ensure adequate opportunity for gill nets to harvest approximately 45% of the chum surplus.

Once seine fisheries begin, gill net opportunities are only considered 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% 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.

4.2.4.2. Seine

Seine opportunities are normally considered after a minimum of two weeks of gill net opportunities (generally not before the last week in September).

Seine opportunities should only be considered if there is reasonable evidence that escapement and hatchery brood stock objectives are at least 75 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 week of 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% 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.

4.2.4.3. Coho Salmon

Coho salmon are a by-catch species in fisheries that are designed to harvest surplus chum salmon.

During the early stages of the terminal chum salmon season, coho abundance in Cumshewa Inlet and returns into Pallant Creek are normally expected to be high. A commercial troll fishery to target coho will be conducted in Cumshewa Inlet commencing when the north coast opens to trolling for coho.

Retention of coho as a by-catch will be allowed in all net fisheries.

Cost recovery/ESSR harvest opportunities at the fence site by the HFP may begin as early as the third week in August, depending on run strength analysis at that time.

4.2.4.4. Cost Recovery Fishery for Pallant Creek Hatchery

- In the mid-90s, an evaluation of SEP facilities indicated that the value of the Pallant Creek hatchery returns was less than the cost of operation, and DFO took steps to divest itself of the hatchery. In the summer of 1997 the Haida Fisheries Program (HFP) developed a proposal to fund and operate the Pallant Creek Hatchery. 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.
- DFO has agreed to the cost recovery fishery as long as it has the support of local First Nations, and the recreational and commercial sectors.
- An allocation of 35 percent of the total catch of chum, (65 percent of the catch to the commercial fleet) and up to 75 percent of the coho catch will be provided to the HFP for operation of the Pallant Creek Hatchery, as long as restrictions are not placed on the recreational coho fishery.
- This fishery will be managed by the local DFO manager in QCI with advice from an In-season Advisory Committee and the Community Board.
- The Pallant Creek cost recovery fishery will not affect management of fisheries outside Cumshewa Inlet.
- Fishing 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 DFO QCI manager and the Program Manager for HFP.
- It is anticipated that the first cost recovery fishery 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 chum catch. For example, if the total catch is anticipated to be 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 percent of 10,000 = 3,500). Such a fishing pattern would be maintained throughout the terminal season until the run is complete.
- The cost recovery objective for coho will not act as a constraint on commercial chum fishing opportunities.
- 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 or coho targets.
- The designated vessel may participate in normal commercial opportunities, but only if fish harvested for cost recovery have been off-loaded.
- Close liaison will be maintained between the Program Manager for HFP and the local DFO QCI manager. 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 DFO QCI 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 part of the cost recovery coho share.

4.2.5. Prospects for 2006

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 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 forecast.

4.3. Queen Charlotte Islands Wild Chum and Pink Decision Guidelines

4.3.1. 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.

Harvestable pink surpluses can vary greatly. Catches can range from 250,000 to 1.5 million in a good year. The main component of this catch returns to the Yakoun River. The Yakoun River in Area 1 is the only system for which stock assessment openings (as opposed to opening on an observed surplus) may be considered within Masset Sound and the eastern portion of Masset Inlet. Fishing opportunities for both gill nets and seines are generally provided.

The only system in Area 2 East which has consistently shown harvestable pink surpluses over recent even years has been Pallant Creek; however, the nature of the returning stock does not lend itself to normal escapement goal management.

In the past terminal chum salmon opportunities have occurred in a variety of wild stock locations. However, in recent years returns of chum have declined to levels where surpluses have frequently not been observed. 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

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.

Coho by-catch may be a concern and therefore brailing by seines and the use of revival tanks by both gill nets and seines are usually, but not always, required.

All fisheries are during daylight hours, generally 11 or 12 hour days during September reducing to 10 or 11 hour days in October. This reduces the amount of by-catch.

4.3.3. Pre-season Decisions

Initial openings are based on forecasted returns 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, an initial opening may be held to confirm returning stock abundance with subsequent openings as appropriate. The size of the return will be estimated by the CPUE of the first few openings.

4.3.4. In-season Decisions

Fishing opportunities for pink may begin the second Monday in August with stock assessment openings in Masset Sound and Masset Inlet.

Harvest opportunities on identified pink surpluses will normally begin on the third Monday of August and may continue with subsequent openings until the end of August.

The Ain River and Awun River systems in Masset Inlet are the primary chum salmon producers in Area 1. Catches in early stock assessment fisheries for gill nets in the western portion of McIntyre Bay, outside Masset Sound, are generally a reliable indicator of run size.

In Areas 2 East and 2 West wild 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 to run concurrently 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. The size of the run to these systems can usually be determined by observations of fish holding in front of the streams, and the timing in relation to historical run timing for that system.

When surpluses to various streams in different locations are identified it is preferable to conduct fisheries concurrently to spread out the fishing effort.

All fisheries are managed so that catch may be delivered within two days as requested by the commercial Industry.

4.3.5. Prospects for 2006

Wild pink and chum surpluses are expected to be limited in 2006. Monitoring to determine incoming runs throughout the season will be concentrated in Masset Inlet, on the east coast between Skidegate Inlet and Darwin Sound, and on the west coast between Tasu Sound and Dawson Inlet. Terminal harvest opportunities will be based on identified surpluses determined through a variety of measures such as fence counts, charter patrol, over flights and gill net test fisheries.

4.4. Nass River Decision Guidelines

4.4.1. Background

Seasonal management, assessment of Nass Area salmon stocks, minimum and production-based salmon escapement goals are described in the Nass Fisheries Operational Guidelines (FOG), developed to aid in the implementation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Objectives and goals of managing Nass salmon stocks, as defined in the FOG document, are as follows:

- To provide for conservation and protection of fish stocks and their habitat through the application of scientific management principles applied in a risk averse and precautionary manner based on the best scientific advice available.
- To develop sustainable fisheries through a cooperative joint management process and ensure that the fishery resources of the Nass Area are utilized for the benefit of all Canadians.
- To develop fishing plans and cooperative research programs which will contribute to improving the knowledge base and understanding of the resource.
- To consider the goals of each party with respect to social, cultural and economic values of the fishery.
- To consider health and safety in the development and implementation of management plans, fishery openings and closures.
- To consider opportunity for the development of the aquaculture industry.

4.4.1.1. Sockeye

There are 14 sockeye streams in Area 3, all but two of which are 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 PST and the Nisga'a Final Agreement which obligates Canada to manage fisheries to ensure adequate salmon arrive to the Nass Area. In the event of a management error, an overage/underage provision in the agreement would apply. The runs entering the Nass River are estimated by a series of fish wheels 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 DFO 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 (AAH) of Alaskan districts 101, 102 and 103.

The northern part of Chatham Sound in Area 3 is managed in conjunction with the Skeena River fishery because of the large numbers of Skeena sockeye and pink present.

4.4.1.2. Chum

There is no single major chum producer in Area 3, but significant stocks return to Kshwan River, Stagoo River and the Khutzeymateen River. Chum returns start in early July and continue throughout the summer and into October. Chum returns are expected to be poor in 2006, and management restrictions will be in place.

4.4.1.3. Pink

The major stocks return to Kwinamass River, Khutzeymateen River and the Iknouk River (odd years). 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.

4.4.1.4. ESSR

DFO is committed to managing salmon stocks to achieve optimum returns and make best use of the harvestable portion of the stock. Where there is a demonstrated excess of salmon to spawning requirements which cannot be harvested in commercial or recreational fisheries, special arrangements will be made to enable harvest. ESSR fisheries may occur on salmon which cannot be harvested in approved fisheries, and which are in excess of the physical incubation and rearing capacity of a natural area or an enhancement facility.

4.4.2. General Constraints

- The fishery must be managed to meet commitments in accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement and the PST.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the incidental catch of coho.
- Non-retention of steelhead is mandatory in all fisheries.
- Brailing and sorting, with the mandatory release of chinook and chum will be in place for the seine fishery. Exceptions are possible depending on in-season estimation of run strengths or identified surpluses.
- Non-retention of coho for both seine and gill net will be in place initially. In certain areas such as areas 3 and 6 coho retention may be allowed depending on stock abundances and fishing effort.
- The fishing season will begin with non-retention of coho; however, coho retention may occur later depending upon coho abundance and in season exploitation rates.
- Gill nets have a 137 mm maximum mesh restriction. This restriction is in place so that sockeye is targeted selectively and larger non-target species such as chum and chinook are impacted to a lesser degree.
- Gill net fishers are requested to release all live chum to the water with the least possible harm. Time and area closures may be required to meet rebuilding initiatives.
- In the past, the Nisga'a allocation has been harvested in the estuary and in the mainstem of the 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 various tributaries of the Nass, but the majority are heading to Bowser Lake, Damdochax

Lake and Fred Wright Lake (Kwinagese River). Due to concerns over the stock status of some of the non-Meziadin sockeye systems, any ESSR fishery that may occur will be restricted to a terminal harvest in the Meziadin River.

4.4.3. Pre-season Decisions

Opportunities for a gill net fishery in mid-June are evaluated during the pre-season planning process based on brood year escapements. The fishery is implemented to assess sockeye strength. The fishery has very little impact on other salmon stocks because it occurs early in the sockeye run, and avoids others species due to the early timing and 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. Discussions are ongoing that could allow the outside of Area 3 to open prior to the July 10th opening of the Skeena River.

Seine fishing usually starts towards the middle of July based on conservation and allocation considerations. Immature chinook presence and gill net allocation goals preclude an earlier seine opening.

The fishery for pink and chum usually starts in mid-July with the opening of the seine fishery. Openings are based on brood year escapements and catch information from sockeye gill net fisheries in previous weeks.

4.4.4. In-season Decisions

The sockeye gill net fishery continues in some years into August depending upon run timing and stock strength. Starting in mid-July, the seine fishery is usually a targeted sockeye and pink fishery with 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 made from run size predictions based on:

- Catch data from the Area 3 and Alaskan Tree Point commercial net fishery.
- Escapement information from the Nisga'a Fishwheel Program conducted at test-fishing sites near Gitwinksihlkw on the Nass River and fish counts at the Meziadin fishway, and later from individual stream inspections for chum and pink.

If a sockeye surplus is declared and an ESSR licence is issued, harvesting may commence when the escapement past Meziadin is greater than 100,000 and the following harvest rates will be applied:

- 20% harvest rate until Meziadin escapement reaches 150,000.
- 50% harvest rate when Meziadin escapement is greater than 150,000.
- 75% harvest rate when Meziadin escapement is greater than 200,000.

4.4.5. Prospects for 2006

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

Based on brood year escapements an average return of pink is forecasted with an expected surplus of 1.5 million. However, considerable flooding was experienced in the fall of 2004 which may result in smaller returns.

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

4.5. Skeena River Decision Guidelines

4.5.1. 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.

Co-migrating with these strong sockeye stocks are weaker runs of wild sockeye, as well as stocks of all the northern Pacific salmon species. Measures have been taken to reduce the impact of the fishery on Skeena River coho, chum, steelhead, and some sockeye stocks. These measures include non-retention of some species, gear and fishing modifications, and specific timing closures or sockeye harvest rate reductions when weak stocks are present.

The Skeena River returns are harvested in Areas 4 and 5 and the Skeena migration 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, Babine, and Interior Skeena stocks) 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 virtually 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 fishing effort is directed 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.

4.5.2. General Constraints

4.5.2.1. Sockeye

Sockeye from various streams migrate up the Skeena throughout the salmon season. These wild stocks are generally less productive and therefore 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, in recent years, reduced weekly harvest rates have been applied to the mixed stock fishery in the marine area and the Skeena River downstream of the Babine confluence. The intent of reducing weekly harvest rates is to reduce the exploitation rate on wild stocks to sustainable levels.

Two wild sockeye stocks have received considerable attention in recent years, the Nanika-Morice and the Kitwanga. These stocks are bracketed by the aggregate Skeena sockeye run timing, with Nanika-Morice sockeye peaking through the fishing area during the first week of July (early timing), and the Kitwanga sockeye stocks peaking through the fishing area near the end of July (middle timing). Since both these stocks have accurate annual escapement programs they are one of the tools used to evaluate the fishery impacts and sockeye stock status.

The objective for 2006 is to ensure exploitation rates are maintained at sustainable levels in order to ensure that the wild stocks of concern do not further decline while attempting to maximize the commercial sockeye harvest. The focus will be on the exploitation rate on the aggregate return in the commercial fishery, and ensuring modest harvest rates of the early and middle timed sockeye stock aggregates. For 2006, exploitation rates allowed in the commercial fishery will depend on total run size as follows:

Skeena Run Size Estimate	**Exploitation**
Up to 1,050,000	0%
1,050,000 – 2,000,000	26%*
2,000,000 – 3,000,000	31%
3,000,000 – 5,000,000	41%
5,000,000 and over	45%

*Note: Minimum Skeena escapement goal is 1,050,000 sockeye. This harvest rate is dependant on achieving the minimum.

4.5.2.2. Coho

Planning for north and central coast fisheries will attempt to limit the impact on coho stocks to an exploitation rate of 40 to 60 percent. In addition, 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. This approach represents a conservative approach, to complete the coho rebuilding process.

The exploitation rate will be divided between First Nations food, social and ceremonial purposes, recreational, commercial troll, commercial gill net and commercial seine. There will be no explicit pre-season allocation of this exploitation rate among users, rather the fisheries will be managed to conservation constraints and allocation arrangements on the targeted species 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 in-season using a variety of means, but the main tool will be the North Coast Coho Model and the Skeena Management Model. Post season assessments will be done to provide final exploitation rates.

4.5.2.3. Chinook

Since the run timing for summer chinooks is similar, avoiding the weak stocks when commercial fishing is difficult. Since 2001, escapements to the Morice and Bear River have been poor. The major fisheries for Skeena chinooks are the targeted and by-catch gillnet fisheries as well as the non-tidal sport fishery. Changes to the gillnet fishery are being planned as a first step to reversing the decline of Morice and Bear River stocks.

4.5.2.4. Chum

Chum stocks are expected to return below desirable levels in most north coast waters (Areas 3 to 6). Conservation actions such as mandatory release of chum by seine and mesh restrictions of maximum 137mm by gill net are expected to be implemented. In addition, gill net fishers are requested to release all live chum to the water with the least possible harm. If this proves unsuccessful, additional time and area closures may be required to meet rebuilding initiatives. During times when short net, short set restrictions are in place in gill net fisheries, chum release will be mandatory.

4.5.2.5. Steelhead

In 1991, DFO committed to reduce steelhead harvest rates in Skeena River net fisheries. Subsequent negotiations between user groups established this commitment as a 42% reduction. This has resulted in a ceiling on the total Areas 3, 4 and 5 harvest rate on steelhead of 37% on early-timed steelhead, and 24 % on aggregate steelhead. The impact on steelhead is estimated in-season by a variety of means, but the primary method is the Skeena Management Model. Post-season, a run reconstruction method is used to estimate the actual impact.

	Steelhead	**Early Steelhead**
1985 – 91 Base Period	36%	42%
Areas 3, 4 and 5 ceiling	24%	37%
2000 Actual	5%	11%
2001 Actual	9%	15%

2002 Actual	12%	18%
2003 Actual	6%	9%
2004 Actual	6%	8%
2005 Actual	1%	2%

4.5.3. Pre-season Decisions

Initial openings are based on the expected returns for a given year. If a surplus of chinook or sockeye is predicted, then gill net openings are planned. If no surpluses are forecast, then fisheries will not take place until it is determined in-season that the run size is sufficient to produce a fishable surplus.

For 2006, due to recent poor Chinook returns to some systems, the chinook directed gill net fishery in Area 4 will be for one opening, with an option to fish a second day depending on an analysis of CPUE. Advice will be sought from gill net advisors for suitable dates for this fishery.

Based on the pre-season forecast, initially a sockeye exploitation rate of 26% will be targeted. This may change as the season progresses and the actual size of the run becomes clear. The initial sockeye opening is planned for July 10. This opening date is used to protect the first half of the Nanika-Morice stocks, which are prevalent during the last week of June and the first week of July. Also this opening date will allow weak stock chinooks such as the Bear and Morice River stocks to escape the gill net by-catch. Analysis is ongoing on the effects of allowing an opening in a smaller area in Chathum Sound prior to July 10th.

4.5.4. In-season Decisions

4.5.4.1. Sockeye

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 annual escapement levels of 400,000 or less sockeye into the Skeena River, fishing activity on sockeye should cease. If the run is predicted to be 550,000 sockeye or less, then discussions will commence with First Nations on curtailing their food, social and ceremonial fisheries. At escapement levels predicted to be below 650,000, recreational sockeye fisheries in the Skeena River would cease. At escapement levels of 800,000 or less, management actions would begin on the recreational fishery. To conduct commercial fisheries, the escapement should be predicted to achieve 900,000 for spawning purposes, and 150,000 for food, social and ceremonial purposes, by the end of the year.

4.5.4.2. Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries

There is currently a total catch allocation in communal licences issued to First Nations bands to harvest 150,000 sockeye upstream of the Tyee test fishery. Weekly escapement estimates that indicate an annual run size estimate of less than 550,000 (400,000 plus 150,000) would trigger consultations with Skeena River First Nations to limit their food, social and ceremonial fisheries. There is also a request for First Nations not to fish near the confluence of the Kitwanga River, to protect Kitwanga sockeye that may be holding in that area.

4.5.4.3. First Nations Economic Fishery

An economic fishery on the Skeena River is being planned with the Skeena Fisheries Commission. Average commercial vessel catches of sockeye and pink salmon will be transferred inland. The Skeena River Sockeye Inland Fishery Management Plan is described in Appendix 8. This fishery will be managed with the same priority as the marine commercial fishery.

4.5.4.4. 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 with an escapement in excess of 1,050,000 (escapement of 900,000 and food, social and ceremonial (FSC) requirements of 150,000). These fisheries will be closed prior to any management restrictions on First Nations food, social and ceremonial fisheries. Any bag limit reduction will be based on either FSC needs, conservation needs or the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon.* The following table outlines the guidelines for consultations with the SFAB and management actions that occur in years of low abundance. It is to be noted that at times, run size predictions vary from day to day, and so the table below is a guide only. Management actions will occur only when there is a clear trend to the predictions, rather than responding to daily prediction fluctuations.

Skeena Run Size Estimate*	**Management Action for Sockeye**
Greater than 800,000 sockeye	Normal bag limits for Recreational Fishery
650,000 – 800,000 sockeye	Bag limits reduced to 1 per day
Less than 650,000 sockeye	Recreational opportunities cease

Note: The run size estimate will not react to short term changes in abundances, but will look at longer trends when making management decisions.

4.5.4.5. Commercial Sockeye Fisheries

In order to initiate commercial fisheries on Skeena sockeye, an estimated annual escapement in excess of 1,050,000 is required (escapement of 900,000 and food, social and ceremonial requirements of 150,000).

Once a commercial fishery is initiated on the returning Skeena sockeye run, its impact on returning stocks will be estimated in-season by the Skeena Management Model.

Commercial allocation of Skeena sockeye (Areas 3 to 5) is listed in Appendix 1. The management strategy to achieve these allocations are to open the gill net fishery first in early July, followed by the seine fishery, which usually opens mid-July, depending on estimated run size, current escapement information, 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.

4.5.4.6. Pink

During the second week of August, the target species in the commercial Area 4 fishery switches from 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.

4.5.4.7. Chinook

The following management actions are planned for Chinook:

- First Nations: Maintain recent year 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 with the least possible harm.
- Commercial Gill Net: One directed fishery in River/Gap/Slough portion of Area 4, with an option for a second day, depending on an analysis of CPUE during the first fishery. The sockeye fishery will be delayed to July 10 to assist in lessening the incidental impact on Chinook. Short net short set fisheries may require the mandatory release of chinook if later timing stocks return at low levels.
- Commercial Troll: Directed chinook fisheries occurring in western Dixon Entrance and the West Coast of QCI, managed to a quota. Depending on timing, very few are comprised of North Coast Chinook stocks.

Chinook returns are expected to be variable with some systems having good escapements and some poor to average.

4.5.4.8. ESSR Fishery (Sockeye and Pink)

For Skeena River sockeye and pink salmon, all ESSR fisheries 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 due to the mixed stock nature of the sockeye run in the lower and middle reaches of the river. 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 considered. This is still a mixed stock sockeye fishery, but to a much 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 fisheries, and can be harvested at a much higher exploitation rate if required.

Once a commercial fishery has been conducted at the mouth of the Skeena River, and later a sockeye surplus is determined in the Babine River, then an ESSR opportunity may be declared in the Babine River and Lake. Due to uncertainty in estimating escapements,

the surplus amount in the river will be half of the estimated overage. For allocation purposes, 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.

If a surplus of sockeye arrives at the Pinkut or Fulton spawning facilities, an additional ESSR opportunity may be available to the Lake Babine First Nation. 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 ESSR fisheries will occur in the Babine River. A lake fishery could still occur in front of the spawning channels if a surplus develops and is identified.

4.5.5. Prospects for 2006

Skeena sockeye returns are expected to be below average with an expected commercial surplus of 26% of 1.8 million return (468,000 sockeye) after food social and ceremonial requirements.

Skeena pink returns are expected to be average with a surplus of approximately 1.2 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.

4.6. Area 5 Decision Guidelines

4.6.1. Background

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

4.6.2. General Constraints

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

4.6.3. Pre-season Decisions

During the Skeena directed fisheries, the same pre-season decisions will be taken as those listed in the Skeena River Decision Guidelines. Pink salmon brood year escapements to local streams are reviewed pre-season to determine the likelihood of an Area 5 pink fishery.

4.6.4. In-season Decisions

Area 5 uses 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.

4.6.5. Prospects for 2006

Area 5 pink returns are expected to be average with a surplus of 0.5 million. Area 5 chum returns are expected to be very poor. Fisheries will be managed to avoid impacts on incidental species.

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

4.7.1. Background

Area 6 has been a large pink salmon producer; however, pink production has been modest recently. 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.

4.7.2. General Constraints

Gill nets with 149mm minimum and 165mm maximum mesh restriction. This 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. There will be non-retention of steelhead in the gill net fishery.

Commercial net fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce by-catch. Other conservation measures are also in effect, including mandatory brailing for all seine sets and non-retention of chinook, steelhead, and possibly chum by the commercial seine fleet.

Non-retention of a species could change in-season depending on abundance and allocative split.

4.7.3. Pre-season Decisions

Opportunities for a gill net fishery are evaluated during the pre-season 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 pre-season for a start in mid-July. The anticipated opening date is determined from brood year escapements, run timing and concurrent openings in other areas.

4.7.4. In-season Decisions

Gill net fisheries are announced in-season 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.

4.7.5. Prospects for 2006

Area 6 pink returns are expected to be modest with a surplus of 0.5 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 200,000 chum. Chum fisheries will be restricted to the Douglas Channel area to avoid catching weaker stocks. Note that returns to Kitimat Hatchery have been highly variable and forecasts unreliable.

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

4.8.1. 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 normally small for these fisheries with generally 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 targeted to the same extent as chum.

4.8.2. 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.
- Gill nets with 158mm mesh restriction all season to protect sockeye stocks in some of the central coast systems.
- Seines are required to brail and release sockeye, chinook and steelhead to the water with the least possible harm all season.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce by-catch.
- Coho in the North and Central Coast are being managed to an exploitation rate ceiling. Coho will be actively managed during all net fisheries in 2006 with coho retention initially allowed in gillnet and seine fisheries. Fishery managers will monitor the catch on a weekly basis and will require non-retention of coho if exploitation rates are projected to exceed the limit or if there are specific conservation concerns.
- Subject to conservation concerns and First Nations food, social and ceremonial purposes, 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 22 and would follow the pattern of gill nets fishing first and seines second.
- During periods of high pink salmon catches in Areas 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 fishers and processors to maximize the value of the pink salmon caught.

- Where possible, openings in Areas 6, 7 and 8 will be co-ordinated.

4.8.3. Pre-season Decisions

Opportunities for one-day gill net and seine assessment fisheries on the last week of July or first week of August are determined pre-season 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.

4.8.4. In-season Decisions

First Week of August: 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 14:00 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.

Second 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 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 central coast advisors, Lama Pass (McLoughlin Bay) may be open to gill nets on August 14. Openings in that area will depend on observed chum abundance. Gill nets and seines alternate their fishing each week with gill nets fishing first in the 2006 season.

Subject to in-season discussions with central coast advisors, portions of Spiller Channel may be opened to seines and gill nets on August 28. Openings in that area will depend on chum escapements to the Neekas River.

Subject to in-season discussions with central coast advisors, portions of Johnson Channel and Roscoe Inlet may be opened to seines and gill nets on or after August 28. Openings in that area will depend on chum escapements to the Roscoe, Quartcha and Clatse Rivers.

4.8.5. General Constraints

First Week of August: Extra fishing time may depend on 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.

4.8.6. Prospects for 2006

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:

- **Pink:** With a forecast of 370,000 pinks for 2006, there is a harvestable surplus of around 75,000 pinks expected for Area 7. Streams with predicted surpluses include the Kainet, James Bay, Salmon Bay, Carter and Neekas.
- • **Chum:** The 2006 forecast of 355,000 would allow a surplus harvest of approximately 140,000 chum, which should be from the Mussel, Kainet, Neekas, Quartcha and Roscoe systems.

4.9. Area 8 - Atnarko Chinook

4.9.1. Background

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

4.9.2. General Constraints

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

4.9.3. Pre-season Decisions

Opportunities for a one day gill net assessment fishery on the last week in May or the first week in June is evaluated during the pre-season 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.

4.9.4. In-season Decisions

First week of June to last week of June; weekly opportunities are evaluated based on in-season data from the previous week, including First Nations food, social and ceremonial fishery catches and gill net catches. The Bella Coola River chinook Bayesian run size predictor, based on First Nations food, social and ceremonial 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.

4.9.5. Prospects for 2006

Escapements have been generally strong since the mid 1980s. In 2004 and 2005 escapements still remained in the healthy range. This indicates that the run can sustain a one day gill net assessment fishery on May 30 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 in mid May.

The outlook for Atnarko chinook remains good with an expected surplus similar to previous years. Returns to the Dean River for 2006 are expected to remain well below the target of 12,000.

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

4.10.1. 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 net as well as seine. Conservation measures to protect Rivers Inlet and local sockeye stocks have been put in place in recent years.

4.10.2. General Constraints

- Gill net with 158mm mesh restriction all season to protect sockeye stocks in some of the central coast systems.
- Fishing is limited to daylight hours to reduce the catch of coho.
- Coho in the North and Central Coast are being managed to a 40 to 60% exploitation rate ceiling. Coho will be actively managed during all net fisheries in 2006 with coho retention initially allowed in gillnet and seine fisheries. Fishery managers will monitor the catch on a weekly basis and will require non-retention of coho if exploitation rates are projected to exceed the limit or there are specific coho conservation concerns.
- Seines are required to brail and release sockeye, chinook and steelhead to the water all season.

- Between July 10 and August 14 weed lines are required 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 Areas 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 fishers and processors to maximize the value of the pink salmon caught.
- Where possible, openings in Areas 6, 7 and 8 will be co-ordinated.

4.10.3. Pre-season Decisions

In November/December during the pre-season 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.

4.10.4. In-season Decisions

Second Week of July: The assessment openings may be extended for a third day that week 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:

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

4.10.5. Prospects for 2006

Brood year escapements for Bella Coola River chum in 2001, 2002 and 2003 were 79,000, 96,000 and 197,000 respectively. The Kimsquit River chum escapements for 2001, 2002 and 2003 were 43,000, 73,000 and 95,000 respectively. The Bella Coola/Atnarko pink escapement in 2004 was 600,000, which is below the one million target. There are conservation concerns for Rivers Inlet sockeye as well as local Area 8 sockeye stocks. The Bella Coola and Kimsquit River chum had good brood years.

Pink: Preliminary information suggests that the expected 2006 return of 1.4 million pinks may provide a harvestable surplus of about 150,000. Pink returns are very dependent on marine survival and may vary significantly from the forecast. Streams with predicted surpluses include the Atnarko, Quatlena, and Nootum Rivers.

Chum: The 2006 forecast for Area 8 chum predicts an available surplus of 265,000 chum. Major contributors to this surplus include the Bella Coola and Kimsquit Rivers.

4.11. Area 9 - Rivers Inlet Sockeye Decision Guidelines

4.11.1. 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 taken place 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. Since 2002, total returns have shown some improvement although full recovery of these stocks is expected to take several more years. For 2006, the forecast return to Rivers Inlet is 190,000. 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 remain in the recovery mode.

4.11.2. Pre-season Decisions

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

For Rivers Inlet sockeye, the updated assessments suggest that optimum spawning escapements are in the 600,000 range which is substantially below the 1,000,000 range as previously estimated. The minimum escapement levels for Rivers are a bit more difficult to establish but juvenile size and density relationships for Owikeno Lake suggest that sockeye production is being compromised below escapement levels of 100,000 to 200,000. The Rivers and Smith Salmon Ecosystems Planning Society (RSSEPS) has recommended that the current minimum escapement goal of 200,000 remain in place until stronger evidence can be presented for lowering it any further and that an upper escapement goal of 610,000 be adopted.

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 will be considered for the year. In 2006, an echo sounding pilot program will be tested to determine whether it can be used to determine in-season run strength. Results from this program may be used in the future as an in-season tool to manage Rivers Inlet sockeye.

4.11.3. 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 will be evaluated in-season. In 2006, the re-established sounding program and species composition sampling program will lay the groundwork to provide an in-season run estimation on which to base management decisions.

4.11.4. General Constraints

If a fishery occurs, a maximum mesh restriction of 150mm would be in place to protect Rivers Inlet chinook stocks.

4.11.5. Prospects for 2006

Owikeno Lake sockeye stocks remain depressed. The pre-season forecast for Owikeno sockeye is estimated at 190,000 sockeye. Recent improvements in escapement to Owikeno Lake (2003 to 2005) indicate improvements to the survival of these stocks. No fishing opportunities are expected with the exception of a small First Nation harvest for food, social, and ceremonial purposes.

4.12. Area 10 - Long Lake Sockeye Decision Guidelines

4.12.1. 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. Sockeye catches in Smith 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. Since 2002, total returns have shown some improvement although full recovery of these stocks is expected to take several more years. For 2006, the forecast return to Smith Inlet is 220,000. Prior to 1972 annual catches of sockeye salmon averaged 248,000 fish. Between 1972 and 1978 catches averaged 162,000 sockeye. Between 1979 to 1996 during the last gill net fishery, catches averaged 202,000 sockeye. Although Smith Inlet sockeye remain in the recovery mode, recent returns indicate that there may be a small harvestable surplus in 2006. This will be evaluated in-season.

4.12.2. Pre-season Decisions

Opportunities for a one day assessment fishery on Long Lake sockeye are evaluated pre-season based on brood year stock status and indications of marine survival. If indications of ocean survival are poor, no commercial or recreational fisheries are considered for the year. In-season decisions are made based on Docee Fence fish counts.

For Smith Inlet sockeye, the updated assessments suggest that optimum escapements for un-fertilized conditions are in the 43,000 to 80,000 range. For fertilized conditions, optimum escapements are in the 155,000 to 300,000 range. As the lake is no longer

being fertilized, the current 200,000 minimum escapement goal for Smith is deemed to be too high. Given uncertainty in the analyses, it was decided that 100,000 be the interim upper escapement goal for Smith sockeye pending additional information as it becomes available. Unlike Rivers Inlet, juvenile data for Smith Inlet sockeye does not provide clear justification for setting a lower escapement goal. Given that the optimum escapement is in the 43,000 to 80,000 range, and to be risk averse as we move back to a fishing regime, the lower escapement goal for Smith has been set at the same as the upper escapement goal, or 100,000 sockeye.

4.12.3. In-season Decisions

Long Lake sockeye stocks continue to remain in the recovery mode, however, small directed commercial opportunities may exist as individual year returns exceed target escapement goals. Opportunities for Long Lake sockeye directed fisheries are evaluated in-season based on Docee Fence fish counts.

The primary tool available for inseason management of this stock consists of a run-size predictor using historic (1972-2005) daily proportional average sockeye counts observed at the Docee River fence. Predicted run size distribution is given by bounding the normal mean run timing date of July 20 by a five day interval around the mean. Thus a lower run size prediction is given assuming the mean run timing is shifted to July 15 and a higher run size prediction is given assuming the mean run timing is shifted to July 25.

The model was used to determine the date and corresponding Docee River fence count which would suggest the likelihood of a final run size greater than the escapement goal of 100,000 sockeye. Using these data, a Docee River fence sockeye count of 20,000 by July 12 would suggest a final run size greater than the escapement goal 80% of the time and is a guideline for early fishery openings. Subsequent opportunities will continue to be assessed using escapement and catch to date to forecast total returns and total escapement with the priority to meet the escapement target.

Any directed commercial opportunity will be conservative in nature taking into account the current status of Long Lake sockeye and their recovery. Additional factors considered will include potential variation in run timing as well as jumper activity, weather conditions, marine survival indicators, and food, social and ceremonial fishery requirements.

4.12.4. General Constraints

If a fishery takes place, a maximum mesh restriction of 150mm will be in place to protect Docee River chinook stocks. Boundaries may be more restrictive than in past years.

4.12.5. Prospects 2006

Long Lake sockeye continue to rebuild and returns in 2006 may provide a limited commercial opportunity. The pre-season forecast for Long Lake sockeye is estimated at 220,000 sockeye. A Docee River fence count of 20,000 sockeye by July 12 will indicate an escapement greater than 100,000.

4.13. Northern Troll Decision Guidelines

4.13.1. Background

In 1999, Canada and the US agreed to implement an abundance-based coast-wide chinook management regime, under which fishery regimes are classified as aggregate abundance-based management regimes (AABM) or individual stock-based management regimes (ISBM). In northern B.C., troll fisheries in Management Areas 1 to 5 and Queen Charlotte Islands sport fisheries (Areas 1 and 2) are managed under an AABM regime. All other fisheries in the north and central coast are managed under an ISBM regime.

The northern B.C. (and South-East Alaska) AABM allowable catch is constrained by a specified formula agreed to by the two countries. The AABM fishery is managed annually according to an allocation calculated from this formula. The allowable catch for 2006 is 223,200 chinook for Northern BC.

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. Coho harvest will be limited to an exploitation rate of 40 to 60%.

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.

4.13.2. General Constraints

- WCVI chinook will be managed in accordance with Regional exploitation rate objectives, which for 2006 are 10% in Canadian waters, excluding the terminal areas.
- Areas with known high abundance of undersized chinook will remain closed.
- Areas or times where weak Queen Charlotte Islands, Northern mainland and Central coast chinook, coho and chum stocks are known to be abundant will remain closed.
- Accurate and timely catch reporting is especially important in the chinook fishery.
- Appropriate biological sampling, particularly for DNA, will be conducted.
- Coho will be managed in accordance with the overall exploitation rate objective.
- Barbless hooks and operating revival boxes are required for all fisheries.
- There will be non-retention of steelhead all year, chum in most areas, and sockeye in some areas.
- Additional measures may be implemented in recognition of weak QCI and Central Coast stocks.

4.13.3. Pre-season Decisions

4.13.3.1. Sockeye

The main producers of sockeye in the north and central coast are the Skeena and Nass Rivers, both of which are forecast to have a surplus in 2006. Rivers Inlet sockeye are rebuilding and will be protected by restricting sockeye retention to Dixon Entrance. Fraser River sockeye migrating through north coast waters will also be protected by prohibiting sockeye retention in known migration routes.

4.13.3.2. Coho

Coho will be managed within an exploitation range of 40 to 60%. Once the allowable exploitation rate is predicted to be 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 using a management model, with the main contributing variable being the number of troll vessels operating in a given area or group of areas during any given week. 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 may then close to coho.

This year opportunities to initiate the coho fishery earlier (early to mid July) will be considered. Proportionately, the coho fishery will begin to close in mid to late August as discussed with the AHC to avoid weak QCI stocks.

While some upper Skeena coho stocks are now healthy, some stocks in the upper Skeena plateau (high upper) 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 below the 60% ceiling. Areas 4, 5, 103, and portions of 104 will remain closed to trolling to protect migrating upper Skeena coho.

4.13.3.3. Pink

In respect to pink salmon, Canada will manage the Area 1 troll fishery to achieve an annual catch share of 2.57% of the AAH of a portion of south-east Alaska. The methodology for AAH calculations is provided in the PST. Canada can carry forward from year to year annual deviations from the prescribed catch. To increase the pink catch, the northern section of Dixon Entrance will open to pink salmon fishing on July 15th. During this fishery, coho and sockeye retention will also be allowed.

4.13.3.4. Chum

Chum is expected to be weak in most mainland systems. There will be non-retention of chum except in some selected cases such as Cumshewa Inlet.

4.13.3.5. Chinook

For PST purposes, the accounting year runs from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. A new accounting year will start October 1, 2006. The preliminary allowable northern B.C. troll catch (Management Areas 1 to 5) for the summer 2006 season is 151,975. A winter troll fishery may occur from October 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007, using a fishing regime similar to the one for the summer 2006 fishery.

Once again in 2006, there will be two possible methods of fishing for northern troll vessels to select. The first will be the normal, competitive fishery; the second will be a non-competitive individual transferable quota (ITQ) fishery. Vessels have been asked to select which fishery they wish to participate in. The ITQ has been set at 620 chinook per licence. The competitive fishery will have an overall quota of 620 fish times the number of vessels that select this fishery.

Exact dates for the summer 2006 fishery openings will be determined by DNA analysis of chinook present in the fishing area. The earliest date possible will be when the demonstration fishery is approved, and the WCVI abundance is below 6%. For the competitive fishery, the earliest possible date is June 1. The second possible date is June 15. If WCVI abundance is deemed too high on both of those dates, then the fishery will open on July 1 with a reduced overall quota, depending on WCVI abundance.

If the chinook fishery opens, and then is closed due to a high incidence of WCVI chinook, a restart may be possible depending on analysis of test samples and overall catch of WCVI chinook to date.

4.13.4. In-season Decisions

4.13.4.1. Coho

The coho troll management model will be used in-season to provide estimates of exploitation rates by 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 2006 from pre-season predicted and then actual in-season effort. Areas could be closed to coho on short notice if the exploitation rate on the coho stocks present is estimated to be achieved.

4.13.4.2. Pink

Pink salmon opportunities will begin on July 15 in the northern portions of Dixon Entrance, and 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.

4.13.4.3. 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.

4.13.4.4. Chinook

The opening date of the summer fishery is tentatively scheduled to begin depending on WCVI presence, as determined through DNA sampling. The fishing times are subject to change in-season due to high incidence of WCVI

chinook. In addition to the opening dates, the fishing areas will also be determined in-season based on DNA analysis.

4.13.5. Prospects for 2006

Sockeye, pink, chinook and some coho stocks are expected to be in good abundance. Chum abundance will be low. Chinook TAC is 151,975 for the summer troll fishery. WCVI allowance is 6344 chinook. Coho expectations are for an average to good return.

5. FIRST NATIONS FISHING PLAN

After conservation needs are met, First Nations' food, social, and ceremonial (FSC) requirements and treaty obligations to First Nations have first priority in salmon allocation. DFO manages FSC fisheries cooperatively with individual First Nations using Aboriginal Fishing Agreements and communal licences.

Catch Monitoring will be a priority in the management of First Nations fisheries in 2006. Monitoring programs will be expanded and real-time reporting technologies will be examined.

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 reached that will provide the necessary protection to the weak stock.

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.

DFO seeks to provide for the effective management and regulation of the First Nations fisheries through negotiation of mutually acceptable Fisheries Agreements. If an Agreement cannot be mutually concluded, a communal fishing licence to fish for FSC purposes 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 some communal licences are still in negotiation, and 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, management measures taken to ensure conservation of individual stocks, and abundance of other species.

Table 3: Communal Licence Harvest Targets (Arranged From North and Inland)

	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook
Gitanyow (Nass River)	6,000	250	185	25	620
Yekooche (Babine Area)	2,000	0	0	0	0
Takla (Bear/Sustut)	1,050	0	0	0	550
Lake Babine (Babine Lake and Area)	35,000	500	1,000		100
Gitksan (Skeena River) and **Wet'suwet'en** (Bulkley River)	100,000	2,500	25,000	500	10,000
Kitselas (Skeena River near Terrace)	14,000	1,000	2,000	200	1,500
Kitsumkalum (Skeena River near Terrace)	12,000	200	1,000	500	1,000
Lax Kw'alaams (Areas 3 and 4)	20,000	500	1,000	700	750
Metlakatla (Area 4)	5,000	100	500	100	100
Kitkatla (Area 5)	5,500	100	600	750	100
Gitga'at (Area 6)	2,200	750	140	200	140
Haisla (Area 6)	2,500	2,500	1,000	2,000	1,000
Haida (Areas 1 and 2)	20,000	5,000	2,500	2,500	3,000
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
Ulkatcho (Bella Coola/Atnarko Rivers)	500	50	350	50	350
Nuxalk (Area 8)	14,000	3,500	5,000	3,000	5,000
Wui'kinuxv					
(Area 9)	500	400	400	400	100
(Subareas 8-1 and 8-2)	2,000	100	1,000	1,000	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 year round, except closed for nets in the vicinity of commercial net fisheries as described in individual First Nations' communal licences.

5.4. Nisga'a Fisheries

The Nisga'a Annual Fishing Plan (NAFP) is developed by the Fisheries Program of the Nisga'a Lisims Government and governed by the terms of the Nisga'a Final Agreement and the Nisga'a Harvest Agreement. The Nisga'a Harvest Agreement does not form part of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, and includes Nisga'a fish allocations expressed as a percentage of the adjusted total allowable catch of sockeye and pink. The NAFP is developed in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Once approved by the Minister, the Annual Fishing Plan remains in effect until replaced the following year. The fishing plan applies to persons who harvest fish, other than steelhead, in Nisga'a fisheries.

Notwithstanding that Nisga'a fish entitlements are treaty rights, a Nisga'a fish allocation of sockeye and pink, as defined in the Nisga'a Harvest agreement, is set out as a percentage of the Canadian Total Allowable Catch for Nass Area stocks. Nisga'a commercial fisheries for these or other salmon species have the same priority in fisheries management decisions as other commercial and recreational fisheries that target Nass Area salmon stocks.

The NAFP defines the escapement goals required to guide management decisions for Nass salmon stocks, calculates Nisga'a allocations for each salmon species and provides the general regulatory requirements for catches of each salmon species. The NAFP is reviewed by the JFMC prior to being submitted to the Minister for approval. Nisga'a Lisims Government is responsible for the internal allocation of catch opportunities between Nisga'a fishers and day to day operation of the Nisga'a fishery.

Pre-season estimates of the Nisga'a Allocation for each salmon species in 2006 are:

a) 132,810 sockeye of an 800,000 Total Return to Canada (TRTC) based on sibling regression (there is an overage of 6,641 from last year, so the adjusted entitlement is 126,170).
b) 7,890 chinook of a 38,000 TRTC based on 5-year average return (add an underage of 1,521 to get total entitlement of 9,501).
c) 2,400 chum of a 30,000 TRTC based on dominant brood year cycle (add an underage of 29,126 to get total entitlement of 31,526).
d) 17,280 coho of a 216,000 TRTC based on 5-year average return (add an underage of 6,261 to get total entitlement of 23,541).
e) 65,359 pink of a 639,000 TRTC based on 5-year average return (no underage).

5.5. Aboriginal Commercial Fishing Opportunities

The AFS was implemented to address several objectives related to First Nations and their access to the resource. One of these objectives was to contribute to the economic self-sufficiency of Aboriginal communities. An integral component of the AFS is the Allocation Transfer Program (ATP). This Program facilitates the voluntary retirement of commercial licences and the issuance of licences to eligible Aboriginal groups in a manner that does not add to the existing effort on the resource, thereby providing Aboriginal groups with much needed employment and income. Since 1994 when the ATP was first launched, over 250 commercial licences have been transferred to Aboriginal groups.

Discussions regarding economic opportunities for First Nations are on-going with First Nations and stakeholders.

6. RECREATIONAL FISHING PLAN

Recreational fishing opportunities for salmon are regulated by the *British Columbia Sport Fishing Regulations, 1996* made under the *Fisheries Act.* The regulations are generally summarized in the *2005 to 2007 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide* and the *2005 to 2007 British Columbia Freshwater Salmon Supplement.*

This information is subject to change in-season if additional conservation concerns arise or if additional recreational opportunities become available. Changes will be communicated through Fishery Notices, media reports, telephone information lines and/or postings on the Pacific Region Fisheries and Oceans Canada website at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish.

Catch Monitoring will be a priority in the management of recreational fisheries. The Department is working with the Sport Fishing Advisory Board to develop catch monitoring standards for use in the recreational fishery.

Proposed Changes to Sport Fish Regulations

The Department is preparing a regulatory submission to amend the *British Columbia Sport Fishing Regulations, 1996* based on a request received from the Sport Fishing Advisory Board and Department staff. The proposed change would make it possible to implement the mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing for salmon. Additional consultations with various groups will take place as deemed necessary prior to final submission.

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 *2005 to 2007 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 Waters Fishery

The following restrictions apply to all North Coast tidal waters, except for specific circumstances listed by Area below.

- 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.
- The daily limit for coho in the tidal portions of all streams in Area 6 has the same corresponding limit as the non-tidal portion.
- Barbless hooks must be used while angling for salmon.
- Aggregate tidal water bag limit is four salmon, possession limit of eight salmon.

- Rockfish Conservation Areas are not mentioned in the sections below, but are in effect in portions of Areas 1 to 10, where fishing is restricted. Visit www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/recfish for maps and descriptions.

6.2.1. Area 1

- Coho salmon open January 1 to 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

- 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.
- Coho daily limit two in the tidal portions of all streams excluding the Pallant and Braverman system.
- In the tidal portions of all streams, only a single, barbless hook may be used.
- The waters shoreward of a line between two boundary signs on either side of the Copper River estuary and the Pallant Creek estuary, a single barbless hook restriction applies all year.
- 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

- Coho 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 4

- 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.

6.2.5. Area 5

- 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.

6.2.6. Area 6

- 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.

6.2.7. Area 7

- 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.

6.2.8. Area 8

- 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.

6.2.9. Area 9

- Sockeye salmon closed all year. Daily limit zero.
- 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, closed to fishing with a fishing line or downrigger line to which is attached either to a weight that is greater than 168 grams (6 ounces), or an attracting device that is not affixed directly to the hook, from June 1 to September 15.

6.2.10. Area 10

- Sockeye salmon closed all year. Daily limit zero.
- Pink, coho and chum salmon open all year. Daily limit four.
- 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 Waters Fishery

Non-tidal salmon openings and closures are found in 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 few days prior to the actual opening. Announcements are at least weekly, usually every Thursday afternoon at 14:00 hours and during days when a fishery is in progress, usually prior to 16:00 hours, and occasionally more frequently. Although it is not stated under each week in each area of this fishing plan, management actions planned 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 harvest abundant salmon stocks while minimizing the incidental harvest of those stocks that are at less than abundant levels. For example, boundaries have been adjusted to reduce size of the mixed stock fishing area from historic levels. Stocks of concern for which management actions have been included are Rivers Inlet sockeye, chum along the outer coast of Areas 3 to 6, Skeena coho and Skeena steelhead. Net fisheries that occur on the north and central coast may be required to release all non-target species with the least possible harm, depending on local stock concerns. Central coast pink and chum fisheries will be monitored to ensure coho harvest does not harmfully impact on local stocks.

In 2006, DFO will be encouraging the development of demonstration fisheries that promote biologically sustainable and economically viable fisheries. Fishery managers are working with fleet advisors to develop demonstration fisheries that experiment meeting a range of objectives including matching fleet size to the available stock, pacing fisheries to maximize value of the harvest and developing more cooperative fishing arrangements between fishers. Lessons learned from the demonstration fisheries will be considered for inclusion into fisheries of the future.

Catch Monitoring will be a priority in the management of commercial fisheries. For 2006, DFO will focus efforts on enforcement of current reporting requirements.

7.2. Licence Application and Issuance

The 2006/2007 Salmon licensing period will encompass April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. Applications must be completed and submitted to a Pacific Fishery Licence Unit by March 31 of each year along with the required fee.

Prior to annual licence issue, vessel owners must ensure that:

a) Any Ministerial conditions placed on the licence eligibility have been met;
b) Any conditions of the previous year's licence have been met, such as:
    i. Submission of all harvest logs for 2005 (for further information contact the Salmon Catch Monitoring Unit at 250-756-7000); and
    ii. Submission of all fish slips for 2005 (for further information contact the Regional Data Unit at 604-666-2716).

For further licensing information see:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/salmon/licensing_e.htm

7.2.1. Fisher Identification Number

Over the course of 2006 and 2007 DFO will be introducing unique Fisher Identification Numbers (FIN) that will be assigned to all Pacific commercial harvesters.

The introduction of the FIN will allow for fast, easy, and reliable on-grounds identification of fishers for data collection, fisheries management and enforcement purposes. Once a FIN has been assigned to a fisher, that individual will reference the FIN when identifying him or herself in subsequent business dealings with both the department and service contractors, e.g. completing the FIN field on logbooks, noting the FIN when hailing, landing catch, etc. As the FIN will now be used during normal business interactions with DFO and contractors fishers will no longer need to provide detailed personal identifying information such as gender or date of birth.

Fishers will not need to apply for a FIN as one will be automatically generated for them when their new year's FRC licence is issued. Once the FIN is issued to a fisher it will not change from year to year.

More information on FIN may be obtained from your DFO fisheries manager, or the Pacific Fisheries Licensing Unit.

7.3. Mandatory Log-Book and Phone-In Program

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

The Conditions of Licence, for the 2006 season, require that commercial fishers make service arrangements with an approved service provider in order to fulfil reporting requirements. An approved service provider is a third party company, organisation or individual who meets departmental requirements for impartiality and security, and who will provide services including:

- Provide fishers with harvest logs with the same format and content as the appropriate example in Appendix 3;
- Establish and maintain a computer network with secure access to the departmental salmon fishery database and computer software that will enable data entry into that database;
- Establish and maintain a call centre that will receive in-season reports and enter the reported information electronically into the departmental salmon fishery database;
- Submit the post-season catch reports required by conditions of licence electronically to the departmental salmon fishery database, and issue letters confirming receipt of these reports.

Information on contacting currently approved service providers will be included with licence packages mailed to licence holders.

Fishermen should be aware that completion of their 2005 logbook must be completed and submitted before their 2006 licence will be released.

Electronic Logbooks (E-Logs)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is piloting an Electronic Logbook system for the 2006 sockeye salmon season. The PC based computer application has been designed following the current, paper versions of logbooks for the gill net, seine and troll fleets. The ultimate goal of this new initiative is to improve the efficiency and compliance of reporting catch to the Department. Participants will be required to follow the terms as described in the 2006 licence conditions.

Five computers will be deployed to each of the three gear types, and will be the primary means used to transfer each vessels catch and other fishery information to DFO's Fishery Operations System (FOS). Participants in this pilot project will not be required to purchase the salmon logbook service or be required to phone in their catch and fishery information to the service provider. A list of Fishers, Vessel Names and associated VRN numbers will be communicated via Fishery Notice once determined.

For more information please contact Carmen McConnell at 250-713-7172 or Ron Goruk at 250-713-1522.

Refer to your conditions of licence for further details regarding the log book and phone-in program.

7.4. Proposed Changes to Commercial Fishery Regulations

Amendments are being proposed to the *Pacific Fishery Regulations, 1993*, to increase selectivity in the commercial salmon fishery, in conformity with the Department's policy on selective fishing. The changes will permit fishery managers to make changes to fishing requirements via fishery notice to reflect conditions as they occur in-season, rather than trying to anticipate conditions prior to the start of the year and manage the fishery solely through licence conditions. The objective of the amendments is to provide fishing opportunities on allowable species while minimizing the mortality to non-permitted species.

The proposed additions are:

1) Gill net set/soak time and gill net length and additional gill net mesh sizes

The proposed addition of set times, soak times and gill net length would provide managers the flexibility to respond to local conditions in-season and implement appropriate measures to maximize fishing opportunities and reduce impacts on stocks of concern.

2) Brailing

The proposed amendment would allow managers to stipulate whether brailing is required based on the by-catch potential in that individual fishery.

3) Revival Tanks

The proposed amendment would allow managers to stipulate whether the operation of the revival tank is required based on by-catch potential in that individual fishery.

4) Plugs

The proposed amendment would allow fishery managers to specify the minimum size of plug to be used in troll fisheries in response to in-season information concerning the presence of stocks to be avoided.

The package of proposed amendments was sent to stakeholders for comment in October, 2005. The Department is currently in the process of compiling and analyzing the responses received and determining the appropriate course of action. A summary of the results of this consultation will be posted online at www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/consult_e.htm prior to the submission of the regulatory amendment package.

These changes will not come into effect for the 2006/2007 season.

7.5. North Coast Non-Retention Species

There will be non-retention of steelhead in all commercial fisheries.

7.5.1. Seine Fisheries

Areas 3 through 6: non-retention of coho, chum, chinook, and steelhead; coho and chum retention may be allowed in certain areas and certain times, depending on stock strength.

Areas 7 and 8: non-retention of sockeye, chinook and steelhead.

7.5.2. Gill Net Fisheries

Areas 3 through 6: non-retention of coho and steelhead. A special request is made to release all live chum and chinook (except during directed chinook fisheries) to the water with the least possible harm. There is non-retention of chum during special selective gill net fisheries. Chum non-retention may be implemented in-season. Coho and chum retention may be allowed in certain areas, depending on stock strength.

Areas 7 and 8: non-retention of steelhead. A special request is made to release all live chinook to the water (except during directed chinook fisheries).

7.5.3. Troll Fisheries

Non-retention of chum and steelhead. Other species will be non-retention at certain times and areas throughout the season. Fishery notices will be issued whenever fishing regimes change.

7.6. Retention of Lingcod by Salmon Troll

To help meet the conservation and sustainability objectives under groundfish integration, an individual quota (IQ) system has been established for the lingcod fishery. Initial allocation of

quota was based on catch history from 1996 to 2003 as this time period coincided with the Dockside Monitoring Program. For those who have fished lingcod in conjunction with salmon during the qualifying years, fish slips were used to determine catch.

Implementation of an integrated groundfish fishery for this year has management implications for those wishing to retain lingcod while salmon trolling. Similar to last year, all vessels wishing to retain any amount of lingcod must have their fish validated through the established dockside monitoring program. In addition to this, any vessel wishing to land lingcod must acquire sufficient quota to do so.

Requirements include the following (less than 500 lbs of lingcod):

- Must have sufficient quota
- Transportation requirement – All lingcod must be transported by the licensed vessel either directly to land or to a fish pen
- Hail in and Hail out requirements through the designated service provider (JO Thomas)
- Specific locations and times at which landing of fish is permitted
- Landing requirements – The landing of any fish of any species is not permitted unless a designated observer is present to authorize the commencement of weight verification.

Vessels wishing to retain and land more than 500 lbs of Lingcod must, in addition to all of the above, meet the new electronic monitoring requirements. For more information on these requirements please refer to the 2006/2007 Groundfish Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

The salmon troll fishery currently permitted to retain 20 rockfish per day (excluding Yelloweye, Quillback, China, Tiger and Copper, as by-catch to salmon fishing (i.e. during salmon troll open times and when salmon are retained on board the vessel). This allowance will continue in 2006. There are no additional monitoring requirements.

7.7. 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 16 this year), to the third Saturday in August (August 19 this year).
- 13 hours starting the third Sunday in August (August 20 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. Times will be specified in fishery notices released prior to each fishery.

7.8. 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.

7.9. 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 (has a minimum membership of 66%) of the affected commercial 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.

7.10. Special Projects or Initiatives

Pacific Fishery Reform

The Department has conducted extensive consultations with the commercial salmon industry and First Nations concerning fisheries reform and renewal. Changes in the fishery will look to improving biological and economic performance of the fishery as well as address First Nations aspirations for greater access to fish resources and involvement in fisheries management.

A number of proposals were reviewed by DFO in 2005. Two demonstration projects proceeded (Area F and Area B) and have been evaluated. These evaluations can be found online at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species/salmon/default_e.htm.

Since then Area Harvest Committees have been considering options for 2006. The objectives of these experiments are to assist in the development of fisheries that have lower biological risk, greater management control, and the potential for higher product values.

In an ever-changing environment such as resource conservation, a group may want to explore special harvesting initiatives or new management approaches to develop flexible fisheries with greater harvester control that improve product quality, increase value to the fleet and have better catch monitoring and compliance with catch limits. Projects that fall under this category may include investigating quota management in salmon fisheries, fishing in an unconventional area/time, or testing the abundance of stocks prior to full fleet fisheries. Special projects or initiatives may have significant components that relate to selective fishing.

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 and advisors for that fishery. After discussion, the resource manager will likely require a detailed proposal to submit for approval.

Examples of experimental fisheries for 2006 include the Area F individual quota demonstration fishery and the Skeena First Nations experimental fishery (See Appendix 8).

7.11. Gill Net Construction

Gill nets of two different constructions may be used in Management Areas 1 to 10. Net construction may either be of the 30 filament type (multi-strand) or Alaska Twist (six strands).

The use of Alaska Twist gill nets with four or five filaments of equal diameter in each twine of the web will be permitted in certain gill net fisheries in 2006 providing that an approved study is undertaken. Fishers that wish to use this gear should contact their local fishery manager.

7.12. Gill Net Configuration

All nets will meet one of the following configurations:

1. Nets may be hung without a weedline (corkline to web distance 0 to 45 cm) to a maximum of 60 meshes deep.
2. In areas 3 to 5, nets may be greater than 60 meshes deep, but must be hung with a weedline (corkline to web distance minimum 1.2 m, maximum 1.5 m) to a maximum of 90 meshes deep. As well, every fifth cork must be red or another distinctive colour (not white).

Specific restrictions for net configuration are found in the Notice to Industry (Fisheries Notice). Fishers are urged to read these carefully to ensure that their fishing gear is in accordance with the opening.

7.13. Selective Fishing and other Conservation Measures

7.13.1. Selective Fishing Experiments

In 2006, the Department will work with Area Harvest Committee representatives to develop selective fishing experiments aimed at solving by-catch issues. Proposals may include but are not limited to the following:

- Seine bunt grids.
- Seine bunt mesh type and size.
- Seine net efficiency.
- Alaska Twist gill nets.
- Small mesh gill nets (tangle nets).
- Release mortality on stocks of concern.
- Large troll plugs for avoiding coho/juvenile chinook while targeting adult chinook.
- Hook size in the troll fisheries.
- Waterline release versus the use of a laminar flow revival tank for troll fisheries.
- Gear or methods to avoid or release small sockeye (e.g. Sakinaw sockeye).

- Alternate gear or fishing areas to avoid stocks of concern.

For 2006, the Department will work with Area Harvest Committees to identify selective fishing objectives. Individual proposals will need to be vetted through Area Harvest Committees for consultation and approval by the Department. The deadline for proposals to be submitted to the Department and Area Harvest Committees was May 2, although proposals submitted by the Area Harvest Committees after this date that are considered a high priority and have sufficient lead time to implement, may be considered. Proposals must have professional experimental design and reporting, appropriate observer coverage, and final results that can be independently verified. The Department and Area Harvest Committees will evaluate proposals based on specific criteria (conservation, project design, general manageability, future applicability and budget).

7.13.2. Selective Fishing Implementation

When selective fishing experiments have provided positive evidence for a gear or method that would reduce impacts on non-target species or stocks the next step is implementation. A simple gear or fishing method change may be easy to implement directly into a fishery over a short period of time, while a more complex measure would require time to incorporate. More complex measures would require a greater degree of consultation and a strategy to allow for effective implementation by affected harvesters.

The first step in implementation may be the development of a demonstration fishery to advance a measure beyond the experimental phase. A demonstration fishery using the new gear and/or methods allows the affected harvesters the opportunity to better understand the operational aspects of a selective fishing gear or method by testing the implementation with a sub-sample of the fleet. If the demonstration fishery is successful, further consultation would take place prior to the gear or method potentially being incorporated as a tool to be used to help solve a conservation issue through full implementation.

7.13.3. 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 had additional selective fishing initiatives implemented after this date to increase release survivals. In 2006, both coho and chum returns need protection. Therefore, after approximately July 18 fishing opportunities for Skeena sockeye may be conducted with additional selective fishing measures in place. The decision on when 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 steelhead, upper Skeena coho and chum throughout the year.

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

- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

7.13.4. Experimental Selective Gill Net Pink Fishery

In recent years the Area C gill net fleet has not accessed or attempted to access its allocated portion of the north coast pink salmon harvest. With little interest from the gill net fleet and concerns for non target species such as coho and steelhead, full fleet opportunities have not been provided since 1996.

With the development of selective harvesting techniques and the proper controls placed on the fishery a pink-retention-only fishery may be possible. Therefore, a gill net pink only fishery in the River, Gap, Slough, and the Smith Island area of the Skeena River (Subareas 4-15 and a portion of 4-12) may be conducted. This fishery will take place after the regular sockeye fishery is completed.

A number of selective conditions will be applied to the fishery, including small mesh nets of approximately 121 mm (4 ¾") maximum mesh size, short sets and revival boxes.

The fleet is expected to be small and may fish as a pool (or pools depending on vessel numbers) in close proximity of each other. If the group wants to move, it must be by consensus and the whole pool moves. The fishery will be monitored for handling techniques, observed fish condition at release and short set compliance. The vessel operators will be required to pay for a shared observer provided by a service provider. Pools should be limited to a maximum of 4 to 6 vessels to provide adequate observer coverage. Larger areas and flexible time may result in greater monitoring costs to fishers.

The fishery will be administered under an experimental licence and may close on short notice based on the compliance and observed success of the selective harvest requirements. Fishers desiring to participate in this experimental selective pink fishery should notify the Prince Rupert office prior to August 1, 2006.

7.14. 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 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. When moving between areas with different non-retention and non-possession rules, seiners must offload prior to fishing in the area they are moving to.

7.15. Anticipated Net Opening Dates

All dates are anticipatory only. Subareas open and hours of fishing will be announced in fishery notices prior to openings.

7.15.1. Area 1

August 14: First potential fishery for nets. This would be a pink salmon assessment fishery.

September 16: First anticipated opening for gill nets only. This will be a chum salmon assessment fishery. Gill net mesh size minimum 100 mm.

7.15.2. Area 2E

August 21: First potential fishery for nets to harvest identified surpluses of pink salmon.

September 16: First anticipated opening for gill net only. This will be a chum salmon assessment fishery. Gill net mesh size minimum 100 mm.

September 25: 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.

7.15.3. Area 2W

No gill net or seine fisheries will be directed on passing stocks.

August 21: First potential fishery for nets to harvest identified surpluses of pink salmon.

Mid-September to October: Possible terminal fisheries directed on identified surpluses of local chum stocks.

7.15.4. Area 3

June 13: First anticipated gill net fishery. Date was recommended by advisors. Maximum mesh size 137 mm. This fishery will assess the returning Nass River sockeye run.

July 17: First anticipated seine fishery. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm. Earlier fishery possible if stocks abundant.

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

7.15.5. Area 4

Mid-June: First anticipated chinook gill net fishery. Date to be recommended by advisors. Minimum mesh size 203 mm.

July 10: First anticipated sockeye gill net fishery, depending on run strength. See Section 4.5.3 for more information.

Seine opportunities will be considered for Area 4 in-season depending on run strength and domestic allocation considerations.

7.15.6. Area 5

July 10: First anticipated gill net fishery.

July 17: First anticipated seine fishery, but may be eariler based on recommendation by the advisors. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

7.15.7. Area 6

July 10: First anticipated gill net opening, Douglas Channel only. Minimum mesh size 149 mm, maximum mesh size 165 mm.

July 17: First anticipated seine opening. Areas open will be determined in-season. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

7.15.8. Area 7

July 31: 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 158 mm.

August 14: Possible gill net opening in 7-17 (McLoughlin Bay). Gear types will alternate each week.

August 24: Consideration for terminal chum harvest on Kitasoo Creek Hatchery stocks; gill nets first and seines second.

August 28: Possible seine and gill net opening in portions of 7-30 (Johnstone Channel), 7-15 (Roscoe Inlet) and 7-13 (Spiller Channel).

7.15.9. Area 8

May 29: First anticipated gill net opening in the Bella Coola gill net area. This will be a directed chinook fishery. Minimum mesh size 203 mm.

July 3: Anticipated gill net opening in the Bella Coola gill net area and Fisher/Fitz Hugh. Minimum mesh size 158 mm.

July 17: First anticipated seine opening in Fisher/Fitz Hugh. Minimum bunt mesh size 70 mm.

July 10 to August 14: Weedlines are in effect in upper 8-5 (Fisher Ch) and 8-8 (Upper Dean Ch).

7.15.10.Area 9

No anticipated openings.

7.15.11.Area 10

July 17: Depending on the Docee Fence count on July 12 there is the potential for a limited gill net fishery in Smith Inlet.

7.16. Northern Troll

Once again in 2006, there will be two management methods for chinook harvest. Trollers shall choose whether to participate in a competitive fishery or an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) fishery.

Competitive Fishery: This fishery may open on three different dates, depending on DNA analysis. The earliest opening date would be June 3. If WCVI component of the chinook stocks in the fishing area is above 6%, then the fishery will not open. The next possible opening will be June 17. Once again, if WCVI component is too high, then it will not open on this date either. In that case, the fishery will open on July 1. The amount of chinook available will be dependant on the number of vessels participating in the competitive fishery times 620, modified by the abundance of WCVI present in the catch.

ITQ fishery: This fishery will open when the sampling indicates the component of WCVI present in the fishing area is below 6%. The quota per vessel is 620 chinook. The fishery will close when either the WCVI allowance is reached, or when the WCVI component in the catch rises above 6%.

All Areas and Subareas mentioned are subject to change in-season.

There will be a 1.0 nautical mile ribbon boundary in Areas 1 and 101 following the Graham Island and Langara Island shorelines initiating at Langara Island and terminating at Skonun Point. There will be no commercial trolling shoreward of this ribbon boundary.

The chinook fishery may be opened or may be closed on short notice if the proportion of WCVI chinook increases.

July 1 - Open to pink in Subareas 101-3 (northern portion only, refer to Fishery Notice), 101-4, 101-5, 101-8 and 101-9.

July 15 - Open to pink and coho in Subareas 101-3 (northern portion only, refer to Fishery Notice), 101-4, 101-5, 101-8 and 101-9.

Sockeye may be open in all open areas east of 133 degrees. Refer to Fishery Notice for certainty.

July 25 – Normal coho areas open. Refer to Fishery Notice for specifics.

September 15 – Coho closes on north coast.

Trolling is closed in all rockfish conservation areas listed in Appendix 2.

October 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 - winter and spring chinook fisheries to be discussed at a later date.

8. 2005 POST-SEASON OBJECTIVES REVIEW

In the June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006 Northern B.C. Salmon IFMP, a number of objectives were specified. An analysis of whether those objectives were achieved follows.

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 and exploitation rate limitations, daylight only fisheries, non-retention of stocks of concern, weedlines, brailing for seines, on-board observers, half-length gill nets, short gill net sets, revival tanks and proper handling of non-target species. On-going assessment programs monitor the health of north coast salmon stocks, and if declines are noted, management actions are taken.

8.1.1. Rivers Inlet and Smith Inlet Sockeye

The objective for Rivers Inlet sockeye continues to be a focus on rebuilding the stock while preparing for potential future commercial sockeye opportunities. In Smith Inlet, a conservative management plan has been put into place to allow for the potential for a limited commercial opportunity should in-season predicted run size exceed escapement target levels. Any directed commercial opportunity will take into consideration Long Lake sockeye status as well as continued efforts to rebuild the stock.

In 2005, there was an improvement in the number of sockeye returning to Rivers and Smith Inlets from their respective brood years. Sockeye Salmon escapements to the Owikeno Lake streams in Rivers Inlet totalled 150,000 spawners while the returns to Smith Inlet as evidenced by sockeye passing the Docee River fence totalled approximately 14,000 spawners. Sockeye enhancement took place in Rivers Inlet in 2005 with the eggs collected from Owikeno Lake River systems being incubated at the Snootli Creek Hatchery in Bella Coola. They will be released as fed fry in their natal streams.

8.1.2. Skeena River Sockeye

The objective for Skeena River sockeye is to ensure exploitation rates are maintained at sustainable levels in order to ensure that the wild stocks of concern do not further decline.

Due to low escapements, no commercial fisheries for sockeye occurred in Areas 4 and 5. Hence the Canadian portion of the exploitation rate was well below the historical average in Areas 3, 4 and 5 net fisheries at 4.2 percent. The incidental catch of Skeena Sockeye occurred in Area 3 while targeting Nass Sockeye.

8.1.3. Coho

The objective for north and central coast coho is to operate Canadian domestic fisheries within an exploitation rate ceiling of up to 15 percent.

Coho stocks throughout the north and central coast, including upper Skeena coho, saw a Canadian exploitation rate between 10 and 15%.

8.1.4. 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.

In 2005, chum remained a concern. Troll fisheries maintained a non-possession regulation throughout the season.

Seine fisheries were mostly non-possession of chum. Chum retention was allowed occasionally in Areas 3 and 6 due to mortality concerns of sorting during the targeted pink fishery. On those weeks of chum retention, fishing time was cut in half.

Gill net fisheries have a voluntary release of chum, due to a high mortality. In 2004, gill net landings were approximately 74,000 chum from Area 3. In 2005, this decreased to 64,000 chum retained and releases increased to 7,000. While this is an encouraging trend, further conservation by the gill nets is required.

8.1.5. West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook

The objective for WCVI chinook is to manage Pacific fisheries (not including enhanced terminal areas) to an exploitation rate of 10 percent. For North Coast troll, the objective is to catch the amount of chinook allowed under the PST, while managing WCVI chinook to an impact similar to 2002.

In 2005, Canadian ocean fisheries (excluding terminal fisheries targeting enhanced stocks) had a 19% exploitation rate based on analysis of coded wire tags, and a 13% exploitation rate based on DNA analysis, both of which exceeded the 10% objective. Terminal fisheries in Barkley Sound and Alberni Inlet targeting enhanced stocks had an exploitation rate of 27% and U.S. fisheries had an exploitation rate of 25%. The 2005 return of Robertson Creek Hatchery Chinook was 35% less than the pre-season forecast and 30% below levels for 2004. Declines in escapement were evident in 17 of 18 extensively surveyed escapement indicator stocks with an average reduction of 60% relative to 2004. Some populations (e.g. Clayoquot Sound) remain low with fewer than 100 spawners.

The north coast troll fishery used in-season DNA sampling to determine the timing of openings and the overall impact of this fishery on WCVI returns. Objective for the north coast troll was to conduct the fishery with impacts similar to 2002, which had a 3.1 percent exploitation rate. In 2005, the north coast troll exploitation rate was again 3.1%.

8.1.6. 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.

The 2005 harvest rates were estimated to be 1 percent for aggregate Skeena steelhead, and 2% for early timed Skeena steelhead. These impacts were by-catch in the Nass Sockeye fishery. No commercial fisheries occurred in Area 4 in 2005.

8.1.7. Inshore Rockfish

The objective for inshore rockfish is to introduce conservation strategies 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.

Rockfish Conservation Areas, (RCA's, no fishing zones for gear that impact on rockfish), have been implemented within the Strait of Georgia and in all outside waters including the Queen Charlotte Islands. The conservation strategy for rockfish along the coast of British Columbia is long term. Rockfish are a long-lived species with a low level of productivity and therefore rebuilding will take several decades.

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 any treaty obligations. Any Harvest Agreement fisheries will be accorded the same priority as commercial fisheries.

Opportunities for First Nations FSC fisheries were average in B.C.'s north coast. Fishing for all species of salmon was permitted. Many bands found the Skeena sockeye return was inadequate, and expressed concern for low sockeye abundance. No commercial fisheries for Skeena sockeye were permitted due to conservation and First Nation's concerns.

The 2005 season was the sixth year of successful implementation of the Nisga'a Final Agreement and Harvest Agreement. The success of implementing the Nisga'a agreements was the strong working relationships between Nisga'a, DFO and B.C. No disputes occurred between the parties.

The Nisga'a Fisheries Program provided DFO and Nisga'a stock assessment managers all the information (e.g., run size and Nisga'a catch) required to manage the Nisga'a fishery and assess Nass area stocks in 2005. Salmon escapements were below target for Meziadin sockeye for the second year in a row. As well, chum escapements continue to be weak in Area 3.

The Nisga'a catches were also consistent with their allocations in 2005 and post-season estimates of the Total Return to Canada:

RETURN TO CANADA	SOCKEYE	PINK	CHINOOK	COHO	CHUM
Pre-season	700,000	2,500,000	56,000	165,000	72,000
Post-season	542,953	2,916,064	30,582	217,861	73,818
NISGA'A ALLOCATION	**SOCKEYE**	**PINK**	**CHINOOK**	**COHO**	**CHUM**
Treaty Entitlement	57,010	6,600	6,422	17,429	5,905

Harvest Agreement	37,173	402,670	0	0	0
Overage (-)/ Underage (+) Account	-1,862	0	1,529	3,594	30,623
TOTAL ALLOCATION	**92,321**	**409,270**	**7,951**	**21,023**	**36,528**
ACTUAL HARVEST	**112,782**	**4,543**	**6,430**	**12,735**	**705**
DIFFERENCE	**-20,461**	**404,727**	**1,521**	**8,288**	**35,823**

8.3. Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries to ensure that opportunities are maintained and commercial catch and quality is maximized, subject to the conservation and First Nations fisheries objectives.

Opportunities for recreational fisheries were maintained, and the commercial catch was maximized with existing conservation restrictions. Some restrictions for the recreational catch of Skeena sockeye were implemented due to First Nation's concerns about a low FSC catch.

8.4. 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 of pink salmon was within the annual catch share of 2.49% of the AAH of Alaskan Districts 101, 102 and 103.

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

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.

8.5. Domestic Allocation Objectives

The objective is to manage fisheries in a manner that is consistent with the *Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon* and the 2005 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan.

Fisheries were managed in accordance with the Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon and in accordance with the 2005 IFMP Appendix 1.

	Seine	Gill Net	Troll
Target Allocation	40%	38%	22%
2002	32%	48%	20%
2003	31%	44%	25%
2004	31%	34%	35%
2005	34%	23%	43%

8.6. 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:

- Continued laundering of FSC and illegally caught fish into commercial fisheries,
- Compliance problems with the use of revival boxes and the release of by-catch (non-retainable) in a manner that causes the fish the least harm,
- Closed Area compliance problems in the salmon troll fishery.

These issues will be considered priorities for Conservation and Protection in 2006.

8.7. Enhancement Objectives

Egg targets are determined pre-season for each stock. Difficulties in capturing broodstock because of environmental conditions or poor returns can limit success in achieving targets. Actual fecundity and in-hatchery survival rates will determine the number of juveniles released. Hatcheries may collect additional eggs to supply to other programs. These are not included in the hatchery egg target in the following tables but are included in the actual eggs taken.

8.7.1. Chinook

Enhancement of chinook is primarily undertaken to supplement runs for commercial and recreational fisheries. Wannock chinook are enhanced in partnership with the Rivers Inlet North Coast Salmon Enhancement Association and the Wui'Kinuxv First Nation. Additional eggs were collected in 2005 at the request of the partners to ensure a large enough mark group.

In addition, two small runs of central coast chinook are enhanced opportunistically at Snootli hatchery; the number of eggs collected is dependent on brood stock availability and staff requirements. Remnants of Pallant Creek chinook from past transplant efforts (1986-88 broods) are also enhanced opportunistically. In 2005, only seven adults were kept as broodstock and all died during holding before they could be spawned.

8.7.2. Coho

Most coho production from northern and central hatcheries is from facilities operated by communities and volunteers. Coho smolts are released from Kitimat hatchery to support an in-river sport fishery and from Snootli Hatchery to support educational programs. The increase in coho production at Snootli, in partnership with the Central Coast Fisherman Protective Association, is to allow up to two mark groups for stock assessment and fisheries evaluation. Pallant Creek Hatchery is operated by the Haida Tribal Society as a cost recovery pilot hatchery. Production also contributes to North Coast commercial and recreational marine fisheries. Low returns resulted in the 2005 Pallant eggtake only achieving 56% of target.

8.7.3. Chum

Enhancement of chum is undertaken to supplement runs for First Nations, commercial and recreational fisheries. Pallant Creek Hatchery is operated by the Haida Tribal

Society as a cost recovery pilot hatchery. Due to low returns, chum targets were not achieved for either Pallant (62%) or Mathers (0%) stocks.

8.7.4. Pinks

There is no hatchery or managed channel production of pinks from North Coast facilities. Atnarko channel, though not managed, is kept open for pink salmon spawning. The habitat was also modified to support rearing opportunities for other species.

8.7.5. Sockeye

Enhancement of sockeye from the Babine Lake Development Project (Pinkut and Fulton channels) is undertaken to supplement runs for First Nations, commercial and recreational fisheries. The project operates as a complex of manned spawning channels and controlled river flows. Even though the channels were loaded with target adults, low fecundities and somewhat higher than average pre-spawn mortality contributed to egg deposition lower than target.

Enhancement is part of the recovery plan for Rivers and Smith inlet sockeye stocks. The original plan called for enhancement for one cycle, which concluded in 2004. Enhancement continued for 2005 to aid rebuilding of the weak 2000 brood cycle. Egg targets are adjusted in-season based on the abundance of returning adults. Due to recent declines, a small number of Atnarko sockeye eggs were collected in partnership with the Nuxalk First Nation. These fry will be marked and the returning adults will be used to assess fisheries management and escapement numbers.

Enhanced Production from DFO Operated Hatcheries and Managed Channels and Pallant Cost Recovery Hatchery

		2004 Brood (millions)		2005 Brood (millions)		
		Target Release	Actual Release	Target Release	Egg Target	Eggs Attained
Chinook						
Kitimat	Hirsch	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.28
	Kitimat	1.40	1.27	1.40	1.70	1.72
Pallant	Pallant	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.00
Snootli	Atnarko	1.80	1.76	1.80	2.10	2.18
	Noosgulch	0.04	<0.01	0.04	0.05	0.00
	Nusatsum	0.09	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.07
	Salloomt	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.14
	Wannock	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.40
Total		3.75	3.46	3.75	4.45	4.79
Coho						
Kitimat	Kitimat	0.50	0.53[2]	0.50	0.60	0.67
Pallant Pilot	Pallant	0.92	0.54[1]	0.92	1.08	0.62
Snootli	Salloomt					0.05
	Snootli	0.01	0.00[3]	0.01	0.02	0.05
Total		1.43	1.06	1.43	1.7	1.39
Chum						
Kitimat	Hirsch	1.00	0.88	1.00	1.20	1.21
	Kitimat	3.50	3.45	3.50	4.00	4.11
Pallant Pilot	Mathers	4.28	0.00	4.28	5.00	0.00
	Pallant	21.38	3.49	21.38	25.00	15.40
Snootli	Fish/Airport	1.66	1.59	1.66	1.80	1.92
	Salloomt	1.66	1.71	1.66	1.80	2.00
	Snootli	1.66	1.69	1.66	1.80	2.00
	Thorsen	1.66	1.61	1.66	1.80	1.94
Total		36.80	14.42	36.80	42.40	28.58
Sockeye						
Babine Lake Develop't Project	Fulton Chan	102.00	96.80	102.00	204.00	171.6
	Fulton R	45.00	62.30	45.00	300.00	242.0
	Pinkut Chan	43.50	79.8	43.50	87.00	76.6
	Pinkut Cr	5.70	23.9	5.70	38.00	19.3
	Pinkut Airlift	9.00	0.00	9.00	60.00	18.6
Snootli	Atnarko R					0.04
	Owikeeno Lake	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.55	0.58
		0.16	0.21	0.16	0.20	0.25
Total		205.80	0.69	205.8	689.75	0.87

[1] Pallant Release target include 540k smolts and 378k fry. Actual release includes 25k fry release plus anticipated release of smolts in 2006 (408k in pens); 527k smolts released in 2005.
[2] Fry rearing for release as smolts in 2006.
[3] No smolts. 12k released as fry from classroom incubators.

9. ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: 2006 Pacific Salmon Allocation Implementation Plan
Appendix 2: Rockfish Conservation Areas
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 7: Advisory Board Memberships
Appendix 8: Skeena River Sockeye Inland Fishery Management
Appendix 9: Nisga'a Annual Fishing Plan 2006/2007 and Committee Memberships

Appendix 1: 2006 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 2005, "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 2006 are noted:

- Individual licence holders and groups of licence holders will not be permitted to make their own allocation transfer arrangements.
- As in 2005, 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 equalize 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	Gill Net C	Troll F
1, 3 to 5, 101 to 105	800K	25%	74.8%	0.2%
6 to 10	60K	25%	75%	0%

1.2. North Coast Pink

Areas	Potential Harvest (pieces)	Seine A	Gill Net C	Troll F
1 to 5, and 101 to 105	3.2M	80%	18%	2%
6 to 10	700K	90%	10%	0%

1.3. North Coast Chum

Areas	Potential Harvest (pieces)	Seine A	Gill Net C	Troll F
1,2,101 to 111,130,142	50K	55%	45%	0%
3 to 5	65K	0%	100%	0%
6 to 10	555K	55%	45%	0%

Notes on chum allocations:

- Catch shares in Areas 6 to 10 have been highly variable in recent years and depends on amount of gear fishing.
- Anticipate seine non-retention of chums in Areas 3 to 6 except when fishing hatchery chums in Area 6.
- Area 3 to 5 gill net projection is by-catch only.

1.4. North Coast Coho

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine A	Gill Net C	Troll F
1 to 10, 101, 102, 105-107, 130, 142	300K	20%	5%	75%

Notes on coho allocations:

- There will be opportunities for directed coho harvest in troll fisheries on the north coast of B.C. Net fisheries for Skeena salmon will require non-retention of coho in all fisheries targeted at other species. Other areas are likely to allow coho retention. Check weekly Fishery Notices for details.

1.5. North Coast Chinook

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine A	Gill Net C	Troll F
1 to 5,101, 102, 130, 142	160K	0%	6%	94%
6 to 10	6K	0%	95%	5%

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 troll, the TAC is determined by the PST chinook model. The PST allocation for the Area F troll fleet is preliminarily set at 153K. However, due to conservation concerns for other stocks the expected harvest may be less than this level.

2. SOUTH COAST

2.1. South Coast Sockeye

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine B	Gill Net D	Gill Net E	Troll G	Troll H
Area 23	75K	60%	40%		0%	
Fraser River Sockeye	3.75M	47.5%	18.5%	22%	4.5%	7.5%

Notes on sockeye allocations:

- Fraser River sockeye: Based upon only the spawning escapement requirements, the preliminary Fraser River sockeye TAC is estimated to be three to five million sockeye. However, protective measures will be implemented to address statistical variations, environmental conditions as well as conservation concerns for Sakinaw Lake, Cultus Lake and Early Stuart sockeye. These factors will substantially reduce opportunities to harvest the full TAC.

- Barkley sockeye: Current estimate of catch is based on a pre-season estimate of a 570K return. Sockeye abundance will be reforecast in-season and as a result actual catch targets are likely to change.

2.2. South Coast Pink

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

Notes on pink allocations:

- Off-cyle for Fraser Pink
- No directed Mainland Pink fishery anticipated, to be confirmed in-season

2.3. South Coast Chum

Areas	Potential Harvest (Pieces)	Seine B	Gill Net D	Gill Net E	Troll G	Troll H
11 to 19, 28 to 29	1.2M	63%	19%	12%	0%	6%
21 to 22	800K	70%		29%	1%	
23 to 27	80K	0%	98%	0%	2%	0%

Notes on chum allocations:

- Commercial allocation sharing arrangements in Johnstone Strait are; seine Area B – 77 percent; gill net Area D – 17 percent; and troll Area H – 6 percent. Anticipated catch in Johnstone Strait is approximately 1M with an addition 200K estimated in the terminal areas.
- Nitinat Chum (Area 21 and 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 2006 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 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	Gill Net D	Gill Net E	Troll G	Troll H
11 to 20, 29	0K	55%	15%	15%	0%	15%
21 to 27, 121, 123 to 127	4K	40%	10%	0%	50%	0%

Notes on coho allocations:

- Inside coho - no coho retention fisheries planned.
- WCVI coho - it is anticipated that retention of incidental catches of coho will be allowed in terminal fisheries in Area 23 and 25, as well as in offshore troll fisheries in the fall period only.

2.5. South Coast Chinook

Areas	Harvest Forecast (Pieces)	Seine B	Gill Net D	Gill Net E	Troll G	Troll H
11 to 20, 29	10K		1 %	99 %		0%
21 to 27, 121 to 127	90K	8%	18%	0%	74%	0%

Notes on chinook allocations:

- Inside chinook - 50 chinook bycatch in Area D gill net fisheries in Johnstone Strait, remainder from Area E fisheries in Area 29
- AABM Chinook - A troll catch of 80K is estimated. The commercial target may be adjusted in-season if observed First Nation and recreational catches differ from anticipated levels.
- WCVI Terminal Chinook - Anticipate a total catch of 15K chinook in terminal net fisheries in Area 23 and 25.
- All catch during the calendar year of 2006 will be accounted for in the 2006 allocation plan.

Appendix 2: Rockfish Conservation Areas

To date, 102 a total of rockfish conservation areas have been implemented coastwide. With the onset of the Rockfish Conservation Strategy, the Department announced that it would create closed areas that encompassed up to 50% of the rockfish habitat within the Strait of Georgia and up to 20% on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, Central Coast, North Coast and the Queen Charlotte Islands. To date, most of the closed areas have been located within the Strait of Georgia.

In September 2005, Fisheries and Oceans Canada carried out further consultation to identify potential rockfish conservation areas within the Strait of Georgia. The Department received over 400 comments on the candidate sites. As described in the consultation process, these comments have been evaluated against the candidate sites with significant revision to the candidates. These candidates will be advertised for further comment over the next several months. Upon completion of the closed area component of the strategy, 20% of outside rockfish habitat will have been described as RCA's. The goal for the Strait of Georgia is 30%.

Descriptions including maps of the RCAs can be found online at: www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/fisheriesmgmt/rockfish/default_e.htm or check with your local Fisheries and Oceans Canada office for more information.

Permitted Fishing Activity in Rockfish Conservation Areas

The following fishing activities **<u>will be</u> permitted** in RCAs:

RECREATIONAL	**COMMERCIAL**
Invertebrates by hand picking or dive Crab by trap Prawn by trap Smelt by gillnet	Invertebrates by hand picking or dive Crab by trap Prawn by trap Scallops by trawl Salmon by seine or gillnet Herring by gillnet, seine and spawn-on-kelp Sardine by gillnet, seine and trap Smelt by gillnet Euphausid (krill) by mid-water trawl Opal Squid by seine Groundfish by mid-water trawl

Recreational and commercial fishing activities not listed in the tables above are *not* permitted.

First Nations are encouraged to employ fishing methods or fish in locations to avoid the harvest of inshore rockfish. First Nations fishing for food, social and ceremonial purposes is permitted in RCAs.

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#):	Vessel Master Name:	[1] FIN:	
Net Details	Type[2]:	# Strands[3]:	Length: (fathoms)	Weedline Depth[4]: Hang Ratio: :1 Mesh Size[4]: # Meshes:

Date		Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	# of sets	Sub-area(s)	[5] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Chinook	Steel-head	Atlantic	Dogfish	Sturg-eon	Birds	[6] Other Species
Day	Mon																
						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 #:		
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:		
						Kept											
						Rel.											
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:		

1. Enter the vessel master's Fisher Identification Number.
2. **Net Types**: enter '*A*' for Alaska Twist, '*M*' for Multi Strand or '*C*' for Combination.
3. Enter number of strands if net is 'Alaska Twist' type mesh.
4. Give measurement units (*in* or *"* = inches, *cm* = centimeters, *mm* = millimeters).
5. **Kept** are species retained on board; **Released** are species returned to the ocean.
6. **Other Species**: M= Mackerel, L= Lingcod, H= Halibut, R= Rockfish. Identify marine mammals by species.

2006

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

Vessel Name: VRN (CFV#): Vessel Master Name: [1] FIN:

Date Day	Date Mon.	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	# of sets	Sub-area(s)	[2] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	*Adult* Chinook	[1] *Jack* Chinook	Steel-head	Atlantic	Birds	[3] Other Species
						Kept									X	
						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or			Confirmation #:	
						Kept									X	
						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or			Confirmation #:	
						Kept									X	
						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or			Confirmation #:	
						Kept									X	
						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or			Confirmation #:	

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

1. Enter the vessel master's Fisher Identification Number.
2. **Jack Chinook** are all chinook smaller than 67 cm fork length. Note that 67cm is approximately 26 inches.
3. **Kept** are species retained on board; **Released** are species returned to the ocean.
4. **Other Species**: M= Mackerel, L= Lingcod, H= Halibut, D= Dogfish, R=Rockfish. Identify marine mammals to species.

2006

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

Vessel Name:	VRN (CFV#):	Vessel Master Name:	[1] FIN:

Date Day	Date Mon	Mgmt. Area	Hours fished	Zone ☐ or Subarea ☐	Catch frozen or iced?	[2] Kept or Released	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	[3] Legal Sized Chinook	[3] Sublegal Sized Chinook	[4] Grilse	Atlantic	[5] Rockfish	[6] Other Species
					F or **I**	Kept										
Trip ID #:						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept										
Trip ID #:						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept										
Trip ID #:						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept										
Trip ID #:						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept										
Trip ID #:						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	
					F or **I**	Kept										
Trip ID #:						Rel.										
Comments:												Observer on board? **Y** or **N**			Confirmation #:	

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

2006

Appendix 4: Fishing Vessel Safety

Vessel 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 TC publication TP10038 "*Small Fishing Vessel Safety Manual*" which can be obtained from TC 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, Wx1, Wx2, Wx3, or Wx4. 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 TC Marine Safety office.

Vessel owners and masters 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 Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). These beacons should be

registered with the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (http://www.nss.gc.ca/). Fishers are encouraged to include, as well as maintain, as much information as they can in the database to aid SAR resources. 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.

Vessel owners and masters 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 and should obtain their restricted operator certificate from Industry Canada. However, whenever possible, masters should contact the nearest 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 20 metres in length are required to carry a Class D VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) radio. A registered VHF DSC 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 a Marine Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) number or the automatic distress calling feature of the radio may not work.

A VHF DSC radio that is connected to a global positioning system (GPS) unit will also automatically include your vessel's current position in the distress message. More detailed information on MCTS and VHF DSC radio can be obtained from the Internet at:

http://www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca

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.
- Where the length of the vessel or object being towed or pushed by the ship is twenty metres or more in length.

Exceptions include:

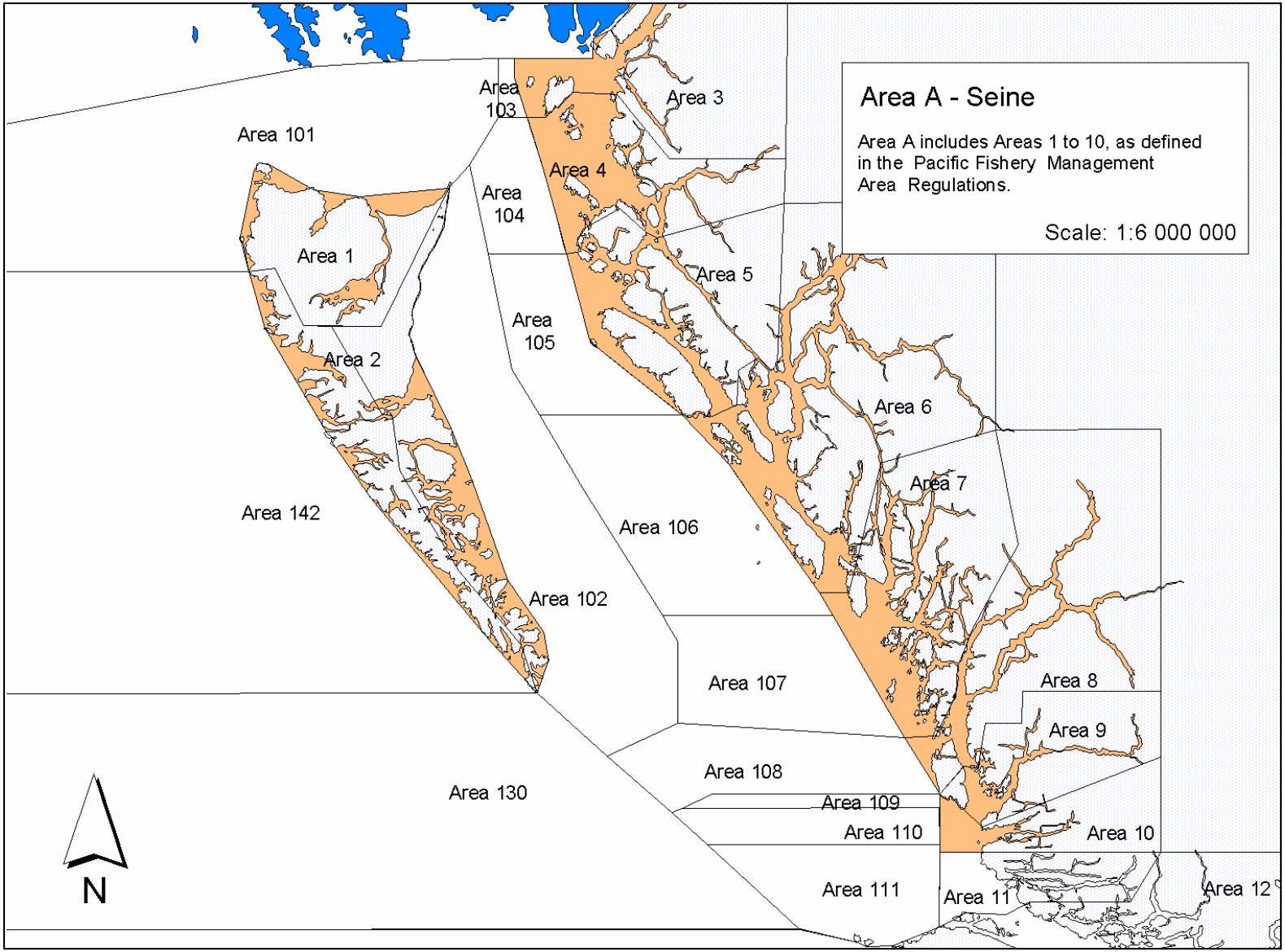
- A ship towing or pushing inside a log booming ground.
- A pleasure yacht **less than** 30 metres in length.
- A fishing vessel that is *less than* 24 metres in length and not **more than** 150 tons gross.

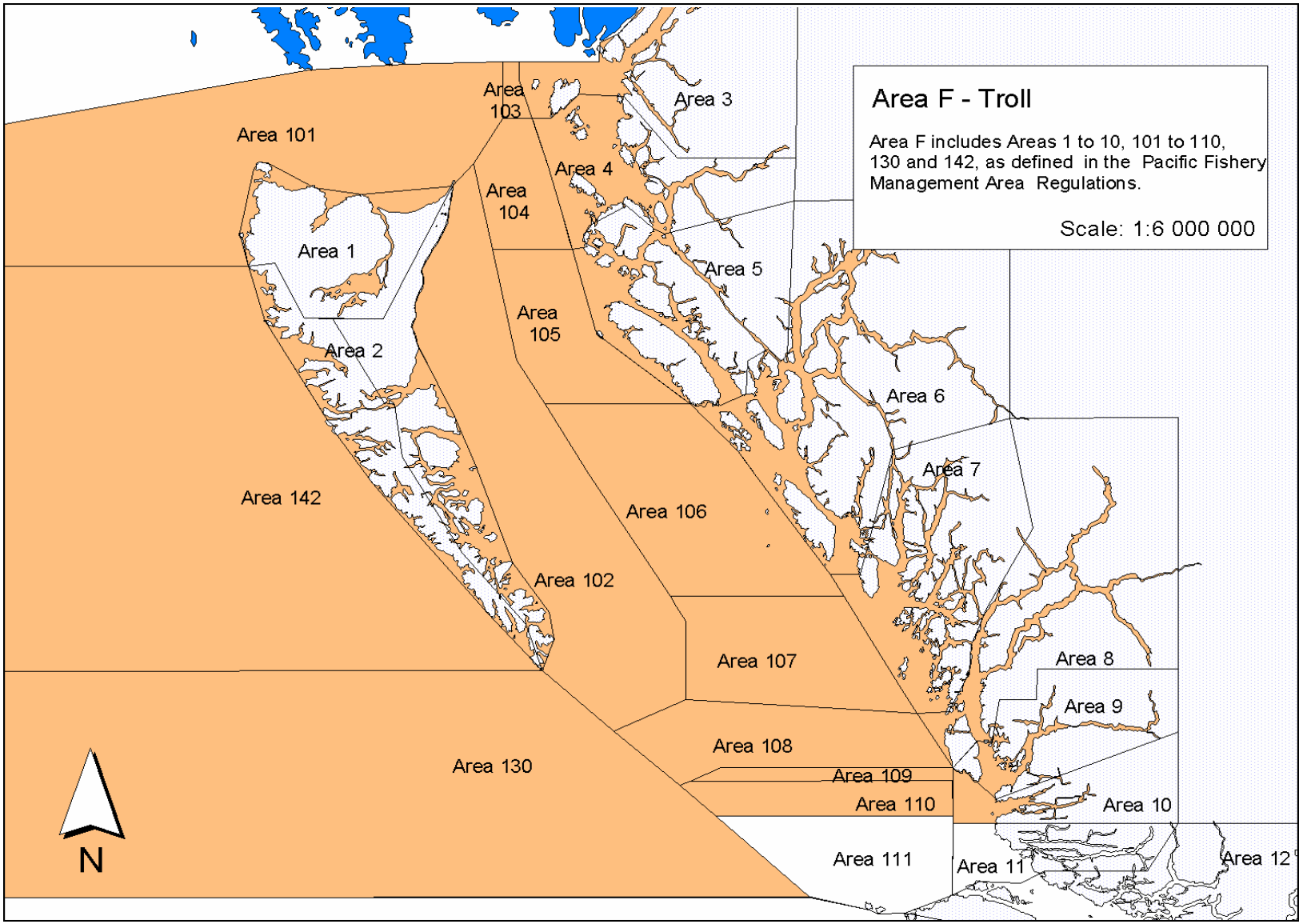
More detailed information on VTS can be obtained by calling (604) 775-8862, or from the Internet at:

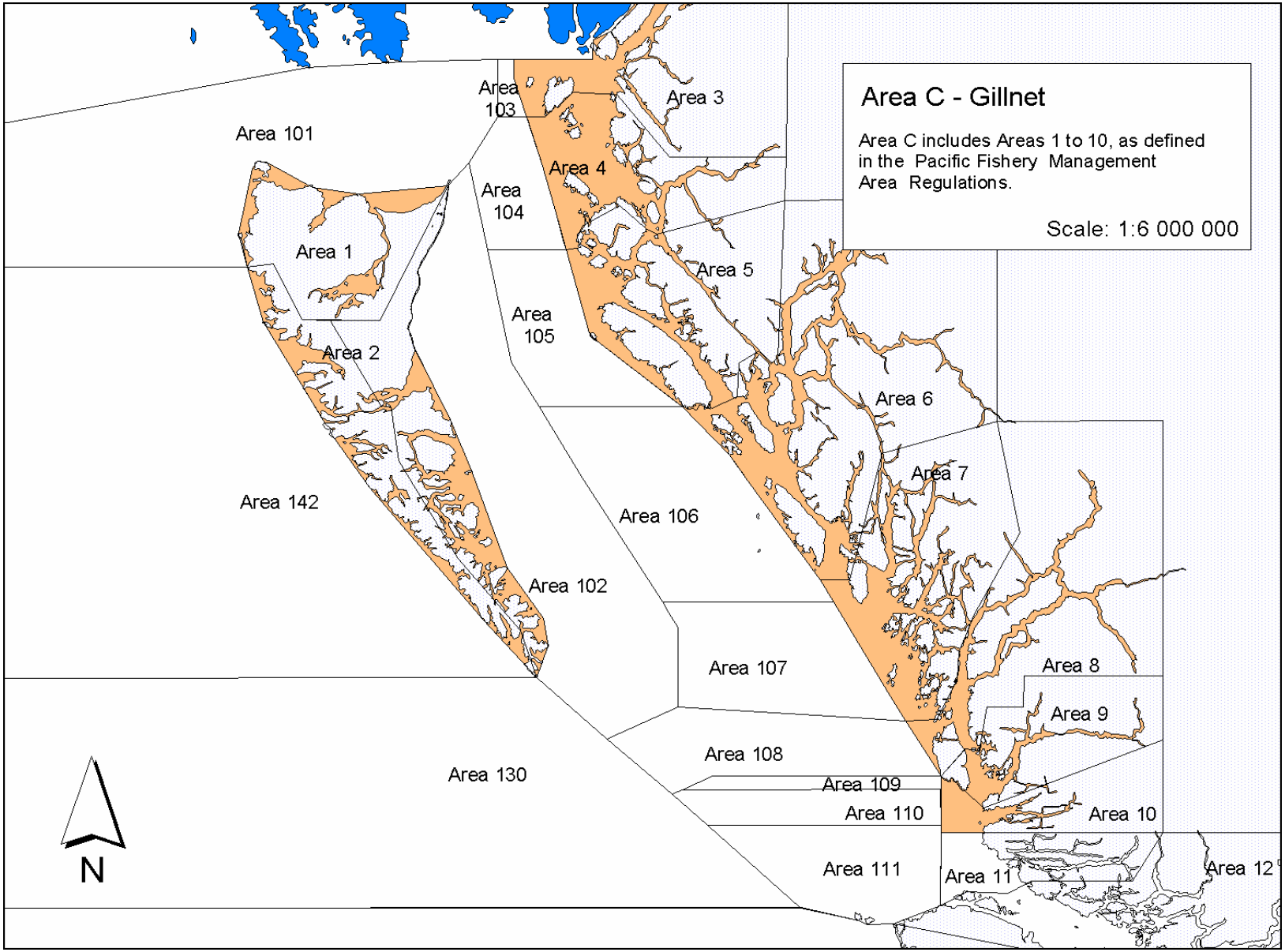
http://www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/mcts-sctm/index_e.htm

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




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.
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 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

Appendix 6: 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. Unless otherwise stated in the table, the daily limit in all waters of Region 5 is zero (0).
2. The aggregate daily limit for all species of Pacific salmon (other than kokanee) from tidal and non-tidal waters combined is four (4).
3. All retained chinook, sockeye, pink, coho, and chum must measure 30 cm or more from tip of nose to tail fork.
4. A single, barbless hook is in effect year round for all streams in Region 5.
5. There is an annual limit of 10 adult chinook from non-tidal waters. 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.
6. 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
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.
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day only 2 over 50cm.
Atnarko River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Jul 22	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.*
		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 2 over 50cm.
			Oct 16-Dec31	*No fishing for coho.*
Bella Coola River	Including tributaries (not including Atnarko River)	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm. (See exception below)
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 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	4 per day only 2 over 50cm
			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.*

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
Kilbella River		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Oct 31	4 per day only 2 over 50cm.
			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.*
Long Lake	Including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Wannock River		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*

REGION 6: SKEENA

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

7. Unless otherwise stated in the table, the daily limit in all waters of Region 6 is zero (0).
8. The aggregate daily limit for all species of Pacific salmon (other than kokanee) from tidal and non-tidal waters combined is four (4).
9. All retained chinook, sockeye, pink, coho, and chum must measure 30 cm or more from tip of nose to tail fork.
10. A single, barbless hook is in effect year round for all streams in Region 6.
11. There is an annual limit of 10 adult chinook from non-tidal waters. All retained adult chinook must be recorded on the back of your freshwater angling licence. An "adult chinook" in Region 6 (other than Fraser River Watershed) is defined as being over 65 cm measured from the tip of the nose to tail fork.
12. 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	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm. (1 over 50cm in Fraser River Watershed)
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
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 Loon Cr.
Babine Lake	Within a 400 metre radius of the mouth of Pinkut Creek	All	Aug 15-Sep 15	*No angling.*
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	Downstream of the Morice River	Chinook	Jun 16-Dec 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
	confluence.	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.
		Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm
	Downstream of 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.*
Morice Lake	Including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Morice River (including tributaries)	Upstream of Lamprey Creek	All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
	From boundary signs located approximately 100 metres downstream of Gosnell Creek to Lamprey Creek	Chinook	Jun 16-July 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
	Below Lamprey Creek	Chinook	Jun 16-Aug 31	4 per day, only 1 over 65cm.
			Sep 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
	From Gosnell Creek to Lamprey Creek	Coho	Sep 01-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm. Flyfishing only.
	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	Downstream of boundary signs located approx. 25 m downstream of fish counting fence.	Sockeye	Aug 01-Aug 14	2 per day.
		All	Aug 15-Sep 15	*No Angling*
Shegunia River	Between signs located above and below logging road bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
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.	Pink	Jun 16-Dec 31	2 per day.
	downstream of confluence with Kispiox River to the CNR Railway Bridge at Terrace.	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 River 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 m downstream.	Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
	Between boundary signs located approx. 100 m either side of the confluence with the Kitwanga R.	Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	4 per day, only 1 over 50 cm.
	From a point 100m above the confluence with Burdick Creek downstream to the CNR bridge at Terrace	Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	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.
	Upstream of signs near confluence with Johnston Creek	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Exchamsiks 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.*

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
Exstew River (including tributaries)		Coho	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
	Upstream of Hwy # 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	Sep 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 1 over 50cm.
	Upstream of Hwy # 16 bridge	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
Khyex River (including tributaries)	Upstream of Hwy # 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	Aug 26-Nov 30	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.*

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
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	Jan 01-Dec 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		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 06	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 15	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-Mar31	*No fishing for coho.*
		All	Jan 01-Dec 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.

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
Pallant Creek		All	Aug 01-Oct 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
	upstream of signs located 100m above fish counting fence	Coho	Apr 01-Oct 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
Sheldens Creek	Upstream of boundary signs located at the Spur 19 Bridge site.	Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	0 per day
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 Section 6 of the IFMP.			
Yakoun River	Downstream of the 6 mile Bridge	Pink	Aug 01-Sep 30	2 per day
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 BC 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 BC 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.*
Brim River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook*
Dala River	Including tributaries	All	Jan 01-Aug 15	*No fishing for salmon.*
			Oct 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
		Chinook, Sockeye, Pink, Chum	Aug 16-Sep 30	*No fishing for chinook, sockeye, pink, chum*
		Coho	Aug 16-Sep 30	4 per day only 1 over 50 cm.
Endako River		All	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for salmon.*
Giltoyees Creek		Coho	Aug 15-Sep 30	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 15-Sep 30	4 per day only 2 over 50 cm
Khutze	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 15-Sep 30	4 per day only 1 over 50 cm. Monthly quota = 1 over 65cm
Kiltuish River	Including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook*
Kincolith River	Upstream of white triangle boundary signs located at the Kincolith River Bridge.	Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50 cm.
		Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
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 31	2 per day
		Pink	Apr 01-Aug 31	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 15-Sep 30	4 per day only 2 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	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 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	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
Swift River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, only 1 over 65cm. Anglers may now fish this river with either a Yukon or BC angling licence.
Tahltan River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
Taku River	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
Tatsamenie Lake's outlet streams	between Tatsamenie L. and Tatsatua Creek	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 65cm.
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	4 per day, only 2 over 50cm.
Tatshenshini River (downstream of the BC/Yukon border)	including tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, single barbless hook
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, single barbless hook
		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, , single barbless hook

WATERS	SPECIFIC AREA	SPECIES	DATES	LIMITS/GEAR
Tatshenshini River (upstream of the BC/Yukon border – along the Haines Hwy.)	Blanchard River	Chinook	Jan 01-Jul 23	2 per day, , single barbless hook
			Jul 24-Dec 31	*No fishing for chinook.*
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, , single barbless hook
		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, , single barbless hook
	Kwatini Creek, Stanley Creek and Goat Creek	Chinook, Coho, Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	*No Fishing for chinook, coho or sockeye.*
	Tatshenshini mainstem and all other tributaries	Chinook	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, single barbless hook
		Coho	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, single barbless hook
		Sockeye	Jan 01-Dec 31	2 per day, single barbless hook
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-Dec 31	*No fishing for coho.*

Appendix 7: Advisory Board Memberships

Meeting dates and records of consultation can be found at:

www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/consultations/salmon/sapdefault_e.htm

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Appendix 8: 2006 Demonstration Project - Skeena River Sockeye Inland Fishery Management

Skeena River sockeye stocks are managed using an annual aggregate exploitation rate target. This target changes with changing run sizes. For the predicted return of 1.8 million in 2006, the target exploitation rate will be 26%. This annual exploitation rate is then broken down to a weekly harvest rate, based on the run timing of the aggregate run and the strengths of individual sockeye stocks. The Skeena Management Model is used to estimate the weekly harvest rate in-season, and a post-season run reconstruction is used to truth this in-season estimate, and help further refine the model for future years.

The concept of the 2006 Inland Fishery Demonstration Project is to transfer the catch of a number of commercial gill net or seine licences to the inland portion of the Skeena River. The mechanics of this transfer is explained below.

The sockeye swim time from the commercial fishery to the Terrace area is approximately 1 week; from the commercial fishery to the mid-river area around Hazelton is 2 weeks; and from the commercial fishery to the Babine River weir is 3 weeks. This also roughly coincides with the interested First Nation groupings on the Skeena, with the Tsimshian at Terrace, the Gitxsan in the mid-river area, and the Lake Babine Nation at the Babine weir.

The forecasted run size in 2006 is similar to 2004. In 2004, the Area 4 fishery was 7 days with an average catch of 450 sockeye per licence for the season. This would equal about 20 pieces per nation per opening for each commercial licence transferred inland to First Nations. The weekly catch will be less than the average at the start of July and increase toward late July.

The shares allowed to be caught by the various groups would depend on the number of licences transferred to each area, and the average gill net catch in the commercial fishery, as determined from the Prince Rupert office in-season, based on hail and phone-in information.

The existing commercial gill net fishery can keep sockeye and pink in Area 4. Coho and steelhead are mandatory release, and a request is made to all gill net fishers to release all live chum and chinook to the water with the least possible harm.

For the demonstration project, the intent would be to continue the selective methods that have been developed since the 1990s pilot sales fisheries. These include beach seine, fishwheel, dip net, and the Babine weir. Gill nets will not be allowed. Sockeye and pink may be retained, based on the weekly allocation issued by Prince Rupert DFO, and all other species would be returned to the water with the least possible harm.

All inland commercial sockeye and pink salmon will have to be checked through a compulsory landing station. All appropriate records are to be kept for proper monitoring and enforcement.

Management Scenarios

Week 1

This is the week of the first commercial fisheries targeting Skeena sockeye. In 2006, July 10 is the proposed first gill net day.

An allowable sockeye harvest rate will be set for this week. On average, 7% of the aggregate sockeye escapement enters the river during this week. Therefore, the weekly exploitation rate (ER) will be 1.8% (7% of the annual ER, which currently is expected to be 26%). Actual exploitation rate achieved will be estimated on a daily basis using the Skeena Management Model. Input into the Model is number of vessels fishing and the date they are fishing. In 2006, this input will be number of vessels fishing plus number of licences transferred inland, to model the catch as if those licences were to be fishing on the coast. Put another way, the fish that would have been caught by the inland licences will be allowed to enter the river, to be available to that fishery in due course. Extra gill net days are possible this week depending on actual exploitation rate achieved after the one gill net day.

In the commercial fishing area, this is the second peak week of Early Non-Babine stocks. In fish abundance, Pinkut stocks should be dominating.

Weekly allowable harvest rates are expected to be met, so no ESSR would be expected yet. However, abundance of Pinkut stocks could trigger an ESSR opportunity in later weeks in the Babine River. No ESSR opportunities will occur downstream of the Babine River confluence.

Week 2

There is expected to be at least one gill net day this week. Allowable weekly harvest rate will be calculated using the method described above.

Demonstration Project

A communal commercial licence will be issued by DFO to the appropriate First Nation (e.g. Kitselas Band) to administrate. This communal commercial licence will be valid for the week, and the catch allowed will be specified on the licence. This amount will be determined in the following manner: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink during the previous week (Week 1) as determined in-season by the commercial fishery manager, times the number of licences that have been transferred to the Terrace area. This amount will be valid only for Week 2. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

In the commercial fishing area, this is normally the peak week of Pinkut stocks.

Weekly allowable harvest rates are expected to be met, so no ESSR would be expected yet. However, abundance of Pinkut stocks could trigger an ESSR opportunity in later weeks in the Babine River. There will be no ESSR fishery downstream of the Babine River confluence.

Week 3

There is expected to be at least one gill net day this week. This is also expected to be the first week of seine fishing on the north coast. Allowable weekly harvest rate will be calculated using the method described above.

This is normally the second peak week of the Pinkut stock. This week is also the first of the two peak weeks of the Fulton and Babine Lake stocks. This is the first week the Babine River stock is present in significant numbers.

A communal commercial licence will be issued to the appropriate First Nation to administrate the Demonstration Project licences in the mid-river area. This communal commercial licence will be valid for all year, but the amounts allowed will be determined by DFO on a weekly basis. A letter of amendment will be issued every week from the Prince Rupert office, to specify the amount of sockeye and pink salmon allowed.

This amount will be determined in the following manner:

Demonstration Project
Terrace: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in previous week, times the number of licences that have been transferred to the Terrace area. This amount will be valid only for Week 3. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Mid-River: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 1, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the mid-river area. This amount will be valid only for Week 3. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

This is the earliest week that an ESSR could be considered in the Babine River upstream of the confluence with the Skeena (by the Gitxsan at Gisgegas). The sockeye entering the Babine will be the same stocks that were fished in the commercial fishing area during Week 1. Once these sockeye enter the Babine, certain weak stocks such as the Bulkley / Morice and Kitwanga sockeye will no longer be present, and a slightly higher exploitation rate can be exerted on the remaining population, which will have a high Pinkut component.

Week 4

Allowable weekly harvest rate will be calculated and tracked using the method described above.

Total Canadian upper Skeena coho exploitation rate will be considered in any management decisions. In-season indications of coho abundance and calculations of expected escapement based on Alaskan catches should be known this week.

At least one day of a special selective gillnet fishery may take place this week. This fishery will be conducted in a smaller area than previously during the season, and will be intensively monitored. It will be limited to half length nets and short sets. Exploitation rates of this fishery on both sockeye and upper Skeena coho will be calculated on a daily basis.

A special selective seine fishery may take place this week. This fishery will be conducted in a smaller area than previously during the season, and will be intensively monitored. The special selective seine fishery will likely take place on a different day than the special selective gillnet fishery, to ensure adequate resources are available for monitoring and controlling both fisheries.

Additional fishing days could take place, depending on coho and sockeye exploitation rate calculations.

In fisheries this week, the intent is to harvest the tail end of the Pinkut, and the second peak week of the Fulton sockeye stocks. This is also the first of the three peak weeks of the Babine River stock. This is the normal peak week of the aggregate Skeena River sockeye run.

Of concern this week is upper Skeena coho, which will be increasing in abundance in the fishing area. Also of concern is the Late Non-Babine sockeye stock group, which are comprised of Kitsumkalum, Kitwanga, Bear and Zymoetz stocks.

In big pink years, very large catches can occur this week, especially by seine. Pinks are not a major consideration to determining fishing patterns until the first week of August. Pink test fish results normally show significant increases in escapements this week in odd years.

Chums are beginning to enter the Skeena River, as shown by a few being caught at the test fishery. The number of chum escaping to date is generally small. Coho indices to date are generally small and it is too early for them to give meaningful interpretation of the total run. This is the peak week of early timed steelhead stocks entering the Skeena River.

Demonstration Project:
Terrace: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in previous week, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the Terrace area. This amount will be valid only for Week 4. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Mid-River: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 2, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the mid-river area. This amount will be valid only for Week 4. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Babine Weir: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 1, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the Babine weir area. This amount will be valid only for Week 4. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

This week there may be an ESSR fishery conducted in the Babine River, for the fish that were fished in the commercial fishing areas during Week 2 (Gitxsan at Gisgegas), and possibly an ESSR fishery at the Babine River weir for fish that were in the commercial fishing areas during Week 1 (Babine Lake First Nation).

Week 5

Allowable weekly harvest rate will be calculated and tracked using the method described above.

Total Canadian upper Skeena coho exploitation rate will be considered in any management decisions. In-season indications of coho abundance and calculations of expected escapement based on Alaskan catches should be known.

One day of a special selective gillnet fishery is possible this week. This fishery will be conducted in a small area, and will be intensively monitored. It will be limited to half length nets and short sets. Exploitation rates of this fishery on both sockeye and upper Skeena coho will be calculated on a daily basis.

A special selective seine fishery will likely take place this week. This fishery will be conducted in a smaller area than previously during the season, and will be intensively monitored. The special selective seine fishery will likely take place on a different day than the special selective gillnet fishery, to ensure adequate resources are available for monitoring and controlling both fisheries.

Additional fishing days could take place, depending on coho and sockeye exploitation rate calculations.

In fisheries this week, the intent is to harvest the last of the peak weeks of Fulton stocks. This is also the peak week of the Babine River sockeye stock. Significant numbers of pink salmon can also be harvested this week, particularly with seines.

Of concern this week is upper Skeena coho, which will be increasing in abundance in the fishing area. Also of concern is the Late Non-Babine sockeye stock group, which are comprised of Kitsumkalum, Kitwanga, Bear and Zymoetz stocks.

Chums continue to enter the Skeena River in low numbers, as shown by a few being caught at the test fishery. Coho escapements to date generally remain low but may begin to indicate the relative strength of the early timed stocks. This is the peak timing of the aggregate steelhead stocks entering the Skeena River.

Demonstration Project:
Terrace: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in previous week, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the Terrace area. This amount will be valid only for Week 5. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Mid-River: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 3, times the number of licences that have been transferred to the mid-river area. This amount will be valid only for Week 5. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Babine Weir: Average catches in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 2, times the number of licences that have been transferred to the Babine weir area. This amount will be valid only for Week 5. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

ESSR:
This week could see ESSR fisheries in the Babine River and Weir, depending on weekly exploitation rates. This is the first week that fish start to show up at the Pinkut Creek facility, and an early ESSR is possible. Any ESSR fishery at both Pinkut and Fulton River facilities would be calculated in close consultation with the facility managers, and be based on observed surpluses.

Week 6

Allowable weekly harvest rate will be calculated and tracked using the method described above.

Total Canadian upper Skeena coho exploitation rate will be considered in any management decisions.

A special selective seine fishery will likely take place this week. This fishery will be conducted in a smaller area than previously during the season, and will be intensively monitored. The special selective seine fishery will likely take place on a different day than the special selective gillnet fishery, to ensure adequate resources are available for monitoring and controlling both fisheries.

A gillnet fishery may occur this week, depending on stock strength.

Additional fishing days could take place, depending on coho and sockeye exploitation rate calculations.

In fisheries this week, the intent is to harvest the tail end of the Fulton stocks, and the third peak week of the Babine River stock. This is also a peak week of pink salmon harvest. Pink stocks should be the upper and middle Skeena stocks.

Of concern this week is upper Skeena coho. This is the peak week of these stocks migrating through the fishing area.

Chum test fish indices normally increase this week; however, the numbers are generally small. Coho escapements to date give an indication of the strength of the upper Skeena stocks. This week and the previous week are normally the peak weeks of summer run steelhead escapement.

Demonstration Project:
Terrace: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink, times the number of licences that have been transferred to the Terrace area. This amount will be valid only for Week 6. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Mid-River: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 4, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the mid-river area. This amount will be valid only for Week 6. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Babine Weir: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 3, times the number of licences that have been transferred to the Babine weir area. This amount will be valid only for Week 6. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

ESSR
This week could see ESSR fisheries in the Babine River and at the weir, depending on weekly exploitation rates. This week could see significant harvests at Pinkut Creek and Fulton River spawning facilities. Surpluses at the spawning channels will be determined in close consultation with the facility managers, and be based on observed surpluses only.

Week 7

The intent of any fisheries this week would be to harvest Skeena River pink salmon.

A special selective seine fishery could take place this week. This fishery will be conducted in a small area, and will be intensively monitored.

Gillnet fisheries are unlikely for the remainder of the season.

Of concern this week is upper Skeena coho.

Demonstration Project:
Terrace: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in previous week, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the Terrace area. This amount will be valid only for Week 7. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Mid-River: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 5, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the mid-river area. This amount will be valid only for Week 7. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Babine Weir: Average catches in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 4, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the Babine weir area. This amount will be valid only for Week 7. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

ESSR
Pinkut Creek harvest will likely be curtailed by mid-week due to quality concerns.

Week 8

The intent of any fisheries this week would be to harvest lower Skeena River pink salmon and to a lesser extent coastal pink stocks.

A special selective seine fishery could take place this week. This fishery will be conducted in a small area, and will be intensively monitored.

Of concern this week are upper Skeena coho, coastal pinks in some years, steelhead and chum.

Demonstration Project
Terrace: Demonstration fishery expected to be complete.

Mid-River: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 6, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the mid-river area. This amount will be valid only for Week 8. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

Babine Weir: Average catch in Area 4 of sockeye and pink in Week 5, multiplied by the number of licences that have been transferred to the Babine weir area. This amount will be valid only for Week 8. If any of this amount is not caught in this week, then they will be forgone catch – they will not be available in the following week.

ESSR

This week could see significant harvests at Fulton River spawning facility. Fulton River harvest will likely be curtailed by the end of this week.

Week 9
Commercial fishery is expected to be closed.

Demonstration Project
Terrace: Demonstration fishery expected to be complete.

Mid-River: Demonstration Project expected to be complete.

Babine Weir: Although some fish may be available (based on the commercial catch of Week 6), quality concerns will likely spell the end of the Demonstration Project fishery.

ESSR: Although some fish may be available, quality concerns will likely spell the end of the fishery.