



# 2020/21 Draft Salmon IFMP

## Updates and draft IFMP content for discussion

Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning:  
March 10th, 2020 - Nanaimo



# Outline:

## Updates and draft IFMP Content:

1. Interior Fraser Coho
2. Fraser River Chum
3. Interior Fraser Steelhead
4. Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework
5. IFMP Timelines



# 1. Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho

- In 2018, Canada updated the Pacific Salmon Treaty management approach to use the status of the Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho management unit (MU) to set exploitation rate caps.
- Starting in 2019, IFR Coho status is determined using a combination of the three most recent years' marine survival rates and spawner escapement. Canada confirms the status of IFR Coho MU in March of each year.
- Exploitation rate caps (includes Canadian plus US impacts) are set at 20%, 30% and 45% for Low, Moderate and Abundant status.
- At Low status, Canada and the US each have an ER cap of 10%.
- Each country may choose to manage to an ER that is less than their cap based on domestic planning needs.



# Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho – 2020 Planning

- Low status is expected for IFR Coho in 2020 as both escapement and marine survival need to be above the Low/Moderate threshold in 2017, 2018, and 2019 to achieve Moderate status.
- The Low/Moderate escapement threshold is approximately 30,000. The Low/Moderate threshold for marine survival is 3%.
- The preliminary spawning escapement estimate for Interior Fraser River Coho salmon in 2019 is approximately 44,000. Final escapement and marine survival estimates are expected by March 13, after which the official status of IFR Coho will be formally identified.



## Interior Fraser River (IFR) Coho

*The objective for Interior Fraser River Coho (including Thompson River Coho) is to manage Canadian fisheries in a highly precautionary manner with fisheries management measures similar to those in place prior to 2014. This approach is expected to achieve an overall exploitation rate within the 3 to 5 % range.*

**(IFMP Section 6.5)**

Additional work required to develop status determination framework Strait of Georgia and Lower Fraser Coho management units.

- Number of projects proposed/underway to address current data limitations and inform management. (e.g. Lower Fraser Coho project)



## 2. Fraser River Chum Fisheries

- Returns in 2020 will be based largely on the brood from the 2016 escapement; escapement (1.930 M spawners). Despite a relatively large brood year return, the 2020 outlook is considered “low” due to the low Fraser River Chum returns observed since 2017, which reflected a coast-wide trend of low Chum returns.
- Directed fisheries are possible for the 2020 season, subject to in-season assessments (Albion Test fishery) and Interior Fraser Steelhead conservation measures.
- Table 13.2-2 provides a summary of key decision points for the Fraser River chum fishery. No changes have been proposed to this table for 2020.



## 3. Interior Fraser River Steelhead

- COSEWIC is required to reassess status of Thomson and Chilcotin Steelhead within a year of the July 2019 GIC decision not to list these populations under a SARA Emergency Listing Process.
- The reassessment is scheduled for April 2020, with a COSEWIC Annual Report expected in October 2020. If the Annual Report identifies that these populations are *Threatened, Endangered, or Special Concern*, this will trigger a regular SARA Listing Process.
- While we are waiting for the new COSEWIC report, the Department is consulting with First Nations and stakeholders on conservation measures to be implemented to protect IFR Steelhead from salmon fisheries through the regular IFMP planning process.



# Interior Fraser River Steelhead

- The IFR Steelhead window closures outlined in the 2019 Southern BC Salmon IFMP will form the basis for 2020 fisheries planning discussions. These included:
  - 42 day closures for commercial gill net and seine fisheries (marine and Fraser River) and recreational fisheries in the Fraser River
  - 27 day closures for troll fisheries (marine and Fraser River) and FSC fisheries in the Fraser River
  - Marine recreational and marine FSC fisheries remained open with Steelhead release.
- Feedback on these measures will be sought throughout the IFMP planning process. A Ministerial Decision will be sought on the final suite of measures to be implemented in 2020.
- Any modifications to the 2019 approach are expected to be consistent with the degree of conservation required to protect stocks returning at very low abundance.



# 4. Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework

NEW CSAF proposals received by January 27<sup>th</sup> were included in the draft IFMP.

Year	Salmon Coordinating Committee	Commercial Salmon Advisory Board
	<b><u>Southern BC</u></b>	<b><u>Southern BC</u></b>
2020		ITQ – Area E (Fraser Chum)



# Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework

- The Department is currently evaluating proposals internally and will be engaging with the proponents to finalize.
- In consideration of results of the assessment as well as feedback received through IFMP consultations, successful proposals will be included in the final IFMP.
- Proposals deemed successful as well as existing proposals already included in previous IFMPs, will be implemented SUBJECT to a final fishing plan being approved in the area.



## 2020 IFMP Timelines

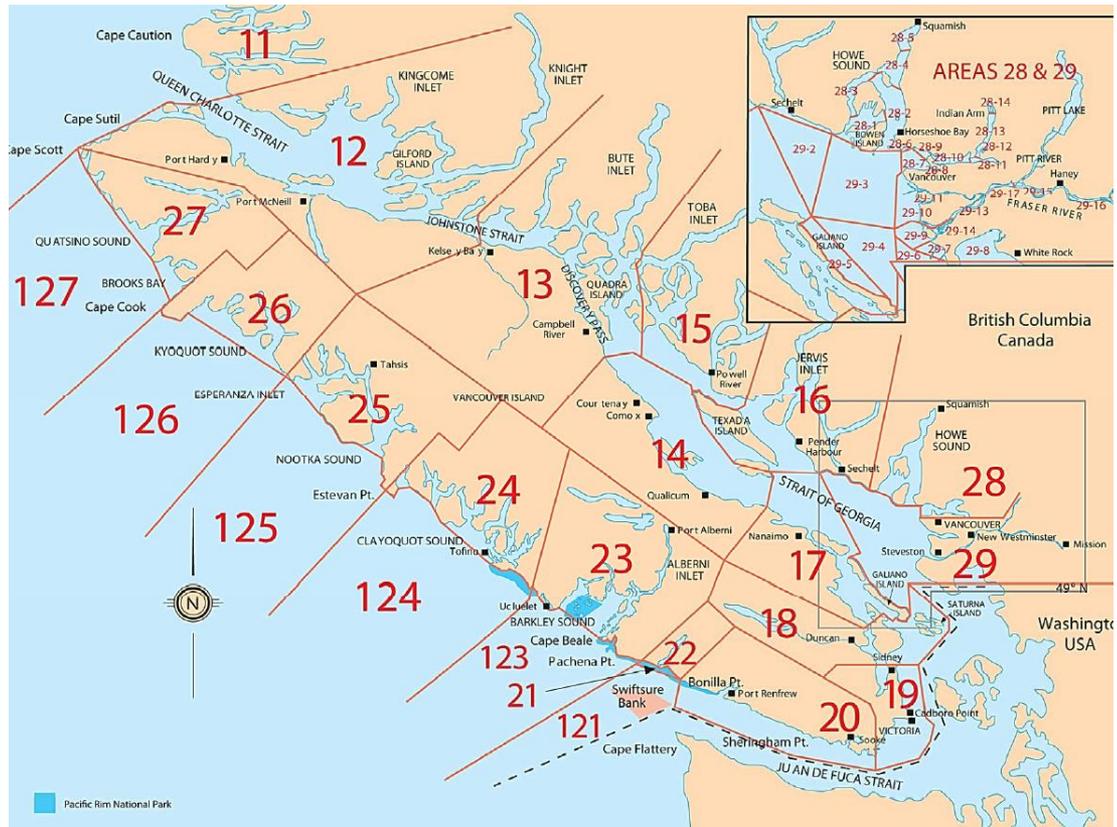
Activity	Proposed Timelines
Release draft IFMPs for public review & comment	Approx. February 26, 2020
Meetings to review draft IFMP	Northern IHPC – Prince Rupert (March 4) Southern IHPC – Vancouver (March 5) <b>FN Forum (March 10 to 12, Nanaimo)</b> <b>FN Forum (Apr 7 to 9, Prince George)</b>
Deadline to submit comments on draft IFMP (30 day comment period).	<b>April 15, 2020</b>
Final Meetings for discussion on IFMP feedback.	Full IHPC– Vancouver (April 28-29, 2020 )
Target for public release of salmon IFMP	<b>June 2020</b>



# ANNEXES

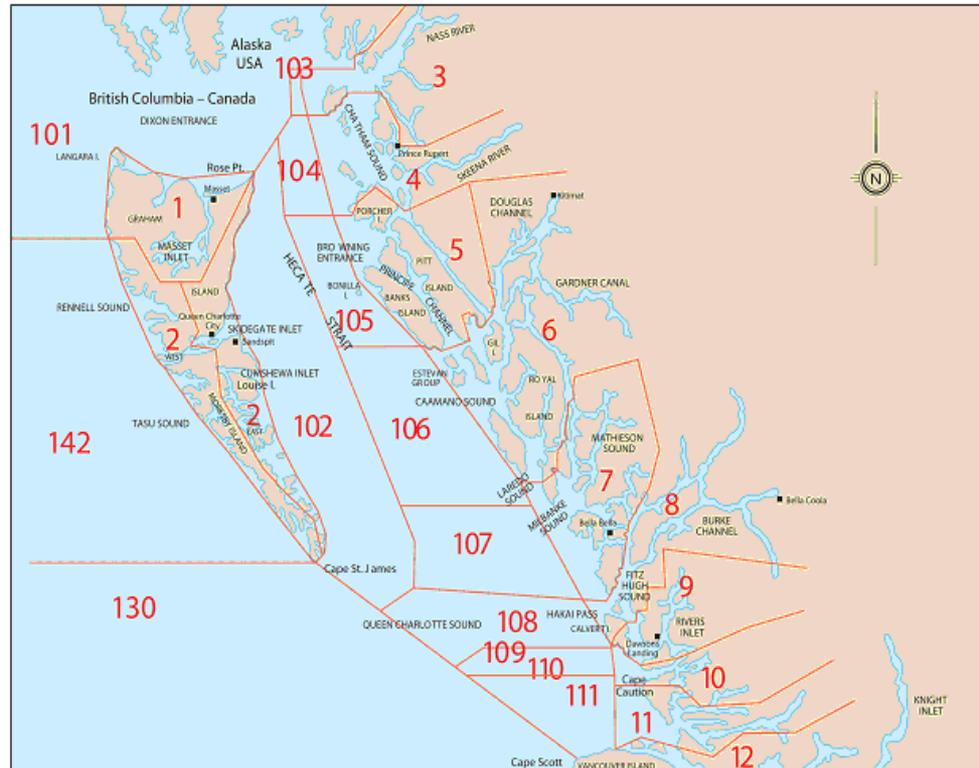


# Southern BC PFMA Maps





# Northern BC PFMA Maps





## PST Reference Points and ER Caps for the IFR Coho MU

	Low	Moderate	Abundant
<b>Survival</b>	$S \leq 0.03$	Three consecutive years $0.03 < S \leq 0.06$	Three consecutive years $S > 0.06$
		and	and
<b>Escapement</b>	Monitored in CU's and subpops but no thresholds	Three consecutive years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half of subpops in each CU &gt; 1000; or</li> <li>• Aggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., 27,000)</li> </ul>	Three consecutive years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All IFR subpops in each CU &gt; 1000; or</li> <li>• Aggregate MU esc. objective (e.g., revised 40,000)</li> </ul>
<b>ER cap (US/Can)</b>	<b>0.20</b> (0.10/0.10)	<b>0.30</b> (0.12/0.18)	<b>0.45</b> (0.15/0.30)

Previous approach included ER caps of 20% for low; 40 for moderate and 65% for abundant



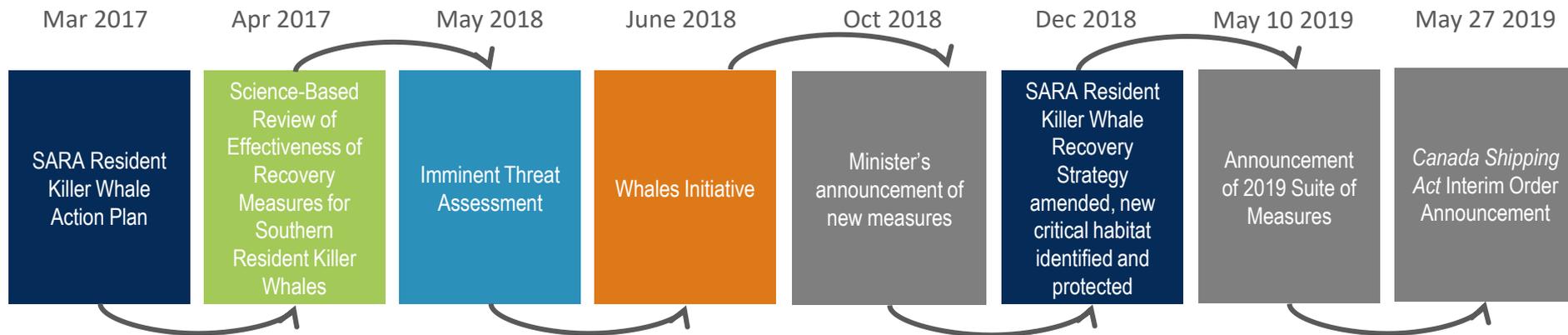
# Southern Resident Killer Whales

- Overall goal is to ensure the long-term viability of resident killer whale populations by achieving and maintaining demographic conditions that preserve their reproductive potential, genetic variation and cultural continuity
- Whales Initiative: Announced in June 2018 to support protection and recovery of endangered whale species, including the Southern Resident Killer Whale. This is a collaboration b/w the Canada, Indigenous groups, stakeholders and other governments, including the Province of BC and the US.
- Management recovery actions address threats of contaminants, reduced prey availability, and acoustic and physical disturbance



## LOOKING BACK: THE PATH TO 2019 MEASURES

- 2019 management measures are part of a continuum of actions taken to protect Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Some key milestones in recent years include:





# Considerations for 2020

## 2020 Approach

Continue to address key threats in 2020 from multiple human activities based on lessons learned

Make adjustments to 2019 measures based on lessons learned from 2018 and 2019

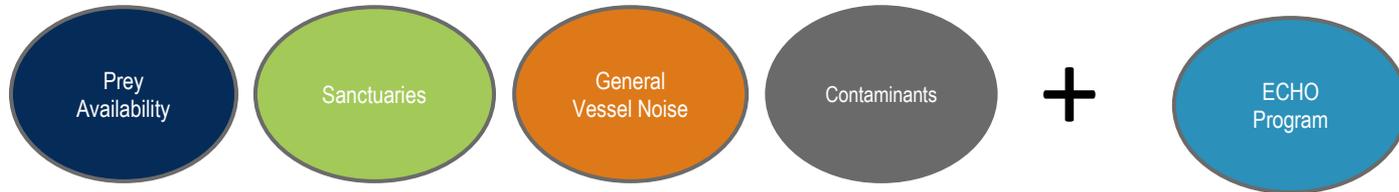
Simplify measures where possible to encourage compliance

Research the possibility of a start date trigger for area-based closures based on local whale presence

Consideration and alignment where possible with US recovery measures



# Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and ECHO



- **2020 TWG Objectives:**
  - Review measure options and considerations for input towards recommendations for implementation in 2020
  - Move forward on TWG recommendations of longer-term actions for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery
- **ECHO Program**
  - To better reflect the existing structure and governance of the ECHO program, and recognizing the signing of the Conservation Agreement with the Government of Canada, the ECHO Program will not be referred to as a TWG
  - ECHO will continue to be the main forum where measures for Large Commercial Vessels are developed and implemented, and will report out on its efforts to the Government of Canada



## Prey TWG

### TWG Approach

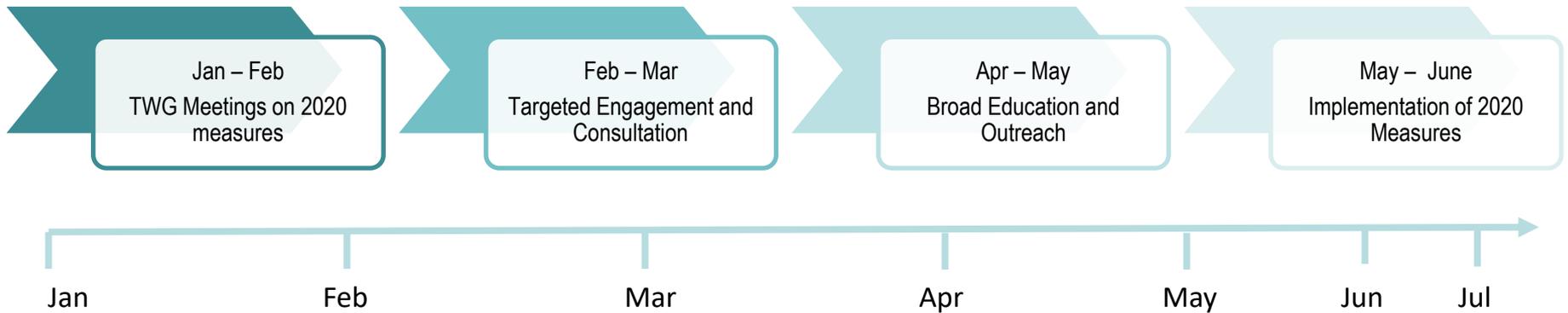
- Review 2018 and 2019: fisheries management measures to identify lessons learned
- Seek recommendations for measure options for implementation in 2020
- Move forward on longer-term action recommendations that address:
  - Chinook habitat restoration and protection
  - Chinook hatchery enhancement
  - Prey competition
  - Forage fish management

### Key Considerations

- Information brought forward in discussions with Indigenous groups and governments, and other key stakeholders
- Ensure linkages to other relevant processes, such as Southern BC Chinook Committee, Salmon Enhancement Program, habitat restoration, US approach



# Critical Path & Key Milestones





# Next Steps

## March-April 2020

- Consultations with Indigenous groups, industry and stakeholders on potential Southern Resident Killer Whale management measures for 2020 is currently underway
- TWG recommendations, input from consultation, and advice from the Indigenous Monitoring Advisory Group will be considered by Departments/Ministers in their decisions for implementation of actions

## April 2020

- Decisions on management measures for the 2020 season
- Target education and outreach efforts

## May-June 2020

- Further discussion within TWGs on longer-term measures to support recovery