



Renewal of the Canada / United States Pacific Salmon Treaty – Annex IV Update

March 2017



Outline

- Context – PST renewal
- Update on Chapter negotiations
- Annex – Commissioners, Panels and Technical Committees





Pacific Salmon Treaty and Pacific Salmon Commission

- The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) was signed in 1985 – commits Canada and the U.S. to work together on research, conservation and management of Pacific salmon.
- The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) is responsible for the implementation of the Treaty.
- The PSC is a bilateral, multi-level organization with U.S. and Canadian delegates representing federal, state, and provincial fisheries agencies, First Nations and tribal governments, the commercial, recreational and processing sectors, and environmental organizations.
- The Commission is comprised of four Commissioners and four Alternate Commissioners from each country, who are supported by the work of four Panels as well as several species- and area-specific technical committees.
- The Commission’s work is supported by an international “Secretariat” based in Vancouver, B.C.



Context – PST Renewal

- Five fishing chapters in Annex IV of the Treaty expire on December 31, 2018. Chapter 4 expires December 31, 2019.
- In February 2015, Commissioners adopted a three-year planning horizon to conduct and complete negotiations on the PST Annex IV – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.
 - **Chapter 1: Transboundary Rivers**
 - **Chapter 2: Northern British Columbia and South Eastern Alaska**
 - **Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon**
 - **Chapter 5: Coho Salmon**
 - **Chapter 6: Southern British Columbia and Washington State Chum Salmon**
- Chapter 4 – Fraser River Sockeye and Pink expires December 31, 2019. Discussions on approach to renewal at an early stage.
- The parties agreed in October 2015 to aim for completing negotiations by February 2017 for all chapters (except Chapter 3) to allow one year for domestic ratification. An update is provided for the relevant chapters.



Chapter Negotiations: Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6

- Canada's Panel Chairs (DFO) are leading negotiations and consultations.
 - Panel Chairs worked with their respective Panel and Technical Committee members to identify negotiating themes, specific Chapter language and other work products to support bilateral negotiations.
 - Negotiating positions are set out once technical work is done.
- Negotiating structure / timelines for each Chapter varies. Key variables include:
 - Time for each Party to complete domestic reviews; draft and exchange proposals.
 - Number of changes or new additions considered.
 - Complexity of topics.



Chapter 1 – Transboundary Rivers

The Transboundary Panel is responsible for salmon (chinook, sockeye, coho) originating in the Alsek, Taku and Stikine River watersheds (B.C./Alaska transboundary) and harvested in terminal (marine) or in-river fisheries. Negotiations led by Canadian and US co-Chairs since 2015.

Key focus of negotiations:

- Assessment fisheries (accounting for harvest).
- Alsek River – Management considerations to provide greater Canadian access to Canadian-origin “early” sockeye salmon.
- Taku River – Canadian-origin chinook, sockeye and coho harvest share allocations.
- Stikine River – Canadian-origin chinook, sockeye and coho harvest share allocations.
- Accounting for (U.S.) subsistence fisheries – Stikine River.
- Bilateral sockeye salmon enhancement programs.
- Overage / underage provisions (post-season accounting of harvest)

Next steps:

- The Transboundary Panel provided bilaterally recommended changes to Chapter 1 to Commissioners on February 17, 2017.



Chapter 2 – Northern Boundary

- Chapter 2 covers management of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon species between Cape Suckling and Cape Caution.
 - Canadian concerns about changes in run timing of Skeena sockeye and implications for the current language.
 - The Panel continues to work on technical matters regarding Skeena and Nass sockeye and has developed protocols for the 2017 season.
- The panel was unable to reach agreement on the challenges at this time.
- The panel Chairs are to provide a summary of issues with related data to the Commissioners in May.
- Staff from Canada and the US will work over the summer to gain a better understanding of each others fisheries and management issues.
- In October, the Commissioners will receive a report from the Panel Chairs regarding the status of the new chapter
- The parties have agreed to increased effort on Northern Boundary coho



Chapter 3 – Chinook Salmon (Chapter Negotiations)

- Canada's Chapter 3 Negotiating Team is led by Canadian Commissioner (Susan Farlinger)
 - All Canadian Commissioners are involved in negotiations. The negotiating team will be supported by advisors (FN Caucus, BC, DFO, CTC)
- A Canadian domestic Chinook Working Group has been convened from the Panels to support negotiations.(see Appendix for members)
- Existing PSC chinook-related bodies will continue to advise Commissioners on current chinook chapter implementation:
 - Chinook Technical Committee
 - The Chinook Interface Group – a bilateral subset of Commissioners – meets regularly to guide the work of the CTC throughout negotiations. .



Chapter 3 – Chinook (Renewal)

- In February 2016, Canadian and U.S. Commissioners agreed to the overarching concepts that will guide Chinook chapter negotiations:
 - *Conservation and Sustainable Use*
 - *Consistency*
 - *Ability to Implement*
 - *Working Relationship*
 - *Comprehensiveness (linkages to other Chapters)*
 - *Flexibility*
 - *Environmental Conditions*
- Ongoing improvements underway to update the model used to calculate abundance indices for “outside” (Aggregate Abundance Based Management - AABM) Chinook.
 - In May 2016, the Commissioners agreed to establish an independent expert panel to review agency pre-season abundance forecasts and their application in the PSC’s Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) coast-wide model.
 - In May 2016 Chinook Technical Committee completed a [review of performance of Chapter 3](#). This review provides information and context for negotiations.



Chapter 3 – Chinook update

- Negotiating has been proceeding slowly. Canada has provided a Concept paper and draft language in February.
 - Focussed on concerns for low productivity and Canadian chinook stocks in the WSP Red Zone
 - Propose maintaining current WCVI harvest rate reduction and further reductions in SEAK
- A US response is expected for a May Chinook negotiating meeting.
- Work will continue through the summer to resolve challenges for the September Chinook negotiating session



Chapter 4 Overview – Fraser Pink and Sockeye

Chapter in effect from 2014 through 2019 – Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

- Establishes responsibilities of bilateral Fraser River Panel for in-season decision-making and upholds conservation as the highest priority.
- Defines U.S. share of Fraser River sockeye as 16.5% of TAC for international sharing.
- Defines U.S. share of Fraser River pink salmon as 25.7% of TAC for international sharing.
- Establishes an Aboriginal Fisheries Exemption of up to 400,000 Fraser River sockeye which are subtracted from the total run size in determining the TAC upon which U.S. shares are calculated, with up to 20% from Early Stuart.
- Identifies Canada's responsibility for developing the pre-season escapement plan.
- Establishes the stock management groups (E Stu, E Sum, Summers and Lates) and approach for proportional harvest across the 4 management groups, for the AFE and the U.S. share.
- 2012-13 renegotiations involved relatively minor issues as overall chapter was working well.
- Hydro-acoustics and test fisheries reviews are underway – report October 2017 will be important for renegotiation.



Chapter 5 – Coho Salmon

- Describes international management regimes for southern coho (stocks originating in streams South of Cape Caution) and northern coho (Cape Caution to Cape Suckling).
- Southern Panel oversees implementation of the Southern Coho Management Plan with support from the bilateral Coho Technical Committee.
- The Northern Panel and Northern Boundary Technical Committee address northern coho matters.

Key focus for negotiation (Northern stocks):

- Ability of the parties to maintain the robust stock and fishery assessment programs required to implement Chapter provisions.
- Coordination in annual fisheries management cycle between Canada and the U.S.
- Agreement was reached regarding improved in-season information exchange on northern coho stock abundance and interceptions.



Chapter 5 – Coho (Southern Components)

Update on negotiations:

- Canada and US have exchanged papers on southern coho provisions.
- Both countries have expressed continued commitment to a conservation-based management regime based on concerns related to ongoing poor productivity of coho stocks and / or concerns about uncertainty in environmental conditions.
- US seeking some fundamental changes to bilateral arrangements for southern coho, including shifting focus of regime to obligations for Interior Fraser River coho only, and significant additional constraints in Canadian fisheries to minimize risks of interceptions on U.S. stocks.
- Canada points out that Canadian interception rates on US coho are already well below allowable levels, and therefore the additional restrictions are not warranted.
- US also very interested in have some inter-annual flexibility to exceed ER on IFR coho in some years to more easily access allowable harvests of other species, and make up for the excess in other years.



Chapter 5 – Coho (Southern Components)

- Canada is seeking to largely to maintain main elements of current chapter, though has flagged we will consider combining two Georgia Strait management units (GS mainland, GS Vancouver Island) into one for the purposes of international management.
- A key component of US acceptance of this approach will be for Canada to complete work related to the establishment of fishery reference points and allowable exploitation rates for Canadian Management Units. This work will involve a CSAS process, and is anticipated for 2017.
- Canadian Section Southern Panel expected to play a steering function for the Coho Management unit reference point work.
- Next step is a bilateral meeting of the Southern Panel in early May 2017 where negotiations, preceded by a scheduled exchange of negotiating proposals, will occur.



Chapter 6 – Southern Chum Salmon

- Implementation of Chapter 6 is overseen by the Southern Panel with support from the Joint Chum Technical Committee.
- Treaty includes provisions relating to fisheries occurring in Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Island Area, Strait of Georgia, Johnstone Strait and the Fraser River.
- Under current Chapter 6 language, U.S. chum fisheries in areas 7 and 7 A (San Juan Islands) are constrained to:
 - a harvest ceiling of 130,000 pieces and a start date of October .
 - a start date of no earlier than October 10th, based on an abundance threshold information from Johnstone Straits
 - Abundance from Fraser is assessed on or before September 22, and U.S. fishing in 7 / 7A can be suspended if Fraser abundance threshold not achieved.



Chapter 6: Southern Chum Salmon

- In early January, 2017, U.S. submitted a proposal to Canada seeking:
 - An increase in their harvest ceiling in years of high abundance
 - An earlier start date than October 10th 7 / 7A chum fisheries to start as soon a Canadian coho window closure lifted in Fraser approach areas)
- Canada prepared a counter proposal based on:
 - Achieving lower U.S. harvests in low abundance years in exchange for some flexibility at larger run sizes.
 - This approach would tie US 7 / 7A chum opening more closely to Fraser assessment than to Johnstone Strait, thus requiring a later start date for the US fishery (mid Oct).
- Canada's position is based on recent genetic stock composition showing predominance of Canadian stocks, in 7 / 7A, especially in early weeks of October.
- U.S. preparing a response to Canada's counter-proposal
- Will attempt to finalize bilateral work in May Southern Panel meeting.



Negotiations schedule

- Chapter 1 - completed chapter recommended to Commissioners
- Chapter 2 - Panel will report on chapter in October 2017
- Chapter 3 - expected to go to fall 2017 or later
- Chapter 5 – negotiations continue, June date for substantive completion.
- Chapter 6 – negotiations continue, June date for substantive completion



Information and Contacts

Pacific Salmon Commission www.psc.org

Pacific Salmon Treaty <http://www.psc.org/pubs/Treaty/Treaty.pdf>

Canadian Panel Chairs:

Transboundary Panel – Steve Gotch steve.gotch@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Northern Panel – Mel Kotyk mel.kotyk@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Southern Panel – Andrew Thomson andrew.thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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Chapter 3 – Susan Farlinger SusanP.Farlinger@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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Annex – Pacific Salmon Commission

Canadian Commissioners

Panels

Technical Committees



Canadian Commissioners

Rebecca Reid (Head of Canadian delegation and Chair) – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Susan Farlinger – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

John McCulloch – Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Murray Ned – Sumas First Nation

Bob Rezansoff – Commercial Salmon Advisory Board

Chief Brian Assu – We Wai Kai Nation/Commercial Salmon Advisory Board

Dr. Brian Riddell – Pacific Salmon Foundation

Paul Sprout – Province of British Columbia



Southern Panel (Chapters 5 and 6) CDN

Andrew Thomson (Canadian co-chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Dr. Don Hall, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

John Legate, Area B Seine

Jeremy Maynard, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Laurie Milligan, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Ryan McEachern, Area D & E Gillnet

Brigid Payne, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Rod Cootes, Area G

Michael Baird, Tsawwassen First Nation

Marilyn Murphy, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Gordon Sterritt, Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance

Phil Young, Canadian Fishing Company



Northern Panel and Northern Boundary technical Committee (Chapter 2, 5 and 7) CDN

Northern Panel

Mel Kotyk (Chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Chris Cue, Canadian Fishing Company

Bill de Greef, Commercial Salmon Advisory Board

Siegi Kriegl, North Coast-Skeena First Nations

Stewardship Society

Tom Protheroe, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Joy Thorkelson, United Fish and Allied Workers Union

Stuart Barnes, Skeena Fisheries Commission

Ronald (George)Cuthbert, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Sandra Davies, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Rick Haugan, Commercial Salmon Advisory Board

Greg Knox, Skeena Wild Conservation Trust

Chief Harry Nyce Sr., Nisga'a Lisims Government

Northern Boundary TC

Stephen Cox-Rogers, Fisheries
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Dr. Allen Gottesfeld, Skeena
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Mark Potyrala, Fisheries and
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Transboundary Panel and Technical Committee (Ch. 1)

Transboundary Panel (CDN)

Steve Gotch (Chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Cheri Frocklage, Tahltan and Iskut First Nations

Keith Carlick (Richard Erhardt alt), Taku River

Tlingit First Nation

Jennifer Gould, Commercial – Stikine River

Chris Kendel, Commercial – Taku River

Wolf Riedl, Yukon Fish and game Association

Linaya Workman, Champagne and Aishihik First

Nations

Enhancement Sub-Committee (Sockeye) (CDN)

Corino Salomi (Chair), DFO

Sean Collins, DFO

Transboundary TC (CDN)

Steve Smith (Chair), DFO

Ian Boyce, DFO

Richard Erhardt, Taku River

Tlingit First Nation

Bonnie Huebschwerlen, DFO

Johnny Sembsmoen, DFO

Sean Stark, DFO

Bill Waugh, DFO

Cheri Frocklage, Tahltan and

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Fraser River Panel and Technical Committee (Ch. 4)

Fraser River Panel (CDN)

Jennifer Nener (Chair), DFO

Chris Ashton, Commercial Area B

Mike Griswold, Commercial, Area H Troll

Grand Chief Ken Malloway, Sto:lo Tribal Council

Rob Morley, Canadian Fishing Company

John Murray, Commercial, Area E Gillnet

Les Jantz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Brent McCallum, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

Tony Roberts Jr., Native Brotherhood

Les Rombough, Commercial, Area D Gillnet

Peter Sakich, Commercial, Area H Troll

Marcel Shepert, Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation
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Fraser River Panel TC (CDN)

Ann-Marie Huang (Co-Chair), DFO

Sue Grant, DFO

Ron Goruk, DFO

Jamie Scroggie, DFO

Mike Staley, First Nations Fisheries
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Kelsey Campbell (Observer), First
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Chinook Technical Committee (CDN)

Dr. Gayle Brown (Co-Chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Richard Bailey, DFO

Sabrina Crowley, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Diana Dobson, DFO

Dawn Lewis, DFO

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Chuck Parken, DFO

Dr. Teresa Ryan, First Nation Caucus

Dr. Antonio Velez-Espino, DFO

Ivan Winther, DFO



Coho Technical Committee (CDN)

Arlene Tompkins (Canadian Co-chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Roger Dunlop, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

Nick Komick, DFO

Peter Nicklin, Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat

Lynda Ritchie, DFO

Joel Sawada, DFO



Chum Technical Committee

Pieter Van Will (Canadian Co-chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

John R. Candy, DFO

Kim Charlie, First Nations Fisheries Council

Marla Maxwell, DFO

Joe Tadey, DFO