



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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Canada

# Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

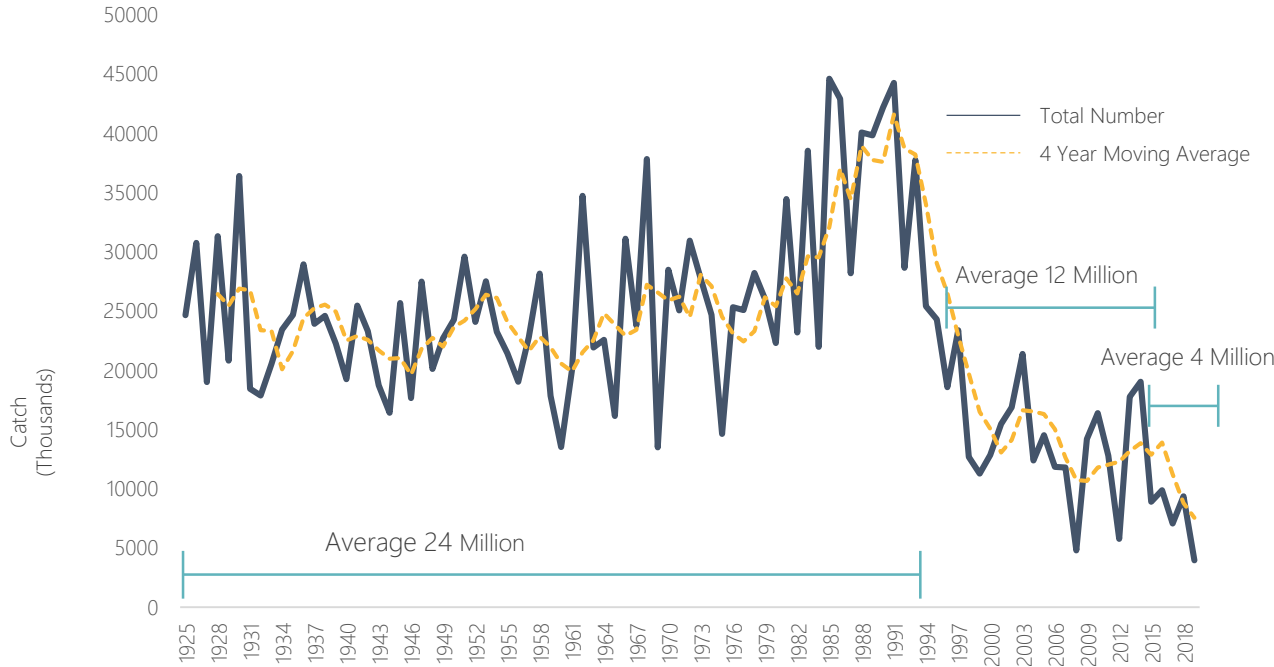
## Coordinated Response to Pacific Salmon Decline

2021 Commercial Salmon Fishing Conservation Closures & Mitigation Measures

# Time for a different approach

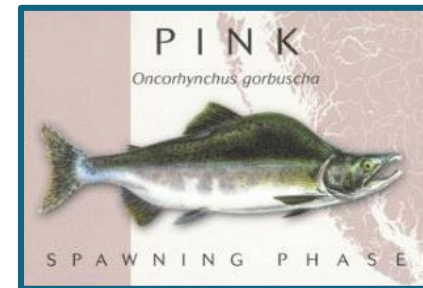
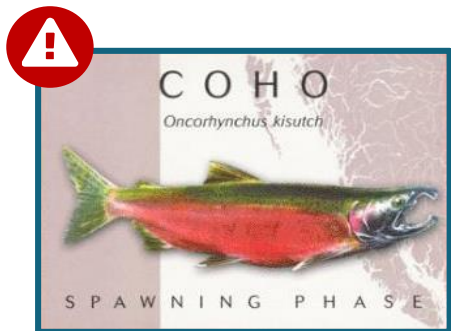
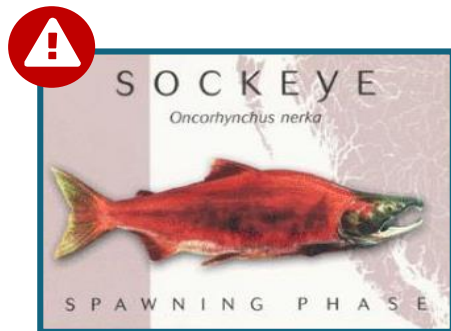
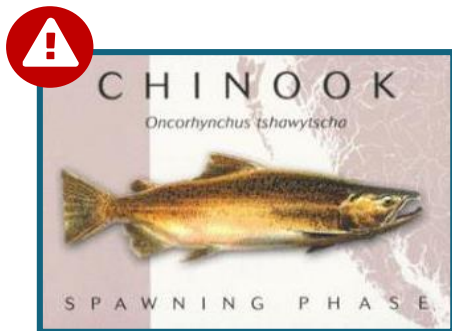
*Pacific salmon species are in decline in all areas, and urgent action is required to support conservation and sustainable fisheries.*

Area	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Pink Odd Year	Pink Even Year	Chum
Yukon	—	∨∨	—	—	—	—
Canada/ USA NW BC Transbo undary	∨∨∨	∨∨∨	∨∨	—	∨	—
Northern BC	∨∨	∨∨	—	—	—	—
Southern BC	∨∨∨	∨∨	∨∨	—	∨	∧ ∨



## Canadian Pacific Salmon Catch

\*NPAFC Catch Statistics: North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). 2020. NPAFC Pacific salmonid catch statistics (updated 21 July 2020). North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, Vancouver. Accessed Month, Year. Available: <https://npafc.org>.



⚠ Pacific salmon species in trouble

# What is the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative?



Work in close collaboration with relevant ministers, as well as with First Nations, provincial and territorial authorities, fishing and stewardship organizations and implicated communities across the Pacific Region to bring forward a **Pacific Salmon Strategy** and deliver on our commitment to conserve and protect wild Pacific salmon and their habitats and ecosystems.

- Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Supplementary Mandate Letter

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

Departmental Priority

Budget 2021, released April 19<sup>th</sup>, proposes to provide an additional investment of **\$647.1 million over five years, starting immediately in 2021-22**, to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to stabilize and conserve wild Pacific salmon populations.

**This new investment will include:**

- Research, new hatchery facilities, and habitat restoration
- Creation of a Pacific Salmon Secretariat and Restoration Centre of Expertise
- Improved management of commercial and recreational fisheries
- Doubling the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) with an additional \$100 million
- Further engagement with First Nations and fish harvesters

Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

# Federal Budget



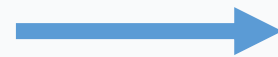
# Federal Response to Pacific Salmon declines

- Launched by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on June 8, 2021, the \$647-million Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) aims to stem historic declines in key Pacific salmon stocks and rebuild these species to a sustainable level.
- The Initiative is built on these **four key pillars**:
  - Conservation and stewardship
  - Enhanced hatchery production
  - Harvest transformation
  - Integration and coordination





Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative  
**Implementation  
Framework**



*Additional  
protection for stocks  
of conservation  
concern*

**Long Term Commercial Fishery  
Conservation Closures and  
Mitigation Measures**

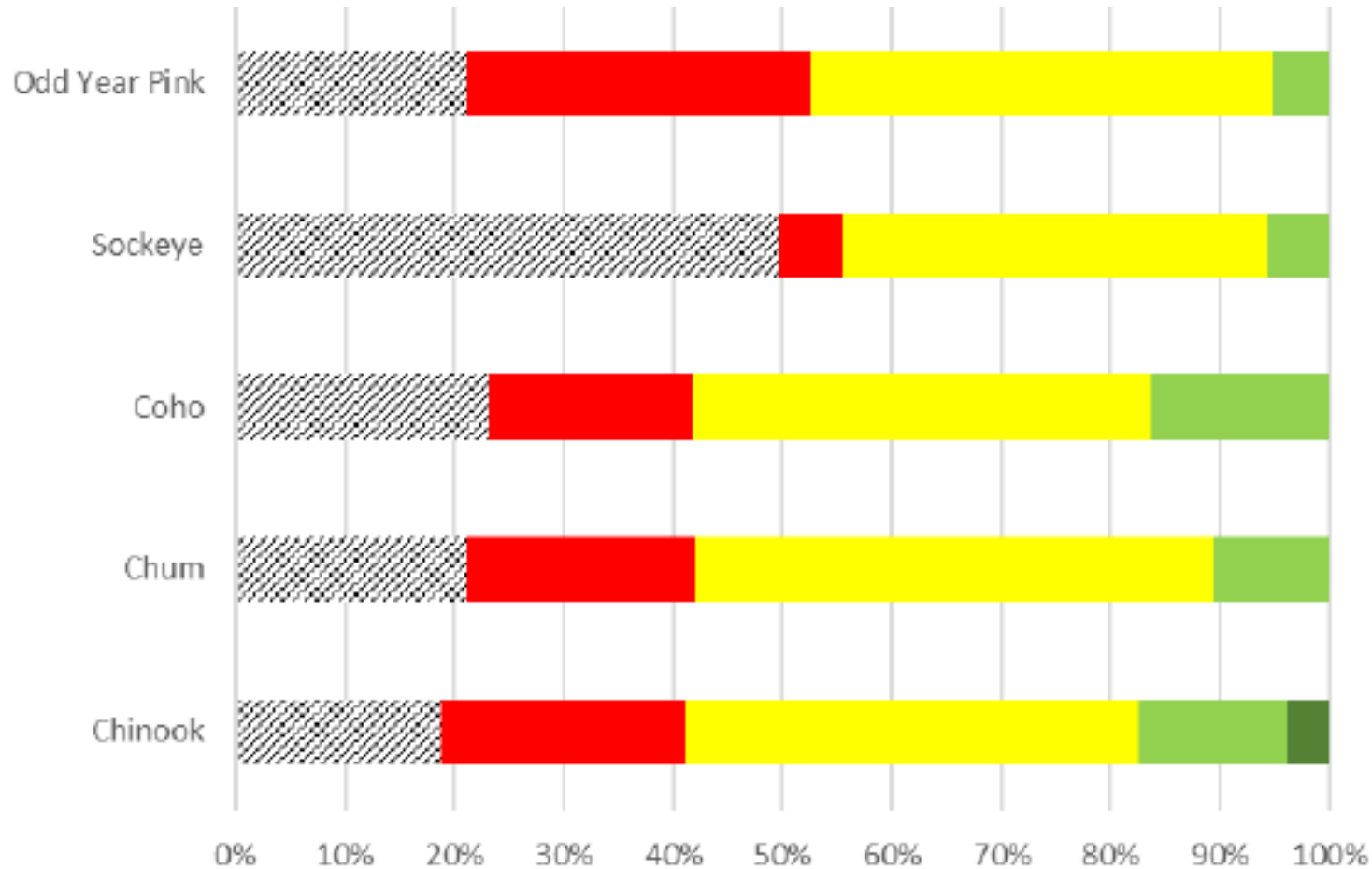
*One component of a broader Pacific  
Salmon Strategy Initiative response.*



Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)

# Long Term Pacific Salmon Commercial Fishery Conservation Closures

# Outlook for salmon returning in 2021 remains poor



### Outlook Categories:

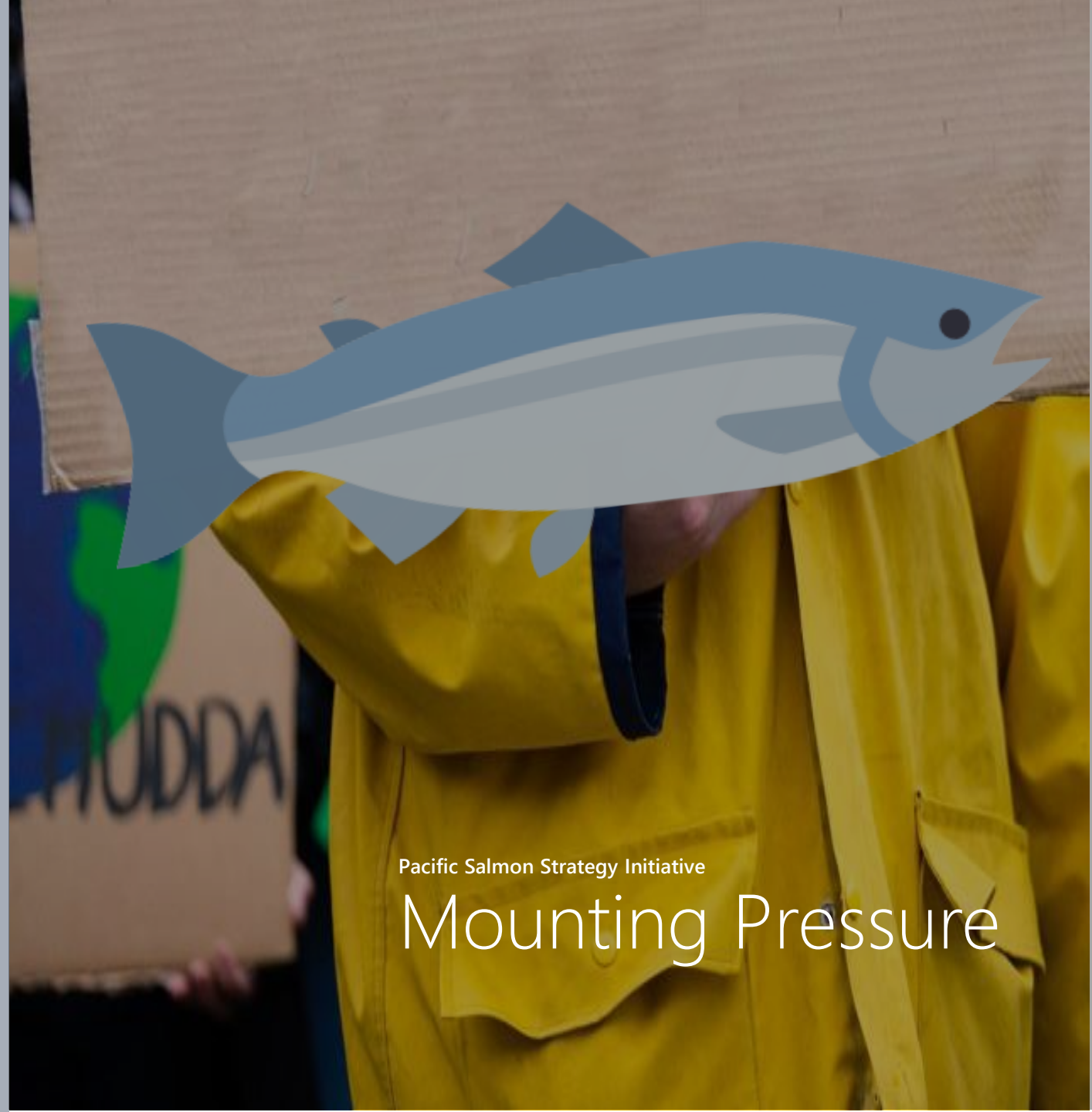
- 1 – Red zone / well below average
- 2 – Amber zone / below average
- 3 – Green zone / near average
- 4 – Green zone / above average

Data Deficient - [hatched box]

Note: For CUs that spanned multiple categories a best fit approach was applied.

Percentage of Stock Management Units

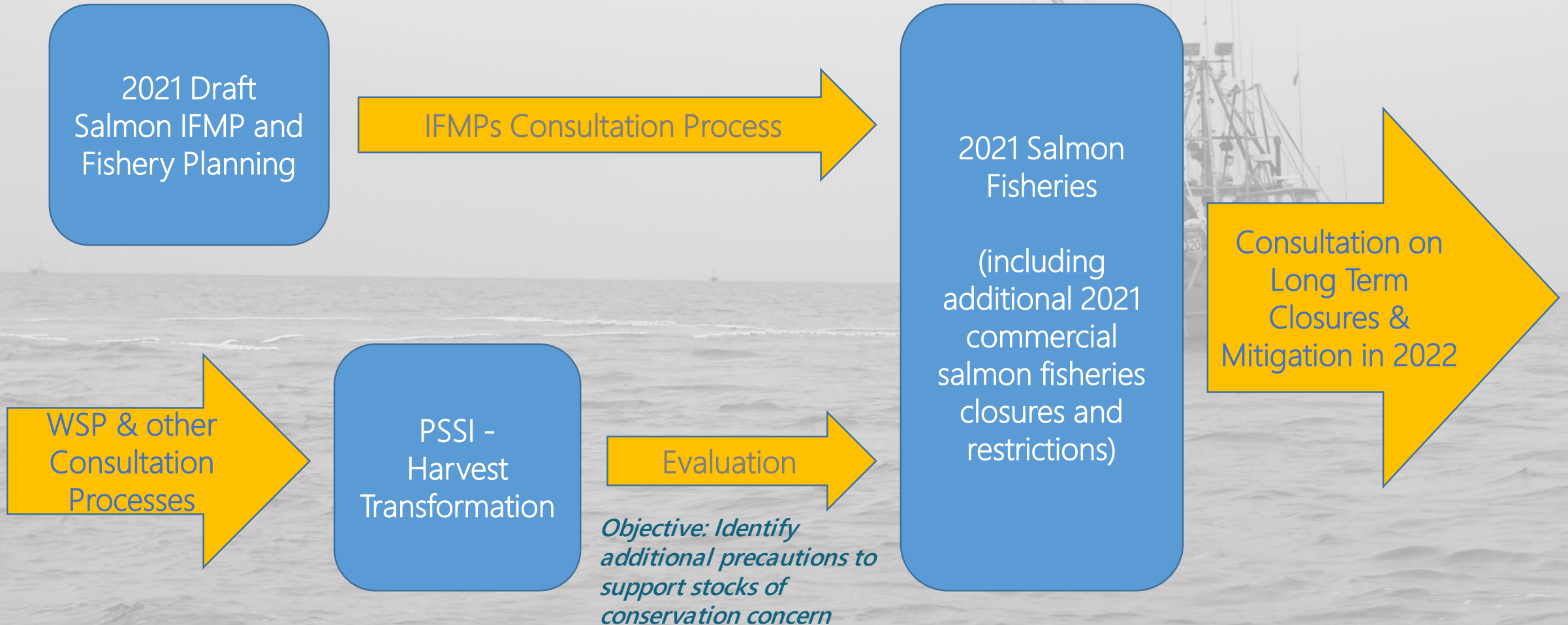
- Continuing conservation concerns facing many salmon stocks and concerns that current fishery restrictions are not sufficient to protect stocks
- Increasing challenges for Indigenous groups to access food, social and ceremonial harvests
- Increased allocation conflicts with declining salmon returns
- On-going requirements for annual reductions in commercial fishing opportunities to limit impacts on stocks of conservation concern
- Large numbers of commercial salmon licences not being fished/no landings
- Many commercial fishery participants have reached or passed average retirement age
- Requests for financial assistance and opportunities to 'retire' licences



Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

# Mounting Pressure

# 2021 Commercial Salmon Fishery Closures



# Evaluation Considerations

- Conservation of Pacific Salmon is the highest priority consistent with DFO policy
- PSSI Harvest Transformation pillar enables a more precautionary and longer-term approach for commercial fisheries than outlined in the draft 2021-22 Salmon IFMP (final IFMP will include changes)
- Reviewed possible Pacific Region commercial salmon fisheries in 2021 based on Salmon Outlook and decision guidelines
- Consistent assessment of all commercial salmon fisheries for impacts on stocks of concern based on conservation criteria including risk to target stocks and by-catch
- Consideration of First Nations and stakeholder input from Salmon IFMP consultations
- Potential for additional mitigation strategies to reduce impacts on stocks of concern



## 2021 Expected Outcomes

- Reduced impact of commercial fishery on stocks of conservation concern
- More salmon reaching the spawning grounds from:
  - reduced removals of weak stocks in mixed-stock fisheries targeting a given species
  - reduced by-catch and incidental mortality of weak stocks in fisheries targeting other salmon species

# Summary of Reductions in Salmon Fisheries

Table: High-level summary of potential commercial fishery opportunities that are likely to occur based on 2021 Salmon Outlook (percent reduction in fisheries vs. maximum number of fisheries consistent with existing IFMP).

Gear	# Licences	Maximum # Possible Fisheries	2021 Potential Fisheries
Gill net –Total	1,457	80	31 (-61%)
Area C, D and E	1,387	31	12 (-61%)
First Nations Sale	n/a	32	13 (-59%)
Yukon / BC Transboundary	70	17	6 (-65%)
Seine	276	22	11* (-50%)
Troll	376	22	10 (-55%)
Other – First Nations mixed gears not including gill net	n/a	14	7 (-50%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>59 (-57%)</b>

*Details on specific fisheries closures and anticipated opportunities are provided in Appendix*

Note: Assumes 2 First Nations Sale fisheries converted to selective gear to address stocks of concern



Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)  
New Programming to  
Support Commercial Pacific Salmon Harvesters



## Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative

# Commercial Licence Retirement Program

### Who will be eligible to participate?

Opportunities to retire licences will be offered to all general commercial salmon licence holders.

### What will the retirement program look like?

Over the remainder of 2021, DFO plans to reach out to commercial harvesters to gauge their interest in voluntarily retiring their salmon licences and discuss key design elements of the Licence Retirement Program.

### How will the Government determine Fair Market Value for licence retirements?

The Government plans to use assessments of licence values in recent years.

### When will the retirement program start?

It is anticipated that opportunities to retire licences will begin in 2022 and it is expected there will be multiple opportunities to apply for licence retirement.

# Support to Communal Commercial Salmon Harvesters

## What are Communal Commercial Licences?

Many commercial licences in BC and Yukon are held communally by First Nations communities or fisheries enterprises, on behalf of the community.

## How will impacts to Indigenous commercial harvesters be addressed?

This will be decided through consultations with impacted First Nations. In the coming weeks, we hope to begin consultations regarding options to address the impacts on Indigenous economic fisheries due to declining salmon returns.

## What type of new programming might be considered?

Opportunities could include the option for Indigenous communal commercial harvesters to shift to more selective fishing gear (if possible to avoid stocks of concern) or, where available, to other non-salmon species.

## What about impacts to Indigenous non-commercial salmon fisheries?

The commercial closures do not apply to Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries. However, under PSSI, the intent is to consult with First Nations regarding potential opportunities to transition to more selective fishing, avoiding stocks of concern.





Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)

## *What is the future of the commercial fishery beyond 2021?*

- Further engagement with Commercial harvesters and First Nations on path forward, including review of approach to identify longer term conservation closures beginning in 2022.
- Greater shift towards more selective fishing methods and approaches
- Transition to a smaller, more resilient harvest sector where harvesting capacity is better aligned with expectations for lower, longer-term sustainable harvests of Pacific salmon

## Consultations on closures and engagement on path forward

- Consultations with First Nations will begin in June/July 2021 by virtual meetings starting immediately (presentation, Q & A session) and other communications to reach out and share initial overview information about PSSI.
  - DFO will consult specifically with communal commercial First Nation licence holders to discuss potential adverse impacts to communities as a result of the closures, and options for addressing.
- Consultations with Pacific Salmon commercial harvesters will also begin immediately; however more focused discussions will likely be in the fall and winter, on both the new PSSI Commercial Licence Retirement Program and the implementation of long term closures for 2022 and beyond.
- Broader engagement on the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative: DFO will continue to engage with First Nations, harvesters, partners and other Salmon stakeholders regarding engagement on PSSI implementation as it unfolds.



# Thank You

Further information on PSSI will be available on the DFO website:

<http://www.canada.ca/Pacific-Salmon-Strategy>

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**Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) Contact:**

DFO.PAC.PSSIInitiative-  
InitiativeSSP.PAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

# Appendix

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Commercial fishery closures and anticipated opportunities.

# 2021 Commercial Salmon Fishery Closures

IFMP	Species	Target stock	Gear	Fleet
Northern	Chum	Area 8 Major Streams (incl. Bella Coola)	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Chum	Area 8 Major Streams (incl. Bella Coola)	Seine	Area A
Northern	Chum	Area 8 Major Streams (incl. Bella Coola)	Gill Net	Area C
Northern	Sockeye	Nass	Gill Net	Area C
Northern	Sockeye	Nass	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Chinook	Nass	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Coho	North Coast mixed stock	Troll	Area F
* Southern	Chum	Fraser Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Fraser Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Fraser Chum	Gill Net	Area E
Southern	Chum	Johnstone Strait mixed stock	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chum	Nitinat Hatchery	Gill Net	Area E
Southern	Chum	Nitinat Hatchery	Seine	Area B
Yukon	Chum	Yukon Chum (Mainstem)	Gill Net	Yukon

*Reduced fisheries for all gear types with greatest reductions to fisheries using gill net gear.*

\*May proceed in 2021 with modifications

# Major fish stocks not expected to support commercial fisheries in 2021

Alsek Chinook	Mainland Inlet terminal Pink
Alsek Coho	Malaspina Inlet, Jarvis Inlet Chum
Alsek Sockeye	Nass Coho
Area 7 Major Streams Chum	Okanagan Sockeye
Barkley Wild Chum	Porcupine River Chinook
Central Coast Coho	Porcupine River Chum
Clayoquot Wild Chum	Porcupine River Coho
Fraser Chinook (Summer 41)	Quinsam Pink
Fraser Pink	Rivers Inlet Sockeye
Fraser Sockeye	Skeena Chinook
Haida Gwaii Chum	Smith Inlet Sockeye
Haida Gwaii Pink	Stikine Chinook
Henderson Sockeye	Stikine Sockeye (Wild - Tahltan, Mainstem) - Lower River
Kitimat Hatchery Chum	Taku Chinook
Mainland Inlet terminal Chum	Yukon Chinook

*Based on poor Salmon Outlook / forecasts*

# 2021 List of Potential Commercial Salmon Fisheries

IFMP	Species	Target stock	Gear	Fleet
Northern	Pink	Area 3	Other	First Nations Sale
Northern	Pink	Area 3	Seine	First Nations Sale
Northern	Pink	Area 3	Seine	Area A
Northern	Pink	Area 4	Seine	Area A
Northern	Pink	Area 6	Seine	Area A
Northern	Chum	Area 8 Major Streams (incl. Bella Coola)	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Chinook	Central Coast (Atnarko)	Gill Net	Area C
Northern	Chinook	Central Coast (Atnarko)	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Sockeye	Nass	Other	First Nations Sale
Northern	Pink	North Coast mixed stock	Troll	Area F
Northern	Chinook	Northern BC AABM	Troll	Area F
Northern	Sockeye	Skeena	Other	First Nations Sale
Northern	Sockeye	Skeena	Other	First Nations Sale
Northern	Sockeye	Skeena	Seine	Area A
Northern	Sockeye	Skeena	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Sockeye	Skeena	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Northern	Sockeye	Skeena	Gill Net	Area C
Southern	Chinook	Area 25 (Conuma, Burman, Gold)	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chinook	Area 25 (Conuma, Burman, Gold)	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chum	Area 25 (Nootka Hatchery/Wild; Esperanza Wild)	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chum	Area 25 (Nootka Hatchery/Wild; Esperanza Wild)	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Bute Inlet Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Bute Inlet Chum	Troll	Area H
Southern	Chum	Bute Inlet Chum	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chum	Cowichan Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Cowichan Chum	Troll	Area H
Southern	Chum	Cowichan Chum	Seine	Area B
Southern	Chum	Cowichan Chum	Gill Net	Area E
Southern	Chum	Fraser Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Fraser Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale

IFMP	Species	Target stock	Gear	Fleet
Southern	Chum	Goldstream Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Goldstream Chum	Troll	Area H
Southern	Chum	Goldstream Chum	Seine	Area B
Southern	Chum	Goldstream Chum	Gill Net	Area E
Southern	Chum	Johnstone Strait mixed stock	Troll	Area H
Southern	Chum	Johnstone Strait mixed stock	Seine	Area B
Southern	Chum	Kyuquot Wild	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chum	Nanaimo Chum	Troll	Area H
Southern	Chum	Nanaimo Chum	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chum	Nanaimo Chum	Seine	Area B
Southern	Chum	Nanaimo Chum	Gill Net	Area E
Southern	Chum	Puntledge, Little Qualicum, Big Qualicum Chum	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chinook	Robertson Creek Hatchery	Seine	Area B
Southern	Chinook	Robertson Creek Hatchery	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chinook	Robertson Creek Hatchery	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chinook	Sarita	Other	First Nations Sale
Southern	Coho	Somass	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Sockeye	Somass	Gill Net	First Nations Sale
Southern	Sockeye	Somass	Seine	Area B
Southern	Sockeye	Somass	Gill Net	Area D
Southern	Chinook	WCVI AABM	Troll	First Nations Sale
Southern	Chinook	WCVI AABM	Troll	Area G
Southern	Coho	WCVI-Offshore	Troll	First Nations Sale
Transboundary	Coho	Stikine Coho	Gill Net	Stikine
Transboundary	Sockeye	Stikine Sockeye (Tahltan Enhanced) - Upper River	Gill Net	Stikine
Transboundary	Sockeye	Stikine Sockeye (Tahltan Enhanced) - Tahltan Lake	Gill Net	Stikine
Transboundary	Coho	Taku Coho	Gill Net	Taku
Transboundary	Sockeye	Taku Sockeye (Enhanced)	Gill Net	Taku
Transboundary	Sockeye	Taku Sockeye (Wild)	Gill Net	Taku

→ Converted to Selective Gear

*Anticipated based on Salmon Outlook*