



## **2026 Pre-season Planning: Southern BC Chum and Coho**

Fraser and Approach Forum 2 - Kamloops

February 25, 2026



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# Outline

- Fishery Objectives: Chum
- IFMP planning considerations: Chum
- Fishery Objectives: Coho
- IFMP planning considerations: Coho
- Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) Proposals

# Southern BC Chum



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# Fishery Objectives: Southern Inside Chum

## International Objective

- Manage Canadian treaty fisheries to ensure that obligations within the Pacific Salmon Treaty are achieved.

## For Southern Inside Chum:

- For Inside Southern Chum Salmon, a critical threshold (or Lower Fishery Reference Point), where little or no harvesting occurs, is defined as 1.0 million in Chapter 6 of the PST.

# Fishery Objectives: Southern Inside Chum

## Domestic Objectives:

- Meet spawning escapement goals for component river systems
- Exploitation Rate is limited to 20%
  - 5% is set aside for FSC, test fisheries, and recreational fisheries, as well as a commercial harvest buffer.
  - The remaining 15% of passing stocks is targeted by commercial fisheries
- Since 2019, IFR Steelhead have been the primary constraint on Chum directed fisheries, and are addressed using a suite of rolling window closures

# Fishery Objectives: Fraser River Chum

## International Objective

- Manage Canadian treaty fisheries to ensure that obligations within the Pacific Salmon Treaty are achieved.

## For Fraser River Chum

- Estimate of abundance for Fraser River Chum is used for both international and domestic management, as outlined in Chapter 6 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).
- No commercial fisheries when run size below 900,000

# Fishery Objectives: Fraser River Chum

## Domestic Objectives

- **Conservation Objective:** 800,000 - the aggregate escapement goal for Fraser River Chum Salmon is 800,000 spawners.
- **Access and Allocation Objective:** 916,000 - Minimum terminal run size needed to meet the escapement goal (800,000) and provide full FSC and Treaty allocations (72,000), test fishery catch (9,000), and a minimum 35,000 TAC to support a commercial fishery.
- Since 2019, IFR Steelhead have been the primary constraint on Chum directed fisheries, and are addressed using a suite of rolling window closures

# IFMP Planning: Southern BC Chum

## IFMP plan for both Southern Inside and Fraser River Chum

- Maintain the Interior Fraser River Steelhead window closures in 2026.
- Food, Social, Ceremonial and Treaty Fisheries will start the season open.
- Commercial fisheries are anticipated, and opportunities will be informed in-season by the test fisheries.
- Continue to use the Salmon Outlook to inform recreational Chum fishery planning.
  - Due to the outlook and expectation that commercial harvests will occur on Southern BC Chum, the marine recreational fishery will begin the season with **reduced limits** in place
  - Recreational fisheries for Fraser Chum start closed and will be dependent on **in-season** estimates

# Southern BC Coho



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# Southern BC Coho: 2024 Fishery Performance

Summary of the report prepared by the Bilateral Coho Technical Committee of the Southern Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission, and approved in February 2026

## Summary of the 2024 return to natural spawning Coho Management Units

| Management Unit | Pre-Season total ER |       |       | Post-Season total ER |       |       | Escapement |         | Abundance |         |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                 | Status              | Cap   | Model | Status               | Cap   | Model | Pre        | Post    | Pre       | Post    |
| Lower Fraser    |                     |       | 12.8% |                      |       | 8.9%  | 57,546*    | 260,465 | 66,004*   | 285,970 |
| Interior Fraser | L                   | 20.0% | 15.9% | L                    | 20.0% | 11.2% | 72,545     | 104,656 | 86,220    | 117,888 |
| Georgia Strait  |                     |       | 10.0% |                      |       | 8.1%  |            |         |           |         |

## Exploitation Rate for Canadian Fisheries

| Management Unit | Pre-Season          |                       |           |                           |       |        | Post-Season         |                       |           |                           |       |        |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|--------|
|                 | Status <sup>§</sup> | Base Cap <sup>†</sup> | US unused | Cap + Unused <sup>‡</sup> | Model | Unused | Status <sup>§</sup> | Base Cap <sup>†</sup> | US Unused | Cap + Unused <sup>‡</sup> | Model | Unused |
| Lower Fraser    |                     |                       |           |                           | 4.7%  |        |                     |                       |           |                           | 4.5%  |        |
| Interior Fraser | L                   | 10.0%                 | 0.0%      | 10.0%                     | 5.6%  | 4.4%   | L                   | 10.0%                 | 2.8%      | 12.8%                     | 4.0%  | 8.9%   |
| Georgia Strait  |                     |                       |           |                           | 6.3%  |        |                     |                       |           |                           | 5.8%  |        |

# Fishery Objectives: Southern BC Coho

## International Objective

- Manage Canadian treaty fisheries to ensure that obligations within the Pacific Salmon Treaty are achieved.

## For Interior Fraser Coho:

- Under Chapter 5 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), there is a 20% exploitation rate cap on IFR Coho when the stock is in low status, with both Canada and the United States limited to 10% each.

# Fishery Objectives: Southern BC Coho

## Domestic Objective:

- Maintain Interior Fraser Coho populations above their limit reference point and in the Wild Salmon Policy amber or green zone.
  - For more information see: ([Interior Fraser Coho \(Oncorhynchus kisutch\) Stock Assessment for 2022](#))

## Operationalised by:

- Canada has implemented a management strategy based on maintaining a domestic target exploitation rate range of 3-5% on IFR Coho.

Sustained improvements in IFR Coho status documented in recent scientific studies show that domestic ERs caps could be raised as high as the 10% as described in the PST

# Southern BC Coho: Planning Considerations

For 2026, feedback on two possible approaches is sought:

## Option 1:

Maintain current domestic 3-5% ER cap and maintain fisheries similar to those in recent years

- Explore **terminal Coho FSC, treaty, and right-based fishing** opportunities
- Remove the mortally wounded clause in some marine South Coast Area fisheries
- Maintain current restrictions on Coho bycatch in commercial fisheries,
  - Would likely result in later timed Sockeye directed fisheries being **constrained**
- Maintain current recreational fishery

## Option 2:

Allow for increased domestic exploitation while staying within the 10% domestic ER cap

- Continue to permit fisheries as in recent years (Option 1)
- Permit **additional** fishery impacts <5%
- i.e. Canadian total ER of 8-10% to permit:
  - bycatch/incidental mortality in **FSC** fisheries or Coho targeted terminal FSC fisheries
  - **bycatch/incidental mortality** to provide flexibility for **commercial** fishery effort directed on other species, e.g. Fraser River **Sockeye**

# Southern BC Chum and Coho

## Questions for Consideration:

- Is the current planned scenario appropriate for Chum?
- Seeking input from Forum Members on Coho Options:
  - Does Option 2 provide flexibility while maintaining appropriate priority?