



2026 Pre-season Planning: Southern BC Chum and Coho

Fraser and Approach Forum 3 - Nanaimo

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Outline

- IFMP planning considerations: Chum
- What we've heard: Chum
- Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF) Proposals
- IFMP planning considerations: Coho
- What we've heard: Coho

Southern BC Chum



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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

What We've Heard: Southern BC Chum

Province of BC:

- The Province indicated that they will be recommending an expansion of the Steelhead window closure

Commercial:

- Recommended that the Department continue to review and evaluate the window closures, particularly with respect to commercial Chum fisheries, and their benefit to Interior Fraser Steelhead

Marine Conservation Caucus:

- The MCC recommended a scientific evaluation of window closures to avoid extirpation of Steelhead

CSAF Demonstration Fishery Proposals

The following demonstration fishery proposals have been submitted to the Department for review and potential inclusion in the final 2026 IFMP. Inclusion in the Draft IFMP does not indicate that these proposals will proceed, only that they are subject to review.

Johnstone Strait

- **Area B SN**
 - 4 boat, limited entry Chum-directed assessment fishery in PFMA 12 & 13, outside of the test fishery zone
 - Operating for a 20-day period during the 42-day IFR Steelhead window closure
- **Area H Troll**
 - 2 boat, limited entry Chum-directed fishery in PFMA 13
 - 6 day opening during the latter period of the 27-day IFR Steelhead window closure

Nitinat Lake

- **Area B SN**
 - 10 boat, limited entry Chum-directed fishery in PFMA 22
 - Limits on fishing days and duration to be determined
- **Area E GN**
 - 7 boat, limited entry Chum-directed fishery in PFMA 22
 - 24 hour per day with the number of days to be determined in-season

Southern BC Coho



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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**

What We've Heard: Southern BC Coho

First Nations:

- Some First Nations have indicated that they support Option 1, and recommends not exceeding the 3-5% Canadian ER cap.

Recreational:

- The recreational sector broadly has expressed support for Option 2.
 - They indicated that they would like the Department to consider increased recreational ER in fisheries where IFR Coho restrictions limit targeted fisheries on other species.

What We've Heard: Southern BC Coho

Commercial:

- The Commercial sector broadly supports Option 2.
- They also suggested that the Department consider relaxing the existing Coho window closures.

Marine Conservation Caucus:

- The MCC recognized that the most recent science advice suggests that IFR Coho can sustain 10% ER.
- Cautioned that should Canada move into the Moderate status zone in the future, that ER should not exceed 10%.

The Department is striking a subcommittee of the IHPC to develop and review details for a potential Option 2, and welcomes the participation of interested First Nations representatives.

Southern BC Chum and Coho

Questions for Consideration?

- Any clarifying questions that can help the Tier 1 discussions?