



Pacific Salmon
Strategy Initiative

Initiative de la Stratégie
relative au saumon du Pacifique

Integrated Salmon Rebuilding Plans

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For SEHAB, February 3rd, 2025

Background

- A flagship program under PSSI Pillar 1 (Stewardship Directorate)
- Many Pacific salmon stocks are in decline, and require action by DFO, BC, First Nations and other partners
- DFO is prioritizing 4 salmon stocks for piloting integrated rebuilding plans, following a strategic process that will integrate and leverage additional capacity created through PSSI and with BC, First Nations and other external partners.
- UNDA Measure 41: *Through meaningful consultation and collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous groups and British Columbia and Yukon partners, DFO will implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative to protect and revitalize salmon populations and their habitats.*



The ~~4~~ 5 Salmon Rebuilding Plans

- Yukon River Chinook
- Early Stuart Sockeye
- Smith Inlet Sockeye
- Nanaimo River Summer Chinook
- Lake Babine Wild Sockeye



Rationale

- Yukon River Chinook
 - No commercial harvest in 25 years
 - No Food, Social and Ceremonial harvest since 2021
 - Below Limit Reference Point, thus rebuilding plan will be required under Fish Stock Provisions
- Early Stuart Sockeye
 - Endangered under COSEWIC
 - Long term commercial closure in effect
 - No Food, Social and Ceremonial harvest in 20 years
 - Stock implicated in Big Bar
- Smith Inlet Sockeye
 - Recent spawner levels show 10% of historical averages
 - No commercial harvest in 20 years
 - Insignificant Food, Social and Ceremonial harvest in 20 years
- Nanaimo River Summer Chinook
 - Endangered under COSEWIC
 - Insignificant Food, Social and Ceremonial harvest in 20 years
 - No directed commercial harvest

Progress On Inclusion of Traditional Knowledge

- The extent of inclusion varies by project (as decided by each FN)
- Early Stuart process has held a Tier 1 workshop among the UFFCA First Nation members
- Yukon process has also relied on a consulting expert for documentation of TEK
- Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nation has initiated some TEK contribution to habitat recovery actions
- Lake Babine Nation is independently evaluating TEK for inclusion

Progress On Objectives

- Development of objectives takes time.
- These can be:
 - biological (escapement) benchmarks,
 - genetic benchmarks,
 - management reference points,
 - time horizons,
 - social priorities
- They can be informed by stock assessment science, traditional knowledge, social needs
- Plans will often identify short-term (interim) objectives
- Each process has work groups developing these concepts

Progress On Assessment of Risks and Limiting Factors

- Workshops for assessment of risks and factors limiting rebuilding have occurred in 3/5 projects
- Planning for early (2025), easily-implemented recovery actions to be undertaken before PSSI completion in 2026
 - Early Stuart team:
 - is coordinating with CWF for financial support
 - Hosting a Structured Decision Making workshop this week for action prioritization
 - Yukon R Chinook:
 - RAMS report near completion; March workshop for developing early actions
 - Nanaimo Summer Chinook
 - Using a simulation/probability-based tool (CEMPRA) for prioritizing actions, final workshop next week
 - Lake Babine Wild Sockeye
 - Still under development

Next Steps

- The Gwa'sala & 'Nakwaxda'xw Nations, who's territory encompasses Smith Inlet, have expressed the need to develop the rebuilding plan on their own terms, while still relying on DFO's financial and resource support
- Initiate short-term rebuilding actions identified by Rebuilding Teams in 25/26.
- All projects have drafted their rebuilding plan table of contents
- Each team has sub-groups focusing on specific elements of rebuilding and will be identifying content for rebuilding plans

