



Pacific Salmon
Strategy Initiative

Initiative de la Stratégie
relative au saumon du Pacifique

Integrated Salmon Rebuilding Plans

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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 Salmon Rebuilding Plans

- Yukon River Chinook
- Early Stuart Sockeye
- Smith Inlet Sockeye
- Nanaimo River Summer Chinook



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 To Date

- Terms of Reference are either drafted or finalized
- Ecosystem status reports developed for 3 of 4
- Workshops for assessment of risks and factors limiting rebuilding
 - informed by status reports and shared knowledge of participants
- Provincial and Territorial government participation on teams established
- Planning for early (2025), easily-implemented recovery actions to be undertaken before PSS1 1 completion in 2026

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
- Meetings with Skeena First Nations to scope opportunities for supporting a currently-underway rebuilding project
- Discussions with Marine Conservation Caucus and other Environmental Groups to clarify their roles
- Initiate rebuilding projects identified by Rebuilding Teams in 25/26.

