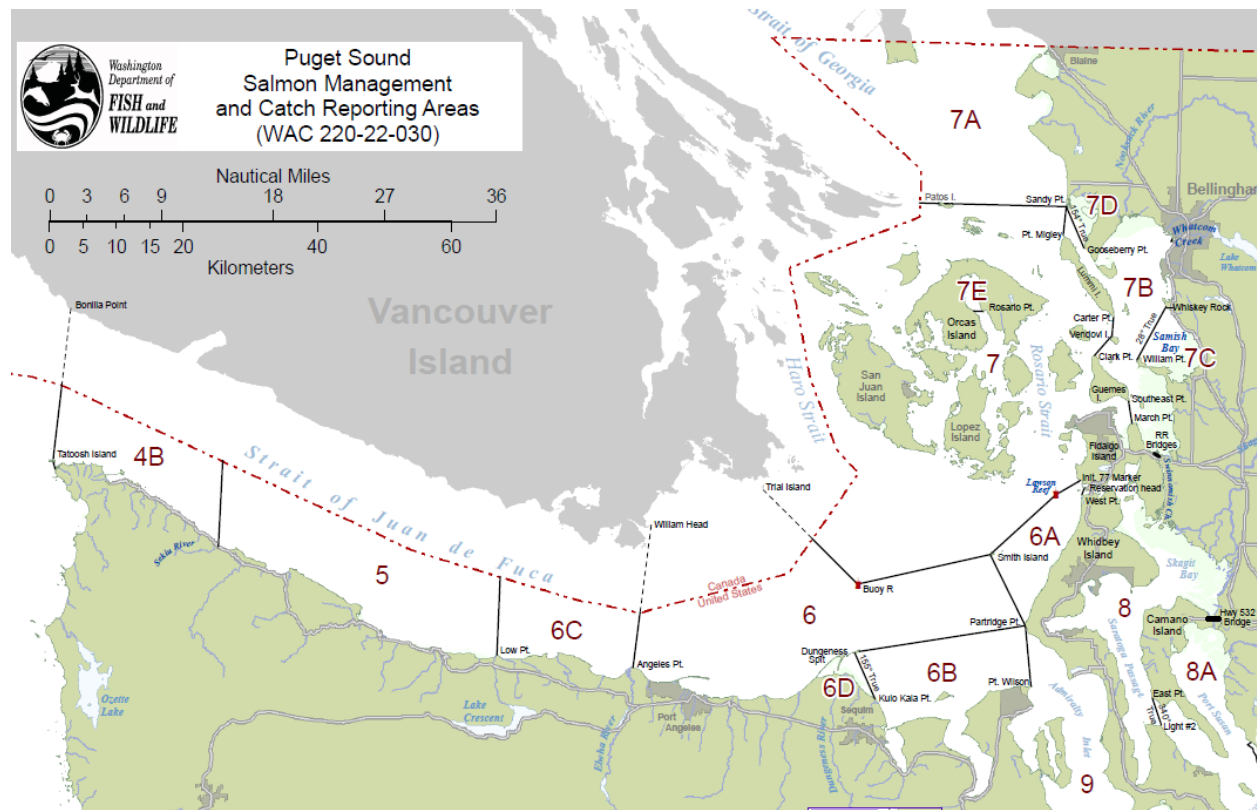


III. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE 2017 WASHINGTON CHUM SALMON FISHERIES OF INTEREST TO THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

This summary report provides a preliminary review of the 2017 U.S. Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) fisheries conducted by Puget Sound salmon co-managers (Puget Sound Treaty fishing tribes and the State of Washington) in the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 4B, 5 and 6C), the San Juan Islands and the Point Roberts area (Areas 7 and 7A) (Figure 39), conducted in compliance with provisions of Chapter 6 of Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST 2008). The harvest and abundance information provided are based on preliminary data reported through November 18, 2017. These preliminary data are subject to correction and revision as additional information becomes available.

Figure 39. Puget Sound Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas with Chum salmon fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission.



MIXED STOCK FISHERIES

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C

As in previous years, the Chum salmon fishery in Areas 4B, 5 and 6C was restricted to Tribal fishers using gillnets. The fall Chum-directed salmon fishery opened the week of October 8, with a schedule of six days per week and continued through November 11. A total of 3,302 Chum

salmon were harvested during this period (Table 18). During the fall Chum fisheries in Areas 4B, 5, and 6C, there was a reported by-catch of 338 Coho, 53 Chinook, and zero Steelhead.

Table 18. Preliminary 2017 Chum salmon harvest report for Washington Salmon Catch Reporting Areas 4B, 5, and 6C.

| Areas 4B, 5, 6C | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Tribal Gill Net Only | |
| Time Periods | GN |
| Through 9/23 | 3 |
| 9/24-9/30 | 0 |
| 10/1-10/7 | 0 |
| 10/8-10/14 | 375 |
| 10/15-10/21 | 1,178 |
| 10/22-10/28 | 1,465 |
| 10/29-11/4 | 236 |
| 11/5-11/11 | 45 |
| 11/12-11/15 | 0 |
| Total | 3,302 |

Areas 7 and 7A

Chum salmon fisheries in Areas 7 and 7A are regulated to comply with a base harvest ceiling of 130,000 Chum salmon, unless a critically low level of abundance is identified for those stocks migrating through Johnstone Strait (“Inside Southern Chum salmon”) (PST 2008). Chapter 6 of Annex IV specifies that U.S. commercial fisheries for Chum salmon in Areas 7 and 7A will not occur prior to October 10. Paragraph 10 (a-b) specifies run sizes below 1.0 million as critical (estimated by Canada). For run sizes below the critical threshold, the U.S. catch of Chum salmon in Areas 7 and 7A will be limited to those taken incidentally to other species and in other minor fisheries, and shall not exceed 20,000. During 2017, following Chapter 6 requirements and pre-season domestic fishery plans, U.S. commercial Chum fisheries were initiated on October 10 and permanently closed on November 18.

Paragraph 10 (d) states that Canada will provide an in-season estimate of Fraser River Chum salmon run size no later than October 22. If that estimate is below 900,000, then the U.S. will limit its fishery to not exceed a catch of 20,000 additional Chum salmon from the day following notification. An estimated Fraser River Chum salmon run size of 1.29 million was provided by Canada on October 19. Paragraph 10(d) further states that the total catch is not to exceed 130,000 Chum Salmon. Therefore, to ensure that the U.S. chum fishery stayed within its share, fishery managers tracked catches daily relative to share, and the fishery continued through November 18. Total U.S. catch between October 10 and November 18 in Areas 7 and 7A was 118,049 Chum salmon (Table 19). The Non-Treaty gillnet and purse seine fleets were open daily October 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31 and November 1-11, 15-18. The Treaty Indian gillnet and purse seine fisheries were opened on October 10 and ran continuously through October 26.

Non-Tribal reef net fisheries targeting Coho salmon were conducted from the end of Fraser Panel control in Area 7 (September 24) until October 9 with chum salmon and unmarked coho retention prohibited prior to October 1. Reef nets were open daily through November 11 with a total Chum salmon catch of 5,829 fish.

The total 2017 Chum salmon catch by all gears in Areas 6, 7, and 7A (reported through November 18) was 123,360 (Table 20). Catch distribution, between Areas 7 and 7A, was 82% and 18% respectively. It should be noted that these catch reports may be incomplete as of the date of this report. Additionally, concerns over large catch per unit effort in the second week of the fishery caused fishery managers to be conservative and severely restrict the fishery to stay within the U.S. share. Following these early closures, the U.S. was unable to fish on abundances of Chum large enough to achieve the U.S. share (Table 20). During the fall Chum salmon-directed fisheries in Areas 6, 7 and 7A, there was a reported by-catch of 2,286 Coho, 5 Chinook, and zero Steelhead (Table 20).

Table 20. Preliminary 2017 Chum salmon harvest report for Washington Salmon Catch Reporting Areas 6, 7 and 7A.

| Time Periods | Area 6 | | Area 7 | | | Area 7A | | | Area 6,7,7A |
|---|-------------|--------|------------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|------------|-------------|
| | GN | PS | GN | RN | Area Total | PS | GN | Area Total | Total |
| Through 9/24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9/24-9/30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10/1-10/7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,807 | 3,807 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,807 |
| 10/8-10/14 | 0 | 17,534 | 225 | 2,344 | 20,103 | 8,256 | 4,059 | 12,315 | 32,418 |
| 10/15-10/21 | 58 | 56,168 | 894 | 387 | 57,449 | 4,884 | 1,735 | 6,619 | 64,126 |
| 10/22-10/28 | 520 | 17,042 | 548 | 0 | 17,590 | 1,685 | 381 | 2,066 | 20,176 |
| 10/29-11/4 | 0 | 1,050 | 298 | 0 | 1,348 | 595 | 85 | 680 | 2,028 |
| 11/5-11/11 | 0 | 0 | 671 | 0 | 671 | 0 | 109 | 109 | 780 |
| 11/12-11/18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Total | 578 | 91,794 | 2,636 | 6,538 | 100,968 | 15,420 | 6,394 | 21,814 | 123,360 |
| Gear Type Abbreviations: GN=Gill Net; PS=Purse Seine; RN=Reef Net | | | | | | | | | |
| 10/10- 11/5 By-catch | Coho: 2,286 | | Chinook: 5 | | Steelhead: 0 | | | | |

PUGET SOUND TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES AND RUN STRENGTH

Pre-season forecasts for Chum salmon returns to Puget Sound predicted a fall Chum run size totaling approximately 946,400 fish, with 492,900 Chum predicted to return to Hood Canal and 433,200 predicted to return to South Puget Sound. As of the date of this report, in-season estimates indicate that Chum returns to Puget Sound are generally at or above forecast with some exceptions. In-season run size estimates from the 2017 fall Chum fisheries in Hood Canal and South Puget Sound indicate that both runs are well above forecast. The latest run size estimate for Hood Canal is 1.1 million Chum. Some Puget Sound Chum fisheries are still underway and additional in-season estimates of abundance may occur. As of the date of this report, spawning escapement surveys are in progress for most Puget Sound stocks and therefore escapement estimates are not yet available. Early indications from these surveys do, however, suggest that

nearly all stocks will meet escapement goals; although, some central Puget Sound fall Chum stocks appear to be below escapement again this year.

REFERENCES

Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Act of 1985. 2008 Agreement. U.S.-Canada. Public Law 99-5, 16 U.S.C. 3631.

IV. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF 2017 UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE AND PINK SALMON

INTRODUCTION

The 2017 Fraser River Panel fishing season was implemented under Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) and guidelines provided by the Pacific Salmon Commission to the Fraser River Panel. The treaty establishes a bilateral (U.S. and Canada) Fraser River Panel (Panel) that develops a pre-season management plan and approves in-season fisheries within Panel Area waters directed at sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) and pink (*O. gorbuscha*) salmon bound for the Fraser River (Figure 40). In partial fulfillment of Article IV, paragraph 1 of the PST, this document provides a season review of the 2017 U.S. Fraser River salmon fisheries as authorized by the Panel. Catch and abundance information presented are considered preliminary.

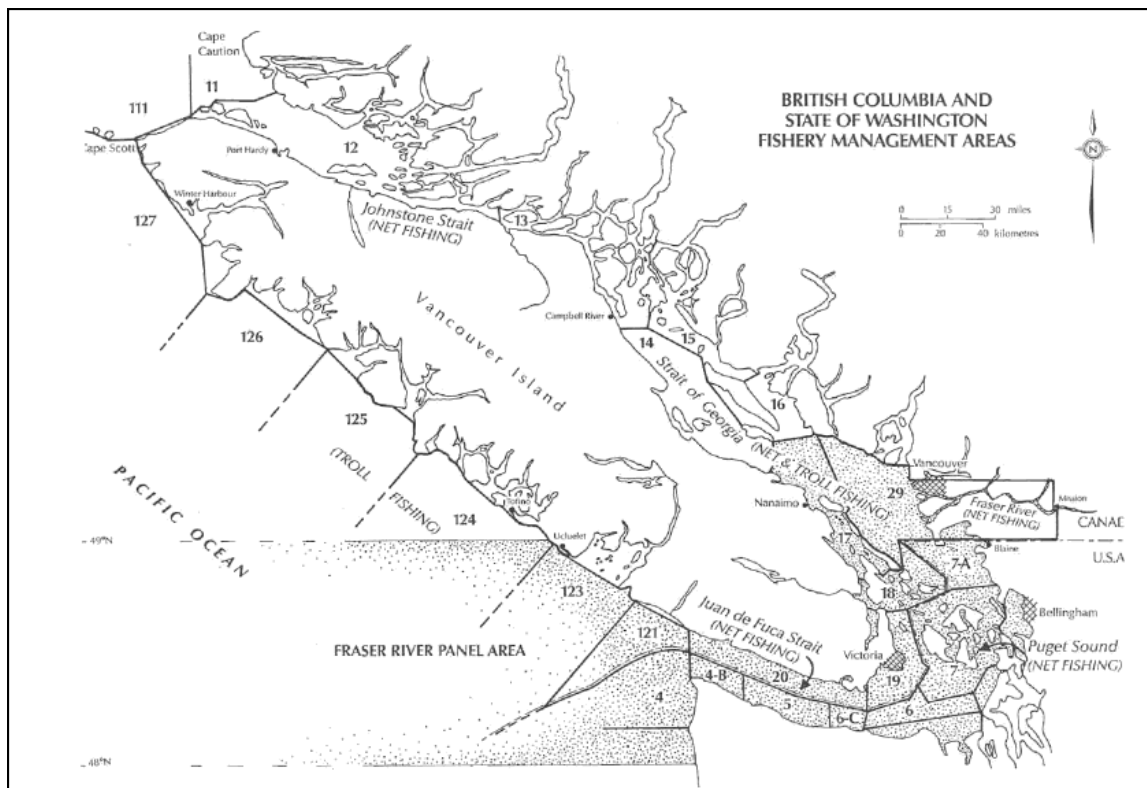


Figure 40. British Columbia and State of Washington Fishery Management Areas, 2017. The shaded area in the figure represents the marine waters managed by the Fraser River Panel.