



DRAFT

DFO Consultation Paper: Development of a Mitigation Strategy under Chapter 3 (Chinook) of the Pacific Salmon Treaty

Introduction

On December 28, 2008, Canada and the United States (US) ratified new provisions for five chapters under Annex IV of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). These new chapters came into effect on January 1, 2009. The revised provisions for Chapter 3 (Chinook) include a 15% reduction to the previous maximum catch levels for the US Southeast Alaskan (SEAK) aggregate abundance based management (AABM) fishery and a 30% reduction to the previous maximum catch levels for the Canadian west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) AABM fishery. The chapter also includes a provision for \$30 million (US) which can be “used by Canada for a fishery mitigation program designed, among other purposes, to reduce effort in its commercial salmon troll fishery.”

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is consulting with First Nations and stakeholders on the development of a mitigation strategy under Chapter 3 of the PST. In addition to bilateral consultations, the Department is seeking input from an integrated advisory group that will provide advice related to fisheries mitigation and the use of the \$30M US available to Canada under the Chinook chapter.

Discussions with the integrated group will be lead by an independent facilitator and the membership will consist of the following:

- The Province of BC;
- Nuu-chah-Nulth First Nations;
- Commercial Salmon Advisory Board;
- Area G Troll Harvest Committee; and
- WCVI Aquatic Management Board.

It is anticipated that this group will meet on two or three times between April and July 2009 in order to exchange views and discuss approaches to fisheries mitigation, including effort reduction and licence retirement in the commercial salmon fisheries impacted by reductions in Chinook catch ceilings. The first session has been scheduled for April 27, 2009 in Nanaimo BC, with time and location of a future meeting(s) to be determined.

In addition to the work of the advisory group, DFO will be seeking views from other First Nation and stakeholder interests. Background information, including consultation documents and summaries of the advisory group sessions, will be available on the DFO Consultations website (http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/consult_e.htm).

Those organizations or individuals wishing to provide input on the development of the mitigation strategy can do so by contacting Wilf Luedke at Wilf.Luedke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or (250) 756-7222 or Corey Jackson at Corey.Jackson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or (604) 666-7168.





Guiding Principles

DFO has identified a number of principles in order to help inform and guide the work of the advisory group and the development of a mitigation strategy:

Conservation and sustainable use are the first priority

- The conservation and long term sustainability of the Pacific salmon resource is paramount, consistent with the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP).

Obligations and commitments to First Nations

- Obligations and commitments to First Nations, including access to food, social and ceremonial (FSC) fisheries, will be respected.
- DFO will continue to address First Nation interests with respect to economic opportunities and will do so in a manner that is consistent with, and supports, DFO policies and programs, as well as the tri-partite treaty process.

Support for economic viability

- Approaches to mitigation, and related policy and management decisions, will support (where possible) improved economic viability and self-reliance in the salmon fishery such that participants are better able to address economic challenges and opportunities, and can better adapt to changing resource and market conditions, without government assistance.

Focus on direct fishery impacts

- The priority for mitigation (\$30 million US) will be on mitigating direct impacts on commercial salmon harvesters and reducing effort in the commercial salmon fleet, consistent with these principles and the scope and intent of the Canada-US agreement.
- Other Federal departments (e.g., WD, HRSDC) will be engaged to explore existing federal programs that could be utilized to help address other impacts associated with conservation measures for Chinook salmon.

Stable resource allocation

- The Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon (1999) will be maintained and continue to guide allocations for all species.

Value for money

- Effort reduction and the relinquishment of commercial salmon licences (where undertaken) will be conducted to ensure value for money expended and are expected to follow usual DFO practices for licence retirement programs.
- Effort reduction and the retirement of salmon licences (where undertaken) will be done in collaboration with industry.

Transparency

- Consultative processes and key decisions regarding mitigation will be conducted in a transparent manner.
- Information from consultation sessions will be made available to all participants and other interests throughout the process.





Discussion Questions

The following questions have been developed to guide and focus the work of the advisory group and bilateral consultations:

1. What are the allocative impacts on commercial salmon fisheries resulting from the 30% reduction in the WCVI AABM catch ceilings in the new Chapter 3 (Chinook)?
 - a. For example, what options would be available should DFO and industry agree to adjust the allocation framework such that the impact of harvest reductions on the commercial fleet were limited to the troll fleet (Areas F, G and H) or Area G?
 - b. What are the possible implications of these options?
2. What are the various options to mitigate the direct impacts of the reductions in catch ceilings? How might these options support improved viability of commercial salmon fisheries?
3. How might the mitigation strategy and various approaches relate to future processes for commercial salmon area reselection?
4. How might an effort reduction program address issues regarding active and inactive licences?
5. What options might DFO consider with respect to licensing that would help facilitate the retirement of salmon “A” licences?
6. What other considerations should DFO take into account when designing the process for effort reduction / licence retirement?

This initial list of questions has been developed to provide a framework for discussion, particularly the first session of the advisory group where one of the objectives will be an initial discussion regarding allocative impacts and preliminary options around scope (e.g. Question 1 regarding linkages to the coastwide salmon allocation process). It is anticipated the list will be revised and that other issues and questions will be raised as the process moves forward.

