

Summary of Final 2024 IFMP Management – Nass Salmon

	Sockeye	Chinook	Coho	Chum	Pink
Overview/ Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations for Meziadin and Kwinageese returns • Kwinageese sockeye recovery underway • Fisheries targeting Nass Sockeye are managed to meet commitments in accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement (NFA), to meet First Nations FSC goals, Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) obligations and to provide ocean commercial and inland commercial fisheries harvest opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below average forecasted return for Nass Chinook in 2024 • Anticipated returns above the escapement goal, but concerns over weaker stocks • Low Kwinageese CN brood years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial net fisheries on NC will be non-retention of Coho • Outlook for returns in 2024 has improved with some stocks at near-average to abundant levels • Some stocks at low abundance/data-deficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nass chum considered depressed • Directed effort commercial fisheries not permitted • Limited by-catch opportunities as by-catch in pink and sockeye directed fisheries when enhanced chum present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nass pinks dominant in odd years • Most Area 3 pinks mid-July run timing, outer coastal stocks August/Sept.
2024 Forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below average run and TRTC below average • Sibling regression model • Good accuracy (MAA 80%) • 17% Alaska harvest • Total run 530,000 (370-761k 25-75th) • TRTC is 440,000 (307,000-631,000 25-75th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below average total return, modest improvement in TRTC over 5-year average • Sibling regression model and 5-year average • Good accuracy (MAA 81%) • 4.8% Alaska harvest • Total run 25,200 • TRTC 50% is 24,000 (21,000-29,000 25-75th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total run expected to be average to abundant in 2024 • Brood year model • 44% Alaska harvest • Total run 294,000 • TRTC 50% is 166,000 (130,000-212,000 25-75th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nisga'a forecast above average but is highly uncertain • Brood year model • Accuracy poor to fair (54%) • 12% Alaska harvest • Total run 81,000 (51,000-128,000 25-75th) • TRTC 50% is 72,000 (45,000-113,000 25-75th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal forecast • Highly uncertain, even years typically lower abundance • 8.2% Alaska harvest • Nisga'a 2024 forecast total run is 635,000 (520,000-776,000 25-75th) • TRTC 583,000 (477,000-713,000 25-75th) • Poor to fair accuracy (64%)
Escapement Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum goal 100,000 • MEG Nass 200,000, Meziadin 160,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum goal 10,000 • MEG 15,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum goal 40,000 • MEG 60,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum goal 30,000 • MEG 45,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum goal 150,000 • MEG 225,000
In-season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-season returns monitored by CPUE data from Areas 3 and SEAK Tree Point commercial net fisheries, Nisga'a fishwheel program, Meziadin fishway and escapement surveys to indicator systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-season aggregate assessments by Nisga'a fishwheel program • Tyee in-season model will continue to be developed as in-season management tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-season returns monitored by Nisga'a fishwheel program and escapement surveys to indicator systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-season returns monitored by Nisga'a fishwheel program and escapement surveys to indicator systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-season returns monitored by Nisga'a fishwheel program • In-season stream escapements are used to inform fishing opportunities past early assessments
Management Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed to meet MEG of 200,000 • Returns in excess of the escapement target are harvested in Nisga'a Treaty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautionary management approach will continue in 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautionary approach to management in 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chum stocks are managed to stream-specific escapement goals • Commercial fisheries managed to avoid wild chum stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pink stocks are managed to stream-specific escapement goals. • PST Pink annex considerations. • Targeted net fisheries based on identified surpluses with

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No opportunities for directed harvest on wild chum • Retention of chum will be permitted as by-catch in times and areas coinciding with high abundances of enhanced chum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consideration for stocks of concern.
Decision Guidelines and Management Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nass sockeye managed to meet 200k MEG, excess harvested in Nisga'a Treaty, rec and comm harvest in marine and FW • In years where Meziadin sockeye escapement expected to be below 200k, considerations to reduce impacts will influence terminal comm sockeye harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A precautionary approach to management will continue for Nass Chinook in 2022 • Consultation with First Nations and stakeholders is ongoing to determinate appropriate management actions. While Nass Chinook returns are anticipated to be above the escapement goal, concerns remain for some stocks within the watershed, particularly Kwinageese Chinook, due to poor returns in 2017 and low water levels in 2018 during spawning season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-retention in all NC net fisheries which may be re-evaluated in-season • Any Area 3 Coho directed Troll fishery would be dependent on in-season assessment of Coho abundance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fisheries in Areas 3 will be managed to avoid wild Chum stocks. There will be no opportunities for directed harvest on wild Nass Chum. • Retention of chum in Area 3 permitted as by-catch in times/areas with high abundances of enhanced chum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly in-season decisions for Area 3 are made from run size projections based on: • Catch and effort data from A3 and Tree Point commercial net fisheries • Nisga'a fishwheels • Stream inspections
Incidental harvest, by-catch and constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Nass net fisheries will normally be restricted to daylight hours • Considerations for steelhead, chum, chinook and coho in sockeye-directed net fisheries • 5.39in max mesh size in gillnets • In 2024, 1-week Kwinageese closure implemented in 2023 will not occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning in 2022, Area 4 gillnet fishery was closed to protect stocks of concern • Closure remains in place, will remain until clear evidence of stock growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-river recreational Coho fisheries will be permitted in the Nass • Reduced retention limits during openings and spatial closures at Nass River mainstem and confluence of Meziadin River until Sept. 15th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area 3 Chum are considered a stock of concern and will require focused management planning. • CDN ERs below 10% • Commercial fisheries limited to daylight • Gillnets have a 137mm (5.39 inch) max mesh restriction • Pink fishing opportunities will be managed to conserve weak stocks in Area 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pink fishing opportunities will be managed to conserve weak stocks of A3 chum • May be additional measures to limit impacts to A3 sockeye depending on PSSI
First Nations Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided by communal licences • Actual opportunities and catches will be dependent on, among other factors; in-season stock strength, management measures taken to ensure conservation of individual stocks, community needs of First Nations, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided by communal licences • Protective measures may be considered in terminal areas • Actual opportunities and catches will be dependent on, among other factors; in-season stock strength, management measures taken to ensure conservation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided by communal licences • Actual opportunities and catches will be dependent on, among other factors; in-season stock strength, management measures taken to ensure conservation of individual stocks, community needs of First Nations, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided by communal licences • Protective measures may be considered in terminal areas • Actual opportunities and catches will be dependent on, among other factors; in-season stock strength, management measures taken to ensure conservation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided by communal licences • Actual opportunities and catches will be dependent on, among other factors; in-season stock strength, management measures taken to ensure conservation of individual stocks, community needs of First Nations, and

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	<p>alternative sources of salmon if preferred species are not available locally due to low abundance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a conservation concern has been identified for an individual stock that is harvested by First Nations, consultations will be undertaken to adapt the fishing plan to provide the necessary protection to the weak stock. 	<p>individual stocks, community needs of First Nations, and alternative sources of salmon if preferred species are not available locally due to low abundance</p>	<p>alternative sources of salmon if preferred species are not available locally due to low abundance</p>	<p>individual stocks, community needs of First Nations, and alternative sources of salmon if preferred species are not available locally due to low abundance</p>	<p>alternative sources of salmon if preferred species are not available locally due to low abundance</p>
Nisga'a Treaty Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual sales fisheries for sockeye closed in 2021 (PSSI) Nisga'a allocation between 32,000-111,000. Initial allocation for 2022 71,000 and may change depending on in-season abundance Nisga'a treaty defined processes and mitigative measures to address stocks of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual sales fisheries for pinks closed in 2021 (PSSI) PSSI closure under discussion for 2022 Allocation for 2024 4,400-6,100, 5,300 initial target and may change in-season Nisga'a treaty defined processes and mitigative measures to address stocks of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual sales fisheries for coho closed in 2021 (PSSI) PSSI closure under discussion for 2022 Nisga'a allocation between 10,400-17,000. Initial allocation for 2022 13,300 and may change depending on in-season abundance Nisga'a treaty defined processes and mitigative measures to address stocks of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial allocation for 2022 5,800 (4,000-9,000 25th-75th), can be changed in-season depending on in-season abundance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual sales fisheries for pinks closed in 2021 (PSSI) PSSI closure under discussion for 2022 Nisga'a allocation between 40-77k. Initial allocation for 2024 57,000 and may change depending on in-season abundance
Recreational Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine and mainstem sockeye fisheries occur In-river, min size is 30cm, with daily and possession limits 2020 triggers for Meziadin Lake rec fishery remain in place: < 120k 0 per day, 120-160k 1 per day and > 160 2 per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total annual limit of 10 will remain in place DFO proposing to reduce number of slots on the recreational license to match annual limit in effect The Department is developing a suite of management actions intended to promote rebuilding of Nass Chinook. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine recreational fisheries will be permitted, with daily, possession and annual limits Min size is 30cm Possession 2x daily limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily limit 0 Closed to fishing for chum salmon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal open April 1 to March 31 Daily limit 4 per day Mainstem open July 1 to Sept 15, minimum size 30cm, daily limit 2 fish Possession limit 2x daily limit
Commercial Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocations Seine A=25%, Gillnet C=75%, Troll F=0% For 2024 DFO will maintain precautionary approach Early season assessment opening proposed and informed by in-season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocations Seine A = 0%, Gill Net C = 100%, Troll F = 0% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PST includes a provision for closing NC troll fisheries using a coho CPUE in SEAK may close A3. Was in place in 2019 Allocations Seine A=12.5%, Gillnet C=6.5%, Troll F=81.0% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area A and Area C (gillnet) no directed commercial opportunities May be retention as by-catch as above Area F (troll) non-retention of chum in Dixon Entrance and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocations Seine Area A=75.5%, Gillnet Area C=25%) Fishing opportunities may be considered if stocks appear to be returning in sufficient abundance

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	<p>Fishwheel information, will be conducted with spatial closures to avoid Nass Chinook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later-timed fisheries will be avoided to minimize interactions with Nass chum and possibly additional measures for Nass coho • Area C Gillnet: closed 2021 (PSSI), continued delay in start to protect weak stocks since 2022 to when in-season escapement estimates become more accurate, season end date late July • Area A Seine: sockeye retention in any pink seine opening will be based on PSSI discussions, pre-season consultations and in-season abundance (min bunt mesh size 2.76in) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area C Gillnet: has interest in developing a coho-directed fishery in A3 • Retention of coho not allowed in sockeye-directed gillnet fisheries • Area A Seine: no directed fisheries for NBC coho, non-retention in sockeye and pink-directed seine fisheries • Area F Troll: closed in 2021 (PSSI), under discussion for 2022. 	Hecate Strait to protect wild Nass chum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically occur mid-July to mid-August • A3 pink fishing opportunities are evaluated based on pre-season expectations • 2024- DFO is proposing a one-day seine assessment opening in the first week of July to assess opportunities to target Pink stocks returning to Area 3 (incl. Iknouk, Kwinimass, and Khutzeymateen Rivers) • Additional fishing opportunities based on CPUEs & stream escapements • Area C Gillnet: possible 1-day opening to assess sockeye with pink retention • Area F Troll: If abundances permit, targeted troll fishery may be conducted and managed to minimize by-catch of chum
CSAF Demo Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland demo fishery if commercial fisheries proceed • Intent to continue selective gear practices • Sockeye retention (with possible pink and coho retention) • Possible consideration of Nisga'a and Gitanyow CSAF fishery proposals for 2022 	• None	• None	• None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 pink directed CSAF demo fisheries in Area 3 approved for 2024 • Lax/Met and NCSFNSS similar gear and fishery controls as Area A Seine fisheries
ESSR Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions around Gitanyow ESSR in Meziadin Lake continue • ESSR was implemented in 2023 	• No ESSR fisheries for Nass chinook	• No ESSR fisheries for Nass coho	• No ESSR fisheries for Nass chum	• No pink ESSRs at this time, but GFA in discussions with DFO
PSSI Consideration Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nisga'a Treaty Gillnet closed 2021, unknown for 2022. • Area C Gillnet closed 2021, mitigation measures implemented in 2022 will continue. 	• Nisga'a treaty defined processes and mitigative measures to address stocks of concern	• Nisga'a treaty defined processes and mitigative measures to address stocks of concern	• Not listed in PSSI	• Not listed in PSSI

