

### III. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE 2014 WASHINGTON CHUM SALMON FISHERIES OF INTEREST TO THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

This summary report provides a preliminary review of the 2014 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 (Areas 6 and 7) and the Point Roberts area (Area 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 15, 2014 and is subject to correction and revision as additional information becomes available.

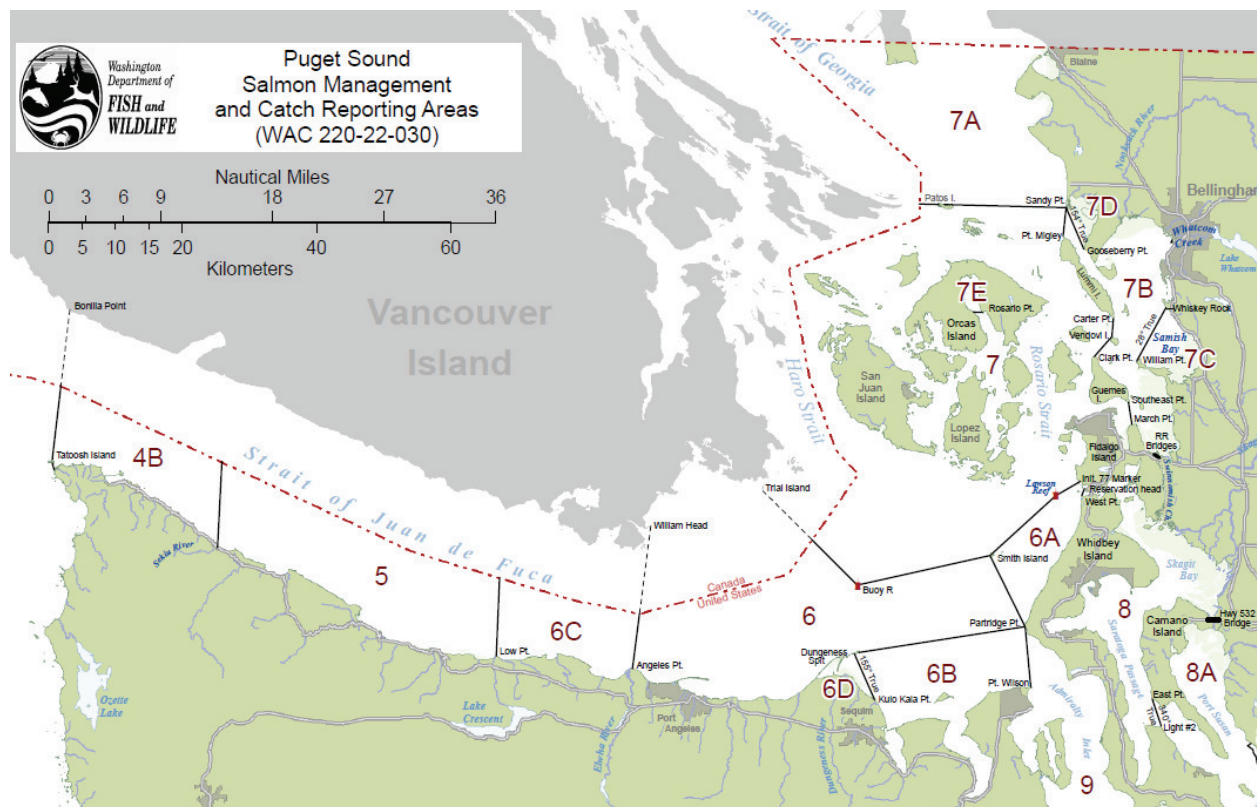


Figure 39. Puget Sound Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas with chum salmon fisheries of interest to the Pacific Salmon Commission.

#### **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 Treaty Indian fishers using gillnets. The fall Chum-directed salmon fishery opened the week of October 12, with a schedule of six days per week and continued through November 8. Just 640 Chum salmon were harvested during this period. However, including incidental catches of Chum

salmon prior to the Chum-directed fishing season, a total of 3,695 Chum salmon were harvested (Table 18). During the fall Chum fisheries in Areas 4B, 5, and 6C, there was a reported by catch of 1,072 Coho, 8 Chinook, and zero Steelhead.

Table 18. Preliminary 2014 chum salmon harvest report for Washington salmon catch reporting areas 4B, 5, 6C

<b>Areas 4B, 5, 6C</b>	
Treaty Indian, Gill Net Only	
Time Periods	GN
Through 9/20	65
9/21-9/27	0
9/28-10/4	0
10/5-10/11	2,990
10/12-10/18	584
10/19-10/25	56
10/26-11/1	0
11/2-11/8	0
11/9-11/15	0
Total	3,695

#### 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. U.S. commercial fisheries during 2014 were initiated on October 10.

Paragraph 10 (d) states that Canada will provide an 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 1,329,000 was provided by Canada on October 21. Paragraph 10(d) goes on to state that the total catch is not to exceed 130,000 Chum Salmon. The fishery was therefore continued through October 29. Total U.S. catch between October 10 and October 29 in Areas 7 and 7A was 143,191 Chum salmon. The Non-Treaty gillnet and purse seine fleets were open daily October 11, 12, 14 and then continuously October 17 through October 29. The Treaty Indian gillnet and purse seine fisheries were opened on October 10 and ran continuously through October 24.

Non-Indian reef net fisheries targeting adipose-marked Coho salmon were conducted from the end of Fraser Panel control in Area 7 (September 21) until September 30, with Chum salmon retention prohibited. From October 1 through October 29, reef nets were open daily with Chum

salmon retention allowed. Chum salmon catch in this fishery, between October 1 and October 29, was 284 fish. Effort was low and there was no reef net fishing effort after early October.

The total 2014 Chum salmon catch by all gears in Areas 6, 7, and 7A, reported through October 29, was 147,719. Catch distribution, between Areas 7 and 7A, was 73% and 27% respectively. However, it should be noted that these catch reports may be incomplete as of the date of this report (Table 20). There were 1,067 Chum salmon reported as incidental catch in Areas 7 and 7A during Fraser Panel approved Sockeye salmon directed fisheries during August and September. During the fall Chum salmon-directed fisheries in Areas 6, 7 and 7A, there was a reported by catch of 17,525 Coho, two Chinook, and zero Steelhead.

2014 is the first year since this annex has been in place (2009) that the U.S. caught, and exceeded, it's full share of Chum (130,000) (Table 19). Chapter 6.10 (h) provides guidance for overage calculations, "Catches in excess of 135,000 Chum shall result in an overage being calculated by subtracting 130,000 from the total Chum catch. Overages will be accounted for by reducing the U.S. annual catch ceilings in up to two subsequent non-critical Inside Southern Chum salmon years;"

Table 19. U.S. 7/7A Chum catches, 2009-2014

Year	Total U.S. Catch	Total U.S. share	Remaining Share	Overage
2009	24,073	130,000	105,927	0
2010	23,404	130,000	106,596	0
2011	60,485	130,000	69,515	0
2012	72,866	130,000	57,134	0
2013	79,650	130,000	50,350	0
2014	143,191	130,000		13,191

### ***PUGET SOUND TERMINAL AREA FISHERIES AND RUN STRENGTH***

Preseason forecasts for Chum salmon returns to Puget Sound predicted a fall Chum run size totaling approximately 1,077,000 fish. As of the date of this report inseason estimates indicate that Chum returns to Puget Sound are generally at or above forecast with some exceptions. In-season run size updates from the 2014 fall chum fisheries in Hood Canal and South Puget Sound indicate those runs are above forecast at 586,000 and 500,000 respectively. 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 some central Puget Sound fall Chum stocks appear to be below forecast again this year.

Table 20. Preliminary 2014 chum salmon harvest report for Washington salmon catch reporting areas 6, 7, 7A

Time Periods	Area 6		Area 7			Area 7A			Areas 6,7,7A
	GN	PS	GN	RN	Area Total	PS	GN	Area Total	Total
through 9/27	0	12	1	0	13	945	109	1,054	1,067
9/28-10/4	0	0	0	92	92	0	0	0	92
10/5-10/11	0	3,896	0	192	4,088	2,451	2,176	4,627	8,715
10/12-10/18	1,235	61,129	856	0	61,985	7,255	9,863	17,118	80,338
10/19-10/25	299	36,262	728	0	36,990	3,453	12,470	15,923	53,212
10/26-11/1	0	3,873	281	0	4,154	0	141	141	4,295
11/2-11/8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,534	105,172	1,866	284	107,322	14,104	24,759	38,863	147,719
Gear Type Abbreviations: GN = Gillnet, PS = Purse Seine, RN = Reef Net									
Bycatch	Coho	Chinook	Steelhead						
10/10-11/8	17,525	2	0						

**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 2014 UNITED STATES FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE AND PINK SALMON**

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2014 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 (*Oncorhynchus 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 2014 U.S. Fraser River salmon fisheries as authorized by the Panel. Catch and abundance information presented is considered preliminary.