



Salmon Stewardship Directorate Update



Stewardship Partnerships

Salmon Enhancement & Habitat Advisory Board

June 7, 2024

Presented by Kelly Binning





Purpose & Context

1. To provide brief updates from the SEP Salmon Stewardship Directorate
 - PSSI Engagement Update
 - Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems (IPSE)
 - Stewardship Partnerships
2. Area Stewardship Updates



PSSI - ENGO & Academia Workshop Series

PSSI Secretariat continues to hold quarterly half-day workshops with ENGO groups and Academic representatives to share updates and seek implementation advice on key initiatives

April 16th Workshop Recap:

Update and discussion on the Integrated Pacific Salmon Planning Framework currently under development:

- Internal integrated planning and decision support tool to inform targeted management actions for the recovery and sustainable management of Pacific Salmon
- Input will help inform how to best design and implement the planning framework

Other Implementation updates on **Integrated Rebuilding Plan Pilots** and **Pacific Salmon Data Portal**

Next Steps: Next workshop Fall 2024



Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems (IPSE)

Collaborative planning processes are underway to create Integrated Salmon Ecosystem Plans that provide recommendations and identify actions and implementation tools that benefit salmon ecosystems while considering impacts from climate change and human uses.

- 1. Thompson-Shuswap:** The Thompson-Shuswap Salmon Collaborative is moving forward with a shared vision and Indigenous-led approach and has developed 2 'virtual watersheds' as geospatial tools to support the identification of restoration and mitigation actions that will be used to continue engagement and develop an Action Prioritization Framework.
- 2. Nicola Watershed:** Through the Nicola Watershed Planning Initiative (NWPI) the Salmon Ecosystem Table technical table is developing the Nicola Watershed Salmon Ecosystem Strategy and focusing on the development of priority actions and further engagement.
- 3. Yukon River:** Focus on development of a rebuilding and long-term ecosystem strategy for Yukon River Chinook while undertaking priority actions to address declines, under a collaborative approach with DFO, First Nations, the Yukon Government, and local salmon experts.



Stewardship Partnerships

- Focus on stewardship-based collaborative partnerships.
- Stewardship staff function as the point of contact or "one-window approach" for DFO engagement on stewardship activities.
 - Function to provide a key integration, communication, liaison, and relationship building role.
 - Facilitate the coordination of Departmental resources and expertise.
 - Focus on initiatives having sustainable benefits to salmonids (stewardship, conservation and rebuilding opportunities).
 - Aim to collaborate with First Nations and partners to coordinate and integrate stewardship into salmon conservation & rebuilding.
- Enhancement related work (fish culture and hatchery-based) remains a key responsibility of the Community Advisors in the Salmon Enhancement Directorate.





Stewardship Activities Transition

Phase 1 is underway

- Approximately 70 stewardship activities are transitioning to area-based stewardship staff for implementation.
- Activities include funded projects, existing Roundtables, stewardship groups, small stream restoration projects, Indigenous-led stewardship initiatives or stewardship education-related activities.
- Included in the transition are SEHAB, PSkF, & PSF to the regionally-based stewardship team.

Phase 2 upcoming

- Collaborative work to determine the scope and scale of additional activities to be transitioned will be ongoing through Phase 2





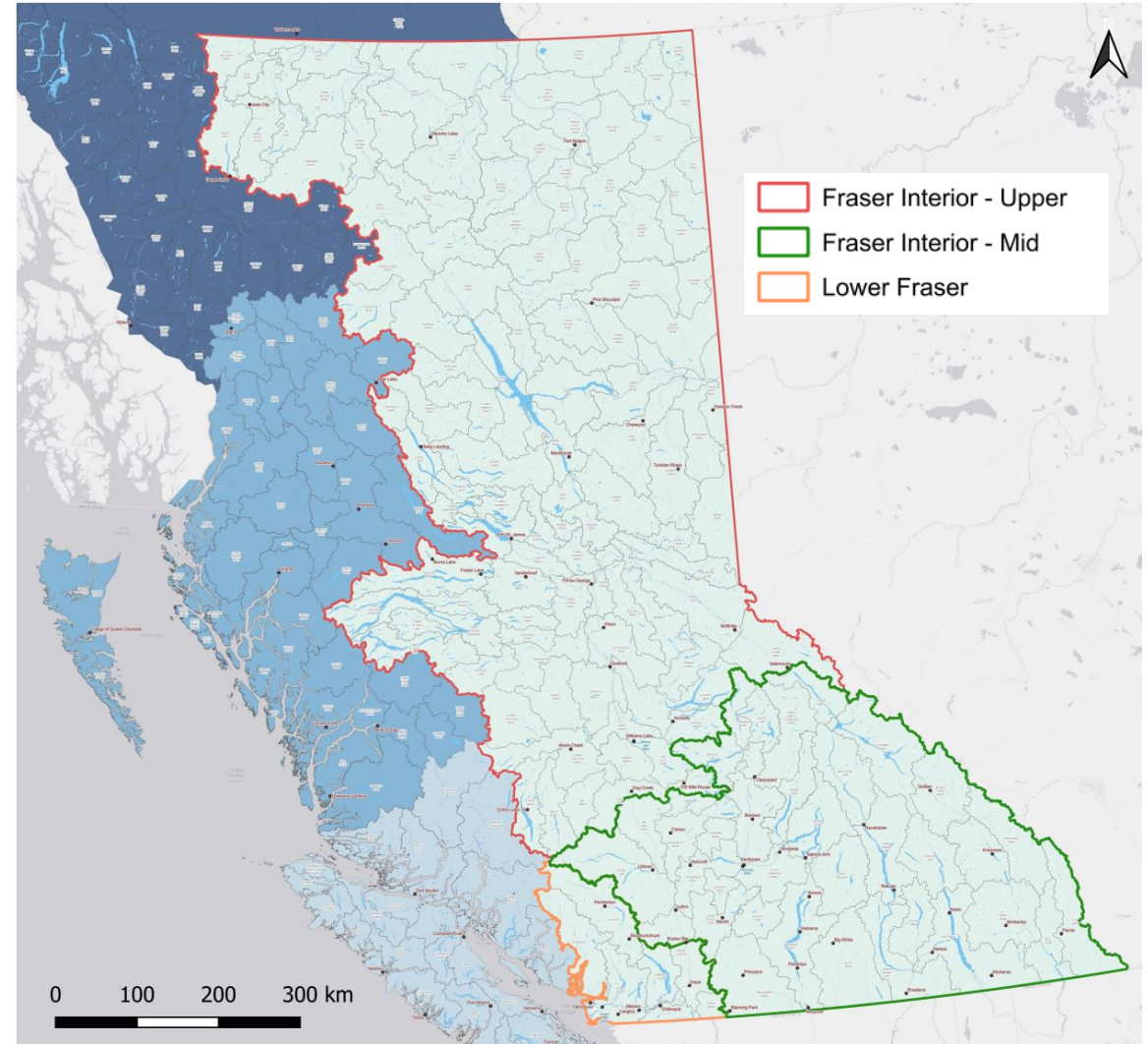
Fraser and Interior Area Stewardship Updates

Tuzist'ol T'ah (*Let's Work Together*)

- Partnership between Binche Whut'en, Nak'azdli Whut'en, Takla Nation, Tl'azt'en Nation, Yekooche First Nation, Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance, DFO and the Province of BC
- Objective of the partnership is to collaboratively develop and initiate a *Conservation and Stewardship Plan* for Early Stuart Sockeye by March 31, 2026
- In 2023/24, the partners finalized the Terms of Reference, held an Integrated Life Cycle Assessment workshop, completed a Habitat and Ecosystem Status Report, and started engaging communities
- In 2024/25, engagement with Indigenous communities and other interested parties will continue, and the partners will explore early actions to contribute to positive outcomes for Early Stuart Sockeye

Stewardship Activities Transition

- 33 activities have transferred to the Fraser & Interior Area. Area staff are engaging with partners to learn about their contributions to salmon conservation and rebuilding
- Area staff are now the primary point of contact for these activities, and are working in partnership with Community Advisors to administer funding agreements
- Area staff are also working to raise awareness within other sectors of DFO of the important work that our community partners undertake





South Coast Area Stewardship Updates

Integrated Rebuilding Pilot - Nanaimo River Summer Chinook

- In February 2024, DFO formalized a partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation to collaboratively develop and implement an integrated rebuilding plan for Nanaimo River Chinook by March 31, 2026
- A Risk Assessment Methodology for Salmon (RAMS) process, Habitat Assessment and Ecosystem Status reports have been completed to support the rebuilding planning process for this stock
- With our partner Nation; we have met with the Province of BC, local governments, ENGOs and industry to invite their collaboration in the process
- Currently our team is:
 - Planning for implementation of early actions (e.g. restoration work in estuary and/or upper watershed)
 - Implementing the Cumulative Effects Model for the Prioritization of Recovery Actions (CEMPRA). CEMPRA is an innovative modeling process that incorporates stress/response relationships and spatial data building upon the RAMS process.
 - Two CEMPRA workshops and an objectives workshop are expected this fiscal year.

Stewardship Activities Transition

- Stewardship activities associated with 22 groups have transferred to the South Coast Area. Area staff are currently reaching out and engaging with these groups to gain familiarity with their projects and priorities and to understand how they can continue to provide support in the future.
- South Coast Area staff are now the primary point of contact for these groups and are working closely with Community Advisors and the Restoration Center of Expertise to ensure a smooth transition.
- South Coast Area staff are playing a key communication and liaison role with other sectors within DFO in relation to community stewardship groups and activities.





North Coast Area Stewardship Updates

Integrated Rebuilding Pilot – Smith Inlet Sockeye Rebuilding

- Towards the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw (GNN) Nations requested to lead and complete their rebuilding plan under a contributions funding workplan with DFO support, this request is supported by DFO until March 31, 2026.
- GNN's team developed an outline for their draft Docee Watershed Recovery plan.
- In the meantime, to support GNN, the department created a SharePoint to share background information gathered for development of their proposed recovery plan.

Stewardship Activities Transition

- Stewardship activities associated with 12 groups have transferred to the North Coast Area (NCA). An email was distributed in early June to all the affected groups to inform them of this change in administration and organization engagement underway.
- Area Stewardship Partnership (SP) staff are engaging with Community Advisors (CAs) to gain project familiarity, identify priorities and strategize continued CA support.
- NCA SP staff are now the primary point of contact for Stewardship groups and working closely with NCA CAs and the Restoration Center of Expertise to ensure a seamless transition to administer funding agreements.

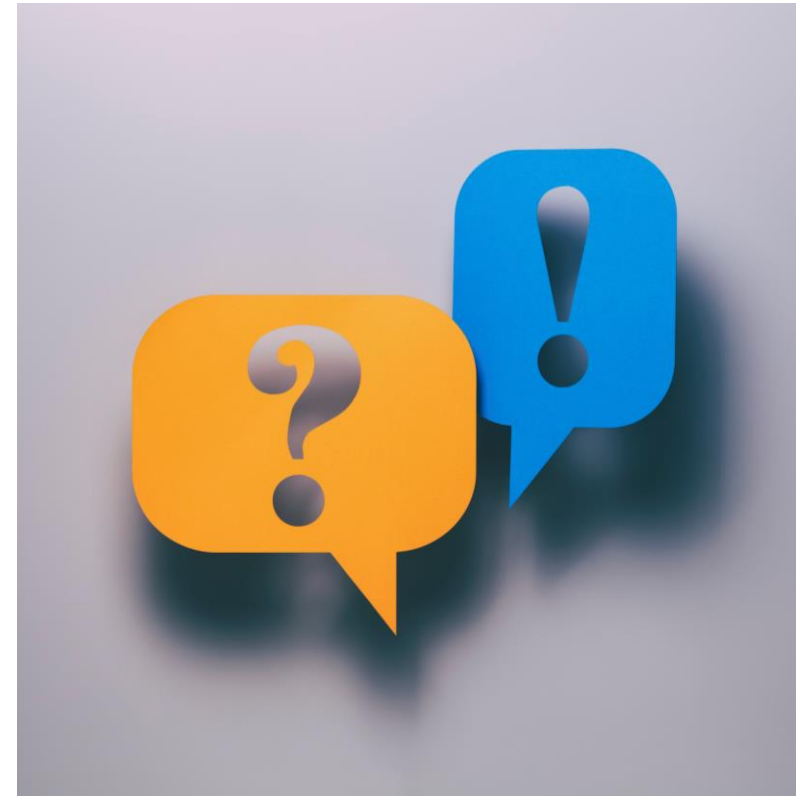




Let's Talk Salmon Platform

- Input opportunities through PSSSI's **Let's Talk Salmon Platform**:
 - Regional Habitat Restoration Priorities Plan (CoE)

letstalkpacificsalmon.ca





Discussion & Questions

