



Review of the Salmon Allocation Policy in British Columbia (Fall 2020)

Overview

In April 2018, then Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc released a statement following the B.C. Supreme Court *Ahousaht* decision. The statement contains the following commitment – “*As an immediate step, I have directed Fisheries and Oceans Canada to review the Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy. We will work in collaboration with Indigenous groups and all stakeholders to renew and co-develop this policy.*”

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has embarked on a **collaborative process with First Nations and stakeholders** to review and update the 1999 Pacific Salmon Allocation Policy. It is intended that this process of updating the salmon allocation policy be conducted in a manner that respects Canada’s nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples and engages stakeholders.

The existing Policy from 1999 sets out a series of principles for allocating salmon in BC among the three harvest groups (First Nations food, social and ceremonial; commercial; and recreational) and within the commercial fishery among gear types (gillnet, seine and troll). Full text of “An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon (1999)” may be found here: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/species-especes/salmon-saumon/pol/index-eng.html>.

Since the Salmon Allocation Policy was first adopted twenty years ago, there have been significant changes to fisheries management, policy, and Aboriginal rights. For example, today, treaties and reconciliation agreements are being signed and implemented. There have also been increased conservation requirements for stocks of concern, as salmon returns have become more uncertain. In the recent BC Supreme Court *Ahousaht* decision, the Salmon Allocation Policy principle of priority of allocation to the recreational fishery for Chinook and Coho over the right-based fishery of five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations (*Ahousaht*, *Ehattesaht/Chinekint*, *Hesquiaht*, *Mowachaht/Muchalaht*, and *Tla-o-qui-aht*) was found to be an unjustified infringement of their Aboriginal rights.

Phases

The Department has initiated a phased approach to develop an updated Policy involving a high degree of collaboration with First Nations, the recreational and commercial fishing sectors, and the Province of BC. We have engaged the services of an independent facilitation team (Tawney Lem Consulting Inc) to support the collaborative process.



Phase 1 – Collaborative development of a Terms of Reference for process and scope of policy review

Phase 2 – Gather information, share perspectives through broad engagement, and conduct analysis to support the development of options

Phase 3 – Collaborative development and consideration of options to meet objectives and interests

Phase 4 – Collaborative development of recommendations

Where are we in the process?

We are in phase one of the review process, working on the collaborative development of a Terms of Reference including defining the scope of the policy review.

For more information

If you would like further information on the review process or to provide your views on engagement in the review process, please contact:

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Information on the Salmon Allocation Policy review process can also be found online at:

<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/smon/sap-prs/index-eng.html>