

## 2021 CHUM BULLETIN SUMMARY/OUTLINE

### Johnstone Straits:

Expectations for 2021 are below average for Inner South Coast Chum based on a below avg. 2017 returns, declines through 2017-2020 and indications of poor marine conditions in 2017-2019 outmigration. Fraser River Chum escapement must be 916,000+ for commercial openings.

**Gillnet:** Area D will not open in Johnstone Straits in 2021 due to PSSl closures.

**Troll:** Area H 27-day troll rolling window closure for Steelhead conservation is in effect.

- Possible harmonized area opening Oct 14-20<sup>th</sup> and Oct 22-31<sup>st</sup> for 225 boat days.
- Each licence has five days, vessels can transfer/fish additional boat days.

**Seine:** Area B 42-day net rolling window closure for Steelhead conservation is in effect.

- Possible harmonized area opening Oct 21<sup>st</sup> (10hrs) and Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> (3hrs) for 65 vessels.
- Opening is effort-based and may be adjusted if affected by weather/vessel numbers.

**NOTE: Fisheries are not permitted in upper A12 and lower A13 outside of harmonized window.**

### Strait of Georgia:

There is a very high uncertainty rate with SOG chum forecasts, especially due to decreasing marine survival observed 2017-2020. Forecasts use methodology consistent with previous years, and an adjusted "like last year" forecast model expectation due to decreasing marine survival. **NOTE: See table for complete escapement, forecast and adjusted forecast numbers.**

**Mid-Vancouver Island:** Very low probability of fishery. Puntledge, Big Qualicum and Little Qualicum Aggregate escapement target: 230,000; Forecast: 105,000 – 157,400; Adj. Forecast: 23,000.

**Nanaimo River:** Possible fishery. Escapement target: 40,000; Forecast: 103,700 – 155,500; Adj. Forecast: 43,900.

**Cowichan River:** Possible fishery. Escapement target: 160,000; Forecast: 191,400 – 287,000; Adj. Forecast: 157,000.

**Goldstream River:** Possible fishery. Escapement target: 15,000; Forecast: 20,500 – 30,700; Adj. Forecast: 22,300.

Forecast Area	Recent Escapements			Forecast (Terminal)		Escapement Target	2020 Escapement	Adjusted "Like Last Year"
	2018 (Age 3)	2017 (Age 4)	2016 (Age 5)	Low	High			
Mid-Vancouver Island	63,617	70,107	381,015	105,000	157,400	230,000	63,733	23,500
- Puntledge	39,451	38,760	58,257	39,700	59,500	60,000	27,675	22,600
- Big Qualicum	11,166	20,400	203,258	41,600	62,400	85,000	11,558	3,300
- Little Qualicum	13,000	10,947	119,500	24,300	36,500	85,000	24,500	6,600
Jervis/Narrows Inlets	2,470	49,210	133,011	50,600	75,800	85,000	24,009	12,200
Nanaimo River	103,000	107,300	129,000	103,700	155,500	40,000	47,270	43,900
Cowichan River	181,115	227,672	229,000	191,400	287,000	160,000	153,570	157,300
Goldstream River	61,200	13,829	13,300	20,500	30,700	15,000	17,995	22,300
Sliammon Creek	8,336	3,615	34,066	8,300	12,500	11,000*	6,822	2,300
Theodosia River	3,052	7,309	41,300	10,900	16,300	21,000	19,396	7,200
Okeover Creek	221	137	10,100	1,300	1,900	6,000	2,832	600
Lang Creek	4,437	6,990	3,051	5,800	8,600	2,500	2,364	3,000

**NOTE: If you would like to be added to text and/or email bulletin/fishery updates distribution list please contact Dawn Webb at 778-222-8790 or [organizer@ufawu.org](mailto:organizer@ufawu.org) with your name, contact info & vessel name**

### **Fraser River:**

Pre-season expectations for Fraser River Chum in 2020 are low. Returns will be based largely on the 2017 brood year; 2017 escapement was estimated at 630,055 spawners and there has been a coast-wide trend of low Chum returns from 2017-2020.

The first in-season prediction of Fraser Chum run size will be released by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by the second (final) in-season prediction release by Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fraser River Chum escapement must be 916,000+ for commercial openings. DFO has also cautioned they don't want to put too much pressure on the back-end of the run when fishing is permitted after window closures end.

**Gillnet:** Area E will not open in the Fraser River in 2021 due to PSSI closures.

**Seine:** Area 29, TBD in-season: Area B has requested a demonstration fishery to occur in Nov after the Steelhead window closure. Use of regular and shallow nets and power skiffs will be permitted, onboard observers will be required.

Lower Fraser, TBD in-season: Area B has requested a demonstration fishery to occur mid-Oct to Nov subject to Steelhead window closures. Participation is limited to 8-10 vessels per day, with mandatory use of shallow nets and power skiffs. Onboard observers will be required.

**Troll:** Area 29, TBD in-season: Area H potential opening following 27-day Steelhead window closure ending Oct 19-24.

### **West Coast Vancouver Island:**

Nitinat Hatchery chum has been closed to seine and gillnet fisheries due to PSSI closures.

Esperanza and Kyoquot are the only remaining WCVI areas with forecasted chum returns above the lower fishery reference points. **NOTE: See table below for WCVI chum escapement and forecast LRP numbers.**

**Nitinat:** Area E Gillnet and Area B Seine will not open in Nitinat in 2021 due to PSSI closures.

**Conuma:** Low probability of fishery. Forecast: 12,000-32,000. Opening depends on hatchery production needs being met.

**Esperanza:** Area D limited entry, limited effort fishery. Vessels have already been selected.

**Kyoquot:** Area D limited entry, limited effort fishery. Vessels have already been selected.

Location	PFMA	2021 Forecast	Forecast Range	Lower Fishery Reference Point	Target Fishery Reference Point
Nitinat Hatchery/Lake*	21/22	163,000	(23000 - 303000)	225,000	325,000
Barkley	23	38,000	(6000 - 70000)	48,000	146,000
Clayoquot	24	23,000	(13000 - 33000)	42,000	75,000
Conuma (Tlupana Inlet)*	25	22,000	(12000 - 32000)	TBD	
Nootka	25	14,000	(5000 - 24000)	26,000	53,000
Esperanza	25	82,000	(25000 - 139000)	24,000	50,000
Kyuquot	26	46,000	(15000 - 76000)	25,000	68,000

\* Hatchery stock.

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