

# Updating the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework (CSAF)

Date: January, 2015

# Introduction

- \* CSAF outlines how the salmon catch will be shared among commercial salmon fisheries
- \* Current CSAF adopted in 1998, does not reflect accurately current fish management practices or respond adequately to fishery and business challenges
- \* Update addresses one element of the Mitigation Program to implement changes to the Chinook Chapter of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) (2010)

# Background – CSAF update

- \* In October 2013, DFO engaged the First Nations Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC) and the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB) for the purpose of **updating** the CSAF
- \* **DFO Terms of Reference:** allocation of **commercial** shares of salmon in BC
- \* Excludes recreational harvest, allocation of fish for financing purposes (“Use of Fish Policy”), aboriginal rights or title

# Objectives: CSAF update

1. Address current deficiencies in the CSAF
2. Improve long term stability and certainty
3. Provide more flexibility to licence holders

Why?

To provide more stability and be able to make more effective business decisions, and better respond to uncertainty in salmon abundance and changing market conditions.

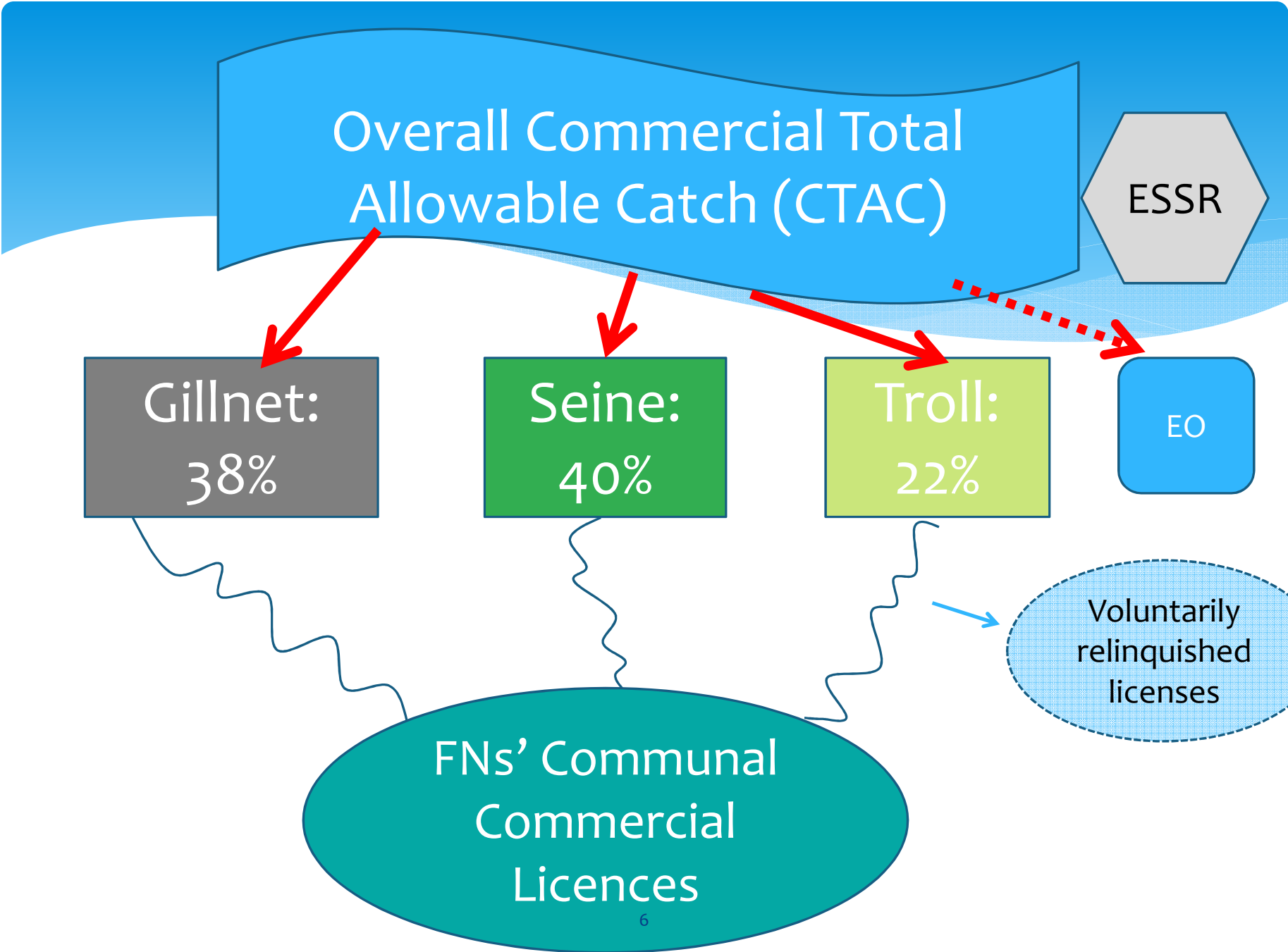
Total amount of all species of salmon  
returning in a given year

Conservation

First Nations:  
Rights and Treaty  
obligations

Recreational  
access

Commercial  
access



# Background – Who is participating? Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC)

- \* Made up of 13 nominated delegates from the 14 FNFC regions meant to represent wide geographical area of BC
- \* Body that facilitates dialogue, medium to disseminate information
- \* Works together to identify and address issues of common interest
- \* **Not a mandated decision making body**
- \* Crown's legal duty to consult still remains with individual FNs' who hold the rights.

# Background – Who is participating? Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB)

The CSAB consists of:

- \* Two representatives from each Area Harvest Committee (AHC A-H)
- \* Two representatives from the Native Brotherhood of BC
- \* Two representatives from the processing sector
- \* Two from the United Fishers Alliance Workers Union (UFAWU)



# Process to date

- \* The process gathered input in 2 phases:
  - \* Phase 1: (Fall and Winter 2013/14) development of suggested changes (15 proposals) and identified socio-economic criteria for assessing outcomes
  - \* Phase 2: (Spring and Summer 2014) consideration of proposed changes through an independent socio-economic analysis and provision of final advice to the Department

# Communications

- \* Communication activities included letters to licence holders, First Nations groups and organizations and Fisheries Notices
- \* 3 ways in which people could participate:
  - \* Meetings through representatives from each area (through the First Nations Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC) and the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CASB))
  - \* Written responses online – through responding to questionnaires or
  - \* Directly to the Department

# End of Phases 1 and 2

- \* Concerns raised with draft report on socio-economic analysis:
  - \* Assumptions questioned (e.g., expected fish price increases, anticipated fishery catches associated with a proposed change)
  - \* Selection of objectives and indicators thought by many to favour economic over social values
  - \* Characterization of change proposals seen as too simplistic or inaccurately described

# End of Phase 2

- \* In spite of concerns over S/E results, several areas of broad (but not unanimous) support emerged:
  1. Fix shares for commercial fleets and First Nations at the fishery production area level; not at coast-wide level
  2. Maintain shares for an indeterminate or multi-year time period; and, eliminate need for annual process to set shares
  3. Discontinue use of sockeye equivalents once shares established
  4. Provide commercial fishery participants, including First Nations, with greater flexibility to make fishery plans to harvest allocations; subject to operational considerations

# End of Phase 2

- \* Outstanding issues:
  - \* Definition of ESSR fisheries; whether to include in commercial TAC
  - \* Dealing with uncaught commercial TAC
  - \* Treatment of active and inactive licences
  - \* Operational flexibilities that should be permitted; including methods, location and timing for harvesting the shares

# End of Phase 2

- \* DFO noted the need to assess any proposals for increased flexibility against:
  - \* Stock assessment needs
  - \* Monitoring and compliance requirements
  - \* Requirements for on-grounds management
  - \* Share tracking and data management considerations
  - \* Costs of implementation and providing clarity on sharing of management costs.

# Extended Process

- \* Both groups requested an extension of process following completion of phase 2
- \* Process extended: Nov 2014 – end of Jan 2015

# Extended Process

## CSAB

- \* To provide recommendations on initial shares at fleet and production level and initial term
- \* Further refine CSAB *Evergreen* proposal including any impacts from troll licence retirement program and whether to have an area re-selection or not
- \* Continue discussions on operational / implementation issues and flexibilities as well as outstanding issues (e.g. definition of ESSRs, uncaught TAC, etc.)



# Extended Process

## SCC

- \* Request for time and support for communications and engagement with FN organizations on work to date
- \* To continue discussions and complete further work on priority issues and mechanisms for flexibilities as well as outstanding issues (e.g. definition of ESSRs, uncaught TAC, etc.)

# Extended Process

## SCC and CSAB - “Small Group”

- \* Chosen representatives (5) from each group
- \* Support to continue discussions together to develop a common list of suggested changes.

# Timelines

- \* DFO intends on **completing consultation** by the end of January 2015.
- \* **Decision** on any changes by winter / spring 2015,
- \* Changes to the fishing framework **in place by 2015** fishing season.

## Slide 19

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**TS9** May be good to include a summary of the SCC letter to DFO?

Letter outlined issues with the CSAF review process so far with regards to: a) inadequate funding and resources to the SCC for CSAF review, b) clarification SCC's role (i.e. not a decision making body) and the need for DFO to do bi-lateral consultation and accommodation with individual FNs as per s. 35), c) SCC request for more time (extended from DFO timeline) for Tier 1 discussions within SCC with regards to division of TAC amongst harvesters , d) the several issues with the SE analysis (i.e. biased results), and e) SCC provided a few recommendations to DFO on moving forward

\*These are all in the SCC letter to DFO ( we have included this in the assembly kit)

Trina Setah, 28/10/2014

# How can you get involved?

- \* Contact your local SCC or CSAB representatives and learn more about their involvement to date

- \* DFO Contact: Jeff Grout, Team Lead

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