Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

PACIFIC REGION

INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEA CUCUMBER

OCTOBER 1, 2026
TO
SEPTEMBER 30, 2027

Sea Cucumber: *Apostichopus californicus*

Canada

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This Integrated Fisheries Management Plan is intended for general purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between the Plan and the Fisheries Act and Regulations, the Act and Regulations are the final authority. A description of Areas and Subareas referenced in this Plan can be found in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) is to identify the main objectives and requirements for the Sea Cucumber fishery in the Pacific Region, as well as the management measures that will be used to achieve these objectives. This document also serves to communicate the basic information on the fishery and its management to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff, legislated co-management boards and other stakeholders. This IFMP provides a common understanding of the basic "rules" for the sustainable management of the fisheries resource.

This IFMP is not a legally binding instrument which can form the basis of a legal challenge. The IFMP can be modified at any time and does not fetter the Minister's discretionary powers set out in the *Fisheries Act*. The Minister can, for reasons of conservation or for any other valid reasons, modify any provision of the IFMP in accordance with the powers granted pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*.

Where DFO is responsible for implementing obligations under land claims agreements, the IFMP will be implemented in a manner consistent with these obligations. In the event that an IFMP is inconsistent with obligations under land claims agreements, the provisions of the land claims agreements will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

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1. OVERVIEW

1.1. Introduction

The 2026/2027 Pacific Region Sea Cucumber Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) encompasses the period of October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.

The IFMP provides a broad context to the management and interrelationships of all fishing sectors of the Sea Cucumber fishery. Section 2 considers present stock status. Section 3 describes new considerations for Indigenous knowledge. Section 4 provides a socio-economic profile. Section 5 describes the most important current management issues. Section 6 describes the objectives to address issues identified in Section 5. Sections 7 and 8 describe the management procedures that will be employed during the year. Section 9 describes shared stewardship arrangements in place to achieve objectives. Section 10 describes the enforcement measures to achieve the objectives. Section 11 describes the ways and means by which the achievement of the objectives will be assessed in the following year. Sections 12 and 13 provide references and a glossary to define terms.

Information in addition to that presented here is available in the Appendices. A detailed history of the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery, quotas, landings, number of participants, numbers of licences and vessels, values and reasons for management decisions, is contained in Appendix 5, Post-Season Review.

Appendices 2 and 3 detail the First Nations and recreational harvest plans. The commercial harvest plan is detailed in Appendix 1 with additional information in Appendices 6 through 17.

In this document, capitalized 'Sea Cucumber' refers to the Giant Red (California) Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*, formerly *Parastichopus californicus*). Lower case 'sea cucumber' refers to multiple species of sea cucumbers.

1.2. History

The Giant Red Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*) is the only sea cucumber species harvested in British Columbia (B.C.). Sea Cucumbers are culturally important to coastal First Nations who harvest them for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes since time immemorial. Recreational harvest of Sea Cucumbers is undocumented but effort is considered to be minimal.

Sea Cucumbers are harvested commercially under the authority of a limited "ZD" or "FZD" licence.

The commercial dive fishery began in B.C. in 1971. An experimental fishery occurred in southern waters during the early 1980s during which time markets were established for B.C. Sea Cucumbers. As a result, there was rapid escalation in effort during the 1980s which led to conservation concerns and the implementation of various management actions. Licence limitation came into effect in 1991 in an attempt to control an increase in fishing effort, and the number of licence eligibilities was set at 85. In 1992 the commercial industry formed the

Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) which represents the interests of licence eligibility holders with regards to marketing and fishery sustainability. The PSCHA is a member of the Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee (see Appendix 13) and provides advice and comments on this IFMP and other issues related to the commercial fishery.

A rotational style fishery began in 1993 in order to reduce the impacts of harvest by allowing a two year recovery period between openings and an Individual Quota (IQ) program was adopted for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery in 1995. The implementation of the IQ program was beneficial for the B.C. Sea Cucumber industry since it gave an equal share of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to each licence eligibility holder which in turn promoted a safer fishery and reduced issues with quota overages.

An Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) was undertaken in the Sea Cucumber fishery from 1997-2007 (see Section 2.3). Under the AMP, the Department restricted the commercial fishery to approximately 25 percent of the B.C. coastline. This restriction was not meant to be permanent and the PSCHA was told that areas closed for the AMP would be considered for reopening pending results from data collected during the plan. The fishery also moved from a rotational style fishery to an annual style fishery in order to allow the collection of time-series fishery dependent data. Arbitrary quotas in place prior to the AMP were replaced by a precautionary baseline TAC that was calculated using baseline density estimates and a precautionary fixed harvest rate. Provisions were built into the AMP that allowed increases in TAC based on data collected from stock assessment surveys. The TAC steadily increased from 1998 to 2005 due to a number of surveys that were completed and due to the doubling of the baseline density estimate in 2002. The TAC was set at approximately 1.2 million pounds in 2006 and remained constant until an increase of approximately 9.5% in 2011.

In 2008, after reviewing the results of the 10 year AMP (Hand et al. 2009), the Department began allowing the commercial fishery to return into areas that were closed during the AMP. In 2011 the commercial fishery moved from an annual style fishery to a 3-year rotational style fishery. For the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS), most Sea Cucumber Quota Management Areas (QMA) are harvested once every three years. Some QMAs have returned to an annual style harvest due to various reasons. The ARFS continues with a sixth round spanning 2026 to 2028 and will continue in the future.

1.3. Type of Fishery and Participants

1.3.1. First Nations

Each year Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) provides opportunities to First Nations for FSC purposes (or domestic purposes for First Nations with modern treaties). First Nations harvest for FSC purposes may occur coast-wide where authorized by a communal licence or, under treaty, a harvest document. Communal licences and harvest documents may be issued annually in the Pacific Region that include harvest for a number of shellfish species. Sea Cucumbers are culturally important to some First Nations, who harvest them for FSC or domestic purposes. The number of First Nations harvesters for Sea Cucumbers is unknown.

1.3.2. Recreational

A recreational fishery may occur coastwide. A British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence is required for the recreational harvest of all species of fish including shellfish. Licences may be purchased online via the National Recreational Licensing System: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/licence-permis/application-eng.html.

Alternatively licences may be purchased over the counter at Independent Access Providers (IAPs) in many areas (note that the IAP may charge an additional service fee).

A list of IAPs is available at:

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/licence-permis/iap-fai-eng.html

The Tidal Waters licence includes access to numerous species, so the number of recreational harvesters taking advantage of the bag limit per day is unknown. The only harvest method permitted to harvest Sea Cucumbers for recreational purposes is handpicking.

The number of recreational harvesters fishing for Sea Cucumbers is unknown, however based on information from the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) and data from the iREC program it is believed to be minimal. The majority of the Sea Cucumber stock is in subtidal depths and inaccessible without the use of SCUBA diving gear. A small portion of the Sea Cucumber stock may be accessible in some areas at extremely low tides.

1.3.3. Commercial

The commercial fishery is a limited entry fishery with 85 licence eligibilities. There are currently four communal commercial licences that are available for First Nations participation in the commercial fishery. First Nation organizations also hold regular commercial licences in this fishery. The Kitasoo/Xaixais First Nation holds numerous commercial Sea Cucumber licences and has an agreement with the PSCHA that enables their vessels to fish these licences in harvest areas close to their community in order supply their processing plant in Klemtu.

Vessel sizes in the commercial fishery range from 8 metres to 12 metres in length. It is common practice within the industry for vessels to stack multiple licence eligibilities in order to make fishing more economical.

A typical crew on a Sea Cucumber vessel consists of a vessel master and one or two crew members. One crew member will act as a dive tender while the others dive to harvest Sea Cucumbers.

1.3.4. Aquaculture

There is an interest to culture Sea Cucumbers under an aquaculture licence in the marine environment and in land-based facilities. See Appendix 4 for aquaculture management approaches.

Aquaculture licence conditions include traceability requirements.

For more information, listing of licensed sites and Conditions of Licence for Shellfish Aquauculture and Freshwater/Land-based Aquaculture, see the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Aquaculture website at: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/index-eng.htm

1.4. Location of Fishery

1.4.1. First Nations

First Nations' communal licences and harvest documents identify the location where First Nations may fish for FSC harvest. Harvest areas are generally located within First Nation traditional territories. More information can be found in Appendix 2.

1.4.2. Recreational

Recreational harvest may occur coast-wide, where appropriately licensed. More information can be found in Appendix 3.

1.4.3. Commercial

The commercial fishery occurs in units called Quota Management Areas. These Sea Cucumber specific management areas are a defined portion of Pacific fisheries waters. Areas and Subareas, as described in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*, are referenced in describing each management area. (see Appendices 1, 9 and 10).

1.5. Fishery Characteristics

1.5.1. First Nations

Fish and marine resources are central to the culture, society, and well-being of First Nations and provide a critical connection to language, traditional knowledge, economies and health of communities. Many Indigenous communities are located adjacent to key fishing sites, oceans and aquatic resources, and consider the management of these resources to be important to their communities. DFO has heard through engagement that Indigenous groups are seeking to pursue a variety of broad interests, such as greater access to economic opportunities from aquatic resources as a potential driver for economic development, more stability in food, social and ceremonial (FSC) and treaty domestic fisheries, a greater role in aquatic resource and oceans management decisions, and a greater role in stewardship, including stock assessment, oceans and habitat management, conservation and protection, and recovery strategy development and implementation. The interests of individual communities are further sought based on specific, localized needs and interests.

Commitment to Reconciliation:

DFO is committed to the recognition and implementation of Indigenous and treaty rights related to fisheries, oceans, aquatic habitat, and marine waterways in a manner consistent with section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples* (UNDRIP), the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA), the *UNDA* Action Plan 2023-2028, and the federal Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous peoples. DFO-CCG

Reconciliation Strategy provides a guidance document to better understand why and how reconciliation informs the work of the Department.

DFO recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making in matters that affect their rights through their own representative institutions and the need to consult and cooperate in good faith with the aim of securing their free, prior, and informed consent.

For further information on Canada's reconciliation commitments:

- *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/u-2.2/
- Implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html
- The *UNDA* Action Plan 2023-2028: https://justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/ap-pa/index.htmlv
- *Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous peoples*: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/principles-principes.html
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Canadian Coast Guard Reconciliation strategy: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/reconciliation-eng.html
- Reconciliation, partnerships and Indigenous fisheries in British Columbia and Yukon: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reconciliation/reconciliation-pacific-pacifique-eng.html
- Information on the Government of Canada's work to advance reconciliation: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1400782178444/1529183710887
- Canada's Collaborative Modern Treaty Implementation Policy: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1672771319009/1672771475448

FSC and Treaty Domestic Fisheries

DFO remains committed to respecting First Nations' Aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, or domestic purposes under Treaty which has priority – after conservation – over other uses of the resource. Section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act* recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada. However, it does not specify the nature or content of the rights. In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a landmark ruling in the Sparrow decision, which found that the Musqueam First Nation has an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes. The Supreme Court found that where an Aboriginal group has a right to fish for FSC purposes, it takes priority after conservation over other uses of the resource. The Supreme Court has also indicated the duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples when their fishing rights might be affected. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) was implemented in 1992 to address several objectives

related to First Nations and their access to the resource: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/afs-srapa-eng.html.

These include:

- Improving relations with First Nations
- Providing a framework for the management of the First Nations fishery in a manner that was consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada's 1990 *Sparrow* decision
- Greater involvement of First Nations in the management of fisheries
- Increased participation in commercial fisheries (Allocation Transfer Program (ATP))

In addition to consultation, planning and implementation of fisheries, and the development of capacity to undertake fisheries management, stock assessment, enhancement and habitat protection programs, AFS continues to be one of the principal mechanisms, in addition to Treaties and reconciliation agreements, to support the development of relationships with First Nations.

Treaties and Reconciliation Agreements

Treaties and Self Government Agreements

There are currently four modern treaties with eight First Nations in British Columbia, which all have fisheries chapters: Nisga'a Final Agreement, Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement (TFA), Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (MNA), and Tla'amin (Sliammon)ʔaʔǰɩnxʷegəs ("Tla'amin Treaty") . Through these treaties, Nations work with DFO to manage treaty fisheries on an annual basis. There are also historic treaties in British Columbia (Douglas Treaties and Treaty 8). The Douglas Treaty right to 'fish as formerly' was affirmed by Canadian courts through *Claxton v. Saanichton Bay Marina (1989)*.

Eleven of the Fourteen Yukon First Nations have Final and Self-Government Agreements derived from the Umbrella Final Agreement (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation). There are also two Transboundary treaties: the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit of the Northwest Territories have land claim agreements that identify their land and rights in Yukon. Many of these treaties have fisheries provisions.

A detailed list of final agreements relating to Comprehensive Land Claims and Self Government is provided at:
https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100030583/1529420498350

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum First Nations have both ratified their Treaties in 2025, with Provincial and Federal ratification processes anticipated to follow. The Effective Date of the Treaties is currently anticipated to take place in 2028. The ratification versions of the Treaties

and associated appendices can be publicly accessed via: https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/kitselas-and-kitsumkalum-treaty-negotiations/

Fisheries chapters in modern treaties articulate a treaty fishing right for domestic purposes that is protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. In addition, some modern treaties contain provisions that enable those Treaty First Nations to make laws relating to certain internal aspects of their fisheries. Negotiated through a side agreement, some modern treaty First Nations have commercial access through a Harvest Agreement outside of the constitutionally protected treaty.

Reconciliation Agreements

In addition to negotiating treaties, the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples can also negotiate Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination agreements, to explore new ways of working together to advance the recognition of Indigenous rights and self-determination. These agreements are led by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). DFO can also negotiate Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreements directly with First Nations to enhance collaborative governance between First Nations and DFO on management of fisheries, marine and aquatic matters.

Reconciliation agreements work within the legislative framework of the *Fisheries Act*. The Act provides the Minister of Fisheries with the legislative authority for the proper management and control of the fisheries, the conservation and protection of fish, and regulation of the fishery.

Since 2019, the Government of Canada has entered into reconciliation agreements that include substantive commitments the Parties have agreed to implementing and that govern the relationship between the Parties for its term of the agreement.

As DFO and First Nations develop and implement new fisheries and collaborative governance arrangements, DFO works with these Nations to engage neighbouring First Nations and stakeholders (e.g. commercial and recreational sectors).

See the BC Treaty Commission at https://www.bctreaty.ca/, and CIRNAC for more information on current treaty tables and RIRSD tables at https://www.cirnac-rcaanc.gc.ca/eng/1100100030285/1529354158736#chp2

For more information on fisheries reconciliation agreements, see**:** https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reconciliation/arrangements-ententes-eng.html

Right-based fisheries

Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the west coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht (the five Nations) – have aboriginal rights to fish for any species, with the exception of Geoduck, within their court-defined Fishing Territories and to sell that fish.

The *2023/24 Five Nations Multi-species Fishery Management Plan* (FMP) outlined the fishing opportunities for the five Nations to exercise their rights to harvest and sell salmon, groundfish, crab, prawn, gooseneck barnacles, and sea cucumber. The FMP was extended to March 31, 2025 while the Government of Canada and the five Nations completed negotiations for an *Incremental Reconciliation Agreement for Fishery Resources* (IRAFR)

The IRAFR finalized in 2024 is an agreement providing the framework for an effective and collaborative approach to governance, management and planning of the five Nations' fisheries resources. The agreement recognizes that the five Nations, through their respective ha'wiih (hereditary leadership) and elected leadership, have a role in the management of fisheries in their territories. In response to the Nations' interests, DFO and the five Nations authorized an extension of the Nations' fishing area from 9 nautical miles offshore to 69 nautical miles, effective July 17, 2024.

The IRAFR also provides funding to the five Nations for implementation, capacity building, and to acquire commercial fishing access. It sets out mechanisms for a Community-Based Economic Fishery plan, including shared goals and objectives to support the development of healthy, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries for the five Nations that will contribute to the local and Canadian economy.

The extended 2023/24 FMP is available here: https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41253413.pdf

Haida Gwaii Yáanuu · G̱iinuu Giant Red Sea Cucumber Management Plan

The Haida Gwaii Yáanuu · G̱iinuu Giant Red Sea Cucumber Management Plan was developed by Council of Haida Nation, DFO and Parks Canada under the GayG̱ahlda"Changing Tide" Framework for Reconciliation. Included in the plan:

- Haida language, ethics and knowledge
- Cultural, social and economic indicators
- Fishery assessed by an Ecosystem-Based Management Framework

The management plan is currently undergoing its final approval by the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board and the Haida Gwaii Aquatic Management Council. If approved, in 2026/27 the fishery will occur under the 'regular commercial fishery'. A community-based fishery is an option in the future. A new Haida Gwaii licence area has been created and two commercial Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities held by the Council of Haida Nation will be moved there for the 2026 fishery.

Indigenous Community Based Fisheries

As outlined in the DFO-Coast Guard Reconciliation Strategy (https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/reconciliation-eng.html), the Department is committed to reconciliation with First Nations through strengthened Indigenous-Crown relationships, recognizing self-determination and reducing socio-economic gaps. In support of these objectives, DFO and several First Nations have finalized, or are negotiating, reconciliation agreements that include provisions for Community Based Fisheries.

Community Based Fisheries (CBFs), including Community Based Economic Fisheries (CBEFs), are collaboratively-managed (by DFO and First Nations) sale fisheries that are designed to enable enhanced community participation by supporting First Nations to fish existing commercial fishing access with management flexibilities that are not available in the general commercial fishery. CBFs will have a defined area and will be characterized by fishery management measures that are consistent with community objectives of enhanced participation and self-determination in fisheries, and will be designed and implemented to ensure conservation, sustainable use and orderly fishery management.

As DFO and First Nations develop and implement new fisheries and collaborative governance arrangements, DFO works with these Nations to engage neighbouring First Nations and stakeholders (e.g., commercial and recreational sectors).

1.5.2. Recreational

The recreational fishery is open year-round (except for areas closed to fishing) and is an open entry fishery with a daily limit and a two-day possession limit and gear limits. The recreational catch is limited to 12 Sea Cucumbers (*Apostichopus californicus*) per day. There is no size limit for recreational harvesters and the type of gear permitted is limited to hand picking only.

1.5.3. Commercial

The commercial licence year runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. The fishery opens on October 1. The season is scheduled for approximately 8 weeks. Harvest is by hand picking while diving.

The fishery operates under a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) with Individual Quotas (IQ). All commercial landings are tracked using a coast-wide Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP). Other management measures include limited entry licensing, area quotas and area licensing. For more information see Appendix 6.

1.5.4. Aquaculture

Sea Cucumber aquaculture is at an early stage of development in B.C. DFO is developing a Policy Framework on the Management of Echinoderm Aquaculture in the Marine Environment. This framework is intended to guide echinoderm (ie. sea urchin and sea cucumber) aquaculture at marine shellfish facilities and ensure that culture activities align with DFO's conservation objectives, regulatory mandates, and reconciliation commitments.

Until the framework is completed, DFO will only consider applications for sea cucumber culture with specific infrastructure conditions in the marine environment under the *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations* (PAR). See Appendix 4.

1.6. Governance

1.6.1. Fisheries Management

The Sea Cucumber fishery is governed by the *Fisheries Act* (R.S., 1985, c. F-14) and regulations made thereunder, including the *Fishery (General) Regulations* (e.g., conditions of licence), the *Pacific Fishery Regulations* (e.g., open times), the *British Columbia Sport Fishing Regulations*, *the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations* and the *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations*. Areas and Subareas are described in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) may be established under the *Oceans Act* (1996, c. 31). National marine conservation areas may be established under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* (2002, 2. 18). Marine National Wildlife Areas may be established under the *Canada Wildlife Act* (1985, c. W-9).

Species listed as extirpated, endangered, threatened or special concern are governed by the *Species At Risk Act* (2002, c. 29) (SARA) which has implications for the management of fisheries that impact listed species. In addition to existing prohibitions under the *Fisheries Act*, it is illegal under the SARA to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade any listed endangered or threatened animal or any derivative of an individual.

These documents are available on the internet at:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/acts-lois/index-eng.htm

More information on the SARA is available at:
https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html

Scientific advice for this fishery is peer-reviewed primarily through a committee called the Centre for Science Advice - Pacific (CSAP) (formerly, the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC)). Information about the CSAP and publications are available at:
http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/index-eng.htm

1.7. Consultation

DFO engages in a variety of consultation, engagement and collaborative harvest planning processes with First Nations. These exchanges and involvement may include bilateral consultations, advisory processes, management boards, technical groups and other roundtable forums. Consultation is an important part of good governance, sound policy development and decision-making. It is also a component of modern treaties established between First Nations and provincial and federal governments. In addition to good governance objectives, Canada has statutory, contractual, and common law obligations to consult with First Nations groups.

A consultation process exists for the Sea Cucumber fishery and is a major part of the planning for the commercial fishery. The Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee (Appendix 13) is the primary body guiding management decision-making processes for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery. This committee invites representation from First Nations, DFO, commercial vessel owners, process, and the Province of B.C. Members of the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association represent commercial fish harvesters on the committee. Public Notification of meeting dates and times are announced via Fishery Notice. The Sectoral Committee and Research Subcommittee terms of reference and meeting calendar are available from the Resource Managers listed in Contacts.

Bilateral meetings with First Nations including through Treaty processes and Reconciliation Agreements are also part of the consultative process.

The Sea Cucumber Research Subcommittee meets once a year in March or April to present results of biomass surveys completed the year before and to plan surveys for the upcoming field season.

The Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee meets once a year in June for a post-season review and pre-season planning which is incorporated into a draft Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) which is generally released for a 30-day consultation period starting in early July each year. The draft IFMP incorporates any new science advice and all practical advice on quota options, and is made available to First Nations and all other interested parties for review and comment.

Once the IFMP is finalized it then progresses through an internal DFO approval process.

1.8. Approval Process

The Regional Director General for the Pacific Region approves this plan.

2. STOCK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENCE

2.1. Biological Synopsis

The Giant Red or California Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*) is a member of the phylum Echinodermata, which includes sea stars and sea urchins. It is the largest of over 40 sea cucumber species in B.C. and is the only one that is commercially harvested. The species range is from the Gulf of Alaska to southern California, in water depths ranging from the intertidal to 250 m. Sea Cucumbers occupy the seabed in a wide variety of substrate and current regimes, but are most abundant in areas of moderate current on complex boulder or bedrock substrates. Individuals have limited mobility, move an average of 4 metres per day while feeding, and are reputed to undertake seasonal migrations to different depths. Sea Cucumbers feed by picking up organic detritus with their mop-shaped adhesive tentacles as they move over the sea floor.

Sea Cucumbers have separate sexes and spawning occurs from spring through summer. Eggs and sperm are released directly into the water and the developing larvae remain planktonic for

one to four months. Juveniles are 0.25 mm in length at settlement and grow to approximately 1 cm in one year and 4 to 10 cm at the end of two years. During this early life-stage, they have been observed attached to the underside of rocks, in mats of stringy red algae in calm bays and among solitary tunicates, although juveniles have been reported from many different habitats. Adult populations tend to be uniform in size and rarely contain individuals less than 15 cm in length. Age at recruitment to the fishery is thought to be at least 4 years, since year classes can be distinguished through analysis of length frequency data for only the first three years.

The life history characteristics of importance to understanding the productivity of *Apostichopus californicus* are largely unavailable. No method has yet been found to age the animals, and therefore basic parameters for stock assessments (natural mortality and age at recruitment) are speculations. The body shape is plastic, and hence measurements of body dimensions are difficult to obtain. Furthermore, the animals undergo annual fluctuations in body mass, skin thickness and muscle weight from their yearly cycle of resorbing and regenerating their internal organs.

2.2. Ecosystem Interactions

Sea Cucumbers move slowly over the sea floor feeding on the organic component of detritus. They function in the ecosystem as nutrient recyclers. Adult Sea Cucumbers have few known predators, with the exception of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) and several species of sea stars. Sea stars can induce a violent escape response whereby the Sea Cucumber undulates its body, creating a swimming motion that allows it to move away from the predatory threat. Juveniles are likely more vulnerable to predation and this may explain their cryptic behaviour. Greater numbers of juvenile Sea Cucumbers have been reported over the last few years and it is suspected that one contributing factor could be ‘sea star wasting disease’, which has resulted in drastically reduced abundances of many species of sea stars, including one of their main predators, the sunflower star (*Pyncopodia helianthoides*). In fact, the sunflower star was designated as endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada in May 2025. Sea otters eat Sea Cucumbers even though their caloric value is much less than other food sources such as clams, crabs, etc. This is likely due several factors: Sea Cucumbers lack a protective shell, do not have harmful defensive mechanisms (like claws or spines) and don’t require energetically costly excavation to harvest (Larson et al. 2013).

2.3. The Adaptive Management Plan (Phase 1 Fishery) 1997 to 2007

Due to the data-limited nature of the Sea Cucumber fishery, a phased approach for new and developing fisheries, following Perry et al. 1999, was recommended in order to evaluate the fishery. ‘Phase 0’ (collecting existing information) started in 1995 and a review of all existing data from the B.C. and Alaska fisheries was undertaken. Knowledge gaps were identified during Phase 0 and it was then recommended that the fishery enter ‘Phase 1’ (collecting new information) in order to collect important time-series fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data. In order to implement Phase 1, an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) was developed and implemented for the Sea Cucumber fishery in 1997. This approach was based

on advice from PSARC (*Boutillier et al 1998, Scientific Advice for the Management of the Sea Cucumber Fishery in British Columbia*). The AMP limited commercial fishing activity to approximately 25 percent of the B.C. coast.

After extensive research over a ten year period, analysis of harvest data, experimental fishery data and density survey data, risk-adverse sustainable exploitation rates were recommended that would ensure a sustainable fishery (*Hand et al. 2009; An Evaluation of Fishery and Research Data Collected During the Phase 1 Sea Cucumber Fishery in British Columbia 1998 to 2007*). Hand et al. (2009) made several recommendations, among which was to re-open areas that were closed during the AMP and to consider a rotational harvest strategy. The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery started 'Phase 2' (fishing for commerce) in 2008 and since then large portions of the B.C. coast that were closed for the AMP have reopened. The experimental fishery area research continued until 2015 and the additional 8 years of data were analysed in Hajas et al. (2023).

2.4. Stock Assessment

The Department, in collaboration with First Nations and the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA), continues to conduct stock assessment research leading towards an improved understanding of Sea Cucumber populations. Scientific research and stock assessment surveys are of vital importance to this fishery as it continues to be managed under the precautionary approach to Canadian fisheries.

Open Surveys of selected PFMA Subareas are conducted annually to obtain estimates of the density of *Apostichopus californicus*, expressed in number of Sea Cucumbers per metre of shoreline. Individual Sea Cucumbers are also collected and weighed to calculate the mean Sea Cucumber weight. From these parameters, the total population biomass is estimated for each Subarea (see Appendix 6; Duprey et al. 2011).

Density data from transect surveys have been collected in areas along the British Columbia coast (Hand et al. 2009, Duprey et al. 2011; Duprey 2011, 2012, 2014; Duprey and Stanton 2015, 2018, Bazinet et al. 2026). Estimates from these surveys have shown that many areas have densities higher than the initial conservative assumption of 2.5 Sea Cucumbers per metre of shoreline.

In 2008, all survey data were reviewed and baseline densities for un-surveyed Subareas were calculated by region (Duprey et al. 2011). This resulted in baseline densities of 6.0, 4.1, and 1.9 Sea Cucumbers per meter shoreline for the North Coast/Central Coast, South Coast Inside Waters, and West Coast Vancouver Island, respectively. Areas being considered for opening are surveyed before opening and their densities are estimated using the collected survey data. The results of all surveys to date have been incorporated into this IFMP.

In 1997, four Experimental Fishing Areas (EFA) were implemented along the B.C. coast. These four EFAs (located in Laredo Inlet, Tolmie Channel, Zeballos, and Jervis Inlet) were used to compare differing harvest rates and the effects on the local population (Hand et al. 2009). Four sites at each EFA were harvested annually at different rates and density surveys

were conducted at 2 and 4 year intervals including a fifth (control) site which was never harvested. The results from 10 years of data were analysed and modelled. The results indicated that it is highly probable that a 4.2% harvest rate would be sustainable for 75 years in all four EFAs (Hand et al. 2009).

An updated assessment by Hajas et al. (2023) incorporated data collected from 1997-2015 and indicated that annual harvest rates should not exceed the range of 2.0 to 8.0% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, and triennial harvest amounts should not exceed the range of 5.7 to 18.8% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, with the caveat that the upper ranges may only be appropriate for highly productive areas.

A Limit Reference Point (LRP) was also recommended for the Sea Cucumber fishery using these survey and model results. The LRP of 50% B0 (Hand et al. 2009) was updated to an empirical LRP of 0.029 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat (Hajas et al. 2023). A recommended Upper Stock Reference (USR) of 0.038 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat (Hajas et al. 2023) was adopted in 2024 (Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2024). When calculated as linear density, the LRP is 1.20 Sea Cucumbers m^{-1}, however, linear density is only provided for context and spatial units are recommended for the reference points (Hajas et al. 2023). DFO Science is now moving towards a new, multispecies approach for providing science advice on coastwide stock status (see. Section 2.9; Lochead et al. 2023). However, Sea Cucumber Open Surveys will continue to serve an important role in assessing local densities and supporting quota setting.

2.5. Stock Scenarios

There is no indication of concern for Sea Cucumber stocks at this time. The Sea Cucumber fishery is managed conservatively, and stocks generally appear healthy. A precautionary approach to management, which ensures the Department is meeting its conservation goals, will continue for the foreseeable future. This, in turn, will ensure sustainable harvests by all user groups. The long-term goal of the Department is to develop an ecologically-based management regime for a sustainable fishery through a better understanding of stock dynamics of Sea Cucumbers. Through collaboration with the PSCHA and coastal First Nations, tremendous gains have been made in the knowledge of the *Apostichopus californicus* population in B.C.

Upon acceptance of the recommendations in the CSAS paper presented in 2007 (Hand et al. 2009), the Department moved ahead with reopening sections of the coast that were closed for the Adaptive Management Plan. All new areas are surveyed prior to reopening to ensure that there are sufficient densities of Sea Cucumbers to support a commercial harvest. For more information on Sea Cucumber stock assessment see Appendices 6 and 7.

2.6. Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting

DFO released the national *Fishery Monitoring Policy* in 2019, which will replace the regional *Strategic Framework for Fisheries Monitoring and Catch Reporting* in the Pacific Fisheries (2012). The national policy seeks to provide dependable, timely and accessible fishery

information through application of a common set of steps used to establish fishery monitoring requirements across fisheries. Available at: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/fishery-monitoring-surveillance-des-peches-eng.htm

From 2023 to 2028, Pacific Region is pursuing a project-based approach to implementation of the national Fishery Monitoring Policy, with a focus on the recreational fishery.

Further guidance on implementation of the national Fishery Monitoring policy is available at: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/fmp-implementation-psp-mise-en-oeuvre-eng.htm

For more information on the 2012 Pacific *Strategic Framework for Fisheries Monitoring and Catch Reporting*, please visit: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/docs/framework-monitoring-cadre-surveillance-eng.html

See Appendix 15 for more detail on Sea Cucumber catch monitoring and reporting.

2.7. Commercial No-Take Reserves

Commercial No-take Reserves (CNTRs) are a management tool meant to provide an alternative to reference points, insurance against uncertainties in stock assessment and management, anticipated spill-over of adults and larvae into commercially harvested areas, and research opportunities. There are a number of other closures currently in place around the B.C. coast such as parks and marine reserves that likely also provide these same functions. The only difference between these types of closures and CNTRs is that CNTRs are surveyed prior to implementation to ensure there are Sea Cucumbers present. Since a survey is required prior to designation, CNTRs have only been placed in the reopened portions of the coast to date. The criteria currently used by the Department to choose CNTR locations are: the area must be surveyed, have clear boundaries (for enforceability) and be based on best judgement of which areas would be representative of the surrounding commercially harvested area.

In 2011 resource managers requested advice from DFO Science to provide guidance on development of a coast-wide network of CNTRs. In 2013 the CSAS paper *Simulation Modelling Tools to Evaluate Alternative Fishery Closure Network Designs for Shallow-water Benthic Invertebrates in British Columbia* was presented and accepted by the Centre for Science Advice Pacific (Duprey et al., 2016). Model results from the CSAS paper indicate that CNTRs may not be needed given the current precautionary management regime in place for the Sea Cucumber fishery. Despite these results, the Department still sees value in placing a limited number of CNTRs around the B.C. coast. There are currently twenty CNTRs in place around the B.C. coast that include a total of 930 kilometres of shoreline.

2.8. Precautionary Exploitation Rate (Harvest Rate)

In 1997, the harvest rate for the Sea Cucumber fishery was set at 4.2% of the estimated biomass, based on conservative estimates of *Apostichopus californicus* harvest rates in the Alaska and Washington State fisheries. Experimental fisheries were undertaken throughout coastal British Columbia in collaboration with the PSCHA and First Nations. These

experiments were designed to evaluate the effect of different exploitation rates on *Apostichopus californicus* populations. Results of these experiments led to the conclusion that the 4.2 percent annual harvest rate appears to be precautionary and is suitable for a variety of habitats and densities. If unproductive, low-density areas are avoided, a conservative annual harvest rate of 6.7 percent was recommended (Hand et al. 2009). From 2008 to 2010 a harvest rate of 6.7 percent was applied to newly surveyed and reopened areas and the 4.2 percent harvest rate continued to be applied to all areas open during the Phase 1 fishery.

In 2011 the fishery moved to a rotational style fishery in which each quota management area is fished once every three years. Instead of tripling the harvest rate for each quota management area as is done in most rotational style fisheries, managers chose a harvest rate within the range of 3.5 to 10.3 percent recommended in Hand et al. (2009) for an annual style fishery. A rotational harvest strategy and a triennial harvest rate of approximately 10 percent is used on some QMAs. Other QMAs are harvested annually with a harvest rate of between 2.2 and 4.2 percent. An adaptive management approach is employed with regards to harvest rate since not all QMAs have the same level of stock productivity. This approach allows the harvest rate to be adjusted as needed based upon harvester feedback and/or stock assessment information.

Upon further analysis of the full experimental fishery areas time series, Hajas et al (2023) recommended that annual harvest rates should not exceed the range of 2.0 to 8.0% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, and triennial harvest amounts should not exceed the range of 5.7 to 18.8% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, with the caveat that the upper ranges may only be appropriate for highly productive areas.

2.9. Research

The Department is working in collaboration with the PSCHA and First Nations to address knowledge gaps in Sea Cucumber biology and stock assessment, such as fecundity, population connectivity, ageing methods, and management strategy evaluation.

Commercial no-take reserves are also being established along the coast as new areas are opened to commercial harvesting. These areas will provide an excellent opportunity to monitor the natural trends in local populations, which will be ideal for comparisons to neighbouring harvested areas and for province wide comparisons of population trends over time. Some initial work on quantifying deep water populations (50-250 metres) has been conducted using remotely operated vehicles to compare near shore densities to deep water densities. This is an important link to harvestable densities as the deep water population acts as a pseudo-reserve, being at depths unattainable by commercial divers.

DFO Science has developed a multispecies benthic invertebrate survey protocol that will promote an ecosystem approach to stock assessment and gain efficiencies by combining single species survey protocols for several commercial dive fisheries. This may allow more spatial and temporal coverage than is possible under the current single species approach, and is intended to monitor coast wide stock abundance over time. These new survey methods are also intended to allow assessment of stock status relative to the three zones (Healthy,

Cautious, Critical), aligning Sea Cucumber with the DFO Precautionary Approach Framework as well as the 2019 amendments to the *Fisheries Act*. Recommendations on the multispecies survey have undergone CSAS peer review and can be found in Lochead et al. (2023).

More detailed information about ongoing research projects and papers may be obtained by contacting DFO Science Branch personnel (see Appendix 17).

3. INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

There is no universal definition of Indigenous Knowledge. It is intricately tied to Indigenous worldviews and ways of life, and its composition is determined by Indigenous Peoples. The term "Indigenous Knowledge" is a generally accepted and is consistent with the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as language in federal legislation. Other synonymous terms include Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Traditional Knowledge, Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit, Métis Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

In 2019, the *Fisheries Act* was amended to include provisions for where the Minister may or shall consider Indigenous Knowledge that has been provided in making decisions pertaining to fisheries, fish and fish habitat. Section 61 of the Act ensures this knowledge is protected and can only be shared with consent. There are also provisions under the *Species At Risk Act* (s.10.2, s.15.2, s.16, s.18.1) that support inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge to inform the assessment and protection of species at risk. Likewise, the *Oceans Act* (s.42) allows the Minister to consider Indigenous Knowledge in oceans related decisions.

In June of 2023, the Department of Justice released the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act* Action Plan outlining the Government of Canada's five-year plan to begin implementing the Act. DFO was identified to lead 11 of the measures in the Action Plan, including Measure 40 pertaining specifically to inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in the management of fisheries, fish habitat, conservation, marine safety and protection of the marine environment. DFO is committed to implementing this measure in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.

The Government of Canada and the scientific community acknowledge the need to ensure Indigenous Knowledge, worldviews, values, and priorities are considered and holistically integrated into scoping, assessment, and monitoring components of decision-making.

Work is underway at a national level to develop a comprehensive approach to support the respectful consideration, integration, and safeguarding of Indigenous Knowledge within departmental programs, policies and decision-making processes. However, DFO recognizes that meaningful and respectful inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in decision making processes will not follow a one-size-fits-all approach. Given the diversity of knowledge and relationships, regional work will involve an iterative process in collaboration with First Nations, Indigenous organizations, and Indigenous knowledge holders, to ensure appropriate inclusion and protection of the knowledge provided. Many outstanding questions remain on how to move forward in a

way that respects, meaningfully incorporates, and protects the knowledge that may be shared with DFO, to mutual benefit. For example, how to engage knowledge holders, and how to ensure that the knowledge can be shared and considered in a mutually acceptable manner by both knowledge holders and the broader community of First Nations, stakeholders, managers, and policy makers involved in the fisheries. DFO is committed to finding a way forward that respects the knowledge and the knowledge holders, and upholds the Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, which are available online at: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/principles-principes.html.

Some areas where DFO staff are working with knowledge-holders to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, include (but are not limited to):

- Regulatory authorizations for projects that impact fish and fish habitat
- Aquaculture and fisheries management
- Scientific research, monitoring, and assessment
- Marine safety and ecosystems protection
- Marine conservation measures (e.g., marine protected areas)
- Training and professional development

For more information on the updates to the *Fisheries Act*: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/fisheries-act-loi-sur-les-peches/reconciliation-eng.html

See Sections 2.5, 34.1, and 61.2 in the *Fisheries Act* (2019): https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/f-14/.

Section 61.2 protections for Indigenous Knowledge have also been included in the *Access to Information Act*, Schedule 2: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/page-15.html#h-1230

See the full *UN Declaration Act* Action Plan (2023): https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/ap-pa/ah/index.html

4. ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE FISHERY

The intent of this section is to provide a socio-economic context for the Sea Cucumber fisheries in B.C. An overview of the First Nations, recreational and commercial sectors is provided.

4.1. First Nations

Indigenous communities are interested in fisheries related economic opportunities. Currently at least 23 of the 85 commercial Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities are held by First Nations for participation in the commercial fishery. In the past, the Allocation Transfer Program (ATP) and the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) had retired existing commercial licence eligibilities from fish harvesters on a voluntary basis and reissues them to eligible First Nation organizations and Indigenous community-owned Commercial Fishing Enterprises (CFEs) as communal commercial licences. As a result of these programs, four of the 85 commercial Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities are communal commercial licences. First Nation organizations also hold a number of regular commercial Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities either received during the licence limitation process in 1991 or purchased more recently using funds received through various reconciliation agreements.

For more information on the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) ATP, contact the resource manager listed in Appendix 17 or see the Internet at:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/afs-srapa-eng.html

More information on the PICFI is available on the Internet at:
http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/picfi-ipcip/index-eng.html

4.2. Recreational

Recreational fishing may occur to provide food for personal use, as a leisure activity, or as a combination of the two. The recreational community includes local residents, multi-species charter operators and lodges, and visiting anglers and boaters. In the 2024/2025 recreational angling season, 328,222 adult fishers were licensed to fish in B.C.'s tidal waters recreational fishery. These activities provide a range of benefits to the participants as well as contribute directly and indirectly to economic activity.

Recreational harvest is believed to be minimal based upon analysis of the Internet Recreational Effort and Catch (iREC) survey data which showed very few instances of Sea Cucumber harvest. Also, advice from the Sport Fish Advisory Board (SFAB) has been that Sea Cucumbers are not a popular species for recreational harvest compared with other species like salmon, groundfish, crab and prawn.

4.3. Commercial

The Pacific Region is home to the only commercial *Apostichopus californicus* (Giant Red Sea Cucumber) fishery within Canada. There are also commercial fisheries for *Apostichopus californicus* in the states of Washington, California and Alaska in the U.S. as well as a drag fishery for Orange-footed Sea Cucumbers (*Cucumaria frondosa*) on the east coast of Canada.

The 85 commercial Sea Cucumber licences are party-based, meaning that each licence eligibility holder may designate their licence to a registered commercial vessel of their choice each season. Licences are stackable, such that each vessel may hold numerous licences. In 2025, 85 licences were distributed across 28 vessels. Most of the vessels were also licensed for one or more other dive fisheries such as Geoduck, Green Sea Urchin or Red Sea Urchin. Overall, the dive fleet generates slightly more revenue from its harvest of non-Sea Cucumber species than from Sea Cucumber (Nelson 2011).

The annual Sea Cucumber fishery commences in October, when product quality is higher and weather conditions are still conducive to harvesting. The fishery is scheduled to run for eight weeks, and the majority of the TAC is usually harvested within the first three or four weeks of the opening. Fishery openings are scheduled by the PSCHA based on the dynamics of the industry, such as fleet operations and processor demands.

The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery in B.C. has gone through a significant number of changes since 2008 when it moved from a Phase 1 fishery to a Phase 2 fishery (see Section 2.3) in 2008. The fishery has expanded from approximately 25% of the B.C. coastline set aside in the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) to approximately 53% in 2025. Since 2008 approximately 6,700 km of shoreline has reopened to commercial harvest and this number continues to grow as more areas are surveyed. The amount of quota available for harvest has increased as a result of reopening portions of coastline and has allowed for an increase of approximately 9.5% in the commercial TAC and the implementation of a rotational style fishery (see Appendix 14). Another significant change has been the distribution of effort between the four licence areas (north coast, central coast, south coast inside waters and west coast of Vancouver Island). During the Phase 1 fishery, most (around 84%) of the coastwide commercial TAC was in the north and central coast licence areas and approximately 8% in the south coast inside waters licence area (Figure 1). Once the Phase 2 fishery started, effort started to spread more evenly amongst the licence areas. In 2025, the north and central coasts accounted for 73% of the TAC with south coast inside waters and West Coast Vancouver Island areas holding 21% and 6% of the total licences, respectively. The rest of the TAC was distributed mainly to the south coast inside waters and some to the west coast of Vancouver Island.

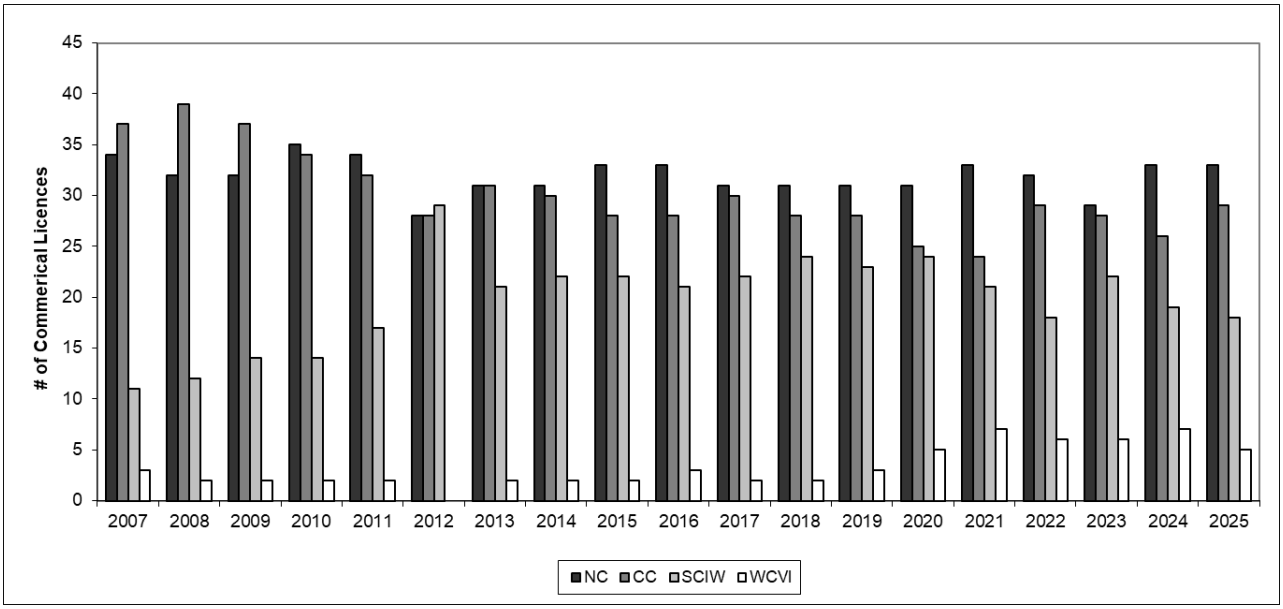

Figure 1. The number of commercial licences in each licence area from 2007 to 2025. NC = north coast licence area, CC = central coast licence area, SCIW = south coast inside waters licence area, WCVI = west coast of Vancouver Island licence area. The number of licences represents the share of the coast-wide commercial TAC in each licence area.

4.4. Viability and Market Trends

The total allowable catch (TAC) remained relatively constant at 1.24 million pounds (split) from 2006 to 2010 (Figure 2). In 2011, the TAC increased to 1.36 million pounds (split) due to an increase in quota made available from portions of coastline that have been reopened since 2008 (see Section 2.3). In 2020, the TAC was temporarily lowered to 1.275 million pounds (split) at the request of the PSCHA due to market demand issues but returned to its previous level of 1.36 million pounds (split) for subsequent seasons.

Licence values for the fishery have increased more than fivefold between 2010 and 2024 - from $300,000 to $1.6 million (Fisheries and Oceans, 2024; Nelson, 2011) - likely driven by a combination of factors. Sea Cucumber harvesters have reliable fishery access, with a catch share of a fairly consistent fishery-wide TAC when considering recent years. The average price (per split pound) of Sea Cucumbers has also increased drastically over the same period – from $3.50 in 2010 to $9.90 in 2024 (a 183% increase). This sharp rise in prices suggests a decade of strong growth in fleet returns, even when accounting for moderate increases in harvest costs. The drop in average price observed in 2025 is primarily due to increased Chinese tariffs on B.C. Sea Cucumber (see section 4.5 for more details).

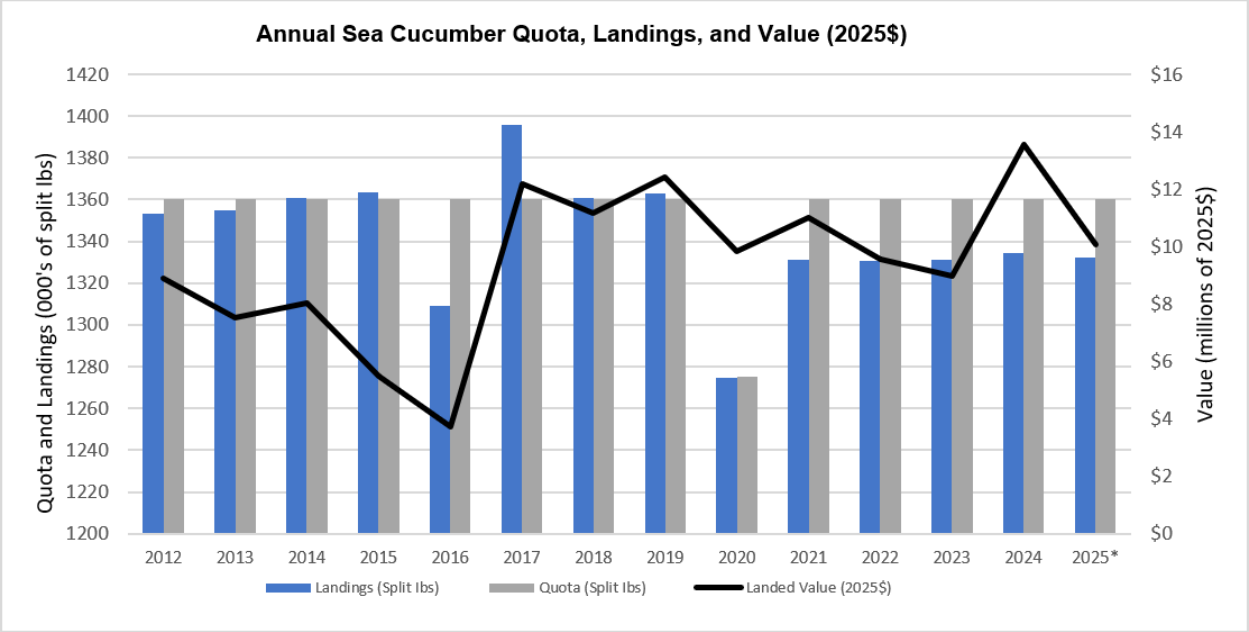

Figure 2. Annual Sea Cucumber quota (split lb.), landings (split lb.) and value for British Columbia, 2011 to 2025. Source: DFO logbooks and fish slips. Landings for 2025 are preliminary and should be treated as such. Landed values for 2021 to 2025 are based on process from sales slips, adjusted based on DFO Price Survey inputs.

In fishing season 2025-2026, the North Coast recorded the highest landings, with 528,933 pounds (split) and 15 active vessels (Figure 3). The Central Coast followed closely with 465,824 pounds (split) of landings and 14 active vessels. In the South Coast Inside Waters, landings reached 273,731 pounds (split), supported by 7 active vessels. The West Coast Vancouver Island had the lowest figures, with 63,908 pounds (split) landed and 3 active vessels. Overall, the North and Central Coasts were the most productive regions in terms of both catch volume and vessel activity during the 2025–26 season.

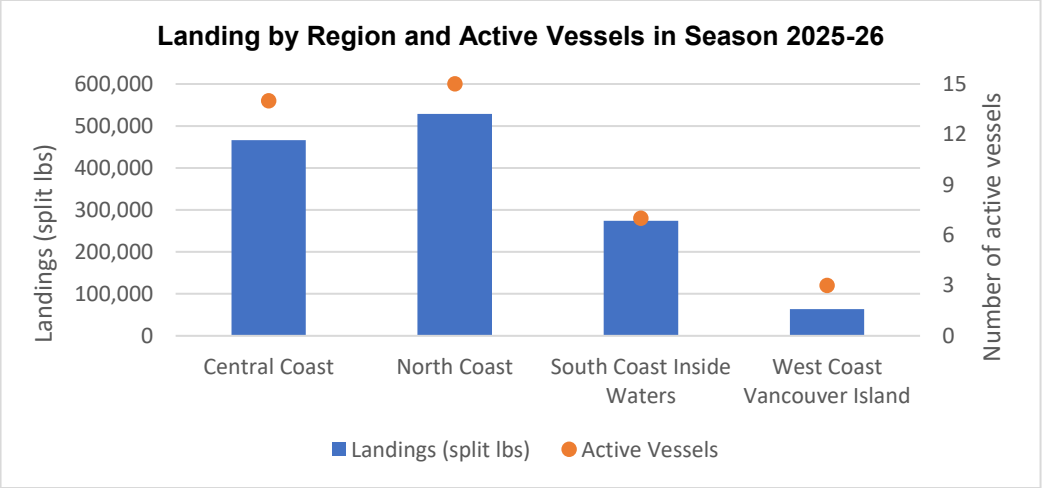

Figure 3. Landing by region (split pounds) and active vessels in season 2025-26. Source: Canada Pacific Sea Cucumber Fishery Seasonal Summary 2025-26.

4.5. Processing and Exporting

There is more to the economic contribution of the Sea Cucumber fishery than harvesting employment and revenue; the processing and exporting of Sea Cucumbers landed in the province are other sources of economic value and jobs. The most recent processing linkages survey found that Sea Cucumbers require 24 hours of human labour per metric tonne for processing (GS Gislason, 2017). Excluding 2020, landings have consistently met the TAC for the past several years, which equates to employing approximately 19 full time employees each year in the processing of B.C. Sea Cucumbers (~$990,000 in wages).

Sea Cucumbers are hand picked off the sea floor by SCUBA divers and brought to tender vessels. Once on the tender vessel, Sea Cucumbers are cut open longitudinally to remove water and viscera in a process called 'splitting.' Sea Cucumbers are landed in split form and therefore the commercial TAC is calculated in split pounds.

Sea Cucumbers are then processed into two products: frozen muscle strips and dried skin. The skin is semi-processed in plants where it is boiled, salted and then shipped to China where it is dried either outdoors or in drying machines. The meat is removed from the skin and then frozen and shipped to Asian markets. According to the 2021 BC Commercial Fishery Statistics, the annual wholesale value of Sea Cucumbers processed in B.C. in 2025 was $6.9 million. [1] The lower wholesale value is partially due to processors holding onto product with hopes of tariffs from China being removed before exporting the product.

[1] B.C. Seafood Harvest, Landed Value, and Wholesale Value (2011-2023) – Wild Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/statistics/agriculture-and-seafood-statistics-publications

The demand for B.C. Sea Cucumber is mainly overseas in parts of Asia, with modest domestic consumption. The largest export markets for the product include China and Hong Kong, who together have accounted for an average of 83% of B.C.'s total Sea Cucumber exports over the past 5 years, peaking at 99% of the total export quantity in 2020. In 2019, China surpassed Hong Kong as the largest importer of B.C. Sea Cucumbers, where the skins (called trepang) have been used for centuries as a medicinal food. Many different species of Sea Cucumber from around the world compete with B.C. Sea Cucumber in Asian markets, with the highest value species coming from China and Japan.

In 2025, the total export value of Sea Cucumbers dropped notably to $10.8 million (in 2025 dollars), representing an 33% decrease from the previous year. Export quantity declined only 10%, signifying the large decline in value is mostly due to a drop in export price, which fell 26% compared to 2024. The reduction in both value and volume appears to be primarily driven by a sharp drop in exports to China, which had been the dominant market in recent years, accounting for 67% of total export value and 78% of total export quantity in 2024. While exports to Hong Kong and other destinations increased, they were not sufficient to offset the overall downturn. This marks a significant reversal following three consecutive years of growth from 2021-2023. The decline in 2025 exports has largely been a result of tariffs imposed by China on Canadian seafood products beginning in March 2025. While

tariffs on some seafood products have been suspended, tariffs continue to be imposed against sea cucumber exports, suggesting continued challenges for B.C. sea cucumber exporters.

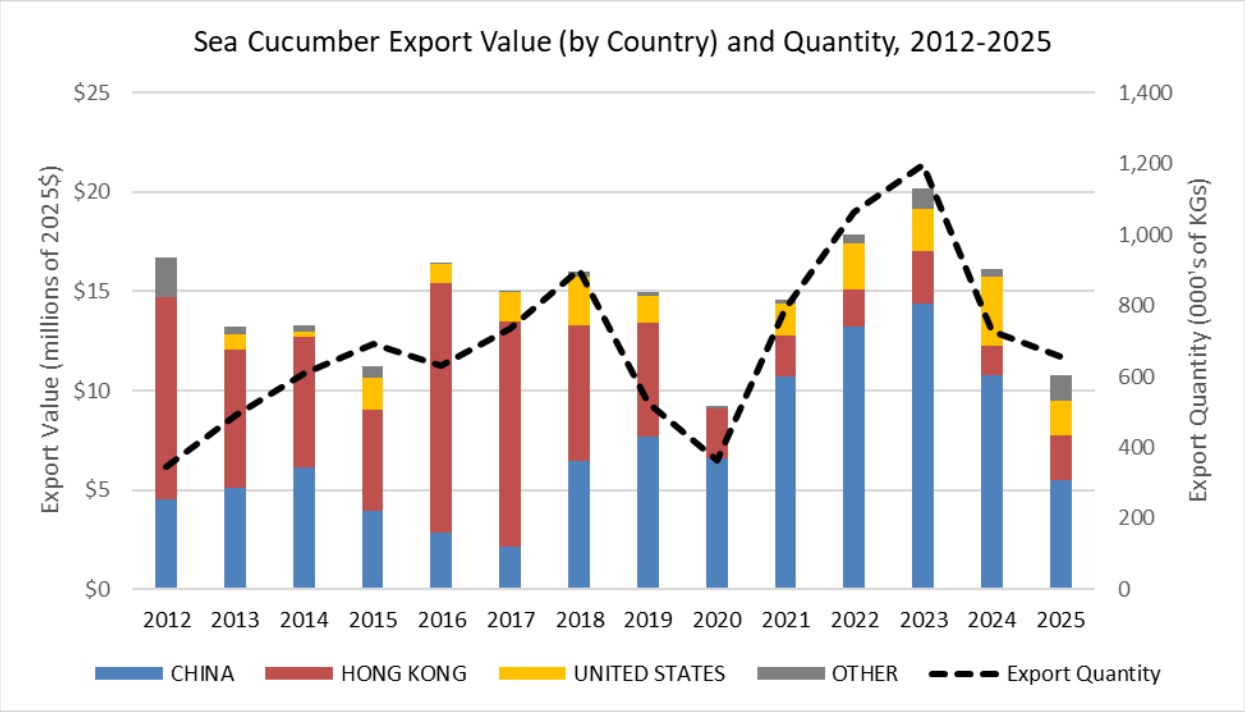

Figure 4. Value of British Columbia (B.C.) Sea Cucumber by Key Export Markets in 2025 dollars, 2012-2025. Source: Statistics Canada EXIM Database, multiple years.

5. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The following sections highlight the on-going or longer-term management issues that may impact the management measures in place for this fishery. Specific management objectives designed to mitigate these issues are detailed in Section 6. There may be immediate or annual management issues that need addressing.

5.1. First Nations

The level of First Nations' effort and harvest of Sea Cucumbers for FSC is unknown at this time. Harvest is believed to be low due to much of the stock only being available for harvest by dive. Catch monitoring programs are being developed in collaboration with some First Nations organizations.

5.2. Recreational

The level of recreational harvest of Sea Cucumbers is generally accepted by DFO to be low and supported by data received (albeit minimal) through recreational licence surveys and information from the Sport Fishery Advisory Boards. Catch monitoring programs for all sport caught fish are being improved in collaboration with recreational fishery organizations.

5.3. Commercial

- Impacts of the commercial fishery on the ability of First Nations to harvest for FSC purposes needs to be considered. DFO has not been made aware of any Nations that are struggling to acquire Sea Cucumbers for FSC purposes.

- Impacts of sea otter predation on Sea Cucumbers needs to be monitored for future consideration in the management of the fishery.

5.4. Conservation and Sustainability

There is currently no concern for the conservation of Sea Cucumbers in B.C. Conservation for the B.C. Sea Cucumber resource is defined as maintaining the stock to a level that will ensure the population isn't at risk of becoming extirpated or extinct.

With regards to the Sea Cucumber fishery sustainability is defined as the ability to maintain harvest at a certain rate or level over time. This may be difficult over time due to, but not limited to, impacts of sea otters, impact of climate change and closures implemented to achieve Marine Conservation Targets.

5.4.1. Collection of Biological Information

The life history characteristics of importance to understanding the productivity of *Apostichopus californicus* are still largely unavailable and may lead to uncertainties in Sea Cucumber stock assessment. More research focusing on the life history, population dynamics and depth distribution of Sea Cucumbers is needed to better understand the effects of harvesting on Sea Cucumber populations.

5.4.2. Localized Over Harvesting

The concentration of fishing effort in relatively small areas may lead to local depletion of Sea Cucumbers. The impact of localized depletions on Sea Cucumber populations, on the ecosystem in general, and the mechanisms involved in the re-establishment of populations are not well understood. However, repeated surveys in several locations have not shown detrimental effects on stocks from the annual harvesting that occurred during the Phase 1 fishery. In order to minimize the effects of localized over harvesting, managers may look at management measures to better spread harvest effort amongst quota management areas.

5.4.3. Sea Otters

Sea otter populations are expanding in B.C. and are expected to become an issue in the management of the commercial fishery in the future. Sea Cucumbers are not generally the preferred prey of sea otters, but as other prey sources become scarce, they target Sea Cucumbers. A study done in southeast Alaska showed that the long-term presence of sea otters resulted in an up to 100% decline in Sea Cucumber densities (Larson et al. 2013). This study offers a glimpse of what may occur in B.C. in the future given the geographic proximity of the study area to B.C. and similar sea otter population expansion following a long period of extirpation.

5.4.4. Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change will result in a wide variety of impacts, including rising sea levels, loss of marine habitat, shifting distribution ranges for marine organisms and an imbalance between growth and recruitment within ecosystems. Ocean acidification is one of the climate impacts that could impact Sea Cucumber populations in B.C. Oceans absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) which increases the acidity of the water. There are concerns about the ability of marine ecosystems to adapt to acidification. Fecundity, juvenile survival and the ability to handle temperature stress may be impacted negatively by ocean acidification (Haigh et al. 2015). Another emerging issue has been higher than normal water temperatures over the last few years (Chandler et al. 2016). Higher water temperatures may place physiological stress on Sea Cucumbers and could lead to increased instances of disease.

5.4.5. Disease

It has been hypothesized that increasing sea temperature will lead to an increase in the frequency of disease outbreaks due to decreased host immunity, increased virulence of pathogens or pathogen range expansion (Burge et al., 2014). There have not been any recorded disease outbreaks involving Sea Cucumbers in B.C.; however a few reports of dead/dying Sea Cucumbers were reported in 2015, 2016, 2021 and 2022. Preliminary results from analysis of dying Sea Cucumbers collected from Howe Sound, the Sechelt area and the Nanoose Bay area were inconclusive but did not point to the same disease that caused the ‘sea star wasting disease’ (unpublished data; Gary Meyer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Aquatic Health Laboratory, 2021, pers comm; Ian Hewson, Cornell University, 2021, per. Comm), Lim et al. 2023).

5.4.6. Quota Overages

Any quota taken above the TAC is a conservation concern. Quota overages over the amount permitted on a licence may be transferred to another licence up to a limit of 500 pounds. Overages that are not transferred to another licence are considered a Non-Transferable Overage (NTO) and the limit permitted is zero. The Department will be monitoring quota overages each season and may pursue enforcement action for repeat violators.

5.5. Social, Cultural, and Economic

5.5.1. First Nations

Coastal First Nations may have an interest in economic opportunities from the Sea Cucumber resource through access to the wild commercial fishery.

Access to the wild commercial fishery is currently being addressed by two programs; the Allocation Transfer Program (ATP) and the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fishery Initiative (PICFI). These programs retire existing commercial licence eligibilities from fish harvesters, on a voluntary basis, and re-issue these to eligible First Nation organizations as communal commercial licences. The ATP program facilitates the voluntary retirement of commercial licences and the issuance of licences to eligible Indigenous commercial fishers in a manner that does not add to the existing fishing effort. The PICFI, first announced in 2007, receives $22.05 million annually. In 2018/2019, an Aquaculture Development Source (ADS) funding envelope with an annual budget of $1M was launched to support aquaculture projects under PICFI, and the annual budget increased to $1.5M beginning in 2021/22.

For more information on the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) and ATP, contact a resource manager listed in Appendix 17 or see the DFO website at:
http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/abor-autoc/index-eng.html

More information on the PICFI is available at:
http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/picfi-ipcip/index-eng.html

Currently there are three communal commercial Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities to provide economic access to First Nations through participation in the commercial fishery. Several First Nation organizations hold regular commercial licences as well.

5.5.2. Managing the Commercial Fishery to an Appropriate Scale

DFO works collaboratively with the PSCHA to make improvements to the management regime on an annual basis. For example, most of the large QMAs that were in place during the AMP have been split into multiple smaller QMAs in order to facilitate the rotational fishery and to spread out fishing effort. Managers must consider several factors when determining the size of QMAs. They must be large enough that they are not too difficult to manage (i.e. ability to keep track of remaining quotas, hails, effort, etc.) and yet be small enough to spread effort over larger areas in order to minimize the effects of localized overharvesting. QMAs will

likely continue to change as the fishery proceeds through the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy.

5.5.3. Managing and Rotational Fishery

The 2011 season was the start of a three year rotational fishery in which different areas along the B.C. coast are targeted in different years. There are both conservation and logistical advantages to a rotational harvest. Conservation advantages include a higher average animal weight and higher densities of spawning adults which would ultimately result in a higher number of Sea Cucumbers. Logistical advantages include concentrating harvest effort in smaller areas, reducing travel costs and reducing the cost of staffing multiple offloading ports.

The rotational fishery strategy will be adaptive since the process of reopening the sections of coastline that were closed for the Adaptive Management Plan is not complete. Harvest rate, licence distribution between licence areas, QMA size and order of QMA harvest will be examined prior to each new season.

5.6. Compliance

5.6.1. Hail Notification Infractions

In previous seasons there have been issues with certain vessels not giving adequate hail notification. This creates difficulties for managing the fishery and may result in quota overages. Hail notification infractions are reported to the Department by the Sea Cucumber service provider in incident reports and are considered a high priority for enforcement. The Department will be monitoring hail infractions throughout each season and may pursue enforcement action for repeat violators.

5.6.2. Illegal Harvest

Illegal harvest activity has increased over the last few years. The increase in the value of Sea Cucumbers has made them a target for illegal harvesters. Sea Cucumbers are vulnerable to overharvest and any harvest outside the Total Allowable Catch is a conservation concern. Any large scale harvest of Sea Cucumbers seen outside the months of October to December (the timeframe of the commercial fishery) should be considered suspicious and reported to DFO's Observe, Record and Report line as soon as possible at 1-800-465-4336 (see Section 10).

5.7. Ecosystem

5.7.1. Depleted Species Concerns

The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery is a selective fishery and there are no concerns or potential impacts on depleted species. Each Sea Cucumber is individually selected by the harvester which eliminates by-catch of other species.

The purposes of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) are "to prevent wildlife species from being extirpated or becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened".

It is prohibited under SARA to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell, or trade an individual or part of a wildlife species listed as extirpated, endangered, or threatened. It also prohibits the damage or destruction of residences and the destruction of any part of the critical habitat of a listed endangered or threatened species, or of any listed extirpated species if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of the species in the wild in Canada. Critical habitat is the habitat necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species and is identified in the recovery strategy or an action plan for the species.

Activities affecting a listed species, any part of its critical habitat, or the residences of its individuals may require permitting (subject to meeting specific purposes and pre-conditions set out in SARA) or an exception/exemption. SARA prohibitions do not apply to species listed as special concern and there is no requirement to identify or protect critical habitat for special concern species.

For information on aquatic species listed under SARA or assessed as at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, please visit the Species at Risk Public Registry at https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html.

A species identification guide can be found here: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/identify-identifier-eng.html

The Northern Abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*) is listed as endangered under SARA, and is a species that is often found in the same habitat as Red Sea Urchins. All harvest of Northern Abalone is prohibited, including commercial and recreational harvest and harvest for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

If any harvest or harassment of Northern Abalone is observed, please call DFO's Observe, Record and Report line as soon as possible at 1-800-465-4336 (see Section 9).

5.7.2. Marine Mammal Regulations

The *Marine Mammal Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-56/index.html) provide direction on conservation and protection of marine mammals, provide guidance for recovery of listed species under the *Species at Risk Act*, and set out provisions related to reducing human disturbance of marine mammals (e.g. viewing of marine mammals) and mandatory reporting requirements in the case there is accidental contact with a marine mammal and a vessel or fishing gear. These regulations were amended in 2018 and specify mandatory requirements to prevent disturbance of marine mammals.

As per Section 7(2) of the *Marine Mammal Regulations*, disturbance is defined as a number of human actions including:

- Feeding, swimming or interacting with a marine mammal.
- Moving a marine mammal (or enticing/causing it to move).
- Separating a marine mammal from its group or going between it and a calf.

- Trapping a marine mammal or a group either between a vessel and the shore, or between a vessel and other vessels.
- Tagging or marking a marine mammal.

Boats are required to maintain a minimum approach distance of 100 m for whales, dolphins or porpoises, 200m when whales, dolphins or porpoises are in a resting position or with a calf, and 200m from all Killer Whales in Pacific Canadian waters except when in southern B.C. coastal waters which has an increased approach distance of 400m in support of Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery.

Please visit the Southern Resident Killer Whale management measures website for more information on the management measures and potential amendments to the approach distances to Southern Resident Killer Whales under the *Marine Mammal Regulations* for 2026/2027: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mammals-mammiferes/whales-baleines/srkw-measures-mesures-ers-eng.html

Any operator of a vessel or fishing gear involved in accidental contact with a marine mammal must notify DFO of the incident, as per Section 39 of the *Marine Mammal Regulations.* Incident reporting includes:

- Reporting an injured, stranded, entangled or dead marine mammal to the BC Marine Mammal Response Network (Observe, Record, Report) 1-800-465-4336.
- Reporting as bycatch in a log book
- Reporting accidental contact through the marine mammal interaction form
- Depredation reporting to DFO by email at MarineMammals@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by calling 1-800-465-4336 or Reporting accidental contact through the marine mammal interaction form.

Please note, incidents involving abuse or harassment of a marine mammal should be reported as a fisheries violation, while injured, stranded, entangled or dead marine mammals should be reported to the BC Marine Mammal Response Network to enable a response if appropriate.

For more information on safe boating behavior around whales please visit: Watching Marine Mammals and Be Whale Wise, or by contacting the DFO Marine Mammal Unit (MMU) (Mammals.Marine@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

5.7.3. Sighting Reporting

Fisheries and Oceans Canada appreciates your assistance in tracking the sightings of live cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), sea turtles and basking sharks. While there are many whale species found in Pacific Canadian waters, sightings of basking shark and leatherback sea turtles are infrequent. The collection of sighting data is useful to scientists in determining population size and species distribution and aids in recovery efforts under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

To report whale or turtle sightings contact the Ocean Wise Sighting Network:

Toll free: 1.866.I.SAW.ONE (1-866-472-9663)
Email: sightings@ocean.org
Website: https://ocean.org/action/send-a-sighting-save-a-whale/
App: WhaleReport

To report basking shark sightings, contact the Basking Shark Sightings Network:

Toll free: 1-877-50-SHARK (1-877-507-4275)
Email: Sharks@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Website: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/SharkSightings

A species identification guide for sharks is available at:
https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/40757067.pdf

Guides to distinguish between pinnipeds, emphasizing differences between Steller and California Sea Lions can be found here:
https://oceanorg.blob.core.windows.net/oceanorg/2023/10/Pinniped_IDGuide-email-2022.pdf
and between Sea and River Otters:
https://oceanorg.blob.core.windows.net/oceanorg/2023/10/Otters_IDGuide-ffp-2022.pdf

Incident Reporting

DFO is responsible for assisting marine mammals and sea turtles in distress. If your vessel strikes a whale, or if you observe an entangled, sick, injured, distressed, or dead marine mammal in B.C. waters, please contact the B.C. Marine Mammal Response Network Incident Reporting Hotline immediately:

1-800-465-4336 OR VHF CHANNEL 16

What to report:

- Your name and contact information
- Date and time of incident
- Location: Latitude/Longitude coordinates, landmarks
- Species
- Animal alive/dead (animal condition)
- Nature of injury and supporting details (if possible)
- Pictures/Video taken

Best practices to reduce entanglement and reporting an incident: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mammals-mammiferes/whales-baleines/docs/entanglements-empetrements-pub-eng.html

5.7.4. Southern Resident Killer Whales

The Government of Canada is taking important steps to protect and recover the Southern Resident Killer Whale population, in keeping with direction provided in *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) recovery documents. In May 2018, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and Minister of Environment and Climate Change determined the Southern Resident Killer Whale population faces imminent threats to its survival and recovery. Given the status of the population and ongoing threats to Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, DFO implemented a number of measures since 2018, including measures aimed at increasing prey availability and accessibility for Southern Resident Killer Whales - particularly Chinook salmon—and reducing threats related to physical and acoustic disturbance with a focus in key foraging areas within Southern Resident Killer Whale critical habitat. These measures include fishing closures, Interim Sanctuary Zones (i.e. no go zones), Speed Restricted Zones (vessel slowdown areas), vessel avoidance distances, and a number of voluntary measures in the presence of killer whales.

Since 2018, Indigenous groups, Indigenous Multi-Nation Group, the Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (IMAG), Technical Working Groups (TWGs), stakeholders, and the public have provided recommendations and feedback to Ministers and Departments on a range of measures (including measures related to increasing prey availability, sanctuaries, vessel disturbance [both noise and physical disturbance], and contaminants) to support Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery.

The Government of Canada is working with Indigenous groups and stakeholders to inform potential changes to vessel measures for 2026 and 2027. The Government of Canada intends for actions for the 2026 season be implemented to coincide with the return of Southern Resident Killer Whales in typically greater numbers to Canadian Pacific waters. These restrictions do not apply to individuals or vessels being used to fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes, or for domestic purposes pursuant to a treaty, under a license issued under the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing License Regulations*. For up-to-date information regarding the Southern Resident Killer Whale management measures, please visit: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mammals-mammiferes/whales-baleines/srkw-measures-mesures-ers-eng.html

Additionally, the Government of Canada is asking vessel operators to respect the following voluntary measures:

- Stop fishing (do not haul gear) within 1,000 metres of killer whales and let them pass;
- Reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 1000m of the nearest killer whale
- When safe to do so, turn off echo sounders and fish finders
- Place engine in neutral idle and allow animals to pass if your vessel is not in compliance with the approach distance regulations
- For more information on the best ways to help whales while on the water, when on both sides of the border, please visit: https://www.bewhalewise.org

For information regarding the Southern Resident Killer Whale management measures to support recovery, please contact the Marine Mammal Team (DFO.SRKW-ERS.MPO@dfo-

mpo.gc.ca) or visit https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/mammals-mammiferes/whales-baleines/srkw-measures-mesures-ers-eng.html

5.8. Oceans and Habitat Considerations

The following sections have been moved to Appendix 16:

5.8.1. Canada's Marine and Coastal Areas Conservation Mandate

5.8.2. Marine Protected and Conserved Areas

5.8.3. Marine Spatial Planning in Canada

5.8.4. Marine Spatial Planning North

5.8.5. Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA)

5.8.6. Northern Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Area Network Planning Process

5.8.7. Marine Spatial Planning Southern B.C.

5.8.8. Managing Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas

5.9. Sustainable Fisheries Framework

The Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF) is a toolbox of policies to ensure that Canadian fisheries support conservation and sustainable use of resources.

These policies include:

- *Fishery Decision-Making Framework Incorporating the Precautionary Approach*
  - Guidelines for Implementing the Fish Stocks Provisions in the *Fisheries Act*
  - Guidelines for writing rebuilding plans per the Fish Stocks Provisions and A Fishery-Decision-making Framework Incorporating the Precautionary Approach
- *Fishery Monitoring Policy*
  - Introduction to the procedural steps for implementing the Fishery Monitoring Policy
- *Policy for Managing the Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas*
  - Ecological Risk Assessment Framework (ERAF) for Coldwater Corals and Sponge Dominated Communities
- *Policy on Managing Bycatch*
- *Policy on New Fisheries for Forage Species*
- *Canada's Policy for Conservation of Pacific Salmon* (Wild Salmon Policy)

For more information on the Sustainable Fisheries Framework and its policies, visit: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/overview-cadre-eng.htm

Sustainability Surveys for Fisheries: DFO annually tracks the performance of major fish stocks that it manages through the Sustainability Survey for Fisheries. Results of previous Sustainability Surveys are available at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/survey-sondage/index-en.html

***Sustainable Fisheries Framework work plans*:** Each year, DFO develops a work plan and reports on priorities and targets regarding the sustainable management of Canada's marine resources. These work plans are available at: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/about-notre-sujet/publications/work-plan-travail/index-eng.html

5.9.1. Precautionary Approach Framework

The Sustainable Fisheries Framework policy suite includes a decision-making framework incorporating a precautionary approach to commercial, recreational, and food, social, and ceremonial fishing: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/precaution-eng.htm

The precautionary approach in fisheries management requires caution when scientific knowledge is uncertain. The absence of adequate scientific information should not result in postponed action or failure to take action to avoid the risk of serious harm to fish stocks or their ecosystem.

Applying the precautionary approach to fisheries management decisions entails establishing harvest strategies that:

- identify three stock status zones – Healthy, Cautious, and Critical – delineated by an upper stock reference point and a limit reference point;
- set the removal rate at which fish may be harvested within each stock status zone; and
- adjust the removal rate according to fish stock status (i.e. spawning stock biomass or another index/metric relevant to population productivity), based on pre-agreed decision rules.

The framework requires that a harvest strategy be incorporated into respective fisheries management plans to keep the removal rate moderate when the stock status is in the Healthy Zone, to promote rebuilding when stock status is low, and to ensure a low risk of serious or irreversible harm to the stock.

A key component of the *Precautionary Approach Framework* requires that when a stock has declined to the Critical Zone, a rebuilding plan must be in place with the aim of having a high probability of the stock growing out of the Critical Zone within a reasonable timeframe: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/precautionary-precaution-eng.htm

5.9.2. *Fisheries Act*: Fish Stock Provisions

Amendments to the *Fisheries Act* (Bill C-68) were passed into legislation in 2019 and include new authorities to amend the *Fishery (General) Regulations* and requirements to maintain major fish stocks at sustainable levels, and to develop and implement rebuilding plans for stocks that have declined to their critical zone. Amendments are available at: https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/en/bill/42-1/C-68

Associated regulatory amendments to prescribe major fish stocks and describe requirements for rebuilding plans are published in the Canada Gazette. Available at:

https://gazette.gc.ca/accueil-home-eng.html. For latest publications, enter the search terms "fish stock" or "rebuilding plan" into the *Find a publication* box on that website.

Major fish stocks are defined in Schedule IX, and requirements for rebuilding plans are described in Part XIV (Fish Stocks Provisions) of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*. Available at: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-53/index.html

On July 1, 2026, an amendment to Schedule IX was published in the Canada Gazette, Part II, Volume 60, Number 13. Giant Red Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*) was included in this amendment and is now subject to the Fish Stock Provisions.

5.9.3. Ecological Risk Assessment Framework & Cold-Water Coral and Sponge Conservation Strategy

The *Ecological Risk Assessment Framework for Coldwater Corals and Sponge Dominated Communities* (or ERAF) outlines a process for identifying the level of ecological risk of fishing activity and its impacts on sensitive benthic areas in the marine environment. Available at: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/risk-ecolo-risque-eng.htm.

DFO's *Pacific Region Cold-water Coral and Sponge Conservation Strategy* aims to promote the conservation, health and integrity of Canada's Pacific Ocean cold-water coral and sponge species. For more information, visit: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/ceccsr-cerceef/conservation-eng.html

5.9.4. Managing Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas

Benthic ecosystems provide habitat, support food webs and are an important source of biodiversity. They also support many aquatic species that play an important social, cultural and economic role in the lives of many Canadians. It is imperative that these ecosystems are considered when managing oceans activities, including the harvest of fisheries resources. This includes the consideration of target species, non-target species, the ecosystems of which they are a part and the impact of fishing on these ecosystems when making management decisions. This is the basis of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, which, along with a precautionary approach, is key to the Sustainable Fisheries Framework.

To avoid serious or irreversible harm to sensitive benthic habitat, species and communities and to otherwise address impacts to benthic habitat, communities and species, this policy outlines a five (5) step process. Available at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/benthi-eng.htm

5.10. Gear Impacts

Sea Cucumber fishing occurs in rocky or soft bottom areas in less than 20 m depth by divers who hand pick Sea Cucumbers off the sea floor and place them into large mesh bags. The mesh bags are attached to lift bags or buoys that the diver will fill with air to lift the harvested Sea Cucumbers to the surface for pick up by the tender vessel. Gear impacts on the benthic environment are believed to be negligible, since Sea Cucumbers are picked by hand and there

is no gear contact with the bottom. Sea Cucumber harvest is too shallow to impact most coral and sponge species.

6. OBJECTIVES

The "longer term" objectives for this and other invertebrate fisheries in B.C. are outlined below.

6.1. National

DFO aims to:

- Meet conservation objectives and ensure healthy and productive fisheries and ecosystems;
- Manage fisheries to provide opportunities for economic prosperity;
- Provide stability, transparency, and predictability in fisheries management and improved governance.

6.2. Pacific Region Biological Objectives

In 1994, the Biological Objectives Working Group of the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC) identified three biological objectives for management of Pacific Region fish and invertebrate stocks (Rice et al. 1995):

- Ensure that subpopulations over as broad a geographical and ecological range as possible do not become biologically threatened (in the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) sense of "threatened").
- Operationally, the above objective requires at least that management allow enough spawners to survive, after accounting for all sources of mortality (including all fisheries and natural mortality), to ensure production of enough progeny that they will, themselves, be able to replace themselves when mature.
- Fisheries may have collateral effects on other species, mediated by the ecological relationships of the target species. Fisheries should be managed in ways that do not violate the above objectives for ecologically related species, as well as target species.

The objectives remain relevant today, particularly in light of development of the national objectives around sustainable fisheries.

6.3. Sea Cucumber

6.3.1. Conservation and Sustainability

DFO's species-specific objectives for the conservation and sustainability of Sea Cucumber stocks are:

- To conduct ongoing surveys and research to improve information on Sea Cucumber .
- To monitor the Sea Cucumber stock using the Multispecies Benthic Invertebrate Survey.
- To manage the commercial fishery to an appropriate scale in order to avoid any risks of localized over-harvesting.

- To track accurate harvest information for all users. For the commercial fishery this will be accomplished through a Dockside Monitoring Program. There are currently no programs in place for tracking First Nations and recreational sector harvests.
- To conduct surveys of areas that were open during the Phase 1 fishery. Most of these areas have not been surveyed and their quotas are calculated using an estimated baseline density.

6.3.2. Social, Cultural, and Economic

DFO's objective is to continue to work collaboratively with the Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee to ensure sustainable fisheries and to collect input from all fishing sectors in the annual development of the IFMP.

6.3.2.1. First Nations

DFO remains committed to respecting First Nations' Aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, or domestic purposes under Treaty which has priority – after conservation – over other uses of the resource. Section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act* recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada. However, it does not specify the nature or content of the rights. In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a landmark ruling in the Sparrow decision, which found that the Musqueam First Nation has an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes. The Supreme Court found that where an Aboriginal group has a right to fish for FSC purposes, it takes priority after conservation over other uses of the resource. The Supreme Court has also indicated the duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples when their fishing rights might be affected. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) was implemented in 1992 to address several objectives related to First Nations and their access to the resource: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/aboriginal-autochtones/afs-srapa-eng.html.

These include:

- Improving relations with First Nations
- Providing a framework for the management of the First Nations fishery in a manner that was consistent wit the Supreme Court of Canada's 1990 *Sparrow* decision.
- Greater involvement of First Nations in the management of fisheries
- Increased participation in commercial fisheries (Allocation Transfer Program (ATP))

In addition to consultation, planning and implementation of fisheries, and the development of capacity to undertake fisheries management, stock assessment, enhancement and habitat protection programs, AFS continues to be one of the principal mechanisms, in addition to Treaties and reconciliation agreements, to support the development of relationships with First Nations.

6.3.2.2. Recreational

The Department will continue to provide opportunities for a recreational fishery for Sea Cucumbers. For more information, see Appendix 3.

6.3.2.3. Commercial

DFO's objective is to continue to work collaboratively with the commercial industry on sustainable resource use and long-term economic viability of the Sea Cucumber seafood industry recognizing that commercial fisheries play a vital role in the Canada's economy. This will include adapting to changing resource and market conditions and extracting optimal value from world markets.

6.3.3. Compliance

DFO's objective is to pursue opportunities to monitor and enforce the Sea Cucumber fishery in conjunction with the monitoring and enforcement priorities in the Pacific Region. For more information please see the Sea Cucumber compliance plan in Section 10.

7. ACCESS AND ALLOCATION

The Minister can, for reasons of conservation or for any other valid reasons, modify access, allocations, and sharing arrangements as outlined in this IFMP in accordance with the powers granted pursuant to the *Fisheries Act.*

7.1. First Nations

To date there are no limits on the First Nations harvest of Sea Cucumbers for domestic use under Treaty (other than a defined Sea Cucumber allocation in Treaty for Tla'amin) or for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is confident that with the precautionary approach to these fisheries, the reserved allocation of TAC and the provision of additional allocations where necessary, First Nations in all areas will have sufficient opportunities to harvest Sea Cucumbers for these purposes. Allocations of Sea Cucumbers may be provided to First Nations who identify their FSC or domestic use needs are not being met.

7.2. Recreational

The daily recreational limit for Sea Cucumbers is 12 with a possession limit of 24. Gear is limited to handpicking and diving. There is no size limit for the recreational fishery.

7.3. Commercial

The commercial fishery is managed using a Total Allowable Catch (TAC), limited entry licensing, Individual Quotas (IQ), area licensing, area quotas and a precautionary harvest rate. For more information please see Appendices 1 and 6.

7.4. Experimental, Scientific, Educational, or Public Display

DFO supports and facilitates scientific investigations related to Sea Cucumbers. Scientific licence requests received from scientific, educational and public display institutions, including biological collecting firms, are considered. Existing policies with respect to scientific licences and the use-of-fish apply.

8. MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE DURATION OF THE PLAN

See the Commercial, Recreational and First Nations Harvest Plans, Appendices 1 to 3, and 6 for detail on the following:

- Total Allowable Catch (TAC), Individual Quotas (IQ);
- Fishing Season/Areas;
- Control and Monitoring of Removals
- Licensing

9. SHARED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY

9.1. Commercial Fishery

The Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) funds the majority of stock assessment activities and their costs include vessel time, diver salaries, travel costs and a salary for a biologist. Several First Nations also provide support for survey activities. The Kitasoo/Xai'xais First Nation funds and undertakes surveys in their traditional territory as part of collaborative assessment and management agreement with DFO and the PSCHA. Under the GayG̱ahlda"Changing Tide" Framework for Reconciliation, the Council of Haida Nation and DFO collaboratively planned and undertook sea cucumber surveys around Haida Gwaii between in 2023 and 2024.

DFO provides in-kind support and data analysis for all surveys.

The PSCHA funds all catch reporting and monitoring requirements for the commercial fishery including a dockside monitoring program and a hail program to track all commercial Sea Cucumber landings.

Several coastal First Nations contribute time and expertise through collaborative research surveys with the PSCHA by providing biologists, vessels, and divers.

9.2. Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Two Science and two Resource Management personnel are directly involved in this fishery. Contributions to the IFMP are provided by Fisheries Management, the Science Branch, the Shellfish Data Unit, Conservation and Protection, the Pacific Fishery Licence Unit, the Reconciliation and Partnerships Branch, the Recreational Fisheries Program, the Oceans Directorate and numerous administrative personnel. Generally, all personnel are multi-tasked, i.e. fishery managers work on all dive fisheries.

10. COMPLIANCE PLAN

10.1. Overview

Conservation and Protection (C&P) is mandated to protect fisheries, waterways, aquatic ecosystems and resources from unlawful exploitation and interference. Fishery officers provide compliance promotion and enforcement services in support of legislation, regulations and management measures implemented to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of Canada's aquatic resources, the protection of species at risk, fish habitat and oceans.

In carrying out activities associated with the compliance and enforcement of the Sea Cucumber fishery, outlined in this management plan, C&P will utilize intelligence-led and principle-based approaches and practices consistent with the Three Pillars of the C&P National Compliance Model:

I. Voluntary compliance promotion through education, stewardship and stakeholder engagement;

II. Intelligence-led monitoring, control and surveillance activities;

III. Management of major cases/special investigations in relation to complex compliance issues.

First Nations fishery guardians may assist DFO Fishery Officers in a number of location where joint enforcement protocols are in place. Observers designated by the Department complement enforcement staff by performing a monitoring and verification function.

Users of the resource have a responsibility to report violations. Any suspected or actual fisheries, wildlife or pollution violations can be quickly and discretely reported to the appropriate enforcement officer by using the toll free observe, record and report hotline. This toll-free number is available 24 hours a day.

OBSERVE, RECORD AND REPORT 1-800-465-4DFO (1-800-465-4336) or DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Enforcement enquiries can also be directed to the local field offices during regular office hours.

10.2. Main Program Activities

10.2.1. In-season

Boardings are conducted by at-sea fishery officers operating program vessels, marine enforcement officers operating Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) vessels and charter patrolmen on a variety of contracted vessels.

Commercial fishing vessels are boarded and checks are conducted for licensing of the vessel and participants, approved containers and tagging of harvested product and harvest log completion.

Packer vessels are checked for licensing compliance and to ensure adherence to the Conditions of Licence (requirements for containers, tags, and harvest log data).

10.2.2. Dockside Monitoring

Commercial vessels and packer vessels are checked at dockside to ensure compliance with Conditions of Licence and to provide verification of all catch.

10.2.3. Vehicle Inspection

Transport trucks are inspected during fishing seasons in concert with other enforcement agencies. They may be inspected at plants, loading and offload sites and other control points.

10.2.4. Fishery Patrol Vessels

All at-sea patrols will be conducted using CCG patrol vessels staffed with marine enforcement officers and/or fishery officers and program vessels (primarily seven metre rigid hull inflatable boats) with fishery officers on board. Patrols will be conducted in both open and closed areas as priorities allow.

10.2.5. Air Surveillance

Patrol coverage using charter aircraft is utilized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to identify concentrations and distribution of fishing effort. In large geographical areas this allows for a better utilization of C&P resources.

Flight reports, photographs and other data collected from over flights are readily available to Departmental managers and fishery officers through an intranet-based flight information system. Digital images of vessels will be collected and added to a web-based licence system, providing fishery officers ready access to recent vessel photographs to assist in field identification.

10.3. Enforcement Issues and Strategies

To date, there have been few enforcement issues associated with the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery in B.C. Most issues are minor and involve incorrect or missing sections of harvest logbooks, small quota overages or hail notification infractions. Compliance is monitored closely and DFO may pursue enforcement action for repeat violators.

The increase in value of Sea Cucumbers has made them a target for illegal harvesters in more recent years. Sea Cucumbers are vulnerable to overharvest and any harvest outside the TAC is a conservation concern. Any large scale harvests observed outside the months of October to December (the timeframe of the commercial fishery) should be considered suspicious and reported immediately to DFO's Observe, Record, Report line at 1-800-465-4336.

DFO Conservation and Protection supports the dockside validation program by inspecting offloads and monitoring offloading practices. Air surveillance resources are utilized to patrol boundaries and conduct gear and vessel counts. Underwater harvest activities can be observed by Fishery Officers trained in the use of SCUBA.

11. PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Performance indicators are reported in the Post-Season Review (Appendix 5)

11.1. Stock Assessment and Research

Stock Assessment activities undertaken during the previous season will be outlined.

11.2. First Nations Fishery

The post season review may include outcomes of meetings with First Nations on specific Sea Cucumber issues and Sea Cucumber information contributing to, or resulting from, the treaty process. Improvements are needed to collection of annual catch and effort data to monitor the fishery.

11.3. Recreational Fishery

The post season review may include interactions with the recreational fishing representatives of the SFAB. Any recommendations and action taken in response by DFO will be described. Improvements are needed to the collection of annual catch and effort data to monitor the fishery.

11.4. Commercial Fishery

The delivery of the commercial fishery will be assessed by performance measures including the number of vessels participating in the fishery, the number of licence eligibilities fished, the amount of Sea Cucumbers landed and the value of the fishery. Input from representatives at the Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee meetings will also be included.

11.5. Compliance

The post season review may include time spent attending to enforcement of the fishery. It should be noted that low numbers of violations may be indicative of a successful proactive program, establishing a visible presence of enforcement authority as a deterrent to non-compliance.

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Front cover drawing is from Royal B.C. Handbook on Sea Cucumbers by Philip Lambert.

13. GLOSSARY

Aquaculture	As defined by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aquaculture is the culture of aquatic organisms, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Aquaculture implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to increase production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc. It also implies individual or corporate ownership of the cultivated stock.
Area and Subarea	Defined in Section 2 of the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*. A map of Pacific Fishery Management Areas is available on the Department's Internet site at: Management Area Maps | Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
biomass	Total weight of all individuals in a stock or a population.
bycatch	The unintentional catch of one species when the target is another.
catch verification program	A program designed to monitor, record, and verify catches, also called the Validation Program or Dockside Monitoring Program.
Communal Licence	Issued to First Nations organizations pursuant to the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations*, to carry on fishing and related activities.
Communal commercial licence	Issued to First Nations organizations pursuant to the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations* for participation in the general commercial fishery.
Centre for Scientific Advice – Pacific (CSAP)	Centre for Scientific Advice - Pacific (formerly, Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee), chaired by DFO and including other federal and provincial government agency representatives and external participants.
Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS)	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat - coordinates the peer review of scientific issues for Fisheries & Oceans Canada. The different Regions of Canada conduct their resource assessment reviews independently, tailored to regional characteristics and stakeholder needs. CSAS facilitates these regional processes, fostering national standards of excellence, and exchange and innovation in methodology, interpretation, and insight.
chart datum	The zero tide elevation on a hydrographic chart which usually approximates the lowest tide level for the local area.
Dockside monitoring program (DMP)	A monitoring program that is conducted by a company that has been designated by the Department, which verifies the species composition and landed weight of all fish landed from a commercial fishing vessel.
enhancement	The culture and release of wild stocks for stock rehabilitation and/or to increase stock sizes above natural levels of abundance. An enhanced stock is a common property resource and is subject to the public right to fish.

Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC)	A fishery conducted by First Nations for food, social and ceremonial purposes.
Fishing effort	Quantity of effort using a given fishing gear over a given period of time.
IFMP	Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.
IQ	Individual quota. In the Sea Cucumber fishery IQs are set at 1\85 of the commercial TAC.
Indigenous Knowledge	There is no universal definition of Indigenous Knowledge, and the composition of Indigenous Knowledge is for Indigenous Peoples to determine. Indigenous Knowledge is intricately tied to Indigenous worldviews and ways of life, and is a complex and dynamic product of the unique histories, cultures, languages, and governance systems of the Indigenous peoples of the specific area. The term Indigenous Knowledge may not be universally used. Other terms such as Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, or Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, all convey similar concepts. When working with Inuit, the term Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) is more likely to be used than Indigenous knowledge. Similarly, when working with Métis knowledge holders, the term Métis Traditional Knowledge is more likely to be used than Indigenous Knowledge. Indigenous Peoples define Indigenous Knowledge for their communities. The term Indigenous Knowledge is used throughout this document in line with the terminology in the *Fisheries Act* and the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.
intertidal	The area of the ocean shoreline located between the highest high water and lowest low water tidal levels.
invertebrate	An animal without a backbone.
landed or off-loaded	The transfer of Sea Cucumbers from a vessel in water to land.
Landed value	Value of the product when landed by a licensed fishing vessel.
Landings	Quantity of a species caught and landed.
Observer	An individual who has been designated as an observer by the Regional Director General for Pacific Region pursuant to Section 39 of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*.
PICFI	Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative - DFO's PICFI is an initiative aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable and economically viable commercial fisheries, where conservation is the first priority and First Nations' aspirations to be more involved are supported.

Precautionary Approach (PA)	In resource management, the PA is, in general, about being cautious when scientific information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate and not using the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or fail to take action to avoid serious harm to the resource. Information on the adoption of a PA framework for fisheries management in Canada is available at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/precaution-eng.htm
PSCHA	Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association
PSARC	Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (now called CSAP).
Quota Management Area	A defined portion of Pacific fisheries waters. Areas and Subareas, as described in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*, are referenced in describing Quota Management Areas (QMA). Each QMA has a name, e.g. 4A West Dundas, and is assigned a maximum allowable catch in pounds (lb.).
service provider	An agency contracted by fish harvesters or their harvesters association to co-ordinate notification, catch validation, fishery monitoring, biological sampling, and data submission requirements. The service provider may train and recommend candidates for certification by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as observers. The service provider for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery is D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd.
SFAB	Sports Fishing Advisory Board, which provides advice to DFO on matters of recreational (sport) fishing.
stakeholder	All people and groups with an interest in the fisheries resource.
stock	Describes a population of individuals of one species found in a particular area, and is used as a unit for fisheries management. Ex: NAFO area 4R herring.
stock assessments	Results of analyses of fisheries and research data used to evaluate the effects of fishing on a stock or population and to predict the reaction of populations to alternative management choices.
substrate	The ground (often the ocean bottom) and its composition, in or on which animals live.
subtidal	A portion of the bottom of the ocean that is not exposed at low tide stages. The ocean bottom at elevations below low water or chart datum.
TAC	Total allowable catch. The amount of catch that may be taken from a stock, determined by analytical procedures to achieve management objectives.
Tranship	The transfer of Sea Cucumbers from a vessel to another vessel.
Validated	Sea Cucumbers that have been weighed by an observer and the weight entered into the Sea Cucumber Validation and Harvest Logbook, or an approved alternative log.

Appendix 1: 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber Commercial Harvest Plan

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1. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY FOR 2026/2027

Fish harvesters are advised to carefully review all information in the Commercial Harvest Plan.

1.1. **2026/2027 Fishing Season (NEW):** The commercial fishery will take place from October 1, 2026 through December 7, 2026 subject to scheduled area openings and in-season closures. A season extension beyond December 7, 2026 will be considered by the Department if requested by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) in writing. Requests will generally be considered only if they are due to unforeseen weather events that have prevented the Total Allowable Catch from being completed during the regular scheduled season as identified above. The commercial fishery may open outside of the regularly scheduled season in selected areas in the South Coast Inside Waters licence area to support a live market initiative. See Section 4.

1.2. **Rotational Fishing Strategy:** The 3-year Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS) will continue for a fifth cycle from 2026 to 2028. The ARFS has been developed collaboratively by the Department and the PSCHA. Please see Section 4 for quotas and open areas for the 2026 season and Appendix 14 for more information on the ARFS.

1.3. **Quota Management Areas (QMAs)**: Six new QMAs have been created in the new Haida Gwaii Licence Area for the 2026/27 season as part of the Haida Gwaii Yáanuu · G̱iinuu Giant Red Sea Cucumber Management Plan. Please see Appendix 2 for more information on the Haida Gwaii plan and Section 4 and Appendices 9 and 10 for descriptions of each QMA.

1.4. **Precautionary Harvest Rate**: A precautionary harvest rate of up to 10 percent will be applied to most QMAs once every three years as part of the Adaptive Rotational Fishery Strategy. A harvest rate of between 2.2 to 4.2 percent will be applied to QMAs that are on an annual harvest strategy. See Appendix 14 for details.

1.5. **Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (NEW):** 578.3 tonnes (1,275,000 pounds) split weight. The TAC will temporarily decrease from 1,360,000 pounds to 1,275,000 pounds for the 2026/27 season at the request of the PSCHA. The reason given for the request is continuing impacts to market conditions for B.C. Sea Cucumbers due to increased Chinese tariffs. See Section 4.

1.6. **Individual Quota (NEW):** 6.8 tonnes (15,000 pounds) split weight per licence. See Section 3.1.

1.7. **Harvest Questionnaire:** A harvest questionnaire will be added as an insert to the harvest logbook in order to get on-grounds observations from harvesters on each of the QMAs harvested in 2026. See Section 4.7.

1.8. **Area Licensing (NEW):** Haida Gwaii, 2 licences (new licence area for 2026), North Coast, 28 licences (33 in 2025); Central Coast, 29 licences (29 in 2025); South Coast Inside Waters, 21 licences (18 in 2025) and West Coast Vancouver Island, 5 licences (5 in 2025). See Sections 2.6 and 4.

2. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY

2.1. National Online Licensing System (NOLS) Client Support – Licensing Services

All fish harvesters/licence holders/vessel owners are required to use the National Online Licensing System (NOLS) to view, pay for and print their commercial fishing licences, licence conditions and/or receipts. NOLS website: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/sdc-cps/licence-permis-eng.htm

Training materials, including step-by-step guides and a detailed user training manual, are available online (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/FM-GP/SDC-CPS/licence-permis-eng.htm) to guide users of the system in completing their licensing transactions. The Department also provides client support and assistance on how to use the system via email at fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by calling toll-free at 1-877-535-7307 (7:00AM to 8:00PM Eastern, Monday to Friday).

Information on the National Online system may be found on the DFO internet site at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/sdc-cps/licence-permis-eng.htm

Please visit the Pacific Region Licensing website and subscribe to fishery notices for updates on the National Online Licensing System and licensing services: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/index-eng.html

For more information on how to register and use the system, visit the Department's website at the website address above, or contact our client support.

Licence Renewal

In order to retain the privilege to be issued a commercial licence in the future, it is critical that you renew you licence and pay the applicable licence renewal fees through the online system on an annual basis, whether fishing takes place or not. Should the licence not be renewed by September 30th of the next calendar year, the licence eligibility will cease to exist and DFO will be unable to consider any licence issuance requests in the future.

2.2. Licence Category

A commercial Sea Cucumber by dive (category ZD) or communal commercial (category FZD) licence eligibility is required to commercially harvest Sea Cucumbers by dive.

Category ZC licence eligibilities are limited entry and party-based. Category FZC licences have a First Nations group as the licence eligibility holder.

2.3. Licence Application and Issuance

Renewal of a commercial Sea Cucumber licence and payment of fees must be done on an annual basis to retain the privilege to be issued a licence in the future regardless of whether or not fishing is carried out. Those commercial Sea Cucumber licences not renewed by September 30th will cease and licence issuance will be unable to be considered in the future.

Prior to annual licence issuance licence eligibility holders are required to annually designate the fishing vessel to hold the licence. This must be done by navigating to the 'Submit a Request' menu selection within the National Online Licensing System (NOLS). Full instructions are available at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/sdc-cps/products-produits/request-demande-eng.html

Prior to licence issuance, licence eligibility holders(s) must:

- Meet any Ministerial conditions placed on the licence eligibility.

- Ensure any conditions of the previous year's licence, such as submission and approval of logbooks have been met.
- Designate a registered commercial fishing vessel eligible for a commercial or communal commercial licence for salmon, schedule II, sablefish, halibut, crab, shrimp, Prawn, Geoduck or groundfish trawl.

To avoid delays please ensure the payment and vessel designation information is submitted all at the same time through the 'Submit a Request' menu selection within the NOLS.

Vessel length restrictions for vessels used to harvest Sea Cucumbers under the IQ programs have been waived by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Fisheries and Oceans Canada reserves the right to reinstate vessel length restrictions at the lengths associated with each licence eligibility.

The stacking limit has been discontinued. There is no limit on the number of ZD licences allowed to be designated to a vessel at any given time. Harvesters should, however, keep in mind that the season is scheduled for only 8 weeks and should plan accordingly. Season extensions will not be granted for harvesters that have not finished quotas due to attempting to complete too many Individual Quotas (licences) within the short 8 week season.

2.4. Designation of Harvesters to Fish a Communal Commercial Licence

Under the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licence Regulations*, every person working on a vessel that is fishing under authority of a Communal Commercial Licence must be designated by the First Nation that holds the licence. The designation must be made in writing and include the person's name and reference the Communal Commercial Licence. The designation must be carried on-board and be produced on request of any Fishery Officer.

First Nations licence holders interested in obtaining an example template to use to designate their fish harvesters may contact a DFO Resource Manager or Pacific Fishery Licensing Unit office (see Contacts in Appendix 17)

2.5. Individual Quotas (IQ)

The holder of a licence eligibility to commercially harvest Sea Cucumbers is provided the opportunity to harvest up to **6.8 tonnes (15,000 pounds)** split weight of Sea Cucumbers.

All diving and fishing operations must take place from the licensed vessel. All products must be brought directly onto the licensed vessel following harvest. Vessels used to hold or transport Sea Cucumbers must conform to Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspection regulations for holding or transporting fish and have appropriate licences.

2.6. Area Licensing

The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery is licensed over five geographic areas. Licence eligibilities will be assigned to one of the following licence areas: Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast Inside Waters or West Coast of Vancouver Island. To maintain equal individual quotas coast-wide, the distribution of licences will be as follows:

Licence Area	Number of Licences
Haida Gwaii (H): Area 2	2

Licence Area	Number of Licences
North Coast (P): Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6	28
Central Coast (C): Areas 7, 8, 9 and 10	29
South Coast Inside Waters (G): Areas 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 28	21
West Coast Vancouver Island (W): Areas 23, 24, 25 and 26	5
Total	**85**

2.7. Licence Area Selection

Licences may need to be moved between licence areas if the TAC in a licence area changes. Currently, the Department advises the PSCHA on the number of licences permitted in each licence area and the PSCHA advises the Department on which licences will move each year. If the PSCHA cannot agree on which licences will move, the Department may implement a licence area selection process.

2.8. Licence Documents

Sea Cucumber licence documents are valid from the date of issue to September 30 of the following calendar year.

2.9. Vessel Re-designation

Re-designation of Sea Cucumber licences is allowed as long as any Condition of Licence, such as the completion of logbooks have been met and accepted by the Shellfish Data Unit.

Navigate to 'Submit a Request' Re-Designate a vessel. Full instructions can be found:

Online Licensing - Submitting a Request and Checking the Request Status (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

2.10. Licence Eligibility Nominations

Category ZD Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities may be nominated from one party to another. Nominations must be completed and submitted to the Pacific Fishery Licence Unit via the National Online Licensing System (NOLS) by the licence holder. Notarized application 'Nomination for Party-Based Licence Eligibility'. Scan the document and attach it to a 'Submit Request' in NOLS. PDF or standard picture formats are accepted (jpg, etc.).

The following requirements must be met:

a) Any Condition of Licence, such as the completion of logbooks, have been submitted and approved by the Shellfish Data Unit.

b) Communal commercial (category FZD) licence eligibilities are not eligible for Nomination.

2.11. Licence to Transport Sea Cucumbers

Any registered vessel with a commercial or communal commercial salmon, Schedule II, geoduck, sablefish, halibut, crab, shrimp, groundfish trawl and Prawn licence; a current year transporting, category

D, or a herring seine (HS) licence may transport Sea Cucumbers under Conditions of Licence which are included with all vessel-based licences issued for the current fishing year. For further information contact the Pacific Fishery Licence Unit.

Note: When product is transferred from one vessel to another vessel or a vehicle, that vessel or vehicle requires a provincial Fish Vendor licence. This licence is required for all types of vessels and vehicles including aircraft. The licence may also be required for personal vehicles in some instances, when a vehicle is carrying the catch from more than one vessel, even if the licence holder owns both vessels. Fish harvesters should check the Province of British Columbia's website for additional information:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/fisheries-and-aquaculture/seafood-industry-licensing

2.12. Processing

Any processing beyond that permitted in Section 14 of the *Fish Inspection Regulations* must be done in a registered fish processing facility and in full compliance with a Quality Management Program (QMP).

2.13. Licence Renewal Fees

In accordance with the *Service Fees Act*, annual licence renewal fees will be adjusted by the annual rate of inflation determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by Statistics Canada. The commercial Sea Cucumber (Category ZD) licence renewal fee may be found on the following link: https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/fees-frais-22-23-eng.html

There is no annual licence renewal fee for communal commercial category FZD licences.

3. CONTROL AND MONITORING OF COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

To accompany the IQ program, an industry-funded catch monitoring and validation program was developed collaboratively between the PSCHA and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Fish harvesters are required to report harvest time and location information to a designated service provider prior to fishing, following fishing, and prior to landing Sea Cucumbers. In order to track daily harvests and ensure that Quota Management Area quotas are not exceeded, all catch must be weighed and validated at the first point of landing by a Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observer.

The agency (service provider) contracted by the PSCHA to provide notification, validation, biological sampling, and data services for the 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber fishery is:

D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd.
Box 1445, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0
Tel. (604) 886-4819
Fax (604) 886-8288
Hail-in Line: (800) 775-5505

The following sections mirror those in the Conditions of Licence (issued with each commercial licence) that outline the requirements for fishery control and monitoring. See Appendix 11 for an example of the Conditions of Licence.

3.1. Quantities Permitted to be Taken (Condition #3)

The Sea Cucumber IQ equals 1/85 of the coastwide commercial TAC or 15,000 pounds split weight (7.2 tonnes). Harvest of Sea Cucumbers over the IQ after the permitted quota overage adjustments (see Section 3.7.5) may be subject to prosecution and seizure of the overage.

3.2. Fishing Multiple Quota Management Areas (Condition #6)

All Sea Cucumbers caught in a Quota Management Area must be landed or transhipped prior to the commencement of fishing in a new Quota Management Area. In this way, area quotas and individual quotas are closely monitored to avoid over-harvesting of either.

3.3. Containers used to Hold or Transport Sea Cucumbers (Condition #7)

There are several requirements for:

1. The type, size, and marking of containers used to hold or transport Sea Cucumbers.
2. The condition of containers for food inspection purposes.

Any containers used in the transport of "fish" (including Sea Cucumbers) for export must meet the requirements outlined in Part 4 of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR). See CFIA's website for further information: https://inspection.canada.ca/food-safety-for-industry/toolkit-for-food-businesses/sfcr-handbook-for-food-businesses/eng/1481560206153/1481560532540?chap=0

3.4. Transhipment (Condition #8)

All product harvested under a Sea Cucumber licence must be harvested from and retrieved by the vessel designated on the licence. If that product is to be retrieved at a later time by the licensed vessel, it must be appropriately tagged. If that product is going to be transferred to another vessel (i.e. for landing purposes), the vessel to which it is transferred must be appropriately licensed for packing purposes (see Section 3.10). At no time should unlicensed vessels be used to harvest, retrieve, store, or tranship product.

Sea Cucumbers may be transhipped from the licensed vessel to a packer vessel provided that the vessel master complies with the following conditions:

1. All Sea Cucumbers are in tagged containers.
    2. The numbers of containers are recorded on the Validation and Harvest Log.
    3. The "packer weight" (determined by adding the weight of the Sea Cucumbers and the weight of the container), is recorded on the Log.
    4. The product is landed at a designated port and validated by an observer.

All Sea Cucumbers delivered to packers shall be in tagged containers. The container tags must provide the following information:

1. Name of the harvesting vessel.
    2. "ZD" tab number.
    3. Vessel registration number (VRN).
    4. Harvest date.
    5. Fishery Management Area and Subarea of harvest.

Transport vessel masters are reminded that there are Conditions of Licence that apply to the transhipment of Sea Cucumbers. There are several requirements, including:

1. Hail at least 24 hours prior to landing.
    2. Transport in the tagged container received from the catcher vessel.

3. Carry copies of the validation and harvest log received from the master of the licensed catcher vessel.

3.5. Locations Permitted for the Landing of Sea Cucumbers (Condition #9)

All Sea Cucumbers must be landed at one of the designated landing ports listed in the Conditions of Licence. The specific landing ports have been established as part of the IQ validation program. Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observers are available at these ports to oversee offloading and validation of Sea Cucumber catch. This condition applies to both the licensed vessel and the packer vessel, if one is used.

3.6. Validation of Catch (Condition #10)

All Sea Cucumbers harvested or removed from the sea floor must be validated by a Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observer at the point and time the fish are landed, to track daily harvests and ensure that area quotas are not exceeded.

The vessel master must be in possession of a Fisheries and Oceans Canada approved catch Validation and Harvest logbook assigned to the Sea Cucumber licence. The Validation and Harvest logbook must be on board the licensed vessel while fishing for Sea Cucumbers or while Sea Cucumbers are on board. Validation and Harvest logbooks that meet the Department's approval are available from the service provider or from the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association.

At the first point of offloading, all Sea Cucumbers will be weighed with a government certified scale, by a Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observer, and the weight entered on the Validation and Harvest Log. Weights will be recorded as split and eviscerated weights. If whole product is landed then a conversion factor of 2.73 will be used to convert to split weight. The Validation and Harvest logs must remain with the licensed vessel, with copies of the validation accompanying the product to its destination.

Validation and Harvest Log Entries

The vessel master is responsible for completing Sections A and C of the Validation and Harvest Log. The vessel master shall also ensure that chart entries are completed showing all locations fished for that validation. The observer shall complete Section B of the Validation and Harvest Log, and confirm that Sections A and C have been completed. The service provider will collect all harvest charts and ensure that they also have been completed. <u>The original white copy of the Validation and Harvest Log handed to the observer, along with the harvest charts for each day's harvest, must be received by the service provider contracted by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association within one month of the harvesting having occurred</u>. To meet the <u>one month</u> requirement for submission of data, it is recommended that fish harvesters forward their information to the service provider well in advance of this time limit.

When a vessel has been assigned more than one "ZD" licence, care must be taken to complete and submit the logbook that corresponds to the licence quota being harvested. The correct "ZD" licence number is printed on the cover of the logbook. One logbook is intended to be used for all Sea Cucumber landings for a single "ZD" licence, even though the logbook may have more pages than required. Fish harvesters must provide the observer with two Validation and Harvest Logs when one licence quota is being completed and another licence quota on that vessel is to be started.

Examination of Logbooks

The vessel master must produce the Validation and Harvest log on the request of a fishery officer, fishery guardian or an observer.

Biological Sampling

Fish harvesters will, from time to time, be required to assist Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel and Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observers in the sampling of Sea Cucumbers for fishery management and stock assessment purposes.

Quota Confirmation

Prior to fishing, the vessel master must confirm the remaining vessel quota from the Validation and Harvest Log.

Quota Overages

The amount of quota overage permitted to be transferred to another Sea Cucumber licence (referred to as a Same Vessel Transfer (SVT) or a Different Vessel Transfer (DVT)) has increased from a limit of 200 pounds to a new limit of 500 pounds. This increase in the transferable overage limit reflects a change in the size of totes used to land Sea Cucumbers. When the 200 pound limit was first implemented, the industry landed Sea Cucumbers in smaller containers such as geoduck cages. Over time industry has moved to larger containers such as barrels and totes and it has become more difficult to estimate (at the time of harvest) the weight of Sea Cucumbers in these containers within 200 pounds.

Overages that are not transferred to another licence are considered a Non-Transferable Overage (NTO) and the limit for this type of overage is zero. The Department will be monitoring NTO quota overages and may pursue enforcement action for repeat offenders.

Any Quota Management Area TAC overages may be deducted from the next year's Quota Area TAC.

Small quantities of Sea Cucumbers which exceed the licence's annual IQ (up to 500 pounds) may be transferred to another Sea Cucumber licence provided the following conditions are fulfilled. If all of these conditions are not met, observers will not transfer the overage to another licence. In the following descriptions, the Sea Cucumber licence which has exceeded its IQ is called Licence "A" and the licence to which landings are being transferred is called Licence "B".

Harvest of Sea Cucumbers over the IQ after the permitted quota overages adjustments may be subject to prosecution and seizure of the overage.

1. Transfer of landings to a Second Licence on the Same Vessel - If two or more licences are assigned to the same vessel then landings in excess of quota from one licence may be transferred to another Sea Cucumber licence on that vessel which has quota remaining. Overage of the last Sea Cucumber licence on the same vessel may be transferred to another vessel's Sea Cucumber licence in accordance with procedure described below.
2. Maximum Allowable Transfer of Landings between Licences on Different Vessels - In the event of a quota overage on Sea Cucumber Licence "A", a maximum of 500 pounds of Sea Cucumber may be transferred to another vessel's Sea Cucumber licence (Licence "B"). Only one transfer of quota overage is allowed per licence. The quota overage cannot be divided between a number of licences.
3. Remaining Quota on Second Licence - The amount of landings transferred from licence "A" cannot exceed the remaining quota of Sea Cucumber Licence "B".

4. Sea Cucumber Licence Area - Both vessels involved in a transfer of landings must be licensed to fish in the same area and have active licences for that licence year.
5. Documentation - The Sea Cucumber Validation and Harvest Log for each of the licences involved in the transfer must be present at the time of the validation. Both vessel masters must make their intention to transfer or receive overage clear to the Observer prior to unloading. In the event of a packer landing, a note signed by both vessel masters should accompany the product to advise the observer that there is a mutual agreement to transfer.

3.7. Oral Reports (Condition #11)

Fishing notification requirements that are described in the Conditions of Licence must be followed by each licensed vessel in order for the service provider and the Department to track effort and harvest on a daily basis.

When vessels do not hail into a harvest area, there is a risk of exceeding the quota. In order to maintain a sustainable fishery, it is extremely important that effort and landings in a particular harvest area be reported and recorded accurately.

Observer phone numbers are available from D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd. If weather results in a change in arrival time the vessel master must immediately advise the observer via telephone of these changes.

3.8. Catch and Fishing Data (Condition #12)

It is a Condition of Licence and the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that harvest and chart information is received by Fisheries and Oceans Canada Shellfish Data Unit and meets the conditions outlined below. Fish harvesters having validation services completed by D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd. will receive these services as part of that contract.

Validation and Harvest Logbooks meeting Fisheries and Oceans Canada requirements (see example in Appendix 8) are available from service providers. The service provider will, for a fee, provide the Validation and Harvest Log coding and keypunch service, including the electronic capture of harvest chart location information into Geographic Information System (GIS), (as well as fishing notification and catch validation). Thus, the service providers provide compliance with the licence requirements for a hard (paper) and electronic copies, including fishing location information, for harvest log data.

Fish harvesters are required to have their portions of both the validation and harvest sections completed before validation, or by midnight of the day on which fishing occurred, whichever comes first. An accurate chart record must be completed for each Validation and Harvest log entry.

Harvest Data

The vessel master is responsible for the provision and maintenance of an accurate record, a “log”, of daily harvest operations. Catch information must be recorded in the harvest log by midnight of the day of fishing. The logbook must be kept aboard the licensed vessel. This log must be completed and a copy submitted in both hard copy (paper) and electronic form in an approved format as defined by Fisheries and Oceans, Shellfish Data Unit.

The vessel master is also responsible for the provision of a daily harvest chart record of each location fished by each diver. This harvest chart must have marked directly on it the VRN, the licence tab number and validation ID numbers. The harvest site must be clearly marked on the chart with dive or record numbers pertaining to each harvest log catch record and dates that fishing activity occurred at each site.

The vessel master is also responsible for the electronic capture of harvest location data into GIS. This chart must be completed and a copy submitted in both hard copy (paper) and electronic form in an approved format as defined by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Shellfish Data Unit.

The original white page copy of the log, the accompanying chart record, and the electronic copies must be available to the Department within one month of the harvesting having occurred. Fish harvesters who have validation services completed by D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd. will receive this service as part of that contract. The information must be sent to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Shellfish Data Unit

Pacific Biological Station

Hammond Bay Road

Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N7

Phone: (250) 756-7022 or PACSDU@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Catch information must be recorded in the harvest log by midnight of the day of fishing. The logbook must be kept on aboard the licensed vessel. Logbooks must be produced for examination of a fishery officer, guardian, or a fishery observer designated under the *Fisheries Act*.

Submission and Release of Harvest Log Data

The licence holder of record with the Pacific Fishery Licensing Unit is responsible to ensure that the vessel master has completed and submitted a copy of the harvest data. Fisheries and Oceans Canada can only release harvest data to the licence holder of record and only upon written request.

Nil Report for Harvest Log - Licence Issued But Not Fished

In the event that a licence is issued and designated to a vessel but not fished, the licence holder is responsible for submitting a nil report for the season. The nil report must be submitted prior to the issuing of approval for licence renewal. One page from the harvest logbook identifying the vessel, licence tab number, and the year with "nil" entered in the body of the log and signed by the licence holder constitutes a nil report.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to remind fish harvesters that harvest logs must be completed accurately during fishing operations and submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in accordance with the timing set out in Conditions of Licence. Delay of completion or submission of logs is a violation of a Condition of Licence.

Confidentiality of Harvest Data

Harvest data, including fishing location data supplied through latitude/longitude co-ordinates, loran or chart records, collected under the Validation and Harvest Logbooks for Shellfish Fisheries programs, are collected for use by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the proper assessment, management and control of the fisheries. Upon receipt by Fisheries and Oceans Canada of harvest log data and/or fishing location information supplied by the harvester in accordance with Conditions of Licence, Section 20(1)(b) of the *Access to Information Act* prevents Fisheries and Oceans Canada from disclosing to a third party, records containing financial, commercial, scientific or technical information that is confidential. Further, Section

20(1)(c) of the *Act* prevents Fisheries and Oceans Canada from giving out information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to result in material financial loss or could reasonably be expected to prejudice the competitive position of the fish harvester.

3.9. Fish Slip Requirements (Condition #13)

It is a Condition of Licence that an accurate written report shall be furnished on a fish slip of all fish and shellfish caught under the authority of this licence. A report must be made even if the fish and shellfish landed are used for bait, personal consumption, or otherwise disposed. The written report shall be posted not later than seven days after the offloading and sent to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Catch Statistics Unit

200-401 Burrard Street

Vancouver, BC, V6C 3S4

For more information: Fish slip information (dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

3.10. Export of Sea Cucumbers

It is important to note that Sea Cucumbers being processed for export out of the province must be processed at a federally registered facility. Each country receiving Sea Cucumbers may have different import requirements. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency posts export requirements on the following website:

https://inspection.canada.ca/food-safety-for-industry/eng/1299092387033/1299093490225

Requirements can vary so exporters of Sea Cucumbers are encouraged to verify foreign country import requirements though their customers prior to export.

The Dive Harvest Log and fish slip Conditions of Licence must be complied with, even for Sea Cucumbers exported from British Columbia, which have not gone through a federally registered processing plant.

4. OPEN TIMES AND QUOTA MANAGEMENT AREAS

4.1. General Information

The 2026/2027 fishery will be conducted from October 1, 2026 through December 7, 2026. The commercial fishery may open outside of the regularly scheduled season in selected areas in the South Coast Inside Waters licence area to support a live market initiative.

Licence areas may close prior to their scheduled end dates if licence area TACs are completed earlier than the scheduled season end. An extension to the scheduled season will be considered by the Department only if requested by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association in writing. Requests will generally be considered only if they are due to unforeseen weather events that have prevented the TAC from being completed during the regular scheduled season.

For proper management of the fishery, Quota Management Areas will be opened and fished in the sequence shown below. **Due to the many changes to the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery in the last few years, harvesters are advised to maintain good contact with the fishery manager, the service provider, or the On-Grounds Co-ordinators, to avoid fishing in a closed area.**

4.2. Quota Management Area Table

IMPORTANT: Please see Section 5 for descriptions of all closures and Appendix 9 for a full description of all Quota Management Areas (QMA). Ptn. = Portion of a Subarea.

Opening Schedule	Quota Management Area	Name	Description (by Subarea)	Quota (t)*	Quota (lb.)*
Haida Gwaii Licence Area (2 Licences)					
TBA	2A	Selwyn Inlet	2-5 and 2-6	2.9	6,463
TBA	2B	North Darwin	Ptn. 2-10	1.6	3,532
TBA	2C	South Darwin	Ptn. 2-10	1.7	3,848
TBA	2D	Juan Perez	Ptn. 2-11	3.0	6,608
TBA	2E	Section Cove	Ptn. 2-13	2.0	4,327
TBA	2F	Skincuttle	Ptn. 2-15	2.4	5,222
Haida Gwaii Total				**13.6**	**30,000**
North Coast Licence Area (28 licences)					
TBA	3A	Work Channel	3-6	**14.0**	**30,800**
TBA	3B	Portland Inlet	3-7	**15.5**	**34,272**
TBA	3C	Steamer Pass	3-8, 3-10	13.7	30,253
TBA	3D	Pearse Canal	3-3, ptn 3-11	21.0	46,357
TBA	4A	West Dundas	3-1, 4-1	49.9	109,913
TBA	4B	East Dundas	Ptn 4-5	35.1	77,336
TBA	5H	Grenville North	5-1, ptn 5-23	20.9	46,069

TBA	6E	Princess Royal Channel	Ptn of 6-20; 6-21, 6-22, 6-24	11.0	24,231
TBA	6F	West Aristazabal	Ptn of 6-13	**3.9**	**8,696**
TBA	6J	Surf Inlet	6-12	2.2	4,800
TBA	6L	Tolmie Channel	Ptn of 6-20	3.3	7,273
North Coast Total				**190.5**	**420,000**
Central Coast Licence Area (29 licences)					
TBA	7C	Fisher/Dean	7-30, 8-5 to 8-7	57.8	127,450
TBA	7G	Sheep Pass	Ptn. 7-9; 7-29	2.8	6,176
TBA	7H	Upper Mathieson	Ptn. 7-9, 7-10	5.6	12,370
TBA	7I	Lower Mathieson	Ptn. 7-9	8.3	18,364
TBA	7J	Spiller	7-13, Ptn. 7-14	**16.1**	**35,466**
TBA	7M	Chatfield/Briggs	Ptn 7-14, ptn 7-15	23.4	51,525
TBA	7N	Finlayson North	Ptn. 7-6	4.8	10,491
TBA	7O	Finlayson South	7-4	3.2	6,973
TBA	7P	Milbanke Sound	Ptn. 7-2 and 7-3	1.9	4,284
TBA	8E	FitzHugh/Burke South	8-4, ptn. 8-13	**64.3**	**141,901**
TBA	9C	North Rivers Inlet	Ptn of 9-4; 9-5, ptn 9-6; 9-9	9.1	20,000
Central Coast Total				**197.3**	**435,000**
South Coast Inside Waters Licence Area (21 licences)					
TBA	11A	Belize Inlet	11-4, 11-5, 11-6	4.5	10,000
TBA	11B	Seymour Inlet	11-3, 11-10	4.5	10,000

TBA	11D	Slingsby Channel	Ptn of 11-2	1.8	4,000
TBA	12E	Broughton	12-40	14.1	30,995
TBA	12F	Wells Passage	12-41	38.4	84,680
TBA	12L	Tribune Channel	12-35, 12-37	6.1	13,357
TBA	12P	Northern Johnstone Strait	12-3, 12-4, 12-21	10.1	22,212
TBA	12Q	Southern Johnstone Strait	12-1, ptn 12-2; 12-24, ptn 13-35	6.8	15,023
TBA	13A	Quadra/Cortes	13-12 to 13-16	17.9	39,405
TBA	13D	Loughborough	Ptn 13-35; 13-36 to 13-43	18.6	41,000
TBA	15A	West Redonda Island	Ptn. 15-5	**1.1**	**2,328**
TBA	15B	East Redonda Island	Ptn. 15-5	**0.9**	**2,000**
TBA	28A	Howe Sound	28-1 to 28-4, 28-6, 29-3	**18.1**	**40,000**
SCIW Total				**142.9**	**315,000**
West Coast Vancouver Island Licence Area (5 licences)					
TBA	24A	North Clayoquot	24-4 to 24-6, 24-14	6.7	15,000
TBA	24C	Sydney/ Shelter Inlets	Ptn. 24-2; 24-3, 24-13	9.1	20,000
TBA	25A	Nootka/Tahsis	25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-12, 25-15	9.1	20,000
TBA	25B	Muchalat/Tlupana	25-1 to 25-5	9.1	20,000
WCVI Total				**34.0**	**75,000**
Coastwide Commercial Total Allowable Catch				**578.3**	**1,275,000**

**All weights are in split pounds or split tonnes.*

*Quota amounts in **bold** have changed from last season.*

Note:

1. Vessel masters must ensure there is quota remaining in a Quota Management Area prior to, and during fishing in that area. This is particularly important on the final days of fishing when it may be necessary for a vessel to change Quota Management Areas mid-day once the area quota is attained.
2. Any area quota overruns may be deducted from the next year's Quota Management Area quota.

4.3. Fallback Quota

For the 2026 season, fallback quota has been set aside in the North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast Inside Waters and West Coast of Vancouver Island licence areas.

The use of fallback quota will be considered by DFO only if recommended in writing by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association. For more information on fallback quota and how it is calculated please see Appendix 14.

2026 Fallback Quota in North Coast Licence Area			
Quota Management Area		**Description (by Subarea)**	**Fallback Quota (lb.)***
3A	Work Channel	3-6	16,009
3B	Portland Inlet	3-7	4,007
6F	West Aristazabal	Ptn 6-13	3,991

**All weights are in split pounds*

2026 Fallback Quota in Central Coast Licence Area			
Quota Management Area		**Description (by Subarea)**	**Fallback Quota (lb.)***
7J	Spiller	7-13, Ptn. 7-14	43,295
10A	Smith Inlet	10-3, 10-4, ptn of 10-5; 10-6 to 10-11, ptn of 10-12	27,762

**All weights are in split pounds*

2026 Fallback Quota in SCIW Coast Licence Area			
Quota Management Area		**Description (by Subarea)**	**Fallback Quota (lb.)***
11A	Belize Inlet	11-4, 11-5, 11-6	2,696
11B	Seymour Inlet	11-3, 11-10	3,626
11D	Slingsby Channel	Ptn of 11-2	1,598
15A	West Redonda	Ptn. 15-5	24,039
15B	East Redonda	Ptn. 15-5	28,810
15C	South Desolation	15-4, ptn. 15-5	38,683
16A	Sechelt Inlet	16-6 to 16-8, ptn. of 16-9	18,291
16B	Jervis Inlet	16-10, ptn. of 16-11; 16-12, 16-13	20,537
16C	Texada Island	15-1, 16-18, 16-21, 16-22	25,221
16D	Lasqueti Island	14-3, 16-19, 16-20	29,845
18A	Gulf Islands South	18-1, 18-2, 18-4, 18-5, 18-9, 18-11	18,738
28A	Howe Sound	28-1 to 28-4, 28-6, 29-3	31,351

**All weights are in split pounds*

2026 Fallback Quota in WCVI Licence Area			
Quota Management Area		**Description (by Subarea)**	**Fallback Quota (lb.)***
24A	North Clayoquot	24-4 to 24-6, 24-14	5,000
25A	Nootka/Tahsis	25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-12, 25-15	9,051
25B	Muchalat/Tlupana Inlets	25-1 to 25-5	10,801

**All weights are in split pounds*

4.4. Disruptions Due to Unforeseen Issues (Environmental Contamination, Other)

The Department may, at its discretion and upon request from the PSCHA, transfer quota in-season between QMAs not included in this IFMP. For example, an impacted QMA may be substituted with a QMA from a different year in the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. In this scenario, quota is 'borrowed' from a QMA not included in the current rotation, and paid back in the appropriate year either by reducing quota in the QMA in the future or by foregoing harvest in the QMA. Other scenarios may be considered as well. Industry is advised that in-season changes due to unforeseen issues must be made through written request by the PSCHA to the lead manager for the fishery (see Contacts, Appendix 17).

4.5. On-grounds Communication

The PSCHA has designated certain members to act as "On-Grounds Coordinators" for the 2026/2027 fishing season in order to aid in keeping track of fleet movement and QMA quotas. For a list of On-Grounds Coordinators please contact the service provider. Information on open areas, remaining quotas, and upcoming closures can be obtained by contacting the service provider or a fishery manager. See Contacts in Appendix 17.

4.6. Harvest Questionnaire

The Department and the PSCHA are seeking on-grounds observations from harvesters about each of the QMAs. To gather this important information, a harvest questionnaire will be inserted into the harvest logbook. Harvesters are encouraged to fill out the questionnaire and return it to the Service Provider along with the harvest logbook. The questionnaires will be provided to the Department and will provide important information to be considered in the management of the fishery.

4.7. Harvesting on Aquaculture Tenures

Under the *Fisheries Act*, fishing within an aquaculture facility already under federal licence (PAR aquaculture licence) is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the occupant under the licence. The Department recommends that commercial and recreational harvesters familiarize themselves with the location of aquaculture tenures in fishing areas

4.8. Human Waste Containment Regulation

Disposal of human waste into waters where shellfish are harvested or adjacent to shellfish harvest areas creates unnecessary and potentially serious health risks for shellfish consumers. In accordance with the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) and Transport Canada regulations, raw sewage (Human wastes, sewage or refuse) shall not be discharged from vessels while in or adjacent to shellfish areas. Vessels operating at a distance which does not allow for timely access to on-shore washroom facilities are expected to have a designated human waste receptacle on board. Receptacles could include a portable toilet, a fixed toilet, or other containment device as appropriate. Such devices must be made of impervious, cleanable materials and have a tight-fitting lid. (Refer to Transport Canada's Regulations for Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations under the *Canada Shipping Act*):

- Portable toilets or other designated human waste receptacles shall be used only for the purpose intended, and shall be so secured and located as to prevent contamination of the shellfish area by spillage or leakage.
- The contents of toilets or other designated human waste receptacles shall be emptied only into an approved sewage disposal system.

5. CLOSURES

It is the harvester's responsibility to ensure that an area is open to harvesting.

5.1. Notification of Closures

Additional closures may be announced in-season by Fishery Notice. Prior to fishing in an area, fish harvesters are advised to contact the local Fisheries and Oceans Canada office or to contact a resource manager listed in the Contacts section of the IFMP (Appendix 17).

5.2. Closures

The following areas will be closed to commercial Sea Cucumber harvest.

Area 2E

Kwoon Cove to Gowgaia Bay: Those waters of Subareas 2-38 to 2-41 and 142-1 inside a line commencing at a point on land on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°23.311'N and 131°35.794'W northwesterly to a point on land on GuuGaalas Gwaay (south Gowdas Islands) at 52°23.340'N and 131°35.859'W, thence northerly following the shoreline of GuuGaalas Gwaay (south Gowdas Islands) to 52°23.489'N and 131°36.092'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°19.074'N and 131°43.794'W, thence northwesterly to a point in water at 52°38.115'N and 132°09.939'W, thence southeasterly to a point on land on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°38.177'N and 131°56.374'W, and thence southerly following the western shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to the beginning point. [Kun Skuujii sda GawGaay.ya (Kwoon Cove to Gowgaia Bay)]

Wailing Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-31 and 142-1 inside a line commencing at a point on the western shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°07.210'N and 131°15.838'W easterly following the shoreline to 52°07.440'N and 131°14.307'W, thence southeasterly to a point on the northern shoreline of K'il (Flatrock Island) at 52°06.468'N and 131°10.300'W, thence easterly following the shoreline to 52°06.388'N and 131°10.079'W, thence southeasterly to the westernmost point of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) at 52°06.018'N and 131°09.391'W, thence southerly following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.884'N and 131°09.283'W, thence southeasterly to 52°05.806'N and 131°09.208'W, thence easterly following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.787'N and 131°09.097'W, thence northeasterly to the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) at 52°05.788'N and 131°08.938'W, thence easterly following the shoreline and thence crossing the channel to 52°05.778'N and 131°08.861'W, thence southeasterly following the shoreline to 52°05.741'N and 131°08.788'W, thence following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.708'N and 131°08.697'W, thence easterly across the channel to 52°05.709'N and 131°08.673'W, thence southerly following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.468'N and 131°08.425'W, thence southeasterly to a point on the western shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) at 52°04.414'N and 131°07.720'W, thence northerly and southerly following the shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) to 52°04.366'N and131° 07.720'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°03.175'N and 131°14.399'W, thence northwesterly to a point in water at 52°05.826'N and 131°17.913'W, and thence northeasterly back to the beginning point. [SGang Gwaay (Wailing Island)]

South Kunghit Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-19, 102-3, 130-3 and 142-1 inside a line commencing at a point on the western shoreline of Gangxid Tllgaay (South Kunghit Island) at 51°57.689'N and

131°03.375’W easterly following the southern shoreline of Gangxid Tllgaay (South Kunghit Island) to 52°00.343’N and 130°59.788’W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 51°50.163’N and 130°53.208’W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 51°47.954’N and 130°53.612’W, thence northwesterly to a point in water at 51°54.940’N and 131°07.779’W, and thence northeasterly to the beginning point. [Gangxid Tllgaay (South Kunghit Island)]

Lyman Point to Receiver Point: Those waters of Subareas 102-2 and 102-3 inside a line commencing at a point on land of Kildaga T’awts’iiGaay (unnamed islet) at 52°04.541’N and 130°56.293’W following the shoreline of the islet to 52°04.591’N and 130°56.348’W, thence northwesterly to the eastern shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) at 52°04.652’N and 130°56.414’W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) to 52°05.734’N and 130°56.365’W, thence northeasterly to a point in water at 52°10.222’N and 130°49.514’W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°02.635’N and 130°50.918’W, thence northwesterly back to the beginning point. [Gangxid Xyuu Kun sda Kan ’Láas Kun (Lyman Point to Receiver Point)]

Benjamin Point: Those waters of Subareas 2-17, 2-18 and 102-2 inside a line commencing at a point on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°10.262’N and 131°01.993’W northerly following the eastern shoreline to 52°13.232’N and 131°00.777’W, thence northeasterly to a point in water at 52°17.735’N and 130°55.064’W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°12.476’N and 130°49.103’W, and thence southwesterly back to the beginning point. [Kayjuu Kun (Benjamin Point)]

Head of Flamingo Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-37 north of a line drawn from a point on T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°14.455’N and 131°22.232’W southeasterly across St’aa K’ii GawGa (Flamingo Inlet) to a point on land on the opposite shore at 52°14.228’N and 131°21.503’W. [St’aa K’ii GawGa (Flamingo Inlet) – Head]

Head of Louscoone Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-34 north of a line drawn from a point on land on T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°11.841’N and 131°15.670’W northeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shoreline of GawGajaang (Louscoone Inlet) at 52°12.245’N and 131°14.568’W. [GawGajaang (Louscoone Inlet) – Head]

Head of Rose Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-18 north of a line drawn from the western shoreline of K’insiGid (Rose Inlet) on T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°11.327’N and 131°08.370’W northeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shore at 52°11.328’N and 131°07.115’W. [K’insiGid (Rose Inlet) – Head]

Head of Huston Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-15 south of a line drawn from a point on the western shoreline of GawGan (Huston Inlet) at 52°15.732’N and 131°15.643’W northeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shore at 52°16.111’N and 131°14.231’W. [GawGan (Huston Inlet) – Head]

Skincuttle Inlet to Burnaby Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-13 to 2-16 and 102-2 inside a line commencing at a point on the eastern shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°26.521’N and 131°14.153’W southeasterly to a point in water at 52°25.979’N and 131°04.470’W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°22.829’N and 131°00.867’W, thence southwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°18.124’N and 131°18.347’W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to 52°23.055’N and 131°23.441’W, thence northeasterly to the

western shoreline of Gwaay GudgiiGaagid (Kat Island) at 52°23.082’N and 131°22.916’W, thence easterly following the southern shoreline of Gwaay GudgiiGaagid (Kat Island) to 52°23.147’N and 131°22.260’W, thence northeasterly to the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°23.276’N and 131°21.333’W, thence southerly following the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) to 52°20.949’N and 131°15.569’W, thence northeasterly to the easternmost point of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°22.315’N and 131°14.689’W, thence following the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) to 52°22.377’N and 131°14.683’W, thence northwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°24.494’N and 131°15.832’W, and thence following the eastern shoreline to the beginning point. [Suu Kaahlii sda SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Skincuttle Inlet to Burnaby Island)]

Poole Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-14 south of a line drawn from a point on the shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) in Gid Gwaa GyaaGa GawGa (Poole Inlet) at 52°22.764’N and 131°18.249’W southeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shore at 52°22.505’N and 131°17.665’W. [Gid Gwaa GyaaGa GawGa (Poole Inlet)]

Mathieson Inlet to Huxley Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-12 and 2-13 inside a line commencing on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°30.038’N and 131°28.071’W southeasterly to a point on land on Gwaay Guusdagang (All Alone Stone Island) at 52°29.081’N and 131°24.042’W, thence southeasterly to a point on the northern shoreline of Gaaduu Gwaay (Huxley Island) at 52°28.066’N and 131°21.772’W, thence southerly following the western shoreline of Gaaduu Gwaay (Huxley Island) to 52°25.934’N and 131°21.927’W, thence southwesterly to the northern shoreline of GaysiiGas K’iidsii Gwaay (Section Island) at 52°25.435’N and 131°22.425’W, thence westerly following the northern shoreline of GaysiiGas K’iidsii Gwaay (Section Island) to 52°25.460’N and 131°22.513’W, thence northwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°26.039’N and 131°25.343’W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to 52°28.460’N and 131°27.972’W, and thence northerly to the beginning point. [Kuuniisii Xaw GawGa sda Gaaduu Gwaay (Matheson Inlet to Huxley Island)]

Juan Perez Sound to Lyell Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-11 and 102-2 inside a line commencing on the eastern shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°42.074’N and 131°26.535’W southeasterly to a point in water at 52°41.070’N and 131°14.485’W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°38.677’N and 131°12.957’W, thence southwesterly to 52°35.106’N and 131°22.254’W, thence following the northern shoreline of Xiina Gwaay.yaay (Ramsay Island) to 52°34.964’N and 131°22.963’W, thence southwesterly following the shoreline to 52°34.116’N and 131°25.603’W, thence southwesterly following the shoreline to 52°33.844’N and 131°26.324’W, thence southwesterly to a point on Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaay.yaay (Marco Island) at 52°31.498’N and 131°30.354’W, thence northwesterly to a point on Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaayts’idaay (Hoskins Islets) at 52°32.405’N and 131°32.946’W, thence following the northern shoreline of Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaayts’idaay (Hoskins Islets) to 52°32.435’N and 131°33.055’W, thence southwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°32.211’N and 131°34.475’W, thence easterly following the eastern shoreline to 52°32.956’N and 131°37.729’W, thence northeasterly to a point on the shoreline of Kingts’ii Gwaay.yaay (Bischof Islands) at 52°34.143’N and 131°33.379’W, thence easterly following the southeastern shoreline of Kingts’ii Gwaay.yaay (Bischof Islands) to 52°34.340’N and 131°33.098’W, thence northeasterly to a point on an islet at 52°34.530’N and 131°32.890’W, thence northeasterly to a point on the southern shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell

Island) at 52°35.767'N and 131°32.891'W, and thence easterly and northerly following the shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) to the beginning point. [Gandaawuu.ngaay Xyangs sda Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Juan Perez Sound to Lyell Island)]

Darwin Sound: Those waters of Subarea 2-10 inside a line commencing at a point on land on Shuttle Island at 52°40.053'N and 131°42.328'W northeasterly to a point on the western shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°40.466'N and 131°41.105'W, thence southerly following the western shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) to 52°37.301'N and 131°38.800'W, thence northwesterly to a point on land of Gwaay DaaGaaw (Shuttle Island) at 52°38.522'N and 131°41.409'W, and thence following the eastern shoreline of Shuttle Island to the beginning point. [Didxwahxyangs (Darwin Sound)]

Klue Passage to Lost Islands: Those waters of Subareas of 2-7 and 2-8 inside a line commencing on a point of the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°48.606'N and 131°39.403'W northeasterly to a point in water at 52°49.405'N and 131° 29.042'W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°48.148'N and 131°28.849'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°44.898'N and 131°34.035'W, thence northwesterly to 52°45.113'N and 131°34.125'W, thence following the northern shoreline of K'ang.Guu Gwaay.yaay (Kunga Island) to 52°45.220'N and 131°35.574'W, thence southwesterly to a point on T'aanuu Gwaay (Tanu Island) at 52°45.002'N and 131°36.770'W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of T'aanuu Gwaay (Tanu Island) to 52°46.725'N and 131°38.878'W, thence northwesterly across to a point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°47.837'N and 131°39.371'W, and thence northerly following the eastern shoreline to the beginning point. [T'aanuu K'aadxwah Xyangs sda Gwaay Xaa'ans (Klue Passage to Lost Islands)]

Area 3

Nasoga Gulf CNTR: Subarea 3-9. (Established 2010: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Winter Inlet: That portion of Subarea 3-11 South of a line starting at the entrance to Winter Inlet at 54° 50.328' N and 130° 27.857' W across to a point at 54° 50.455' N and 130° 27.461' W. (Established 2011: Fisheries Management Closure)

Area 4

West Stephens Island CNTR: Portion of Subarea 4-2 North of a line starting at the subarea boundary at View Point on Arthur Island [54° 03.249' N and 130° 37.544' W] then West to a point at 54° 04.000' N and 130° 42.500' W, then Southwest to the surfline at 53° 59.983' N and 130° 52.025' W, excluding a portion in Stephens Passage East of a line from 54° 07.388' N and 130° 38.755' W to 54° 07.197' N and 130° 38.449' W. (Established 2010: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Area 5

Kitkatla Inlet and adjacent waters: Subarea 5-3 and Subarea 5-10. (First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Kumealon Inlet, Baker Inlet, Kxngeal Inlet, and Klewnuggit Inlet in Subarea 5-23 and Lowe Inlet in Subarea 5-24 (Established 1998: Fisheries Management Closure).

Area 6

Giltoyees and Miskatla Inlets: That portion of Subarea 6-1 north of a line from Point Ashton [53° 46.245'N/128° 56.920'W] west to a point at 53° 46.092'N and 128° 58.589'W. (Established 2015: Fisheries Management Closure – created after discussion with the Haisla First Nation)

Sue Channel CNTR: That portion of Subarea 6-1 that encompasses both Sue Channel and Loretta Channels within the following boundaries:

Easterly of the Subarea boundary between Maitland Island [53° 41.197'N/129° 04.789'W and Hawkesbury Island [53° 40.494'N/129° 04.797'W] and westerly of a line that begins at 53° 41.205'N/129° 04.898'W (Kersey Point) then to 53° 45.620'N/128° 50.849'W (Walbran Point) then following the easterly shoreline of Loretta Island to 53° 43.341'N/128° 49.939'W then to 53° 42.645'N/128° 50.071'W (Gaudin Point). (Established 2015: Commercial No-Take Reserve – created after discussion with the Haisla First Nation)

Hartley Bay: Those portions of Subareas 6-2, 6-6 and 6-28 in the vicinity of Hartley Bay, Promise Island and Coghlin Anchorage, inside the 20 fathom depth contour running from Halsey Point at the entrance to Hartley Bay, around Cape Farewell on Promise Island, then to Sainty Point on the mainland coast as shown on Charts No. 3711 and 3742 published by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. (Established 2005: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Kitkiata Inlet: That portion of Subarea 6-2 that is Kitkiata Inlet West of a line from Gertrude Point to Helen Point. (Established 2006: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Kiskosh Inlet: That portion of Subarea 6-2 that is Kiskosh Inlet West of a line running across the entrance of the inlet. (Established 2006: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Bishop Bay: That portion of Subarea 6-3 that is Bishop Bay East of a line from Riordan Point to Tomkinson Point. (Established 2006: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Cornwall and Drake Inlets: Subarea 6-8. (Established 2006: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Northwest Price Island CNTR: That portion of Subarea 6-17 along the western shoreline of Price Island from the Subarea boundary at 52° 27.488'N and 128° 45.802'W south to the Subarea boundary at 52° 24.222'N and 128° 45.690'W. (Established 2014: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Mid Princess Royal Channel: That portion of Subarea 6-20 South of a line from a point at Nomel Creek (53° 07.106'N and 128° 36.006'W) then East to the Subarea boundary at (53° 07.123'N and 128° 34.164'W). North of a line from point at Big Creek (53° 02.029'N and 128° 31.508'W), West to a point at 53° 01.924'N and 128° 32.560'W. (Established 2014: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Tolmie Channel CNTR: That portion of Subarea 6-20 south of a line starting at the Subarea boundary at Netherby Point (52° 55.314'N and 128° 30.007'W) west to a point at 52° 55.320'N and 128° 31.540W and north of a line starting from the Subarea boundary at Sarah Head (52° 53.012'N and 128° 30.634'W) west to a point on Tolmie Head at 52° 53.068'N and 128° 31.796'W. (Established in 2011: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Khutze Inlet CNTR: Subarea 6-23. (Established 2011: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Meyers Pass: Subarea 6-25. (Established 2014: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Area 7

Mid-Finlayson Channel: Subarea 7-5. (Established 2014: First Nations access for food, social and ceremonial purposes)

Mussel Inlet CNTR: Subarea 7-7 (Established 2014: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Oscar Pass CNTR: That portion of Subarea 7-9 west of a line starting at Miall Point (52° 29.595'N and 128° 16.147'W) and a point along Buckley Head at 52° 28.494'N and 128° 16.494'W (Established 2014: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Berry Inlet CNTR: Subarea 7-8 (Established 2011: Commercial No-Take Reserve –formerly designated as a research area).

Area 9

Sandell Bay CNTR: That portion of Subarea 9-4 North of a line from 51° 38.340' N and 127° 32.880' W to 51° 38.460' N and 127° 32.040' W. (Established 2008: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Moses Inlet CNTR: Subareas 9-7 and 9-8. (Established 2008: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Kilbella Bay: That portion of Subarea 9-6 East of a line at 127° 21.90' W latitude. (Established 2008: Fisheries Management Closure)

Area 10

Margaret Bay CNTR: That portion of Subarea 10-5 East of a line from Ripon Pt. (51° 19.32' N and 127° 32.40' W) to Olive Pt. (51° 20.22' N and 127° 32.16' W). (Established 2008: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Takush Harbour CNTR: That portion of Subarea 10-12 West of 127° 35.52' W latitude and South of the Subarea Boundary Line (Wakas Pt. (51° 17.46' N and 127° 38.16' W) to Gikumi Pt. (51° 17.70' N and 127° 36.78' W). (Established 2008: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Area 11

Nugent Sound CNTR: Subarea 11-8. (Established 2012: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Area 12

Lower Queen Charlotte Strait CNTR: Subarea 12-6. (Established 2009: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Port Neville CNTR: Subarea 12-25. (Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Area 13

Discovery Passage: Subareas 13-3, 13-4, 13-5 and a portion of 13-6. Those waters of Discovery Passage bounded on the north by a straight line drawn true west from North Bluff on Quadra Island, across Seymour Narrows to a fishing boundary sign on Vancouver Island, and on the south by a line from the Cape Mudge light true west to Vancouver Island. (Marine Reserve)

Mitlenatch Nature Park: (As described in Area 15 Closures).

Okisollo Channel CNTR: Subarea 13-10. (Established 2008: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Area 14

Hornby Island: Those waters of Lambert Channel and the Strait of Georgia, Subarea 14-7, inside a line commencing at Shingle Spit on Hornby Island, thence 239 degrees true for 0.5 nautical miles, thence 126 degrees true for 3.5 nautical miles, thence 64 degrees true for 4.9 nautical miles, thence 304 degrees true for 2.9 nautical miles, thence 213 degrees true for 0.5 nautical miles to Cape Gurney on Hornby Island. (Marine Reserve)

Mitlenatch Nature Park: (As described in Area 15 Closures).

Area 15

All waters within 0.5 nautical miles of Vivian Island located approximately 5.0 nautical miles west of Powell River in Subarea 15-2. (Marine Reserve)

All waters within 0.25 nautical miles of Rebecca Rock, located 2.5 nautical miles west of Powell River in Subarea 15-2. (Marine Reserve)

All waters within 0.25 nautical miles of Dinner Rock, located 2.5 nautical miles south of Lund in Subarea 15-2. (Marine Reserve)

All waters within 0.5 nautical miles of the unnamed reef off Emmonds Beach, located approximately 4.0 nautical miles south of Lund in Subarea 15-2. (Marine Reserve)

All waters within 1.0 nautical mile of Mitlenatch Island, located in the upper Strait of Georgia intersected by the Subareas 15-2, 13-1, 13-3 and 14-13. (Marine Reserve)

All waters within a 0.25 nautical mile radius of the southerly end of the Beach Gardens breakwater in Subarea 15-2. (Marine Reserve)

Toba Inlet CNTR: Subarea 15-6 (Established 2012: Commercial No-Take Reserve).

Area 16

Subareas 16-3 (Bargain Bay), 16-4 (Pender Harbour) and 16-5 (Head of Sechelt Inlet). (Navigational Closure)

Skookumchuck Narrows Provincial Park: Those waters of Skookumchuck Narrows and Sechelt Rapids in Subarea 16-9 bounded on the West by a line from a point on the foreshore at the westerly limit of Secret Bay on Sechelt Peninsula thence 50 degrees true to a point on the foreshore on the mainland; and the East

by a line from Raland Point on Sechelt Peninsula, thence 50 degrees true to a point on the foreshore on the mainland. (Park)

Jervis Inlet CNTR: Subarea 16-14. (Established 2011: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Malaspina CNTR: Subareas 16-2 and 16-17 (Established 2012: Commercial No-Take Reserve).

Area 18

Satellite Channel CNTR: Subarea 18-6. (Established 2011: Commercial No-Take Reserve)

Subareas 18-7 (Sansum Narrows, Burgoyne Bay and Maple Bay) and 18-8 (Cowichan Bay). (Conservation Closure).

Area 19

Ogden Point: Those waters of Subarea 19-3 inside a line from the navigation light at the western end of the Ogden Point Causeway thence to Brotchie Ledge Light, thence to Holland Point on Vancouver Island. (Marine Reserve)

10 Mile Point: Those waters of Subareas 19-4 and 19-5 within 0.4 nautical miles of Cadboro Point navigation light. (Marine Reserve)

Race Rocks: Those waters of Subareas 19-3 and 20-5 within 0.5 nautical miles of Great Race Rocks. (Marine Reserve)

Area 20

Race Rocks: Those waters of Subareas 19-3 and 20-5 within 0.5 nautical miles of Great Race Rocks. (Marine Reserve)

Botanical Beach Provincial Park: That portion of Subarea 20-3 between the lowest low water on record and the highest high water on record from San Juan Point thence following the Vancouver Island shoreline easterly to the mouth of Tom Baird Creek. (Marine Reserve)

Pacific Rim National Park, Juan de Fuca: That portion of Subarea 20-1 between the lowest low water on record and the highest high water on record from Bonilla Light thence following the shoreline of Vancouver Island easterly to Owen Point. (Park)

Area 23

Pacific Rim National Park, Broken Group Islands: Those waters of the Broken Group Islands in Barkley Sound within park boundaries as shown, since 1989, on Canadian Hydrographic Service Chart 3671. (Park)

Bamfield Marine Station Research Area Closure: Those waters of Pacific Fishery Management Subareas 23-4, 23-5, 23-6 and 23-7 bounded by a line commencing at the light at Whittlestone Point and running directly to the southern tip of Haines Island; from the northwestern tip of Haines Island to the southern tip of Seppings Island; from the northwestern tip of Seppings Island to Kirby Point on Diana Island; from Kirby Point directly to the northwest tip of Fry Island; from the northwestern tip of Fry Island to the

nearest adjacent point on Tzartus Island; from Foucault Bluff on Tzartus Island to the northwest tip of Nanat Island; from the eastern tip of Nanat Island to the nearest adjacent point on Vancouver Island and thence along the coastline of Vancouver Island to the point of commencement. (Research Area)

Area 24

Pacific Rim National Park, Grice Bay and McBey Islets: The waters of Tofino Inlet within Pacific Rim National Park including McBey Islets and Dinner Island in Tsapee Narrows, Browning Passage in Subarea 24-9 and Grice Bay west and south of Indian Island in Subarea 24-11. (Park)

Area 25

Subareas 25-8 and 25-9: Zeballos Experimental Fishing Area (Established 1997: Research).

Area 26

Checleset Bay Fishery Closure Area: Those waters of Checleset Bay within Subareas 26-7, 26-8 and 26-10 and 126-1 on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island enclosed by the coordinates 49 degrees 59 minutes to 50 degrees 6.3 minutes north and 127 degrees 26 minutes to 127 degrees 39 minutes west. (Ecological Reserve)

Kyuquot Bay: A portion of 26-6 inside or northerly of a line from White Cliff Head to Racoon Point. (Research Closure)

Entrance to Crowther Channel: A portion of 26-6 on the west side of Union Island commencing at position 50 degrees 0.4 minutes north, 127 degrees 19.3 minutes west. (Research Closure)

Area 28

Horseshoe Bay: That portion of Subarea 28-2 bounded by a line commencing from Whytecliff Point, thence in a straight line to the most southerly point of Bowyer Island, thence in a straight line 112 degrees true to the mainland. (Navigational Closure)

Whytecliff Park: That portion of Subarea 28-2 bounded by a line commencing from the most southerly point of Whytecliff Park; thence in a straight line to a point located 100 metres east of the most southeasterly point of Whyte It.; thence following the southern shoreline of Whyte It. at a distance of 100 metres to a point lying 100 metres from the most southwesterly point of Whyte It.; thence in a straight line to a point lying 100 metres west of White Cliff Point; thence following the shoreline at a distance of 100 metres in a northerly direction to a point 100 metres north of Lookout Point; thence following the shoreline at a distance of 100 metres in an easterly direction to a point 100 metres perpendicular to the most northerly point of Whytecliff Park; thence to the most northerly point of Whytecliff Park on the mainland. (Marine Reserve)

Porteau Cove: That portion of Subarea 28-4, east of a line drawn from a white fishing boundary sign located on the south shore of Porteau Cove to a white fishing boundary sign located on the north shore of Porteau Cove. (Marine Reserve)

Portions of Subareas 101-1 and 142-2

Bowie Seamount: Area bounded by a series of rhumb lines drawn from a point 53° 03.076’ N, 135° 50.259’ W, to a point 53° 16.209’ N, 134° 59.554’ W, then to a point 53° 39.492’ N, 135° 17.049’ W, then to a point 53° 39.180’ N, 135° 53.465’ W, then to a point 53° 52.167’ N, 136° 30.231’ W, then to a point 53° 49.196’ N, 136° 47.331’ W, then to a point 53° 40.025’ N, 136° 57.035’ W, then to a point 53° 13.592’ N, 136° 10.000’ W, then back to the point of commencement as laid out in the Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area Regulations. (Marine Protected Area)

6. WORKSAFEBC

Jurisdiction over health and safety on commercial fishing vessels in Canada is the mandate of the provinces. In British Columbia, jurisdiction over health and safety issues on commercial fishing vessels falls to WorkSafeBC. Health and safety issues on fishing vessels include the health and safety of the crew and design, construction and use of fishing equipment on the vessel. Matters of transportation and shipping fall to the federal government and are administered by Transport Canada, Marine Safety (TCMS). WorkSafeBC and TCMS have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on fishing vessel safety that addresses, as much as possible, jurisdiction. The document also contemplates that each party will work co-operatively to ensure that vessels and their crew remain healthy and safe.

The Sea Cucumber fishery, and other dive fisheries, is legislated by the requirements for occupational divers, found in Part 24 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHSR) and as commercial fishing ventures, also found in Part 24 of the OHSR. Many of the general sections of the Regulation also apply, for example: Part 8 - Personal Protective Equipment, addresses issues related to safety head gear, safety footwear, and personal floatation devices. Part 17 addresses issues on rigging and Part 5 addresses issues of exposure to chemical and biological substances. The entire regulation can be acquired from the Provincial Crown Printers or by visiting the WorkSafeBC website at:

www.worksafebc.com

For WorkSafe BC contacts please see Appendix 17.

Appendix 2: 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber First Nations Harvest Plan

OVERVIEW OF THE FISHERY

Fish and marine resources are central to the culture, society, well-being, and economy of First Nations and provide a critical connection to language, traditional knowledge, and health of communities. Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) remains committed to respecting First Nations' Aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, or domestic purposes under Treaty, which has priority after conservation over other users of the resource.

DFO seeks to provide for the effective management and regulation of the First Nation fishery through negotiation of mutually acceptable and time-limited agreements which outline provisions pertaining to the fisheries and co-management activities. The agreements include provisions by which First Nations manage fishing by their members for FSC purposes, in addition to outlining First Nation involvement in a range of co-management activities and economic development opportunities which may include, but not be limited to, habitat enhancement, FSC catch monitoring and enforcement, fish management and community research.

Communal licences and, under Treaty, harvest documents (domestic purposes) are issued annually to First Nations under the authority of the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations* made under the *Fisheries Act*. Communal licences and harvest documents can be amended in-season for resource conservation purposes. Where an agreement cannot be concluded, Fisheries & Oceans Canada still issues communal fishing licences to First Nations organizations.

First Nations may also participate in the commercial fishery (see Section 4.1 of the Integrated Fishery Management Plan).

MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR FIRST NATIONS' FISHERY

The amount of Sea Cucumbers harvested for FSC or domestic purposes under treaty coastwide is believed to be low.

Under the Individual Quota (IQ) program for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery, two percent of the coast-wide Total Allowable Catch (CTAC) for Sea Cucumber is reserved, for planning purposes, for First Nations fisheries for FSC purposes. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is confident that with the precautionary approach to this fishery, the reserved allocation of TAC, and the provision of additional allocations where necessary, First Nations in all areas will have sufficient opportunities to harvest Sea Cucumbers for FSC purposes.

Allocations of Sea Cucumbers may be provided to First Nations who identify their FSC or domestic use needs are not being met.

A number of closures to the commercial fishery have been implemented for First Nations' access to Sea Cucumbers for FSC purposes – see Appendix 1, Section 5 for a list of these closures.

OPEN TIMES AND AREAS

First Nations harvest for FSC purposes and for domestic purposes under treaty are open year-round if authorized by a communal licence or harvest documents.

LICENSING

First Nations access to fish for FSC purposes is managed through a communal licence, or under treaty, a harvest document which can permit the harvest of Sea Cucumbers. These licences are issued under the authority of the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations.*

Additional information on communal licences, are available at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/abor-autoc/index-eng.html

CLOSURES

Harvesting on Aquaculture Tenures

Under the *Fisheries Act*, fishing within an aquaculture facility already under federal licence (PAR aquaculture licence) is prohibited. The Department recommends that harvesters familiarize themselves with the location of aquaculture tenures in fishing areas. For more information on regulated aquaculture, see Appendix 4.

CONTROL AND MONITORING OF FIRST NATIONS' FISHING ACTIVITIES

This fishery is regulated through the issuance of communal licences to First Nations organizations. Further arrangements for First Nations fishing may be identified in agreements between the Department and individual First Nations organizations.

Communal licences and Fisheries Agreements may contain provisions for the designation of individuals by the First Nations organization to access the allocation provided under the communal licence, as well as provisions for monitoring and reporting by the group of the First Nations fishery in co-operation with the Department.

Communal licences and harvest documents can be amended in-season for resource conservation purposes. Even where agreement cannot be concluded, Fisheries & Oceans Canada issues communal licences to First Nations organizations.

Treaty Fisheries

There are currently four modern treaties with eight First Nations in British Columbia, which all have fisheries chapters: Nisga'a Final Agreement, Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement (TFA), Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (MNA), and Tla'amin (Sliammon)ʔaʔǰnxʷegəs ("Tla'amin Treaty") . Through these treaties, Nations work with DFO to manage treaty fisheries on an annual basis. There are also historic treaties in British Columbia (Douglas Treaties and Treaty 8). The Douglas Treaty right to 'fish as formerly' was affirmed by Canadian courts through *Claxton v. Saanichton Bay Marina (1989)*.

Eleven of the Fourteen Yukon First Nations have Final and Self-Government Agreements derived from the Umbrella Final Agreement (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation). There are also two Transboundary treaties: the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit of the Northwest Territories have land claim agreements that identify their land and rights in Yukon. Many of these treaties have fisheries provisions.

A detailed list of final agreements relating to Comprehensive Land Claims and Self Government is provided at: https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100030583/1529420498350

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum First Nations have both ratified their Treaties in 2025, with Provincial and Federal ratification processes anticipated to follow. The Effective Date of the Treaties is currently anticipated to take place in 2028. The ratification versions of the Treaties and associated appendices can be publicly accessed via:

https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/engagement/kitselas-and-kitsumkalum-treaty-negotiations/
Fisheries chapters in modern treaties articulate a treaty fishing right for domestic purposes that is protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. In addition, some modern treaties contain provisions that enable those Treaty First Nations to make laws relating to certain internal aspects of their fisheries. Negotiated through a side agreement, some modern treaty First Nations have commercial access through a Harvest Agreement outside of the constitutionally protected treaty.

Five Nations Right-Based Fishery

Five Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations located on the west coast of Vancouver Island - Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Tla-o-qui-aht (the five Nations) – have aboriginal rights to fish for any species, with the exception of Geoduck, within their court-defined Fishing Territories and to sell that fish.

The *2023/24 Five Nations Multi-species Fishery Management Plan* (FMP) outlined the fishing opportunities for the five Nations to exercise their rights to harvest and sell salmon, groundfish, crab, prawn, gooseneck barnacles, and sea cucumber. The FMP was extended to March 31, 2025 while the Government of Canada and the five Nations completed negotiations for an Incremental Reconciliation Agreement for Fishery Resources (IRAFR).

The IRAFR finalized in 2024 is a two-year agreement providing the framework for an effective and collaborative approach to governance, management and planning of the five Nations' fisheries resources. The agreement recognizes that the five Nations, through their respective ha'wiih (hereditary leadership) and elected leadership, have a role in the management of fisheries in their territories. In response to the Nations' interests, DFO and the five Nations authorized an extension of the Nations' fishing area from 9 nautical miles offshore to 69 nautical miles, effective July 17, 2024.

The IRAFR also provides funding to the five Nations for implementation, capacity building, and to acquire commercial fishing access. It sets out mechanisms for a Community-Based Economic Fishery plan, including shared goals and objectives to support the development of healthy, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries for the five Nations that will contribute to the local and Canadian economy.

The extended 2023/24 FMP is available here: https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41253413.pdf

Haida Gwaii Yáanuu · G̱iinuu Giant Red Sea Cucumber Management Plan

The Haida Gwaii Yáanuu · G̱iinuu Giant Red Sea Cucumber Management Plan was developed by Council of Haida Nation, DFO and Parks Canada under the GayG̱ahlda "Changing Tide" Framework for Reconciliation. Included in the plan:

- Haida language, ethics and knowledge

- Cultural, social and economic indicators
- Fishery assessed by an Ecosystem-Based Management Framework

The management plan is currently undergoing its final approval by the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board and the Haida Gwaii Aquatic Management Council. If approved, in 2026/27 the fishery will occur under the 'regular commercial fishery'. A community-based fishery is an option in the future. A new Haida Gwaii licence area has been created and two commercial Sea Cucumber licence eligibilities held by the Council of Haida Nation will be moved there for the 2026 fishery.

Appendix 3: 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber Recreational Harvest Plan

INTRODUCTION

Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence

The recreational harvest of various fish and invertebrate species in B.C. is regulated via the *British Columbia Sport Fishing Regulations*, 1996, made under the *Fisheries Act*. A DFO Tidal Waters Sport Fishing licence is required for the recreational harvest of all species of fish and marine invertebrates.

Tidal Waters Sport Fishing licences may be purchased for a 1 day, 3 day, or 5 day period, or as an annual licence, covering the period April 1 (or date of purchase, whichever is later) to March 31 the following year. The annual licence fee is not pro-rated for annual licences purchased mid-season. Fees depend on licence duration, age (senior, adult, juvenile) and residency status. Licences for juveniles (under 16 years old) are free. Concessionary fees are not otherwise available. There were over 352,000 adult fishers participating in B.C.'s tidal waters recreational fishery in 2025/26.

Licences may be purchased online via the National Recreational Licensing System:

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/licence-permis/application-eng.html.

Alternatively licences may be purchased over the counter at Independent Access Providers (IAPs) in many areas (note that the IAP may charge an additional service fee).

A list of IAPs is available at:

http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/licence-permis/iap-fai-eng.html

Online Regulations

The regulations for recreational fishing are provided online in the British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide, which lists open and closed times, catch limits, admissible gear types, size limits (where applicable), and open and closed areas. In addition, please check your Conditions of Licence (printed on your fishing licence) for other regulatory requirements.

Changes to regulations are issued in Fishery Notices which are posted online and sent to subscribers by email; these changes are also updated to the Sport Fishing Guide.

The printed Sport Fishing Guide booklet is no longer being produced or distributed to reduce costs and environmental impacts. The online Sport Fish Guide allows for in-season regulations to be accurately provided and ensures all the regulations are current. Staff at local DFO fishery offices can also provide regulatory information.

The British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide is available at:
http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.html

Viewing Fishery Notices and application to receive Fishery Notices by email is available at: http://notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm

Contact information for DFO offices is available at:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/regions/pacific-pacifique-eng.html

For question or comments of a general nature regarding DFO in the Pacific Region, call 604-666-0384 or email info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Using Mobile Devices and the FishingBC App

The FishingBC App, developed by the Sport Fishing Institute of BC, can be downloaded to a mobile device to assist with access to regulatory information for species, areas, fishing gear while on the water (along with other functionalities). New for 2024 – the FishingBC App may now be linked (using the internet) with your National Recreational Licensing System (NRLS) account to download a copy of your tidal water sports fishing licence to your mobile device and record catch (chinook salmon, halibut and lingcod) using the app Catch Log for real-time display to your licence on your mobile device. Note that catch records will then be automatically shared between your NRLS account and your app account. In the event of any technical issues with these new features of the app a paper licence must be used for regulatory catch recording purposes (or NRLS).

Please note: the DFO Sport Fishing Guide website is the official site for regulatory information in the event of a discrepancy with the FishingBC App. The FishingBC App may be downloaded from the App Store (Apple devices) and from the Google Play Store (Android devices). Learn more about these app features at https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/licence-permis/fishingbc-pechecb-app-faq-eng.html and at http://www.fishingbcapp.ca/

E-licences and Paper licences

At this time most fishers continue to use the traditional paper copy of their licence; however an e-licence – which is an electronic/pdf copy of the licence – may be used on a mobile device but there are restrictions on its use.

Please consider these licensing requirements before fishing in tidal waters:

- For all recreational tidal waters fishers that do not have an electronic copy of their licence on their mobile device, fishers must have a paper copy of their licence to show to a fishery officer;
- For users of the FishingBC App or on any electronic device, an electronic copy of their licence on the device is acceptable and must be immediately presented to a fishery officer upon request.
- Currently the FishingBC App is the only app authorized to download a licence for catch recording purposes on the electronic licence (using the app Catch Log).
- Catch recording requirement: Immediately upon retention of Chinook, and Halibut in any Management Area and Lingcod in Management Areas 12 to 19 (excluding Subarea 12-14), Subareas 20-5 to 20-7 and 29-5, fishers must record these catches on
    - either their paper licence, or
    - their National Recreational Licensing System account (NRLS) which requires internet access, or
    - in the FishingBC App Catch Log when their app account is linked to their NRLS account (which does not require internet access, if the app account link is currently maintained to NRLS).
- The catch recording requirement above applies to all fishers (whether with a paper or e-licence).
- Fishers who record their Chinook, Halibut, and Lingcod catch records in their NRLS account may find it helpful to immediately take a screenshot of their catch records when they have internet access should they subsequently move out of range of a mobile network. Note that a FishingBC app account will continue to allow you to record catch to the app Catch Log even while out of range of a mobile network.

Supporting Sustainable Fisheries - Catch Reporting

The Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) is the primary consultative body for the recreational fishing community, and includes individual representatives from all geographic regions in B.C. as well as delegates from a number of fishing and service provider organizations. The SFAB and the recreational fishing sector strongly support effective fishery monitoring and catch reporting programs in recreational fisheries. The SFAB continues to work with DFO on initiatives to strengthen fishing monitoring and catch reporting in the recreational fishery.

Mandatory Reporting of Fishing Activity and Catch

Recreational fishers are required as a condition of the Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence to report accurate information on their recreational fishing activity and catch upon request of designated authorities including creel surveyors, fishery officers and fishery guardians and if assigned to the online iREC reporting program (see below).

Internet Recreational Effort and Catch (iREC) Reporting program

The internet Recreational Effort and Catch (iREC) reporting program is an online program that has been collecting effort and catch information from Tidal Waters Sport Fishing licence holders since July 2012. All 2026/27 adult Tidal Water Recreational Fishing licences will be assigned to iREC reporting program.

Annual licence holders are required to report for only one month to limit their reporting burden. Information regarding the iREC reporting requirement is printed on each licence including the reporting period, the website at which to report, a unique iREC Access ID and reporting deadline. Further, licence holders with a valid email address in the National Recreational Licencing system (NRLS) will receive emails reminding them to complete their iREC reports. Licence holders who have linked the FishingBC App with their NRLS account will also receive in-app notifications reminding them to complete their iREC reports. Providing complete and accurate information to the iREC program when assigned is a condition of licence (i.e., mandatory requirement).

The iREC reporting program is one of the sources used in developing DFO official catch and effort estimates. The iREC reporting program methodology was peer reviewed and published by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) in 2015. This program provides monthly estimates of effort for six fishing methods and catch for over 80 species of sport caught finfish and invertebrates in all Pacific Fishery Management Areas based on responses by Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence holders. The recreational fishing methods covered by the iREC reporting program include boat-based angling, angling from shore, shellfish trapping from boat and shore, beach collecting, and diving. iREC estimates are developed for methods and species not covered by the marine creel surveys, which cover only boat-based angling, and for months and areas not covered by marine creel surveys.

More information about the iREC reporting program is available at:

https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/report-declarez-eng.html

LOCATION OF THE FISHERY

Recreational harvest of Sea Cucumbers occurs coast-wide.

OPEN TIMES AND AREAS

Recreational fisheries are open as described in the British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide for the recreational fishery.

CLOSURES

All commercial and recreational fisheries are closed within the following areas within the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area:

1. Kwoon Cove to Gowgaia Bay: Those waters of Subareas 2-38 to 2-41 and 142-1 inside a line commencing at a point on land on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°23.311'N and 131°35.794'W northwesterly to a point on land on GuuGaalas Gwaay (south Gowdas Islands) at 52°23.340'N and 131°35.859'W, thence northerly following the shoreline of GuuGaalas Gwaay (south Gowdas Islands) to 52°23.489'N and 131°36.092'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°19.074'N and 131°43.794'W, thence northwesterly to a point in water at 52°38.115'N and 132°09.939'W, thence southeasterly to a point on land on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°38.177'N and 131°56.374'W, and thence southerly following the western shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to the beginning point. [Kun Skuujii sda GawGaay.ya (Kwoon Cove to Gowgaia Bay)]

2. Wailing Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-31 and 142-1 inside a line commencing at a point on the western shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°07.210'N and 131°15.838'W easterly following the shoreline to 52°07.440'N and 131°14.307'W, thence southeasterly to a point on the northern shoreline of K'il (Flatrock Island) at 52°06.468'N and 131°10.300'W, thence easterly following the shoreline to 52°06.388'N and 131°10.079'W, thence southeasterly to the westernmost point of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) at 52°06.018'N and 131°09.391'W, thence southerly following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.884'N and 131°09.283'W, thence southeasterly to 52°05.806'N and 131°09.208'W, thence easterly following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.787'N and 131°09.097'W, thence northeasterly to the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) at 52°05.788'N and 131°08.938'W, thence easterly following the shoreline and thence crossing the channel to 52°05.778'N and 131°08.861'W, thence southeasterly following the shoreline to 52°05.741'N and 131°08.788'W, thence following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.708'N and 131°08.697'W, thence easterly across the channel to 52°05.709'N and 131°08.673'W, thence southerly following the shoreline of Sii.niihl Gwaay.yaay (Gordon Islands) to 52°05.468'N and 131°08.425'W, thence southeasterly to a point on the western shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) at 52°04.414'N and 131°07.720'W, thence northerly and southerly following the shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) to 52°04.366'N and131° 07.720'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°03.175'N and 131°14.399'W, thence northwesterly to a point in water at 52°05.826'N and 131°17.913'W, and thence northeasterly back to the beginning point. [SGang Gwaay (Wailing Island)]

3. South Kunghit Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-19, 102-3, 130-3 and 142-1 inside a line commencing at a point on the western shoreline of Gangxid Tllgaay (South Kunghit Island) at 51°57.689'N and 131°03.375'W easterly following the southern shoreline of Gangxid Tllgaay (South Kunghit Island) to 52°00.343'N and 130°59.788'W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 51°50.163'N and 130°53.208'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 51°47.954'N and 130°53.612'W, thence northwesterly to a point in water at 51°54.940'N and 131°07.779'W, and thence northeasterly to the beginning point. [Gangxid Tllgaay (South Kunghit Island)]

4. Lyman Point to Receiver Point: Those waters of Subareas 102-2 and 102-3 inside a line commencing at a point on land of Kildaga T'awts'iiGaay (unnamed islet) at 52°04.541'N and 130°56.293'W following the shoreline of the islet to 52°04.591'N and 130°56.348'W, thence northwesterly to the eastern shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) at 52°04.652'N and 130°56.414'W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of Gangxid Gwaay.yaay (Kunghit Island) to 52°05.734'N and 130°56.365'W, thence northeasterly to a point in water at 52°10.222'N and 130°49.514'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°02.635'N and 130°50.918'W, thence northwesterly back to the beginning point. [Gangxid Xyuu Kun sda Kan 'Láas Kun (Lyman Point to Receiver Point)]

5. Benjamin Point: Those waters of Subareas 2-17, 2-18 and 102-2 inside a line commencing at a point on the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°10.262'N and 131°01.993'W northerly following the eastern shoreline to 52°13.232'N and 131°00.777'W, thence northeasterly to a point in water at 52°17.735'N and 130°55.064'W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°12.476'N and 130°49.103'W, and thence southwesterly back to the beginning point. [Kayjuu Kun (Benjamin Point)]

6. Head of Flamingo Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-37 north of a line drawn from a point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°14.455'N and 131°22.232'W southeasterly across St'aa K'ii GawGa (Flamingo Inlet) to a point on land on the opposite shore at 52°14.228'N and 131°21.503'W. [St'aa K'ii GawGa (Flamingo Inlet) – Head]

7. Head of Louscoone Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-34 north of a line drawn from a point on land on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°11.841'N and 131°15.670'W northeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shoreline of GawGajaang (Louscoone Inlet) at 52°12.245'N and 131°14.568'W. [GawGajaang (Louscoone Inlet) – Head]

8. Head of Rose Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-18 north of a line drawn from the western shoreline of K'insiGid (Rose Inlet) on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°11.327'N and 131°08.370'W northeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shore at 52°11.328'N and 131°07.115'W. [K'insiGid (Rose Inlet) – Head]

9. Head of Huston Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-15 south of a line drawn from a point on the western shoreline of GawGan (Huston Inlet) at 52°15.732'N and 131°15.643'W northeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shore at 52°16.111'N and 131°14.231'W. [GawGan (Huston Inlet) – Head]

10. Skincuttle Inlet to Burnaby Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-13 to 2-16 and 102-2 inside a line commencing at a point on the eastern shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°26.521'N and 131°14.153'W southeasterly to a point in water at 52°25.979'N and 131°04.470'W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°22.829'N and 131°00.867'W, thence southwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°18.124'N and 131°18.347'W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to 52°23.055'N and 131°23.441'W, thence northeasterly to the western shoreline of Gwaay GudgiiGaagid (Kat Island) at 52°23.082'N and 131°22.916'W, thence easterly following the southern shoreline of Gwaay GudgiiGaagid (Kat Island) to 52°23.147'N and 131°22.260'W, thence northeasterly to the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°23.276'N and 131°21.333'W, thence southerly following the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) to 52°20.949'N and 131°15.569'W, thence northeasterly to the easternmost point of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°22.315'N and 131°14.689'W, thence following the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) to 52°22.377'N and 131°14.683'W, thence northwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at

52°24.494’N and 131°15.832’W, and thence following the eastern shoreline to the beginning point. [Suu Kaahlii sda SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Skincuttle Inlet to Burnaby Island)]

11. Poole Inlet: Those waters of Subarea 2-14 south of a line drawn from a point on the shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) in Gid Gwaa GyaaGa GawGa (Poole Inlet) at 52°22.764’N and 131°18.249’W southeasterly across the inlet to a point on the opposite shore at 52°22.505’N and 131°17.665’W. [Gid Gwaa GyaaGa GawGa (Poole Inlet)]

12. Mathieson Inlet to Huxley Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-12 and 2-13 inside a line commencing on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°30.038’N and 131°28.071’W southeasterly to a point on land on Gwaay Guusdagang (All Alone Stone Island) at 52°29.081’N and 131°24.042’W, thence southeasterly to a point on the northern shoreline of Gaaduu Gwaay (Huxley Island) at 52°28.066’N and 131°21.772’W, thence southerly following the western shoreline of Gaaduu Gwaay (Huxley Island) to 52°25.934’N and 131°21.927’W, thence southwesterly to the northern shoreline of GaysiiGas K’iidsii Gwaay (Section Island) at 52°25.435’N and 131°22.425’W, thence westerly following the northern shoreline of GaysiiGas K’iidsii Gwaay (Section Island) to 52°25.460’N and 131°22.513’W, thence northwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°26.039’N and 131°25.343’W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to 52°28.460’N and 131°27.972’W, and thence northerly to the beginning point. [Kuuniisii Xaw GawGa sda Gaaduu Gwaay (Matheson Inlet to Huxley Island)]

13. Juan Perez Sound to Lyell Island: Those waters of Subareas 2-11 and 102-2 inside a line commencing on the eastern shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°42.074’N and 131°26.535’W southeasterly to a point in water at 52°41.070’N and 131°14.485’W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°38.677’N and 131°12.957’W, thence southwesterly to 52°35.106’N and 131°22.254’W, thence following the northern shoreline of Xiina Gwaay.yaay (Ramsay Island) to 52°34.964’N and 131°22.963’W, thence southwesterly following the shoreline to 52°34.116’N and 131°25.603’W, thence southwesterly following the shoreline to 52°33.844’N and 131°26.324’W, thence southwesterly to a point on Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaay.yaay (Marco Island) at 52°31.498’N and 131°30.354’W, thence northwesterly to a point on Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaayts’idaay (Hoskins Islets) at 52°32.405’N and 131°32.946’W, thence following the northern shoreline of Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaayts’idaay (Hoskins Islets) to 52°32.435’N and 131°33.055’W, thence southwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T’aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°32.211’N and 131°34.475’W, thence easterly following the eastern shoreline to 52°32.956’N and 131°37.729’W, thence northeasterly to a point on the shoreline of Kingts’ii Gwaay.yaay (Bischof Islands) at 52°34.143’N and 131°33.379’W, thence easterly following the southeastern shoreline of Kingts’ii Gwaay.yaay (Bischof Islands) to 52°34.340’N and 131°33.098’W, thence northeasterly to a point on an islet at 52°34.530’N and 131°32.890’W, thence northeasterly to a point on the southern shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°35.767’N and 131°32.891’W, and thence easterly and northerly following the shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) to the beginning point. [Gandaawuu.ngaay Xyangs sda Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Juan Perez Sound to Lyell Island)]

14. Darwin Sound: Those waters of Subarea 2-10 inside a line commencing at a point on land on Shuttle Island at 52°40.053’N and 131°42.328’W northeasterly to a point on the western shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°40.466’N and 131°41.105’W, thence southerly following the western shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) to 52°37.301’N and 131°38.800’W, thence northwesterly to a point on land of Gwaay DaaGaaw (Shuttle Island) at 52°38.522’N and 131°41.409’W, and thence following the eastern shoreline of Shuttle Island to the beginning point. [Didxwahxyangs (Darwin Sound)]

15. Klue Passage to Lost Islands: Those waters of Subareas of 2-7 and 2-8 inside a line commencing on a point of the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°48.606'N and 131°39.403'W northeasterly to a point in water at 52°49.405'N and 131° 29.042'W, thence southeasterly to a point in water at 52°48.148'N and 131°28.849'W, thence southwesterly to a point in water at 52°44.898'N and 131°34.035'W, thence northwesterly to 52°45.113'N and 131°34.125'W, thence following the northern shoreline of K'ang.Guu Gwaay.yaay (Kunga Island) to 52°45.220'N and 131°35.574'W, thence southwesterly to a point on T'aanuu Gwaay (Tanu Island) at 52°45.002'N and 131°36.770'W, thence northerly following the eastern shoreline of T'aanuu Gwaay (Tanu Island) to 52°46.725'N and 131°38.878'W, thence northwesterly across to a point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°47.837'N and 131°39.371'W, and thence northerly following the eastern shoreline to the beginning point. [T'aanuu K'aadxwah Xyangs sda Gwaay Xaa'ans (Klue Passage to Lost Islands)]

HARVESTING ON AQUACULTURE TENURES

Under the *Fisheries Act*, fishing within an aquaculture facility already under federal licence (PAR aquaculture licence) is prohibited. The Department recommends that commercial harvesters familiarize themselves with the location of aquaculture tenures in fishing areas.

LICENSING

A British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence is required for the recreational harvest of all species of fish.

CONTROL AND MONITORING OF RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

The recreational harvest of shellfish is regulated via the *British Columbia Sport Fishing Regulations, 1996* made under the *Fisheries Act*. The regulations are summarized in the British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide which lists closed times, daily and possession limits and some closed areas. A copy of the Sport Fishing Guide is available online at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.html

Please also refer to your Tidal Water Sport Fishing Licence which lists important Conditions of Licence restrictions for many species/areas.

Gear

Sea Cucumbers may be harvested by handpicking.

Daily Limits

The daily recreational limit for Sea Cucumbers (*Apostichopus californicus*) is twelve (12).

Possession Limits

Possession limits for Sea Cucumbers are two times the daily limit, twenty-four (24).

Size Limit

There is no size limit for the recreational Sea Cucumber fishery.

Appendix 4: 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber Aquaculture Management Measures

1. MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Current Status of Sea Cucumber Aquaculture Management

DFO is developing a Policy Framework on the Management of Echinoderm Aquaculture in the Marine Environment. This framework is intended to guide echinoderm (i.e., sea urchin and sea cucumber) aquaculture at marine shellfish facilities and ensure that culture activities align with DFO's conservation objectives, regulatory mandates, and reconciliation commitments. Until the framework is completed, DFO will only consider applications for sea cucumber culture with specific infrastructure conditions in the marine environment under the *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations* (PAR).

There are a small number of existing shellfish aquaculture facilities authorized for culture of Sea Cucumber in the marine environment. DFO also licences this species inland-based aquaculture facilities.

The collection of broodstock for hatchery aquaculture purposes is facilitated through an Access to Wild Aquatic Resources licence and a licence from the Introductions and Transfers Committee to permit transfer of broodstock to a hatchery. The Access to Wild Aquatic Resources policy can be found at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/ref/AWAR_e.pdf.

Further information regarding shellfish and freshwater/land-based aquaculture can be obtained from the following website: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/index-eng.htm

Regulatory Regime

The *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations* give DFO the authority to govern the management and regulation of aquaculture activities at marine finfish, shellfish, freshwater/land-based and enhancement facilities. The Province of B.C. continues to have authority over the use of Crown Land in B.C. New applications, amendments and related referrals are coordinated through Front Counter BC. More information is available on the BC government's website: http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/.

DFO approves and issues aquaculture licences.

DFO requires comprehensive environmental monitoring to be undertaken by industry, and the Department also conducts additional monitoring, audits, and investigations (where warranted). Public reporting is undertaken to ensure the transparency and accountability of the management of aquaculture in BC. Associated reporting can be found on the DFO web pages: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/reporting-rapports/index-eng.html.

There are multiple units within the BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program, including those dedicated to aquaculture compliance and monitoring the activities of industry on an on-going basis. The Program provides oversight and works to ensure the orderly management of the industry, including planning and licencing, linkages with national and regional policy, as well as consultation and communications. Contact information for staff with responsibilities related to aquaculture management within DFO can be found in the Departmental Contacts section of this plan.

Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans

Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAPs) provide an overview of each aquaculture sector and associated management and regulation. IMAPs are available on the DFO website: Aquaculture regulations and compliance | Pacific Region | Fisheries and Oceans Canada (dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Appendix 5: Sea Cucumber Post-Season Review for 2025

1. Stock Assessment and Research

There were no new survey results available in 2025. For past survey results and more information, please see Appendices 6 and 7.

DFO Science concluded the long term Experimental Fishing Areas (EFA) project in 2017 due to several changes that compromised the integrity of the experimental design. In 2023, a CSAS research document based on the full EFA timeseries (1998 to 2015) was published, providing the following recommendations:

- A Limit Reference Point (LRP) of 0.029 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat (Hajas et al. 2023). When calculated as linear density, the LRP is 1.20 Sea Cucumbers m^{-1}, however linear density is only provided for context and spatial units are recommended for reference points (Hajas et al. 2023),
- An Upper Stock Reference (USR) of 0.038 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat. When calculated as linear density, the USR is 1.95 Sea Cucumbers m^{-1} however, linear density is only provided for context and spatial units are recommended for the reference points (Hajas et al. 2023), and
- Updated annual and rotational harvest rates using data from all the years of the EFA (1998 to 2015). Annual harvest rates should not exceed the range of 2.0 to 8.0% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, with the caveat that the upper ranges may only be appropriate for highly productive areas. Triennial harvest amounts should not exceed the range of 5.7 to 18.8% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, with the caveat that the upper ranges may only be appropriate for highly productive areas. Recommended harvest amounts for different rotational increments were also provided.

This research document was published on the CSAS website in 2023.

> Hajas, W., Hansen, C., and Lochead, J. 2023. Updated Reference Points and Harvest Options for the Giant Red Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*) Fishery in British Columbia using data from Experimental Fishing Areas. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Res. Doc. 2023/020. vii + 58 p.

The associated Science Advisory Report was published on the CSAS website in 2022:

> DFO. 2022. Updated reference points and harvest options for the Giant Red Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*) fishery in British Columbia using data from experimental fishing areas. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Rep. 2022/051.

For more information please contact Science branch personnel (see contacts in Appendix 17).

DFO Science is also working on the development of a coast wide multispecies monitoring program. The objective of the program is to collect the data necessary to assess stock status against reference points. Recommendations on survey design underwent a CSAS peer-review process and were published in a CSAS research document in 2023 (see below). The Science Advisory Report was published on the CSAS website in 2023 (see below). Recommendations have since been implemented and the survey time series was initiated in 2023.

Lochead, J., Schwarz, C.J., Rooper, C., and Bureau, D. 2023. Recommendations on the design of a Multispecies Benthic Marine Invertebrate Dive Survey Program for Stock Monitoring in British Columbia. Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Res. Doc. 2023/031. ix + 99p.

DFO. 2023. Recommendations on the Design of a Multispecies Benthic Marine Invertebrate Dive Survey Program for Stock Monitoring. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Advis. Rep. 2023/003.

2. First Nations Fishery

Catch information is collected by some First Nations, by fisheries program personnel or by Band administration offices. DFO is working on initiatives to receive, store and manage shellfish FSC harvest information.

3. Recreational Fishery

No advice or comments were received from the recreational sector in 2025/26. The amount of Sea Cucumbers harvested by the recreational sector is unknown but is believed to be minimal.

4. Commercial Fishery

Sea Cucumber Research Subcommittee Meeting

A Sea Cucumber Research Subcommittee Meeting was held on April 10, 2025 via Microsoft Teams online chat. Representatives from DFO (Resource Management and Science), the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA), Ha'oom Fisheries Society, Kyuquot First Nation, Kitkatla First Nation, Ahousaht First Nation, Nisga'a Nation and Tsawout First Nation participated. Key issues discussed included: Phase 2 fishery progress to date, possible areas to reopen and biomass surveys for 2025 and an update from DFO Science.

Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee Meeting

The annual Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee meeting was held on June 19, 2025 via a Microsoft Teams online chat. Representatives from DFO (Resource Management and Science), the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA), D&D Pacific Fisheries, Ehattesaht First Nation and Nisga'a Nation participated. Key issues discussed included: a review of the 2024 season, the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan timeline for 2025/26 and proposed fishing areas for the 2025 season.

Meeting records from previous Sectoral Committee and Research Subcommittee meetings are available from a resource manager (see contacts, Appendix 17).

Overview of the 2025 season

The 2025 season was the third year of the fifth application of the 3-year Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS) that began in 2011.

The fishery opened on October 1, 2025. Approximately 98% of the TAC was achieved by November 26, 2025. 83 of the 85 licences were active and were fished by 28 vessels. Two FZD tabs were not issued to First Nations organizations and remained in DFO PICFI inventory for the 2025 season.

North Coast Licence Area

The North Coast licence area opened on October 1, 2025 for the Klemtu fleet in portions of Management Area 6. The main fleet started harvest on October 7, 2025 in portion of Management

Area 6 and worked through the QMAs sequentially northwards and finished on October 28, 2025 in Management Area 5. The Klemtu fleet finished on October 10, 2025. A total of 15 vessels fished and the licence area was open for a total of 30 fishing days. 33 licence eligibilities were assigned to the North Coast licence area in 2025. 100% of the TAC was achieved for the North Coast licence area. Sea Cucumbers were landed in Prince Rupert and Klemtu in 2025. The licence area was closed on October 30, 2025.

Quota Management Area	**Open**	**Close**	**Days Fished**	**Number of Vessels**
5E Anger Island	Oct 16	Oct 25	5	11
5F Principe North	Oct 16	Oct 30	6	4
5G Principe South	Oct 14	Oct 16	2	12
6A Gil Island	Oct 7	Oct 11	4	13
6C Trutch Island	Oct 11	Oct 14	3	13
6E Princess Royal Channel	Oct 1	Oct 10	5	2
6F West Aristazabal	Oct 1	Oct 3	2	2
6J Surf Inlet	Oct 1	Oct 4	1	2
6L Tolmie Channel	Oct 1	Oct 10	3	1

Central Coast Licence Area

The central coast licence area opened on October 1, 2025. The Klemtu fleet started harvest on October 11, 2025 in Management Area 7. The main fleet started fishing on October 15, 2025 in Management Area 7 and moved southward, fished QMAs sequentially and finished in Management Area 9 on November 11, 2025. A total of 14 vessels fished and the licence area was open for a total of 33 fishing days. 29 licence eligibilities were assigned to the Central Coast licence area in 2025. 100% of the TAC was achieved for the Central Coast licence area. Sea Cucumbers were landed in Port Hardy and Klemtu in 2025. The Central Coast licence area closed on November 13, 2025.

Quota Management Area	**Open**	**Close**	**Days Fished**	**Number of Vessels**
7G Sheep Channel	Oct 1	Oct 22	2	2
7H Upper Mathieson	Oct 1	Oct 28	5	1

7I Lower Mathieson	Oct 1	Oct 17	3	2
7L Roscoe Inlet	Oct 14	Oct 19	4	9
7N Finlayson North	Oct 1	Oct 22	2	2
7O Finlayson South	Oct 1	Oct 14	3	2
7P Milbanke Sound	Oct 1	Oct 14	1	2
7Q Seaforth Channel	Oct 20	Oct 28	4	10
7R Queens Sound North	Oct 22	Oct 28	3	9
7S Queens Sound South	Oct 28	Oct 30	1	10
8C Spider/Kildidt	Oct 30	Nov 3	3	10
9B South Rivers Inlet	Nov 3	Nov 13	6	11

South Coast Inside Waters

The South Coast Inside Waters (SCIW) licence area opened on October 1, 2025. Harvest started on October 14, 2025 in A total of 7 vessels fished and the licence area was open for a total of 31 fishing days. 18 licence eligibilities were assigned to the South Coast Inside Waters licence area in 2025. Fallback Quota in QMA 16C was utilized. The TAC was 95% completed in the SCIW licence area in 2025 and it closed on November 27, 2025.

Quota Management Area	**Open**	**Close**	**Days Fished**	**Number of Vessels**
12G SW QC Strait	Oct 14	Oct 30	3	6
12H Turnour Island	Oct 23	Oct 30	5	6
12I Gilford Island North	Oct 16	Oct 30	8	7
15A West Redonda Island	Oct 29	Nov 7	1	1
15B East Redonda Island	Oct 29	Nov 27	1	1
15C South Desolation	Oct 29	Nov 27	1	1
16A Sechelt Inlet	Nov 5	Nov 9	3	2
16B Jervis Inlet	Nov 5	Nov 27	2	1
16D Lasqueti Island	Oct 29	Nov 27	2	1

17A North Nanaimo/Nanoose	Oct 29	Nov 27	3	1
18A Gulf Islands South	Oct 1	Nov 27	2	1

West Coast of Vancouver Island Licence Area

The West Coast of Vancouver Island licence area opened on October 1, 2025. 5 licence eligibilities were assigned to the WCVI licence area in 2025. The TAC was fished by 5 vessels throughout the course of the season. The TAC was 80% completed in the WCVI licence area in 2025 and it closed on November 7, 2025.

Quota Management Area	**Open**	**Close**	**Days Fished**	**Number of Vessels**
24B South Clayoquot	Oct 1	Oct 14	5	2
24C Sydney/Shelter Inlets	Oct 1	Oct 14	7	3
25A Nootka/Tahsis	Oct 1	Nov 7	3	2
25B Muchalat/Tlupana	Oct 1	Nov 7	8	3

Issues encountered during the 2025 season

In the North Coast Licence Area:

No issues reported

In the Central Coast Licence Area:

No issues reported.

In the South Coast Inside Waters Licence Area:

One ECVI licence eligibility was not fished in 2025 and as a result the licence area quota was not completed.

In the West Coast Vancouver Island Licence Area:

One WCVI licence eligibility was not fished in 2025 and as a result the licence area quota was not completed.

5. 2025 Harvest Questionnaire Results

DFO Fisheries Management included a harvest questionnaire with the 2025 harvest logbook with the hopes that harvesters would take time to record any observations they may have had on each QMA they harvested.

4 questionnaires were submitted.

On-grounds observations from each QMA are extremely helpful and will be considered in management decisions.

6. Compliance

In general compliance with the catch validation program and other management programs was considered good. The majority of non-compliance issues are dealt with during the course of the fishery by the service provider, fishery officers or fishery managers.

Table 1. History of Management Actions for the Commercial Sea Cucumber Fishery

Year	Management Actions
1971	Commercial exploitation of Sea Cucumbers began in British Columbia (the first landings were recorded)
1980	Fishery began as an experimental fishery
1985	Fishery licensed under category "Z-D"
1986	First quotas in round pounds and pieces.
1987	Area quotas and time and area openings set for management of the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery
1989	A consultative process, which included the Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee, was initiated and is a major part of the planning for the commercial fishery
1989	Designated vessels must have a vessel survey on record with the Pacific Fishery Licence Unit
1991	Licence limitation to a total of 85
1993	Rotational fishery began to reduce the impacts of harvest by allowing a two year recovery period between openings
	Reduced quotas in south coast areas to address conservation concerns
	The Department and the Kitasoo Fisheries Program developed a survey methodology for Sea Cucumbers, based on the protocol used in Alaska, and conducted multiple transect surveys to determine optimal sampling frequency
1995	First year of DFO-sanctioned IQ program (2 year pilot program of IVQ's). Individual quota (IQ) set to 6049 lb.
	Dockside monitors began to conduct product-weight surveys to estimate the average weight of Sea Cucumbers, by geographical area
	Quota overage not permitted
1996	150 lb. Quota overage permitted
1997	Introduction of adaptive management plan - 25% coast open, 25% coast for research, 50% coast closed for long term.
	Baseline precautionary TAC established
	200 lb. Quota overage permitted (through until 2009)
1998	Survey in Area 7; IQ increase to 7150 lb.
1999	Survey in Area 6; IQ increase to 9,000 lb.
2000	On-grounds communication through voluntary industry representatives facilitates the transmission of information (continued through 2011)
	Survey in Area 12; IQ increase to 9,600 lb.
2001	Survey in Area 6 and 24; IQ increase to 10,000 lb.
2002	Survey in Area 8; IQ increase to 11,000 lb.
	Doubling of the baseline density estimate used to calculated the TAC in un-surveyed open fishery areas, from 2.5 to 5.08 Sea Cucumbers per metre of shoreline
	Re-survey in Area 7
2003	Licence stacking allowed to a maximum of 5 active licences per vessel
	Survey in Area 6 and new PSARC paper on BC data - large increase in available TAC; PSCHA chose to take only a small increase, so as to not flood markets; IQ increase to 13,500 lb.
2004	Survey in Area 12; IQ kept the same as markets not wanting more product at this time.

2005	Survey in Area 6 and 24; TAC decreased from 2004, but still room to increase IQ as full allocation was not taken in previous years. IQ increase to 15,225 lb.
	Experimental fisheries were designated and implemented on the Central Coast
2006	Experimental fisheries were designated and implemented on the west coast of Vancouver Island
	Survey in Areas 7 and 8. Decrease in densities from 2002 survey, IQ decrease to 14,615 lb.
2007	Survey in Area 6. No change in IQ.
	Re-survey in Areas 7 and 8
2008	Five new Quota Management Areas (QMAs) created (these include PFMAs 9, 10 and new portions of PFMA's 7, 12 and 13). Within these new QMA zones, designation of "no take zones" where no commercial cucumber harvesting will be permitted and Area Quota reductions occurred in QMA's 8A and 13B in exchange for the opening of new QMA's. Large QMAs in the north and central coast were split into smaller QMAs in order to prepare for a rotational style fishery and to spread out harvester effort.
	All survey data reviewed and baseline densities were calculated by Region. This resulted in baseline densities of 6.0, 4.1 and 1.9 Sea Cucumbers per metre of shoreline for the North Coast, East Coast Vancouver Island and West Coast Vancouver Island respectively.
2009	Four new QMA's created including PFMAs 3, 4 and new portions of PFMA 12. Several existing QMAs were rotated out of and fishing effort moved to the new QMAs.
2010	Three new QMA's created in PFMA 3. Several existing QMAs were rotated out of and fishing effort moved to the new QMAs.
2011	Adaptive Rotational Fishery Strategy put into place: Each QMA will be harvested once every three years. A precautionary harvest rate of10% will be applied to all QMAs once every three years (equivalent to a 3.3% annual harvest rate). The WCVI QMAs will retain the 4.2% harvest rate. Five new QMAs created in PFMAs 3, 6, 16 and 18. Subareas were added to QMA 12C. No-Take Zones created in PFMAs 6, 16 and 18. Commercial TAC was increased from 1.24 million pounds to 1.36 million pounds (an increase of approximately 9.5%).
2012	Year 2 of the 2011-2013 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. In year 2 the WCVI QMAs were not harvested. Eight new QMAs created in PFMAs 2, 11, 15 and 16. No-Take Zones created in PFMAs 11, 15 and 16. The commercial TAC remained at 1.36 million pounds. The licence stacking limit was waived as a pilot program for the 2012 season.
2013	Year 3 of the 2011-2013 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. The WCVI licence area was returned to an annual style fishery as requested by the PSCHA. No new QMAs reopened in 2013 due in most part to DFO Science's transition from Larocque Relief Funding to Industry Funding for Sea Cucumber surveys. As a result of this transition, Sea Cucumber surveys were not completed in time to be included in the 2013 IFMP. The licence stacking limit was waived as a pilot program for the 2013 season. The transferable overage amount was raised from 200 lb. per licence to 500 lb. per licence.
2014	Year 1 of the 2014-2016 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. A new QMA was created in portion of Management Area 6 and several large QMAs were split into smaller QMAs. The commercial TAC remained at 1.36 million pounds. 3 new Commercial No-Take Reserves (previously known as No-Take Zones) and 3 new closures for First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) purposes were created. Harvest questionnaires were added as an insert to the harvest logbook in order to get on-grounds observations from harvesters. Licence stacking limit was waived once again.
2015	Year 2 of the 2014-2016 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. New QMAs were created in portions of Management Area 6 and 11 and one large QMA in Management Area 6 was split into two smaller QMAs. 1 new CNTR and fisheries management closure was created in Management Area 6 as the result of discussions with the Haisla First Nation. The requirement to fill out a separate harvest logbook page for every Subarea fished was waived. The licence stacking limit was waived indeterminately. The commercial TAC remained at 1.36 million pounds. Harvest questionnaires were added as an insert to the harvest logbook once again.
2016	Year 3 of the 2014 to 2016 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. New QMA created in Management Area 23. 2 large QMAs in Management Area 7 were split into smaller QMAs. A diesel spill occurred in the Central Coast licence area in October 2016 and led to a closure of the commercial fishery in the Seaforth Channel and lower Mathieson Channel areas for the remainder of the 2016 season. The fishery was reopened in January 2017 in the ECVI licence area to allow those with quota remaining in the Central Coast to finish their Individual Quota.
2017	Year 1 of the 2017 to 2019 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. New QMA created in Management Area 12. Large QMA in Management Area 12 was split into 3 smaller QMAs. The commercial TAC remained at 1.36 million pounds. Harvest questionnaires were added as an insert to the harvest logbook once again.
2018	Year 2 of the 2017 to 2019 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. Large QMAs in Management Areas 5, 7 and 9 were split into smaller QMAs.

2019	Year 3 of the 2017 to 2019 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. Changes made to the boundary between QMA 11D and 11E.
2020	Year 1 of the 2020 to 2022 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. The coastwide TAC was dropped from 1.36 million pounds to 1.275 million pounds at the request of the PSCHA due to concerns about how the pandemic might have impacted overseas markets. A large QMA in Management Area 8 was split into two smaller QMAs. Four new QMAs were created in Management Areas 7 and 25. Several QMAs in the North Coast and Central Coast licence areas were moved from a rotational harvest strategy to an annual harvest strategy.
2021	Year 2 of the 2020 to 2022 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. The coastwide TAC was returned to 1.36 million pounds in 2021 after being temporarily reduced in 2020 due to the pandemic. Boundary changes were made to several QMAs in 2021. QMA 6D was split into 6J and 6K, QMA 7B was split into 7P and 7Q and QMA 12A was split into 12M, 12N and 12O. A new QMA was created in Management Area 26.
2022	Year 3 of the 2020 to 2022 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. QMA 7E was split into QMAs 7R and 7S.
2023	Year 1 of the 2023 to 2025 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. Two new QMAs were created in Management Areas 23 (QMA 23A Ucluelet/Pipestem) and 28 (28A Howe Sound). QMA 12J was split into QMAs 12P and 12Q.
2024	Year 2 of the 2023 to 2025 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. A new QMA was created in Management Area 6 (6L Tolmie Channel). The name of the East Coast of Vancouver Island (ECVI) Licence Area was changed to South Coast Inside Waters (SCIW) in order to reflect that the fishery no longer takes place only on the ECVI but on the mainland side as well.
2025	Year 3 of the 2023 to 2025 Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy. Two new QMAs were created in Management Areas 24 (QMA 24C Shelter/Sidney Inlets) and 17 (QMA 17A North Nanaimo/Nanoose).

Table 1 **Annual sea cucumber landings (split lb.), value and effort for British Columbia, 1983 to 2025 as reported on Validation and Harvest Logs. Since 2002, harvest logs have provided the best estimate of catch and fish slips are no longer used.**

Year		Licences Issued	# Vessels	Quota Split (lb)	Quota Split (t)	Landings Split (lb)[1]	Landings Split (t)[1]	$/lb	$/kg	Calculated Value ($)	Dive Time (hours)	Effort (lb/hr)
1983			16			969,850	439.9	0.27	0.59	260,068	855.4	1,133.8
1984			12			175,980	79.8	0.29	0.63	50,210	210.1	837.6
1985		Z 40	17			490,203	222.4	0.34	0.75	165,786	498.3	983.8
1986		Z 63	39	1,211,319	549.5	1,229,894	557.9	0.37	0.82	457,265	1,516.7	810.9
1987		Z 151	63	1,211,319	549.5	2,553,457	1,158.2	0.55	1.22	1,410,274	3,365.5	758.7
1988		Z 160	97	1,211,319	549.5	3,307,134	1,500.1	0.63	1.40	2,097,264	4,387.9	753.7
1989		Z 245	115	646,037	293.0	1,873,628	849.9	0.97	2.15	1,823,526	2,787.4	672.2
1990		Z 215	132	646,037	293.0	1,556,729	706.1	1.66	3.67	2,588,095	3,157.3	493.1
1991		Z 78	108	646,037	293.0	1,158,535	525.5	0.95	2.10	1,101,823	2,538.2	456.4
1992		Z 84	102	646,037	293.0	1,079,033	489.4	1.19	2.62	1,280,543	2,091.3	516.0
1993		Z 84	102	524,695	238.0	705,322	319.9	1.50	3.30	1,056,251	1,726.3	408.6
1994	5, 6	Z 85	77	464,068	210.5	480,816	218.1	2.31	5.08	1,108,516	1,189.0	404.4
1995	7	Z 85	47	514,165	233.2	479,040	217.3	2.01	4.43	961,733	1,315.4	364.2
1996		Z 85	45	514,165	233.2	530,748	240.7	2.22	4.88	1,175,858	1,204.9	440.5
1997		Z 85	41	514,165	233.2	506,736	229.9	2.01	4.43	1,017,786	1,300.3	389.7
1998		Z 85	41	607,750	275.7	608,963	276.2	1.79	3.95	1,090,880	1,518.7	401.0
1999		Z 85	39	765,000	347.0	766,857	347.8	2.51	5.52	1,921,135	1,959.4	391.4
2000		Z 85	34	816,000	370.1	819,833	371.9	2.75	6.07	2,255,868	2,119.5	386.8
2001		Z 85	32	850,000	385.6	841,491	381.7	2.04	4.50	1,717,805	2,100.4	400.6
2002		Z 85	33	935,000	424.1	928,818	421.3	1.91	4.21	1,775,601	2,289.9	405.6
2003		Z 85	32	1,147,500	520.5	1,148,040	520.7	1.85	4.09	2,127,643	2,730.0	420.5
2004		Z 85	31	1,149,217	521.3	1,149,217	521.3	2.41	5.31	2,769,613	2,569.9	447.2
2005		Z 85	33	1,295,833	587.8	1,295,833	587.8	2.48	5.48	3,218,661	3,135.5	413.3
2006		Z 85	33	1,242,307	563.5	1,240,643	562.8	2.13	4.69	2,639,895	3,167.4	391.7
2007		Z 85	31	1,242,307	563.5	1,245,456	564.9	1.97	4.35	2,457,969	3,411.4	365.1
2008		Z 85	28	1,242,275	563.5	1,244,650	564.6	2.30	5.07	2,863,658	3,374.7	368.8
2009		Z85	28	1,242,275	563.5	1,245,556	565.0	2.59	5.72	3,230,660	3,173.5	392.5
2010	9	Z85	30	1,242,275	563.5	1,250,885	567.4	3.50	7.72	4,378,098	3,141.3	398.2
2011	9	Z85	33	1,360,000	616.9	1,362,865	618.2	5.50	12.13	7,495,758	3,946.3	345.4
2012	9	Z85	30	1,360,000	616.9	1,356,166	615.2	5.25	11.57	7,119,872	4,293.1	315.9
2013	9	Z85	32	1,360,000	616.9	1,357,541	615.8	5.00	11.02	6,787,705	3,621.9	374.8
2014	9	Z85	30	1,360,000	616.9	1,363,468	618.5	5.00	11.02	6,817,340	4,064.4	335.5
2015	9	Z85	32	1,360,000	616.9	1,366,641	619.9	5.50	12.13	7,516,526	3,883.0	352.0
2016	9, 10	Z85	31	1,360,000	616.9	1,365,028	619.2	6.00	13.23	8,190,168	4,001.5	341.1
2017	9, 10	Z84	31	1,360,000	616.9	1,348,526	611.7	8.00	17.64	10,788,208	4,294.9	314.0
2018	9	Z85	35	1,360,000	616.9	1,363,918	618.7	9.50	20.94	12,957,221	4,127.3	330.5
2019	9	Z85	35	1,360,000	616.9	1,365,913	619.6	9.50	20.94	12,976,174	4,079.6	334.8
2020	9	Z85	31	1,275,000	578.3	1,277,274	579.4	9.00	19.84	11,495,466	4,261.0	299.8
2021	9, 12	Z83	31	1,360,000	616.9	1,334,139	605.2	9.00	19.84	12,007,251	4,191.1	318.3
2022	9, 12	Z83	31	1,360,000	616.9	1,333,478	604.9	9.00	19.84	12,001,302	3,914.0	340.7
2023	9, 12	Z83	30	1,360,000	616.9	1,334,025	605.1	9.00	19.84	12,006,225	3,885.0	343.4
2024*	9, 12	Z83	27	1,360,000	616.9	1,334,289	605.2	9.00	19.84	12,008,601		
2025*	9, 12	Z83	28	1,360,000	616.9	1,332,396	604	9.00	19.84	11,991,564		

1 Quota, landings and CPUE for 1986 to 1991 were reported in round weight. Quota, landings and CPUE are all converted to split weight. Conversion factor of 2.73 (round to split weight) used.
2 Number of pieces calculated from standardized wet weight per sea cucumber, 1.4 lb (0.635 kg).
5 Quota was reduced by 27.5 t split weight due to overages in the 1992 Inside Waters fishery.
6 A reported 20,255 lb were spoiled and dumped - it is not known if they are included in this landing record.
7 Total # active vessels does not equal # vessels per area as several vessels harvested quotas in 2 fishing areas and have been counted twice.
8 Figures preliminary - extrapolated from validation logs.
9 Price information estimated by the President of the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association. Fish slip data no longer available.
10 Part of 2016 TAC achieved in January and February of 2017 due to environmental incident. 53,195 lbs moved from 2017 landings to 2016 landings to reflect this.
11 TAC reduced at the request of the PSCHA due to market impacts from COVID-19 global pandemic.
12 Two licences held in DFO inventory so not issued
* **Data Preliminary**

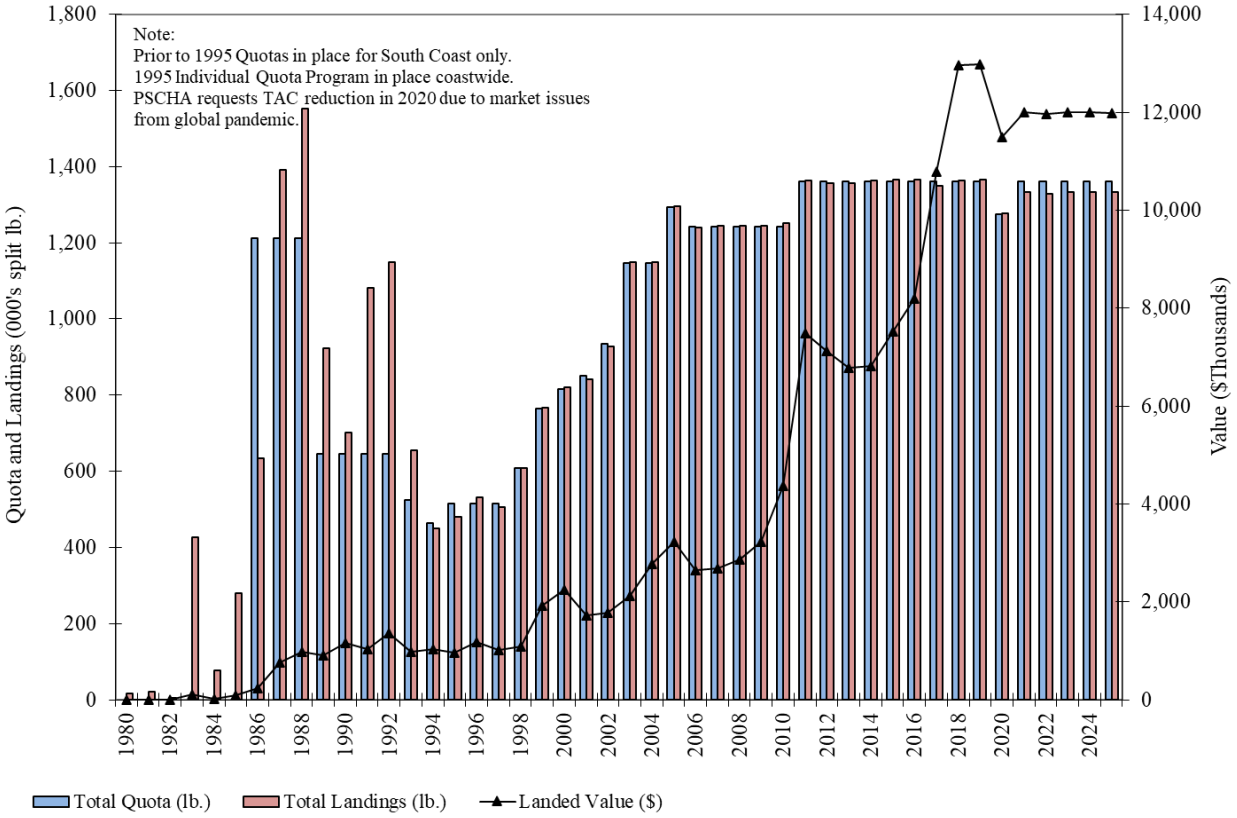


Figure 1. Annual Sea Cucumber applied quota, landings (split lb.) and value for British Columbia, 1980 to 2025. Note: 1983 to 1994 Landings from fish slips. 1995 to date landings from harvest logs. Annual value calculated using harvest log landings and fish slip price per pound. Value from 2010 onwards is calculated using harvest logs and average price information from the PSCHA.

Appendix 6: Management Measures for the Commercial Sea Cucumber Fishery – 2026/2027

The purpose of this section is to bring all the management measures currently in use for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery into one document. More information on many of the topics below can be found throughout the IFMP and Commercial Harvest Plan (Appendix 1).

1. SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT REGIME

The current management regime is based on recommendations from the following peer-reviewed scientific papers:

An Evaluation of Fishery and Research Data Collected during the Phase 1 Sea Cucumber Fishery in British Columbia (Hand et al. 2009).
http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/publications/resdocs-docrech/2008/2008_065-eng.htm

Assessment Framework for Sea Cucumber (*Parastichopus californicus*) in British Columbia (Duprey et al. 2011)
http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ResDocs-DocRech/2010/2010_105-eng.html

Updated Reference Points and Harvest Options for the Giant Red Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*) Fishery in British Columbia using data from Experimental Fishing Areas (Hajas et al. 2023).
https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41109211.pdf

There are a number of other important scientific papers that have contributed to our knowledge of Sea Cucumbers and to the current management regime. Please see section 12 in the IFMP for a full list of references.

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO CONTROL HARVEST EFFORT

2.1. Limited Entry Licensing

Licence limitation was implemented in 1991 in order to control fishing effort. There are currently 85 licence eligibilities for the commercial fishery.

2.2. Area Licensing

Area licensing is a measure put in place to spread harvest effort over a wide geographic area. Every year each of the 85 licence eligibilities is assigned to one of five geographic areas: West Coast of Vancouver Island (Areas 23 to 26), South Coast Inside Waters (Areas 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 28), Central Coast (Areas 7, 8, 9 and 10), North Coast (Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6) and Haida Gwaii (Area 2). The number of licences that can be accommodated in each licence area is dependent on the quota available for an area in any given year. The PSCHA advises Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding annual licence area selections by providing a list of licence holders and their desired licence area. If the licence requests for a given area cannot be accommodated by the quota available in the area, discussions with the PSCHA occur to move licences to areas where there is sufficient

quota. If the PSCHA is unable to provide advice regarding the licence area selections, the Department will determine area designation through a process of voluntary placement and lottery for over-subscribed areas.

2.3. Quota Management Areas

The commercial fishery is managed in units called Quota Management Areas (QMA). QMAs are comprised of entire Pacific Fishery Management Subareas, or in combination with portions of Subareas. QMAs are much smaller than licence areas and are used to further spread fishing effort within each licence area. Each QMA has a name, e.g. 4A West Dundas Island, and is assigned a quota. For a complete list of QMAs please see Appendix 9.

3. MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO CONTROL HARVEST

3.1. Total Allowable Catch

The amount of Sea Cucumbers harvested commercially in B.C. is limited by a Coast-wide Total Allowable Catch (CTAC). Two percent of the CTAC is reserved, for planning purposes, for First Nations use for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes. The commercial TAC has been fixed at 1.36 million pounds since 2011 (with the exception of a small decrease in 2020 due to a global pandemic and a similar decrease in 2026 due to impacts from Chinese tariffs). See section 4 for information on how the commercial TAC is calculated.

3.2. Individual Quota Program

Each of the 85 licence eligibilities is assigned 1/85 of the commercial TAC as an Individual Quota (IQ). The use of IQs in the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery has resulted in a more orderly fishery, a safer fishery, has given the industry more flexibility in opening times and locations, and allows the Department to better meet conservation goals.

3.3. Area Quotas

In conjunction with area licensing, the commercial TAC is divided into licence area quotas. The licence area quota is directly related to the number of licences allocated to each licence area. The commercial TAC is further divided into QMA quotas which are based on biomass estimates provided by DFO Science.

4. CALCULATION OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH

Transect surveys are conducted, following the Sea Cucumber Open Survey protocol (Duprey et al. 2011), to estimate the density and biomass of Sea Cucumber populations. The survey results are used to calculate annual CTAC. Quota is calculated for each PFM Subarea as follows:

Quota = ER * PDE * SL * ASW

Where:

ER = Exploitation Rate (Harvest Rate)

The Exploitation Rates (ER) applied in the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery are considered precautionary as they are in the lower 0.01 quantile range of model results and recommendations documented in Hajas et al. (2023). Hajas et al. (2023) recommends an annual ER within the range of 2.0 to 8.0% of estimated pre-harvest biomass, with the caveat that upper ranges may only be appropriate for highly productive areas. An annual rate of between 2.2 and 4.2% is applied to QMAs that are fished annually.

As per the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy, a rate of approximately 10% is applied to most QMAs once every three years, which is within the triennial range recommended in Hajas et al. (2023).

PDE = Precautionary Density Estimate

The Precautionary Density Estimate (PDE) is a linear density estimate of the number of Sea Cucumbers per metre of shoreline (c/m-sh). In many areas of the coast surveys have been completed in order to establish Subarea-specific density estimates. Many of the Subareas open throughout the Phase 1 fishery have not yet been surveyed and as such, continue to use a baseline PDE.

The Precautionary Density Estimate (PDE) used in quota calculations depends on whether or not survey information is available for a given Subarea. The PDE by Subarea is selected based on the following conventions:

a) <u>For Subareas that have been surveyed:</u>
   - Use the lower 90 percent confidence limit of estimated density for shoreline classified as 'protected'.
   - Use 2.5 c/m-sh or survey estimate if lower for shoreline classified as 'exposed'.
   - Use 0 c/m-sh for shoreline classified as 'very exposed'.

b) <u>For Subareas that have not been surveyed:</u>
   - Use a regional baseline density estimate for shoreline classified as 'protected': 6.0 c/m-sh for North Coast and Central Coast licence areas, 4.1 c/m-sh for the South Coast Inside Waters licence area and 1.9 c/m-sh for the West Coast of Vancouver Island.
   - Use 2.5 c/m-sh or baseline density estimate if lower for shoreline classified as 'exposed'.
   - Use 0 c/m-sh for shoreline classified as 'very exposed'.

Regional baseline density estimates for non-surveyed Subareas were calculated in Duprey et al. (2011) from all available survey data at the time. The lowest 90% CB calculated for any surveyed Subarea within a Region was used as the baseline density estimate for non-surveyed Subareas in that Region.

Sea Cucumbers deeper than 15 metres are not included in density estimates. These deeper Sea Cucumber stocks likely act as an additional spawning reserve.

Only Sea Cucumbers larger than 15cm are included in density estimates. Sea Cucumbers less than 15 cm in length are considered to be juveniles. Sea Cucumber harvesters generally target larger animals as they are preferred by Sea Cucumber processors. Appendix 7 shows the most recent PDEs used to calculate the CTAC.

SL = Shoreline Length

In 1996 the shoreline length used to calculate Sea Cucumber quota was estimated using a raster-based GIS system. Although vector-based GIS and more accurate basemaps have become available over time, the original raster-based measurements are still used in quota calculation since they are more precautionary. Vector-based GIS measurements of shoreline are approximately 10% longer than raster-based measurements (Duprey et al. 2011).

Shoreline length estimates for non-navigable areas, unsuitable habitat and areas that were open during the Phase 1 fishery but not fished are excluded from quota calculations.

Shoreline used to calculate quota is classified according to exposure (Duprey et al. 2011) and different precautionary density estimates are applied to each exposure classification. Three types of exposure are used to classify shoreline: Protected, Exposed and Very Exposed.

ASW = Average Split Weight

Average Split Weight (ASW) is used in the calculation of the commercial TAC. ASW by Subarea is determined using biological sample data obtained during Open Surveys. For Subareas that lack survey data, the most conservative estimate of mean weight within the same PFMA is used when calculating biomass. Appendix 7 shows the most recent ASW estimates used to calculate the CTAC.

How Allocated Commercial Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is Calculated:

Two percent of the CTAC is reserved, for planning purposes, for First Nations use for FSC purposes. The amount of quota available for commercial harvest (available commercial quota) is calculated by subtracting the two percent FSC set aside amount from the CTAC. The PSCHA has requested that IQs remain equal coastwide and that the IQ amount remain at the same level each season if possible. In order to address this request, a harvest strategy has been set for each of the Sea Cucumber QMAs under the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS - see Appendix 14) to ensure there is enough available commercial quota to allow for a consistent IQ of 16,000 pounds (split weight) each season within each ARFS cycle. The allocated commercial Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is calculated by multiplying the number of commercial licences by the IQ amount. The amount of available commercial quota generally exceeds the amount of TAC needed so there is usually quota left unallocated. Unallocated available commercial quota may be made available to harvesters as fallback quota (see Appendix 14 for more information on fallback quota).

Available Commercial Quota = CTAC – (CTAC * 0.02 FSC Set-aside).

IQ for the 2023 to 2025 ARFS cycle = 16,000 pounds (split)

Allocated Commercial Quota (TAC) = IQ * 85 licences

Fallback Quota (unallocated quota) = Available Commercial Quota – TAC

5. OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES

5.1. Catch Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

The Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) is a catch verification (validation) program designed to monitor, record and verify all Sea Cucumbers harvested in the commercial fishery. A DMP is required to ensure proper management and control of the IQ program. Third party validation of all catch is required at the first point of landing.

Commercial harvesters are responsible for keeping an accurate record of their daily harvest operations in a harvest logbook and a record of each location fished by each diver on a harvest chart. Additional harvest information is collected from fish slips. Harvest data are submitted to DFO for use in the proper assessment, management and control of the Sea Cucumber fishery. For more details see Section 3 in Appendix 1 and Appendix 15.

5.2. Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy

An adaptive management regime called the Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS) is in place for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery. Adaptive management allows flexibility when new information becomes available. In the case of the ARFS it is especially important to be flexible since the reopening process is not yet complete. New information is continually becoming available, often from new surveys or from research projects. Advice received from commercial harvesters is also an important piece of information that is considered in the management of the fishery.

A rotational-style fishery has been adopted for a number of reasons. There are possible conservation advantages such as a higher average Sea Cucumber size and higher densities of spawning adults which may lead to a higher number of Sea Cucumbers within harvest areas. The logistical advantages include concentrating harvest into smaller areas that reduces travel costs and the cost of staffing multiple offloading ports.

Not all QMAs are equally productive and may benefit from different harvest strategies. A three-year rotational cycle seems to seems to work well for most QMAs but an annual harvest strategy or other rotational periods seems to seem to work better for some QMAs. Sea Cucumber size and fishery logistics are other factors considered when deciding a harvest strategy for each QMA.

For more information on the ARFS please see Appendix 14.

5.3. Survey Requirement for all Re-opened Areas

As of 2009, each Subarea considered for reopening as part of the Phase 2 fishery/Reopening Process, must be surveyed first. This is to ensure that there are commercially harvestable densities of Sea Cucumbers present and that quotas are precautionary and based on biological information.

5.4. Minimum Density Threshold

All Subareas considered to reopen for commercial harvest as part of the Phase 2 fishery (Re-opening Process) must have a precautionary density estimate (based on survey information) of at least 2.5 Sea Cucumbers per metre of shoreline. The minimum density threshold is for areas that have been surveyed and that were closed for the Phase 1 fishery only. Sea Cucumber populations in areas closed during the Phase 1 fishery are considered to be at a ‘virgin’ state as they have not been harvested in fifteen or more years.

Since 2008 a number of Subareas that have been open since the start of the Phase 1 fishery have been surveyed for the first time. A few of these Subareas have had density estimates below 2.5 cucumbers per metre of shoreline. In these cases the minimum density threshold does not apply since these Subareas have been open throughout the Phase 1 fishery. Since their 'virgin' biomass is unknown, it is not possible to ascertain whether the low density is due to harvest, or due to some other factor. A low density is not necessarily an indication of overharvest, as it is likely that some areas are naturally more productive than others. Phase 1 fishery Subareas with low densities are examined on a case-by case basis. Often harvest information is queried to look at harvest levels in the area over time and in all cases observations and advice from the PSCHA is requested.

5.5. Limit Reference Point and Upper Stock Reference

A main aspect of the Precautionary Approach is the use of reference points and stock status zones. A Limit Reference Point (LRP) of 0.029 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat was recommended. When calculated as linear density, the LRP is 1.20 Sea Cucumbers m^{-1}, however, linear density is only provided for context and spatial units are recommended for the reference points (Hajas et al. 2023).

In addition to updating the LRP, Hajas et al. 2023 provides advice on a range of harvest rates, and recommends an Upper Stock Reference (USR) of 0.038 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat for the commercial fishery, thereby further aligning this fishery with the DFO Precautionary Approach Framework and the 2019 amendments to the *Fisheries Act*.

In order for coastwide reference points to be useful, Sea Cucumbers along the entire B.C. coast need to be assessed repeatedly to determine whether stock status changes over time.

DFO Science has developed a multispecies coast wide monitoring program intended to collect the data necessary to assess stock status against reference points. A CSAS research document with peer reviewed recommendations on this approach was accepted in 2022 (Lochead et al. 2023) and data collection began in 2023.

DFO will be utilizing a LRP of 0.029 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat and a USR of 0.038 Sea Cucumbers m^{-2} on Sea Cucumber habitat once the coastwide program has collected enough data to assess the coastwide stock.

For more information see Section 2 of the IFMP.

5.6. Commercial No-Take Reserves

Commercial No-Take Reserves (CNTRs) are used in the management of the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery. They are used in addition to reference points and provide Sea Cucumber refuge areas for additional insurance against uncertainties in stock assessment information and management decisions. It is anticipated that they also provide spill-over of adults and larvae into commercially harvested areas and provide areas for research opportunities (Duprey et al. 2011). CNTRs to date have been placed in the portions of the coast that have reopened to commercial harvest since 2008 (Phase 2), totalling approximately 3.2% (930 km) of the coastal shoreline in B.C. CNTRs are listed in Section 5 of Appendix 1.

5.7. Enforcement

DFO's Conservation and Protection (C&P) program is informed of any enforcement issues that may arise in the commercial fishery. For more information on the compliance plan for the Sea Cucumber fishery please see Section 10 in the IFMP.

6. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

6.1. No Size Limit

The use of a size limit for the Sea Cucumber fishery is not feasible since Sea Cucumbers have a plastic body shape that makes it very difficult to obtain measurements of body dimensions. Sea Cucumbers also undergo annual fluctuations in body mass, skin thickness and muscle weight from their yearly cycle of resorbing and regenerating their internal organs.

6.2. Gear

Sea Cucumbers are collected by hand by SCUBA divers. Gear impacts on the benthic environment are believed to be negligible since Sea Cucumbers are picked by hand and there is no gear contact with the bottom. Handpicking also eliminates any by-catch concerns since Sea Cucumbers are individually selected by harvesters.

Appendix 7: Sea Cucumber Stock Assessment Information – 2026/2027

Open Surveys are the standard survey method used in BC to assess the *Apostichopus californicus* population and are used to estimate density and biomass. Please see the *Assessment Framework for Sea Cucumber (Parastichopus californicus) in British Columbia* (Duprey et al. 2011) for more information.

Table 1. Precautionary Density Estimates (PDE). The lower 90 percent confidence interval of mean density estimates from all surveys to date are shown in the table below.

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Density Estimate (Lower 90%) (Sea Cucumbers per Metre of Shoreline)
1998	7-15, 7-17, 7-30	6.6, 13.4, 11.94 respectively
1999	6-3, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-27, 6-28	17.0 overall
2000	12-40, 12-41	6.43 and 5.08 respectively
2001	6-9	5.76
2001	24-4 to 24-10, 24-14	5.45 overall
2002	7-15, 7-17, 7-30	8.84, 11.66, 10.25 respectively
2002	8-3 & 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-16	14.25, 12.29, 21.46, 10.54 respectively,
2003	6-3, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-27, 6-28	17.85 overall; separated in 2005: 11.68, 16.01, 16.55, 13.53, 16.01, 9.75 respectively
2004	12-40, 12-41	5.44 overall; adjusted in 2005: 4.04 and 7.54 respectively; recalculated to 4.1 and 7.8 in 2008
2005	6-9	5.76; recalculated to 6.0 in 2008
2005	24-4 to 24-10, 24-14	5.45 overall; adjusted in 2006: 8.46, 5.12, 2.27, 3.55, 1.90, 2.90 respectively (excluding 24-8 & 24-9);
2006	8-3 & 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-16 7-15, 7-17, 7-30	9.67, 8.98, 27.4, 7.71 respectively 6.23, 12.41, 8.94 respectively
2007	6-3, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-27, 6-28	11.90, 13.80, 16.40, 15.2, 10.31, 10.23 respectively; 6-27 and 6-28 combined in 2008 11.7
2008	(9-3 to 9-6), (9-7 to 9-9), 9-11	2.7, 3.5, 10.1 respectively
2008	(10-3 to 10-5), 10-6, 10-7, (10-8 to 10-10), 10-12	2.0, 2.2, 2.6, 2.2, 2.6 respectively

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Density Estimate (Lower 90%) (Sea Cucumbers per Metre of Shoreline)
2008	(13-7 to 13-9), 13-25, (13-24,-26,-27), (13-35, -36), (13-37 to 13-39), (13-40,-41), 13-42, 13-43	3.6, 3.7, 5.8, 2.8, 2.2, 5.7, 5.0, 2.0 respectively
2009	3-1	4.1
2009	4-1, 4-2, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-12, 4-13, 4-14	4.7, 4.8, 5.3, 11.2, 11.6, 11.6, 11.6, 5.3, 4.0, 1.0, 11-6 respectively
2009	12-1, 12-2, 12-6,12-20, 12-22, 12-23, 12-24 , 12-26, 12-38, 12-39	3.0, 4.7, 6.3, 6.3, 5.7, 3.6, 3.0,, 5.1, 4.4, 4.4 respectively
2009	6-9	3.1
2010	3-3, 3-4, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10	8.1, 11.1, 7.8, 7.6, 7.6, 6.8, 3.2 respectively
2010	4-5, 4-9	11.6, 9.0 respectively
2010	7-7, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, 7-24, 7-29	6.0, 9.7, 10.8, 5.7, 9.7, 11.6 respectively
2010	12-3, 12-4, 12-5, 12-18, 12-19, 12-21	3.6, 3.6, 1.1, 1.6, 1.0, 3.6 respectively
2010	17-3, 17-4, 17-5, 17-18, 17-19, 17-20, 17-21	2.3, 0, 0.1, 8.1, 0.7, 0.7, 8.1 respectively
2011	3-11, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17	7.5, 1.1, 2.4, 0.2, 0.7, 0.0, 1.0 respectively
2011	6-20, 6-21, 6-22, 6-23, 6-24	11.7, 4.2, 7.4, 3.4, 7.5 respectively
2011	15-4, 15-5, 15-6	4.3, 16.3, 3.6 respectively
2011	14-3, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 16-16, 16-17, 16-18, 16-19, 16-20, 16-21, 16-22	9.8, 6.0, 2.0, 5.1, 0.2, 0.2, 1.2, 5.1, 10.9, 4.8, 6.9, 7.4, 7.4 respectively
2011	16-5, 16-6, 16-7, 16-8, 16-9, 16-10, 16-11, 16-12, 16-13, 16-14, 16-15	2.3, 13.0, 3.5, 5.0, 19.3, 7.2, 6.5, 5.3, 5.4, 4.5, 1.7 respectively
2011	17-9, 18-7	0, 1.1 respectively
2011	18-1, 18-2, 18-3, 18-4, 18-5, 18-6, 18-9, 18-10, 18-11	11.3, 5.7, 0.4, 3.7, 3.4, 2.5, 5.7, 0.1, 4.7 respectively
2012	2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6	0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 5.6 respectively

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Density Estimate (Lower 90%) (Sea Cucumbers per Metre of Shoreline)
2012	11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8, 11-10	12.0, 8.8, 4.2, 3.1, 1.3, 5.4, 4.5 respectively
2012	28-1, 28-2, 28-3, 28-4, 28-5, 28-6, 29-3	0.8, 1.8, 2.4, 1.8, 0.3, 1.8, 0.8 respectively
2012	5-14, 5-16, 5-17	4.9, 7.9, 5.8 respectively
2012	6-9, Portion of 6-13	4.8, 3.2 respectively
2012	7-12, 7-13, 7-22, 7-23	6.2, 3.0, 2.1, 2.1 respectively
2013	12-35, 12-36, 12-37, 12-42, 12-43, 12-45, 12-46, 12-47, 12-48	2.5, 0.4, 2.5, 1.1, 0.5 0.6, 0.6, 0.2, 0.2 respectively
2013	27-7, 27-8, 27-9, 27-10	0.1, 0, 0.1, 0, 0 respectively
2013	6-11, 6-12, 6-14, 6-15, 6-16	2.8, 3.2, 2.8, 1.5, 2.5 respectively
2013	7-18, 7-19, 7-25	2.4, 0.0, 3.8 respectively
2014	6-1	4.6
2014	19-3, 19-4, 19-5, 20-5	1.4, 1.3, 1.0, 1.9 respectively
2015	8-13, 8-14, 11-2, 12-27 to 12-29	5.6, 8.2, 6.4, 1.0, 0.4, 0.4, 0.1 respectively
2016	23-2 to 23-6	2.0, 2.6, 1.3, 4.4, 2.6 respectively
2017	13-7, (13-8, 13-9),13-12, (13-13, 13-14), 13-15, 13-16, 13-24, 13-26, (13-27, 13-28)	4.5, 6.3, 7.8, 7.8, 1.2, 13.8, 1.7, 3.6, 4.9, 2.6 respectively
2017	7-4, 7-6	8.5, 11.5
2019	23-8, 23-9, 23-10 25-1, 25-2, 25-3, 25-4, 25-5, 25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-10, 25-11, 25-12, 25-13, 25-15	0.04, 0.3, 2.3 respectively 6.6, 10.2, 6.8, 7.7, 6.7, 5.3, 5.7, 6.7, 2.5, 2.8, 6.2, 2.2, 4.4 respectively
2020	26-2 to 26-6	3.0, 3.2, 5.3, 8.7, 0.4 respectively
2021	6-12, 6-14, 6-15, 6-16, 7-5	8.2, 4.6, 6.3, 3.7, 13.0 respectively
2021	7-18, 7-23, 7-25, 7-27, 7-28	5.6, 7.6, 2.7, 2.6, 6.0 respectively
2022	7-7, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, 7-29	11.2, 11.2, 7.1, 8.9, 15.9 respectively
2022	23-11	3.4

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Density Estimate (Lower 90%) (Sea Cucumbers per Metre of Shoreline)
2022	28-1 & 29-3, 28-2 & 28-6, 28-3, 28-4, 28-5	8.5, 5.7, 11.9, 7.2, 1.2 respectively
2023	7-13, 7-14	9.2, 7.1 respectively
2024	6-20, 6-21, 6-22, 6-23, 6-24, 7-2, 7-3 17-3, 17-4, 17-5, 17-18, 17-19, 17-20, 17-21 24-2, 24-3, 24-9, 24-11, 24-13 27-7 & 27-9, 27-8, 27-10	15.2, 15.2, 6.2, 6.3, 3.8 respectively 5.3, 5.3 respectively 2.2, 0.1, 0.1, 7.2, 7.2, 7.2, 7.2 respectively 3.7, 14.2, 1.04, 0.5, 14.4 respectively 0.9, 2.6, 0.2 respectively

Table 2. The Average Split Weight (ASW) of surveyed Subareas is shown in the table below.

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Average Split Weight (g)
2004	12-40, 12-41	405, 314
2005	6-9	319
2005	24-4 to 24-10, 24-14	377, 489, 313, 346, 322, 322, 419, 373
2006	8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-6, 8-16 7-15, 7-17, 7-30	236, 285, 258, 252, 340 355, 310, 313
2007	6-3, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-27, 6-28	248, 239, 237, 228, 244, 224
2008	(9-3 to 9-6), 9-7, 9-8, 9-9, 9-11	321, 224, 280, 224, 307
2008	(10-3 to 10-5), 10-6, 10-7, (10-8 to 10-10), 10-12	278, 391, 162, 215, 165
2008	(13-7 to 13-9), 13-25, (13-24,-26,-27), (13-35, -36), (13-37 to 13-39), (13-40,-41), 13-42, 13-43	328, 299, 285, 265, 210, 308, 231, 363
2009	3-1	228
2009	4-1, 4-2, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-12, 4-13, 4-14	298, 225, 286, 269, 269, 269, 269, 286, 354, 186, 269

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Average Split Weight (g)
2009	12-1, 12-2, 12-6,12-20, 12-22, 12-23, 12-24 , 12-26, 12-38, 12-39	297, 253, 237, 237, 307, 193, 297, 304, 358, 358
2009	6-9	307
2010	3-3, 3-4, 3-5,3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10	290, 281, 269, 176, 212, 245, 249
2010	4-5, 4-9	299, 343
2010	7-7, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, 7-24, 7-29	206, 251, 177, 255, 277, 170
2010	12-3, 12-4, 12-5, 12-18, 12-19, 12-21	306, 205, 286, 351, 205, 205
2010	17-3, 17-4, 17-5, 17-18, 17-19, 17-20, 17-21	263, 218, 218, 234, 234, 218, 218
2011	3-11, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17	254, 174, 313, 280, 180, 174, 174
2011	6-20, 6-21, 6-22, 6-23, 6-24	166, 184, 254, 208, 381,
2011	15-4, 15-5, 15-6	244, 188, 160
2011	14-3, 15-1, 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 16-16, 16-17, 16-18, 16-19, 16-20, 16-21, 16-22	182, 175, 223, 248, 175, 175, 269, 215, 182, 236, 244, 210, 202
2011	16-5, 16-6, 16-7, 16-8, 16-9, 16-10, 16-11, 16-12, 16-13, 16-14, 16-15	138, 176, 153, 212, 138, 172, 197, 200, 188, 152, 181
2011	17-9, 18-7	263, 212
2011	18-1, 18-2, 18-3, 18-4, 18-5, 18-6, 18-9, 18-10, 18-11	176, 176, 176, 191, 240, 233, 176, 298,
2012	2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6	340, 481, 319, 319
2012	11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8, 11-10	103, 109, 137, 130, 130, 155, 111
2012	28-1, 28-2, 28-3, 28-4, 28-5, 28-6, 29-3	276, 205, 243, 171, 159, 159, 159
2012	5-14, 5-16, 5-17	259, 310, 270
2012	6-9, Portion of 6-13	344, 259
2012	7-12, 7-13, 7-22, 7-23	252, 320, 332, 314

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Average Split Weight (g)
2013	12-35, 12-36, 12-37, 12-42, 12-43, 12-45, 12-46, 12-47, 12-48	193, 380, 162, 193, 203, 162, 162, 162, 162
2013	27-7, 27-8, 27-9, 27-10	303, 263, 263, 263
2013	6-11, 6-12, 6-14, 6-15, 6-16	264, 274, 332, 316, 279
2013	7-18, 7-19, 7-25	325, 325, 327
2014	6-1	195
2014	19-3, 19-4, 19-5, 20.5	243, 279, 243, 243
2015	8-13, 8-14, 11-2, 12-27, 12-28, 12-29, 12-30	163, 158, 274, 346, 298, 298, 298
2016	23-2 to 23-6	258, 216, 294, 241, 215
2017	13-7, (13-8, 13-9), 13-12, 13-13, 13-14, 13-15, 13-16, 13-24, 13-25, 13-26, 13-27, 13-28	357, 298, 217, 237, 239, 232, 205, 379, 232, 283, 192, 234
2017	7-4, 7-6	308, 204
2019	23-8 & 23-9, 23-10 25-1, 25-2, 25-3, 25-4, 25-5, 25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-10, 25-11, 25-12, 25-13, 25-15	188, 196 192, 206, 281, 293, 151, 255, 231, 254, 144, 262, 254, 190, 161
2020	26-2 to 26-6	152, 226, 219, 186, 206
2021	6-12, 6-14, 6-15, 6-16, 7-5	169, 202, 148, 206, 148
2021	7-18, 7-23, 7-25, 7-27, 7-28	219, 233, 213, 211, 237
2022	7-4, 7-7, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, 7-29	214, 169, 184, 188, 126, 130
2022	23-11	265
2022	28-1 & 29-3, 28-2 & 28-6, 28-3, 28-4, 28-5	225, 165, 142, 131, 142
2023	7-13, 7-14	219, 207

Survey Year	PFM Subareas	Average Split Weight (g)
2024	6-20, 6-21, 6-22, 6-23, 6-24,	162, 159, 266, 228, 232
	7-2, 7-3	195, 195
	17-3, 17-4, 17-5, 17-18, 17-19, 17-20, 17-21	206, 263, 151, 172, 151, 151
	24-2, 24-3, 24-9, 24-11, 24-13	286, 239, 212, 298, 283
	27-7, 27-8, 27-8, 27-9, 27-10	340, 348, 340, 340

Appendix 8: Example of Sea Cucumber Validation and Harvest Logbook

SEA CUCUMBER VALIDATION & HARVEST LOGBOOK

VALIDATION ID # :

PLEASE PRINT - USE PEN — **SECTION 'A' - TO BE COMPLETED BY VESSEL MASTER** — *PLEASE PRINT - USE PEN*

SECTION 'A'

VESSEL MASTER NAME	VESSEL NAME	CFV #	ZD TAB #	SPLIT LOAD ?	# OF LOADS	VALIDATION ID #'s OF OTHER LOADS
				YES / NO		

QUOTA AREA	DAYS FISHED	No. of CONTAINERS BAGS	CAGES	TOTES	OTHER	PACKER NAME (if applicable)	GROSS PACKER WT. (lb.)	BUYER NAME

PLEASE PRINT - USE PEN — **SECTION 'B' - TO BE COMPLETED BY PORT OBSERVER** — *PLEASE PRINT - USE PEN*

SECTION 'B'

OBSERVER NAME	No. of CONTAINERS BAGS	CAGES	TOTES	OTHER	GROSS DOCK WT. (lb.)	CONTAINER WT. (lb.)	CONVERSION FACTOR
							2.73

PREVIOUS R.Q. (lb.)	
NET DOCK WT. (lb.) *SPLIT FORM*	
NEW R.Q. (lb.)	

PRODUCT FORM: Split [ ] Round [ ]

OVERAGE lb.

TRANSFER: TO / FROM — ZD # :

RELINQUISHMENT lb.

SITUATION REPORT #

HARVEST INFO. COMPLETE: Y N

No. of TRANSPORT CONTAINERS

LANDING PORT

START TIME

OFFLOAD SEQUENCE

CHECK LIST :

FISH HOLD CHECK	MATH CHECK	BAG ID TAGS	TOTE ID LABELS	TOTE COUNT
Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N	Y N

LANDING DATE (mm / dd / yy)

FINISH TIME

SAMPLING : (*one cage per offload*)

NET SAMPLE WT. (nearest 10th of a lb.) .

PIECE COUNT

Complete ONLY if other weights are available at time of offload

TOTAL NET DOCK WT. OF ALL LOADS (lb.)

COMMENTS :

PLEASE PRINT - USE PEN — **SECTION 'C' - TO BE COMPLETED BY VESSEL MASTER** — *PLEASE PRINT - USE PEN*

SECTION 'C'

HARVEST INFORMATION - *COMPLETE A SEPARATE LINE FOR EACH DIVE* - USE NEXT PAGE IF MORE SPACE REQUIRED

DIVE No.	DIVE SITE	HARVEST DATE (mm / dd / yy)	MGMT AREA	SUB AREA	HARVEST LOCATION (DESCRIPTION, TOP / LAT. & LONG., BOTTOM)	DIVER NAME (FIRST NAME, TOP / LAST NAME, BTM)	DIVE TIME (minutes)	DEPTH (ft) min.	DEPTH (ft) max.	No. of PIECES
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR HARVEST CHART IS MARKED ~ PIECE COUNTS ARE : (check one) *ACTUAL* [ ] *ESTIMATED* [ ]

WHITE COPY - Observer | YELLOW COPY - Buyer via trucking | PINK COPY - Vessel via packer | GOLD COPY - REMAINS IN LOGBOOK

PREPARED BY D&D PACIFIC FISHERIES LTD.

Appendix 9: 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber Quota Management Area Descriptions

An asterisk (*) indicates a change in Quota Management Area (QMA) boundaries for 2026/2027.

(NEW) indicates a new QMA created for 2026/2027

Descriptions of closures that fall within these QMAs are shown in Appendix 1, Section 6.

Harvesters are reminded that these area descriptions and the maps in Appendix 10 are to be used for reference only. The final authority of these descriptions of Areas, Subareas and portions thereof is as set out in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.*

HAIDA GWAII

QMA	Name	Description
2A	**Selwyn Inlet (NEW)**	*Subareas 2-5 and 2-6* *Reopened in 2026*
2B	**North Darwin (NEW)**	*Those waters of Subarea 2-10 inside a line beginning at Crescent Point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52° 44.557'N and 131° 48.197'W then true east to a point on SGaanagwaay Gwaay.yaay (Richardson Island) at 52° 44.557'N and 131° 46.095'W then following the westerly shoreline of SGaanagwaay Gwaay.yaay (Richardson Island) to 52° 42.666'N and 131° 44.006'W then to 52° 42.483'N and 131° 43.761'W then following the westerly shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) to 52°40.466'N and 131°41.105'W then to a point on Gwaay DaaGaaw (Shuttle Island) at 52°40.053'N and 131°42.328'W then northerly along the shoreline of Gwaay DaaGaaw (Shuttle Island) to a southern point on Gwaay DaaGaaw (Shuttle Island) at 52°38.522'N and 131°41.409'W then southeasterly to a point on Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°37.301'N and 131°38.800'W then westerly to Finger Point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52° 37.276'N and 131° 41.277'W, then northerly along the shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to the beginning point.* *Reopened in 2026*
2C	**South Darwin (NEW)**	*That portion of Subarea 2-10 south of a line from Finger Point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52° 37.276'N and 131° 41.277'W to a point on Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°37.301'N and 131°38.800'W.* *Reopened in 2026*

QMA	Name	Description
2D	**Juan Perez (NEW)**	*Those portions of Subarea 2-11:* *a. Inside a line that runs from a point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°32.956'N and 131°37.729'W, thence northeasterly to a point on the shoreline of Kingts'ii Gwaay.yaay (Bischof Islands) at 52°34.143'N and 131°33.379'W, thence easterly following the southeastern shoreline of Kingts'ii Gwaay.yaay (Bischof Islands) to 52°34.340'N and 131°33.098'W, thence northeasterly to a point on an islet at 52°34.530'N and 131°32.890'W, thence north to a point on the southern shoreline of Tllga Kun Gwaay.yaay (Lyell Island) at 52°35.767'N and 131°32.891'W thence along the shoreline of Beresford Inlet to Richardson Point at 52°34.839'N and 131°34.858'W thence southwesterly to Darwin Point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°34.026'N and 131°37.092'W thence southerly along the shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to the beginning point.* *b. South of a line that runs from a point on northern Xiina Gwaay.yaay (Ramsay Island) at 52°34.964'N and 131°22.963'W to a point at 52°34.116'N and 131°25.603'W then to Ramsay Point at 52°33.844'N and 131°26.324'W.* *c. Inside a line that begins at Ramsay Point on Xiina Gwaay.yaay (Ramsay Island) at 52°33.844'N and 131°26.324'W, thence southwesterly to a point on Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaay.yaay (Marco Island) at 52°31.498'N and 131°30.354'W, thence northwesterly to a point on Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaayts'idaay (Hoskins Islets) at 52°32.405'N and 131°32.946'W, thence following the northern shoreline of Gandaawuu.ngaay Gwaayts'idaay (Hoskins Islets) to 52°32.435'N and 131°33.055'W, thence southwesterly to a point on the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°32.211'N and 131°34.475'W then southeasterly along the shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to Werner Point at 52°30.038'N and 131°28.071'W then northeasterly to the beginning point.* *Reopened in 2026*

QMA	Name	Description
2E	**Section Cove (NEW)**	*Those waters of Subarea 2-13 inside a line that begins at 52°26.039'N and 131°25.343'W on Moresby Island, thence following the eastern shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to 52°23.055'N and 131°23.441'W, thence easterly to a point on Gwaay GudgiiGaagid (Kat Island) at 52°23.082'N and 131°22.916'W, thence easterly following the northern shoreline of Gwaay GudgiiGaagid (Kat Island) to 52°23.147'N and 131°22.260'W, thence northeasterly to the western shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°23.276'N and 131°21.333'W, following the westerly shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) to 52°26.406'N and 131°18.424'W then to a point on K'uuna Gwaay.yaay (Alder Island) at 52°26.752'N and 131°18.863'W then following the southerly shoreline of K'uuna Gwaay.yaay (Alder Island) to 52°26.557'N and 131°19.219'W then to a point on Gaaduu Gwaay (Huxley Island) at 52°26.106'N and 131°21.497'W, then following the southern shoreline of Gaaduu Gwaay (Huxley Island) then to 52°25.934'N and 131°21.927'W, thence southwesterly to the northern shoreline of GaysiiGas K'iidsii Gwaay (Section Island) at 52°25.435'N and 131°22.425'W, thence westerly following the northern shoreline of GaysiiGas K'iidsii Gwaay (Section Island) to 52°25.460'N and 131°22.513'W, thence northwesterly to the beginning point.* *Reopened in 2026*
2F	**Skincuttle (NEW)**	*Those portions of Subarea 2-15 including:* *a. Those waters of Subarea 2-15 inside a line that begins at a point on SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) at 52°22.357'N and 131°14.682'W thence southwesterly along the shoreline of SGwaay Kun Gwaay.yaay (Burnaby Island) to a point at 52°20.949'N and 131°15.569'W, thence northeasterly to the beginning point.* *b. Those waters of Subarea 2-15 inside a line that begins at a point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°18.124'N and 131°18.347'W then to a point in water at 52°20.055'N and 131°11.174'W then southerly to a point on T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) at 52°19.559'N and 131°10.418'W thence southwesterly along the shoreline of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to a point in GawGan (Huston Inlet) at 52°16.111'N and 131°14.231'W thence across to a point at the opposite shore at 52°15.732'N and 131°15.643'W, thence northerly along the shore of T'aaxwii XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay iinaGwaay (Moresby Island) to the beginning point.* *Reopened in 2026*

NORTH COAST (PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICT)

QMA	Name	Description
3A	Work Channel	Subarea 3-6. *Reopened in 2010.*
3B	Portland Inlet	Subarea 3-7. *Reopened in 2010. Boundary change in 2011.*
3C	Steamer Pass	Subareas 3-8 and 3-10. *Reopened in 2010.*
3D	Pearse Canal	Subarea 3-3 and Subarea 3-11 excluding that portion South of a line starting at the entrance to Winter Inlet at 54° 50.328’ N and 130° 27.857’ W across to a point at 54° 50.455’ N and 130° 27.461’ W. *Reopened in 2011.*
4A	West Dundas Island	Subareas 3-1 and 4-1. *Reopened in 2009.*
4B	East Dundas Island	That portion of Subarea 4-5 West of a line that runs from the subarea boundary at 54° 34.788’ N and 130° 45.352’ W [East Dundas Island] to a point at 54° 04.447’N and 130° 19.836’ W [Northeast McMicking Island]. *Reopened in 2009.*

QMA	Name	Description
4C	North Porcher Island	a) That portion of subarea 4-2 South of a line starting at the subarea boundary at View Point on Arthur Island [54° 03.249' N and 130° 37.544' W] then West to a point at 54° 04.000' N and 130° 42.500' W, then Southwest to the surfline at 53° 59.983' N and 130° 52.025' W, including a portion in Stephens Passage West of a line from 54° 07.388' N and 130° 38.755' W to 54° 07.197' N and 130° 38.449' W. b) Subareas 4-3 and 4-4 c) That portion of subarea 4-9 West of a line that runs from the subarea boundary at 54° 34.788' N and 130° 45.352' W [Dundas Island] to a point at 54° 04.447' N and 130° 19.836' W [Northeast McMicking Island]. d) That portion of subarea 4-12 West of a line that runs from the subarea boundary at 54° 34.788' N and 130° 45.352' W [East Dundas Island] to a point at 54° 04.447' N and 130° 19.836' W [Northeastern McMicking Island] then east to the northwestern point of Hammer Island [54° 03.889' N and 130° 14.979' W] then Southwest along the shoreline to the light on the southern point on Hammer Island then to the northeastern point of Lewis Island [54° 01.582' N and 130° 15.496' W], then to a point adjacent to the Spiller River on East Porcher Island [54° 01.070' N and 130° 17. 088' W]. *Reopened in 2009. Boundary change in 2010.*
5A	West Banks Island	Subareas 5-20 to 5-22. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 5A Porcher Island/West Banks in 2009.*
5D	South Porcher Island	Subareas 5-2, 5-4, 5-5, 5-7, 5-11 and 5-12. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 5A Porcher Island/Banks Island in 2009.*
5E	Anger Island	Subarea 5-16. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 5B Principe Channel in 2013.*
5F	Principe North	Subareas 5-13, 5-14 and 5-15. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 5B Principe Channel in 2013.*
5G	Principe South	Subareas 5-17, 5-18, 5-19. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 5B Principe Channel in 2013.*

QMA	Name	Description
5H	Grenville North	a) Subarea 5-1. b) Subarea 5-23 excluding Kumealon Inlet East of a line across the mouth of the inlet; Baker Inlet East of a line across the mouth of the inlet, Kxngeal Inlet East of a line across the mouth of the inlet; and Klewnuggit Inlet East of a line across the mouth of the inlet. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 5B Principe Channel/Grenville Channel in 2009. Split from QMA 5C Grenville Channel in 2018.*
5I	Grenville South	a) Subarea 5-24 excluding that portion of Lowe Inlet East of a line across the mouth of the inlet. b) That portion of subarea 6-28 outside the 20 fathom contour line from Cape Farewell on Promise Island, to Sainty Point on the mainland coast as shown on Charts No. 3711 and 3742 published by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 5B Principe Channel/Grenville Channel in 2009. Split from QMA 5C Grenville Channel in 2018.*
6A	Gil Island	Subareas 6-5, 6-26 and 6-27. *Open during Phase 1 fishery.*
6C	Trutch Island	Subareas 6-9 and 6-10. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 6C Caamano Sound/Laredo Channel in 2009.*
6E	Princess Royal Channel	a) That portion of subarea 6-20 North of a line starting at Netherby Point west to a point at 52° 55.320' N and 128° 31.540'W and that excludes a portion of South of a line from a point at Nomel Creek (53° 07.106'N and 128° 36.006'W) then East to the Subarea boundary at (53° 07.123'N and 128° 34.164'W). North of a line from point at Big Creek (53° 02.029'N and 128° 31.508'W), West to a point at 53° 01.924'N and 128° 32.560'W. b) Subareas 6-21, 6-22, and 6-24. *Reopened in 2011.Boundary change in 2014.*
6F	West Aristazabal Island	That portion of subarea 6-13 north of a line starting at a point on the western shoreline of Aristazabal Island at 52° 30.970'N and 129° 04.249'W to a point on the Surfline at 52° 30.000'N and 129° 05.831'W [excludes Weeteeam Bay]. *Reopened in 2014*

QMA	Name	Description
6G	Kitimat Arm	Subarea 6-1 excluding: a) Giltoyees and Miskatla Inlets: North of a line from Point Ashton [53° 46.245'N/128° 56.920'W] west to a point at 53° 46.092'N and 128° 58.589'W. b) Sue and Loretta Channels: Easterly of the Subarea boundary between Maitland Island [53° 41.197'N/129° 04.789'W and Hawkesbury Island [53° 40.494'N/129° 04.797'W] and westerly of a line that begins at 53° 41.205'N/129° 04.898'W (Kersey Point) then to 53° 45.620'N/128° 50.849'W (Walbran Point) then following the easterly shoreline of Loretta Island to 53° 43.341'N/128° 49.939'W then to 53° 42.645'N/128° 50.071'W (Gaudin Point). c) The head of Kitimat Arm: North of a line running from a point at 53° 57.767'N and 128° 42.212'W to a point at 53° 56.967'N and 128° 39.741'W. *Reopened in 2015*
6H	Douglas Channel	a) Subarea 6-2 excluding Kitkiata Inlet West of a line from Gertrude Point to Helen Point; Kishkosh Inlet West of a line running across the entrance of the inlet and the vicinity of Hartley Bay, Promise Island and Coghlin Anchorage, inside the 20 fathom depth contour running from Halsey Point at the entrance to Hartley Bay, around Cape Farewell on Promise Island, then to Sainty Point on the mainland coast as shown on Charts No. 3711 and 3742 published by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. b) Subarea 6-6 excluding the portion in the vicinity of Hartley Bay, Promise Island and Coghlin Anchorage, inside the 20 fathom depth contour running from Halsey Point at the entrance to Hartley Bay, around Cape Farewell on Promise Island, then to Sainty Point on the mainland coast as shown on Charts No. 3711 and 3742 published by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 6B Gribbell Island in 2015*
6I	Gribbell Island	a) Subarea 6-3 excluding the portion that is Bishop Bay East of a line from Riordan Point to Tomkinson Point. b) Subarea 6-7. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 6B Gribbell Island in 2015*
6J	Surf Inlet	Subarea 6-12. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 6C Caamano Sound/Laredo Channel in 2009. Split from QMA 6D Laredo Channel in 2021.*

QMA	Name	Description
6K	Laredo Channel	Subareas 6-11, 6-14 and 6-16. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 6C Caamano Sound/Laredo Channel in 2009. Split from QMA 6D Laredo Channel in 2021.*
6L	Tolmie Channel	That portion of Subarea 6-20 south of a line starting from the Subarea boundary at Sarah Head (52° 53.012'N and 128° 30.634'W) west to a point on Tolmie Head at 52° 53.068'N and 128° 31.796'W. *Discontinued Experimental Fishing Area that was in use between 2008 to 2017. Reopened for regular commercial harvest in 2024.*

CENTRAL COAST

QMA	Name	Description
7C	Fisher Channel/ Dean Channel	Subareas 7-30, 8-5 to 8-7. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 7C Denny Island in 2009.*
7F	Denny Island	Subarea 7-17. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 7C Denny Island in 2009.*
7G	Sheep Pass	a) That portion of Subarea 7-9 North of the parallel passing through 52° 41.90' N Latitude [Northern Griffith Pass]. b) Subarea 7-29. *Reopened in 2008. Split from 7D Mathieson Channel in 2016.*
7H	Upper Mathieson	a) That portion of Subarea 7-9 South of the parallel passing through 52° 41.90' N Latitude and North of a line that runs from 52° 31.233'N and 128° 16.734'W to 52° 31.388'N and 128° 14.492'W [Includes Jackson Passage] b) Subarea 7-10. c) Subarea 7-11 – closed *Reopened in 2008. Split from 7D Mathieson Channel in 2016. Boundary change in 2014 – Subarea 7-7 changed into a CNTR, Subarea 7-11 will be closed at the request of the PSCHA.*
7I	Lower Mathieson	a) That portion of Subarea 7-9 South of a line that runs from 52° 31.233'N and 128° 16.734'W to 52° 31.388'N and 128° 14.492'W [south of Jackson Passage] and East of a line starting at Miall Point (52° 29.595'N and 128° 16.147'W) and a point along Buckley Head at 52° 28.494'N and 128° 16.480'W [excludes Oscar Passage]. *Reopened in 2008. Split from 7D Mathieson Channel in 2016. Boundary change in 2014 - CNTR moved from Jackson Passage to Oscar Passage.*

QMA	Name	Description
7J	Spiller	a) Subarea 7-13 b) Subarea 7-14 excluding those waters north of a line from Coldwell Point (52° 19.177'N and 128° 01.551'W) to Florence Peninsula (52° 19.085'N and 128° 00.469'W) [Briggs Inlet]. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 7A Seaforth Channel/Spiller Channel in 2009. Split from 7A Spiller Channel in 2016.*
7L	Roscoe Inlet	a) That portion of Subarea 7-15 east of a line from Jagers Point (52° 18.288N and 127° 58.041W) to a point on Florence Peninsula (52° 18.844 N and 127° 58.039W). b) Subarea 7-16. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 7A Seaforth Channel/Spiller Channel in 2009. Split from 7A Spiller Channel in 2016. Split from 7K Florence Peninsula in 2018.*
7M	Chatfield/ Briggs	a) That portion of Subarea 7-14 north of a line from Coldwell Point (52° 19.177'N and 128° 01.551'W) to Florence Peninsula (52° 19.085'N and 128° 00.469'W) [Briggs Inlet]. b) That portion of Subarea 7-15 west of a line from Jagers Point (52° 18.288N and 127° 58.041W) to a point on Florence Peninsula (52° 18.844 N and 127° 58.039W). *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 7A Seaforth Channel/Spiller Channel in 2009. Split from 7A Spiller Channel in 2016. Split from 7K Florence Peninsula in 2018.*
7N	Finlayson North	That portion of Subarea 7-6 south of a line from a point on the mainland at 52° 50.687' N and 128° 27.213' W to a point on Sarah Island at 52° 50.576' N and 128° 27.963' W. *Reopened in 2020.*
7O	Finlayson South	Subarea 7-4. *Reopened in 2020.*
7P	Milbanke Sound	That portion of Subareas 7-2 and 7-3 west of a line originating from a point on Jorkins Point [52º 25.937'N and 128º 29.895'W] south to a point in water at 52º 09.375'N and 128º 33.162'W. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Boundary change in 2009 . Split from QMA 7B Milbanke Sound/ Seaforth Channel in 2021.*

QMA	Name	Description
7Q	Seaforth Channel	a) That portion of Subareas 7-2 and 7-3 east of a line originating from a point on Jorkins Point [52º 25.937'N and 128º 29.895'W] south to a point in water at 52º 09.375'N and 128º 33.162'W. b) Subareas 7-12, 7-20 to 7-22, 7-24 and 7-32 *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Boundary change in 2009 . Split from QMA 7B Milbanke Sound/ Seaforth Channel in 2021.*
7R	Queens Sound North	a) That portion of Subarea 7-18 north of a line that runs from a point on Campbell Island at 52° 01.60'N and 128° 14.71'W, southwest to a point in water at 52° 00.25'N and 128° 25.28'W and then west to 52° 00.25'N and 128° 25.28'W (Goose Island). b) Subareas 7-19 and 7-23. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Originally part of 7B Milbanke Sound which was split in 7E Queens Sound in 2009. Split again from 7E Queens Sound in 2022*
7S	Queens Sound South	a) That portion of Subarea 7-18 south of a line that runs from a point on Campbell Island at 52° 01.60'N and 128° 14.71'W, southwest to a point in water at 52° 00.25'N and 128° 25.28'W and then west to 52° 00.25'N and 128° 25.28'W (Goose Island). b) Subarea 7-25. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Originally part of 7B Milbanke Sound which was split in 7E Queens Sound in 2009. Split again from 7E Queens Sound in 2022*
8B	Calvert Island	Subareas 8-2, 8-3, 8-16, 9-1 and 9-12. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 8A Queens Sound/Fitz Hugh Sound in 2009.*
8C	Spider / Kildidt	Subareas 7-26 to 7-28. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 8A Queens Sound/Fitz Hugh Sound in 2009. Split again from 8A Fitz Hugh Sound in 2014.*
8E	Fitz Hugh / Burke South	a) Subarea 8-4. b) That portion of Subarea 8-13 south of a line running between a point on King Island at 52° 08.43'N and 127° 36.90'W and Kelkpa Point [52° 07.28'N and 127° 36.41'W]. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 8A Queens Sound/Fitz Hugh Sound in 2009. Split again from 8A Fitz Hugh Sound in 2014. Split from 8D FitzHugh/Burke in 2020.*

QMA	Name	Description
8F	Burke North	a) That portion of Subarea 8-13 north of a line running between a point on King Island at 52° 08.43'N and 127° 36.90'W and Kelkpa Point [52° 07.28'N and 127° 36.41'W]. b) Subarea 8-14. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 8A Queens Sound/Fitz Hugh Sound in 2009. Split again from 8A Fitz Hugh Sound in 2014.Split from 8D Fitz Hugh/Burke in 2020.*
9B	South Rivers Inlet	a) Subareas 9-2, 9-3, 9-10 and 9-11. *Reopened in 2008. Split from 9A Rivers Inlet in 2018.*
9C	North Rivers Inlet	a) Subarea 9-4 except that portion north of a line from 51° 38.340' N and 127° 32.880' W to 51° 38.460' N and 127° 32.040' W [excludes Sandell Bay]. b) Subareas 9-5 and 9-9. c) That portion of Subarea 9-6 West of a line at 127° 21.90' W latitude [excludes Kilbella Bay]. *Reopened in 2008. Split from 9A Rivers Inlet in 2018.*
10A	Smith Inlet	a) Subareas 10-3, 10-4 and 10-6 to 10-11. b) That portion of Subarea 10-5 East of a line from Ripon Pt. (51° 19.32' N and 127° 32.40' W) to Olive Pt. (51° 20.22' N and 127° 32.16' W) [excludes Margaret Bay]. c) That portion of Subarea 10-12 East of a line at 127° 35.32'W latitude and North of the Subarea boundary line at Wakas Point [51° 17.46'N\127° 38.16'W] to Gikumi Point [51° 17.70'N\127° 36.78'W] (excludes Takush Harbour). *Reopened in 2008.*

SOUTH COAST INSIDE WATERS

QMA	Name	Description
11A	Belize Inlet	Subareas 11-4 to 11-6. *Reopened in 2012.*
11B	Seymour Inlet	Subareas 11-3 and 11-10. *Reopened in 2012.*

QMA	Name	Description
11D	Slingsby Channel	That portion of Subarea 11-2 east of a line from Laschelles Point [51° 05.217'N/127° 39.449'W] to Dalkeith Point on the westernmost Island in the Fox Islands Group [51° 04.793'N/127° 38.790'W], east of a line from Dalkeith Point [51 04.766'N/127 38.767'W] to McKewan Point on Bramham Island [127 36.919'N/127 36.680'W] , and north of a line from Goose Point on Bramham Island [51° 05.089'N/127° 30.836'W] to a point on the Mainland at [51° 05.079'N/127° 30.637'W]. *Reopened in 2015. Split from 11C in 2017. Boundary change in 2019.*
11E	Allison Harbour	That portion of Subarea 11-2 west of a line from Laschelles Point [51° 05.217'N/127° 39.449'W] to Delkeith Point on the westernmost Island in the Fox Islands Group [51° 04.813'N/127° 38.758'W], west of a line from Dalkeith Point [51 04.766'N/127 38.767'W] to McKewan Point on Bramham Island [127 36.919'N/127 36.680'W] and south of a line from Goose Point on Bramham Island [51° 05.089'N/127° 30.836'W] to a point on the Mainland at [51° 05.079'N/127° 30.637'W]. *Reopened in 2015. Split from 11C in 2017. Boundary change in 2019.*
12E	Broughton	Subarea 12-40. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 12B in 2013.*
12F	Wells Passage	Subarea 12-41. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 12B in 2013.*
12G	SW Queen Charlotte Strait	Subareas 12-7, 12-8 and 12-17. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from 12B in 2013.*
12H	Turnour Island	a) Subarea 12-20. b) That portion of Subarea 12-26 north of a line from 50° 35.717'N/126° 16.269'W and the Mainland [50° 35.874'N/126° 15.955'W] *Reopened in 2009. Split from 12D in 2013.*
12I	Gilford Island North	Subareas 12-38 and 12-39. *Reopened in 2009. Split from 12D in 2013.*
12K	Port Harvey	a) Subareas 12-22 and 12-23 b) That portion of Subarea 12-2 north of a line from Domville Point [50° 31.623'N/126° 17.058'W] west to a point on West Cracroft Island [50° 31.623'N/126° 18.806'W]. c) That portion of Subarea 12-26 south of a line from 50° 35.717'N/126° 16.269'W and the Mainland [50° 35.874'N/126° 15.955'W] *Reopened in 2007. Split from QMA 12C in 2017.*

QMA	Name	Description
12L	Tribune Channel	Subareas 12-35 and 12-37. *Reopened in 2017.*
12M	Port Hardy	a) Subarea 12-9 b) That portion of Subarea 12-16 east of a line running from Duval Point [50º 45.950/127º 29.114] to the Subarea boundary at the southern end of the Gordon Group [50º 48.325/127º 27.652]. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 12A in 2021.*
12N	Goletas Channel	a) Subarea 12-11 b) That portion of Subarea 12-16 west of a line running from Duval Point [50º 45.950/127º 29.114] to the Subarea boundary at the southern end of the Gordon Group [50º 48.325/127º 27.652]. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 12A in 2021.*
12O	Walker/ Deserters	Subareas 12-10 and 12-13. *Open during Phase 1 fishery. Split from QMA 12A in 2021.*
12P	Northern Johnstone Strait	Subareas 12-3, 12-4 and 12-21. *Reopened in 2007. Subareas 12-4 and 12-21 reopened and added in 2011. Split from QMA 12C in 2017 and from QMA 12J in 2023.*
12Q	Southern Johnstone Strait	a) Subareas 12-1 and 12-24. b) That portion of Subarea 12-2 south of a line from Domville Point [50° 31.623'N/126° 17.058'W] west to a point on West Cracroft Island [50° 31.623'N/126° 18.806'W]. c) That portion of Subarea 13-35 west of a line from Hardwicke Point on Hardwicke Island [50° 26.435'N/125° 58.234'W] north to a point on the Mainland at [50° 28.197'N/125° 58.234'W] *Reopened in 2007. Split from QMA 12C in 2017 and from QMA 12J in 2023.*
13A	Quadra/ Cortes	Subareas 13-12 to 13-16. *Open during Phase 1 fishery.*
13B	North Area 13	Subareas 13-17 to 13-20 and 13-23. *Open during Phase 1 fishery.*
13C	East Thurlow Island	Subareas 13-7 to 13-9, 13-24 to 13-28. *Reopened in 2008.*

QMA	Name	Description
13D	Loughborough	a) That portion of Subarea 13-35 east of a line from Hardwicke Point on Hardwicke Island [50° 26.435'N/125° 58.234'W] north to a point on the Mainland at [50° 28.197'N/125° 58.234'W] b) Subareas 13-36 to 13-43. *Reopened in 2007. Split from QMA 12C in 2017.*
15A	West Redonda Island	That portion of Subarea 15-5: a) North of a line running from the light at Junction Point [50° 08.374'N/124° 53.696'W] to the light at Refuge Cove [50° 06.970'N/124° 50.974'W]. b) West of a line running from a light in Pryce Channel located at 50° 18.411'N/124° 49.825'W to the light at Dean Point [50° 17.145'N/124° 47.178'W]. *Reopened in 2012.*
15B	East Redonda Island	That portion of Subarea 15-5: a) East of a line running from a light in Pryce Channel located at 50 18.411'N/124 49.825'W to the light at Dean Point [50° 17.145'N/124° 47.178'W]. b) North of a line running from Marytebone Point [50° 09.684'N/124° 45.084'W] to Price Point [50° 09.362'N/124° 39.329'W]. *Reopened in 2012.*
15C	South Desolation	Subarea 15-4 and that portion of Subarea 15-5: a) South of a line running from Marytebone Point [50° 09.684'N/124° 45.084'W] to Price Point [50° 09.362'N/124° 39.329'W]. b) South of a line running from the light at Junction Point [50° 08.397'N/124° 50.974'W] to the light at Refuge Cove [50° 06.970'N/124° 50.974'W]. *Reopened in 2012.*
16A	Sechelt Inlet	a) Subareas 16-6 to 16-8. b) Subarea 16-9 excluding those waters of Skookumchuck Narrows and Sechelt Rapids bounded on the west by a line from a point on the foreshore at the westerly limit of Secret Bay on Sechelt Peninsula thence 50 degrees true to a point on the foreshore on the mainland; and the east by a line from Raland Point on Sechelt Peninsula, thence 50 degrees true to a point on the foreshore on the mainland [Skookumchuck Provincial Park]. *Reopened in 2011.*

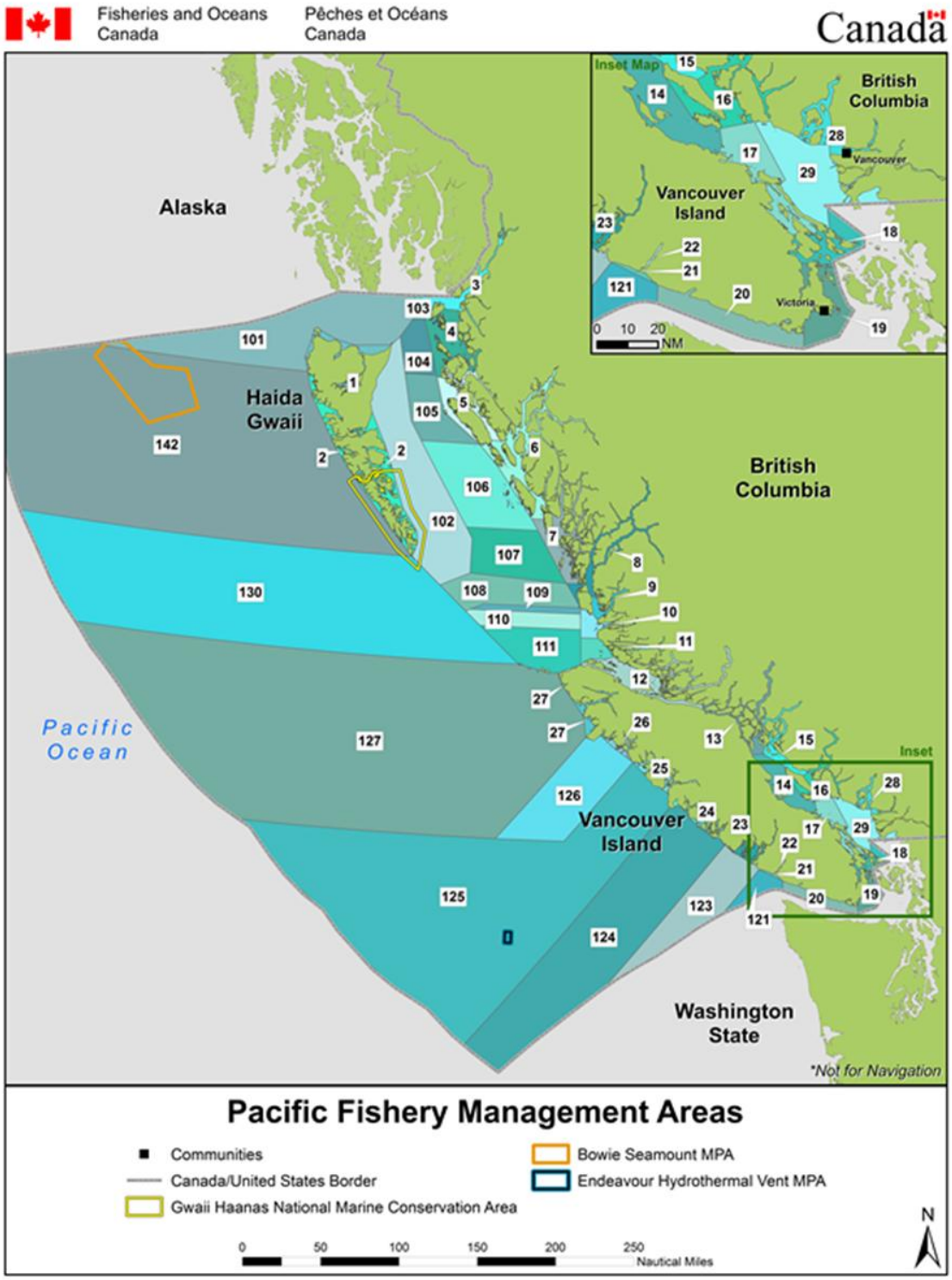
QMA	Name	Description
16B	Jervis Inlet	a) Subareas 16-10, 16-12 and 16-13. b) Subarea 16-11 excluding the portion shoreward of the 30 metre depth contour line from Scotch Fir Point to Culloden Point [the entire mainland portion of Subarea 16-11], as shown on Chart 3514 published by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. [Jervis Inlet Experimental Fishing Area]. *Reopened in 2011.*
16C	Texada Island	Subareas 15-1, 16-18, 16-21 and 16-22. *Reopened in 2012.*
16D	Lasqueti Island	Subareas 14-3, 16-19 and 16-20. *Reopened in 2012.*
17A	North Nanaimo/ Nanoose	Subareas 17-18, 17-19 and 17-21 *Reopened in 2025*
18A	Gulf Islands South	Subareas 18-1, 18-2, 18-4, 18-5, 18-9 and 18-11. *Reopened in 2011.*
28A	Howe Sound	Subareas 28-1 to 28-4, 28-6 and 29-3. *Reopened in 2023.*

WEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND

QMA	Name	Description
23A	SE Barkley Sound	a) Subarea 23-3. b) Subareas 23-5 and 23-6 except: (1) Those portions inside a line that starts at the light at Whittlestone Point then to the southern tip of Haines Island then following the shore of Haines Island to the northwestern tip of Haines Island; from the northwest tip of Haines Island to the southern tip of Seppings Island; from the northwestern tip of Seppings Island to Kirby Point on Diana Island; from Kirby Point directly to the northwest tip of Fry Island; to the nearest adjacent point on Tzartus Island; from Foucault Bluff on Tzartus Island to the northwest tip of Nanat Island; from the eastern tip of Nanat Island to the nearest adjacent point on Vancouver Island and thence along the coastline of Vancouver Island to the point of commencement; [Bamfield Marine Station Research Area closure] and (2) those waters of the Broken Group Islands in Barkley Sound within park boundaries as shown, since 1989, on Canadian Hydrographic Service Chart 3671. [Broken Islands Group Closure] *Reopened in 2016.*

QMA	Name	Description
23B	Ucluelet/ Pipestem	a) That portion of Subarea 23-10 inside a line running from a point on land at 49º 0.741'N and 125º 19.419'W south to a point on land at 49º 01.839'N and 125º 19.815'W. b) That portion of Subarea 23-11 south of a line starting at a point on land at 48º 55.657'N and 125º 28.126'W that runs southeasterly to a point on the Subarea boundary at 48º 52.872'N and 125º 24.405'W and east of a line across Ucluelet Inlet starting at a point on land at 48º 56.928'N and 125º 32.596'W to a point on Ucluth Peninsula at 48º 56.737'N and 125º 32.904'W. *Reopened in 2023.*
24A	North Clayoquot	Subareas 24-4 to 24-6 and 24-14. *Open during Phase 1 fishery.*
24B	South Clayoquot	Subareas 24-7 and 24-10. *Open during Phase 1 fishery.*
24C	Sydney/ Shelter Inlets	a) That portion of Subarea 24-2 north of a line that runs from a point on Openit Peninsula at 49º 21.092'N and 126º 15.302'W northeasterly to a point on Flores Island at 49º 22.581'N and 126º 13.968'W, b) Subareas 24-3 and 24-13. *Reopened in 2025*
25A	Nootka/ Tahsis	Subareas 25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-12, 25-15. *Reopened in 2020.*
25B	Muchalat/ Tlupana	Subareas 25-1 to 25-5. *Reopened in 2020.*
26A	Kyuquot	26-2 to 26-5 *Reopened in 2021*

Appendix 10: Pacific Fishery Management Areas and 2026/2027 Sea Cucumber Quota Management Area Maps



Harvesters are reminded that these maps and the area descriptions in Appendices 1 and 9 are to be used for reference only. The final authority of these descriptions of Areas, Subareas and portions thereof is as set out in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*. More detailed maps and descriptions of Areas and Subareas are available on the Internet at:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/maps-cartes/areas-secteurs/index-eng.html

Please note permanent area closures listed in Appendix 1, Section 5. **Permanent area closures are not illustrated on these maps.**

Cross-hatched/Stippled polygons represent Quota Management Areas (QMA). Full QMA descriptions are listed in Appendix 9.

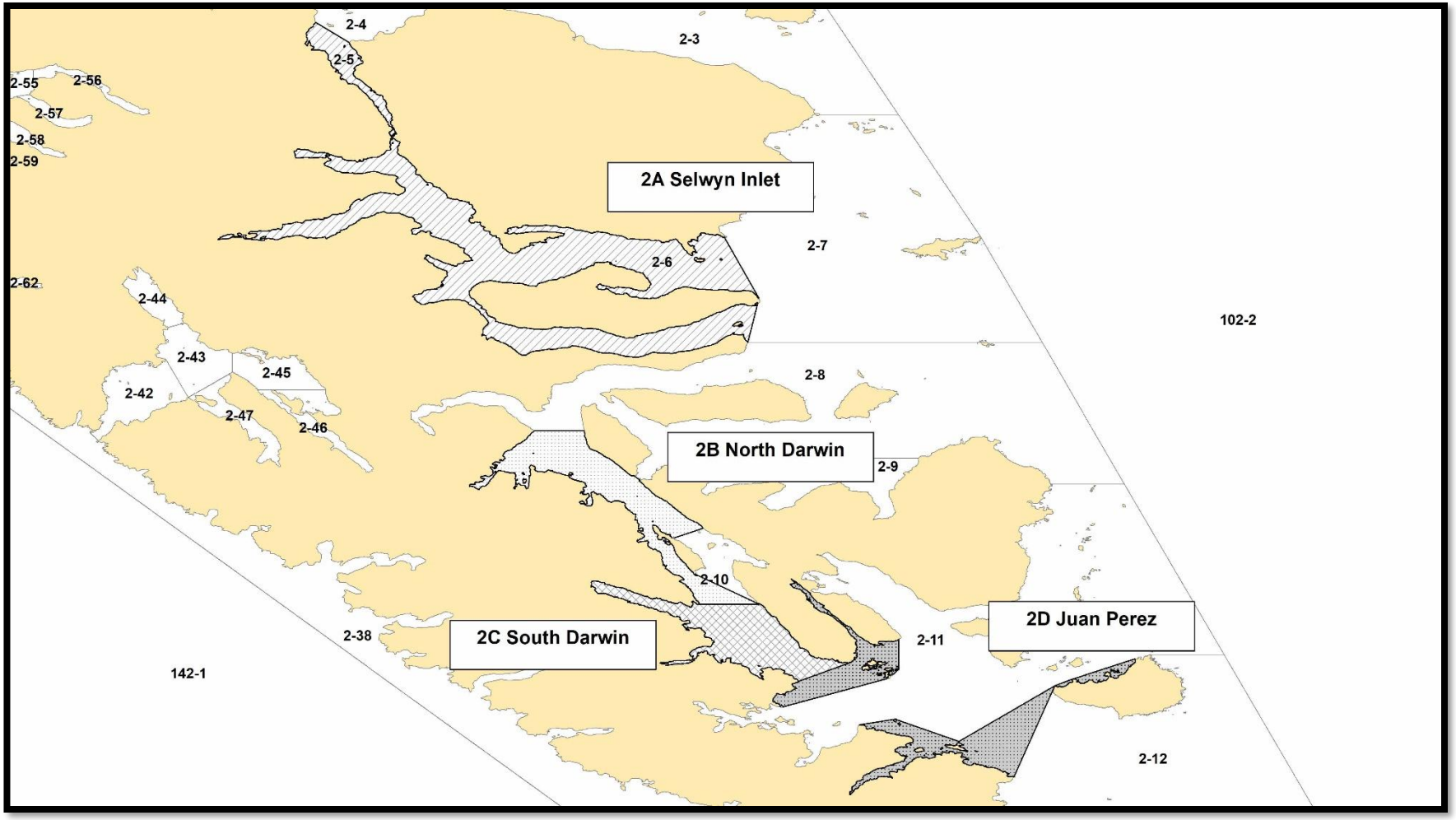


Figure 1. QMA 2A Selwyn Inlet: Subareas 2-5 and 2-6. QMA 2B North Darwin: Portion of Subarea 2-10. QMA 2C South Darwin: Portion of Subarea 2-10. QMA 2D Juan Perez: Portion of Subarea 2-11. See section 5 in Appendix 1 for a full description of all closures.

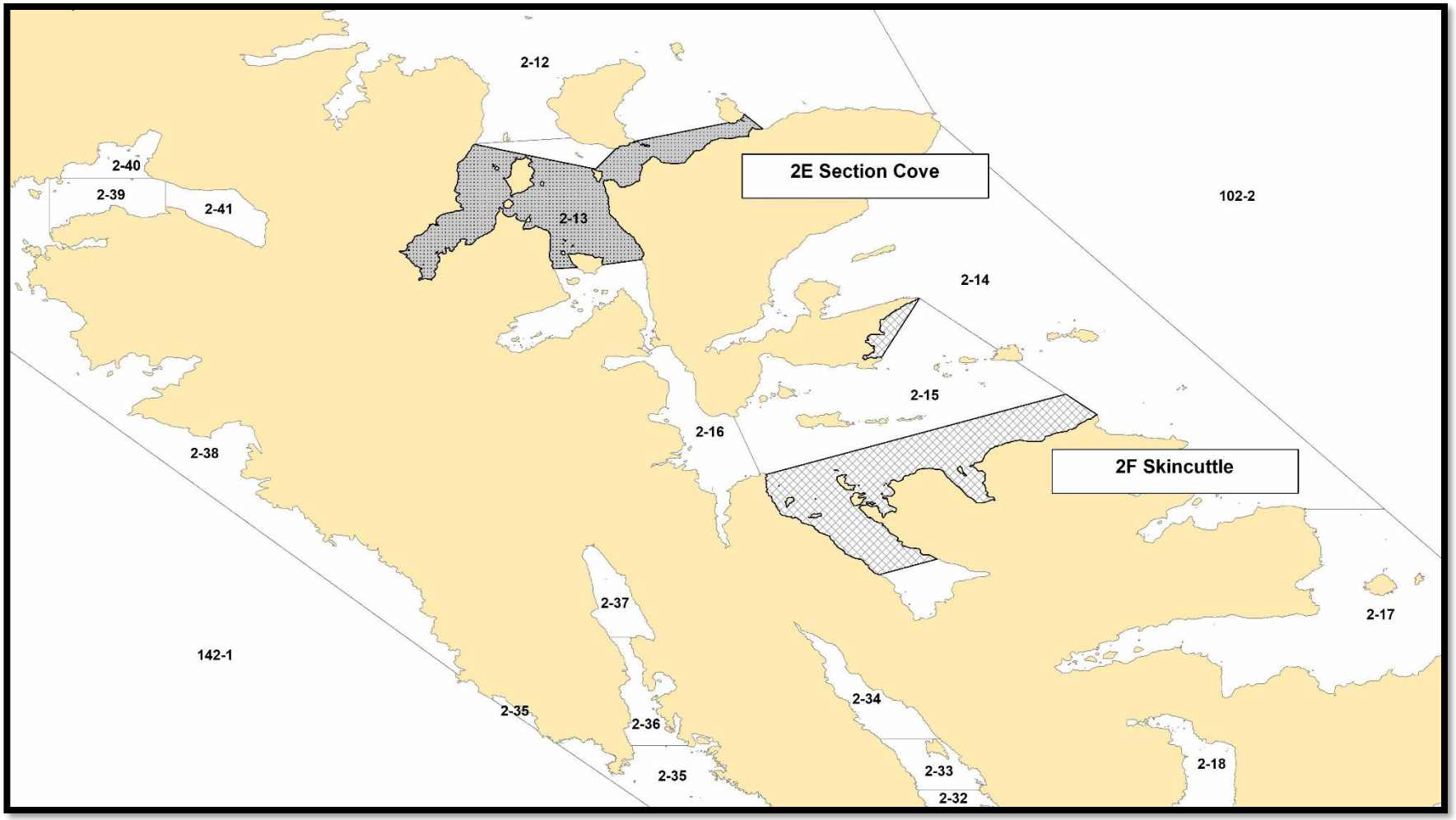


Figure 2. QMA 2E Section Cove: Portion of Subarea 2-13. QMA 2F Skincuttle: Portion of Subarea 2-15. See section 5 in Appendix 1 for a full description of all closures.

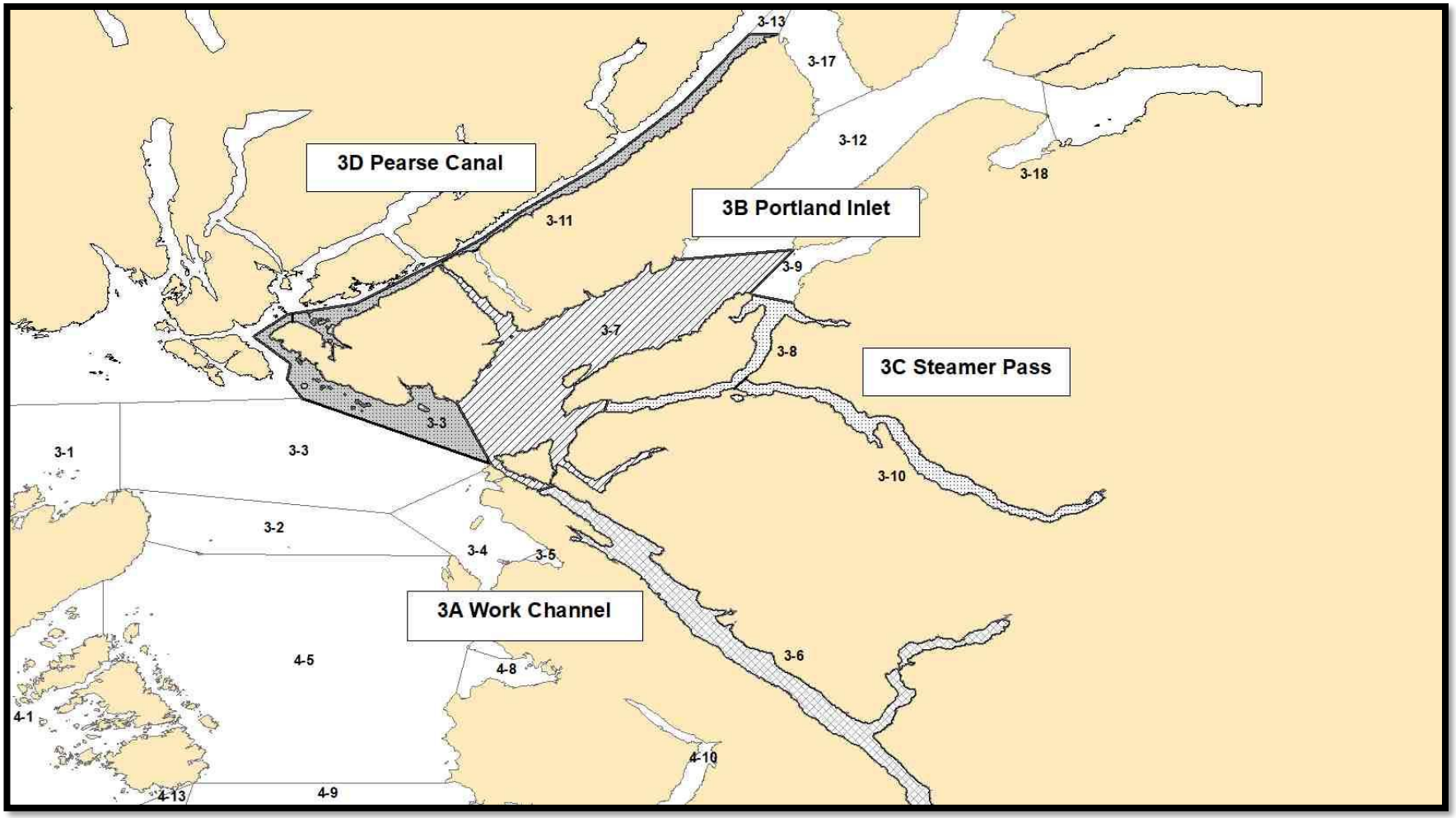


Figure 3. QMA 3A Work Channel: Subarea 3-6. QMA 3B Portland Inlet: Subarea 3-7. QMA 3C Steamer Pass: Subarea 3-8, 3-10. QMA 3D Pearse Canal: Subarea 3-3 and portion of Subarea 3-11. See section 5 in Appendix 1 for a full description of all closures.

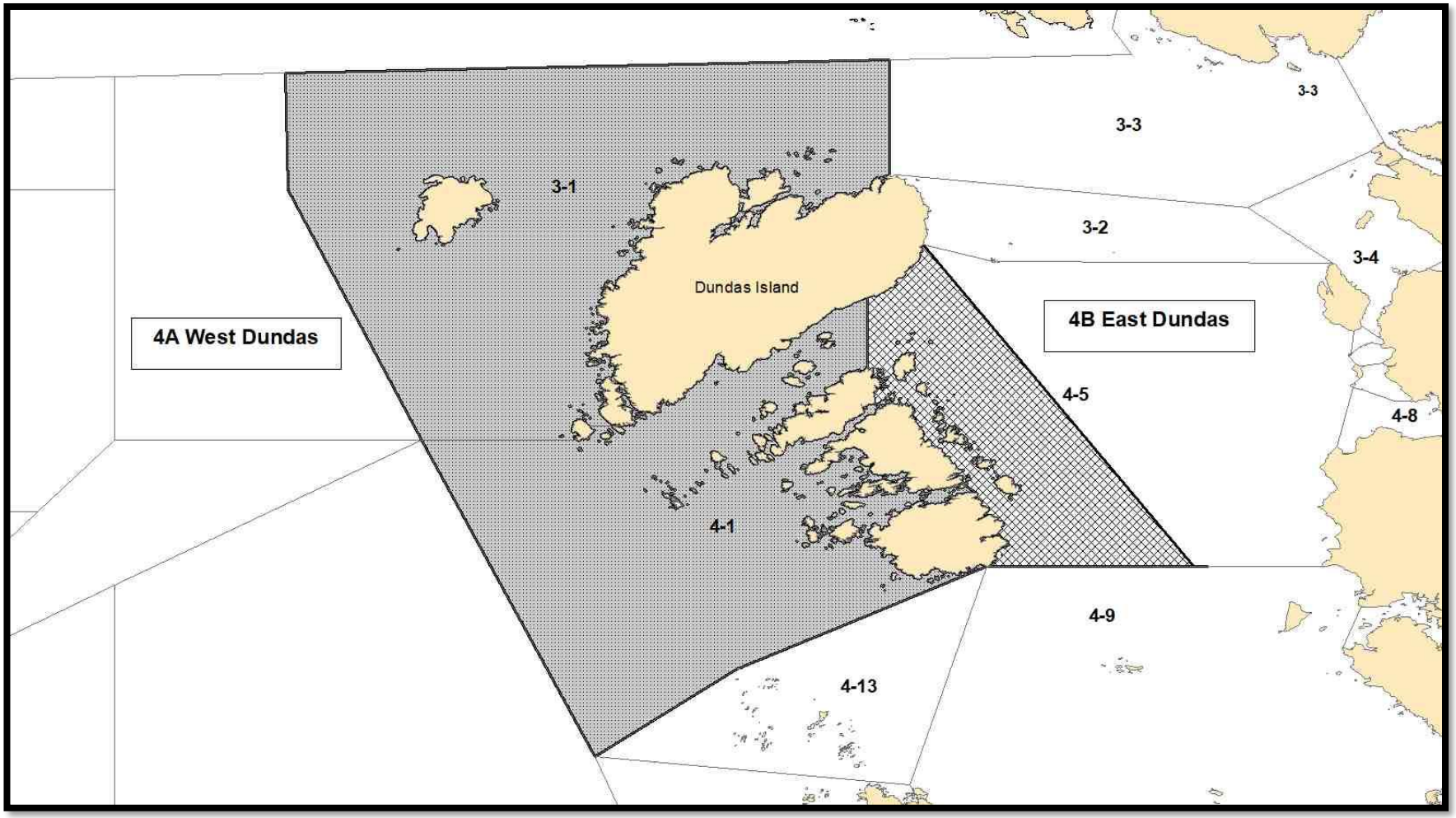


Figure 4. QMA 4A West Dundas: Subareas 3-1 and 4-1. QMA 4B East Dundas: Portion of Subarea 4-5. For description of closures please see Appendix 1 section 5

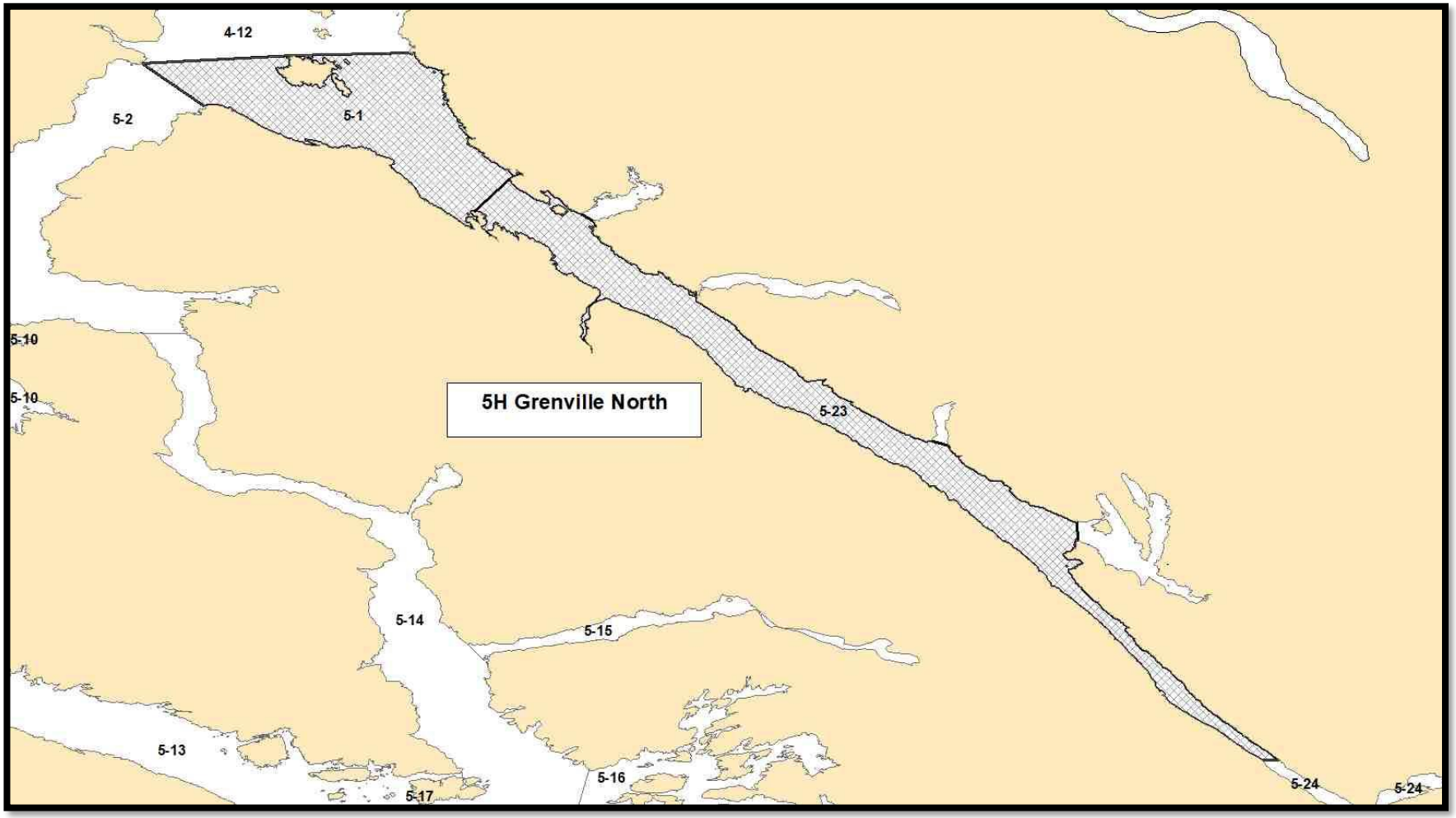


Figure 5. QMA 5H Grenville North: Subarea 5-1 and portion of 5-23. For description of closures please see Appendix 1 section 5.

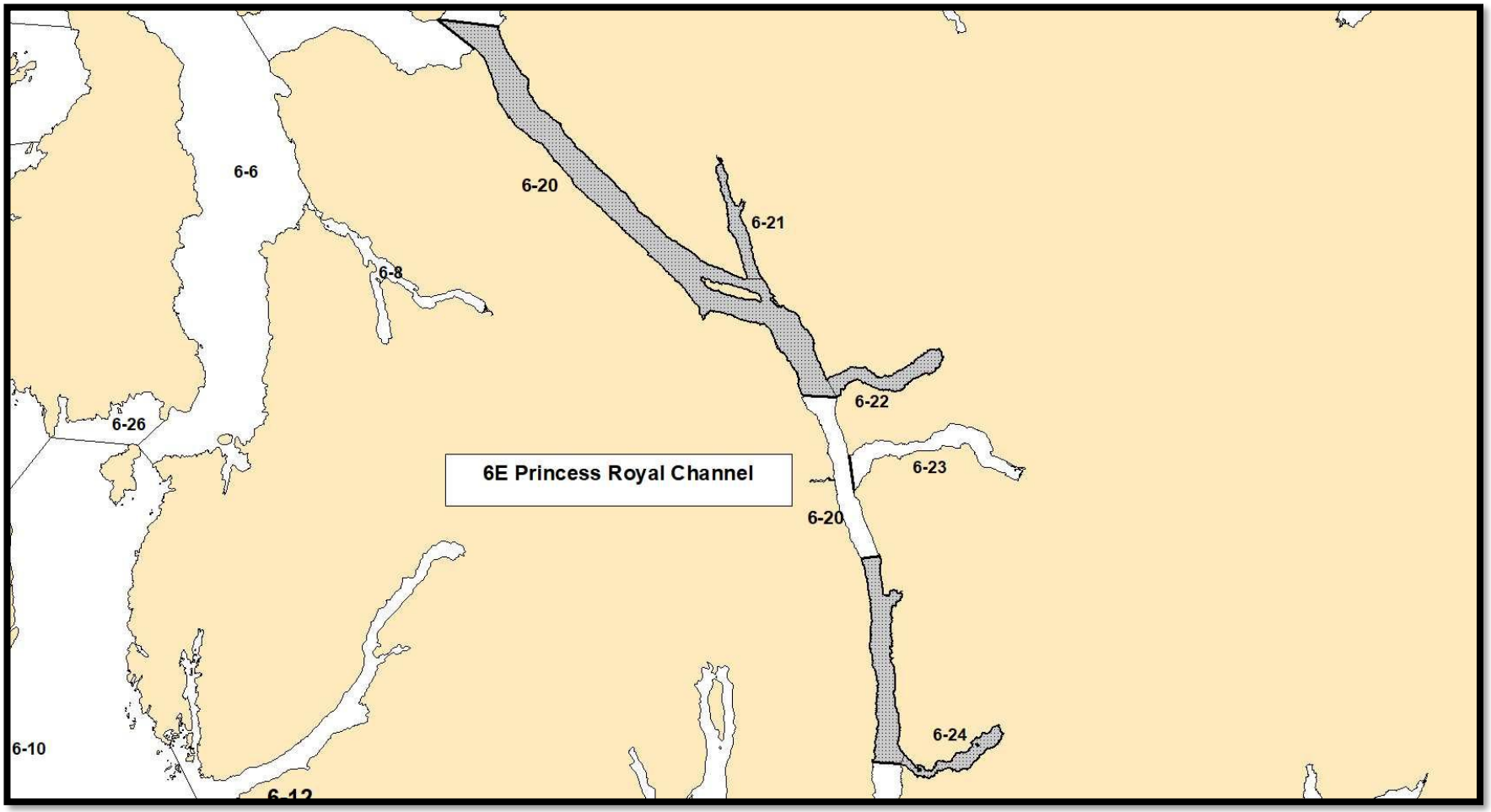


Figure 6. QMA 6E: Portion of Subarea 6-20; Subareas 6-21, 6-22 and 6-24. See section 5 in Appendix 1 for a full description of all closures.

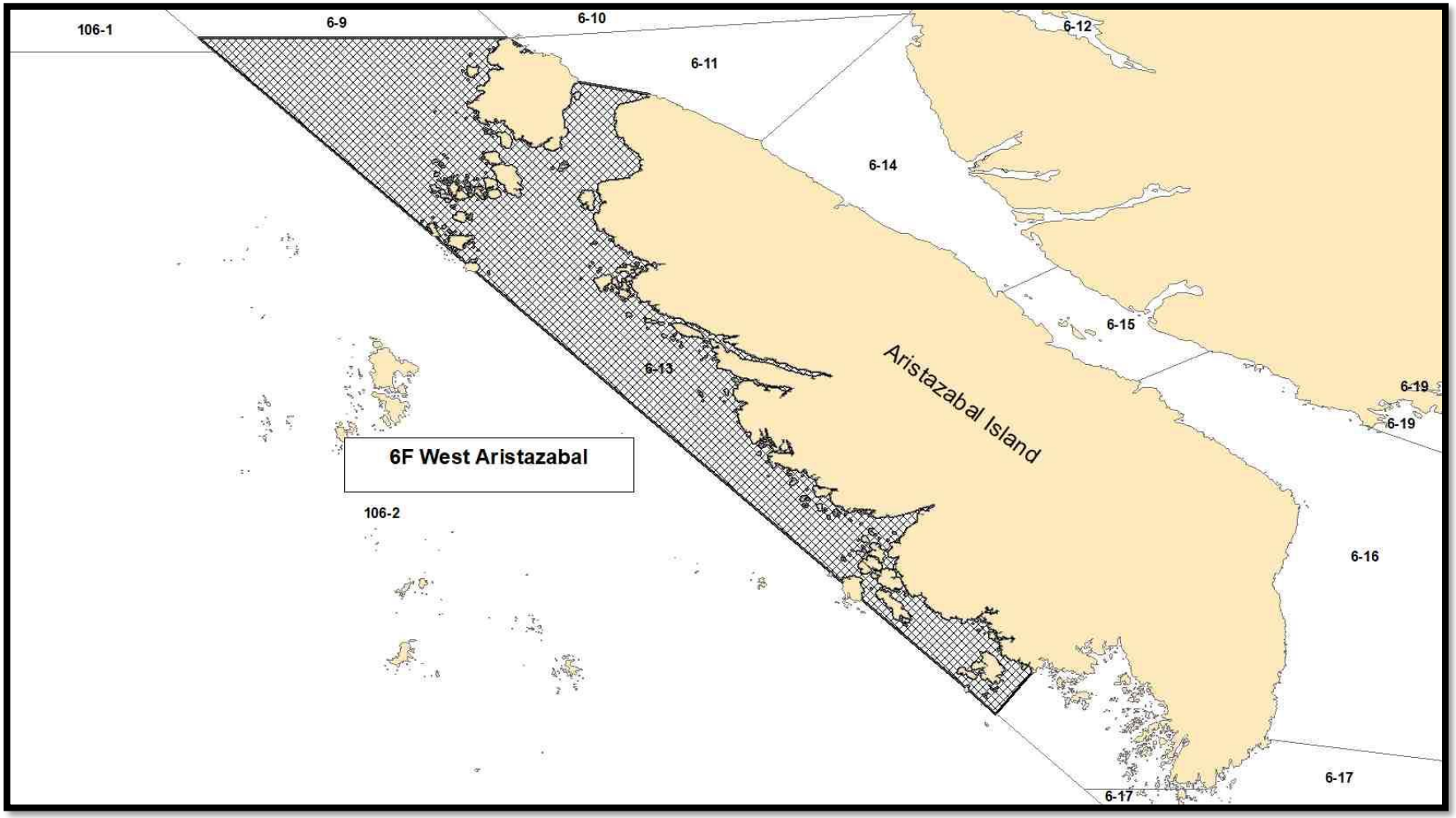


Figure 7. QMA 6F West Aristazabal: Portion of Subarea 6-13. For description of closures please see Appendix 1 section 5.

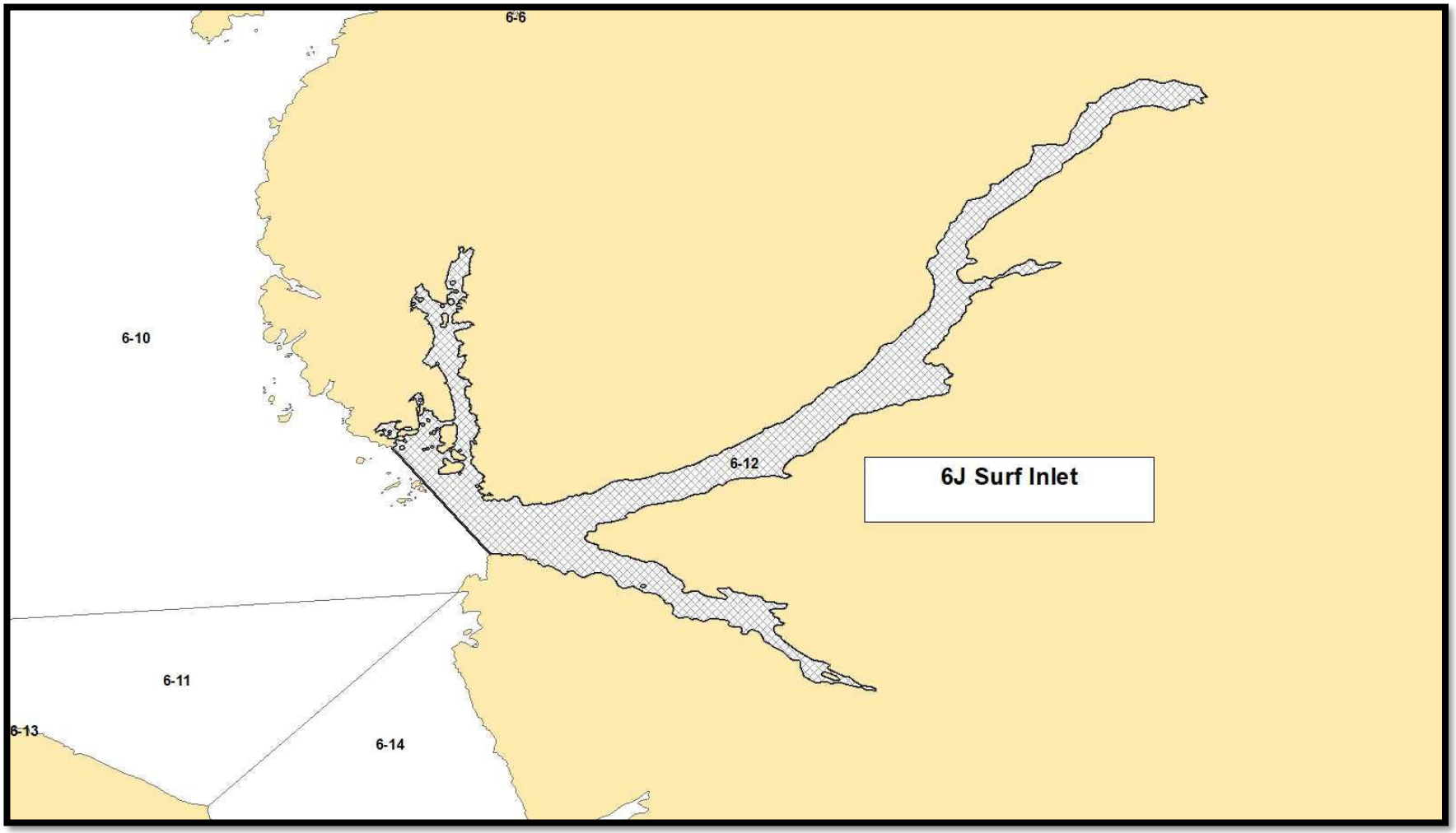


Figure 8. QMA 6J Surf Inlet: Subarea 6-12. For description of closures please see Appendix 1 section 5.

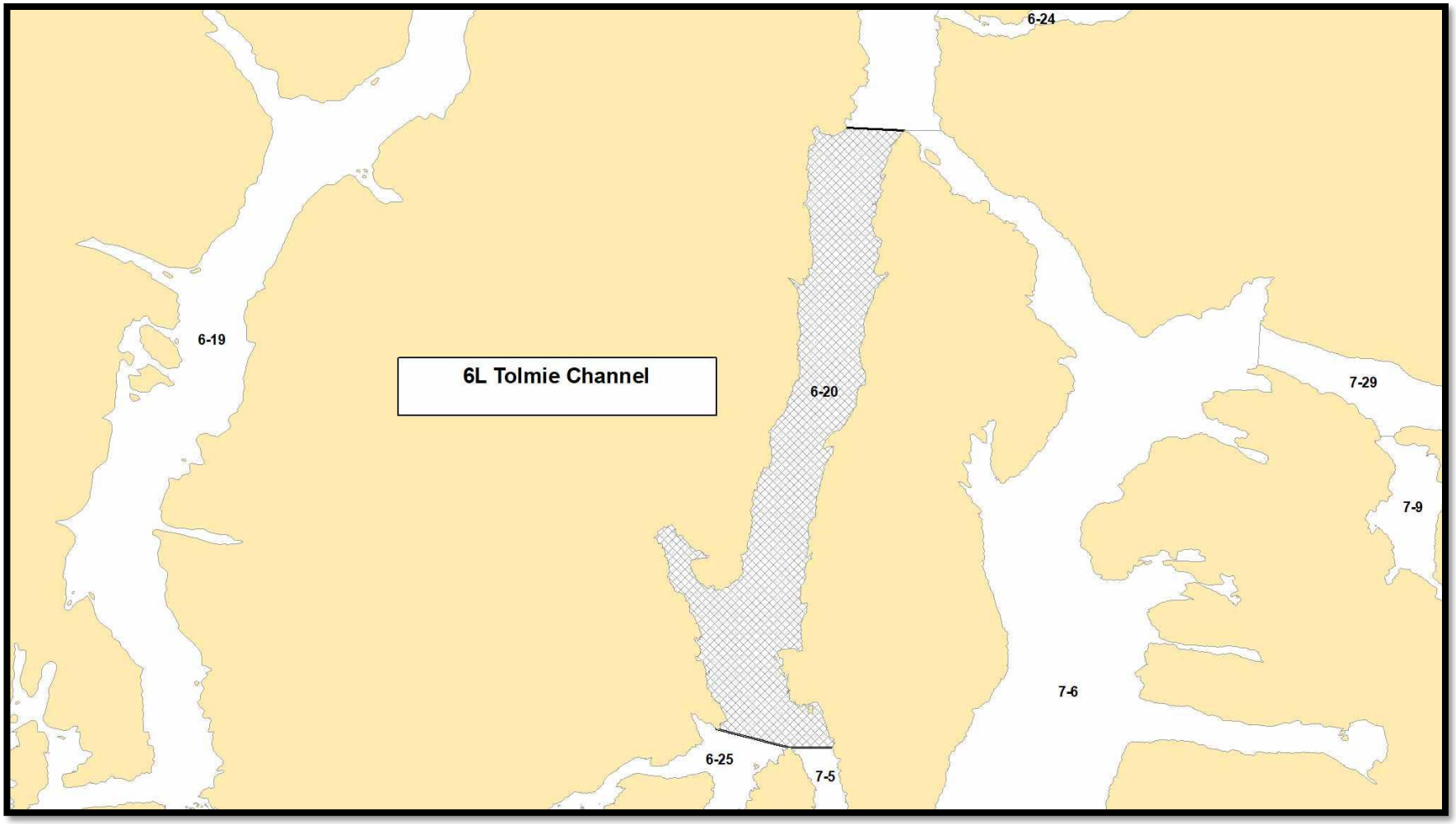


Figure 9. QMA 6L Tolmie Channel: Portion of Subarea 6-20; For descriptions of all closures see Appendix 1, Section 5.

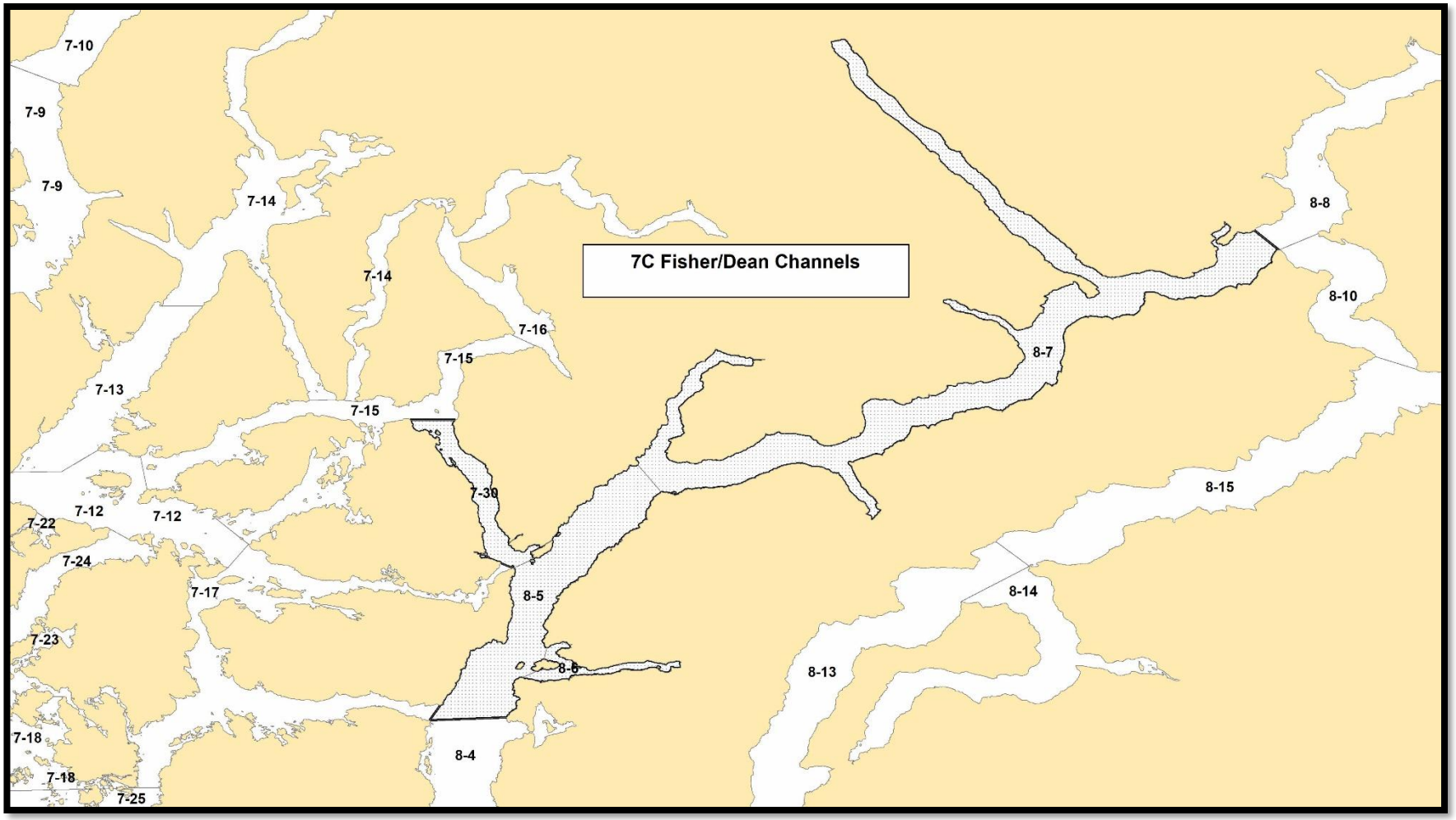


Figure 10. <u>QMA 7C Fisher/Dean Channels:</u> Subareas 7-30, 8-5 to 8-7. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

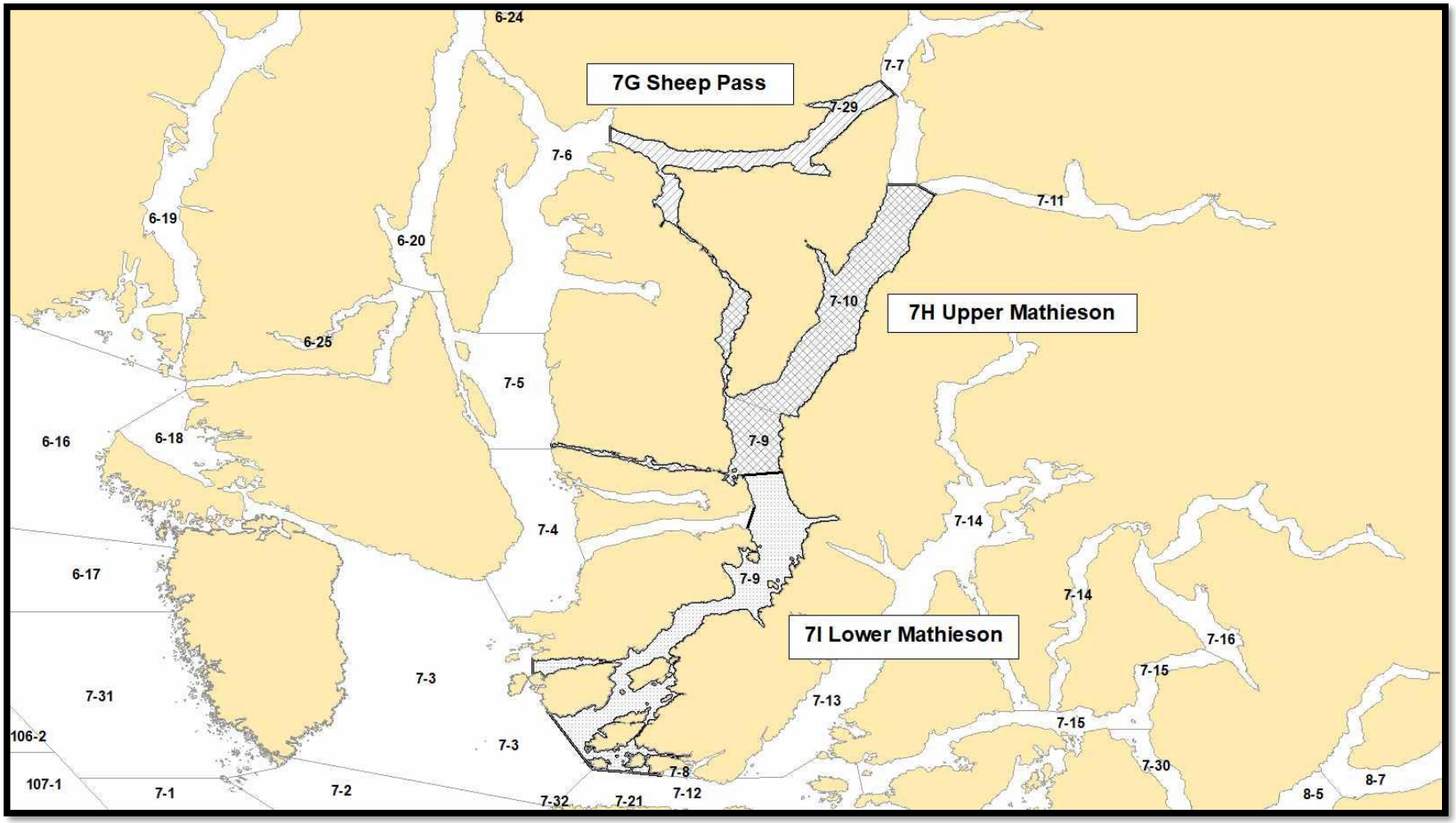


Figure 11. QMA 7G Sheep Pass: Portion of Subarea 7-9; Subarea 7-29. QMA 7H Upper Mathieson: Portion of Subarea 7-9; Subarea 7-10. QMA 7I Lower Mathieson: Portion of Subarea 7-9. For description of closures please see Appendix 1 section 5.

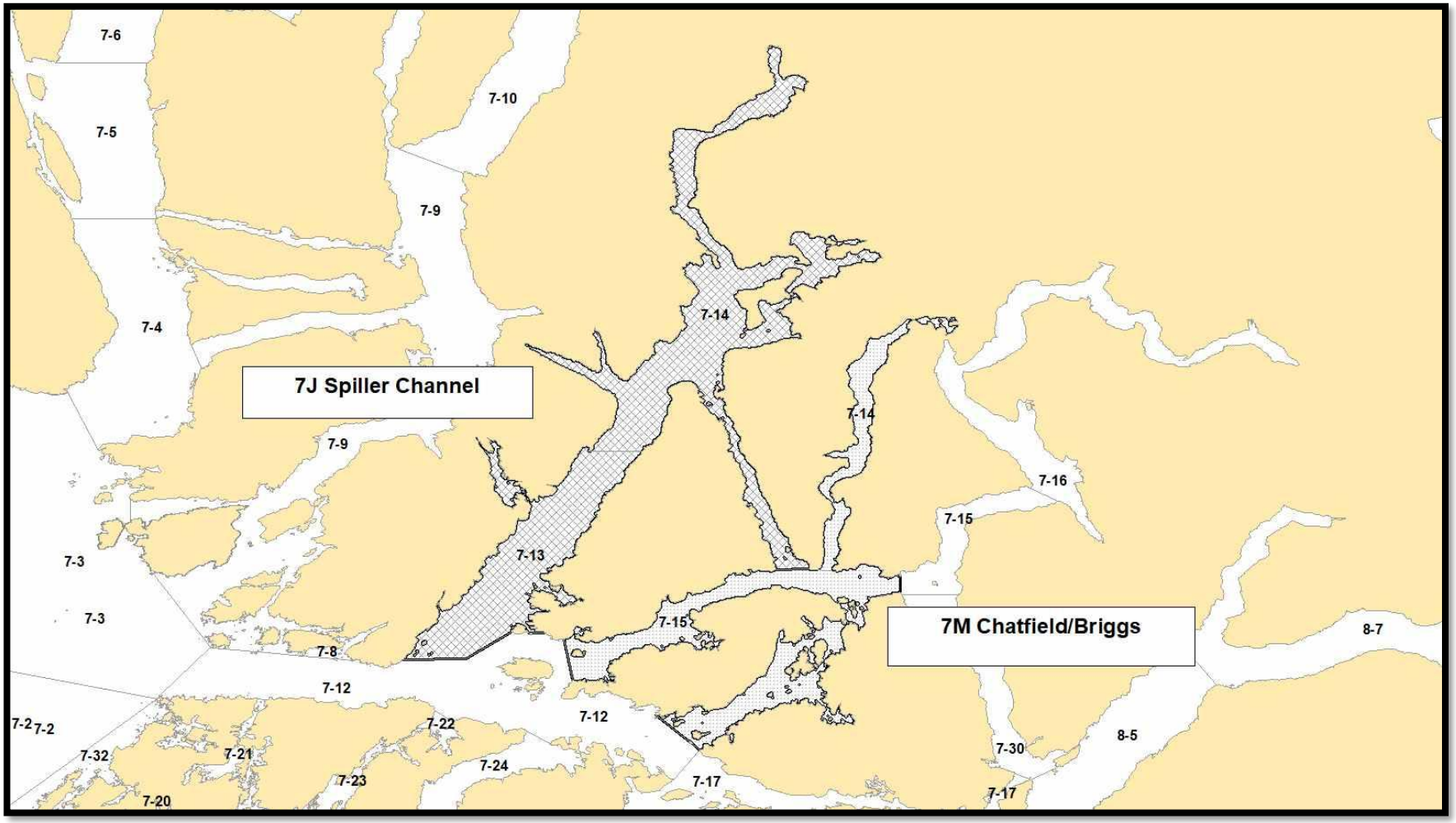


Figure 12. QMA 7J Spiller Channel: Subarea 7-13 and Portion of subarea 7-14. QMA 7M Chatfield/Briggs: Portion of Subarea 7-14 and portion of Subarea 7-15. For description of closures please see Appendix 1 section 5.

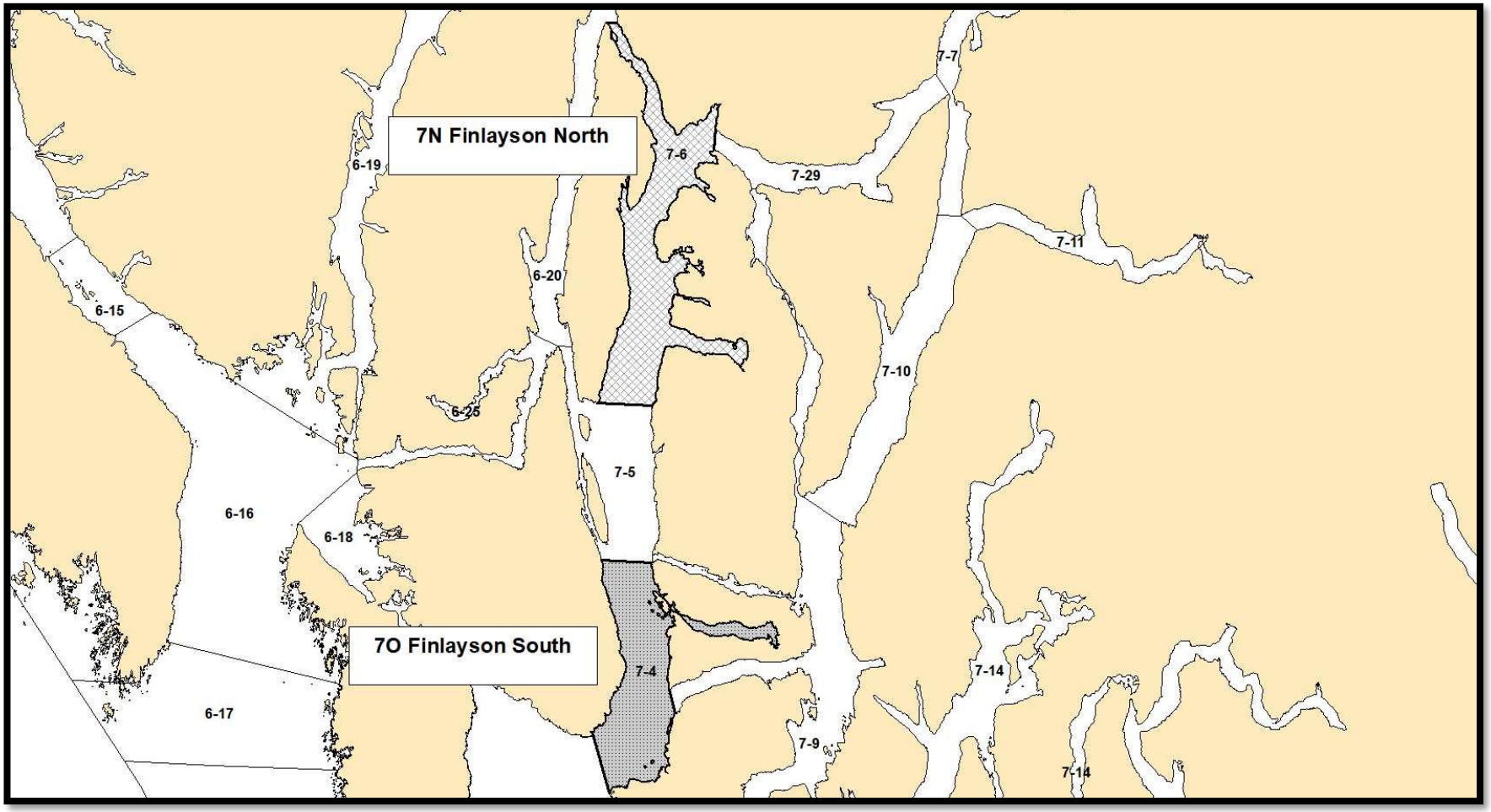


Figure 13. QMA 7N Finlayson North: Portion of Subarea 7-6. QMA 7O Finlayson South: Subarea 7-4. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

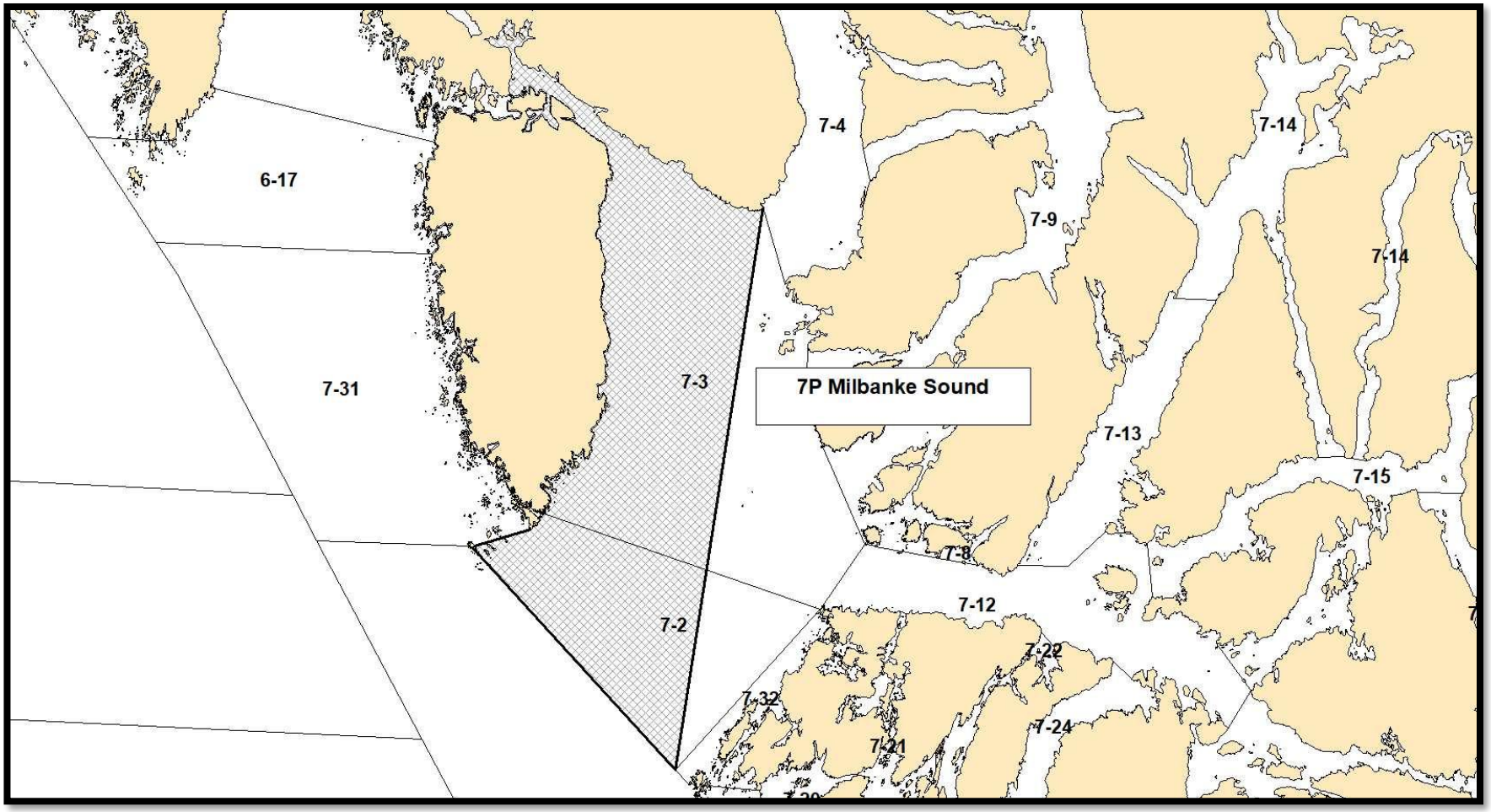


Figure 14. QMA 7P Milbanke Sound: Portion of Subarea 7-2; Subarea 7-3. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

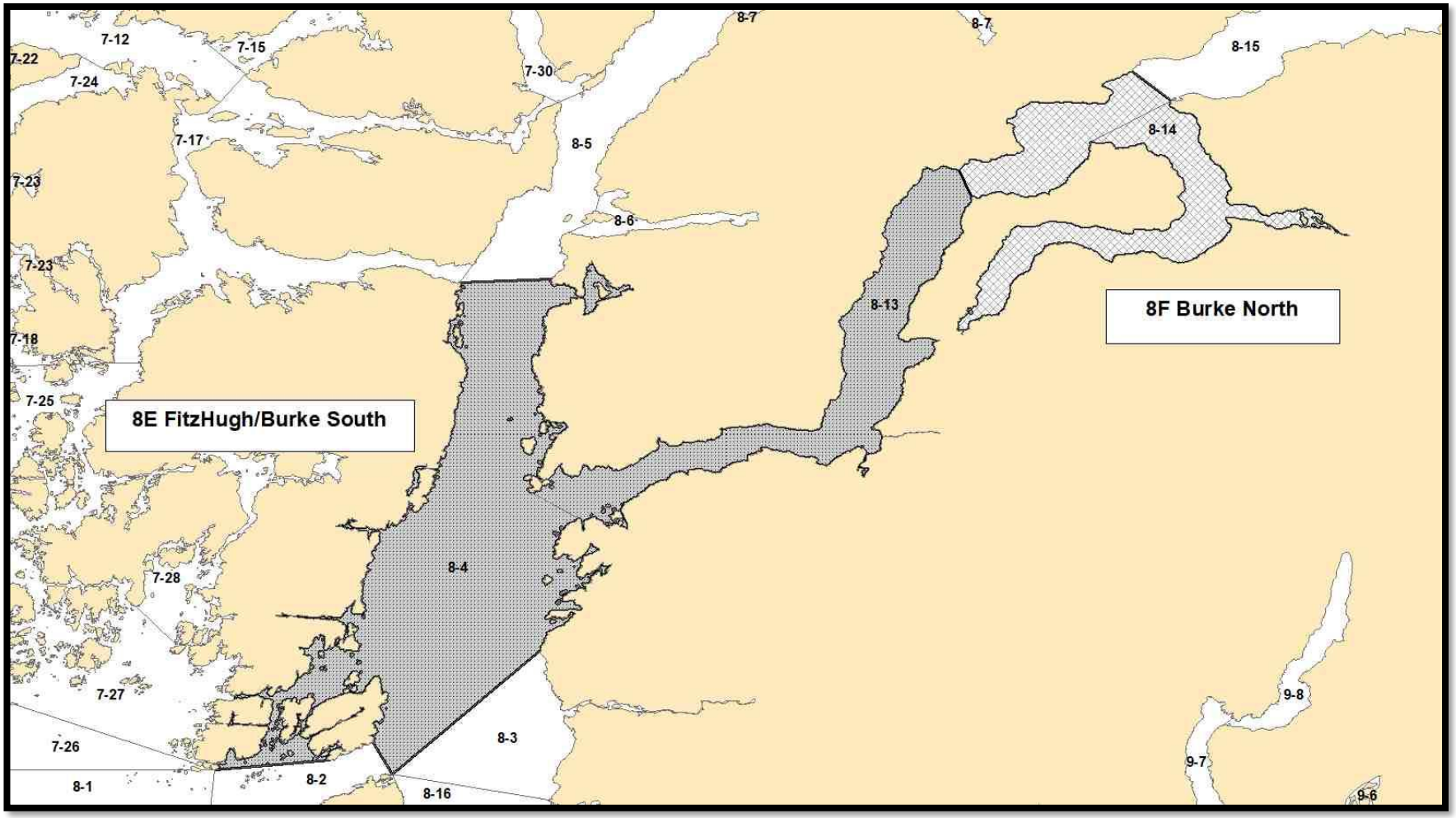


Figure 15. QMA 8E FitzHugh/Burke South: Subarea 8-4 and portion of Subarea 8-13. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

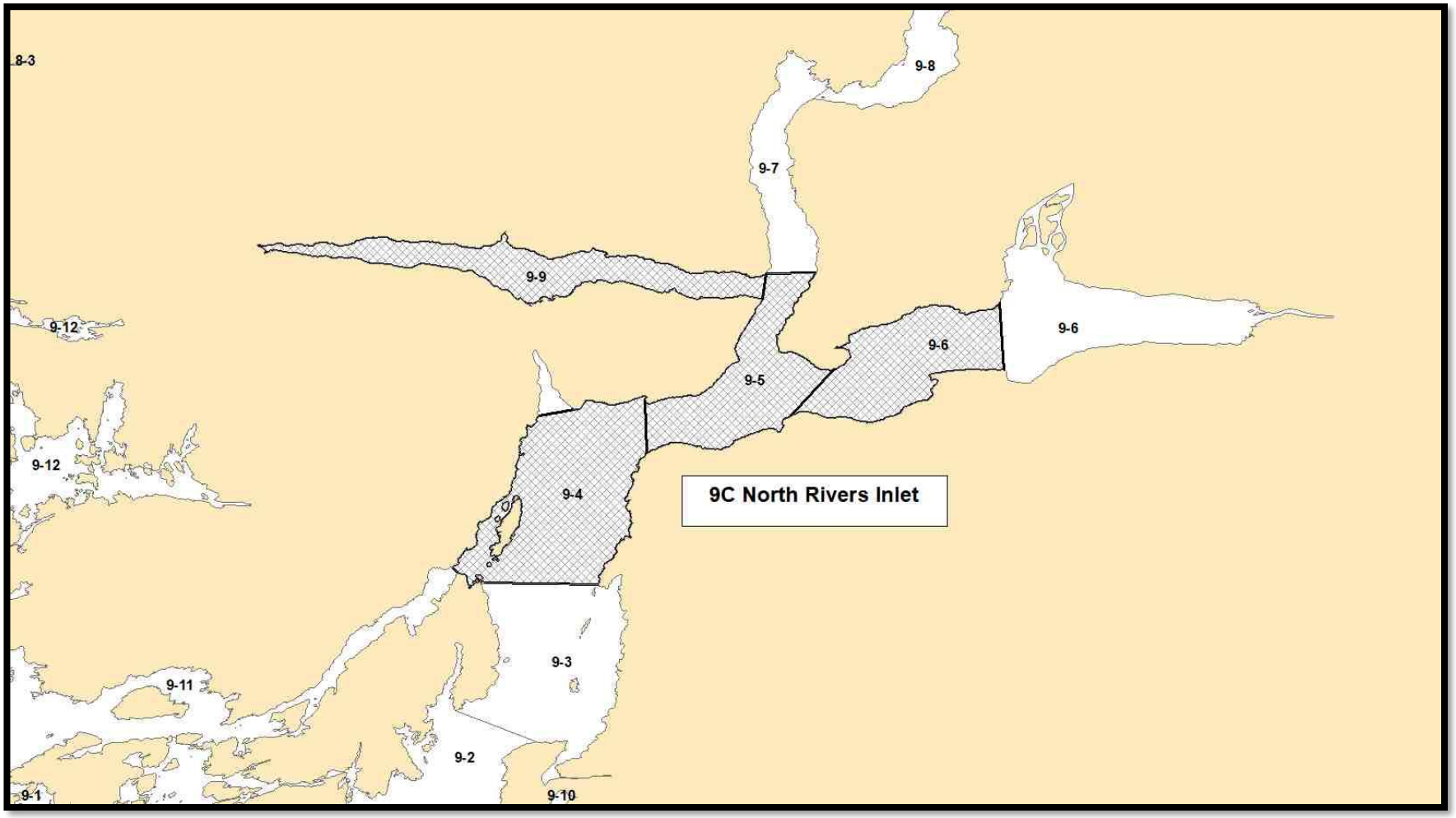


Figure 16. QMA 9C North Rivers Inlet: Portion of Subareas 9-4 and 9-6 and Subareas 9-5 and 9-9. For description of closures see Appendix 1, Section 5.

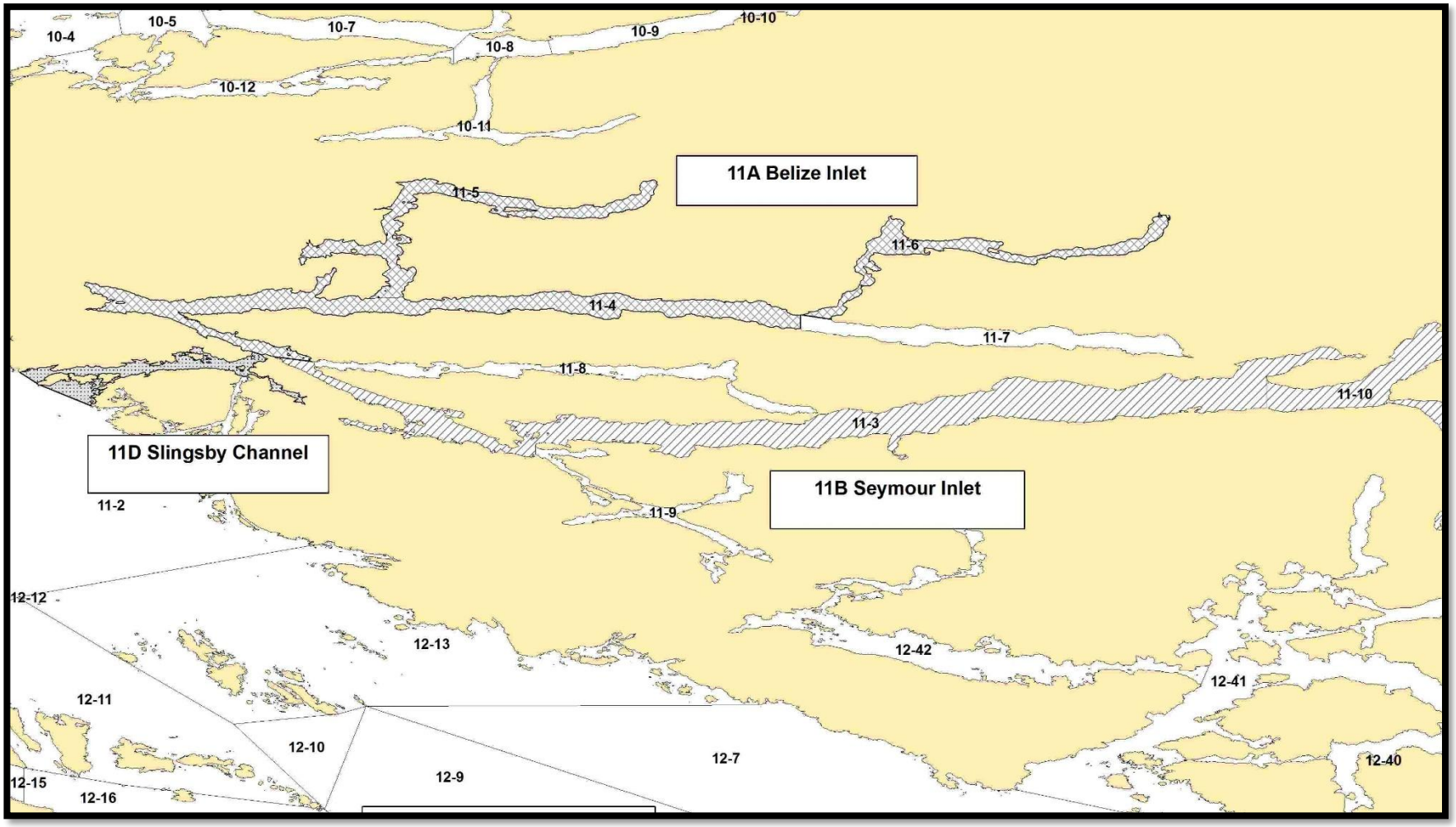


Figure 17. QMA 11A Belize Inlet: Subareas 11-4, 11-5, 11-6. QMA 11B Seymour Inlet: Subareas 11-3 and 11-10. QMA 11D Slingsby Channel: Portion of Subarea 11-2. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

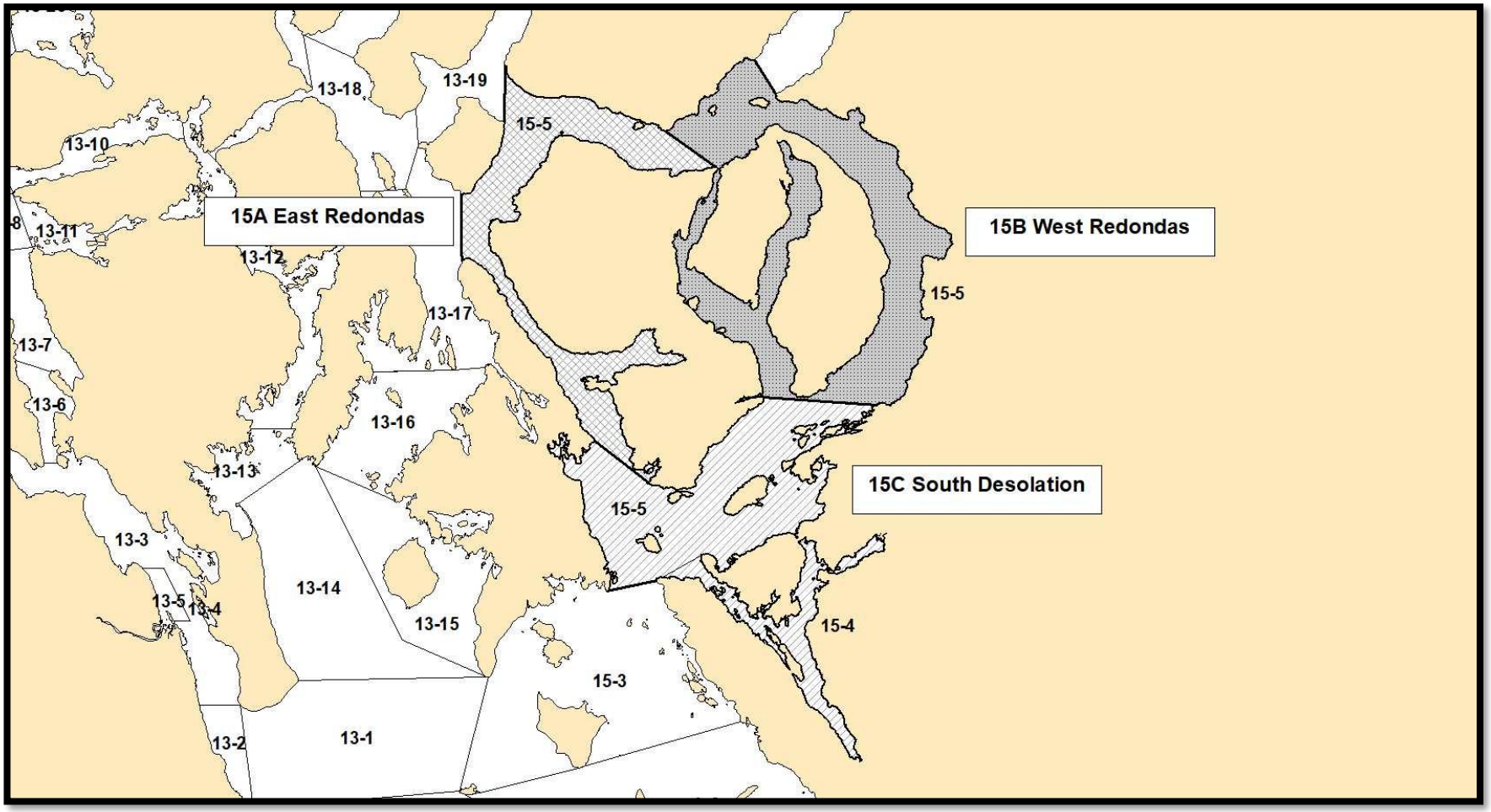


Figure 18. QMA 15A East Redonda Island: Portion of Subarea 15-5. QMA 15B West Redonda Island: Portion of Subarea 15-5. QMA 15C South Desolation: Subarea 15-4; portion Subarea 15-5. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

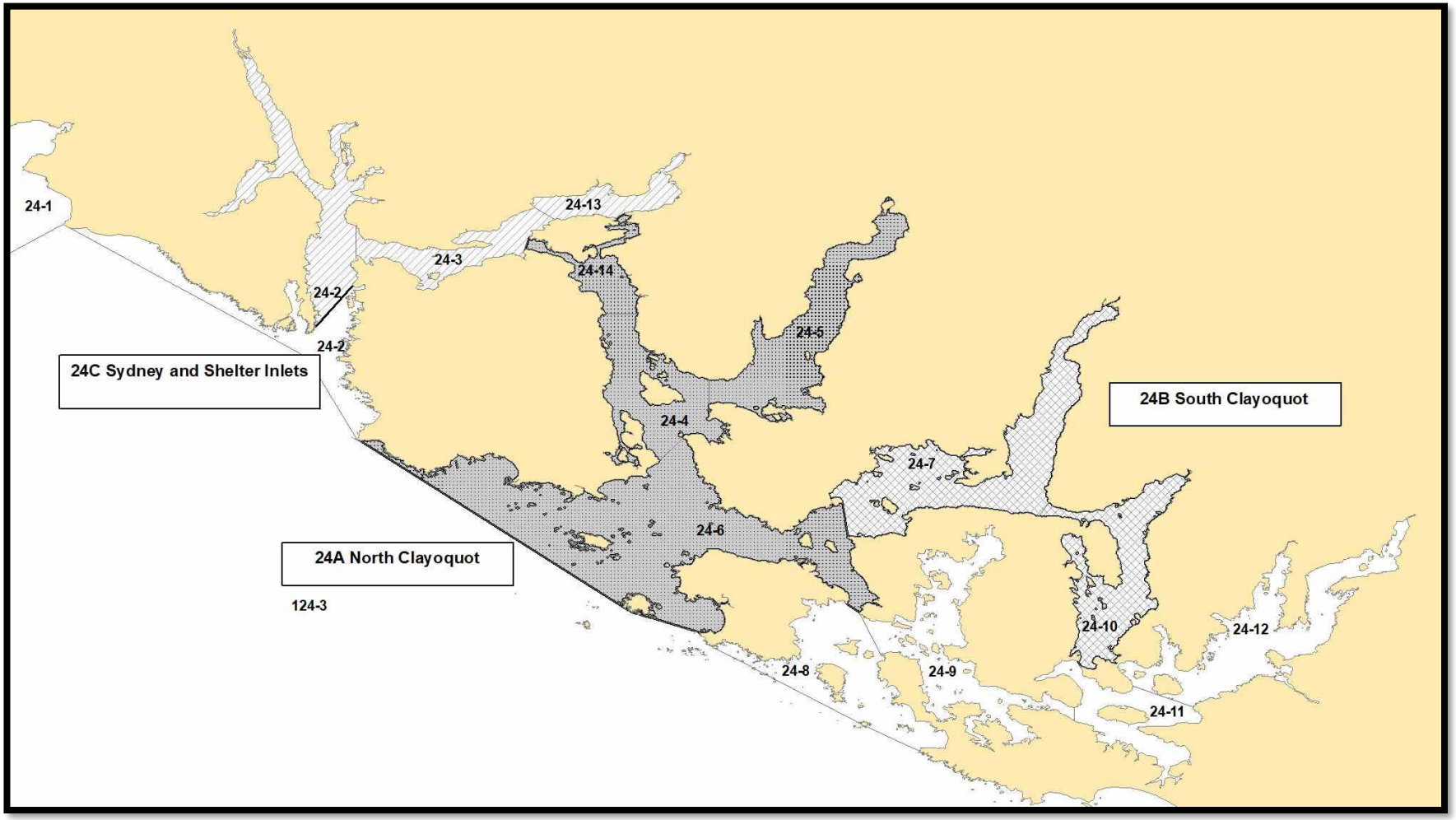


Figure 19. QMA 24A North Clayoquot: Subareas 24-4 to 24-6, 24-14. QMA 24B South Clayoquot: Subareas 24-7 and 24-10. QMA 24C Sydney/Shelter Inlets (NEW): Portion of subarea 24-2; Subareas 24-3, 24-13. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5

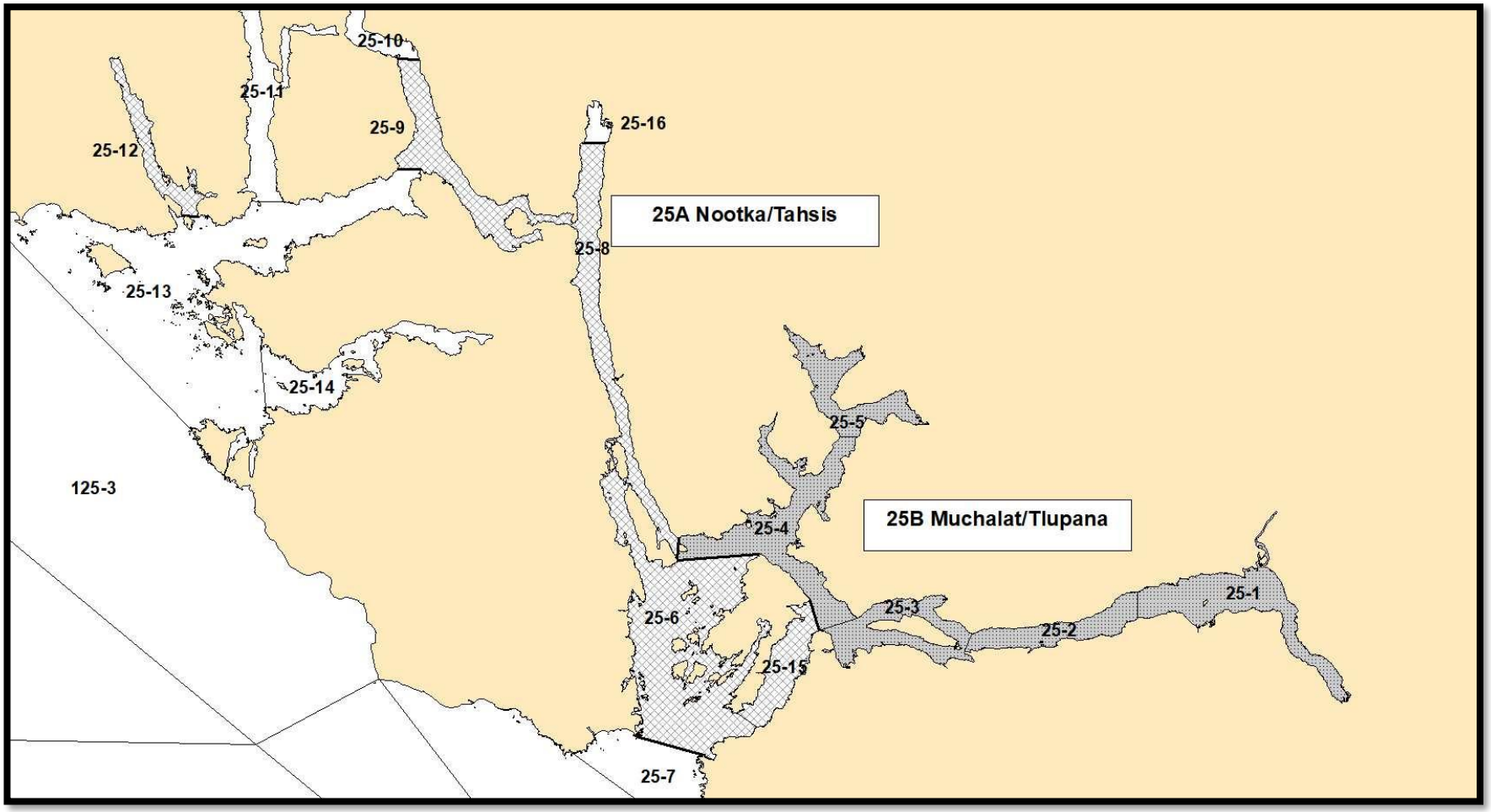


Figure 20. QMA 25A Nootka/Tahsis: Subareas 25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-12, 25-15. QMA 25B Muchalat/Tlupana: Subareas 25-1 to 25-5. For description of closures please see Appendix 1, Section 5.

Appendix 11: Example of Sea Cucumber Conditions of Licence

This example of conditions of licence is provided for your information only. These conditions of licence are generic and may not be the same as those provided when a licence is issued. The actual conditions of licence will be attached to the licence issued by the National Online Licensing System (NOLS).

CONDITIONS OF [YEAR] SEA CUCUMBER LICENCE

Licence Period: October 1, [YEAR] to September 30, [YEAR]

Authority

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has authority to set licensing conditions under subsection 22(1) of the *Fishery (General) Regulations* for the proper management and control of fisheries and the conservation and protection of fish.

Persons fishing under authority of this licence may only do so in accordance with the Conditions stated below.

Also, it is the responsibility of individual fishers to be informed of, and comply with, the *Fisheries Act* and the Regulations made thereunder, in addition to these Conditions.

For information on management of the Sea Cucumber fishery obtain a copy of the [Year] Sea Cucumber - Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) from a Pacific Fishery Licensing Unit Office. The IFMP is intended for general information purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between the IFMP and the *Fisheries Act* and Regulations or these Conditions, the *Fisheries Act* and Regulations and these Conditions prevail.

Definitions:

"Area" and "Subarea" have the same meaning as in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.

"container" means a mesh pick bag, a mesh transport bag, a plastic tote or cage used for the gathering, handling, or transportation of Sea Cucumber.

"Department (DFO)" means the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

"Designated service provider" means D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd., the private sector company authorized by the Department for the purpose of assisting licence holders and vessel masters in meeting these conditions of licence with regards to reporting of information.

"fishing trip" means the time between leaving port to commence commercial Sea Cucumber fishing and the return to a port or offloading of catch that results in a discontinuation of fishing for 24 hours or longer.

"Hail-out Report" means the report made to a designated Sea Cucumber service provider prior to embarking on a fishing trip.

“Hail-in Report” means the report made to a designated Sea Cucumber service provider prior to landing Sea Cucumber or after a fishing trip.

“harvested” means removing, by any means, Sea Cucumber from the substrate of the ocean floor.

“harvest log” means a log of all harvest operations that meets the requirements of the Department’s Stock Assessment and Research Division Shellfish Data Unit and available from the designated service provider who provides logbook and data keypunch service.

“landed” or “landing” means the transfer of Sea Cucumber from a vessel in the water to land.

“observer” means an individual who has been designated as an observer by the Director-General for Pacific Region pursuant to section 39 of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*.

“Quota Management Area” means those areas enumerated and described in Appendix 1 of the [Year] Sea Cucumber – Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

“tranship” means the transfer of Sea Cucumber from a vessel to another vessel.

“validated” means Sea Cucumber have been weighed by an observer and the weight entered into the Sea Cucumber Validation & Harvest Logbook (see sections 10 and 12) or an alternative log approved by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

“vessel master” means the individual embarked on the vessel and responsible for the operation of the vessel and the fishing activities carried out under authority of this licence.

“vessel registration number” or “VRN” means the number assigned to a vessel by the Department at the time the vessel is registered as a fishing vessel;

1. Species of fish permitted to be taken:

Sea Cucumber (*Apostichopus californicus*, formerly *Parastichopus californicus*)

2. Licence Expiry Date:

This licence expires on September 30, [Year].

3. Quantities permitted to be taken:

The maximum quantity of Sea Cucumber authorized to be taken under this licence shall not exceed XX tonnes (XX lb.) of split and eviscerated sea cucumber harvested from within the area set out in this licence subject to all applicable regulations.

4. Waters in which fishing is permitted:

Area of fishing is as set out in this licence.

5. Fishing gear permitted to be used:

Hand picking by divers only. Suction devices are not permitted to be used.

6. Fishing multiple Quota Management Areas

All Sea Cucumber caught in a Quota Management Area must be landed or transhipped prior to the commencement of fishing in a new Quota Management Area.

7. The type and size of containers to hold or transport Sea Cucumber and the marking of such containers:

(1) All Sea Cucumber delivered to designated landing ports or transhipped to another vessel shall be placed in containers which are labelled. The label must be waterproof and shall provide the following information written in water resistant ink:

(a) vessel name and vessel registration number;
(b) licence tab number;
(c) harvest date;
(d) harvest Subarea;
(e) location of catch; and
(f) common product name, i.e. Sea Cucumber.

(2) All harvested Sea Cucumber that are contained in "pick bags" or any other type of container and left unattended in the water must be labelled. The label must be waterproof and marked with the vessel name and the vessel registration number of the vessel used to harvest that product. Floats attached to containers left unattended in the water must also be marked with the vessel registration number.

8. Transhipment:

Sea Cucumber may be transhipped from the licensed vessel to another vessel licensed for the transportation of fish provided the vessel master complies with the following conditions:

(1) all Sea Cucumber are in containers and tagged as per section 7;

(2) the number of containers are recorded in the log;

(3) the "packer weight", (determined by adding the weight of the Sea Cucumber to the weight of the container), is recorded in the log; and

(4) a copy of the log accompanies the Sea Cucumber to port; and

(5) the Sea Cucumber is landed at one of the locations listed in section 9 and validated by an observer.

9. Locations permitted for the landing of Sea Cucumber:

Sea Cucumber must be landed at one of the following ports:

(1) For fisheries in waters off the east coast of Vancouver Island: Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Herriot Bay, French Creek, Powell River, Lund, Campbell River, Kelsey Bay, Sechelt, Egmont, Pender Harbour, Vancouver, Sidney and Squirrel Cove on Cortes Island.

(2) For fisheries in waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island: Tofino, Ucluelet, Port Alberni and Gold River.

(3) For fisheries in waters north of Cape Caution: Prince Rupert, Port Edward, Queen Charlotte City, Moresby Camp, Klemtu, Bella Bella, and Port Hardy.

This condition applies to both the licensed vessel and, if the vessel master chooses to tranship his catch to another vessel, to the vessel receiving the Sea Cucumber.

10. Validation:

(See Explanatory Note after section 14)

(1) All Sea Cucumber harvested or removed from the sea bed floor must be validated at the point and time the fish are landed.

(2) All weights must be determined using a scale approved by Industry Canada.

(3) Weights will be recorded as split and eviscerated weights. If the whole product is landed then a conversion factor of 2.73 will be used to convert to split weight.

(4) The vessel master of the licensed vessel or, if the catch is transhipped to another vessel, the vessel master of that vessel shall provide the observer with a hard copy of the Sea Cucumber Validation and Harvest Log and the chart information upon completion of each validation.

(5) The vessel master of the licensed vessel or, if the catch is transhipped to another vessel, the vessel master of that vessel shall provide to the observer at the point of landing, access to the vessel's fish holds, freezers and other fish storage areas at any time during the landing.

11. Oral Reports:

(1) Hail-out Report

Not less than 24 hours before a fishing trip, the vessel master shall make a Hail-out Report by contracting the designated Sea Cucumber service provider at (800) 775-5505 and report the following information:

(a) vessel name, vessel master's name, and vessel registration number;
(b) species to be fished, (i.e. Sea Cucumber);
(c) Subarea(s) to be fished;
(d) anticipated time of arrival at the fishing location; and
(e) anticipated time that fishing will begin.

(2) Upon failure to arrive at fishing location within 24 hours of time stated in subsection 11(2), the vessel master shall report the following information to the designated Sea Cucumber service provider:

(a) vessel name and vessel registration number; and
(b) details of change in fishing plans.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to moving to a new Quota Management Area, the vessel master shall report the following information to the designated Sea Cucumber service provider:

(a) vessel name, vessel master's name, and vessel registration number;
(b) species to be fished (i.e. Sea Cucumber);
(c) Subarea(s) to be fished;
(d) anticipated time of arrival at the fishing location; and
(e) anticipated time that fishing will begin.

(4) Cancellation of fishing trip:

Should the vessel master decide not to fish after having made a Hail-out Report, the vessel master shall make a Hail-in Report by contacting the Sea Cucumber service provider to indicate that no fishing occurred within 24 hours of the time stated in subsection 11(1).

(5) Hail-in Report:

(a) Where the vessel is not landing Sea Cucumber (i.e. Sea Cucumber has been transhipped at sea):

Not more than 24 hours after a fishing trip, the vessel master shall make a Hail-in Report by contacting the designated Sea Cucumber service provider at (800) 775-5505 to report the following information:

(i) vessel name, vessel master's name, and vessel registration number;
(ii) species fished (i.e. Sea Cucumber);
(iii) Subarea(s) that were fished; and
(iv) time that fishing stopped.

(b) Where the vessel is landing Sea Cucumber ashore *:

At least 24 hours prior to landing Sea Cucumber, the vessel master shall make a Hail-in Report by contacting the designated Sea Cucumber service provider at (800) 775-5505 to report the following information:

(i) vessel name, vessel master's name, and vessel registration number;
(ii) species to be landed (i.e. Sea Cucumber);
(iii) name of the designated landing port and location therein where the catch shall be landed;
(iv) anticipated time of landing;
(v) name of fish processor or buyer that is buying or transporting the catch; and
(vi) if applicable, the method of transporting the catch to a fish processor.

* If weather results in a delay in arrival time or an earlier arrival time the observer must be contacted as soon as possible. Contact numbers for observers are available by calling (800) 775-5505.

12. Harvest Logs and Chart Data:

(See Explanatory Note after section 14)

It is a condition of this licence that the licence holder ensures that harvest log and chart information is received by Fisheries and Oceans Canada Shellfish Data Unit.

(1) The vessel master must maintain a log of all harvest operations and provide this information in both hard (paper) copy and electronic copy to the Department in accordance with the timing set out in subsection 12(8). The content and format of this log (paper and electronic) shall meet the requirements as defined by the Department's Stock Assessment and Research Division Shellfish Data Unit for the current licence year.

(2) The harvest and fishing location information recorded in the log shall be complete and accurate.

(3) The information for each day's harvest operations shall be recorded in the log no later than midnight of that day.

(4) The log must be kept on board the licensed vessel.

(5) The log must be produced for examination on demand of a fishery officer, a fishery guardian, or an observer.

(6) The vessel master shall provide a chart record for each day's harvest operations, indicating the locations, to the service provider contracted by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA), within one month of the harvesting having occurred.

(a) The chart must be marked with:
(i) the vessel registration number;
(ii) the licence tab number; and
(iii) the validation I.D. numbers.

The validation I.D. number is the unique page number assigned to each validation page of the Sea Cucumber Validation and Harvest Logbook.

(b) Each harvest site must be clearly marked on the chart with dive numbers and dates that fishing activity occurred at each site. The dive numbers on the chart record must correspond to the dive numbers in the log.

(c) The information for each day's harvest operations shall be recorded on the chart record no later than midnight of that day and provided to the service provider within one month of that day's harvest operations.

(7) The vessel master must make provisions to have the chart information referred to in subsection 12(6) electronically captured into Geographical Information System (GIS) software and forwarded to the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo.

(8) The licence holder shall ensure that the completed log pages (white original copy), and electronic copy of the log are forwarded no later than 28 days following the end of each month in which fishing occurred, to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Shellfish Data Unit
Pacific Biological Station
Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N7
Tel: (250) 756-7022
Email : PACSDU@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

(9) In the event that a licence holder does not fish the [Year] fishing season, the licence holder is responsible for submitting a nil report. One page from the harvest logbook identifying the vessel, licence tab number and the year with 'nil' entered in the body of the log and signed by the licence holder constitutes a nil report.

13. Reporting catch on fish slips:

(1) A complete and accurate written report of all fish and shellfish caught and retained under the authority of this licence shall be submitted by the vessel master on a fish slip.

(2) The record shall contain the following information:

(a) buyer's name, address and telephone number;

(b) harvester's name and address;

(c) processing plant name;

(d) landing date;

(e) vessel name and VRN;

(f) gear used to harvest the fish;

(g) Area(s) where fishing occurred and days spent fishing in each Area;

(h) the individual species of each fish sold or offloaded;

(i) the description of the product or landed form of each species sold or offloaded;

(j) the weight of each species sold or offloaded;

(k) the price paid for each species sold; and

(l) the total value of each species sold or offloaded.

(3) A report shall be made even if the fish or shellfish landed are used for bait, personal consumption or disposed of otherwise.

(4) The report shall be mailed not later than seven days after the offloading and sent to:

Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Branch
FM Data Unit
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 3S4
Fish slips may be downloaded and printed at

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/sdc-cps/fishslips-carnets/index-eng.html

Fish slip books may also be ordered from the printer at user cost at

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/sdc-cps/fishslips-carnets/index-eng.html

Phone (604) 666-2716 for more information.

14. Workers' Compensation Board Requirements:

All Sea Cucumber divers shall be in possession of a valid commercial dive certification or a Workers' Compensation Board Seafood Harvesting Diving Certificate.

Explanatory Note - Harvest Log, Chart Data, and Validation: The Sea Cucumber Validation & Harvest Logbook issued by the service provider contracted by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters' Association is approved for both form and content by the Shellfish Data Unit. This service provider will provide, for a fee, the logbook and coding, data entry, electronic chart data capture and validation services.

Appendix 12: Fishing Vessel Safety

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1. OVERVIEW – FISHING VESSEL SAFETY

Vessel owners and masters have a duty to ensure the safety of their crew and vessel. Adherence to safety regulations and good practices by owners, masters and crew of fishing vessels will help save lives, prevent vessel damage and protect the environment. All fishing vessels must be in a seaworthy condition, registered and maintained as required by Transport Canada (TC), WorkSafeBC, and other applicable agencies. Vessels subject to inspection should ensure that the certificate of inspection is valid for the area of intended operation.

In the federal government, responsibility for shipping, navigation, and vessel safety regulations and inspections lies with TC; emergency response with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and DFO has responsibility for management of the fisheries resources. The Transportation Safety Board is an independent agency that advances transportation safety by investigating selected occurrences in the air, marine, pipeline and rail modes of transportation including fishing vessel occurrences. In B.C., WorkSafeBC exercises jurisdiction over workplace health and safety and conducts inspections on commercial fishing vessels in order to ascertain compliance with the *Workers Compensation Act* (WCA) and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHSR).

Before departing on a voyage the owner, master, or operator must ensure that the fishing vessel is capable of and safe for the intended voyage and fishing operations. Critical factors for a safe voyage include the seaworthiness of the vessel, having the required personal protective and life-saving equipment in good working order, adequate number of properly trained crew , and knowledge of current and forecasted weather conditions. As safety requirements and guidelines may change, the vessel owner, crew, and other workers must be aware of the latest legislation, policies and guidelines prior to each trip.

There are many useful tools available for ensuring a safe voyage. These include:

- Education and training programs
- Marine emergency duties training
- Fish Safe – Stability Education Program & 1 Day Stability Workshop
- Fish Safe – SVOP (Subsidized rate for B.C. commercial fishers provided)
- Fish Safe – *Safest Catch* program – **FREE** for B.C. commercial fishers
- Fish Safe *Safe At Sea* DVD Series – Fish Safe
- Fish Safe Stability Handbook – *Safe at Sea* and *Safest Catch* – DVD Series
- Fish Safe *Safest Catch* Log Book
- Fish Safe *Safety Quiz*
- First Aid training
- Radio Operators Course (Subsidized rate for B.C. commercial fishers provided)
- Fishing Masters Certificate training
- Small Vessel Operators Certificate training

Publications:

- *Gearing Up for Safety* – WorkSafeBC
- https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/tp-15393e-adequate-stability-safety-guidelines-fishing-vessels TP 15393E - Adequate stability and safety guidelines for fishing vessels
- TP 15392E - Guidelines for fishing vessel major modification or a change in activity. https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/tp-15392e-guidelines-fishing-vessel-major-modification-change-activity
- Transport Canada Publication TP 10038 Small Fishing Vessel Safety Manual (can be obtained at Transport Canada Offices from their website at: http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp10038-menu-548.htm
- Amendments to the Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations (can be obtained from: http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2016/2016-07-13/html/sor-dors163-eng.php)
- Safety Issues Investigation into Fishing Safety in Canada report can be accessed: https://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/rapports-reports/marine/etudes-studies/M09Z0001/M09Z0001.html

For further information see: https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation
www.fishsafebc.com
www.worksafebc.com
www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/rapports-reports/marine/index.html

2. IMPORTANT PRIORITIES FOR VESSEL SAFETY

There are three areas of fishing vessel safety that should be considered a priority. These are: vessel stability, emergency preparedness, and cold water immersion.

2.1. Fishing Vessel Stability

Vessel stability is paramount for safety. Care must be given to the stowage and securing of all cargo, skiffs, equipment, fuel containers and supplies, and to correct ballasting. Fish harvesters must be familiar with their vessel's centre of gravity, the effect of liquid free surfaces on stability (e.g. loose water or fish on deck), loading and unloading operations, watertight integrity and the vessel's freeboard. Know the limitations of your vessel; if you are unsure contact aa naval architect, marine surveyor or the local Transport Canada Marine Safety Office.

Fishing vessel owners are required to develop detailed instructions addressing the limits of stability for each of their vessels. These instructions must include detailed safe operation documentation kept on board the vessel.

In 2017, Transport Canada Marine Safety (TC) issued Ship Safety Bulletin (SSB) No. 03/2017 announcing the coming into force of the New Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations. The initial regulations were published in the Canada Gazette Part II on July 13, 2016 and

came into force on July 13, 2017. The bulletin includes important information on changes to requirements for Written Safety Procedures, Safety Equipment and Vessel Stability.

As of July 13, 2017, new regulations pertaining to stability assessments to be performed by a competent person came into effect, as follows:

- A new fishing vessel that has a hull length of more than 9 m where the vessel construction was started or that a contract was signed for the construction after July 13, 2018;
- A fishing vessel more than 9 m and that has undergone a major modification or a change in activity that is likely to adversely affect its stability;
- A fishing vessel that is fitted with an anti-roll tank at any time;
- A fishing vessel more than 15 gross tonnage and used for catching herring or capelin during the period beginning on July 6, 1977 and ending on July 13, 2017
- For an existing fishing vessel that is not required to undergo a stability assessment, the owner shall be capable of demonstrating that their vessel has adequate stability to safely carry out the vessel's intended operations. Guidelines have been developed and are available online to help small fishing vessel owners and operators meet their regulatory requirements
- Two good resources can be found here: TP 15393 - Adequate stability and safety guidelines for fishing vessels (2018) and TP 15392 – Guidelines for fishing vessel major modification or a change in activity (2018)

Further, the new Regulation requires a "Stability Notice" to be developed after a stability assessment. This notice includes a simple diagrammatic of the vessel, its tanks and fish holds, or deck storage as the case may be. It is intended to assist fishing vessel crews in quickly determining the safe carriage limits of the vessel without having to reference a complicated Trim and Stability Book.

Additionally, Transport Canada published a Stability Questionnaire (SSB No. 04/2006) and Fishing Vessel Modifications Form (SSB No. 01/2008) which enable operators to identify the criteria which will trigger a stability assessment. Please contact the nearest Transport Canada office if you need to determine whether your vessel requires a stability assessment, or to receive guidance on obtaining competent assessor.

In 2019, TC provided an updated SSB 03/2019, which sets out a voluntary record of modifications for the benefit of owners/masters of any fishing vessels. For vessels of more than 15 gross tons, the record of modifications was to be reviewed by TC inspectors during regular inspections and entered on the vessel's inspection record. However, information gathered during the Transportation Safety Board's (TSB) Safety Issues Investigation into the fishing industry showed minimal recording of vessel modifications prior to this date.

The TSB has investigated several fishing vessel accidents since 2008 and found a variety of factors that effected the vessel's stability were identified as contributing factors in vessels capsizing, such as with: M08W0189 - *Love and Anarchy*, M09L0074 – *Le Marsouin I*, M10M0014 - *Craig and Justin*, M12W0054 – *Jessie G*, M12W0062 - *Pacific*

Siren, M14P0121 – *Five Star*, M15P0286 – *Caledonian*, M16A0140 – *C19496NB*, M17C0061 – *Emma Joan, M*17P0052 – *Miss Cory,* M18P0073 – *Western Commander,*M18A0425 – *Charlene A,* M18A0454 – *Atlantic Sapphire,* M20P0229 – *Arctic Fox II,* M20A0434 – *Chief William Saulis,* M20A0160 – *Sarah Anne* and the *Tyhawk* – M21A0065.

Vessel masters are advised to carefully consider stability when transporting gear. Care must be given to the stowage and securing of all traps, cargo, skiffs, equipment, fuel containers and supplies and also to correct ballasting. Know the limitations of your vessel; if you are unsure contact a reputable marine surveyor, naval architect or the local Transport Canada Marine Safety office.

WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OHSR) require owners of fishing vessels to provide documentation on board, readily accessible to crew members, which describes vessel characteristics, including stability.

Fish Safe has developed a code of best practices for the food and bait/roe herring fisheries, dive fisheries and the prawn fishery: These Best Practices are available on Fish Safe's website for convenient download here: https://www.fishsafebc.com/best-practices Please contact John Krgovich at Fish Safe for a copy of the program materials they developed to address safety and vessel stability in these fisheries. John Krgovich – office: (604) 261-9700 - Email: john@fishsafebc.com.

2.2. Emergency Drill Requirements

The *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* requires that the Authorized Representative of a Canadian Vessel shall develop procedures for the safe operation of the vessel and for dealing with emergencies. The Act also requires that crew and passengers receive safety training. The Marine Personnel Regulations require that all personnel on board required to meet the minimum safe manning levels have received MED (Marine Emergency Duties) training to an A1 or A3 level, depending on the vessel's voyage limits, within 6 months of serving aboard. MED A3 training is 8 hours in duration and is applicable to seafarers on fishing vessels less than 150 GRT that are within 25 miles from shore (NC2). MED A1 training is 19.5 hours duration and is applicable to all other fishing vessels.

To assist fishers in meeting their crew training requirements, Fish Safe has created a downloadable '*New Crew Orientation Form and How To Guide'* available on Fish Safe's website here: https://www.fishsafebc.com/downloadable-tools

MED provides a basic understanding of the hazards associated with the marine environment; the prevention of shipboard incidents; raising and reacting to alarms; fire and abandonment situations; and the skills necessary for survival and rescue.

WorkSafeBC's *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHSR) requires written rescue and evacuation procedures for work on or over water. Additionally, fishing vessel masters must establish procedures and assign responsibilities to each crew member to cover all emergencies, including the following: crew member overboard, fire on board, flooding

of the vessel, abandoning ship, and calling for help. Fishing vessel masters are also required to conduct emergency drills at the start of each fishing season, when there is a change of crew, and at periodic intervals to ensure that crewmembers are familiar with emergency procedures.

Between 2015 and 2021, 15 fishing vessel accidents were reported to the TSB which resulted in 34 fatalities. In all 15 occurrences, distress alerting devices (EPIRBs, PLBs) were not used. The report's findings highlighted the lack of safety drills and safety procedures and practices. The *Safest Catch* program, delivered by Fish Safe and free to B.C. commercial fishers, includes comprehensive practice of drills such as abandon ship, man overboard and firefighting drills.

2.3. Cold Water Immersion

Drowning is the number one cause of death in B.C.'s fishing industry. Cold water is defined as water below 25 degrees Celsius, but the greatest effects occur below 15 degrees C. B.C. waters are usually below 15 degrees C. Normal body temperature is around 37 degrees Celsius; cold water rapidly draws heat away from the body. The effects of cold water on the body occur in four stages: cold shock, swimming failure, hypothermia and post-rescue collapse. Know what to do to prevent you or your crew from falling into the water and what to do if that occurs. More information is available in the WorkSafeBC Bulletin Cold Water Immersion (available from the WorkSafeBC website at www.worksafebc.com).

Under the recently amended (June 2019) *OHS Regulation*, section 24.96.1, a crewmember must wear a PFD or lifejacket when on board a fishing vessel that has no deck or deck structure or when on the deck of a fishing vessel that has a deck or deck structure. The use of a PFD will prepare a crewmember to remain afloat, to survive the effects of cold shock, reduce the need to swim and give rescuers time to respond.

Section 8.26, which requires workers to wear a PFD or lifejacket when working "under conditions which involve a risk of drowning", would continue to apply to fishing crewmembers and other workers (e.g. when they are working on shore, docks and other vessels). The specific requirements can be found on WorkSafeBC's PFD Primer provided on Fish Safe's website here: https://www.fishsafebc.com/cold-water-survival.

It has been demonstrated time and again that, when worn, PFD's save lives - and the chance of surviving a mishap increases significantly when these devices are worn while working on deck.

Resulting from the TSB investigations into the *Diane Louise* - M14P0110, *Caledonian* – M15P0286 and the *C19496NB* - M16A0140 fishing vessel accidents the Board recommended that both TC, WorkSafeBC and WorkSafeNB require that persons wear a suitable personal flotation devices (PFDs) at all times when: on the deck of a commercial fishing vessel; or, when on board a commercial fishing vessel without a deck or deck structure, and ensure that programs are developed to confirm compliance. Between 2015 and 2021, 15 occurrences were reported to the TSB, resulting in the loss of life of 34 fish harvesters. In 11 of the 15 occurrences, personal flotation devices (PFDs) were not used.

2.4. Other Issues

2.4.1. Weather

Vessel owners and masters are reminded of the importance of paying close attention to current weather trends and forecasts during the voyage. Marine weather information and forecasts can be obtained on VHF channels 21B, Wx1, Wx2, Wx3, or Wx4. Weather information is also available from Environment Canada website at: http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html

2.4.2. Emergency Radio Procedures, EPIRB's PLBs and AIS

Vessel owners and masters should ensure that all crew are able to activate the Search and Rescue (SAR) system early rather than later by contacting the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). All fishing vessels greater than 20m in length must carry a Class A AIS, as well as a float free 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). These beacons must be registered with the Canadian Beacon Registry. When activated, an EPIRB transmits a distress call that is picked up or relayed by satellites and transmitted via land earth stations to the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre (JRCC), which will task and co-ordinate rescue resources. The TSB notes in the *Island Lady* – M21A0315 that there have been 15 similar occurrences reported to the TSB, resulting in the loss of life of 34 fish harvesters. In all 15 occurrences, distress alerting devices (e.g., emergency position-indicating radio beacons [EPIRBs] and personal locator beacons [PLBs] were not used. (M15A0189, M16A0140, M16A0327, M18A0076, M18A0303, M18A0078, M18P0184, M18P0394, M19A0082, M19A0090, M19P0242, M20A0258, M20A0160, M21A0412, and M21A0161). The carriage of both AIS, PLB and EPIRB is strongly encouraged for all fishing vessels who do not fall under the mandatory threshold. PLBs require manual activation, so fish harvesters are encouraged to carry them while working on deck. You may not have time to go locate your PLB in an emergency.

Fish harvesters should monitor VHF channel 16 or MF 2182 KHz and make themselves and their crews familiar with other radio frequencies. All crew should know how to make a distress call and should obtain their restricted operator certificate from Industry Canada. However, whenever possible, masters should contact the nearest Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) station (on VHF channel 16 or MF 2182 kHz) prior to a distress situation developing. Correct radio procedures are important for communications in an emergency. Incorrect or misunderstood communications may hinder a rescue response. Further information is available at Radio Aids to Marine Navigation General

Since August 1, 2003 all commercial vessels greater than 8 metres in length are required to carry a Class D VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) radio. A registered DSC VHF radio has the capability to alert other DSC equipped vessels in your immediate area and MCTS that your vessel is in distress. Masters should be aware that they should register their DSC radios with Industry Canada to obtain a Marine Mobile Services Identity (MMSI) number or the automatic distress calling feature of the radio may not work. For further information see the Coast Guard website at: https://www.coast-guard.gc.ca/index-

eng.html or go directly to the Industry Canada web page: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01032.html

A DSC radio that is connected to a GPS unit will also automatically include your vessel's current position in the distress message. More detailed information on DSC can be found here: TC DSC Safety Bulletin. Questions regarding Coast Guard DSC capabilities can be obtained by contacting your local MCTS centre (Prince Rupert MCTS (250) 627-3070 or Victoria MCTS (250) 363-6333).

2.4.3. Collision Regulations

Fish harvesters must be knowledgeable of the *Collision Regulations* and the responsibilities between vessels where risk of collision exists. Navigation lights must be kept in good working order and must be displayed from sunset to sunrise and during all times of restricted visibility. To help reduce the potential for collision or close quarters situations which may also result in the loss of fishing gear, fish harvesters are encouraged to monitor the appropriate local Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) VHF channel when travelling or fishing near shipping lanes or other areas frequented by large commercial vessels. Vessels required to participate in VTS include:

a) every ship twenty metres or more in length,
b) every ship engaged in towing or pushing any vessel or object, other than fishing gear,
c) where the combined length of the ship and any vessel or object towed or pushed by the ship is forty five metres or more in length; or
d) where the length of the vessel or object being towed or pushed by the ship is twenty metres or more in length.

Exceptions include:

a) a ship towing or pushing inside a log booming ground,
b) a pleasure yacht **less than** 30 metres in length, and
c) a fishing vessel that is **less than** 24 metres in length and not **more than** 150 tons gross.

More detailed information on VTS can be obtained by calling either Prince Rupert MCTS (250) 627-3070 or Victoria MCTS (250) 363-6333 or from the Coast Guard website: https://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/publications/mcts-sctm/ramn-arnm/part3-eng.html

2.4.4. Buddy System

Fish harvesters are encouraged to use the buddy system when transiting and fishing as this allows for the ability to provide mutual aid. An important trip consideration is the use of a sail/voyage plan which includes the particulars of the vessel, crew and voyage. The sail plan should be left with a responsible person on shore or filed with the local MCTS. After leaving port the fish harvester should contact the holder of the sail plan daily or as per another schedule. The sail plan should ensure notification to JRCC when communication

is not maintained which might indicate your vessel is in distress. Be sure to cancel the sail plan upon completion of the voyage.

3. WORKSAFEBC

WorkSafeBC exercises jurisdiction over workplace health and safety, including the activities of crews of fishing vessels. Commercial fishing, diving and other marine operations are subject to the provisions of the *Workers Compensation Act (WCA)* and requirements in Part 24 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHSR). Examples of Part 24 regulatory requirements related to fishing include, but are not limited to, the requirement to establish emergency procedures, to conduct emergency drills, to provide immersion suits for the crew, to provide stability documentation for the vessel, safe work procedures, injury reporting, correction of unsafe working conditions, the requirement to wear personal floatation devices (PFDs), etc.

Other sections of the OHSR also apply to commercial fishing operations. For example, Part 3 addresses training of young and new workers, first aid, and employer incident/accident investigations. Part 4 addresses general conditions such as maintenance of equipment, workplace conduct and impairment. Part 8 addresses issues related to safety headgear, safety footwear, eye and face protection, limb and body protection and personal flotation devices (PFDs) when working on the dock. Part 12 addresses issues related to tools, machinery and equipment, including safeguarding. Part 15 addresses issues related to rigging.

Both owners and masters of fishing vessels are considered to be employers. Under the *Workers Compensation Act* and the OHS Regulation (OHSR) they have varying and overlapping duties and responsibilities. Masters, because they have the most control during fishing and related activities, are considered to be the employer with primary responsibility for the health and safety of the crew.

The OHSR and the *WCA* are available from the Provincial Crown Printers or by visiting the WorkSafeBC website: www.worksafebc.com

NOTE: Regarding the OHSR requirement to wear PFD's, WorkSafeBC has produced a video entitled "Turning the Tide – PFD's in the Fishing Industry". For more information on PFD use, including a link to the video, please access the following site:

https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/news-events/news-releases/2018/November/new-fishing-industry-safety-video?origin=s&returnurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fsearch%23q%3DTurning%2520the%2520Tide%26sort%3Drelevancy%26f%3Alanguage-facet%3D%5BEnglish%5D

For further information, contact an Occupational Safety Officer:

Bruce Logan Field Services Vancouver/Richmond/Delta (604) 244-6477
Cody King Field Services Courtenay (250) 334-8733
Paul Matthews Field Services Courtenay (250) 334-8741
Wayne Tracey Field Services Central (604) 232-1939
or the Manager of Interest for Marine and Fishing, Pat Olsen (250) 334-8777

For information on projects and initiatives related to commercial fishing health and safety please contact Tom Pawlowski, Manager, OHS Consultation and Education Services, at (604) 233-4062 or by email: tom.pawlowski@worksafebc.com or Helen Chandler, OHS Consultant at (604) 276-3174 or by email: helen.chandler@worksafebc.com.

4. FISH SAFE BC

Fish Safe encourages Vessel masters and crew to take ownership of fishing vessel safety. Through this industry driven and funded program Fish Safe provides fishing relevant tools and programs to assist fishers in this goal. The Fish Safe Stability Education Program and 1 Day Stability Workshop are available to all fishers who want to improve their understanding of stability and find practical application to their vessel's operation. The SVOP (Small Vessel Operator Proficiency) Course is designed to equip crew with the skills they need to safely navigate during their wheel watch. The *Safest Catch* Program, along with fisher-trained Safety Advisors, is designed to give fishers the tools they need to create a vessel specific safety management system.

As referenced throughout the above documentation, Fish Safe provides a broad range of courses, programs and services that are either free for B.C. commercial fishers or highly subsidized.

Fish Safe is managed by Ryan Ford, Program Manager and support staff including John Krgovich, Program Coordinator, Stephanie Nguyen, Program Assistant, Rhoda Huey, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant, and an experienced team of fisher Safety Advisors. All activities and program development is directed by the Fish Safe Advisory Committee (membership is open to all interested in improving safety on board fishing vessels). The Advisory Committee meets two to three times annually to discuss safety issues and give direction to Fish Safe in the development of education and tools for fish harvesters.

Fish Safe also works closely with WorkSafeBC to improve the fishing injury claims process. For further information contact:

Ryan Ford
Program Manager
Fish Safe
#100, 12051 Horseshoe Way
Richmond, BC V7A 4V4

Cell: (604) 739-0540
Office: (604) 261-9700
Email: ryan@fishsafebc.com
www.fishsafebc.com

5. TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

The Transportation Safety Board (TSB) is not a regulatory board. The TSB is an independent agency that investigates marine, pipeline, railway and aviation transportation occurrences to determine the underlying risks and contributing factors. Its sole aim is the advancement of transportation safety by reporting publicly through Accident Investigation Reports or Marine Safety Information Letters or Advisors. It is not the function of the Board to assign fault or determine civil or criminal liability.

In 2014 the TSB pacific region released three fishing vessel investigation reports:

- the collision between trawl fishing vessel *Viking Storm* and US long line fishing vessel *Maverick* and the subsequent fatality,
- the person over board off the prawn fishing vessel *Diane Louise* and the subsequent fatality, and
- the capsizing of the crab fishing vessel *Five Star* and subsequent fatality.

In 2016 the TSB pacific region released one investigation report:

- the capsizing of the trawl *Caledonian* and subsequent fatalities.

In 2018 the TSB pacific region released two investigation reports:

- the capsizing and sinking of the *Miss Cory* and subsequent fatality
- the sinking of the *Western Commander* and loss of life

In 2022 the TSB pacific region released one investigation report:

- the sinking of the *Arctic Fox II* and subsequent fatalities.

In 2023, the TSB pacific region released one investigation report:

- the sinking of the Tug Ingenika and barge Miller 204 and subsequent fatalities.

The TSB issued five recommendations following the *Caledonian* report. Three recommendations issued are aimed at ensuring all crews have access to adequate stability information that meets their needs. That means:

- All commercial fishing vessels should have a stability assessment appropriate for their size and operation.
- The information from that assessment must then be kept current, and it must be used to determine safe operating limits.

Moreover, these operating limits must be easily measurable, and relevant to the vessel's operation. For example, that could mean marking the sides of a vessel's hull to indicate the maximum operating waterline, or maximum permitted loads can be specified in the most relevant unit of measure—total catch weight for instance, or the safe number of traps. Regardless, for it to be of real, practical use, the information must be presented in a format that is clearly understood and easily accessible to crew.

The other two recommendations address the most basic step that harvesters can take: wearing a personal flotation device. Here in British Columbia, roughly 70 percent of all

fishing-related fatalities in the past decade came while not wearing a PFD. Yet many harvesters still do not wear them. TC regulations currently require that PFDs be worn only if harvesters identify a risk, however; you never know when you could end up in the water. So the TSB is recommending to TC to require persons to wear suitable personal flotation devices at all times when on the deck of a commercial fishing vessel or when on board a commercial fishing vessel without a deck or deck structure and that programs are developed to confirm compliance. In June 2019, WorksafeBC amended its fishing regulation related to the use of PFDs. Under the amendments, crewmembers must wear a PFD or lifejacket when on board a fishing vessel that has no deck or deck structure, or when on the deck of a fishing vessel that has a deck or deck structure. Crewmembers are not required to wear lifejackets or PFDs below deck or when inside a deck structure where there is risk of entrapment. This amendment removes the need for a risk of drowning to be present before a PFD must be worn.

For more information about the TSB, visit the website at www.tsb.gc.ca
For information about the TSB's safety issues investigation into fishing safety, visit:
https://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/rapports-reports/marine/etudes-studies/m09z0001/m09z0001.html

To view information on the TSB's recent safety Watchlist, visit:
https://www.bst-tsb.gc.ca/eng/surveillance-watchlist/marine/2022/marine-01.html

The TSB has also produced a Safe at Sea: Activity book on fishing safety intended for the next generation of fish harvesters (ages 4-7). Download a copy.
https://www.tsb.gc.ca/sites/default/files/eng/medias-media/prudence-safe/safe-at-sea.pdf

Reporting an Occurrence

https://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/incidents-occurrence/index.html
After a reportable occurrence happens; you can fill out the TSB 1808 form or call the TSB at the contact information below.

Transportation Safety Board of Canada
4 - 3071 No. 5 Road
Richmond, BC, V6X 2T4

Email: marinenotifications.pacific@bst-tsb.gc.ca
Phone: 604-219-2414

Appendix 13: Sea Cucumber Fishery Consultation

SEA CUCUMBER SECTORAL COMMITTEE AND RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE

1. A consultative process exists for the Sea Cucumber fishery and is a major part of the planning for the fishery. The primary consultative body for Sea Cucumbers is the Sea Cucumber Sectoral Committee. This committee includes representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, commercial vessel owners, processors and First Nations. Members of the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) represent commercial fish harvesters on this committee.

The Sea Cucumber Research Committee meets annually in the early spring to share results from biomass surveys and to plan for upcoming biomass surveys. The Sectoral Committee meets annually in June to review and provide advice to the Department regarding management issues pertaining to the fishery and the proposed IFMP. The Sectoral Committee and Research Subcommittee meetings are announced publicly via Fishery Notice. Discussion arising from the Sectoral Committee meeting may result in some final changes to the plan, which then progresses through an internal DFO approval process.

Members of the PSCHA provide valuable information and observations with regards to the harvest plan. All advice, where practical and useful, is considered.

The draft IFMP incorporates new science advice and all practical advice on quota options, and is made available to all interested parties for review and comment.

Appendix 14: Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy 2026 to 2028 – Year 1

The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery has utilized a rotational fishing strategy, referred to as an Adaptive Rotational Fishing Strategy (ARFS), since the 2011 fishing season. The ARFS will continue for a fifth cycle beginning with the 2026 fishing season (Year 1). This strategy needs to be adaptive since the process of reopening sections of coastline that were closed for the Adaptive Management Plan has not yet been completed. An adaptive strategy will also allow for change when new information becomes available. Biomass surveys will continue to be conducted and may lead to the reopening of more sections of coastline and the creation of additional Quota Management Areas (QMAs). As available quota changes in future years, many aspects of the commercial harvest plan will be re-examined.

After reviewing the first few cycles of the ARFS, a number of changes were implemented. Some QMAs have returned to an annual harvest strategy based upon a recommendation from the PSCHA. These areas have naturally small Sea Cucumbers which are not desired by Sea Cucumber processors and buyers. The PSCHA hopes to harvest small amounts of Sea Cucumbers out of these areas every year to avoid having certain years in the ARFS where there are more small Sea Cucumbers harvested than others.

Not all QMAs are equally productive and may benefit from different harvest strategies. A three-year rotational cycle seems to work well for most QMAs but an annual harvest strategy or other rotational periods seem to work better for some QMAs. Sea Cucumber size and fishery logistics are other factors considered when deciding a harvest strategy for each QMA.

See Table 1 for the planned harvest schedule for each QMA.

Table 1. Quota Management Areas and Harvest Schedule as of 2026.

Last time harvested	Next possible harvest	Quota Management Area	Name	Description (by Subarea)
Haida Gwaii (HG)				
n/a	Annual Harvest	2A	Selwyn Inlet	2-5 and 2-6
n/a	Annual Harvest	2B	North Darwin	Ptn. 2-10
n/a	Annual Harvest	2C	South Darwin	Ptn. 2-10
n/a	Annual Harvest	2D	Juan Perez	Ptn. 2-11
n/a	Annual Harvest	2E	Section Cove	Ptn. 2-13
n/a	Annual Harvest	2F	Skincuttle	Ptn. 2-15
North Coast Licence Area (NC)				
2023	**2026**	3A	Work Channel	3-6
2023	**2026**	3B	Portland Inlet	3-7
2023	**2026**	3C	Steamer Pass	3-8, 3-10
2023	**2026**	3D	Pearse Canal	3-3, ptn 3-11
2023	**2026**	4A	West Dundas Island	3-1, 4-1
2023	**2026**	4B	East Dundas Island	Ptn 4-5

Last time harvested	Next possible harvest	Quota Management Area	Name	Description (by Subarea)
2024	2027	4C	North Porcher Island	Ptn 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, ptn 4-9 and ptn 4-12
2024	2027	5A	West Banks Island	5-20 to 5-22
2024	2027	5D	South Porcher Island	5-2, 5-4, 5-5, 5-7, 5-11 and 5-12
2025	2028	5E	Anger Island	5-16
2025	2028	5F	Principe North	5-13 to 5-15
2025	2028	5G	Principe South	5-17 to 5-19
2023	**2026**	5H	Grenville North	5-1, ptn 5-23
2024	2027	5I	Grenville South	Ptn 5-24, ptn 6-28
2025	2028	6A	Gil Island	6-5, 6-26, 6-27
2025	2028	6C	Trutch Island	6-9, 6-10
2025	Annual Harvest	6E	Princess Royal Channel	Ptn of 6-20; 6-21, 6-22, 6-24
2023	**2026**	6F	West Aristazabal Island	Ptn of 6-13
2024	2027	6G	Kitimat Arm	Ptn of 6-1
2024	2027	6H	Douglas Channel	Ptn of 6-2; 6-6
2024	2027	6I	Gribbell Island	Ptn. of 6-3; 6-7
2025	Annual Harvest	6J	Surf Inlet	6-12
2021	Annual Harvest	6K	Laredo Channel	6-11, 6-14 and 6-16
2025	Annual Harvest	6L	Tolmie Channel	Ptn of 6-20
Central Coast Licence Area (CC)				
2023	**2026**	7C	Fisher Channel / Dean Channel	7-30, 8-5 to 8-7
2024	2027	7F	Denny Island	7-17
2025	Annual Harvest	7G	Sheep Pass	Ptn. 7-9; 7-29
2025	Annual Harvest	7H	Upper Mathieson	Ptn. 7-9, 7-10
2025	Annual Harvest	7I	Lower Mathieson	Ptn. 7-9
2023	**2026**	7J	Spiller	7-13, Ptn. 7-14
2022	2025	7L	Roscoe Inlet	Ptn 7-15; 7-16
2023	**2026**	7M	Chatfield/Briggs	Ptn 7-14, ptn 7-15
2025	Annual Harvest	7N	Finlayson North	Ptn. 7-6
2025	Annual Harvest	7O	Finlayson South	7-4
2025	Annual Harvest	7P	Milbanke Sound	Ptn. 7-2 and 7-3
2025	2028	7Q	Seaforth Channel	Ptn. 7-2 and 7-3; 7-12, 7-20 to 7-22, 7-24 and 7-32

Last time harvested	Next possible harvest	Quota Management Area	Name	Description (by Subarea)
2025	2028	7R	Queens Sound North	Ptn. 7-18, 7-19, 7-23
2025	2028	7S	Queens Sound South	Ptn. 7-18, 7-25
2024	2027	8B	Calvert Island	8-2, 8-3, 8-16, 9-1, 9-12
2025	2028	8C	Spider/Kildidt	7-26, 7-27, 7-28
2023	**2026**	8E	Fitz Hugh/Burke South	8-4, ptn. 8-13
2023	2029	8F	Burke North	Ptn. 8-13; 8-14
2025	2028	9B	South Rivers Inlet	9-2, 9-3, 9-10, 9-11
2023	**2026**	9C	North Rivers Inlet	Ptn of 9-4; 9-5, ptn 9-6; 9-9
2024	Annual Harvest	10A	Smith Inlet	10-3, 10-4, ptn of 10-5; 10-6 to 10-11, ptn of 10-12
South Coast Inside Waters Licence Area (SCIW)				
2024	Annual Harvest	11A	Belize Inlet	11-4, 11-5, 11-6
2024	Annual Harvest	11B	Seymour Inlet	11-3, 11-10
2023	Annual Harvest	11D	Slingsby Channel	Ptn of 11-2
2024	2027	11E	Allison Harbour	Ptn of 11-2
2023	**2026**	12E	Broughton	12-40
2023	**2026**	12F	Wells Passage	12-41
2025	2028	12G	SW QC Strait	12-7, 12-8, 12-17
2025	2028	12H	Turnour Island	12-20, ptn 12-26
2025	2028	12I	Gilford Island North	12-38, 12-39
2023	**2026**	12J	Johnstone Strait	12-1, ptn 12-2; 12-3, 12-4, 12-21, 12-24, ptn 13-35
2023	**2026**	12K	Port Harvey	Ptn 12-2; 12-22, 12-23, ptn 12-26
2023	**2026**	12L	Tribune Channel	12-35, 12-37
2024	2027	12M	Port Hardy	12-9, ptn 12-16
2024	2027	12N	Goletas Channel	12-11, ptn 12-16
2024	2027	12O	Walker/Deserters	12-10, 12-13
2023	**2026**	13A	Quadra/Cortes	13-12 to 13-16
2024	2027	13B	N. Area 13	13-17 to 13-20, 13-23
2024	2027	13C	East Thurlow Island	13-7 to 13-9, 13-24 to 13-28

Last time harvested	Next possible harvest	Quota Management Area	Name	Description (by Subarea)
2023	**2026**	13D	Loughborough	Ptn 13-35; 13-36 to 13-43
2025	Annual Harvest	15A	West Redonda Island	Ptn. 15-5
2025	Annual Harvest	15B	East Redonda Island	Ptn. 15-5
2025	Annual Harvest	15C	South Desolation	15-4, ptn. 15-5
2025	Annual Harvest	16A	Sechelt Inlet	16-6 to 16-8, ptn. 16-9
2025	Annual Harvest	16B	Jervis Inlet	16-10, ptn. 16-11; 16-12, 16-13
2024	Annual Harvest	16C	Texada Island	15-1, 16-18, 16-21, 16-22
2025	Annual Harvest	16D	Lasqueti Island	14-3, 16-19, 16-20
2025	2028	17A	North Nanaimo/ Nanoose (NEW)	17-18, 17-19, 17-21
2025	Annual Harvest	18A	Gulf Islands South	18-1, 18-2, 18-4, 18-5, 18-9, 18-11
2023	**2026**	28A	Howe Sound	28-1 to 28-4, 28-6, 29-3
West Coast Vancouver Island Licence Area (WCVI)				
2022	TBA	23A	Southeast Barkley	23-3, ptn. 23-5, ptn. 23-6
n/a	TBA	23B	Ucluelet/Pipestem	Ptn. 23-10, Ptn. 23-11
2024	Annual Harvest	24A	N. Clayoquot	24-4 to 24-6, 24-14
2025	Annual Harvest	24B	S. Clayoquot	24-7, 24-10
2025	Annual Harvest	24C	Sydney/Shelter Inlets (NEW)	Ptn. 24-2; 24-3, 24-13
2025	Annual Harvest	25A	Nootka/Tahsis	25-6, 25-8, 25-9, 25-12, 25-15
2025	Annual Harvest	25B	Muchalat/Tlupana	25-1 to 25-5
2024	TBA	26A	Kyuquot	26-2 to 26-5

Table 2. Licence Distribution for 2026 to 2028 (at an Individual Quota of 15,000 pounds in 2026 and 16,000 pounds in 2027 and 2028).

	Year 1 (2026)		**Year 2 (2027)**		**Year 3 (2028)**	
Licence Area	**#Licences**	**TAC**	**#Licences**	**TAC**	#Licences	TAC
Haida Gwaii	2	30,000	2	32,000	2	32,000
North Coast	28	420,000	33	528,000	33	528,000

Central Coast	29	435,000	26	416,000	28	448,000
SCIW	21	315,000	19	304,000	17	272,000
WCVI	5	75,000	5	80,000	5	80,000
Total	**85**	**1,275,000**	**85**	**1,360,000**	**85**	**1,360,000**

Fallback Quota

Fallback quota does not increase the TAC of a licence area. The use of fallback quota in 2026 will be considered by DFO only if recommended in writing by the Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association.

For the 2026 season fallback quota will be available in three of the four licence areas. Fallback quota is the quota available within certain QMAs in which the available commercial quota is higher than the allocated commercial quota. In some cases additional QMAs may be added for fallback purposes. This is mainly possible in the SCIW licence area where there is more quota available than is needed to facilitate the 2026 to 2028 ARFS. See Appendix 1, section 4 for possible fallback quota options for the 2026 season.

Example of how fallback quota is calculated:

SCIW Licence Area: 21 licences (Total Allowable Catch required: 315,000 lb.)			
Quota Management Area	Available Commercial Quota (lb.)*	Allocated Commercial Quota in 2025 (lb.)*	Quota available for Fallback (lb.)*
11A	12,696	10,000	2,696
11B	13,626	10,000	3,626
11D	5,598	4,000	1,598
12E	30,995	30,995	0
12F	84,680	84,680	0
12L	13,357	13,357	0
12P	22,212	22,212	0
12Q	15,023	15,023	0
13A	39,405	39,405	0
13D	41,000	41,000	0
15A	26,364	2,328	24,036
15B	30,810	2,000	28,810

15C	38,683	0	38,683
16A	18,291	0	18,291
16B	20,537	0	20,537
16C	25,221	0	25,221
16D	29,845	0	29,845
18A	18,738	0	18,738
28A	71,315	40,000	31,315
Total	**557,772**	**315,000**	**242,772**

******All weights are in split pounds*

Rotational Harvest Schedule

In the first two cycles of the ARFS, most QMAs were placed on a schedule in which they were harvested once every three years. The three year harvest schedule was meant to be a starting point since stock productivity varies in different areas. This spatial variation in productivity may be due to differences in habitat, exposure, recruitment patterns or other unknown factors. As a result, some QMAs may benefit from a longer rest between harvests and/or a lower harvest rate. After review of comments from harvest questionnaires and discussion with the PSCHA, some QMAs have been identified that will be rested for a longer period of time or that will be placed on an annual harvest strategy. Please see table 1 for proposed QMA harvest schedules.

APPENDIX 15. COMMERCIAL SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY MONITORING AND CATCH REPORTING PROGRAM STANDARDS

Pacific Region Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting Program Standards for the Commercial Sea Cucumber Fishery

1. Purpose of this Document

This document describes the Fisheries and Oceans Canada standards for fishery monitoring and catch reporting in the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery, including data collection, data submission, and reporting.

2. Background

The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery operates under a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) with Individual Quotas (IQ). All commercial landings are tracked using a coast-wide Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP). Other management measures include limited entry licensing, area quotas and area licensing.

The commercial Sea Cucumber fishery occurs over a scheduled 8 week period starting in October each year. Harvest is by handpicking while diving.

Due to the remoteness of the north and central coasts of B.C. and the large distances between landing ports, the fishery utilizes packer vessels to transport Sea Cucumbers to landing ports. Catch validation can be up to a few days after the harvest occurs due to travel time between the fishing grounds and the landing ports. Vessels licensed to fish in the north coast and central coast licence areas generally fish in groups and can move through harvest areas quickly as area quotas are completed. In-season management and proper communication are extremely important to track harvest activity to ensure that quotas are not exceeded.

3. Catch Monitoring and Reporting Objectives for the Commercial Sea Cucumber Fishery

- To collect accurate harvest and effort data which is an essential part of the Sea Cucumber quota management system. Quotas are set in a manner to support conservation objectives and to ensure a long-term sustainable fishery. Data are also used for other purposes such as stock assessment, research, socio-economic reporting, etc.
- To track harvest activity to manage area quotas and individual quotas (IQ) for in-season management purposes.
- To collect accurate and timely data on vessel activity in order to manage harvest effort to ensure area quotas and IQs are not exceeded.
- To collect data to support compliance with conditions of licence.

4. Summary of the Components of the Catch Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Commercial Sea Cucumber Fisheries.

The Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters Association (PSCHA) funds all catch reporting and monitoring requirements for the commercial fishery. These requirements include:

1. 100% validation of commercial landings via a Dockside Monitoring Program
2. Hail monitoring Program to track vessel activity
3. Harvest logbooks to track harvest
4. Harvest charts to track harvest location
5. Keypunching of harvest logbook data and digitization of harvest chart data
6. Weekly in-season reports to DFO
7. Annual post-season report

Details about each of these components can be found in the sections below.

5. Commercial Sea Cucumber Fishery Dockside Monitoring Program - Requirements

- 100% of all commercial Sea Cucumber landings are validated by a third-party dockside monitoring company. D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd. is contracted by the PSCHA to deliver the catch monitoring and reporting requirements for the commercial Sea Cucumber fishery.
- Third party Dockside Monitoring companies must be licensed by DFO. They must meet certain standards and have DFO approved system manuals/training. They are subjected to auditing to ensure they are meeting standards.
- Dockside Observers must meet arms length criteria and a criminal record check. DFO certifies Dockside Observers.
- All commercial Sea Cucumbers landed must be weighed on a certified scale. Scales must be verified annually.

6. Sea Cucumber Enforcement Program

Dockside validation is a key component of the management of the Sea Cucumber fisheries. The DFO Conservation and Protection Unit support dockside validation by inspecting offloads and monitoring offloading practices.

Air surveillance resources are utilized to patrol boundaries and conduct gear and vessel counts. Charter aircraft as well as DFO aircraft may be utilized for these activities.

Underwater harvest activity is observed by fishery officers trained in the use of SCUBA. On dive patrols fishery officers check for the harvest of prohibited species and for incidences of dumped product.

7. National Fishery Monitoring Policy and Catch Reporting

Robust fishery monitoring information is essential for stock assessment and to effectively implement management measures such as target and bycatch limits, quotas and closed areas. Fishery monitoring information is also needed to support the long-term sustainable use of fish resources for Food, Social, and Ceremonial and other Indigenous fisheries, commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, and to support market access for Canadian fish products.

Following multi-sectoral consultations, DFO released the national Fishery Monitoring Policy in 2019, replacing the regional "Strategic Framework for Fisheries Monitoring and Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries" (2012). The national Fishery Monitoring Policy seeks to provide dependable, timely and accessible fishery information through application of a common set of procedural steps used to establish fishery monitoring requirements across fisheries. Policy principles include respecting Indigenous and Treaty rights, linkage of monitoring requirements to the degree of risk and complexity of fisheries, linkage of monitoring programs to fishery and policy objectives while accounting for cost-effectiveness and practicality of implementation, and shared accountability and responsibility between DFO, Indigenous groups and stakeholders.

To ensure consistent national application of the Fishery Monitoring Policy, further guidance is provided through the "Introduction to the Procedural Steps of Implementing the Fishery Monitoring Policy". Fish Stocks are first prioritized for assessment through collaboration with Indigenous groups and Stakeholders. Risk and data quality assessments are then conducted on priority stocks and associated fisheries and monitoring programs. Next, monitoring objectives are set in alignment with the Fishery Monitoring Policy, followed by specifying monitoring requirements and then monitoring programs are operationalized. Finally, a review and evaluation of the fishery monitoring programs against the monitoring objectives will be conducted and reported on.

The Fishery Monitoring Policy is part of DFO's Sustainable Fisheries Framework and is available at:

https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/fishery-monitoring-surveillance-des-peches-eng.htm

The "Introduction to the Procedural Steps of Implementing the Fishery Monitoring Policy" is available at:

https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/fmp-implementation-psp-mise-en-oeuvre-eng.htm

In cases where assessment of monitoring programs identifies a gap between the current and target level of monitoring, discussions will be held between DFO Indigenous groups and stakeholders to identify options to address the monitoring gap, and the feasibility of these options (e.g. cost, technical considerations, etc.).To support Fishery Monitoring Policy principles, a collaborative approach is required.

Where monitoring options are determined to be feasible, the monitoring and reporting regime will be revised to incorporate these options, providing resource managers with sufficient information to meet Fishery Monitoring Policy objectives. Where monitoring options are not feasible, alternative management approaches are required to reduce the risk posed by the fishery. If there is no gap between the current and target level of monitoring, the management approach will not require any change.

8. Data Requirements for the Catch Reporting Program

8.1 Ongoing Data Collection Requirements

a. Combined Validation & Harvest Log - A combined Validation & Harvest log is used for recording the daily activities in the Sea Cucumber fishery. Fish harvesters are required to fill out parts of the 'Landing Information' section and all of the 'Harvest Information' section of these combined logs, and the logs must be validated by an Observer at each time of landing of product. The log will be designed and printed by the Association or its agent, and may have any design or format, provided it contains space for recording the specified information listed below in each section. A new page of the log must be used each time a new Subarea is fished (i.e., a new validation identification number for each Subarea fished each day). The total number of Validation & Harvest log forms used for each landing must also be indicated.

b. Landing Information Section (Summary of each day's fishing) - This section of the form is to be filled out by the Observer and the vessel master. The following information must be obtained:

i) Validation Identification #
ii) Landing date
iii) "ZD" or "FZD" Licence Tab #
iv) Vessel Name
v) Vessel registration number (VRN #)
vi) Vessel Master's Fisher Identification Number (FIN)
vii) Vessel Master's Name (first and last name printed)
viii) Landing location
ix) Observer's Name
x) Area
xi) Subarea
xii) Quota Area
xiii) Number of Days Fished
xiv) Product Form
xv) Buyer Company Delivered to (written name) 1
xvi) Packer Name (written name)
xvii) Packer Vessel Registration Number (VRN)
xviii) Total Number of Containers 1, 2
xix) Gross Weight

xx) Container Weight
xxi) Container Type (i.e., cages, pails, totes, bags, brailer bag, or other container type)
xxii) Previous Remaining Quota
xxiii) Total Net Validated Dock Weight (in pounds) 1, 2
xxiv) The Vessel's Remaining Quota After Landing (in pounds)
xxv) Split Load Indicator (number of splits, 0=no splits) 1
xxvi) Total Number of Validation Identification Numbers (pages) used for Landing 2, 3
xxvii) Other Validation Identification Numbers used for this Landing [3]
xxviii) Comments 1, 3

Notes:

[1] If there is more than one buyer for the validation, indicate the number of splits (under 'Split Load Indicator' field), and write in the 'Comments' field the name of the other buyer(s), the number of containers they bought, and the validated dock weight they bought. In this situation, the 'Total Number of Containers' field and the 'Total Net Validated Dock Weight' should be the totals for the two (or more) companies combined.

[2] If there is more than one Validation Identification number (page) used for one landing, the data written for the total number of containers and total net validated dock weight must be for the data represented on each page only, not the combined totals for the whole day.

[3] If there is more than one Validation Identification number (page) used for one landing, indicate in the 'Comments' field the other Validation Identification numbers.

c. Harvest Information Section (Details of each day of fishing) - This section is to be completed by the vessel master prior to landing. The form requires the following information with separate entries for each diver at each location on each day:

i) Line number
ii) Fishing Date (year, month, day)
iii) Location (written description of where fishing)
iv) Diver Name (printed first and last name)
v) Minimum Fishing Depth (in feet)
vi) Maximum Fishing Depth (in feet)
vii) Dive Time (in minutes)
viii) Number of Pick Bags
ix) Harvest Chart Marked (yes/no)

d. A chart record (map) of the locations fished each day must be submitted by the fish harvester to the Association or its designate along with each Validation & Harvest log. The fish harvester may provide the chart records in a sealed envelope, but both the map and the outside of the envelope must detail the following information:

i) vessel name;
ii) vessel registration number (CFV #);
iii) "ZD" or "FZD" licence tab #;
iv) dates of fishing; and
v) Validation Identification #.

Also, beside each fishing location drawn on the chart, there should be an indication of the record(s) in the Harvest Information Section to which the location applies. This can be accomplished by noting the dive (or line) number and dive reference code, or the harvest date and the Validation Identification number beside each bed marked on the chart.

The Validation Identification numbers and harvest information line numbers must be pre-printed on the forms.

The combined log form should have a minimum of 3 copies of different colours for each Validation Identification number to be distributed as follows: (1) original for the Observer to be forwarded to the Department at the end of the fishing season; (2) copy for the vessel master; and (3) copy for transport and the buyer. The transport copy should have the confidential harvest information section blacked out. If the Observer keeps a copy for their own records, the confidential harvest information section should also be blacked out.

9.1 Weekly In-season Summaries of the Fishery

The Association will ensure that the Department receives a weekly fishery summary by facsimile or email transmission. The summary will include the following information in tabular form:

a) Table of landings by Area showing, **for each area**: landings for the period (week); cumulative landings; number of vessels fishing.

b) Table of landings by Sea Cucumber Quota Management Area showing, **for each area**: landings for the period (week); cumulative landings; remaining area quota; number of vessels fishing.

c) Table of landings by "ZD" and "FZD" Licence Tab Number, showing, **for each tab**: name of the vessel; VRN of the vessel; Areas and Subareas fished; landings for the period (week); cumulative landings; remaining quota.

d) Table of purchases by company, showing, **for each purchaser**: number of vessels purchased from; number of validations; pounds purchased for the period (week); cumulative pounds purchased.

e) Summary of All Incident Reports - showing the vessel name, "ZD" and "FZD" licence tab, quota management area, and the nature of the incident.

These weekly summaries are to be sent to Sea Cucumber managers and to the Shellfish Data Unit.

10.1 End of Season Requirements

a) Electronic Data Requirements - As a condition of licence, harvesters must submit both a hard copy (paper) and an electronic version of all data records (validation/landing information and harvest information as two separate tables) to the Department. The electronic versions of the data must be submitted as database tables of specific design, as described in Schedule F, created in the following database management tool: ACCESS

XP (or earlier version). If a service provider or fish harvester wishes to submit data in another format, they must contact the Shellfish Data Unit for permission and specifications.

The electronic version must be a true and accurate transcription of the hardcopy data. Incomplete, inaccurate or incorrect data will not be accepted. The Association may arrange with Observers to collate data and create the aforementioned electronic versions of the data records, but it is the responsibility of the Association to ensure that the Department receives the information required in an acceptable format.

b) Acceptable Electronic Formats - refer to Schedule F.
   i) Database Files - The Department will accept electronic copies of data created in MSACCESS XP (or earlier version). The database files submitted must consist of one table for each of the data types (i.e. harvest information, validation/landing data, and biological sampling data) with the fields and field characteristics as specified for each data type (see Schedule F).

c) Harvest Information - Harvest information is to be submitted to the Department not later than March 31, 20XX, on a Shellfish Data Unit approved storage medium, with the filename following the convention of YYMMZDHR, where YY is the Year, MM is the Month, and ZD is the licence Tab Type for Sea Cucumbers, and HR means it is harvest information. The storage medium must be clearly labelled with the name of the service provider and the names of the files contained on it. In addition, the storage medium must be accompanied by a hardcopy list of the VRNs contained in each file, and the number of records for each VRN. Data submitted will remain the property of the Department.

   Each data record will represent, at a minimum, one day of diving by one diver at one location. If the diver moves to a new location, a new record must be entered. These data will be submitted to:

   Shellfish Data Unit
   Fisheries and Oceans Canada
   Pacific Biological Station
   3190 Hammond Bay Road
   Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6N7

d) Fishing Location Information - The Association must arrange for the electronic capture of fishing location information, from the chart records supplied by the fish harvesters, to the Shellfish Data Unit Geographic Information System (GIS). This activity is to be performed by a bonded individual. The task consists of reviewing the chart record showing the location of fishing activity, digitizing the area using the Shellfish Data Unit basemap information for reference and making a database entry into the corresponding attribute table. The fishing location information is to be delivered to the Shellfish Data Unit at the same time as the harvest information.

e) Validation/Landing Information - The Association shall ensure that validation/landing information data for the entire fishing season is submitted to the Department following the termination of the Sea Cucumber fishery in the following database format: ACCESS XP (or earlier version). Data submitted will remain the property of the Department.

Each data record will represent the information for each validation ID number. The landing data must be submitted in the format outlined in Schedule F. These data will be submitted to:

Shellfish Data Unit
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pacific Biological Station
3190 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6N7

1. Post Season Report - Following the end of the Sea Cucumber fisheries, an End of Year Report is submitted to the Department, outlining the following:

a) Review of the Sea Cucumber Fishery
   - sequence of openings and closures
   - in-season changes
   - compliance with fishery management system
   - effect of individual quotas
   - other issues

b) Fish Harvesters' Comments

c) Observers' Comments

d) Processors' Comments

e) Recommendations
   - Management Plan/Conditions of Licence
   - Verification Program
   - Studies/Exploratory Fisheries

f) Appendices

A: Complete record of all Sea Cucumber landings by "ZD" or "FZD" Tab number, by date (Confidential, Fisheries and Oceans Canada only);
B: Summary of Landings by "ZD" or "FZD" Tab number (Confidential, Fisheries and Oceans Canada only);
C: Landings by Sea Cucumber Quota Management Area;
D: Landings by buyer;
E: Landings by Area by date (figure).

The Report will be completed and distributed to the Association and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Appendix 16: Ocean and Habitat Considerations
For the most up to date information, see website links, advisory board updates, and fisheries notices.

Canada's Marine and Coastal Areas Conservation Mandate

To protect biodiversity and meet its marine conservation targets, Canada is establishing marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), in consultation with First Nations, other levels of government, industry, non-governmental organizations, and the public.

More information is available online for:
Canada's marine conservation targets:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/conservation/index-eng.html
Canada's marine protected and conserved areas:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/conservation/areas-zones/index-eng.html
Marine refuges and fisheries management measures that qualify as OECMs:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oecm-amcepz/index-eng.html

Marine Protected and Conserved Areas

Canada uses a variety of legislative tools for marine conservation, depending on the lead federal department or agency and their coastal mandates. As goals, objectives, and management plans are finalized for these initiatives, DFO's management of fisheries will be adapted as appropriate, in consultation with interested parties through initiative-specific consultations and annual Integrated Fisheries Management processes. The implementation of spatial marine conservation initiatives is informed by considerations under the *Oceans Act, Fisheries Act* and the Sustainable Fisheries Policy suite, and mandate commitments to the Blue Economy Strategy and Reconciliation with First Nations.

For more information on Canada's marine conservation tools:
https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/conservation/plan/index-eng.html

For more information on relevant legislation, please see the following:
Marine refuges and other measures under the *Fisheries Act*:
https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/f-14/page-1.html
Marine Protected Areas - *Oceans Act*: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/O-2.4/
National Wildlife Areas - *Canada Wildlife Act*:
https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/w-9/page-1.html
National Marine Conservation Areas (Reserves) - *National Marine Conservation Areas Act*:
https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/annualstatutes/2002_18/page-1.html

An overview map of established federal marine conservation initiatives in the Pacific Region is provided in Figure 1, followed by a table outlining relevant details by initiative – both established and in progress. Many initiatives are types of marine protected areas (MPAs) or marine refuges (OECMs). See site-specific regulations and management plans for any restrictions on activities, or Fishery Notices where applicable.

Figure 1. Pacific Fisheries Management Areas and Federal Marine Conservation Initiatives and Closures

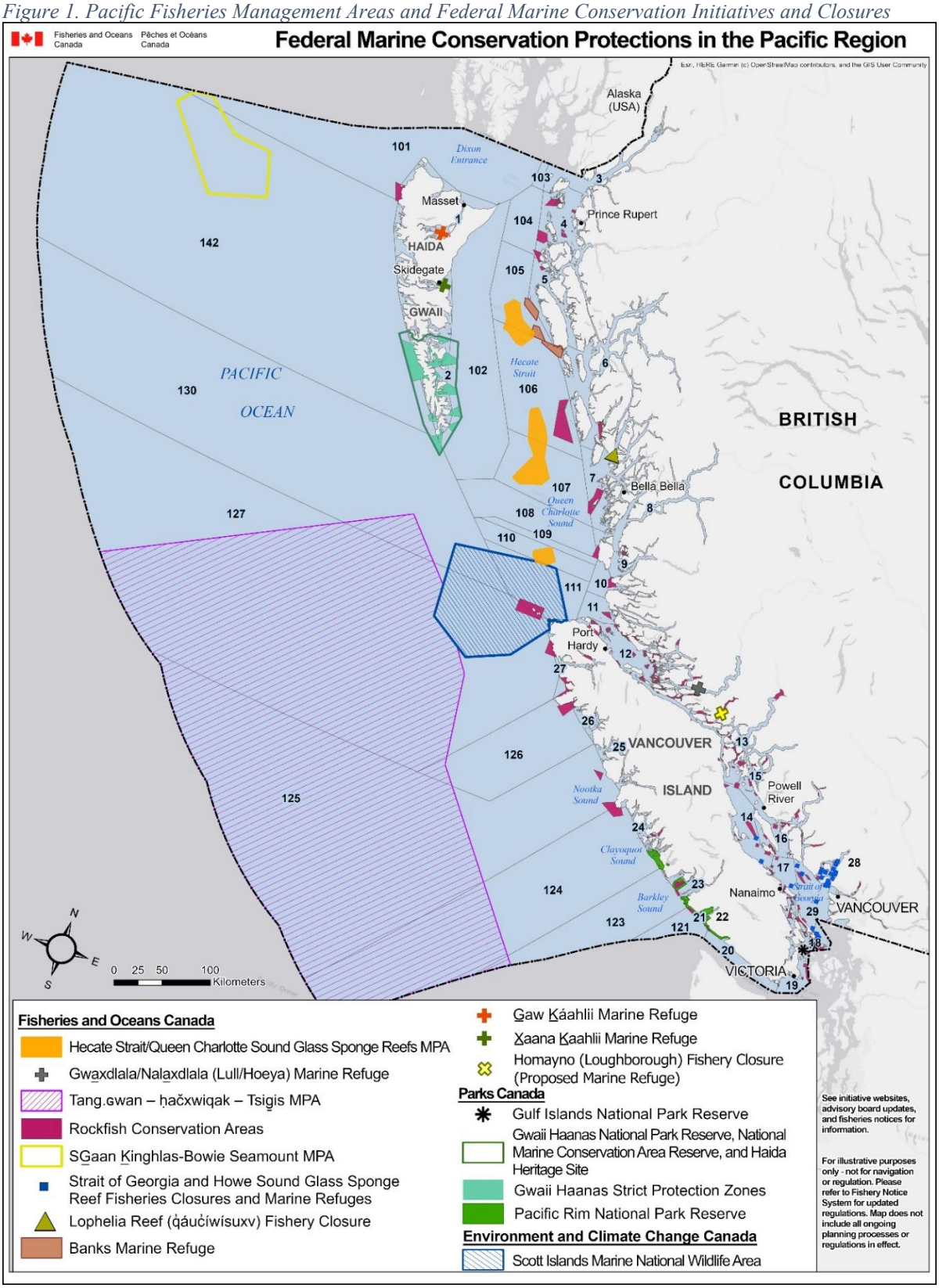

Table 1. Overview and status of Federal Marine Conservation Initiatives in DFO Pacific Region (see Figure 1 map)

Name	Type	Lead	Weblinks	Contact	Fishery Considerations
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *Oceans Act* and *Fisheries Act*					
Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound Glass Sponge Reefs Marine Protected Area	MPA	DFO	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/hecate-charlotte/index-eng.html	DFO.OceansPacific-OceansPacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	See MPA website and regulations for more details: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2017-15/index.html In the MPA there are 3 different management zone types: Core Protection Zones, Vertical Adaptive Management Zones and Adaptive Management Zones **The entire MPA is closed to commercial bottom-contact fishing activities. Core Protection Zones (CPZ) are closed to anchoring and all fishing activities**. Commercial fishing in a Vertical Adaptive Management Zone (VAMZ) is permitted if the fishing is carried out by means of midwater hook and line, troll, seine or gillnet and the gear does not enter a CPZ. Recreational fishing in a VAMZ is permitted if the fishing is carried out by means of midwater hook and line and the gear does not enter a CPZ. For more detail on the fishery closure within the MPA, please review the FN0198 (2017) Fishery Notice.
Kitkatla Inlet Area of Interest (AOI)	MPA	DFO & Gitxaała Nation	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/aoi-si/kitkatla-eng.html	DFO.OceansPacific-OceansPacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	The proposed Kitkatla Inlet MPA was identified in the Network Action Plan (2023). Site Partners are currently in the feasibility assessment stage and working on an approach for advancing future consultation and engagement on the AOI. Discussion of any protection measures and/or permitted activities will occur during the feasibility assessment. No fisheries closures associated with the proposed Kitkatla Inlet MPA are anticipated for the 2026 IFMP / fishing season.
North Coast Fjords Area of Interest (AOI)	MPA	DFO & Gitga'at First Nation,	TBD	DFO.OceansPacific-OceansPacifi	The proposed North Coast Fjords MPA was identified from a portion of the Caamaño Sound site in the Network Action Plan (2023). Site

		Gitxaała Nation, Haisla Nation		que.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Partners are currently in the feasibility assessment stage and working on an approach for external consultation and engagement on the AOI. Discussion of any protection measures and/or permitted activities will occur during the feasibility assessment. No fisheries closures associated with the proposed North Coast Fjords MPA are anticipated for the 2026 IFMP / fishing season.
Offshore Haida Gwaii Area of Interest (AOI)	MPA	DFO & Council of the Haida Nation	TBD	DFO.OceansPacific-OceansPacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	The proposed Offshore Haida Gwaii MPA was identified in the Network Action Plan (2023). Site Partners are currently in the feasibility assessment stage and working on an approach for external consultation and engagement on the AOI. Discussion of any protection measures and/or permitted activities will occur during the feasibility assessment. No fisheries closures associated with the proposed Offshore Haida Gwaii MPA are anticipated for the 2026 IFMP / fishing season.
SG̱áan K̲ínghlas-Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area	MPA	DFO & Council of Haida Nation	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/sgaan-kinghlas-bowie/index-eng.html	DFO.OceansPacific-OceansPacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	See MPA website and regulations for more details: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2008-124/ The MPA is closed to all commercial fishing activities. The MPA is also closed to recreational and FSC bottom-contact fishing activities. For more detail on the fishery closures within the MPA, please review the FN0089 (2018) Fisheries Notice.
Tang.ɢwan – ḥačxwiqak – Tsig̱is Marine Protected Area **Offshore Pacific Seamounts and Vents Closure †**	MPA	DFO	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/tht/index-eng.html	DFO.OceansPacific-OceansPacifique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	See MPA regulations for more details: Canada Gazette, Part 2, Volume 158, Number 13: Tang.ɢwan - hačxwiqak - Tsig̱is Marine Protected Area Regulations. The MPA has 3 different management zones: General Zone, Dellwood Zone and Union Zone.

					Bottom-contact gear is prohibited in the entire MPA. Commercial and recreational fishing using pelagic hook and line gear is allowed in all three of the MPA's zones, provided the gear does not go below a depth of 100 m from the sea surface in the Union or Dellwood Zones, or 500 m from the sea surface in the General Zone. Midwater trawl is allowed in the General Zone, provided the gear does not go below a depth of 500 m from the sea surface and is prohibited in the Union and Dellwood Zones. Fishery Notice for these closures can be found in FN0096 (2025). † Offshore Pacific Seamounts and Vents Closure Variation Orders have been replaced by the Variation Orders for this MPA.
Banks Marine Refuge	Marine Refuge	DFO & Gitxaała Nation	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oecm-amcepz/refuges/banks-eng.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the closures and restrictions can be found in Fishery Notices FN0102 and FN0101 (2025). In addition to all RCA closures remaining in effect, as of February 14, 2025, commercial prawn and crab by trap fisheries are closed around western portions of Banks Island, and as of March 4, 2025, recreational prawn and crab by trap fisheries are closed around western portions of Banks Island.
Ǵaw K̲áahlii Marine Refuge	Marine Refuge	DFO & Council of Haida Nation	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oecm-amcepz/refuges/masset-inlet-embouchure-eng.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the closures and restrictions can be found in Fishery Notices FN0100 and FN0099 (2025). As of February 14, 2025, all commercial fisheries are indefinitely closed in portions of Ǵaw K̲áahlii (Masset Inlet). As of March 4, 2025, all recreational fisheries, except shore-based angling, are closed in portions of Ǵaw K̲áahlii (Masset Inlet).
GSR-RCA Project: Proposed sites in Howe Sound and Jervis Inlet*	*Proposed* Marine Refuges	DFO	TBD	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	DFO is proposing multiple sites as marine refuges. Input was sought on proposed fisheries closures at these sites in fall 2025. Feedback received will inform the development of a new proposal that

					is anticipated to be released for review and feedback in fall 2026.
Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala (Lull/ Hoeya) Marine Refuge	Marine Refuge	DFO & Mamalilikulla First Nation	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oecm-amcepz/refuges/lull-hoeya-eng.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the closures and restrictions can be found in Fishery Notice FN0118 (2023). The Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala (Lull/Hoeya) marine refuge is closed to all fisheries (commercial, recreational and FSC fishing activities).
Homayno Proposed Marine Refuge*	*Proposed* Marine Refuge	DFO & Wei Wai Kum First Nation	TBD	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the closures and restrictions can be found in Fishery Notices FN0330, FN0336 and FN0331 (2026). DFO has established fisheries closures in the proposed Homayno Marine Refuge within portions of Heydon and Loughborough Inlet. As of April 1, 2026, commercial fisheries for crab by trap, prawn/shrimp by trap, salmon by seine and salmon by gillnet are closed in the northern portions (existing RCA closures remain in effect) and commercial fisheries for crab by trap, salmon by seine, salmon by gillnet, and salmon by troll are closed in the southern portions of the proposed marine refuge. As of April 1, 2026, recreational fisheries for all invertebrates are closed in the northern portions (existing RCA closures remain in effect) and recreational fisheries for salmon via angling and all invertebrates (except prawn/shrimp by trap) are closed in the southern portions of the proposed marine refuge.
Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound Glass Sponge Reef (GSR) Marine Refuges*	Marine Refuges	DFO	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/eccsr-cerceef/closures-fermetures-eng.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the site descriptions, closures, and restrictions for individual sites can be found in Fishery Notices FN0571 (2015), FN0205 (2019), FN0039 (2022), and FN0521 (2026)*. Sites listed in FN0571 (2015) restrict **all commercial, recreational and Indigenous food, social and ceremonial**

					(FSC) bottom-contact fishing activities, including: • prawn and crab by trap • shrimp by trawl • groundfish by midwater and bottom trawl • groundfish by hook and line Sites listed in FN0205 (2019) and FN0039 (2022)/FN0521 (2026)* restrict **all commercial, recreational and Indigenous food, social and ceremonial (FSC) bottom-contact fishing activities**, as listed above and the **use of downrigger gear in recreational salmon trolling** via licence condition.
Xaana Kaahlii Marine Refuge	Marine Refuge	DFO & Council of Haida Nation	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oecm-amcepz/refuges/skidegate-inlet-embouchure-eng.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the closures and restrictions can be found in Fishery Notices FN0100 and FN0099 (2025). As of February 14, 2025, all commercial fisheries are indefinitely closed in portions of Xaana Kaahlii (Skidegate Inlet). As of March 4, 2025, all recreational fisheries, except shore-based angling, are closed in portions of Xaana Kaahlii (Skidegate Inlet).
Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs)	RCA	DFO	https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/maps-cartes/rca-acs/index-eng.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	There are 162 Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) in British Columbia, covering roughly 4,350km^2 of Canadian Pacific waters. These areas are closed to a range of recreational and commercial fisheries to protect inshore rockfish and their habitat. See website for details on individual RCAs by area.
Lophelia Reef (q̓áuc̓íwísuxv)	Fishery Closure	DFO, Kitasoo Xai'xais and Heiltsuk First Nations	https://notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm?pg=view_notice&DOC_ID=296056&ID=allhttps://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2024/03/fisheries-and-oceans-canada-closes-the-first-	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	Specific details of the closures and restrictions of this site can be found in Fishery Notice FN0085 (2024). The Lophelia Reef is closed to all bottom-contact commercial and recreational fisheries (including midwater trawl).

			and-only-known-live-coral-reef-in-pacific-canada-to-all-commercial-and-recreational-bottom-contact-fis.html		
Parks Canada, *National Marine Conservation Areas Act*					
Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site	NMCAR	Parks Canada	https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gwaiihaanas	gwaiihaanas@pc.gc.ca	Refer to Fishery Notice FN0536 (2019), released June 13, 2019 for a detailed description of the Strict Protection Zones. There is "no extraction or harvesting by anyone of the resources of the lands and non-tidal waters of the Archipelago for or in support of commercial enterprise" (s3.3). Contact the Gwaii Haanas administration office: 1-877-559-8818.
Proposed Mia-yaltwa Ha'lidzogm hoon National Marine Conservation Area Reserve*	*Proposed* NMCAR	Parks Canada	https://parks.canada.ca/amnc-nmca/cnamnc-cnnmca/cotecentrale-centralcoast	nmca-pacific-amnc@pc.gc.ca	An Establishment Agreement for this site was finalized in May 2026. The focus for the site will now shift to implementation and will involve setting up an advisory committee comprised of representatives from a range of marine sectors and interests, including the commercial fishing sector. This work is anticipated to begin in fall / winter 2026 / 2027. No fisheries closures associated with the Central Coast NMCAR will occur in the 2026 IFMP / fishing season.
Gulf Islands National Park Reserve	National Park marine area	Parks Canada	https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/gulf	gulfinfo@pc.gc.ca	Park regulations can be found at: Canada National Parks Act
Pacific Rim National Park Reserve	National Park marine area	Parks Canada	https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/pacificrim	Pacrim.info@pc.gc.ca	Park regulations can be found at: Canada National Parks Act
Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Canada Wildlife Act*					
Proposed marine National Wildlife Area at Nearshore Haida Gwaii	*Proposed Marine National Wildlife Area*	ECCC & Council of Haida Nation	TBD	RNFMilieuMarinSCFPAC-CWSPACMarineNWA@ec.gc.ca	The marine NWA was identified in the Network Action Plan (2023) as a potential tool to support meeting some of Network Goals and Objectives for the Nearshore Haida Gwaii Site. CHN and ECCC are currently advancing a feasibility

					assessment and engaging with stakeholders through the Nearshore Haida Gwaii Advisory Committee (NHG AC). NHG AC is made up of a range of sector stakeholders, such as commercial fisheries, and the Haida Gwaii Integrated Advisory Committee. In 2026, the NHG AC will be reviewing and providing advice on draft Overview reports (Ecological, Mineral & Energy, and Socio-Economic Overview). Discussion of potential protection measures and/or permitted activities will occur during the Regulatory Strategy phase. No fisheries closures associated with the Nearshore Haida Gwaii site are anticipated for the 2026 IFMP / fishing season.
Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area*	Marine National Wildlife Area	ECCC	https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/national-wildlife-areas/locations/scott-islands-marine.html	DFO.PACFMMCT-OCMGPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca Enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca rnfis-sinwa@ec.gc.ca	The Scott Islands Protected Marine Area regulations can be found at: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-119/index.html Scott Islands marine NWA specific NOTMAR (notice: Annual Edition - Notice - A5E). The most recent consultations on the proposed Scott Islands Biodiversity Protections Regulations occurred in fall 2025. The process to develop regulations is ongoing.

**** Indicates ongoing planning process. See initiative websites, advisory board updates, and Fishery Notices for information.***

Marine Planning and Integrated Oceans Management in Canada

DFO undertakes marine planning, management and knowledge coordination to fulfill Canada's *Oceans Act* commitment to integrated ocean management.

Key marine planning and management tools in the Pacific region include the Canada Marine Planning Atlas (Pacific), the Marine Spatial Planning Framework for the Southern B.C., and the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network Action Plan for the Northern Shelf Bioregion. The Southern B.C. MSP Framework was developed with collaboration from the Province of British Columbia, other Federal departments, and Indigenous groups. The Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network Action Plan was endorsed by a trilateral partnership of First Nations, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada in February 2023.
As well, in June 2024, 17 First Nations, the Government of Canada, the Province of B.C. and Coast Funds announce the signing and launch of the Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) agreement. The initiative supports the implementation of the Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network Action Plan.

The Canada Marine Planning Atlas for Pacific Region is available online at:
Canada Marine Planning Atlas (dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

The Southern B.C. Marine Spatial Planning framework is available online at:
Southern British Columbia Marine Spatial Planning Framework.

The MPA Network Action Plan for the Northern Shelf Bioregion is available online at:
https://mpanetwork.ca/nap/MPA_Network-Action-Plan_web.pdf, with a summary available at:
MPA Network BC Northern Shelf Initiative (2023) Network Action Plan – a summary.

The Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) Initiative announcement and related links can be found at:
Protecting more of our marine ecosystems together, for future generations | Prime Minister of Canada.

Appendix 17: Contacts 2026/27

Observe, Record and Report (Enforcement Line)		**(800) 465-4336**
DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca		
Fisheries Information and Shellfish Contamination Closure Update (24 Hours)		(866) 431-3474
or (for Greater Vancouver)		(604) 666-2828

Invertebrate Internet Page: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/shellfish/index.htm

Fisheries Management

Regional Resource Manager - Invertebrates	Lisa Mijacika	(604) 666-3869
Lead Sea Cucumber Resource Manager	Pauline Ridings	(250) 618-8699
Regional Recreational Fisheries Co-ordinator	Greg Hornby	(604) 666-3271
North Coast Area, Areas 1 through 10	General Inquiries	(250) 627-3499
Resource Management Biologist	Pauline Ridings	(250) 618-8699
Aboriginal Affairs Advisor	Melanie Anthony	(250) 643-0345
South Coast Area, Areas 11 through 27	General Inquiries	(250) 756-7270
Resource Management Biologist, Nanaimo	Erin Wylie	(250) 713-1569
Resource Manager – First Nations Fisheries (NEVI)	Andrea Goruk	(250) 713-4054
Resource Manager – First Nations Fisheries (SEVI)	Jorn Meier	(250) 756-7280
Resource Manager – First Nations Fisheries (WCVI)	Kevin Conley	(250) 756-7196
Lower Fraser Area, Areas 28 and 29	General Inquiries	(604) 666-8266
Resource Manager		(236) 330-3240
Resource Manager – First Nations Fisheries	Matthew Parslow	(604) 666-6608

Science Branch

Stock Assessment & Research Division		
Pacific Biological Station		
Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N7		
Echinoderms Program Head	Christine Hansen	(778) 268-2079
Program Head, Shellfish Data Unit	Rob Flemming	(250) 756-7022
		PACSDU@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Fisheries Protection	1-866-845-6776
Negotiations and Implementation Division	(604) 666-0197
Indigenous Programs Division	(604) 666-6757

Commercial Licensing

Pacific Fishery Licence Unit (By appointment only)	Toll-Free: 1-877-535-7307

200 - 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4
Email: fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Aquaculture

Senior Shellfish Coordinator	Melinda Scott	(250) 754-0399

General Shellfish Aquaculture Mailbox email address:
E-mail DFO.AQSF-AQMC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Environment Canada

Growing Water Quality Classification and Surveys	(604) 903-4475

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Molluscan Shellfish Operations	PacificShellfish@inspection.gc.ca

WorkSafe BC

Occupational Safety Officer, Courtenay	Cody King	(250) 334-8733
Occupational Safety Officer, Victoria	Jessie Kunce	(250) 881-3461
Manager of Interest for Marine and Fishing	Pat Olsen	(250) 334 8777
	toll free	1 888 621 7233 (ext. 8777)
Projects related to commercial fishing	Tom Pawlowski	(604)233-4062
	toll free	1 888 621 7233 (ext. 6922)

Pacific Sea Cucumber Harvesters' Association www.pscha.org

President	Thom Liptrot	(250) 714-3511

Sea Cucumber Service Provider

D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd.	Darin Macey	(604) 886-4819
Box 1445	Fax	(604) 886-8288
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0	Hail-line	(800) 775-5505

Sighting Networks

BC Cetacean and Sea Turtle Sighting Network (866) 472-9663
Email: sightings@vanaqua.org or turtles@vanaqua.org
On the internet at: www.wildwhales.org/ or www.bcreptiles.ca/reportsightings.htm#1

Basking Shark Sighting Network 1 (877) 50 SHARK
Email: BaskingShark@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
On the internet at:
www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/species-especes/elasmobranch/sightings-signalez-eng.html