

BC's Wild Salmon Strategy

We Want to Hear from You

The Wild Salmon Advisory Council is leading public engagement on the development of BC's *Wild Salmon Strategy*.

In particular, the Council is investigating:

- Which opportunities presented in the *Wild Salmon Strategy Options Paper* do you agree or disagree with? What's missing?
- Which issues and opportunities related to wild salmon are the most important to you and your community?
- What should BC's *Wild Salmon Strategy* prioritize?

Wild Pacific salmon in British Columbia are emblematic of the health of our marine environment.

Serving as an essential food source for humans, bears, whales and more, wild salmon are as important today as they were thousands of years ago when Indigenous fishers passed traditional stewardship practices from one generation to the next and carefully provided for all parts of our interconnected ecosystems. Today wild salmon are part of Indigenous culture, language and ceremony, and are a cornerstone of commercial and recreational fisheries and shoreside operations such as seafood processing.

Facing pressures from habitat degradation and changing ocean conditions, wild salmon populations have been declining, and salmon-dependent species, communities and economies have been affected. Restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon populations in BC will require action in several areas. As a first step toward developing a made-in-BC *Wild Salmon Strategy*, the Wild Salmon Advisory Council has put forward opportunities for consideration during public, stakeholder, and First Nations engagement. Examples of these opportunities are provided below, and a full list is available in the *Wild Salmon Strategy Options Paper*.





Opportunities for a Made-in-BC Wild Salmon Strategy

GOAL 1 – Increase the Abundance of Wild Salmon in BC

PROTECT CRITICAL SALMON HABITAT

Enhance habitat protection regulations, monitoring, and enforcement. Support community-driven protection projects.

INVEST IN RESTORATION OF CRITICAL SALMON HABITAT

Build a strategic plan that prioritizes restoration activities. Implement water operating systems that work better for salmon. Conduct a review of roadway culverts.

INCREASE PRODUCTION OF JUVENILE SALMON

Evaluate full range of salmon enhancement options, considering potential benefits and risks. Examine feasibility of cost-recovery production facilities. Connect all enhancement activities to a monitoring framework.

CONSIDER PREDATOR, EXOTIC, AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Consider programs to control pinniped populations identified as potentially limiting to wild salmon rebuilding, as well as programs to remove and control exotic and invasive species.

ENGAGE FIRST NATIONS IN PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND ENHANCEMENT

Support Indigenous-led initiatives such as salmon assessment, enhancement, monitoring and enforcement programs.

GOAL 2 – Support and Encourage Greater Community Engagement with Wild Salmon

ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN STEWARDSHIP OF ADJACENT RESOURCES

Explore governance models that enhance community participation in decision-making. Consider revitalizing educational curriculum related to salmon. Reinvest revenues from fisheries resources into stewardship.

ADVANCE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION ON STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Explore structures to enhance government cooperation in management and stewardship of wild salmon. Consider re-establishing a provincial Ministry of Fisheries to improve coordination.

ENSURE ACTIVE COMMERCIAL FISH HARVESTERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING

Review regulations in Canadian maritime provinces related to harvester participation in decision-making and consider application to BC context.

SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE RECOGNIZING ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Encourage opportunities for collaborative governance with Indigenous Peoples. Support implementation of Cohen Commission recommendations.

GOAL 3 – Protect and Enhance the Economic, Social, and Cultural Benefits to BC Communities from Wild Salmon and Other Seafood Resources

ENHANCE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMERCIAL HARVESTERS, OWNER-OPERATORS, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Develop a shared vision for the future of BC's fisheries. Learn from policies in other jurisdictions that support community-based fisheries.

SUPPORT NEW ENTRANTS INTO COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING SECTORS

Consider incentives for training and mentoring of youth in the fishing sector. Support strategic development of a Restoration Economy and its associated employment opportunities. Explore innovative financing options for new entrants.

SUPPORT PROCESSING AND VALUE-ADDED OPPORTUNITIES

Encourage initiatives to retain more landed value at the community level. Support innovative ways to secure more product for seafood processors. Build strategic infrastructure supports, such as cold storage and landing facilities.

SUPPORT INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FISHERY-RELATED TOURISM

Promote recreational fishing opportunities in small communities. Explore innovative financial support mechanisms to encourage recreational fishing businesses in rural and coastal areas.

INCREASE OVERALL VALUE OF BC SEAFOOD IN GLOBAL MARKETS

Support sustainable fishing in BC through an international marketing campaign. Evaluate options to increase processing of BC-caught seafood within the province. Work to address underutilized capacity and bottlenecks in seafood value chains, particularly in rural areas.