

## JOINT PROJECT AGREEMENT (JPA)

This Joint Project Agreement is made in *triplicate*

**BETWEEN: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA,**  
as represented by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (“the  
Minister”)

**AND: THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION (“the PSC”)**

**AND: THE BC WILD-HARVEST SALMON PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION (“the BCWHSPA”),** a Society incorporated  
pursuant to the laws of the Province of British Columbia  
(incorporation number 5-51075).

**WHEREAS** the Minister and the PSC and the BCWHSPA (“the  
Associations) wish to undertake a joint project (“the Project”), in accordance  
with the principles of conservation and environmental sustainability, to  
enhance the management of the Pacific salmon fishery;

**NOW THEREFORE,** the Parties agree as follows:

1. **THE PROJECT**

1.1 The Project is described in Schedule A hereto. The responsibilities of  
each Party with respect to the Project are described in the Work Plan,  
attached as Schedule B, which shall be reviewed each year in  
accordance with Clause 3.2.

2. **THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

2.1 Upon the coming into force of this JPA, a Management Committee  
shall be formed by the Parties to oversee the management and  
administration of this Project. The Management Committee shall  
consist of:

1

a) Representative of the Minister:

Ms. Susan Farlinger  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4

b) Representative of the PSC:

Mr. Don Kowal  
Executive Secretary  
Pacific Salmon Commission  
Suite 600 - 1155 Robson Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1B5

c) Representative of the BCWHSPA:

Mr. Peter Sakich  
Representative  
BC Wild-Harvest Salmon Producers Association  
3180 Withey Road RR 7  
Gabriola Island, B.C. V0R 1X0

2.2 The above representative of the Minister shall consult with the appropriate Department of Fisheries and Oceans Pacific Region staff regarding the formulation and operational management of any projects in the Work Plans.

2.3 The Management Committee may call upon such other persons for assistance, as it considers necessary.

3. **DUTIES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

3.1 The Parties shall ensure that, during the term of the JPA, the Management Committee meets at least once in each period running from April 1 through September 30 (“the Fishing Season”).

3.2 The Management Committee shall:

- a) by September 30 of each year, have finalized a Work Plan for the following Fishing Season, specifying the activities to be undertaken and the monetary and in-kind responsibilities of each Party with respect to the Project;
- b) monitor the progress and performance of the Parties under each of the Work Plans;
- c) review financial reports prepared by the Minister and the Associations outlining how the monetary and in-kind contribution of both Parties were used; and
- d) verify the costs and expenditures of each Party in connection with the Project.

4. **OBLIGATIONS OF THE MINISTER**

4.1 The Minister shall make payment to the PSC such amounts as specified in Schedule B Part B of the Work Plan to be used by the Associations to perform the activities specified in the Work Plan.

4.2 The Minister's financial contribution shall be sent to the following address before the intended start of the first test fishery:

Pacific Salmon Commission  
600 - 1155 Robson Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1B5

4.3 The monetary and in-kind responsibilities of the Minister, as specified in the Work Plan for 2009-2010, are set out in Schedule B. The monetary and in-kind responsibilities of the Minister for each subsequent Fishing Season during the term of the JPA, including any augmented scientific research activities to be conducted, will be reflected in the Work Plans.

4.4 Once each Work Plan has been accepted and signed by the Parties, the monetary and in-kind responsibilities of the Minister as specified therein shall be binding upon the Minister for that Fishing Season.

5. **OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS**

- 5.1 The financial contribution made by the Minister to the PSC as specified in Part B of the Work Plan (Schedule B), along with the cash and in-kind contributions of the Associations, shall be used to perform the activities specified in the Work Plan.
- 5.2 The monetary and in-kind responsibilities of the Associations in regard to this JPA for the Fishing Season 2009-2010 are set out in Schedule B. The monetary and in-kind responsibilities of the Associations, in regard to the Project for each subsequent year during the term of the JPA, will be reflected in the Work Plans.
- 5.3 Once a Work Plan has been accepted and signed by the Parties, the monetary and in-kind responsibilities of the Associations as specified therein shall be binding upon the Associations for that Fishing Season.

6. **AUDITING AND MONITORING**

The Minister and the Associations shall maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence pertaining to costs and expenses incurred under this JPA to the extent and in such detail as will properly reflect all costs, direct and indirect, of labour, materials, equipment, supplies and services. Each Party shall retain records and documentation for a period of six (6) years after the termination of this JPA for whatever reason. The Associations agree that all records pertaining to this JPA shall be made available forthwith to the Minister for inspection and audit upon written request. Subject to the provisions of the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*, the Minister agrees to provide forthwith the Management Committee, upon written request, with financial reports pertaining to JPA expenditures.

7. **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS JPA**

7.1 a) Representative of the Minister:

Ms. Susan Farlinger  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4

b) Representative of the PSC:

Mr. Don Kowal  
Executive Secretary  
Pacific Salmon Commission  
Suite 600 - 1155 Robson Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1B5

c) Representative of the BCWHSPA:

Mr. Peter Sakich  
Representative  
BC Wild-Harvest Salmon Producers Association  
3180 Withey Road RR 7  
Gabriola Island, B.C. V0R 1X0

7.2 If any of the Parties changes its representative(s) for the purposes of this JPA, that Party will notify the other Parties in writing as soon as practicable.

8. **USE AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION**

8.1 Subject to the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*, all data and any other information collected as a result of activities undertaken jointly under this JPA shall be made available at no cost to all Parties and may be used, disseminated or published, by any Party, at any time.

- 8.2 Any form of publication, presentation or other information product that incorporates data and any other information collected as a result of activities undertaken jointly under this JPA shall be provided at no cost to the other Parties prior to public dissemination.
- 8.3 Unless specified otherwise by the relevant party, any form of publication, presentation or other information product that incorporates data and any other information collected as a result of activities undertaken jointly under this JPA shall acknowledge, as appropriate, the contributions of all Parties.
- 8.4 The Minister will manage the data and samples collected as a result of activities undertaken further to this JPA in a manner consistent with current management practices being used for other data and sample materials in DFO's care.

9. **COMING INTO FORCE AND TERM**

This JPA shall come into force on the date on which it has been executed by all Parties and, other than Schedule B, shall remain in force until September 30, 2010, unless terminated sooner in accordance with Clause 10.

10. **TERMINATION**

- 10.1 This JPA may be terminated at any time with the written agreement of all Parties.
- 10.2 Subject to Clause 10.4, any Party may terminate this JPA by providing 30 days notice in writing to the other Parties.
- 10.3 Termination for cause
- a) Either of the Associations may terminate this JPA upon written notice to the Minister:
    - i) if the Minister breaches the terms or conditions of the JPA;
    - or
    - ii) if the Association, in its opinion, is unable to fulfill its obligations under this JPA.

The termination notice will be signed by the representative(s) of the Association.

- b) The Minister may terminate this JPA, upon written notice to the Associations , in any of the following situations:
- i) either of the Associations breach any of the terms or conditions of this JPA or fail to fulfill the responsibilities set out in Schedule B;
  - ii) either of the Associations become bankrupt, seek protection under the bankruptcy or insolvency legislation or are petitioned into a bankrupt proceeding; or
  - iii) the Minister, in his/her opinion, is unable to fulfill the obligations under the JPA.

The termination notice will be signed by the Minister or an authorized representative of the Minister.

- 10.4 Termination under Clause 10.2 shall not be invoked unless and until the circumstances at issue have been fully reviewed by the Management Committee, provided such review is concluded on a timely basis.

#### 11. **EVENTS UPON EXPIRY OR TERMINATION**

Upon expiry or termination of the JPA, the following events shall occur:

- a) the PSC shall return to the Minister any unused portion of the financial contribution received from the Minister under the JPA, after deducting all amounts required to pay for goods and services and other commitments which the Associations are unable to cancel; and
- b) the Associations shall make available, at no cost to the Minister, any and all data, reports or analysis generated pursuant to the JPA.

12. **NOTICE**

Any notice under this JPA shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the appropriate Party as follows:

a) **Representative of the Minister:**

Ms. Susan Farlinger  
Regional Director  
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4

b) **Representative of the PSC:**

Mr. Don Kowal  
Executive Secretary  
Pacific Salmon Commission  
Suite 600 - 1155 Robson Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 1B5

c) **Representative of the BCWHSPA:**

Mr. Peter Sakich  
Representative  
BC Wild-Harvest Salmon Producers Association  
3180 Withey Road RR 7  
Gabriola Island, B.C. V0R 1X0

13. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Where a dispute arises as to the interpretation of this JPA or of matters relating to its termination, or of performance hereunder, the Parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute through negotiation. Should negotiation prove unsuccessful, the Parties shall consider submitting the matter to a mutually acceptable third party for mediation. The costs of any mediation shall be divided equally between the Parties.

15. **TIME OF THE ESSENCE**

Time is of the essence of this JPA.

16. **NO ASSIGNMENT**

No Party may assign this JPA without the prior written consent of the other Parties.

17. **HOUSE OF COMMONS**

No member of the House of Commons shall be admitted to any share of this JPA or to any benefit arising therefrom.

18. **PUBLIC SERVANTS**

A present or former public servant or public office holder who is not in compliance with the applicable provisions of the *Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment Code for Public Office Holders* or the *Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment Code for the Public Service* shall not derive a direct benefit from this JPA.

19. **APPLICABLE LAW**

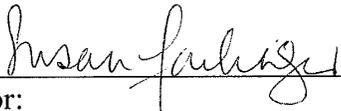
This JPA and the rights, remedies, powers, covenants, duties and obligations of the Parties herein will be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the Province of British Columbia and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

20. **ENTIRE JPA**

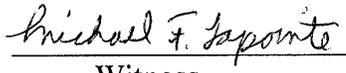
The terms and conditions herein, together with Schedules A and B, as amended seasonally, form the entire JPA of the Parties with respect to this Project.

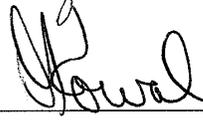
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties hereto have executed this JPA by duly authorized representatives.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For:  
The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

19 May 09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For:  
Pacific Salmon Commission

May 5, 2009  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For:  
BC Wild-Harvest Salmon Producers  
Association

May 6 2009  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## SCHEDULE A

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN PURSUANT TO THE JOINT PROJECT AGREEMENT

Under the terms and conditions set out in this JPA, the Parties propose to undertake the following joint management activities:

##### 1- Salmon test fishery activities:

The primary objective of the test fishery activities is to provide in-season information relating to abundance estimation, run timing, species and stock composition, fishery impacts on stocks of concerns and migration and diversion rate patterns. Information gathered will assist in the in-season management of coast wide Pacific Salmon stocks. These cooperative fisheries management activities will be defined in the Work Plan, as described in Schedule B.

##### 2-Other activities related to fisheries management:

From time to time, as will be described in the Work Plan, the Parties will jointly undertake, fund and/or conduct various other activities in support of fisheries management and/or science objectives.

The activities to be performed under this JPA will supplement and be incremental to existing levels of department funded program delivery.

The Work Plan for 2009-2010, set out in Schedule B, lists the activities, which together constitute the Project. The specific responsibilities of each of the Parties are set out for each activity.

## SCHEDULE B

### WORK PLAN - 2009-2010

For the period commencing April 01, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010, the Parties hereby agree and acknowledge that the activities listed below and detailed in Appendix 1 to this Schedule are those which, for this period, are designated to be conducted under the JPA.

#### **Part A: List of Activities:**

1. Pacific Salmon Test Fishing Assessment Program
2. Database and Analysis

#### **Part B: Detailed Activity Summaries:**

Following is a description of each of the activities contemplated under this JPA as part of the Work Plan for 2009-2010:

##### **Activity 1: Pacific Salmon Test Fishing Assessment Program**

**Purpose:** To complement resource management and assessment activities carried out by DFO and enhance the collection of in-season data that will be used in the management of Pacific salmon stocks, through the completion of a series of test fishing activities.

**Project summary:** Designated vessel platforms will be deployed by the PSC and/or the BCWHSPA from June 2009 to December, 2009 to conduct the salmon test fishing activities described in Appendix 1. The test fishing design for Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Panel and non-Panel (Fraser sockeye and pink salmon) waters will be provided for this purpose by the Fraser Panel with input from DFO. For all other Pacific Region waters the test fishing design will be provided by DFO with input where required from the PSC and BCWHSPA.

##### **Roles & responsibilities of the PSC:**

1. Provision of the test fishing vessels, crew, and the administration of the associated data collection activities.

2. Provision by the PSC of the test fishing program design for all Panel and non-Panel (Fraser sockeye and pink salmon) waters test fisheries in conjunction with DFO, provide scientific guidance in the execution of the test fishing program and associated sampling requirements in abovementioned Panel waters.
3. Test fishing vessel selection, compensation of test participants and logistics / administration of the test activities.
4. Ensure that the required technical personnel (observers) on board the vessels for data collection and verification purposes are provided.
5. Collection, recording, and reporting of test fishing assessment data in a suitable form as described by the Fraser Panel and DFO.
6. Provide DFO with a summary report of administrative activities related to delivering test fishing projects. Reporting format provided in Appendix 2.

#### **Roles & responsibilities of the BCWSHA:**

1. Provision of the test fishing vessels, crew, and the administration of the associated data collection activities.
2. Collaboration with DFO regarding the test fishing program design for fisheries not addressed by the PSC, and in conjunction with DFO, provides scientific guidance in the execution of the test fishing program.
3. Test fishing vessel selection, compensation of test participants and logistics / administration of the test activities.
4. Ensure that the required technical personnel (observers) on board the vessels for data collection and verification purposes are provided.
5. Collection, recording, and reporting of test fishing assessment data in a suitable form as described by DFO.
6. Provide DFO with a summary report of administrative activities related to delivering test fishing projects. Reporting format provided in Appendix 2.

#### **Roles & responsibilities of the Minister:**

1. Provision of the test fishing program design for all non-Panel water test fisheries, with the exception of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon which are done in conjunction with the PSC, and scientific guidance in the execution of the test fishing program and associated sampling requirements.

2. Monitoring of test fishing activities to ensure they are being implemented according to agreed upon standards and criteria.
3. Licensing and design of test fishing activities to ensure that only the minimum number of fish possible is unavoidably killed as a result of the data collection project activities. For greater certainty, no allocation of fish is being provided for the purposes of financing activities under this JPA.
4. Provide the PSC a cash payment of \$1,207,000 to support the delivery of the activities outlined in this Schedule and associated appendices.

**Estimated costs:**

**Table 1. Summary of contributions by the Associations and DFO**

Organization	Cash <sup>1</sup> (000s)	In-Kind <sup>2</sup> (000s)	Total (000s)
DFO	\$1,207	\$300 <sup>3</sup>	\$1,507
Pacific Salmon Commission		\$125	\$ 125
BC Wild Harvest Salmon Producers Association		\$ 50	\$ 50
<b>Total</b>	\$1,207	\$475	\$1,682

<sup>1</sup>Contributions to data collection, technical support and advice

<sup>2</sup>Contribution to data analysis and database design and maintenance and set up and maintenance of program

<sup>3</sup>DFO in-kind contribution includes \$50K in operational costs and \$250K in salary and wages for 1 full time equivalent Biologist, 1 Fisheries Manager, .5 support staff

## **Activity 2. Database and Analysis**

### **Roles & responsibilities of the Associations:**

1. For Fraser Panel and non-Panel waters (Fraser sockeye and pink salmon) PSC staff will perform analysis of the test fishing program data and provide results to DFO through the Fraser Panel in a timely manner for the management of Pacific Region salmon fisheries. For all other waters, DFO staff will perform analysis of the test fishing program data. Table 2 lists the type of analyses that will be conducted.
2. PSC staff will maintain suitable databases that are accessible by DFO through the Fraser Panel Technical Committee.
3. BCWSHA will ensure coast-wide communication of information on the test data collection Project via advisory harvest committee processes.

### **Roles & responsibilities of the Minister:**

1. DFO staff will perform analysis of the test fishing program data and provide results to the Associations in a timely manner for the management of Pacific Region salmon fisheries. Table 2 lists the type of analyses that will be conducted.
2. DFO staff will maintain suitable databases that are accessible by PSC.

**Table 2. Summary of 2009/2010 Pacific Region stock salmon stock assessment test fishery activities.**

Test Fishery Name	Data Uses							
	Timing	Abundance	Stock Id	Diversion	Harvest rate	Late Run Sockeye	Project Escapement	Project Abundance entering US
Albion Chinook & Chum Gillnet Test Fishery	X	X	X				X	
Area 12 Chum Seine Test Fishery (Blinkhorn and Doublebay)	X	X						
Area 12 Sockeye and Pink Seine Test Fishery (Blinkhorn)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Area 13 Sockeye and Pink Seine Test Fishery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Area 20 Sockeye and Pink Seine Test Fishery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Area 20 Sockeye Gillnet Fishery	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Area F Chinook Troll Test Fishery	X		X					
Cottonwood Sockeye and Pink Gillnet Test Fishery	X	X	X			X	X	
Nitinat Lake Chum Gillnet Test Fishery	X	X					X	
Round Island Sockeye Gillnet Test Fishery	X	X	X	X				X
Skeena Gillnet Test Fishery	X	X	X				X	
Stikine River Coho Test Fishery	X	X						
Stikine River Sockeye Test Fishery	X	X	X					
Taku River Coho Test Fishery	X	X	X				X	
Whonnock Sockeye and Pink Gillnet Test Fishery	X	X	X			X	X	X
Qualark Test Fishery	X	X	X				X	
Upper Stikine Test Fishery	X	X	X				X	

## Appendix 1

### 2009 Salmon Test Fishing Plan

#### A. Area F Chinook Troll Test Fishery

##### **Details:**

- Time Period: June 1 to August 15. Includes 2-3 troll vessels operating in total for about 20 days.

##### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Stock identification primarily for the identification of WCVI chinook stock proportions (DNA sample collection)
- Stock composition estimates are also used in post-season analysis of fishery impacts on Skeena chinook and Nass chinook run reconstruction as part of the Nisga'a Treaty implementation.

##### **Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of northern Troll (Area F) salmon fishery to ensure conservation objectives are met for WCVI chinook.

#### B. Skeena River Sockeye, Chinook, Steelhead, Coho and Pink Salmon

##### **1. Skeena River Tye Gillnet Test Fishery (Area 4):**

##### **Details:**

- Time Period: June 10 to August 25 (91 test fishing days including possible 2 week possible extension).
- One gillnet vessel using a gillnet with 10 different mesh panels (from 3.5" to 8"), fishing for one hour on each daylight slack tide.
- Test fishery has operated annually since 1955.

##### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provides daily index of escapement for chinook, sockeye, coho, steelhead, pink and chum salmon.
- Requires lengths, scales and DNA samples from sockeye, chinook, coho, steelhead and chum.

- Age length and stock ID samples are taken according to a designed sampling program to provide escapement age structure, stock specific components of the escapement.

**Rationale:**

- Provides estimate of daily in-season sockeye escapement required to assess whether weekly conservation and production target are met. Used in conjunction with catch to estimate sockeye harvest rates (IFMP goals are stated as abundance based HR goals).
- Used to derive the non-Babine escapement estimates for PST and Nisga'a stock reconstruction model), and to provide stock specific timing.

**C. Fraser River Chinook and Chum Salmon**

**1. Albion (Area 29) Chinook Gillnet Test Fishery:**

**Details:**

- Time Period: June 1 to October 20 (117 test fishing days within this time period). Includes one gillnet vessel operating. Chinook test fishing alternates daily with chum testing fishing from 1 September to 20 October.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Stock identification for the chinook stock groups. (CWT, DNA and scale sample collection).
- The Albion test fishery provides data essential to implementing components of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The test fishery provides CWT recovery data from Fraser River net fisheries which is used to assess Treaty compliance.
- Assist in run timing and abundance estimation of the chinook stock groups.
- The Albion test fishery provides essential data to forecast the Fraser Late Chinook salmon stock abundance: a direct input to the PSC coast wide Chinook model used to implement Annex IV Chapter 3 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Any compromise to the quality of the Fraser Late Chinook forecast will directly affect the quality of the WCVI AABM index, and associated TAC.
- The Albion test fishery is the only dependable means of collecting essential biological data to represent catches in the commercial, sport, and First Nation fisheries and for all Chinook salmon returning to the Fraser River between April and November. The Albion test fishery also provides critical information to monitor the terminal run abundance and estimate the fishing impacts on Chinook salmon stocks, including stocks of concern.
- Efforts are made to reduce mortality of incidental catch of coho and Cultus sockeye.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the management of Fraser River chinook salmon both domestically and internationally (PST).

**2. Albion (Area 29) Chum Gillnet Test Fishery:****Details:**

- Time Period: September 1 to November 23 (59 test fishing days within this time period). Includes one gillnet vessel operating. Chum test fishing alternates daily with chinook testing fishing from 1 September to 20 October.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Biological information for the chum run. (length, weight, sex and scale sample collection).
- The in-season run size estimate of Fraser River chum is based on Albion catches. This information determines the occurrence of in-river commercial and First Nations' economic opportunity chum salmon fisheries. The latest revision of the chum annex to the Pacific Salmon Treaty (2005) requires the consideration of Albion chum test fishery data before considering fishing opportunities in adjacent U.S. waters. When the in-season run size estimate indicates there is little or no harvestable surplus, the U.S. is to take measures to restrict encounters of Fraser River chum in their fisheries
- Identifies any potential conservation issues with Fraser River chum stocks.
- Efforts are made to reduce mortality of incidental catch of coho and Cultus sockeye.
- All chum catch will be retained as biological samples as it is not possible to release these fish caught and have many survive.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Fraser River chum, both domestically and internationally.

**D. Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon****1. Round Island (Area 12) Gillnet Test Fishery:****Details:**

- Time Period: July 12 to August 15 (35 test fishing days within this time period).

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Stock identification primarily for the Early Summer and Summer run sockeye stock groups and pink salmon (DNA and scale sample collection)
- Assist in run timing and abundance estimation of the Early Summer and Summer run stock groups.
- Assist in migration diversion rate estimation through Johnstone Strait.
- Provide information on impacts of stocks of concern.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye salmon.

**2. Johnstone Strait (Area 12 and 13) Purse Seine Test Fisheries:****Details:**

- Time Period: July 20 to September 10 (53 test fishing days each in Area 12 and 13 within this time period). Two seine vessels will be operating in both Areas 12 and 13 with no overlap days. Adjustment to the start date will depend upon abundance indication from marine gill net test fisheries. If the abundance indications are low in July the start time for the purse seine test fisheries may be adjusted to a later start date.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Stock identification primarily for the Early Summer, Summer and Late run sockeye stock groups and pink salmon (DNA and scale sample collection).
- Provides run timing and abundance estimation of the Early Summer, Summer and late run stock groups.
- Provides migration diversion rate estimation through Johnstone Strait.
- Provides sockeye/pink species composition ratios that are used by the PSC to assist in determining daily sockeye and pink abundance estimates past the Mission hydroacoustic site.
- Provides daily abundance estimates of Early Summer, Summer and Late run Fraser sockeye and pink stocks migrating through Johnstone Strait.
- Provides assessment information on Late Run and Cultus sockeye abundances and also in assessing impacts on these and other stocks when planning fisheries.
- Provides information on impacts of stocks of concern.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

## **E. Fraser River Panel Water test fisheries**

### **1. Juan de Fuca Strait (Area 20) San Juan Gillnet Test Fishery:**

#### **Details:**

- Time Period: June 22 to August 15 (total of 101 days within this time period). Includes up to two gillnet vessels operating nightly.

#### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Stock identification primarily for the Early Summer and Summer run sockeye stock groups (DNA and scale sample collection).
- Provide information on run timing and abundance estimation of the Early Summer and Summer run stock groups.
- Provide information for the estimation of diversion rate through Juan de Fuca Strait.
- Provide information on impacts of stocks of concern.
- Project daily abundance of Early Summer and Summer run sockeye passing through Juan de Fuca Strait.

#### **Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used for in-season management of Fraser River sockeye salmon.

### **2. Juan de Fuca Strait (Area 20) San Juan Purse Seine Test Fisheries:**

#### **Details:**

- Time Period: July 20 to September 10 (53 days within this time period). One seine vessel operating in Area 20. Adjustment to the start date will depend upon abundance indication from marine gill net test fisheries. If the abundance indications are low in July the start time for the purse seine test fisheries may be adjusted to a later start date.

#### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Stock identification primarily for the Early Summer, Summer and Late run sockeye stock groups and pink salmon (DNA and scale sample collection).
- Provide information for the estimation of diversion rate through Juan de Fuca Strait.
- Provide estimates of timing and daily abundance of Early Summer, Summer and Late run Fraser sockeye and pink stocks migrating through Juan de Fuca Strait for management of fisheries on these stocks.

- Provide information for sockeye and pink species composition for the upstream passage of these stocks past Mission.
- Provide information on Late Run and Cultus sockeye to assist in the assessment of impacts for planning fisheries.
- Provide information on impacts of other stocks of concern.
- Estimates of late run abundance entering Georgia Strait for use in subsequent management model inputs that predict early upstream timing and mortality of late run sockeye.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

**3. Fraser River (Area 29B) Cottonwood Gillnet Test Fishery:**

**Details:**

- Time Period: July 13 to September 22 (72 test fishing days within this time period). Includes one gillnet vessel operating daily.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provide information for stock identification primarily for the Early Summer, Summer and late run sockeye stock groups (DNA and scale sample collection) that are applied to Mission Hydroacoustics estimates of sockeye escapements.
- Provide an indication of estimated sockeye abundance prior to Mission Hydroacoustics estimate.
- Provide additional information on late run sockeye delay behaviour.
- Provide a direct estimate of Upper Pitt River sockeye timing and abundance.
- Estimate the daily passage of late run sockeye on pink salmon years for the period after which the Mission Hydroacoustics program estimates are compromised by species composition problems.
- Due to increasing Seal interference and predation on Fraser River gillnet test fisheries, the combined catches from Cottonwood and Whonnock test fisheries are required to provide adequate samples used for sockeye stock composition analysis.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

#### **4. Fraser River (Area 29D) Whonnock Gillnet Test Fishery:**

##### **Details:**

- Time Period: June 24 to September 22 (91 test fishing days within this time period). Includes one gillnet vessel operating daily.

##### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provide information for stock identification primarily for the Early Summer, Summer and late run sockeye stock groups. (DNA and scale sample collection) that are applied to Mission Hydroacoustics estimates of sockeye escapements.
- Provide species composition and base-line information required to estimate the daily abundance of sockeye migrating upstream from the Mission Hydroacoustics program.
- Provide additional information on late run sockeye delay behaviour.
- Estimate the daily passage of late run sockeye on pink salmon years for the period after which the Mission Hydroacoustics program estimates are compromised by species composition problems.
- Due to increasing Seal interference and predation on Fraser River gillnet test fisheries, the combined catches from Cottonwood and Whonnock test fisheries are required to provide adequate samples used for sockeye stock composition analysis.

##### **Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Fraser River sockeye salmon.

#### **F. Qualark Gill Net Test Fishery**

##### **Details:**

- Time period: The test fish vessel will fish 7 days/week starting on or about July 1st and ending on or about September 19th (approx. 81 days). Two series of 4 drifts each are carried out, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

##### **Data Requirements and uses:**

- The Qualark Creek test fishery provides species composition information to apply to the acoustic count being carried out concurrently at the Qualark site. Biological information is also collected from the catch for age/length/sex/condition and genetics.

**Rationale:**

- This test fishery was operated from 1993 to 1998 when the Qualark Creek Acoustic facility was in operation. The Qualark project is now being resumed. The test fishery focuses efforts on sockeye but other species are captured in much smaller numbers and the species composition information is then applied to the acoustic count to estimate the upstream passage of sockeye.

**G. Nitinat Lake Gillnet Test Fishery:****Details:**

- Time period: October 1<sup>st</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup> (10 test fishing days total)

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provides an in-season abundance assessment of chum returning to Nitinat Lake.
- Assessment information used to determine First Nations, Recreational and Commercial fishing opportunities.
- Identifies any potential conservation issues with Nitinat chum stocks.
- All catch will be retained as biological samples as it is not possible to release fish caught and have any survive.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Nitinat chum.

**H. Johnstone Strait Chum Seine Test Fishery:****Details:**

- Time period: It is expected that this seine test fishery would operate from September 21 to October 25 for a total of 50 days

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provides an in-season abundance assessment of chum salmon that migrate through Johnstone Strait
- Assessment information used to determine First Nations, Recreational and Commercial fishing opportunities.
- Identifies any potential conservation issues with stocks that migrate through Johnstone Strait.
- All catch will be released except those required for biological samples.

**Rationale:**

- The collection of data from this test fishery will be used in the in-season management of Johnstone Strait chum.

**I. Taku River Coho Test Fishery****Details:**

- Time Period: 30 August to 9 October (maximum 36 test fish days).
- One 33 metre set net (14.6 cm; 3:1 hanging ratio) fished up five days per week during commercial fishery closures. One 33 metre drift gillnet (14.6 cm; 3:1 hanging ratio) fished at a specific area.
- The test fishery has operated since 1990.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provides weekly abundance estimates of Taku River coho salmon run size required to govern commercial fishery openings.
- Requires lengths, scales, from coho salmon required for stock recruitment analyses.

**Rationale:**

- To estimate run abundance in lower Taku and system wide escapement estimate through the use of tagged/untagged ratios.

**J. Stikine River Sockeye Salmon Test Fishery****Details:**

- Time Period: 15 June to 5 September (maximum 25 test fish days).
- One 33 metre set net (14 cm; 3:1 hanging ratio) fished up to three days per week during commercial fishery closures. One 33 metre drift gillnet (14 cm; 3:1 hanging ratio) fished at a specific drift net site. Seven drifts are conducted in the morning and in the afternoon during periods when the commercial fishery is closed.
- The test fishery has operated since 1986.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provides weekly abundance estimates of Stikine River run sockeye required to govern commercial fishery openings.
- Requires lengths, scales, egg diameters, otoliths and DNA samples from sockeye to provide a measure of stock specific run strength.

**Rationale:**

- This project provides weekly CPUE data for input into the Stikine Mgmt Model which is used by Canada and US for in-season management of Stikine sockeye.
- Provides weekly estimates of abundance and stock composition of the in-river sockeye run. Test fishery timing data is used in the post season reconstruction of the Tahltan and mainstem run components - ultimately used to assess Treaty compliance of both Canada and US. Test fishery data provides the basis for estimates of total spawning escapement.

**K. Stikine River Coho Salmon Test Fishery**

**Details:**

- Time Period: 6 September to 17 October (maximum 36 test fish days).
- Test fisher is required to fish 14 drifts/day at specified location and time. Catch and drift set time are recorded. In addition, a set net is required to be fished to make up shortfall in samples collected from the drift test sets and commercial fishery. A specific catch target is not required for CPUE index (from drift test sets); however a weekly sample size of ~200 coho per week is required for CWT sampling and age, size and sex composition.
- The test fishery has operated since 1986.

**Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Provides weekly abundance estimates of Stikine River run coho required to govern commercial fishery openings.
- To provide age, gender, and size profiles of Stikine coho used for broad tables and pre season expectation estimates.

**Rationale:**

- To provide a measure of inter annual run strength of Stikine River coho salmon.
- To provide an in-season index of coho run strength to be used by both Canadian and US managers in determining weekly fishing plans.
- Resources directed to Stikine coho run size estimates will reinforce our commitment to the PST whereby the parties will develop an abundance based Stikine coho management regime over the course of the new treaty arrangements.

## **L. Upper Stikine Test Fishery**

### **Details:**

- Test fisher (experienced fisher possessing high boat handling skills) will be required to fish in the Stikine River using gillnets and fish a minimum of 15 days.

### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Fish will be sampled for age, size and sex composition as well as stock ID. All fish caught will be donated to Tahltan FN.

### **Rationale:**

- To determine the feasibility of catching sockeye originating from the Tuya enhancement program in the upper Stikine River above the Tahltan -Stikine confluence. This is an important aspect of Canada's obligation to catch surplus enhanced sockeye originating from the Tuya enhancement project.

## **M. Yukon River Chinook Test Fishery**

### **Details:**

- The project provides mark recovery data used in a DFO mark-recapture project. It is the only recovery effort available if/when the Canadian fishery is closed and is used as contingency if fishery cannot provide adequate recapture sample size.

### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Target sample size is 2000-2500 which will be apportioned over the run. It is anticipated that a minimum of 2 fishers will be required (this sample size may not be achievable). Target sample size is 2000-2500 which will be apportioned over the run. It is anticipated that a minimum of 2 fishers will be required (this sample size may not be achievable).
- To estimate run abundance in the Yukon River at the Canada/US border and system wide spawning escapement in Canada through the determination of tagged/untagged ratios.

### **Rationale:**

- Canadian management plan is dependent on weekly estimates of abundance; decision rules are based abundance. Mark-recapture estimate is basis of assessing US and Canadian Treaty obligations and assessing domestic allocations.

## **N. Yukon River Chum Test Fishery**

### **Details:**

- The project provides mark recovery data used in a DFO mark-recapture project. It is the only recovery effort available if/when the Canadian fishery is closed and is used as contingency if fishery cannot provide adequate recapture sample size

### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Target sample size is 3,000 which will be apportioned over the run. It is anticipated that a minimum of 2 fishers will be required. This sample size is achievable. Gear will consist of fishwheels equipped with live boxes. All fish caught will be live released.
- To estimate run abundance in the Yukon River at the Canada/US border and system wide spawning escapement in Canada through the determination of tagged/untagged ratios.

### **Rationale:**

- Canadian management plan is dependent on weekly estimates of abundance; decision rules are based abundance. Mark-recapture estimate is basis of assessing US and Canadian Treaty obligations and assessing domestic allocations.

## **Q. Porcupine River Chum Test Fishery**

### **Details:**

- The project provides tagging and mark recovery data. It is the only information downstream of the Fishing Branch weir, although in-season DNA is being developed by the USF&WS.

### **Data Requirements and Uses:**

- Target sample size is 2,000 examined and 1,500 marked which will be apportioned over the run. It is anticipated that a minimum of 2 fishers will be required. This sample size is achievable. All fish will be live-released or donated to the Vuntut Gwitchin FN.
- To estimate run abundance in the Porcupine River at Old Crow through the determination of tagged/untagged ratios and determine the feasibility of developing a test fishery index to replace mark-recapture.

- Canadian management plan is dependent on weekly estimates of abundance; decision rules are based abundance. Mark-recapture estimate is basis of assessing US and Canadian Treaty obligations and assessing domestic allocations.

**Rationale:**

- Canadian management plan is dependent on weekly estimates of abundance; decision rules are based abundance. Mark-recapture estimate is basis of assessing US and Canadian Treaty obligations and assessing domestic allocations.

**Appendix 2**  
**Administrative Activities Report**

<b>Activity</b> <b>(List fishery/activity where</b> <b>administrative costs were applied.</b> <b>Describe the administrative activity in</b> <b>detail.)</b>	<b>Employee/ Individual name</b>	<b>Amount of</b> <b>administrative</b> <b>costs in dollars</b>

It is hereby acknowledged that the activities described herein constitute the work plan from April 01, 2009 to September 30, 2010 to be conducted under the Joint Project Agreement dated MAY 19 2009.

SUSAN FAELINGER  
Print Name

Susan Faelinger  
For the Minister

Date: 19 May 2009

Don Kowal  
Print Name

Don Kowal  
For the Pacific Salmon Commission

Date: May 5 2009

Peter Sakich  
Print Name

Peter Sakich  
For the BC Wild-Harvest Salmon Producers Association

Date: May 6 2009

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