



Information for New Pacific Salmon Commission Delegates

Introduction

The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST or Treaty) between the United States and Canada (the Parties) entered into force on March 18, 1985. The product of many years of negotiations, the Treaty is necessitated by the fact that salmon spawn in the rivers of one country and then often mature in or migrate through the ocean waters adjacent to the other country. This makes them subject to *interceptions*, i.e., the harvest in one country of salmon spawned in the other country.

Prior to the Treaty, management of salmon fisheries of the two countries was not coordinated and was often competitive, leading to overfishing and the loss of production to both parties. The fundamental goals of the Treaty, therefore, are to prevent overfishing and to provide for the optimum production and fair sharing of the harvest of salmon. To achieve these goals, the Treaty establishes a process through which the Parties interact to establish, implement and monitor science-based fishery management regimes applicable to their respective jurisdictions. These fishery management regimes are tailored to each of the major geographical regions covered by the Treaty, reflecting coast-wide differences in migration and concentration of the various salmon species and stocks. These fishery management regimes are of limited duration, and thus must be renegotiated from time to time as the status and condition of the resource change. Major amendments to the regimes occurred in 1999 and 2008 (the so-called 1999 and 2008 “agreements”).

Scope of the Treaty

The species and stocks of salmon subject to the Treaty include those that are subject to interception by the other country, or affect achievement of the fishery management objectives of the other country. Fisheries governed by the Treaty occur in the ocean and inland marine waters off Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, the Yukon, southeast Alaska, and the rivers flowing into these waters.

The Treaty established the Pacific Salmon Commission (see below) and specifies administrative rules such as the location and frequency of meetings; establishes fisheries management guidelines and policies, outlines research recommendations, and establishes specific tasks and responsibilities for the Technical Committees and Panels. Each country retains jurisdictional management authority of their fisheries but manages them in a manner that is consistent with the Treaty.

The detailed fishing regimes are set forth in “chapters” of Annex IV of the Treaty. They are: Chapter 1: Transboundary Rivers; Chapter 2: Northern British Columbia and Southeastern Alaska; Chapter 3: Chinook Salmon; Chapter 4: Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon; Chapter 5: Coho Salmon; Chapter 6: Southern British Columbia and Washington State Chum Salmon.

Chapter 7 speaks to intercepting fisheries not dealt with elsewhere in the Treaty; specifically prohibiting initiation of new intercepting fisheries or increased interceptions. Chapter 8 addresses Yukon River fisheries which are managed through a unique bilateral regime (Yukon River Panel) in Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

The fishing regimes contained in the Treaty are not self-executing; they must be implemented in Canada and the United States by regulations promulgated by the appropriate domestic regulatory agencies. For example, the provisions applicable to U.S. fisheries are implemented with conforming regulations issued by the applicable state, federal, and/or tribal agency with jurisdiction over the fisheries governed by that particular regime. In Canada, these regulations are issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Generally speaking, the Commission and its panels are not involved in in-season regulation of fisheries; their role is to monitor each country's compliance with the agreed fishing regimes and to negotiate changes in the regimes when they expire or when resource circumstances so require. An exception is the Fraser River Panel, which actively manages the fisheries directed each summer at Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon in the Fraser River Panel area by issuing in-season "orders" to open and close fisheries during the sockeye and pink salmon migrations. But even these orders are implemented by in-season regulations issued by the two countries' domestic management agencies.

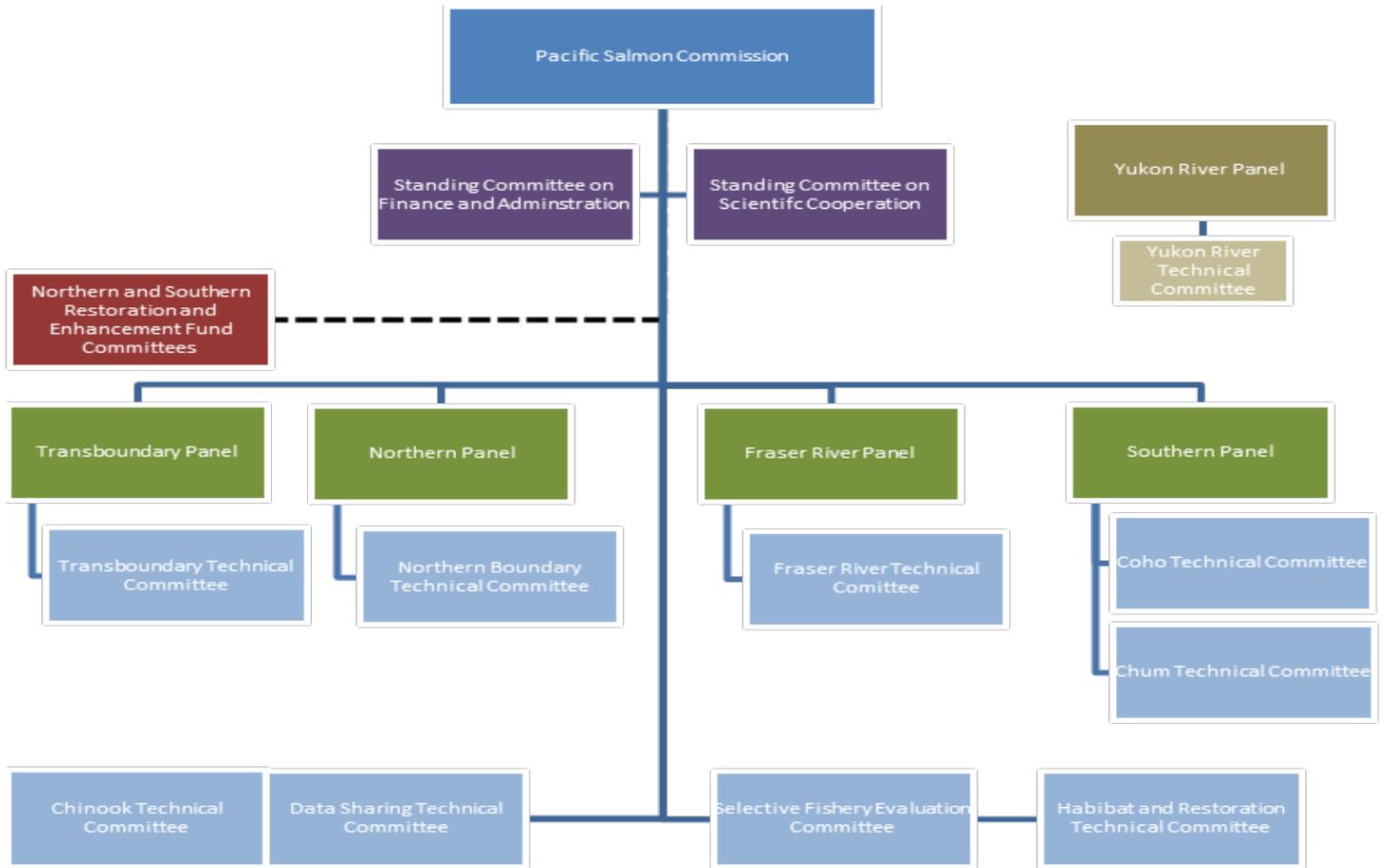
To view the Treaty, go to: www.psc.org/pubs/Treaty.htm

The Pacific Salmon Commission

The Parties, via the Treaty, established the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) to oversee the Treaty's implementation. The Commission is comprised of four Commissioners from each country (plus four Alternate Commissioners), but each country has only a single vote in the Commission. Therefore each national section must express its position in a single vote and all bilateral agreements require agreement between the two national sections. Each Commissioner has an Alternate who may serve in the absence of the Commissioner. In practice, however, Alternate Commissioners are almost always at the table and participate in a manner indistinguishable from Commissioners. The Chair of the Commission rotates annually each October between the Canadian and U.S. Sections at the conclusion of the Fall Meeting.

Commissioners are supported in their work through the following organizational structure:

Figure 1- Organizational Structure of the PSC



For a current list of Commissioners go to: www.psc.org/membership_commissioners.htm

Panels

Four regional panels report to the Commission. The Northern Panel focuses on management of ocean fisheries in southeast Alaska and northern British Columbia; the Fraser River Panel manages fisheries in Washington and southern British Columbia targeting Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon; the Southern Panel addresses fisheries in southern British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho other than those directed at Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon; and the Transboundary Rivers Panel is concerned with the fisheries and stocks in the several rivers that originate in Canada and flow to the ocean through the Alaska panhandle. The panels are advisory to the Commission, and are responsible for monitoring fisheries for compliance with agreements, evaluating the status of the stocks, reporting on annual catches and assisting in the negotiation of new regimes when required.

Figure 2- PSC Panels

Transboundary (1999)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alsek, Stikine and Taku stocks
Northern (1985)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stocks originating from rivers with mouths between Cape Suckling, AK and Cape Caution, BC
Southern (1985)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stocks originating from rivers with mouths south of Cape Caution except Fraser sockeye and pinks
Fraser River (1985)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special responsibility for in-season management of Fraser sockeye and pink salmon• Assumed former responsibilities from the IPSFC; supported by Secretariat technical experts and analysis
Yukon River (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special responsibilities advising ADFG and DFO on annual management measures for shared Yukon River stocks• Formalized within the Pacific Salmon Treaty framework, but• Designed to operate separately from the rest of the Commission “family”

For a current list of Transboundary, Northern, Southern and Fraser River Panel members go to: www.psc.org/membership_panels

For a current list of Yukon Panel members go to: yukonriverpanel.com/salmon/membership-list/yukon-river-panel-members

Technical Committees

Management of Pacific salmon is an intensive undertaking that requires a great deal of scientific cooperation and management coordination. A vast amount of data routinely must be gathered and analyzed to implement the fishing regimes and sustain the resource. Stocks of greatly-varying conservation status intermingle in the ocean and major rivers, and are subject to fisheries in many jurisdictions that can affect their numbers. Some salmon stocks are very productive and can support substantial fisheries, whereas others are imperiled and may be listed under the U.S. *Endangered Species Act* or the Canadian *Species at Risk Act*. The Commission and panels carry out their responsibilities aided by scientific advice provided by a number of bilateral technical committees. These committees are comprised of fishery biologists, statisticians, modellers and other scientific specialists employed specifically for Treaty implementation by the various governmental agencies, tribes and First Nations who participate in the process. Some committees are quite large, reflecting the scope and complexity of their mandates. The Chinook Technical Committee, for example, has over thirty members while others, like the Committee on Scientific Cooperation, have as few as four members.

Technical committees rely upon information provided by Canadian and United States fishery management agencies. The Transboundary, Northern, and Fraser Panels are supported by one technical committee each, while the Joint Technical Committee on Coho and the Joint Technical Committee on Chum report to the Southern Panel. Four additional technical committees (Joint Technical Committee on Data Sharing, Habitat and Restoration Technical Committee, Joint Technical Committee on Chinook, and the Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee) report directly to the Commissioners.

For a list of current Technical Committee members go to www.psc.org/membership_committees_technical.htm

Standing Committees

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration Committee and the Standing Committee on Scientific Cooperation support the work and the management of the Pacific Salmon Commission process.

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (the “F&A Committee”) is generally responsible for oversight of the Commission’s budget and Secretariat operations. In particular, the Committee recommends annual operational budgets for Commission approval as well as policies and guidelines for the Secretariat to follow in implementing those budgets. The Executive Secretary supports the F&A Committee by developing budget proposals, maintaining internal controls on finances, protecting Commission archives and financial records, and reporting on Secretariat operations.

The role of the Standing Committee on Scientific Cooperation is to help the Commission advance its scientific agenda by identifying emerging issues and subjects for new or additional research and by monitoring, and presenting scientific information to the Commission. The Committee also monitors the Commission’s progress in assisting the Parties to enhance cooperation and consultation on science pertinent to the Treaty. In addition, the Committee

provides support to PSC technical committees upon the request of the Commission or the technical committees.

For a current list of Standing Committee members go to:
www.psc.org/membership_committees_standing.htm

National Correspondents

Canada and the United States each appoint one National Correspondent to be the primary day to day contact between the PSC Executive Secretary and the respective Parties to the Treaty. In general, the National Correspondents are responsible for coordinating the flow of information to and from the Commission and each other. Their responsibilities include providing correspondence, membership information, data requests, financial information, and reports necessary for the Parties to meet Treaty obligations.

The current National Correspondents are listed at:
www.psc.org/membership_committees_other.htm

Restoration and Enhancement Funds

The Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration and Enhancement Fund and the Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund, (the Endowment Funds) were created by agreement between the United States and Canadian governments in conjunction with 1999 Treaty amendments. The Funds were capitalized with \$140M from United States and \$500K from Canada. The Funds support projects through returns on investments and interest and do not use the original capital.

The Funds are administered outside of Commission control through two Committees; the Northern Fund Committee and the Southern Fund Committee. The Endowment Funds are designed to support research and restoration efforts to support Treaty implementation. Fund Committee members represent a broad spectrum of interests, including federal, state, provincial, tribal, First Nations, sport fishing, and the commercial industry.

The Yukon Fund was established in 1995 and augmented in 2002. The United States provides \$1.2M per year for Yukon-centered projects. Grantees are selected by the Yukon River Panel with advice from the Yukon Joint Technical Committee. On an annual basis, 50 percent of these funds shall be disbursed on Canadian programs and projects upon approval of the Panel as a whole. The Yukon River Panel includes delegates representing state, territorial, native, first nations and fishing interests.

Two full time staff members at the PSC Secretariat coordinate fund activities and assist in annual calls for proposals, paid from fund administrative fees.

For more about the Restoration and Enhancement Funds go to: fund.psc.org/about_fund.htm
For a current list of Fund Committee members go to: www.psc.org/membership_committees_fund.htm

Annual Meeting Cycle

Fall Meeting

To carry out the work of the Pacific Salmon Commission, the Commissioners convene each October to establish the forward-looking agenda outlining each Panel's work plans and deliverables for the forthcoming fishing season.

The location for the October sessions alternates between Canada and the United States. Participation is typically restricted to Commissioners, alternate Commissioners, National Correspondents, and a number of "experts" or "advisors" per national section. On occasion, Panel and Technical Committee Chairs may be invited to present on specific agenda topics.

Panel and Technical Committee Chairs are required to complete a bilateral work plan in advance of the October Commissioners meeting. The Commission may also request presentation of any completed Panel or Technical Committee reports requiring bilateral approval.

January Post-Season Meeting

The January Post-Season meeting is held in either Portland, OR, or in Vancouver, BC and alternates from year to year. The meeting includes participation of the full Commission (Commissioners, Panels, Technical Committees, Standing Committees, Sub-Committees, and Advisors) – and Observers. The main purpose of the January meeting is for the Commission, Panels, and Committees to conduct a review of the previous year's fisheries as guided by the Treaty.

February Annual Meeting

The February Annual meeting is held in either Portland, OR, or in Vancouver, BC and alternates from year to year. It includes participation of the full Commission (Commissioners, Panels, Technical Committees, Standing Committees, Sub-Committees, and Advisors) – and Observers. The main purpose of the Annual meeting is to allow the Commission, Panels, and Committees to plan and prepare for the upcoming fishing season.

In addition, at the October, January and February meetings, Commissioners discuss a variety of salient scientific policy and administrative issues facing the Commission.

Note: Panels and Technical Committees may also convene separate meetings to address specific management issues throughout the year as outlined in annual workplans approved by the Commission.

For the current meeting schedule go to: www.psc.org/meetings_schedule.htm

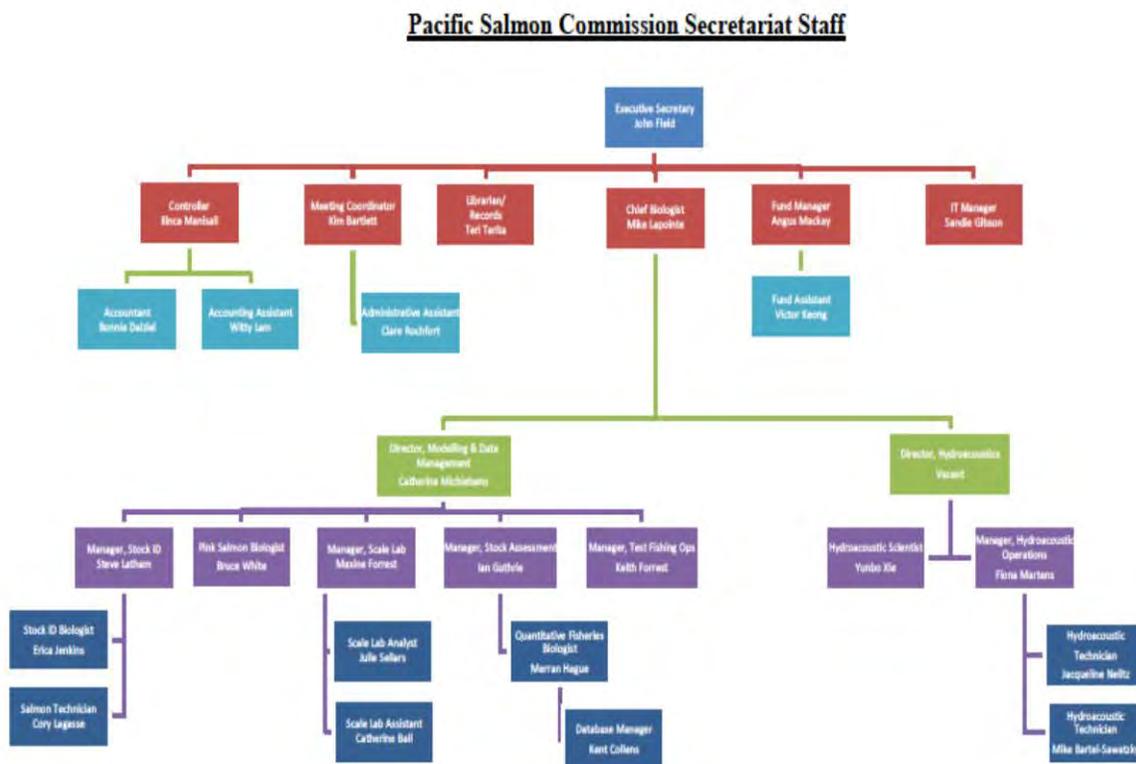
For the Commissioners' Forward Looking Agenda go to: www.psc.org/meetings_agenda.htm

Secretariat

The PSC is administered through a Secretariat in Vancouver, Canada. The 26 Secretariat staff members include administrative and scientific professionals who facilitate meetings, provide scientific assessments, run field programs, and maintain extensive archives dating back to the early 20th Century. These employees are international civil servants, working for both countries simultaneously.

Most Secretariat staff members are biological staff dedicated solely to providing technical support for management of fisheries directed at the harvest of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon. This fishery management is a task previously performed pursuant to an earlier, more limited agreement between the Parties but now performed by the Commission's Fraser River Panel, the only Commission panel that has in-season management duties.

Figure 3 - Secretariat Organizational Structure



For a current list of Secretariat staff members go to:

www.psc.org/membership_committees_secretariat.htm

The Commission authorizes the creation or deletion of staff positions. Staff and other operational costs are financed with annual dues paid by each national government (currently \$1.9 CDN million per country). The Secretariat is not able to act without consensus between countries.

The Secretariat Staff is there to answer questions and facilitate your work, and welcomes visits by PSC participants.

Call: 604 684 8081

Website: www.psc.org

Visit: 1155 Robson Street, Suite 600; Vancouver, V6E 1B5

Bylaws

The Pacific Salmon Commission Bylaws consist of rules and regulations adopted by the Pacific Salmon Commission under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The bylaws provide for the internal organization and operation of the Pacific Salmon Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Participants should familiarize themselves with the section of the bylaws that directly affect them (i.e., rules of procedure for Panels, Committees, or the Commission itself).

Read the bylaws that affect the Commission, the Panels and Committees at:

<http://www.psc.org/pubs/Bylaws.pdf>