



# Pacific Salmon Commission

(PSC)



# When the PSC is mentioned, what comes into peoples' minds?

- US over-harvesting Canadian Fish?
- Fish Wars ?
- US Protests Boat Seizures by Canada ?
- No renewal of US Esquimalt testing base lease because of no agreement on Pacific Salmon?
- Canada requires transit fee for US vessels traveling inside passage?

# U.S. rekindles Pacific salmon war

'Angry and surprised' Canadian negotiator walks out on talks meant to establish new quotas



Canada boycotting  
salmon talks because  
of U.S. intransigence

Salmon talks  
with U.S.  
deadlocked

*Canadian Press*

U.S. calls off salmon talks  
after Canada seizes boats

**SALMON STOCKS**

**Canada ready  
for war with  
U.S. over fish**

No option but to take unilateral action,  
Tobin says after talks break down

# What is the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)?



- Body formed by the United States and Canada to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Treaty originally signed in 1985
- Replaced 1937 International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission
- Annex arrangements amended in 1999

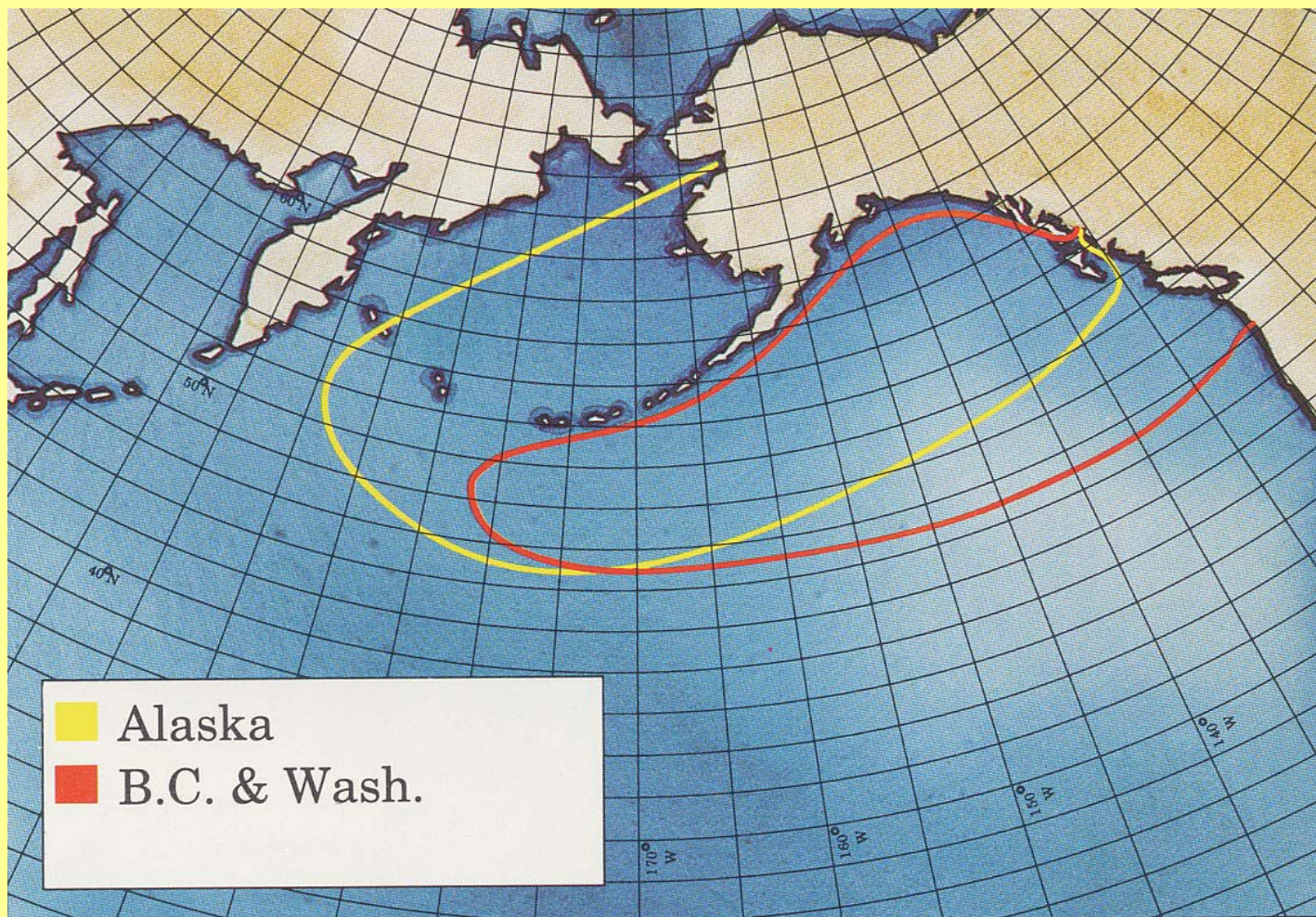




# Why have a Treaty?

- Fact: Salmon produced by one country are intercepted by fishermen of the other country
- Interceptions encourage over-harvest and discourage investment in conservation and management
- Coordinated management of coast-wide salmon stocks required







# Role of the PSC

Each Party shall conduct fisheries and its enhancement programs so as to:

- a) prevent over-fishing and provide for optimum production; and
- b) provide for each Party to receive benefits equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters



# How does the Commission Function?



- Commission is comprised of 16 members
  - 4 Commissioners & 4 Alternates from each the USA and Canada
- Each Country has one vote
- Consensus required for decisions
- Members appointed by the President and the State Department for US and by Minister of F&O for Canada

# Who are the Commissioners?



- In the US they represent Dept of State; NMFS; States of Wash, Oregon, Idaho & Alaska; and Tribal reps
- In Canada they represent Dept of F&O; Province of BC; Commercial Rep; Recreational Rep; First Nations Rep; & Environmental Rep



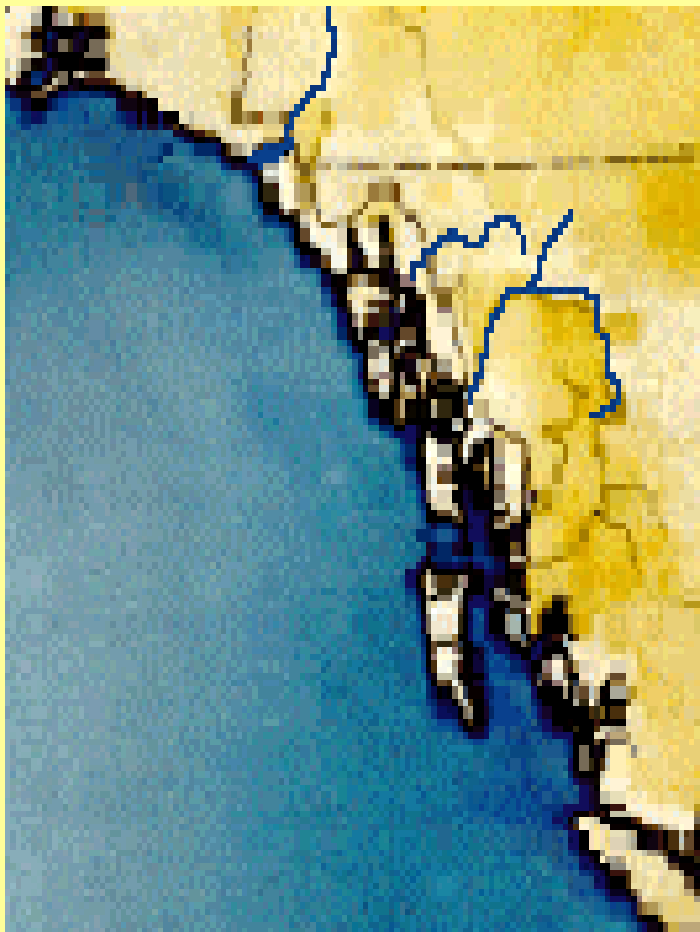
# Regional Panels

- 4 Regional Panels provide technical and regulatory advice to the Commission
- Regional Panels are: Transboundary; Northern; Southern and Fraser River
- Panels comprised of up to 6 members and 6 alternates from each country (except Transboundary).
- Appointed by respective Parties

# Panel Representation



- The Panels represent regional interests
- In addition to government reps both Parties have a mix of interest group representation



## **Transboundary Panel:**

The Transboundary Panel has responsibility for salmon originating in the Alsek, Stikine, and Taku river systems.



# Transboundary Panel

- Panel created in 1999
- Responsible for salmon originating in the Alsek, Stikine, and Taku River systems
- Supported by the Transboundary Technical Committee
- Tasks include: improve coordinated mgmt.& implement ABM (abundance based mgmt.) regimes for chinook, sockeye & coho; continue joint enhancement; & review access to enhanced stocks and harvest sharing arrangements.



### **Northern Panel:**

The Northern Panel has responsibility for salmon originating in rivers with mouths entering the Pacific Ocean between Cape Suckling in Alaska and Cape Caution in British Columbia.

# Northern Panel

- Created 1985, one of original panels
- Deals with issues concerning stocks which originate in waters off Alaska and Northern BC
- Supported by the Northern Boundary Technical Committee and CTC
- Issues include: Assess compliance Northern Boundary Area fisheries & review harvest calculations



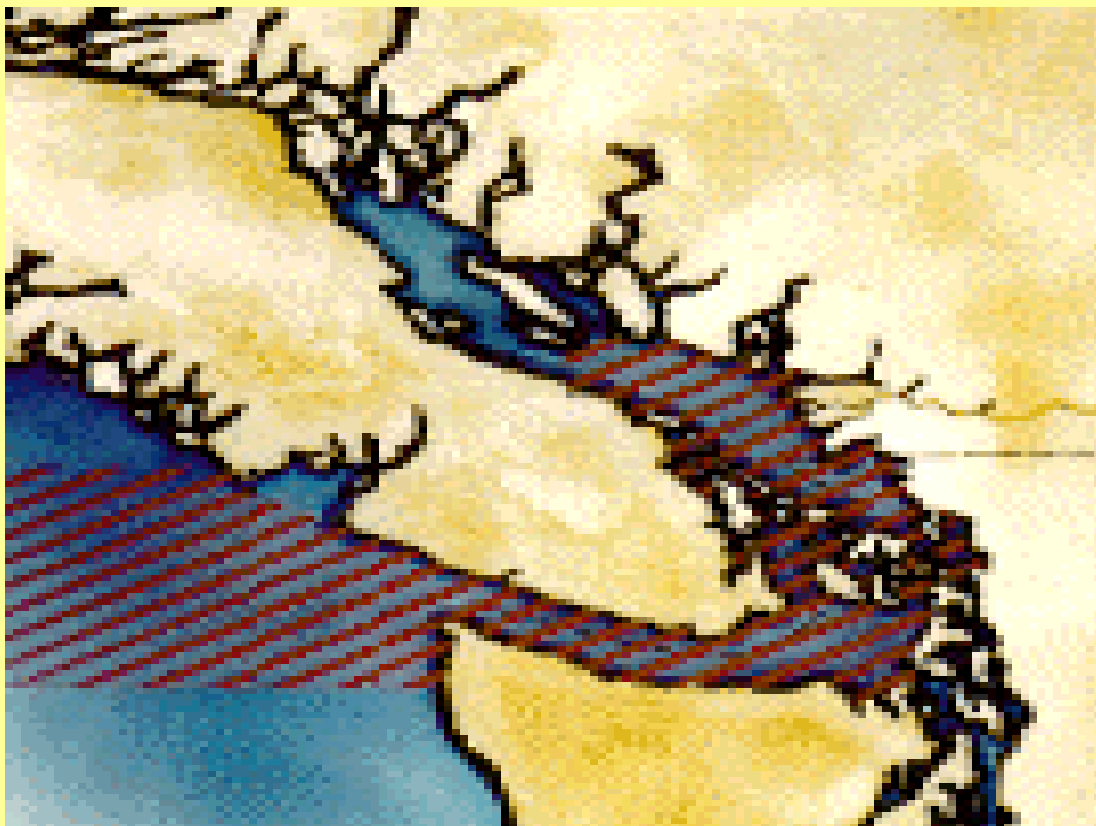
### **Southern Panel:**

The Southern Panel has responsibility for salmon originating in rivers with mouths south of Cape Caution, with the exception of Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon.

# Southern Panel

- Created in 1985 – original panel
- Deals with issues concerning stocks originating from streams in Southern BC, Washington, Oregon, & Idaho (except Fraser sockeye and pink stocks)
- Supported by Coho, Chum and Chinook Technical Committees
- Issues include: Revisions to Chum Annex & continued implementation of Coho Mgmt Plan





### **Fraser River Panel:**

The Fraser River Panel has special responsibility for in-season regulation of Fraser River-origin sockeye and pink salmon fisheries in southern British Columbia and northern Puget Sound

# Fraser Panel

- Created in 1985
- Assumed Fraser sockeye & pink management responsibilities from the former International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (IPSFC signed in 1937 and implemented in 1946).
- IPSFC had success in rebuilding sockeye and pink stocks and had allowed for equal sharing of returns
- Current Panel supported by Fraser Technical Committee and PSC staff

# Yukon Salmon Agreement

- 1985 PSC Treaty had included commitments for Parties to further negotiate on Yukon River salmon
- US and Canada exchanged notes concluding an agreement on December 4, 2002
- Formal relationship between PST and Yukon Agreement ( Chapter 8 )
- However, Commission has no legal responsibility for overseeing work of Yukon Panel



# Committees

- Number of Standing and Technical Committees provide support
- Standing Committees:
  - Standing Committee on Finance and Administration
  - Standing Committee on Scientific Cooperation
  - Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration and Enhancement Fund (Northern Fund Committee)
  - Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement (Southern Fund Committee)



# Technical Committees

- Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee
- Technical Committee on Data Sharing
- Fraser Panel Technical Committee
- Northern Boundary Technical Committee
- Transboundary Technical Committee
- Separate Joint Technical Committees on:  
Chinook; Coho; & Chum



Pacific  
Salmon  
Commission

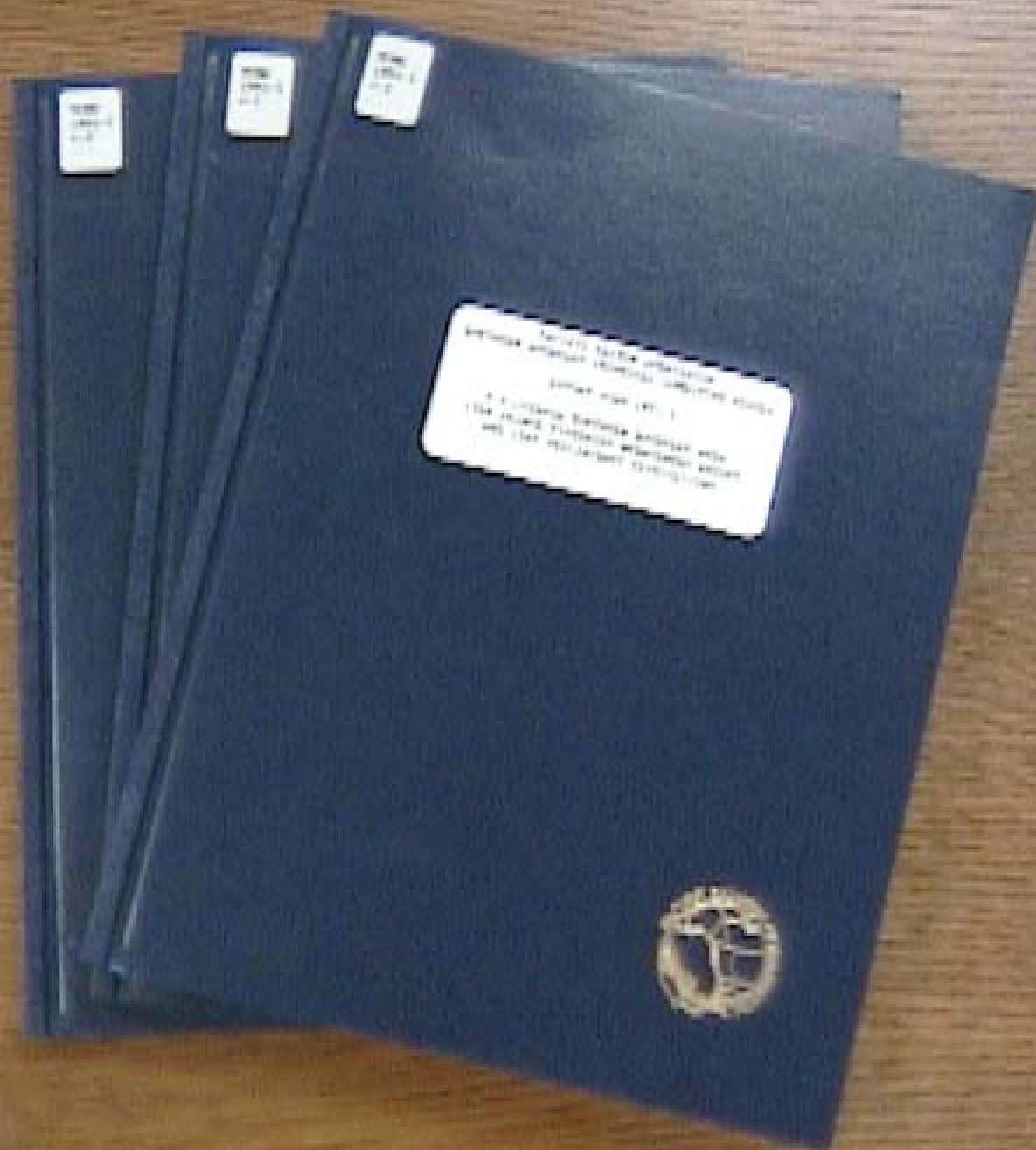


2000/2001  
Sixteenth Annual  
Report

**Report of the  
Fraser River Panel  
to the  
Pacific Salmon Commission  
on the  
1999 Fraser River Sockeye and  
Pink Salmon Fishing Season**



*Prepared by the*  
**Pacific Salmon Commission**  
**March, 2001**

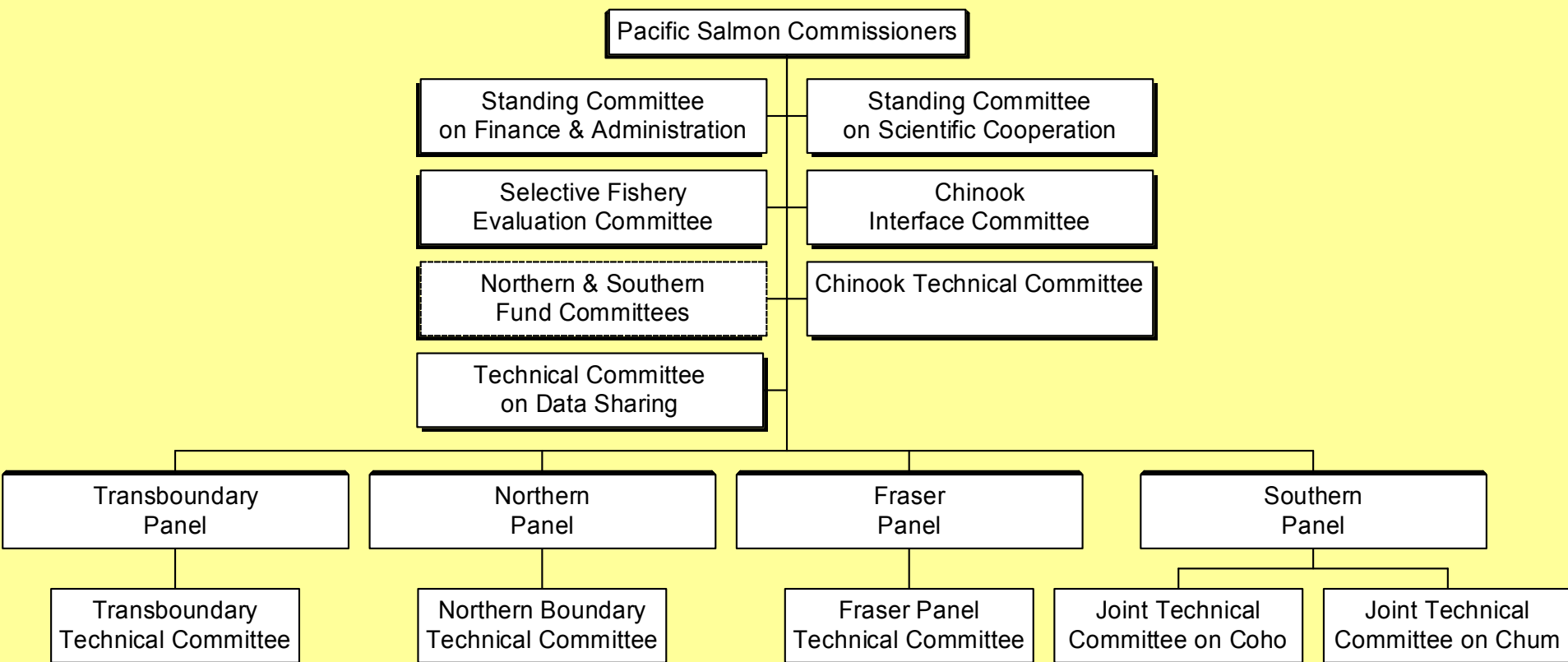


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## Pacific Salmon Commission

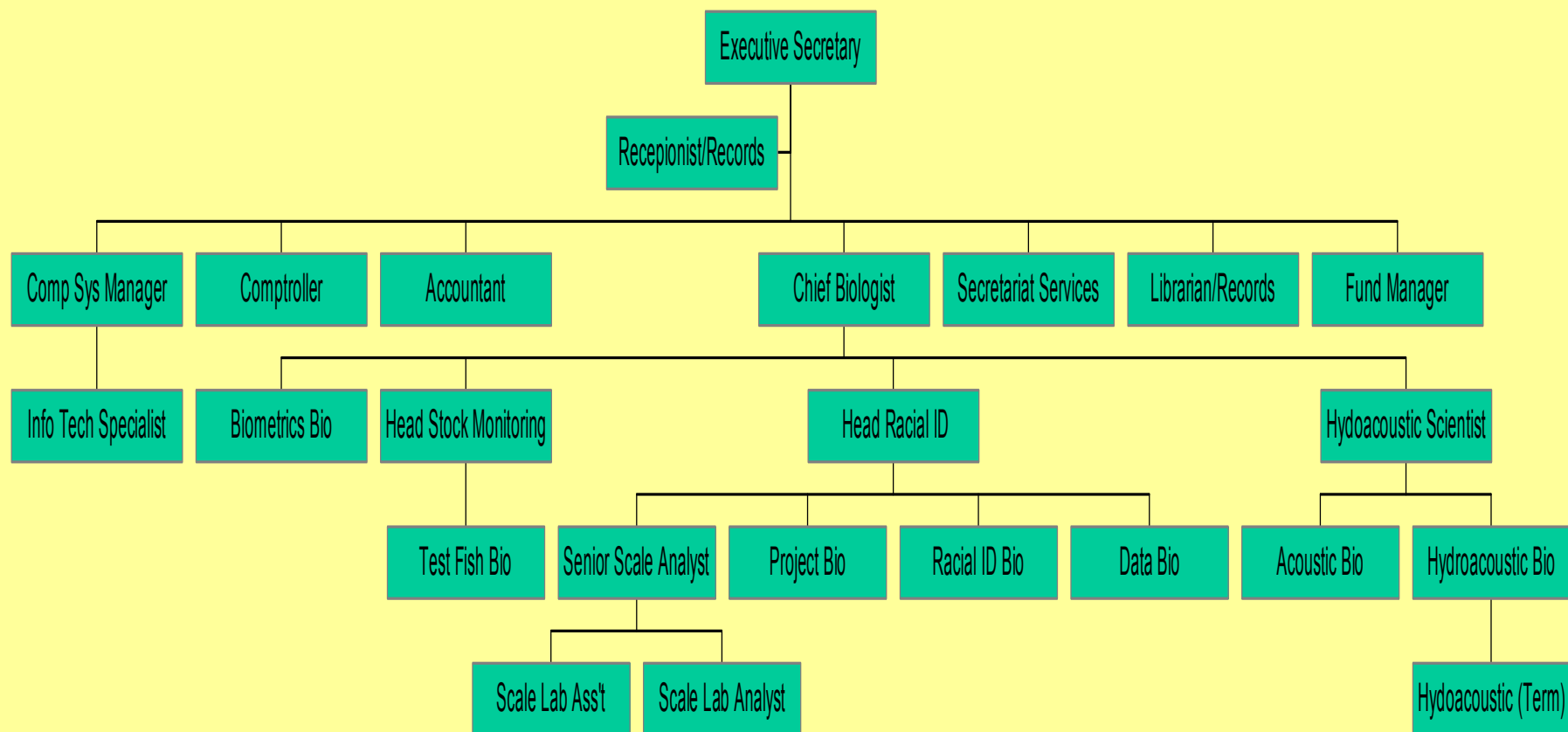


# PSC Secretariat



- Staff headquartered in Vancouver (23 FT)
- Provide administrative support and technical advice
- Staff also responsible for the day to day regulation of sockeye and pink fisheries throughout the Fraser River Panel area of jurisdiction







# PSC Staff

## Administrative Responsibilities

- Assist Commissioners and Panel members generally in conduct of their duties
- Facilitate implementation of Commission decisions and recommendations
- Prepare and transmit reports, communications and correspondence
- Make necessary arrangements for all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies



# PSC Staff

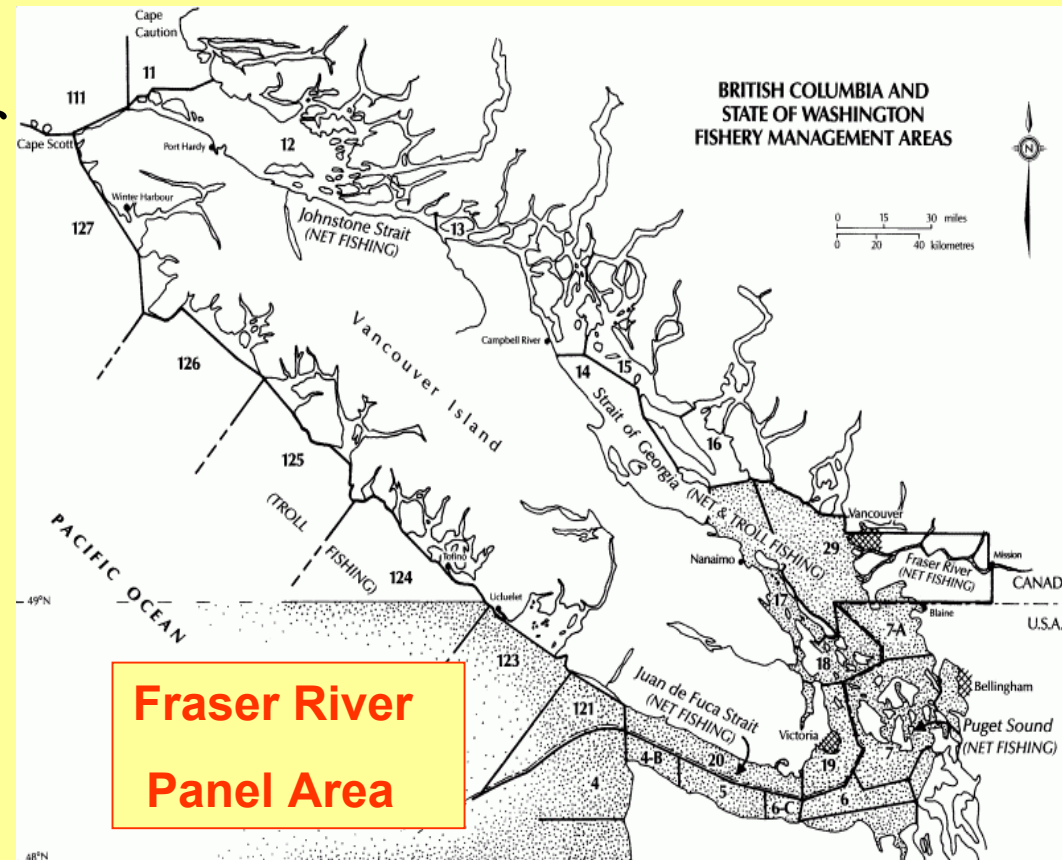
## Administrative Responsibilities

- Receive and disburse funds in accordance with Financial Regulations (note: Contributions to fund PSC staff operations are funded 50:50 by the Parties)
- Maintain all official files and publications
- Operate the PSC library
- Coordinate the activities of the northern and southern restoration & enhancement funds

# The Pacific Salmon Treaty assigns the Fraser River Panel



- responsibility for in-season management of commercial fisheries for Fraser sockeye and pink salmon in “Panel area waters”





# Fraser River

## Sockeye & Pink Management

- 1) Fraser River (Canada/US) management of Tribal, First Nations, Recreational & Commercial Fisheries
- 2) PSC staff support of the Panel in managing the fisheries
  - A) In-season stock monitoring
  - B) In-season stock assessment
  - C) Development of new techniques/methods



# Fraser River

## Sockeye & Pink Management

- A) In-season stock monitoring to obtain the data for analysis
- Commercial catch estimation
  - Test fishing
  - Racial analysis
  - Escapement monitoring





# Fraser River

## Sockeye & Pink Management

B) In-season stock assessment – based on  
the data collected

- In-season run-size estimation
- Arrival timing
- Johnstone Strait diversion rate
- Environmental monitoring





# Fraser River

## Sockeye & Pink Management

### C) Development of new techniques and methods

- Run-size estimation
- Racial analysis via DNA
- Split-beam hydro-acoustic program



- Hydro-acoustic program





# What are the major bilateral changes from 1985 to the revised 1999 Agreement?

- Fisheries have moved from negotiated catch ceilings to abundance based management
- Committee on Scientific Cooperation established
- Agreement on rules for dispute resolution
- Habitat provisions now included

# Changes 1985 –1999 con't



- \$140 M Restoration & Enhancement Fund
  - Northern & Southern funds established
- Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon:  
revised sharing agreement
- Creation of a Transboundary Panel
- Commissioners now resolving bilateral  
issues versus disagreements on equity  
balance and on fish paybacks



# Fraser Panel

## Revised Sharing Arrangements

- Provides for a 12 year sharing arrangement (1999-2010)
- U.S. share will decline from 22.4% to 16.5% of the TAC in Washington waters
- Provides for payback to compensate for catch shortfalls
- Fraser Panel works with a “closed unless opened by the Panel” arrangement

# What are some of the more current issues ?



- Finalize rules for Technical Dispute Resolution
- Agreement on a Southern Coho ABM Plan
- Implementation of Habitat Provisions of the Treaty
- Selective Mark Recovery Fishery Protocol



# Fraser Panel

## Revised Sharing Arrangements

- U.S. (Washington State) Share
  - 1999: 22.4%
  - 2000: 20.4%
  - 2001: 18.4%
  - 2002-2010 16.5%



# Issues for Discussion

- \$140M Habitat & Restoration Fund
- Fraser River Late-run sockeye pre-spawn mortality





# Meeting Timetable

- Three PSC Meetings: (alternate US/Canada)
  - October – PSC Executive Meeting
  - January – PSC Post Season Meeting
  - February – Annual Meeting

# How can we be reached?



- PSC website: [www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)

