

FIP Workplan – Action 2: Harvest Strategy.

Action Goal: Demonstrate there is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place.

PI 1.2.1.

Update Information April 2022. Part 1: 2022 Fishery Strategy

On April 8, 2022, the Far Eastern Scientific & Fishery Council (DVNPS) meeting¹ was held in Vladivostok which was attended by representatives of all branches of VNIRO (Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography) scientific institutes in the Russian Far East (including SakhNIRO), representatives of Russian regional executive authorities (including the Sakhalin Region Government), representatives of territorial administrations of Federal Fisheries Agency (including SKTU, Sakhalin-Kuril Territorial Administration) and branches of Glavrybvod (including SakhRybVod).

Representatives of scientific institutions reported on the scientific foundations and proposals for regional strategies, including those for the Sakhalin Region. The document sets out the main goal for regional strategies: "To achieve the maximum possible catches by conducting rational fishing for Pacific salmon and char (species of the genus *Salvelinus*), ensuring the passage of spawners into the rivers in the volumes necessary for optimal escapement to spawning grounds and the implementation of hatchery breeding programs."

The Strategy for the Sakhalin Region includes several main regulations:

- 1 – harvest (catch) area;
- 2 - recommended system for organizing Pink Salmon fishing and limiting its catch;
- 3 - periods of opening and prohibition of Pink Salmon fishing;
- 4 - passing days (periods) for Pink Salmon;
- 5 - recommended system for organizing Chum Salmon fishing and limiting its catch;
- 6 - periods of opening and prohibition of Chum Salmon fishing;
- 7 - passing days (periods) for Chum Salmon;
- 8 - deadlines for the submission of harvest (catch) information;
- 9 - measures to regulate the spawner escapement for reproduction purposes;
- 10 - changes in the volume of harvest (catch);
- 11 - general issues of organizing the Pacific salmon fishery.

1. Harvest (catch) area.

The Sakhalin Region is conditionally divided into 3 fishing areas: Sakhalin Island, the Northern Kuril Islands and the Southern Kuril Islands. A number of fishing areas are located on the coast of Sakhalin Island, some of which (for example, the northeastern and southeastern coasts of Sakhalin) consist of subareas. The volumes of harvest (catch) of Pacific salmon are set for users on fishing parcels provided to them for use.

2. Recommended system for organizing Pink Salmon fishing and limiting its catch.

This part refers to the opening of fishing in all areas of the Sakhalin Region in 2022, with the exception of the Gulf of Patience (from Cape Patience to the Cape of Soymonov), as well as the

¹ See original document in Russian "RUS_DVNPS Materials - RFE Salmon Strategies 2022 (April 8, 2022)_Материалы ДВНПС 8 апреля 2022.pdf"

southwestern coast of Sakhalin Island.

In the south-east of Sakhalin and in the Aniva Bay, fishing can be opened in fishing parcels adjacent to the mouths of rivers filled with salmon spawners by 50% or more, as well as in fishing parcels located in the marine waters between such rivers, if they are located in close proximity.

Areas that are transit areas are opened for fishing when the spawning grounds are filled by 50% or more in the reproduction area, to which Pink Salmon spawners migrate through the transit area. Transit areas are sections of the coastline with fishing parcels where the area of Pink Salmon spawning grounds does not ensure the commercial return of Pinks.

3. Periods of opening and prohibition of Pink Salmon fishing.

Table 4 (from the source document) — The timing of commercial Pink Salmon¹ fishing in the Sakhalin Region in 2022

Fishing area	start	end
The coast of Western Sakhalin, including		
North-West (from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Pogibi)	July 1	September 30
South-West (from Cape Pogibi to Cape Crillon)	–	–
The East Sakhalin subzone, including		
the North-East coast of Sakhalin Island (from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Patience)	July 15	August 31
the Gulf of Patience (from Cape Patience to the Cape of Soymonov)	–	–
the South-East coast of Sakhalin Island (from the Cape of Soymonov to Tikhii (Silent) Cape)	July 20 ²	August 31
the South-East coast of Sakhalin Island (from Tikhii (Silent) Cape to Cape Aniva)	July 20 ²	August 31
Aniva Bay (from Cape Aniva to Cape Crillon)	August 1 ²	August 31
Southern Kuril Islands		
Iturup Island ³	July 11	September 20
Kunashir Island	August 1	September 10
Northern Kuril Islands		
The North Kuril Zone	June 18	August 31
The Kamchatka-Kuril subzone (within the boundaries of the Sakhalin Region)	June 22	August 31
Note: The " – " sign indicates areas for which it is recommended not to determine the timing of the start and prohibition of fishing; ¹ — when fishing for Pink Salmon, set the timing of harvesting Chum Salmon; ² — fishing periods are approximate: the start of the fishing - upon reaching the filling of Pink Salmon spawning grounds by 50% or more; ³ — Sockeye Salmon harvesting is carried out within the same time frame; ⁴ — Sockeye and Coho salmon are also harvested during these periods		

4. Passing days (periods) for Pink Salmon.

As in previous years, SakhNIRO specialists will develop recommendations for establishing passing days based on latest information on monitoring rivers during the period of salmon run to spawning grounds. However, in the fishing areas of the North-West, North-East and Aniva Bay, it has already been recommended to establish a regime of "three days of passing / four days of fishing".

On the southeastern coast of Sakhalin, passing days (periods) will be introduced based on actual returns of Pink Salmon spawners and taking into account their escapement to spawning grounds.

5. Recommended system for organizing Chum Salmon fishing and limiting its catch.

When developing recommendations for the Chum fishing, it was taken into account that at present its high abundance is observed only near those rivers where there are hatcheries for its reproduction. Therefore, in most areas (including Iturup Island) it was recommended to establish that the section of the coastline on which the installation of trap nets is possible is 7 km in both directions from the mouth of the salmon hatchery main river. The only exceptions are the Anivsky and Ado-Tymovsky salmon hatcheries. For Taranaysky (Aniva Bay), Kalininsky and Yasnomorsky (South-West Sakhalin) salmon hatcheries, additional restrictions are recommended in the form of a shorter coastal area for possible Chum Salmon fishing.

If there are no natural spawning grounds and conditions for the effective reproduction of Chum Salmon in water bodies, then from the beginning of fishing for hatchery-produced Chum, it is recommended to install fish counting weirs in water bodies in accordance with Table 6.

Table 6 (from the source document) — The list of the main rivers of salmon hatcheries in the Sakhalin-Kuriles region, in which there are no natural Chum spawning grounds and conditions for salmon reproduction

Fishing area	Salmon hatchery	Main water body
Gulf of Patience	Sobolinoye	Vladimirovka
South-East	Lesnoy Dolinka Bakhura Ai Century Firsovka Manui Lazovoy Nitui Porechie	Ochepukha Dolinka Bakhura Ai Dudinka Firsovka Manui Lazovaya Nitui Lesnaya
Aniva Bay	Monetka Chirkova Olkhovatka	Ostrovka Chirkova Olkhovatka
Iturup Island	Mineralny Konservny	Mineralny stream (Lake Reidovoye basin) Dyadya Fedor stream (Konservnaya Harbor basin, Prostor Bay)

Recommendations for the organization of fishing in the Northern Kuril Islands were specifically stipulated. Based on the multi-species structure of the migration flow of Pacific salmon, it was proposed to indicate all species when issuing permits and combine the predicted catch volumes of Pacific salmon in the North Kuril zone and the Kamchatka-Kuril subzone (within the borders of the Sakhalin Region). The Anadromous Fish Commission was recommended to set the volume of harvests (catch) of Pacific salmon for commercial fishing companies in 2022 in proportion to the number of their fishing parcels according to a special formula (Table 7 from the source document).

6. Periods of opening and prohibition of Chum Salmon fishing.

Table 8 (from the source document) — The timing of commercial Chum Salmon¹ fishing in the Sakhalin Region in 2022

Fishing area	start	end
The coast of Western Sakhalin, including		
North-West (from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Pogibi)	July 1	September 30
South-West (from Cape Pogibi to Cape Crillon)	August 21	October 15
The East Sakhalin subzone, including		
the North-East coast of Sakhalin Island (from Cape Elizabeth to Cape Dagi)	September 1	September 30
the Gulf of Patience (from Cape Patience to the Cape of Soymonov)	September 1	October 15
the South-East coast of Sakhalin Island (from the Cape of Soymonov to Tikhiy (Silent) Cape)	August 21	October 15
the South-East coast of Sakhalin Island (from Tikhiy (Silent) Cape to Cape Aniva)	August 21	October 15
Aniva Bay (from Cape Aniva to Cape Crillon)	September 11	October 15
Southern Kuril Islands		
Iturup Island ²	September 21	November 30
Kunashir Island	September 11	November 30
Note:		
¹ — when fishing for Chum Salmon, set the timing of harvesting Pink Salmon;		
² — Sockeye Salmon harvesting is carried out within the same time frame		

7. Passing days (periods) for Chum Salmon.

SakhNIRO recommended establishing two passing days per week during the Chum Salmon fishery on Sakhalin Island for sites located in the area of the main rivers of state salmon hatcheries that reproduce Chum Salmon.

8. Deadlines for the submission of harvest (catch) information.

As in previous years, river escapement data will be provided once every 5 days, and catch data will be provided on a daily basis.

9. Measures to regulate the spawner escapement for reproduction purposes.

This section provides recommendations to SakhRybVod on timely informing the Anadromous Fish Commission in case of a shortage of spawners that can be caught for aquaculture (reproduction) purposes for state salmon hatcheries.

SakhNIRO recommends that the Anadromous Fish Commission, when organizing measures to prevent mass fish mortality in the water bodies of the Sakhalin-Kuril region, be guided by the Fishing Rules and the Order of Federal Fisheries Agency No. 170.

10. Changes in the volume of harvest (catch).

Depending on the number of Pacific salmon spawners passing into the rivers and on their escapement to spawning grounds, changes in the volume of their catch are possible in accordance with current legislation.

11. General issues of organizing the Pacific salmon fishery.

This section describes in more detail the requirements for bringing fishing gear into non-working conditions on "passing" days.

Literary source:

Material for the Far Eastern Scientific & Fishery Council. Vladivostok, April 8, 2022

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