



Overview of DFO approaches to addressing Interior Fraser Steelhead impacts in Salmon Fisheries

Spence's Bridge Thompson Steelhead Public
Forum

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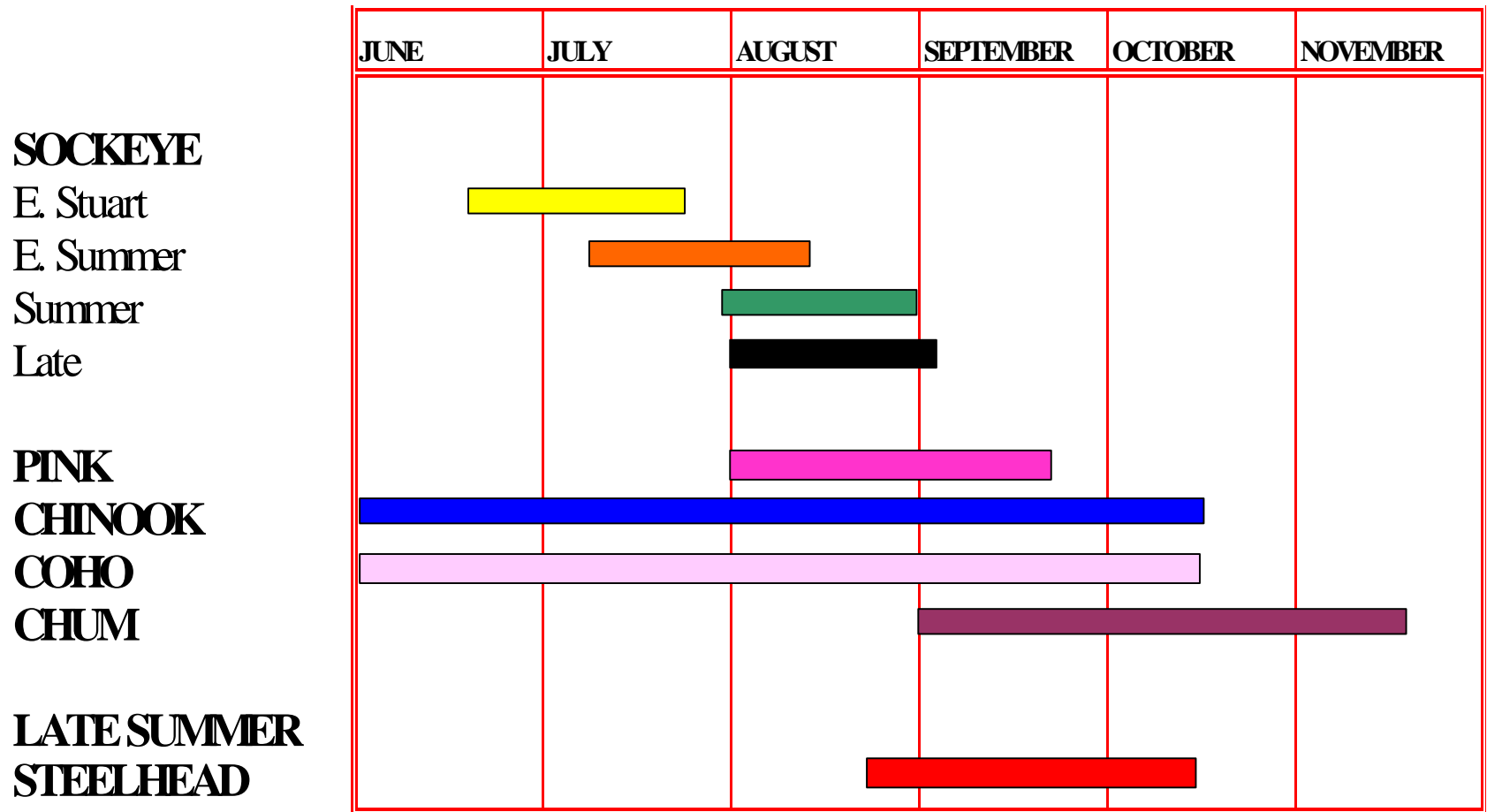
Outline

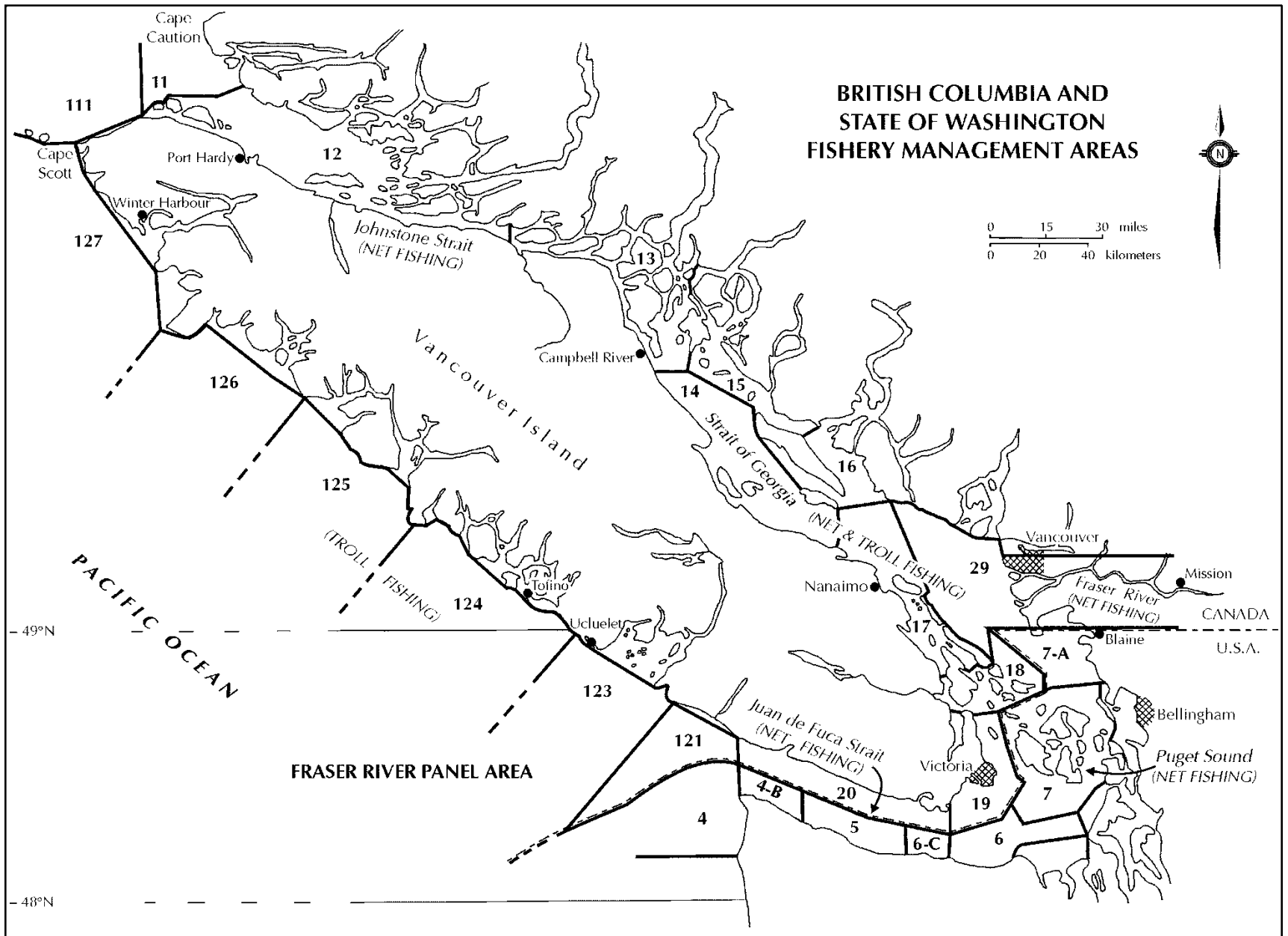
Provide an overview of information on:

- Salmon Fisheries
- Management approach for steelhead and other stocks of concern



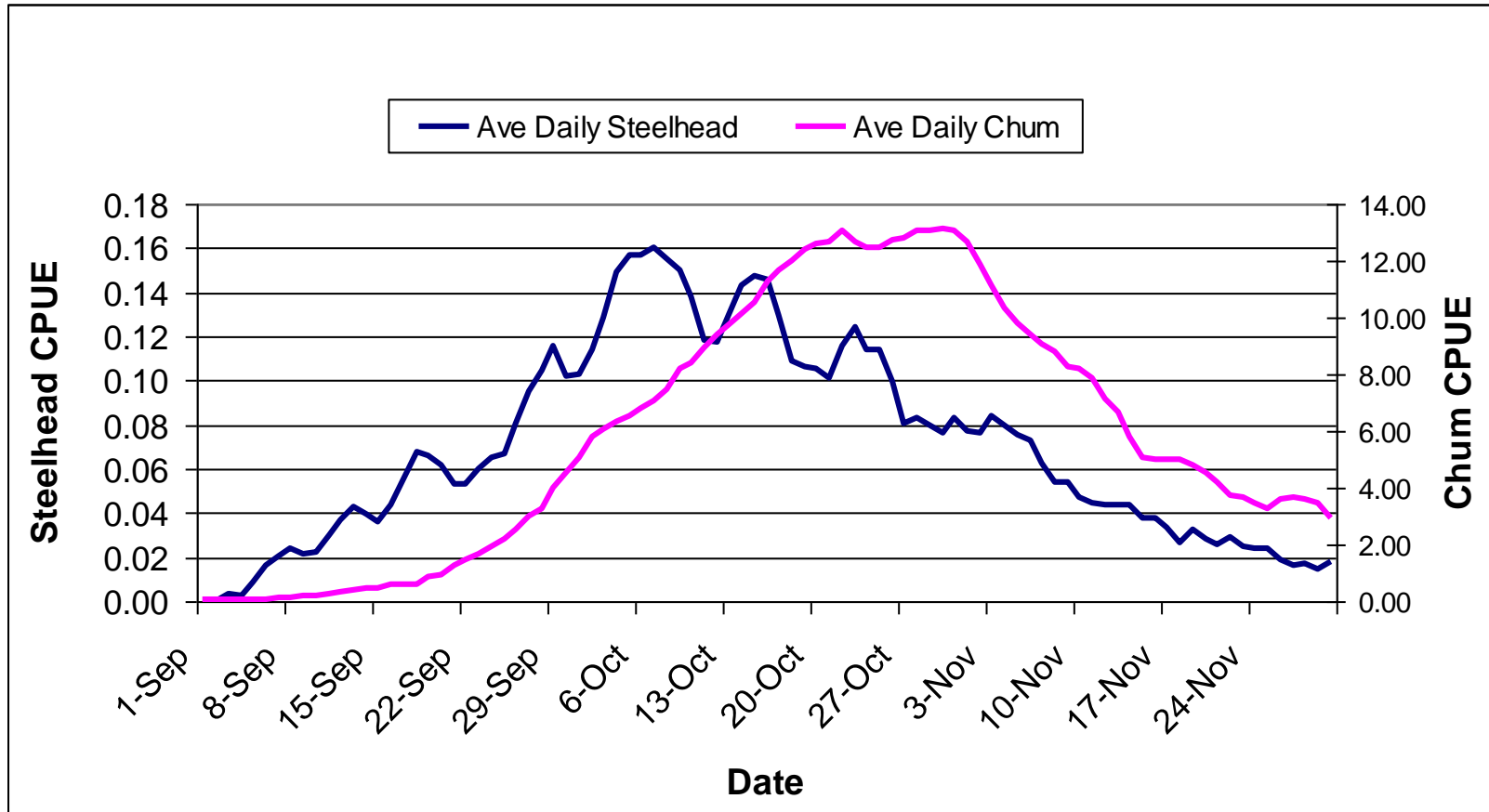
RUN TIMING THROUGH JUNA DE FUCA AND JOHNSTONE STRAIT







Migration timing into Fraser River Steelhead and Chum as measured by Albion test fishery (1978-2005)





Management of Stocks of Concern

- Management actions to limit fishery impacts on stocks of concern during steelhead migration period include:
 - Exploitation rate limits for **Cultus Lake sockeye** limit sockeye fisheries at the end of August and September
 - **Interior Fraser coho** fisheries are managed to a maximum % exploitation rate in Canada and a fishery window closure is implemented in the Fraser River for 1 month (e.g. early Sept to early Oct below Mission then adjusted in upstream areas according to migration timing)
 - Objective for **Interior Fraser steelhead** is to minimize impact of Canadian fisheries and to increase spawner abundance



Management Actions to Reduce Steelhead Impacts

- All commercial fisheries required to release to water with least possible harm all steelhead caught incidentally in fisheries for other species.
 - Revival Tanks On-board all Vessels: Purse Seine, Troll, & Gill Net
 - Mandatory brailing of catch by purse seine
 - Barbless hooks for troll fisheries



Additional Commercial Fishery Actions

- **Johnstone Strait/Strait of Georgia:** Fisheries for Fraser pink salmon primarily conducted by purse seine and troll as individual transferrable quota fisheries
 - Lower release mortality rates (10-25%) than gill nets (60%)
 - Slower paced fishery
 - Mandatory landing program with independent catch verification
 - On water random observers to monitor by catch
- **Johnstone Strait Chum Fishery:** Cancellation in 1998 of Late September Fishery in Johnstone Strait and in 2003 Dept. reduced harvest rate in Johnstone Strait fisheries to a 20% ceiling (in past could have been as high as 40%)



Additional Commercial Fishery Actions

- **Fraser River commercial gill net**: strategy is to protect 80% of Interior Fraser steelhead run with a high degree of certainty.
 - Previously implemented as a 1 day fishery in late October; recently, two shorter-duration (8 – 12 hour) openings with similar timing. Also applies to First Nations economic opportunity fisheries using gill nets.
 - Shorter nets and reduced soak times since 2002



Additional Commercial Fishery Actions

- **Fraser River commercial gill net:**
 - Recent analysis shows that under current fishing plan for commercial gill nets, that 80 % of the run would be protected at a certainty level ranging from 78 – 99% (depending on assumptions related to migration timing through the Lower Fraser).



Questions?