



Ocean Wise B.C. Salmon RAPSTA Ratings Updates

We're excited to announce that all* of our 2024 Ocean Wise Recommended Rapid Assessment Standard (RAPSTA) British Columbia (B.C.) Salmon fisheries remain recommended in 2025!

In 2025, there were some changes to gear types as well as new gear types in addition to their existing harvest methods. The gear type for the Chehalis River Chum salmon fishery and the Robertson Creek, Area 23 Chinook salmon fishery was updated to traps to better reflect the current harvest method of the commercial fisheries. Additionally, seine nets were added as a harvesting method to the Nitinat Lake, Area E (Area 22) Chum salmon fishery.

Methodology followed the 2024 B.C. salmon RAPSTA and can be observed in detail [here](#) (Renshaw & McIlveen, 2024). However, as updated data was not available from the Oceana Canada Fisheries Audit, data from the [Pacific Salmon Foundation Pacific Salmon Explorer](#), Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pacific Salmon Commission were used (Appendix A; Table A1).

In 2025, after the initial analysis of all possible species, gear and conservation unit combinations, 414 fisheries were Ocean Wise Recommended out of 2,060 possible combinations. Following further refinement to adjust for active commercial fisheries in B.C. identified through Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2025b, 2025a) and recommendation by the [Salmon Advisory Panel](#) (SAP), a list of 32 possible Ocean Wise Recommended fisheries were sent to the SAP to review. After conducting the RAPSTA analysis and undergoing review by the SAP, 13 wild B.C. salmon fisheries were confirmed as Ocean Wise Recommended. These Recommendations include all five species of B.C. salmon throughout 10 different fisheries across the province (Figure 1).

*The Barkley Sound, WCVI, Henderson Lake Sockeye salmon fishery, which was Ocean Wise Recommended in 2024, was removed from the Recommendations list in 2025 as there is currently no commercial fishery for that conservation unit. However, if a commercial fishery opens, it would be Ocean Wise recommended.

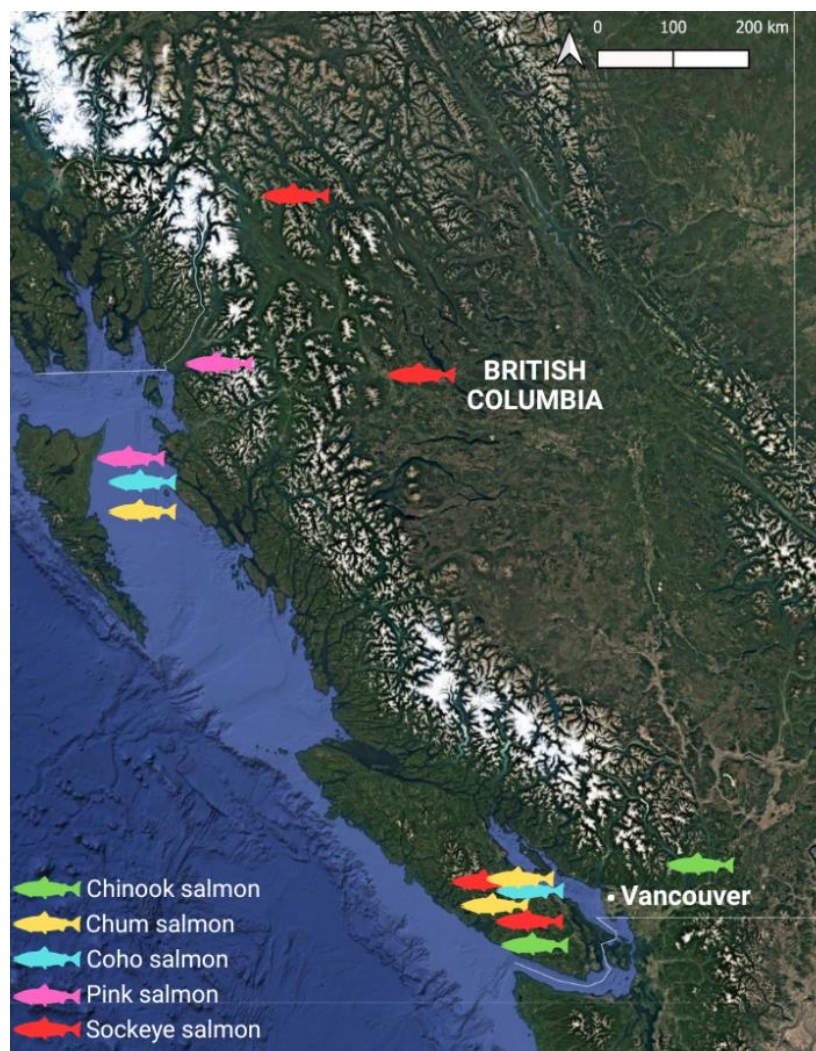


Figure 1. Map showing all Ocean Wise Recommended fisheries in 2025. Fisheries span throughout B.C. and include all five species of salmon.



Ocean Wise Seafood Partners can use the Ocean Wise Recommended logo on all products listed below as per the Ocean Wise Brand Guidelines. However, due to the complexity of B.C. salmon, these Recommendations can change at any time. Any newly available data or information will be added to the RAPSTA process, and any changes to Recommendation status will be communicated to partners.

In upcoming years, we hope to increase the number of Ocean Wise Recommended wild B.C. salmon fisheries. This may be through stocks recovering and improving in their health status, or by increasing our knowledge of active small-scale salmon fisheries throughout the province. Our Recommendations list highlights the best performers for 2025, however, there are other small-scale fisheries improving their sustainability standards which may be considered for Ocean Wise Recommendation in future years (Appendix B; Table B1). Each year we will continue to refine and identify new data sources to incorporate the most updated information, and continue to identify active small-scale fisheries in B.C.

Please consult the tables below for the B.C. Salmon RAPSTA recommendations and ratings changes for 2025. To learn more about how Ocean Wise scores sustainability visit our [Standards](#) page.

To access the full list of ALL existing Ocean Wise ratings, check out our Monthly Master Seafood List or connect with your Ocean Wise Account Rep to be onboarded onto the partner portal.

RAPSTA 2025

New ratings

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Current Rating	Summary
Salmon, Chum	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Nitinat Lake	Seine nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Chum salmon from the Nitinat lake seine net fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.

Updated ratings

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Updated Rating	Summary
Salmon, Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Barkley Sound/Somass River	Gillnets (Drifting) & Seine nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook salmon from the Barkley Sound/Somass River gillnet and seine net fisheries. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Northeast Pacific Ocean – Area F	Trolling Lines		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook, Coho and Pink salmon from the Area F troll fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Coho	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>				
Salmon, Pink	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>				
Salmon, Chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Robertson Creek Hatchery –ESSR fishery	Traps		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook and Coho salmon from the Robertson Creek Hatchery trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Coho	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>				
Salmon, Chum	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Chehalis River – ESSR fishery	Traps		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Chum salmon from the Chehalis River trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Chum	<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Nitinat Lake	Gillnets (Drifting)		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Chum salmon from the Nitinat Lake gillnet fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Updated Rating	Summary
Salmon, Pink	<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	Area 3 – Demonstration fishery	Seine nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Pink salmon from the Area 3 demonstration seine net fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Sockeye	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Babine Lake - Fulton & Pinkut Spawning Channel terminal fisheries - ESSR and demonstration fisheries	Seine nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Sockeye salmon from the Babine Lake ESSR and demonstration seine net and trap fisheries. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
			Traps		
Salmon, Sockeye	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Barkley Sound – Great Central Lake	Gillnets (Drifting) & Seine nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Sockeye salmon from the Great Central Lake gillnet and seine net fisheries. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Sockeye	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Barkley Sound – Sproat Lake	Gillnets (Drifting) & Seine nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Sockeye salmon from the Sproat Lake gillnet and seine net fisheries. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Sockeye	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Meziadin River	Dip nets		Rationale: Ocean Wise recommends Sockeye salmon from the Meziadin River dip net fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	Updated Rating	Summary
Salmon, Sockeye	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Barkley Sound – Henderson Lake	Gillnets (Drifting) & Seine nets	NA	Rationale: There is no commercial Henderson Lake Sockeye salmon gillnet and seine net fishery in 2025.

References

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2025a). *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for salmon of Northern British Columbia: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026*. 437 p.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2025b). *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Salmon of Southern British Columbia: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026*. 647 p.
- Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch. (2020). *Seafood Watch® Standard for Salmon Fisheries*.
<https://www.seafoodwatch.org/globalassets/sfw/pdf/standards/fisheries/seafood-watch-salmon-fisheries-standard-version-s2.pdf>
- Renshaw, S., & McIlveen, S. (2024). *Assessing the Sustainability of B.C Salmon: Ocean Wise's Novel Approach for Generating Salmon Recommendations*. Ocean Wise. Vancouver.

Appendix

Appendix A: Data Sources

Data sources for the 2025 RAPSTA analysis included the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Pacific Salmon Commission (Table A1). Data from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pacific Salmon Commission were used to validate and update WSP status and exploitation rates in the Pacific Salmon Foundation data set.

Table A1. A description of which data was used from each data source with citations for the data sets.

Data Source	Data Used	Citation
Pacific Salmon Foundation	Exploitation Rate	Pacific Salmon Foundation (2025). Exploitation Rate for Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Units [Data set]. Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation. Retrieved April 25, 2025, from https://data.salmonwatersheds.ca/result?datasetid=4
	Catch run size	Pacific Salmon Foundation (2025). Catch in US and Canadian Fisheries for Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Units [Data set]. Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation. https://doi.org/10.60740/4tvf-h736
	COSEWIC/WSP status	Pacific Salmon Foundation (2025). External Biological Status Assessments for Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Units [Data set]. Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation. Retrieved April 25, 2025, from https://data.salmonwatersheds.ca/result?datasetid=380
	Hatchery impact	Pacific Salmon Foundation (2023). Enhancement Level for Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Units [Data set]. Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation. Retrieved May 27, from https://data.salmonwatersheds.ca/result?datasetid=389
	Health status benchmark	Pacific Salmon Foundation (2025). Biological Status Summary for Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Units [Data set]. Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation. https://doi.org/10.60740/7f83-dq51

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	WSP status	Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2025, February 17). Chinook Salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>) Conservation Units, Sites & Status [Data set]. Open Government Portal, Government of Canada. https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/2f4bd945-f47e-47e3-9108-79f6ee39242c
Pacific Salmon Commission	Exploitation rate	Fraser River Panel (2025). Fraser River Panel Annual Report on the 2023 Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Season. Pacific Salmon Commission. https://www.psc.org/reports/frpar-23

Appendix B: Additional Fisheries for Consideration in 2026/2027

As we continue to engage with small-scale fisheries and add additional data sources, we hope to increase the number of Ocean Wise Recommended B.C. Salmon fisheries. Below is a list of several fisheries which demonstrate sustainable practices and may be considered in future RAPSTA Recommendations. With each fishery, we have included a final score which is calculated from several criteria including: (1) Stock Health and Abundance, (2) Bycatch, (3) Fisheries Management and Data Collection, (4) Habitat Impacts and (5) Hatchery Influences. Following the methodology of the Seafood Watch Standard for Salmon Fisheries (Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch, 2020), each criterion was given a score out of 5 with the final score calculated by taking the geometric mean of all scores with a modification for criteria 5 (Renshaw & McIlveen, 2024). Fisheries which received an overall score of 2.8 or higher are considered Ocean Wise Recommended.

Table B1. Fisheries which did not receive Ocean Wise Recommendation in 2025 but had scores >2.5 and will be considered in future years. Fisheries with an overall score ≥ 2.8 and approved by the Salmon Advisory Panel are Ocean Wise Recommended.

Seafood Name	Location/Fishery	Method	Overall Score	Recommendation Status
Salmon, Pink	Kitwanga River Demonstration Fishery	Trap	2.77	Under Review
Salmon, Sockeye	Nass River	Gillnets (Drifting)	2.71	Under Review
Salmon, Sockeye	Chilko River	Dip nets	2.54	Under Review

We will continue to collaborate with small-scale fisheries throughout B.C. to gain valuable insight from them on how to refine our RAPSTA process to better assess fisheries at a small-scale level. Currently, the Seafood Watch Standard for Salmon Fisheries (Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch, 2020) is being updated. With the updated version, we hope that the fisheries listed in Table B1 will become Ocean Wise Recommended. In the future, we hope to incorporate data relating to socio-economic factors and their roles in the sustainability of a fishery such as how many jobs the fishery provides and community members engagement with local conservation and restoration programs. As B.C. salmon play a vital role in Indigenous communities, we also hope to grow the RAPSTA process by incorporating more Traditional Knowledge into our assessment process through continued consultation with Indigenous communities and fisheries.