Ocean Wise B.C. Salmon RAPSTA Ratings Updates - 2026

Salmon in British Columbia (B.C.) have complex life histories and run timing which makes it difficult for eco-labels, like Ocean Wise, to assess their sustainability. However, since 2024, Ocean Wise has been producing B.C. salmon ratings using a novel assessment approach called the Rapid Assessment Standard (RAPSTA), which are further refined to recommendations using expert input from our Salmon Advisory Panel (SAP). This was done to ensure that consumers are purchasing the most sustainable salmon available to them in B.C. For the past two years there have been 14 Ocean Wise Recommendations for B.C. salmon fisheries, and we're excited to share that in 2026, the number of Ocean Wise Recommendations has grown to 19.

Overall, the methodology for the 2026 B.C. Salmon RAPSTA analysis followed the process used in previous years using data from the Pacific Salmon Foundation Pacific Salmon Explorer, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pacific Salmon Commission (Appendix A; Renshaw & McIlveen, 2024). However, in 2026, several updates to the scoring methodology were made. Scoring for criterion 5X, impact of artificial production, was updated to better reflect the current status of hatchery runs in B.C. The scoring is now based on the level of hatchery impact, provided by the Pacific Salmon Foundation, as well as the enhancement program objective, found in the Salmonid Enhancement Programs Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (Appendix B). Additionally, scoring was updated for criteria 2, impacts on other capture species, and criteria 4, impacts on the habitat and ecosystem, to better reflect the current gear types used in B.C. salmon fisheries (Appendix B). These updated scores were based on recommendations from the SAP.

The initial analysis of all possible species, gear type and conservation unit combinations, resulted in 1,753 possible recommendations. The number of possible recommendations increased from previous years as beach seines were added as a sixth possible gear type in addition to gillnets, seine nets, trolling, traps and dip nets. Beach seines were added as the SAP identified active B.C. salmon beach seine fisheries which weren't included in previous years assessments. This list of fisheries was refined to only active commercial B.C. salmon fisheries which were identified using the 2026 Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2026a, 2026b) and by members of the SAP. Following further updates to the scoring and review by the SAP, 23 combinations of species x gear type x location of B.C. salmon fisheries were Ocean Wise Recommended from 15 different locations across the province (Figure 1).

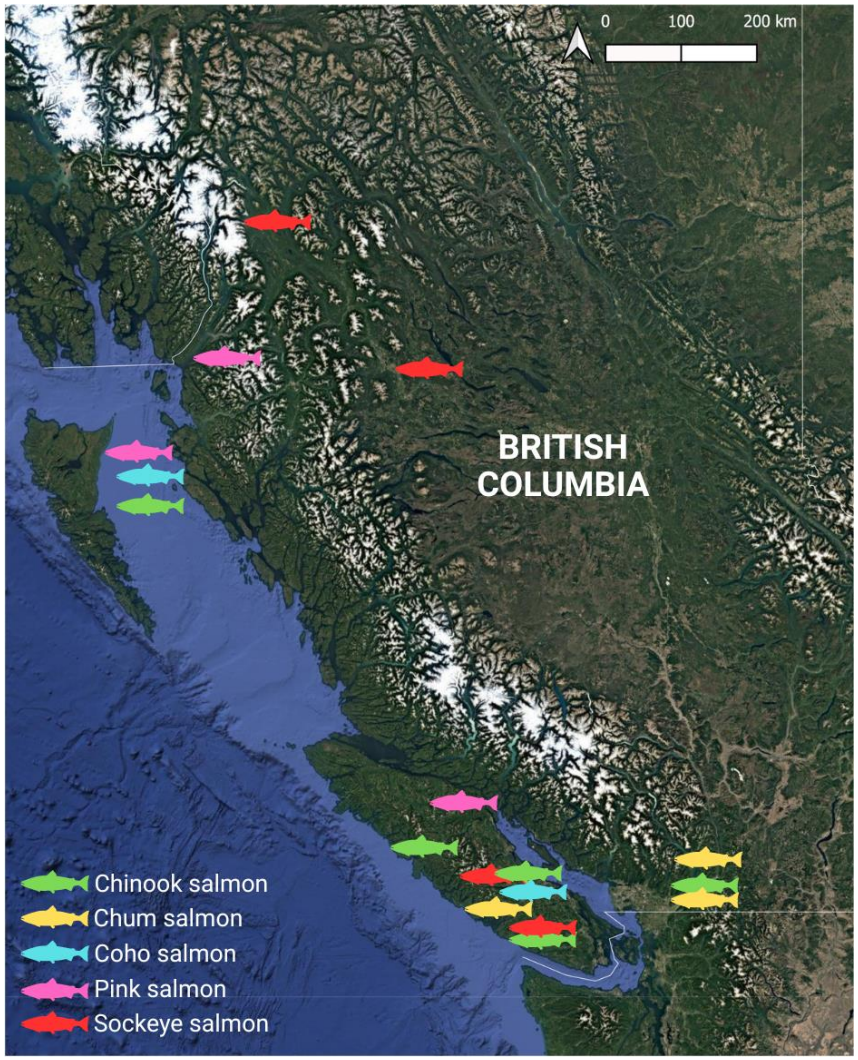


Figure 1. Map showing the locations of all Ocean Wise Recommended fisheries in 2026. Fisheries span throughout B.C. and include all five species of salmon.

The number of Ocean Wise Recommended B.C. salmon fisheries may have increased due to improved sustainability within the fisheries (e.g. stocks recovering, or switching to a more selective gear type), continued refinement of our scoring processes, or by growing our list of active commercial B.C. salmon fisheries. The list of Ocean Wise Recommended B.C. salmon fisheries represents the top performers in sustainability throughout the province. Other salmon fisheries in B.C. continue to improve their sustainability and will be considered for Ocean Wise Recommendation in future years (Appendix C; Table C1). As stocks across the province continue to recover and our RAPSTA process becomes more refined to address the current state of B.C. salmon, the number of Ocean Wise Recommended fisheries is expected to continue to grow year after year.

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 a Recommendation status will be communicated to partners.

Please consult the tables below for the B.C. Salmon RAPSTA recommendations for 2026. To learn more about how Ocean Wise scores sustainability, please visit our Standards page.

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

RAPSTA 2026

New ratings

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	2026 Rating	Summary
Salmon, Chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	Chilliwack River – ESSR fishery	Traps		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook salmon harvested from the Chilliwack River ESSR trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
		Conuma River – ESSR fishery	Beach seines		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook salmon harvested from the Conuma River ESSR beach seine fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Chum	*Oncorhynchus keta*	Nitinat Lake – ESSR fishery	Purse seines		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends chum salmon harvested from the Nitinat Lake ESSR purse seine fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
		Chilliwack River – ESSR fishery	Traps		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends chum salmon harvested from the Chilliwack River ESSR trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Pink	*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*	Quinsam River	Traps		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends pink salmon harvested from the Quinsam River trap fishery. This is a MSC certified fishery that meets Ocean Wise requirements for recommendation.

Updated ratings

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	2026 Rating	Summary
Salmon, Chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	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.
		Northeast Pacific Ocean – Area F	Trolling Lines		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook 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.
		Robertson Creek Hatchery – ESSR fishery	Traps		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends Chinook salmon from the Robertson Creek Hatchery ESSR trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
Salmon, Chum	*Oncorhynchus keta*	Chehalis River – ESSR fishery	Traps		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends chum salmon from the Chehalis River ESSR trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.
		Nitinat Lake	Gillnets (Drifting) Seine nets		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends chum salmon from the Nitinat 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, Coho	*Oncorhynchus kisutch*	Northeast Pacific Ocean – Area F	Trolling Lines		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends coho 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.
		Robertson Creek Hatchery –ESSR fishery	Traps		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends coho salmon from the Robertson Creek Hatchery ESSR trap fishery. This recommendation was determined using the Ocean Wise Rapid Assessment Standard combined with expert input from the Salmon Advisory Panel.

Updated ratings, cont'd.

Common name	Scientific Name	Location	Method	2026 Rating	Summary
Salmon, Pink	*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*	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.
		Northeast Pacific Ocean – Area F	Trolling Lines		**Rationale**: Ocean Wise recommends 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, Sockeye	*Oncorhynchus nerka*	Babine Lake - Fulton & Pinkut Spawning Channel terminal fisheries - ESSR and demonstration fisheries	Seine nets Traps		**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.
		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.
		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.
		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.

References

Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2026a). *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Salmon of Northern British Columbia: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.* 23-2643 403p.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2026b). *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Salmon of Southern British Columbia: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027*. 23-2644 572p.

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 2026 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. In 2026, data from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Salmonid Enhancement Program were also used in an updated scoring process for criteria 5.

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 (2026). Exploitation Rate for Salmon and Steelhead Conservation Units [Data set]. Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation. Retrieved June 10, 2026, from https://data.salmonwatersheds.ca/result?datasetid=4
	Catch run size	Pacific Salmon Foundation (2026). 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 May 25, 2026, 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 June 10, 2026, 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	Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Salmon Enhancement Program	Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2026). Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP) data tables. Government of Canada. https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sep-pmvs/data-donnees/index-eng.html
	WSP status	Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (2026). Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) 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. 2026. Fraser River Panel Annual Report on the 2024 Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Season. Pacific Salmon Commission, Vancouver B.C. https://www.psc.org/reports/frpar-24

Appendix B: Updated Scoring in 2026

Criteria 2 – Impacts on Other Capture Species

This criterion measures the impact that the fishery has on bycatch species in terms of the bycatch species abundance (is the stock healthy/overfished, etc.) and the fishing mortality rate of the bycatch species. To assess impact on other capture species, RAPSTA uses a score based on the gear type used in the fishery. In 2026, the updated scores were determined using the average of other B.C. species assessments and with the guidance of the SAP. The scores provided in the table (Table B1) below are the baseline scores. If a fishery was operating under best practices, the score could be adjusted following recommendation from the SAP. There is no 2025 score for beach seines as it was added to the analysis in 2026.

Table B1. Scores for six gear types considered in the B.C. Salmon RAPSTA analysis for both 2025 and 2026. Scores shown in the table are baseline scores and could be adjusted based on recommendation from the Salmon Advisory Panel.

Gear type	2025 Score	2026 Score
Beach Seine	-	3.41
Dip net	5	4.28
Gillnet	1.98	1.92
Seine nets	2.88	2.01
Traps (e.g. barriers, weirs, etc.)	5	4.28
Trolling	1.78	3.36

Criteria 4 – Impacts on the Habitat and Ecosystem

Criteria 4 considers the impact that the fishery may have on the surrounding ecosystem, primarily caused by gear type, as well as if the fishery follows the principles of ecosystem-based management. Previous years scores were calculated by averaging criteria 4 scores for other B. C. species assessments. For this year's RAPSTA, the scores were updated based on the Seafood Watch standard and determined by the SAP (Table B2). Five out of the six possible gear types were given the same habitat impact score as they have little to no contact with the seafloor. Beach seines were scored slightly lower as they can contact the seafloor during harvesting.

Table B2. Scores for habitat impact for each gear type included in the 2026 B.C. salmon RAPSTA. Overall scores criteria 4 for 2025 and 2026 are shown as well as 2026 scores for the sub criteria considered in this criterion.

Gear type	2025 Score	Habitat impact score (4.1)	Ecosystem score (4.3)	2026 Score
Beach Seine	-	4 (Low concern)	4 (Low concern)	4
Dip net	3.67	5 (Very low concern)	4 (Low concern)	4.47
Gillnet	3.53			
Seine nets	3.32			
Traps (e.g. barriers, weirs, etc.)	3.16			
Trolling	3.75			

Criteria 5X – Impact of Artificial Production

The goal of criteria 5 (C5X) is to evaluate the impact that enhancement has on wild salmon populations. It considers the impact that artificial production may have on wild populations and how well the enhancement programs are managed. In previous years RAPSTA assessments, the score for C5X has been based on the enhancement level of the conservation unit, as calculated by the Pacific Salmon Foundation. However, in 2026 we have updated the scoring to also consider the enhancement program objective found in the annual Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Salmonid Enhancement Program as well as rebuilding plans for stocks with a critical health status. The new scoring methodology for 2026 can be found in figure B1. If a conservation unit had >1 enhancement objective, the objective that received the lowest score was used in the final scoring calculation. For example, if an enhancement program had an objective of Assessment and Hatchery, Assessment receives a score of 4 while Harvest receives a score of 2, therefore since the Harvest score is lower, it was used in the final calculation.

As a result of the updated scoring, the calculation for criteria 5 is:
C5 score: geometric mean [(average of C5.1.1, C5.1.2), (average of C5.2.1, C5.2.2)]

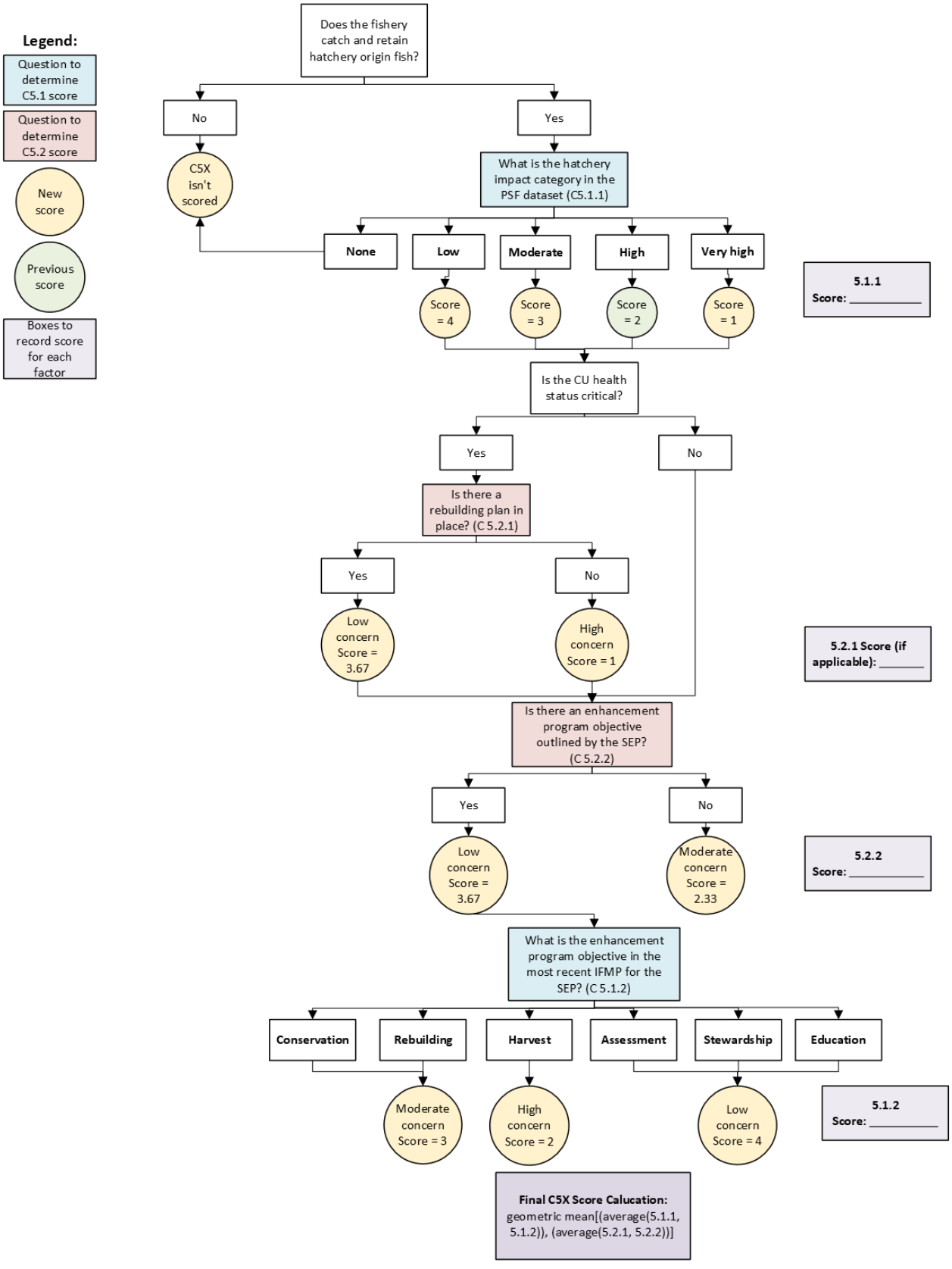


Figure B1. Updated scoring process for criteria 5 – impact of artificial production.

Appendix C: Additional Fisheries for Consideration in 2027

As we continue to refine our RAPSTA assessment process, we hope that the number of Ocean Wise Recommended B.C. salmon fisheries continues to grow. While the list of Ocean Wise Recommended B.C. salmon fisheries represents the top performers, additional fisheries which demonstrate sustainable practices have been identified for consideration in 2027 (Table C1). These fisheries may require more data or require further discussion by the SAP. Additionally, our current assessment standard is under review to better apply to small-scale fisheries and improve the assessment process for fisheries like the ones listed in Table C1. With each fishery, we have included an overall score that is the geometric mean of scores for all five criteria: (1) Stock Health and Abundance, (2) Bycatch, (3) Fisheries Management and Data Collection, (4) Habitat Impacts and (5) Hatchery Influences. The maximum score a fishery can receive is 5 (Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch, 2020) and fisheries which receive a score of 2.8 or higher are considered Ocean Wise Recommended.

Table C1. Fisheries which did not receive Ocean Wise Recommendation in 2026 but had scores >2.5 or were identified by members of the Salmon Advisory Panel as being sustainable 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, Chinook	Conuma River	Gillnets (Drifting)	2.29	Under Review
Salmon, Chum	Area 3 Commercial Gillnet Fishery	Gillnets (Drifting)	2.77	Under Review
Salmon, Coho	Stikine River Commercial Gillnet Fishery	Gillnets (Drifting)	2.46	Under Review
Salmon, Pink	Kitwanga River Demonstration Fishery	Trap	2.77	Under Review
Salmon, Sockeye	Nass River	Gillnets (Drifting)	2.71	Under Review
	Area 4 Commercial Gillnet Fishery	Gillnets (Drifting)	2.11	Under Review