



Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery – Approach for 2020

Indigenous and Multi-Stakeholder
Advisory Group

January 8, 2020





Goal for Protecting Southern Resident Killer Whales

- For the **protection and recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales**, the Government of Canada is **collaborating** with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and other governments, including the Province of BC and the US
- Overall goal is to ensure the **long-term viability** of resident killer whale populations by achieving and maintaining demographic conditions that **preserve their reproductive potential, genetic variation and cultural continuity**
- While there were two calves born this season, unfortunately, despite ongoing efforts, there was also a loss of 3 individuals – the population is currently at **73 individuals**



Proposed Approach for 2020

2020 Approach

Continue to address key threats from multiple human activities informed by lessons learned



Make adjustments to 2019 measures based on lessons learned from 2018 and 2019

Simplify measures where possible to encourage compliance

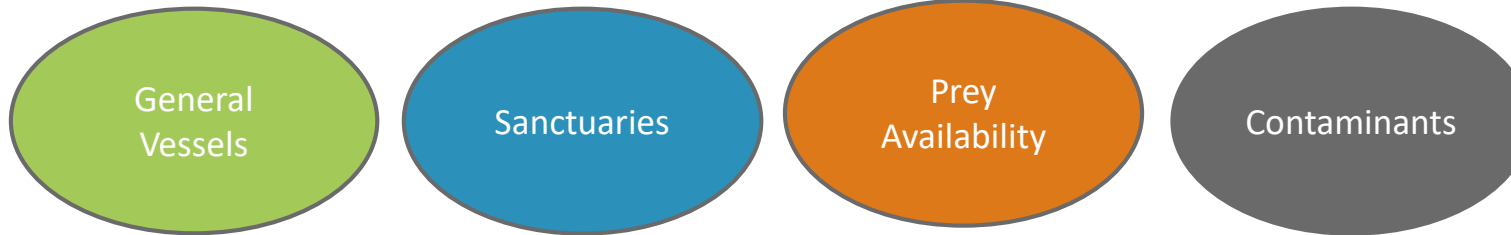
Research the possibility of a start date trigger for area-based fisheries closures based on local whale presence

Finalize recommendations from the Contaminants Technical Working Group and work towards their implementation

Obtain recommendations from the TWGs regarding measures for 2020 and move forward on longer-term actions for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery



Technical Working Groups (TWGs)



- 2020 TWG Objectives:
 - Review measure options and considerations for input towards recommendations for implementation in 2020
 - Move forward on TWG recommendations of longer-term actions for Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery
- ECHO Program
 - To better reflect the existing structure and governance of the ECHO program, and recognizing the signing of the Conservation Agreement with the Government of Canada, the ECHO Program will not be referred to as a TWG
 - ECHO will continue to be the main forum where measures for Large Commercial Vessels are developed and implemented, and will report out on its efforts at IMAG meetings



ECHO Program

Primary Objectives

- ECHO Program Advisory Working Group (AWG) members will review results from 2019 measures (including acoustic results) to inform approach for large commercial vessels in 2020.
- ECHO Program Vessel Operator Committee (VOC) members will support the planning and implementation of 2020 voluntary measures based on recommendations from the Advisory Working Group (AWG).
- Joint GoC / ECHO Partner Conservation Agreement commitments will be delivered

Key Considerations

- ECHO Program AWG members will play a major role in supporting the implementation of the Conservation Agreement
- Adaptation and continuous improvement are central themes in the development, implementation, communication, monitoring and assessment of voluntary measures and other Conservation Agreement commitments

Next ECHO AWG meeting: February 11, 2020



General Vessels TWG

Primary Objectives

- Provide feedback on 2019 measures and recommendations for 2020 measures to reduce noise and physical disturbance by vessels
- Provide information and share advice on development of longer-term measures
 - Echosounders
 - Whale watching permitting
 - National Working Group on Underwater vessel noise reduction targets

Key Considerations

- 2019 Interim Sanctuary Zones (ISZs) and potential 2020 ISZs moved to Sanctuaries TWG

Next Meeting: January 9, 2020



Sanctuaries TWG

Primary Objectives

- Review 2019 Interim Sanctuary Zones (ISZs) and develop recommendations for 2020 and beyond
- Consider longer term strategies, including the possibility of a Marine Protected Area

Key Considerations

- Additional peer reviewed science advice requested on Southern Resident Killer Whale habitat use and disturbance to inform longer term spatial management strategy (expected late 2020/early 2021)
- Continue working with Indigenous groups, stakeholders, and the public as well as coordinate with other levels of government and the United States to advance this work

Next Meeting: January 10, 2020



Contaminants TWG

Primary Objectives

- Prioritize key contaminants of concern to Southern Resident Killer Whales and prey, inventory sources of the contaminants, develop a framework to evaluate the effectiveness of existing contaminant controls, and use this work to inform recommendations for further actions

Key Considerations

- Contaminants of major concern are persistent substances requiring long term action
- Recommendations from the TWG to be finalized by March 2020, and then work to implement recommendations will begin in Spring 2020
- Recommendations may reflect data sharing, research and monitoring, and controls for emerging contaminants
- Recommendations may identify additional capacity challenges for all stakeholders to implement

Next Meeting: February 27, 2020



Prey TWG

Primary Objectives

- Review 2019: fisheries management measures and TWG process
- Seek recommendations for measures to be implemented in 2020
- Move forward on longer-term action recommendations that address:
 - Chinook habitat restoration and protection
 - Chinook hatchery enhancement
 - Prey competition
 - Forage fish management

Key Considerations

- Ensure linkages to other relevant processes, such as Southern BC Chinook Committee, Salmon Enhancement Program and habitat restoration

Next Meeting: January 10, 2020

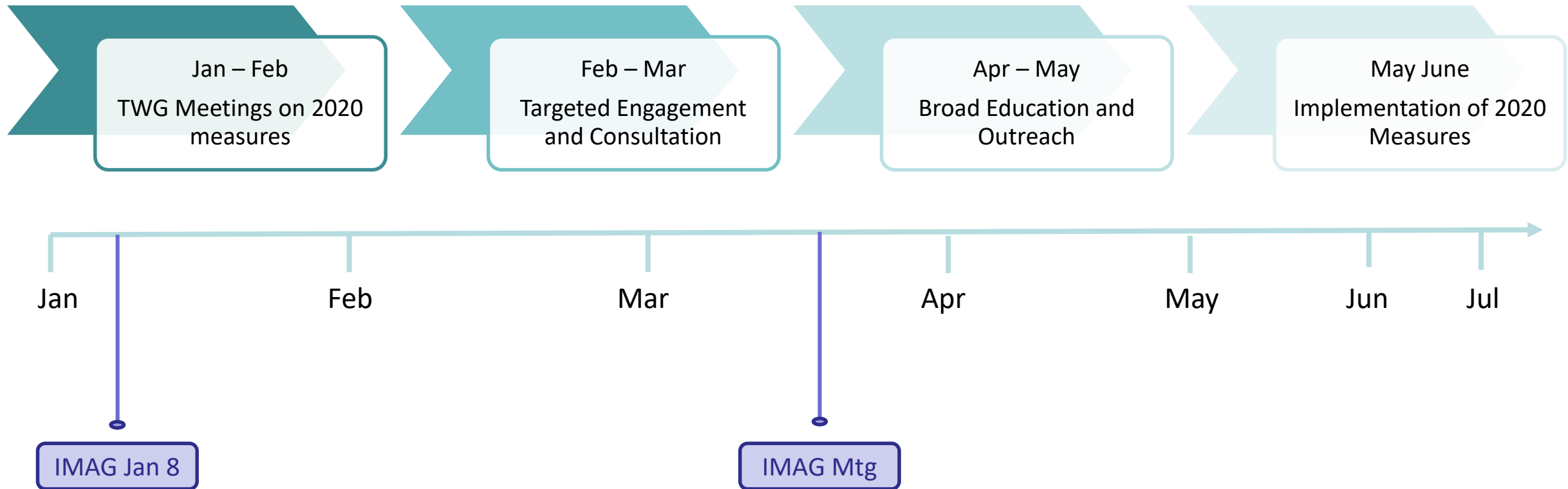


Consultation Approach

- Consultations with Indigenous groups and stakeholders are key to informing decisions and building awareness/support for 2020 measures
- Maintain Government of Canada “single window” for consultation and engagement
- Consultation period is tentatively planned for February – March
- TWG recommendations, input from consultation, and advice from IMAG will be considered by Departments/Ministers in their decisions for implementation of actions



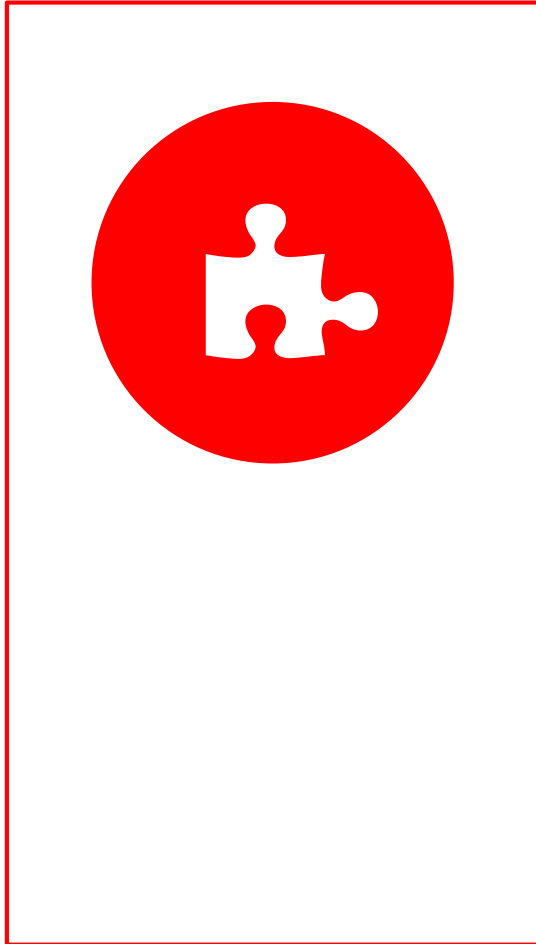
Critical Path and Key Milestones





Next Steps for IMAG

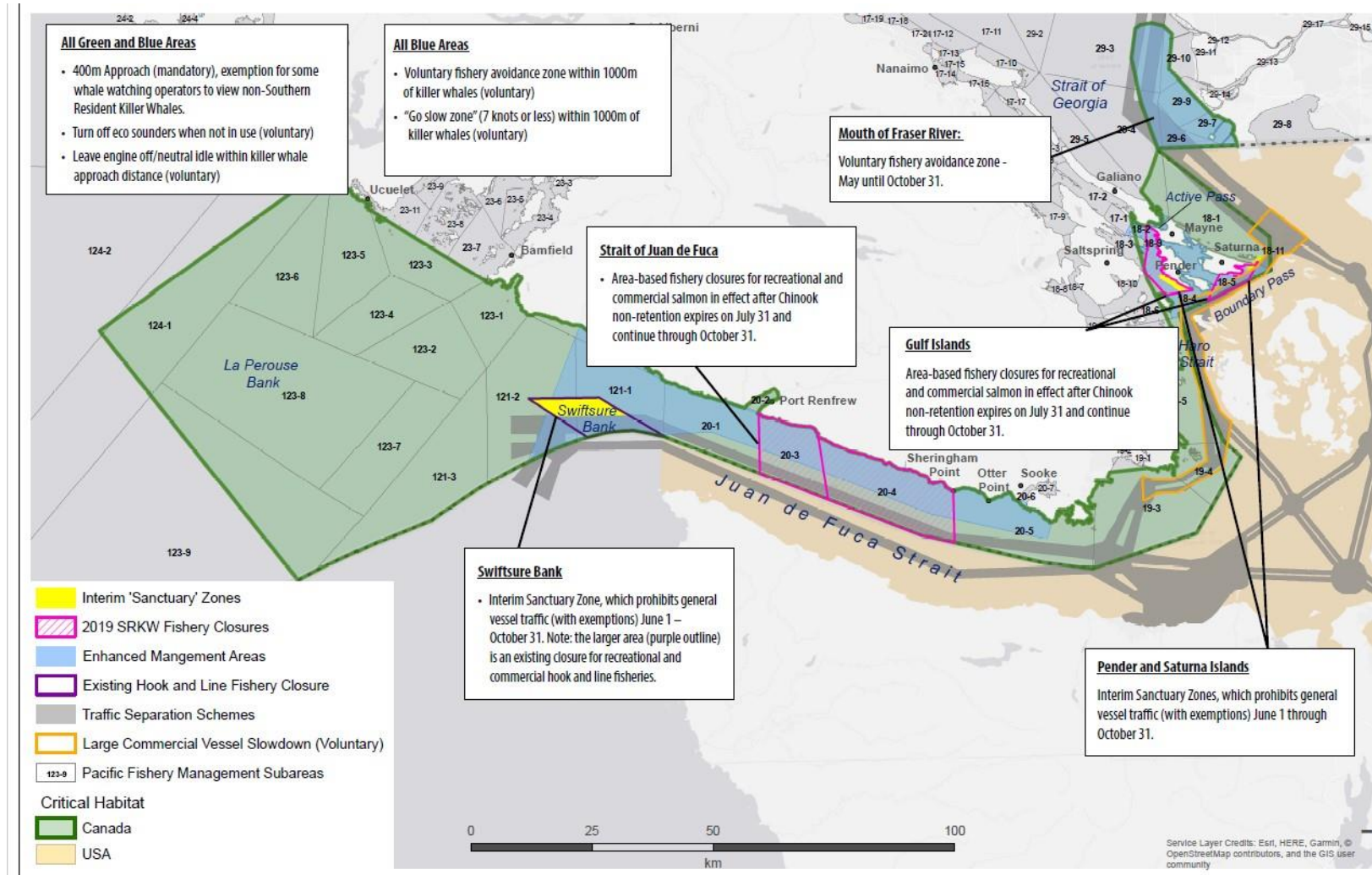
- IMAG will meet again in early Spring to provide input on 2020 recommendations and beyond
- Input and advice will be used to inform a final package of recommendations for Federal Ministers to approve for implementation in 2020
- IMAG will continue to meet and play a key role in providing advice on the recommendations coming out of the TWG process, as well as discuss other important issues related to Southern Resident Killer Whales recovery efforts



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



2019 Management Measures





Jan and Feb TWG Meeting Dates

Date	Meeting	Objectives
Jan 8	IMAG	Discuss 2019 lessons learned; 2020 approach and expected timelines.
Jan 9	TWG2 – General Vessel Noise	Discuss 2019 lessons learned for measures and TWG process; 2020 approach and expected timelines, including longer-term actions.
Jan 10	Prey TWG	Discuss 2019 lessons learned for measures and TWG process; 2020 approach and expected timelines, including longer-term actions.
Jan 10	Sanctuaries TWG	Discuss 2019 lessons learned for measures and TWG process; discuss options for 2020, and begin discussions on long-term measures for 2021 and beyond.
Feb 11	ECHO AWG	Discussions of 2020 approach and timelines.
Feb 27	Contaminants TWG	Continue work regarding 2020 recommendations