Rapid stock status summary

Exploratory personal project. Not an official assessment.

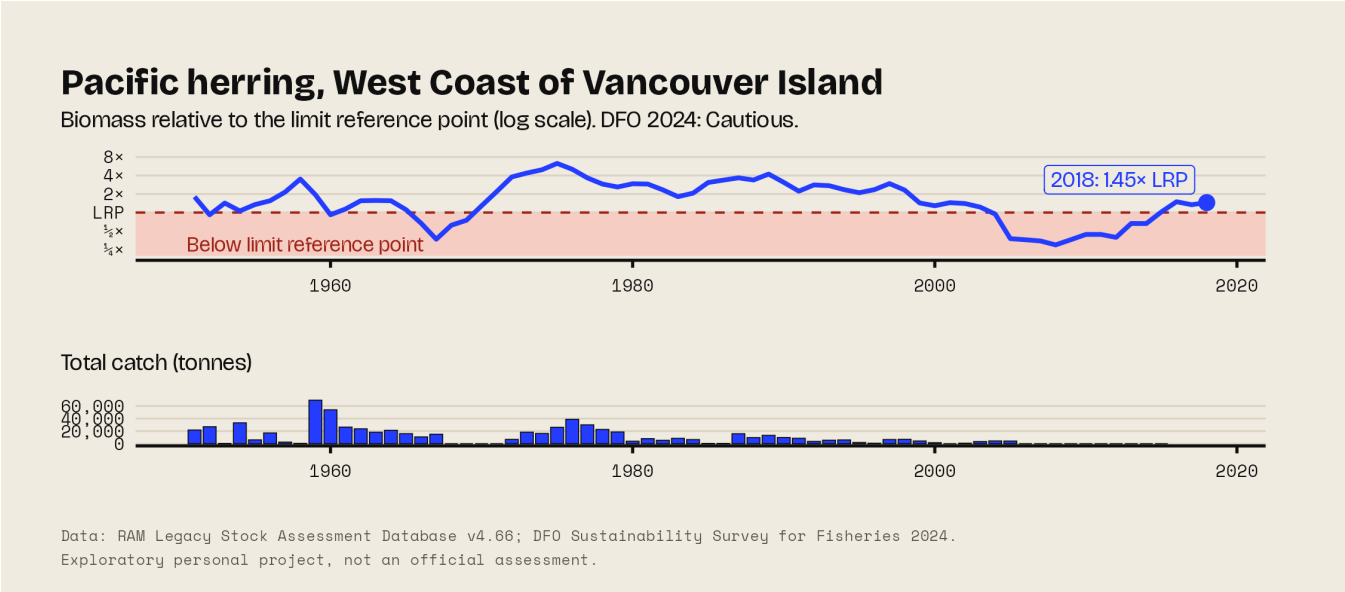
Emma Branch. Generated 24 November 2026 from open data.

> **Note**
>
> This summary was generated automatically by an exploratory personal project. It does not reproduce DFO's methods or any seafood recommendation program, and it makes no recommendations.

Pacific herring, West Coast of Vancouver Island

DFO's 2024 Sustainability Survey for Fisheries places this stock in the **Cautious** zone (method recorded: scientific peer review process). In 2018, the last year of the assessment series in RAM Legacy, estimated biomass was 1.45 times the limit reference point used in this project, which is above the limit. Between 1951 and 2018, biomass was below the limit in 17 of 68 years. The lowest value was 0.30 times the limit, in 2008.

Item	Detail
Species	Pacific herring
DFO 2024 status zone	Cautious
Data tier	C: Biomass and catch trends, no MSY ratios
Latest biomass / limit	1.45× (2018)
Assessment years	1949-2018
Managed by	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Management plan	2023/24 Pacific Herring IFMP - November 7, 2023 - November 6, 2024



Management context

- **Limit reference point, as described by DFO:** 0.3SBo (unfished spawning biomass) or 13,961 tonnes* (estimates are updated annually) *value reported from the 2023 stock assessment, implemented for 2023/24 fishery

- **Upper stock reference, as described by DFO:** Candidate USRs are provided for this stock and all represent a proportion of spawning biomass (SB) or unfished spawning biomass (SBo). Candidate USRs are considered spawning biomass objectives in the MSE process and are not considered equivalent to the upper control point of the harvest control rule. Implementation of USRs occurred through the 2023/24 Pacific Herring IFMP. For the WCVI stock, the USR for was set at the average spawning biomass during the productive period (1990-1999).
- **Limit used for this project's indicator:** 0.3 x unfished spawning biomass (SSB0 from the 2018 assessment in RAM)
- **Management plan:** 2023/24 Pacific Herring IFMP - November 7, 2023 - November 6, 2024
- **Managed by:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Science documents cited by DFO in the 2024 survey: https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41231016.pdf

Data gaps and uncertainty

- Time series ends in 2018; the DFO zone is from the 2024 survey.
- No fishing-pressure ratio relative to MSY, so no Kobe plot.
- Limit reference point taken or derived from RAM Legacy; DFO's current value may differ.

There are no MSY-based ratios for this stock in RAM Legacy. Status is judged against a limit based on unfished spawning biomass, which DFO re-estimates each year. Model uncertainty is not shown here.

Sources

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Sustainability Survey for Fisheries, 2024 results (Open Government Licence, Canada). RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database v4.66, assessment-only (Zenodo, 2024); Ricard, D., Minto, C., Jensen, O.P. and Baum, J.K. (2012), Fish and Fisheries 13(4): 380 to 398. Code and data dictionary: github.com/emmabranch/bc-fish-stock-status.