

“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting dates: March 6-7, 2009, Commission Meeting

Agenda item # 3 : 2009 Salmon Forecasts, Conservation Needs & Fishing Opportunities

Staff Contact: John Long, Statewide Anadromous Fishery Manager, Fish Program

Presenter(s): John Long, Statewide Anadromous Fishery Manager, Fish Program, and
Pat Pattillo, Anadromous Policy Coordinator, Intergovernmental Resource Management

Background:

Per request by the Commission (blue sheet March 8, 2008, attached) to have Department staff present a summary of the 2009 salmon abundance forecasts, and to discuss implications for addressing conservation of stocks and planning fisheries within the annual North of Falcon process. Staff will also brief the Commission on outcomes of discussions with stakeholders at the first public meeting of the 2009 North of Falcon planning season conducted in Olympia on March 3.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Material presented will be based on annual presentation on forecasts provided at the first Public North of Falcon meeting on March 3, 2009 and available on the Department's North of Falcon website. Regional discussions of resource conservation issues and the initial view of likely 2009 fishery opportunities or regulations will be conducted at the March 3 meeting.

Action requested:

Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the expected abundance forecasts will be provided.

COMMISSION REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT

(a.k.a. "blue sheet")

Title of Request: Statewide Salmon Forecasts

Commissioner: Mahnken

Priority Level (put one check in each row):

Importance: [] High [X] Medium [] Low

Urgency: [] High [X] Medium [] Low

Date Requested: Mar. 8, 2008 **Date Assigned:** Mar. 11, 2008

Assigned To (Program/staff person): Fish Program, lead; with IRM

Requested Due Date: June 6-7, 2008 *[postponed to March 2009]*

Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific.

Department to present to the full Commission the briefing given to the fish committee March 7, 2008, on salmon forecasts statewide. Include implications for fisheries, conservation of stocks and options for shaping fisheries. Brief the Commission annually thereafter.

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other):

Presentation / briefing at near future Commission meeting, then annually thereafter.

NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Internet Address: <http://wdfw.wa.gov>

February 18, 2009

Contact: Pat Pattillo, (360) 902-2705

Public meeting scheduled March 3 on 2009 salmon forecast

OLYMPIA – Anglers, commercial fishers and others interested in Washington state salmon fisheries can get a preview of this year's salmon returns and proposed fishing seasons during a public meeting here March 3.

Kicking off the annual salmon season-setting process, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will present initial forecasts – compiled by state and tribal biologists – of 2009 salmon returns. The meeting is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the General Administration Building Auditorium at 11th Ave. and Columbia St. on the Capitol Campus.

Those attending the meeting will have an opportunity to talk to fishery managers about the pre-season forecasts and participate in work sessions focusing on key salmon-management issues in the region.

Public review of WDFW's pre-season salmon forecasts marks the start of the annual "North of Falcon" season-setting process. Throughout March and early April, state, tribal and federal fisheries managers will meet to establish salmon seasons for Puget Sound, the Columbia River and Washington coastal areas.

"Public input is an important part of this process," said Pat Pattillo, salmon policy coordinator for WDFW. "I encourage people who have an interest in recreational and commercial salmon fisheries to get involved in these discussions and take part in the development of upcoming fishing seasons."

Leading up to this year's North of Falcon, WDFW held two public workshops to discuss legal, technical and policy issues regarding the salmon season-setting process. The workshops were designed to help broaden the understanding of the development of fishing seasons, particularly the importance of conservation, said Pattillo.

Although anglers likely will have a range of fishing opportunities this year, restrictions will be needed in some areas to protect wild salmon, including those listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

“Our first priority is protecting and recovering wild salmon,” Pattillo said. “That can be accomplished while still providing significant fishing opportunities on abundant hatchery fish and healthy wild populations.”

The North of Falcon process is held in conjunction with public meetings conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), which establishes fishing seasons in ocean water three to 200 miles off the Pacific coast.

Final adoption of the 2009 salmon fisheries is scheduled for April 9 at the PFMC meeting in Millbrae, Calif.

More information about the North of Falcon process is available on WDFW’s website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/northfalcon/index.htm>, which will be updated periodically throughout the salmon season-setting process.

Other key North of Falcon meetings, all open to the public, are as follows:

- March 4 – Grays Harbor fisheries discussion, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Montesano City Hall, 112 N. Main St., Montesano.
- March 5 – Willapa Bay fisheries discussion, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Raymond Elks Lodge, 326 Third St., Raymond.
- March 8-13 – Pacific Fishery Management Council, Seattle Airport Marriot Hotel, 3201 S. 176th St., SeaTac.
- March 11 – Puget Sound commercial fisheries discussion, 10 a.m.-noon, WDFW Mill Creek Office, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek.
- March 11 – Puget Sound recreational fisheries discussion, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., WDFW Mill Creek Office, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek.
- March 16 – Columbia River fisheries discussion, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, 4600 S.E. Columbia Way, Vancouver, Wash.
- March 17 – First North of Falcon meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Ave. S.E., Lacey.
- March 19 – Final Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay fisheries meeting, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. S.E., Olympia.
- March 19 – North of Falcon salmon fisheries discussion, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Benton PUD, 2721 W. 10th Ave., Kennewick.
- March 30 – Pacific Fishery Management Council public hearing, 7 p.m., Chateau Westport, 710 W. Hancock St., Westport.
- March 31 – Second North of Falcon meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Embassy Suites Hotel, 20610 44th Ave. W., Lynnwood.
- April 4-9 – Final Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting, 1 Old Bayshore Highway, Millbrae, Calif.

2009 Puget Sound Summer/Fall Chinook Preseason Forecasts

3/2/2009

Region	Watershed	Notes	Forecast Type	Hatchery	Supplmt	Wild	Total	Comp Chinook Management Criteria	
								RER/8	Low Abundance Thresholds/9
Strait	Hoko	1	Esc w/o fishing			969	969	<10% So. U.S.	
	Dungeness	1	Terminal			727	727	<10% So. U.S.	500 spawners
	Elwha	2	Terminal			1,708	1,708	<10% So. U.S.	500 spawners
	Region total			0		3,404	3,404		1,000 spawners
North Sound	Glenwood Springs		4B	149			149		
	Nooksack/Samish	3	4B	23,014			23,014		
	Skagit		Terminal	639		23,400	24,039	50% total	4,800 spawners
	Stillaguamish		Esc w/o fishing		598	1,086	1,684	25% total	650
	Snohomish		Esc w/o fishing	4,857		8,410	13,268	21% total	2,800 spawners
	Tulalip		Esc w/o fishing	3,966			3,966		
	Region total			32,625	598	32,897	66,119		
Upper South Sound	Lake Washington								
	Issaquah	5	4B	13,096			13,096		
	Univ. of Wa		4B	1,488			1,488		
	Cedar		4B			1,549	1,549	15% preterm So. U.S., 1,200 esc goal	200 spawners
	North Tributaries		4B			312	312		500 spawners
	Subregion total			14,584		1,861	16,445		
	Green River								
	Soos Creek Hatchery		4B	11,965			11,965		
	Icy Creek		4B	842			842		
	Mainstem/Newaukum	1	4B			9,224	9,224	15% preterm So. U.S., 5,800 esc goal	1,800 spawners
Subregion total			12,807		9,224	22,031			
Grovers		4B	2,346			2,346			
East Kitsap(Gorst, Dogfish, C	4	4B	5,907			5,907			
Subregion total			8,253			8,253			
Puyallup River	1	4B	6,060		1,476	7,536	50% total	500 spawners/12	
Upper South Sound Total			41,704		12,561	54,265			

2009 Puget Sound Summer/Fall Chinook Preseason Forecasts (continued)

Region	Watershed	Notes	Hatchery	Supplmt	Wild	Total	Comp Chinook Management Criteria	
							RER/8	Low Abundance Thresholds/9
Lower South Sound	Carr Inlet	5 4B	11,948			11,948		
	Deschutes	5 4B	10,692			10,692		
	Nisqually	1 4B	21,331		4,606	25,937	1,100 escapement goal	
	Chambers	5 4B	7,370			7,370		
	McAllister	6 4B				0	Program is terminated	
	Coulter	7 4B				0	Program is terminated	
	<i>Lower South Sound Total</i>			51,341		4,606	55,947	
	South Sound total		93,045	0	17,167	110,212		
Hood Canal	Skokomish w/George Adams	10 Terminal	26,696		2,118	28,814	15% preterm So. U.S. total 3,650 esc goal w/1,650	1,300 spawners/13
	12B naturals	Terminal			114	114	12% preterm So. U.S. 750 esc goal	400 spawners
	12C/12D/12H	Terminal	13,446		271	13,717		
	12D	Terminal			See above	0		
	Hood Canal total		40,142	0	2,503	42,645		
	Grand total		165,812	598	55,970	222,380		
Footnotes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wild forecast Includes hatchery origin and natural origin fish 2. Combine hatchery and natural forecasts 3. This includes returns to Samish, Whatcom, Nooksack and Lummi Bay and neighboring streams. 4. Forecast resulting from rearing pond production spawning in river of origin or in neighboring streams 5. Combined natural and hatchery spawner forecast (all fish of hatchery origin) 6. Last releases from BY 2001, no fall chinook are expected. 7. Hatchery chinook releases terminated with BY 2000. 2007 forecast is wild production of naturally spawning hatchery fish. 8. RER= Recovery Exploitation Rate (interim management ceiling during recovery phase). 9. Level of spawning abundance that triggers additional management action. 10. The low abundance threshold includes 800 natural and/or 500 hatchery spawners 11. Threshold expressed as natural origin spawners 12. Goal for South Prairie Cr Index 13. Aggregate for combined hatchery and wild spawners 							

Puget Sound Spring Chinook 2009 Preseason Forecasts

	Notes	Forecast				Total RER	Low Abundance Thresholds
		Type	Hatchery	Supplmt	Wild		
Nooksack River							
North Fork	1	Terminal	748	1,143	261	2,152 Under Development	1000 spawners/11
South Fork	2	Terminal			54	54 Under Development	1000 spawners/11
Skagit River							
		Terminal	1,395		1,154	2,549 38% total	576 spawners
White River							
Minter Creek	6	Terminal	678			678	
White River Hatchery	3,4	Terminal	1,113			1,113	
Buckley Trap	5	Terminal		791		791 20% total	200 spawners
Total White River Springs						2,582	
Total Puget Sound			3,934	1,934	1,469	7,337	

1. Supplementation number is hatchery-origin acclimated fish expected to spawn in the wild.
2. Forecast of SF Nooksack stock origin chinook. Forecast that includes non-native origin fish is 138.
3. Forecast of tagged returns to the hatchery rack only.
4. For FRAM modeling purposes, 710 are estimated to originate from fingerling production and 403 from yearling production
5. Includes naturally produced spring and fall chinook returns and acclimation pond production
6. White River Spring production from Minter Creek H is not modeled in FRAM.

Washington Coast 2009 Chinook Preseason Forecasts

	Hatchery	Wild	Totals	Natural Escapement Goal
North Coast				
Quillayute River				
Spring	2,000		2,000	200
Summer		1,183	1,183	1200 (WDFW goal ONLY)
Fall		5,583	5,583	> of 3,000 or 60% of run
Hoh				
Spring/Summer		1,061	1,061	>of 900 or 69% of RS
Fall		3,276	3,276	>of 1,200 or 60% of RS
Queets				
Spring/Summer			0	>of 700 or 70% of RS
Fall			0	>of 2,500 or 60% of RS
Quinault				
Fall			0	
North Coast totals				
	Summer/Falls:	0	10,042	
	Spring/Summers:	2,000	3,062	
Grays Harbor				
Chehalis springs		1,019	1,019	1,400
Chehalis falls	364	13,451	13,815	12,364
Humptulips falls	2,574	5,874	8,448	2,236
Subregion Falls Total	2,938	19,325	22,263	
Willapa Bay	34,817	1,951	36,768	
Coast total	39,756	33,398	73,154	

2008/2009 Washington coho forecast summary¹

Production unit	2008 Hatchery	2009 Hatchery	2008 Wild	2009 Wild	2008 Total	2009 Total
Dungeness R. ²	4,506	5,194	1,156	571	5,662	5,765
Elwha R. ²	2,852	1,414	969	205	3,821	1,619
Eastern Strait (excl. Dung, Elwha)	-	-	4,683	3,242	4,683	3,242
Western Strait	-	-	19,428	17,223	19,428	17,223
West/East sub-total excl. Dung, Elwha	-	-	24,111	20,465	24,111	20,465
West/East Strait sub-total	7,358	6,608	26,236	21,240	33,594	27,848
Nooksack R.	25,695	13,054	9,000	5,250	34,695	18,304
Lummi Ponds	16,843	10,119	-	-	16,843	10,119
7B net pens	91	0	-	-	91	0
Indian Slough Hatchery	3,032	1,026	-	-	3,032	1,026
Samish R.	-	-	4,500	1,050	4,500	1,050
Misc 7&7A (incl. San Juans CoOps)	1,457	1,258	1,300	744	2,757	2,002
Nook/Samish R. sub-total	47,118	25,457	14,800	7,044	61,918	32,501
Skagit R. sub-total	18,340	11,730	61,444	33,374	79,784	45,104
Stillaguamish R. sub-total	80	0	31,000	13,400	31,080	13,400
Snohomish R.	6,198	11,778	92,000	67,000	98,198	78,778
Tulalip Bay	44,519	38,461	-	-	44,519	38,461
Area 8A Misc. Hatchery	2,740	3,350	-	-	2,740	3,350
Snohomish R. sub-total	53,457	53,589	92,000	67,000	145,457	120,589
Lake Washington	13,425	42,316	4,300	3,500	17,725	45,816
Green River	37,838	32,196	4,600	5,200	42,438	37,396
Elliot Bay Net Pens	24,215	30,856	-	-	24,215	30,856
Misc. Area 10,11,10E	1,519	0	5,400	10,200	6,919	10,200
Mid-Sound sub-total	76,997	105,368	14,300	18,900	91,297	124,268
Puyallup R.	33,561	31,729	3,300	13,600	36,861	45,329
Area 13A-K wild, exc. Deschutes	-	-	8,600	15,200	8,600	15,200
Area 13A Hatchery (Minter Cr.)	28,635	10,216	-	-	28,635	10,216
Nisqually R.	1,997	6,145	1,000	1,900	2,997	8,045
Deschutes R.	-	-	86	4,006	86	4,006
Area 13D net pens (Squaxin Island)	28,833	35,308	-	-	28,833	35,308
South Sound sub-total	93,026	83,398	12,986	34,706	106,012	118,104
Mid+South Sound sub-total	170,022	188,766	27,286	53,606	197,309	242,372
Area 9A (Port Gamble) ²	4,157	6,877	162	938	4,318	7,815
Area 12A - Quilcene R. ²	14,107	19,367	456	1,312	14,563	20,679
Area 12A - Quilcene Net Pens	3,422	6,172	-	-	3,422	6,172
Area 12/12B	-	-	12,027	20,345	12,027	20,345
Area 12C/12D (exc. Skokomish R.)	-	-	13,247	22,411	13,247	22,411
Skokomish R.	12,739	17,377	5,089	5,850	17,828	23,227
Area 12/12B-12D/Skok. R. sub-total	12,739	17,377	30,363	48,606	43,101	65,983
Hood Canal sub-total	34,425	49,794	30,981	50,855	65,405	100,649

2008/2009 Washington coho forecast summary¹

Production unit	2008 Hatchery	2009 Hatchery	2008 Wild	2009 Wild	2008 Total	2009 Total
Puget Sound Total	330,800	335,944	283,747	246,519	614,547	582,462
Willapa Bay	25,511	59,420	35,063	33,544	60,574	92,964
Grays Harbor	53,051	63,485	42,651	59,226	95,702	122,711
Quinalt R.	24,540	26,210	17,441	16,313	41,981	42,523
Queets R.	10,333	13,537	10,182	0	20,515	13,537
North Coast Indept. Tribs	5,007	14,101	3,180	11,130	8,187	25,231
Hoh R.	0	0	4,349	9,496	4,349	9,496
Quillayute R. summer	4,228	12,921	1,115	2,233	5,343	15,154
Quillayute R. fall	12,988	39,471	10,529	19,259	23,517	58,730
Coast total	135,658	229,145	124,510	151,201	260,168	380,346
Columbia R. Early	103,057	657,293	3,333	See note 3	106,390	657,293
Columbia R. Late	80,211	352,405	6,189	See note 3	86,400	352,405
Columbia total³	183,268	1,009,698		0	192,790	1,009,698
Grand Total	649,726	1,574,787	417,779	397,720	1,067,505	1,972,506

Notes

- 1) Ocean age 3 abundance
- 2) Elwha, Dungeness, Area 9A, and Area 12A mgt. unit hatchery forecast values in this table do NOT include natural production origin coho forecasts for these units. Those values are included in "wild" production category in this summary.
- 3) Columbia early and late forecast numbers include BOTH hatchery and wild origin components, because OPI historical runsize database used for forecasting has the wild fish embedded within the total runsize estimates. Columbia Wild forecast values are Washington Side Early = 9,312, Washington Side Late = 17,295, Oregon Side = 6,095

**CHUM, PINK, AND SOCKEYE SALMON
CO-MANAGER RUNSIZE FORECASTS FOR THE 2009 RETURN YEAR**

CHUM - SUMMER

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Puget Sound				
Central Sound		4,255	4,255	R/S
South Sound		53,097	53,097	R/S
Hood Canal*		18,009	18,009	4-year mean
Strait of Juan de Fuca*		5,198	5,198	4-year mean
Puget Sound Total		80,559	80,559	

*Wild forecasts for HC & SJF include supplementation returns.

*WDFW forecasts presented. Co-manager agreement forecasts are for ranges (HC 18,009 - 18,948, SJF 5,198 - 5,999).

CHUM - FALL

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Puget Sound				
Nooksack/Samish	10,530	58,615	69,145	R/S
Skagit	1,000	25,828	26,828	Fry-based
Stillaguamish	4,213	15,665	19,878	Fry-based
Snohomish	42,750	29,849	72,599	Fry-based
Central Sound	22,159	87,655	109,814	R/S
South Sound	25,959	212,560	238,519	R/S
Hood Canal	264,058	110,871	374,929 **	R/S
Strait of Juan de Fuca	0	2,587	2,587	R/S
Puget Sound Total	370,669	543,630	914,299	

**WDFW forecast presented. Co-manager agreement HC total forecast is for a range of 374,929 - 683,613.

CHUM - WINTER

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Puget Sound				
South Sound	16,181	56,016 ***	72,197	R/S
Puget Sound Total	16,181	56,016	72,197	

***WDFW forecast presented. Final forecast still under negotiation.

CHUM - FALL

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Coastal				
Grays Harbor		17,665	17,665	R/S-brood perform adjustment
Willapa	183	6,956	7,139	R/S-brood perform adjustment
Coastal Total	183	24,621	24,804	

CHUM - FALL

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Columbia River				
No forecasts are made for Columbia River chum.				

PINK

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Puget Sound				
Nooksack	140	15,372	15,512	R/S - flow adjustment
Skagit		1,232,620	1,232,620	Fry-based
Stillaguamish		392,219	392,219	Fry-based
Snohomish		1,868,119	1,868,119	Fry-based
Green		894,692	894,692	R/S
Puyallup		688,406	688,406	R/S
Nisqually		2,000 ****	2,000	R/S based on min. esc. estimate
Hood Canal	3,409	51,602	55,011	R/S
Strait of Juan de Fuca		11,360	11,360	R/S
Puget Sound Total	3,549	5,156,390	5,159,939	

****WDFW forecast presented. Final forecast still under negotiation.

SOCKEYE

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Puget Sound				
Baker River		3,093	3,093	Smolt-based
Lake Washington	4,270	15,057	19,327	Fry-based
Puget Sound Total	4,270	18,150	22,420	

SOCKEYE

	HATCHERY	WILD	TOTAL	FORECAST METHOD
Columbia River				
Wenatchee River			18,380	Smolt-based
Okanogan River			165,420	Smolt-based
Snake River			600	
Columbia River Total			184,400	

Fraser River forecasts (from Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

Sockeye Salmon	10,577,000
Pink Salmon	17,535,000

Puget Sound Chinook mark-selective recreational seasons under consideration for 2009-10

Area	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
5	Diagonal	Diagonal	MSF MSF	MSF NR	NR NR	Diagonal		Diagonal	Diagonal	Diagonal		Diagonal
6	Diagonal	Diagonal	MSF MSF	MSF NR	NR NR		Diagonal	Diagonal	Diagonal	Diagonal		Diagonal
7	Diagonal	Diagonal					Diagonal	MSF MSF				
81	Diagonal	Diagonal	Diagonal	NR NR	NR NR	Diagonal	MSF MSF					
82	Diagonal	Diagonal	Diagonal	NR NR	NR NR	Diagonal	MSF MSF					
9	Diagonal	Diagonal	MSF MSF MSF	NR NR	NR NR	NR NR	MSF MSF	Diagonal	MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF
10	Diagonal	C&R C&R	NR MSF MSF MSF	NR NR	NR NR	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	Diagonal	Diagonal	Diagonal
11	Diagonal	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF				Diagonal	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF
12	Diagonal	Diagonal	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF				Diagonal	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF
13	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF	MSF MSF					Diagonal		

NR Chinook Non-Retention
 Non-MSF
 Closed
 MSF Mark Selective
 C&R Salmon Catch and Release
MSF Closed in 2008
 MSF Non-selective in 2008

Summary description of each mark-selective fishery under consideration relative to the 2008 seasons:

- a. Areas 9&10 summer – Manage MSF as season (July 16-August 31), approximately 2x catch increase
- b. Areas 5&6 summer – Expand Area 6 for MSF & increase season length by one week – (either July 1-Aug 15, or, June 16-July 31)
- c. Area 7 winter – add 2.5 months MSF
- d. Areas 8.1 & 8.2 winter – restore two of three months closed in 2007 for MSF
- e. Area 10 winter – add ½ month MSF; convert non-selective to MSF 1 ½ months
- f. Area 11 winter – add one month MSF; convert non-selective to MSF two months
- g. Area 12 winter – add one month MSF; convert non-selective to MSF two months
- h. Area 12 summer – open north of Ayock Pt. for MSF; convert non-selective to MSF south of Ayock Pt.

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