



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



2016
Non-Indian Columbia River Summer/Fall
Fishery Allocation Agreement
May 31, 2016

Management Intent for Fall Season Fisheries

- This agreement reflects the intent of the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission policies and the management objective to optimize non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries while remaining within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- This agreement was developed during the March and April 2016 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and North of Falcon meetings, which included input from the public and commercial and recreational fishery representatives.
- Management objectives for Columbia River fisheries include maximizing the harvest of healthy stocks of fall Chinook and hatchery Coho, while remaining within the limits for all ESA-listed stocks.
- The non-Indian conservation responsibility for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead is shared between recreational and commercial fisheries.
- The preseason forecast, after ocean fisheries, for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 579,650 adult fish and includes 19,700 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the ESA limit on SRW Chinook is 15% for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries. For 2016, the most constraining fall Chinook stock is the SRW stock.
- Based on the preseason forecast, the ESA impact for LCR wild tules is limited to a 41% exploitation rate (ER), which is shared between ocean and inriver fisheries. The ER anticipated from ocean and inriver fishery modeling totals 38.9%; non-Indian fisheries are modeled for an 11.2% ER (ocean at 27.7 % ER).
- Preseason shares of LCR tule impacts for Columbia River fisheries are expected to be 70% recreational (maximum allowed per Commission policies) and 30% commercial (minimum allowed per Commission policies). Shares for URB/SRW impacts are expected to be 50% recreational and 50% commercial.
- The preseason Coho forecast is 322,600 adults to the Columbia River (384,500 ocean abundance). The ESA limitation for Lower Columbia River wild/natural (LCN) Coho is an 18% ER. The total ER is expected to be 13%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 5.7%, or 32% of the total allowed.

Fall Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fall fishery expectations outlined in this agreement are based on the Chinook Model Run “MR2016-Final Preseason”.
- Catch estimates are primarily based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and past stock-specific harvest rates.
- In-season management decisions by the Columbia River Compact/Joint States for recreational and commercial fall-season fisheries, will be based on the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, the state commissions policy objectives, and expected preseason shares of LCR and URB Chinook and LCN Coho impacts for each fishery.
- Preseason catch expectations (including release mortalities) for adult fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (excluding tributary recreational and Select Area commercial fisheries) are 90,000 fish in recreational fisheries (51%) and 85,000 adults in commercial fisheries (49%).
- Harvest, season structures, and impacts accrued will be influenced by actual fall Chinook abundances and stock-specific harvest rates by each respective fishery.

Goals/expectations for fall recreational fisheries include:

- The Buoy 10 recreational fishery will begin on August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook daily limit through September 5 (Labor Day). Chinook retention on Sundays and Mondays during this timeframe will be limited to hatchery fish with an adipose fin clip.
 - From September 6 through September 30, Chinook retention is closed.
 - From October 1 through December 31, the daily limit will be two fish/two Chinook.
 - In-season considerations will include the potential for changing mark-selective regulations for Chinook before Labor Day and allowing Chinook mark-selective fishery (MSF) during all or part of the scheduled Chinook non-retention period (September 6-30). Any decision to extend the fishery beyond policy objectives will be made in-season and will take into account fishery performance to-date.
 - Harvest (including release mortality) expectations include 48,500 Chinook (2.4% SRW harvest rate; 6.5% LCR Wild ER) and 22,700 Coho (including 2,460 release mortalities).
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open August 1 through December 31 but Chinook retention seasons and bag limits vary by river section with the intent of maximizing opportunity while minimizing impacts to LCR tule Chinook.
 - From the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line, Chinook retention is allowed August 1 through September 9 followed by a Chinook MSF (adipose fin clip) period from September 10-14. The daily limit for both fisheries is two fish/one Chinook. Beginning October 1, Chinook retention will reopen with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit.
 - From the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention August 1 through December 31 with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit.

- Harvest (including release mortality) expectations include 33,620 adult Chinook (4.3% SRW harvest rate; 1.3% LCR Wild ER) and 1,570 Coho (including 70 release mortalities).
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington will begin on August 1 with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit through December 31. The kept catch expectation is 7,890 adult Chinook.
- During all fall fisheries (August 1 through December 31) from Buoy 10 upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam) each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid bag limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- The dates, area restrictions, and catch expectations described above are based on preseason planning and input from the recreational fishing community. In-season events may change many of these expectations.

Goals/expectations for fall commercial fisheries include:

- The August (Early Fall) fishery is modeled to begin the week of August 7 and is expected to continue through the end of August, with fishing periods two to three days per week. Fishery structure is expected to include 9-hour (9 PM-6 AM) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The kept catch expectation is 51,580 adult Chinook (3.9% SRW harvest rate; 2.5% LCR Wild ER). Additional fishing period(s) with reduced area or hours may be considered in early September to meet harvest guidelines.
- The Late Fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 18 in Zones 4-5 with 8-inch minimum mesh. The kept catch expectation is 16,510 adult Chinook (1.6% SRW harvest rate; 0.7% LCR Wild ER).
- A one-day fishery is expected during the week of September 25 in Zones 1-5 with 8-inch minimum mesh. Additional fishing time is expected during the week of October 2 in Zones 1-5. The kept catch expectation is 11,670 adult Chinook (1.3% SRW harvest rate; 0.1% LCR Wild ER). If available, unused salmonid impacts earmarked for Coho-target fisheries may be used for additional Chinook-target periods in Zones 1-5 later in October.
- Coho-directed fishing periods using 3.75-inch tangle nets (MSF) may occur throughout October, but are expected to be focused during the first half of October. Fishing periods using conventional 6-inch maximum mesh nets may also occur in October (if Chinook and/or steelhead impacts allow). As in past years, target Coho fisheries will likely occur during daylight hours in Zones 1-3. Based on preseason forecasts, up to 17,550 Coho (including 720 release mortalities) may be available for harvest in all commercial mainstem fisheries. The interim tangle net release mortality rate will be 25% for unclipped adult Coho.
- Limited commercial beach and purse seine fisheries are also expected to occur in Zones 2-3 (beach) and Zones 1 & 3 (purse). Season structure will be determined in-season through the Columbia River Compact, but is expected to be similar to 2015. Preseason modeling set aside 10% (0.04%) of the Wild B steelhead impacts available to

commercial fisheries for use in the seine fisheries. The harvest expectation is around 3,800 adult Chinook (including 1,100 release mortalities).

- The dates, areas, gear restrictions, and catch expectations described above are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events may change many of these expectations.
- Sturgeon harvest will remain prohibited, consistent with the policies adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commissions of both Washington and Oregon in 2014.

Management Intent for Summer Chinook and Sockeye Fisheries

- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 93,300 fish to the Columbia River. Under the *U.S v Oregon* Management Agreement the allowable harvest (including release mortality) for all non-Indian fisheries in the Columbia River is 22,675 adult fish.
- Based on the WDFW Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest for fisheries downstream from Priest Rapids Dam is 8,775 Chinook mortalities (38.7% of available in-river). Commission guidance allocates the harvestable share 70% recreational and 30% commercial in 2016.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open from June 16 through July 31 for hatchery summer Chinook, with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit. The management guideline for this fishery is 5,220 summer Chinook.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam will be open from June 16 through July 31 for hatchery summer Chinook, with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit. The management guideline for this fishery is 920 summer Chinook.
- The commercial fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam may open as early as June 16. Additional fishing periods may occur later, depending on catch and run status. The management guideline for this fishery is 2,630 summer Chinook.
- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 101,600 fish. Non-Indian fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed for an impact limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the run, (~1,000 fish). Commission guidance allocates the harvestable share 70% recreational and 30% commercial. Retention of sockeye will be allowed during recreational and commercial summer Chinook fisheries, but in-season action may be required to remain within ESA limitations.

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