Upper Columbia & Snake Rivers
North of Falcon
2022 Salmon & Steelhead Seasons

Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager
Chris Donley, Region 1 Fish Program Manager
Chad Jackson, Region 2 Fish Program Manager
Paul Hoffarth, Region 3, District 4 Fish Biologist
Outline

- Welcome
- NOF/PFMC Schedule & Commenting
- Harvest Management Jurisdictions
- Forecast & Returns
- 2021 Fishery Summaries
- 2022 Forecasts & Proposed Seasons
NOF/PFMC Schedule

Meetings held virtually

- March 4: Forecast
- March 8-14: Pacific Fishery Management Council #1
  - Develops ocean fishing options
- March 15: Columbia River #1 (Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 at Pasco)
- March 16: Puget Sound, Coast, Ocean #1
- March 30: Puget Sound, Coast, Ocean #2
- April 1: Columbia River #2 (Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 at Pasco)
- April 6-13: Pacific Fishery Management Council #2
  - Finalize seasons
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking public comment on proposed rules for this year's recreational and commercial salmon fishing seasons. For more information, visit the current rule-making activity webpage.

**Recreational fisheries**

The department is considering amending current recreational fishing rules resulting from stakeholder recommendations made during the 2022 North of Falcon process.

There are several other agencies involved in this rule making in association with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council season setting process including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) Fisheries division (National Marine Fisheries Service). These agencies, as well as WDFW, all provide input and/or take part in the PFMC/North of Falcon season-setting meeting.

**Documents**

- CR-101 – filed as WSR 22-03-088 on Jan. 18, 2022

**Public comments**

To submit comments on this proposal, please visit the North of Falcon Public Engagement Page or use the form below. Select a specific area where you'd like to provide input, or enter general comments by selecting "Statewide seasons and general comments."
Fishery managers weigh factors when developing salmon seasons, including:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) constraints
- Commission policy
- Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations
- Tribal co-management: treaty tribes manage their own fisheries, sharing data and harvest with the state
- Extensive monitoring and evaluation of fisheries statewide
Jurisdictions

- **Pacific Salmon Treaty**: U.S. and Canada agreement to carry out their fisheries and enhancement programs on transboundary salmon stocks to prevent over-fishing and ensure equal benefits of salmon originating in their waters. Governed by the Pacific Salmon Commission comprised of representatives from Canada, AK, CA, ID, OR, and WA.

- **Pacific Fishery Management Council**: One of eight fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council has jurisdiction over the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles offshore) and manages commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries for about 119 species of salmon, groundfish, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species in Federal waters.
Jurisdictions

- **U.S. v Washington**: Commonly known as the Boldt Decision. A court decision that reaffirmed the reserved right of WA Treaty Tribes to harvest salmon and steelhead alongside the state as co-managers. Covers inland marine (e.g., Puget Sound) and freshwater lakes/rivers. Direct tie to the PFMC for setting seasons.

Jurisdictions

- Other:
  - **WDFW & ODFW Policies** - Columbia River policies that detail non-treaty salmon allocations between recreational and commercial and lower and upper river fisheries.
  - **Wanapum Band RCW** - WA state law established in 1939 requiring the state to reserve an allocation of salmon to the Wanapum Band for C&S purposes.
  - **WDFW-CCT Share Agreement** - A formal agreement between WDFW and CCT that reserves an allocation of salmon and steelhead to the Colville Confederated Tribes for C&S purposes.
  - **ESA** - Due to the year-round presence of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead (juveniles+adults), WDFW must have federal government coverage to conduct fisheries. Allowable ESA impacts provide 'no jeopardy' to recovering stocks. Several permits throughout Columbia River do have creel survey requirements.
Salmon Indicators: **Bad -> Fair -> Good**

- **Basin-scale physical indices**
- **Regional physical indices**
- **Regional biological indices**

Physical indicators (PDO, El Niño, SST, Salinity) among best

Biological indicators (e.g., prey) trended well in 2021

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2021 = Ranked 2nd out of 24 years

www.nwfsc.noaa.gov
Forecasts & Returns

Upriver Salmonids

2021 Actual = 1,070,000
2022 Forecast = 1,270,000

Species Name:
- Chinook
- Coho
- Sockeye
- Steelhead

Abundance

Year

Spring Chinook - Upriver and Snake Wild

2021 Actual = 91,756
2022 Forecast = 122,900
2021 Actual = 9,480
2022 Forecast = 13,200

Abundance vs. Year

ESA/wild component

10/5-year average

Forecast

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Total Fall Chinook

2021 Actual = 481,200
2022 Forecast = 484,900

Abundance

Year


Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fall Chinook - URB and Snake Wild

2021 Actual = 239,900
2022 Forecast = 230,400
2021 Actual = TBD
2022 Forecast = 11,000
Ocean Abundance of coho

2021 Early Actual = 580,274
2021 Late Actual = 249,572
2022 Total Forecast = 997,000
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Upriver coho

2021 Early Actual = 180,527
2021 Late Actual = 63,076
Total and Wild A-Index Summer Steelhead

2021 Actual = 56,256
2022 Forecast = 81,000
Total and Wild B-Index Summer Steelhead

2021 Actual = 11,496
2022 Forecast = 15,600
## 2021 Fishery Summaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Upriver Spring Chinook** | 1. Yakima  
2. Snake  
3. Icicle                           | 1. Closed  
2. Open 7 days between May 4-Jun 6  
3. May 22-Jun 30 |
| **UCR Summer Chinook**  | 1. Hanford Reach                          | 1. Jun 16-Aug 15  
2. Jul 1-Aug 31  
3. Jul 1-Oct 15  
4. Jul 16-Sep 30  
5. Jul 1-Oct 15  
6. Aug 1-Sep 30  
7. Jul 16-Sep 30  
8. Jul 16-Oct 15  
9. Jul 1-Sep 15 or Oct 15 |
| **Sockeye**            | 1. Hanford Reach                          | 1. Jun 16-Jul 19  
2. Jul 1-Jul 19  
3. Jul 1-Jul 19  
4. Jul 16-Jul 19  
5. Jul 1-Jul 19 |
| **Upriver Summer Steelhead** | 1. Hanford Reach  
2. Snake  
3. Upper Columbia                      | 1. Closed  
2. Before Sept. 3—Open; Sept. 3-Mar 31  
Lower mainstem and tribs closed  
3. Closed |
| **URB Fall Chinook**   | 1. Hanford Reach                          | 1. Aug 16-Oct 15/31  
2. Aug 18-Oct 31  
3. Sep 1-Oct 15 |
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

- Mixed bag of forecasts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upriver Spring Chinook</td>
<td>122,900</td>
<td>81% of 10-year average; Snake (73,400), Yakima (4,700), Icicle (~2,600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Columbia Summer Chinook</td>
<td>57,500</td>
<td>83% of 10-yr avg; 29,000 escapement goal to Col. River mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upriver Bright Fall Chinook</td>
<td>230,400</td>
<td>55% of 10-yr avg; Hanford Reach (90,700, ~50% wild); Snake River (40,425)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upriver Summer Steelhead</td>
<td>Total: 96,600</td>
<td>A-index: 81,000, B-index: 15,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

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<tr>
<td>Sockeye</td>
<td>198,700</td>
<td>87% of 10-year average; Okanogan (175,700), Lake Wenatchee (19,200)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mainstem CR Sockeye Quotas:
- Lake Wenatchee forecast is below the escapement goal of 23,000 fish
- WDFW-Colville Tribe harvest share agreement for sockeye
- Allowable non-treaty harvest quota of 13,449 sockeye for run sizes between 150,000 to 200,000
- Pre-season quotas by area:
  - CR mouth to Hwy 395 Bridge: closed
  - Hwy 395 Bridge to PRD: 2,500 (18.6%)
  - PRD to CJD: 10,949 (81.4%)
- Adjust quotas up or down in-season based off run size updates
- WDFW will monitor harvest closely
- Season may close suddenly by emergency rule
- Anglers should check WDFW website routinely for updates
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Below Bonneville

- **Spring Chinook**: Improved forecast for lower and upriver stocks. Pre-update fishery open through April 6.
- **Summer Chinook**: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- **Sockeye**: Directed fishery closed.
- **Fall Chinook**: Lower river hatchery ‘tules’ are expected to limit fisheries. Managed in-season. Planning to reserve sufficient impacts to remain open for coho in Buoy 10.
- **Coho**: Forecast large enough to afford harvest opportunity. Most harvest occurs in Buoy 10.
- **Upriver summer steelhead**: Closures with very limited harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent year regulations.
- **Other**: Barbless hooks required.
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Bonneville upstream to Hwy 395 at Pasco

- **Spring Chinook**: April 1 through May 5.
  - Wind/Drano open w/ 1 adult limit until further notice, with Klickitat open on April 1. Check pamphlet for additional rules.
- **Summer Chinook**: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- **Sockeye**: Directed fishery closed.
- **Fall Chinook**: Standard fishery is expected to occur, and managed in-season.
- **Coho**: Forecast large enough to afford harvest opportunity.
- **Upriver summer steelhead**: Closures with very limited harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent year regulations.
- **Other**: Barbless hooks required downstream of OR/WA state line.
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 3 (Columbia River from Highway 395 to Priest Rapids Dam & Yakima River)

Spring Chinook:
- Yakima River
  - Preseason forecast 4,680 adult chinook including 2,840 Cle Elum Hatchery
  - Two sections: Hwy 240 (Richland) - SR 241 (Sunnyside) & Hwy 223 (Union Gap) - Roza Diversion
  - Will monitor in-season for openers in May
  - Fishery would open by emergency regulation

Summer Chinook & Sockeye:
- Hwy 395 to I-182:
  - Closed except for bank fishery at Columbia Point
  - June 16 – July 15

- I-182 to Priest Rapids Dam: June 16-August 15
  - Daily limit 6 salmon.
  - Up to 2 adults may be retained.
  - Release wild adult chinook.
  - Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement.
  - Barbed hooks allowed.

Fishery managed on sockeye quota
- Pre-season quota: 2,500 sockeye
- Adjust quotas up or down in-season based on run updates
- Season may close early by emergency regulation if quota is met.
- Anglers should check WDFW website routinely for updates
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 3 (continued)

**Fall Chinook:**
**Yakima River:**
- Closed pre-season
- Pre-season forecast for 2,500 adult chinook
- Will be monitored in-season for potential fishery

**Hanford Reach:** Forecast 90,702 adults (46,400 wild + 44,300 hatchery)
- Daily limit 6 salmon. Up to 2 adults may be retained. Coho & Chinook.
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement. Barbed hooks allowed.
- Second year of adult coho returns to Ringold Springs Hatchery.
- Hwy 395 Br. To Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing
  - August 16 to December 31 (extended for RSH coho fishery)
- Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing to Priest Rapids Dam,
  - August 16 to October 15

**Ringold Steelhead:**
- Open from I-182 (Richland) upstream to the Hanford Townsite powerline crossing
- Open October 1 - March 31, bank only April 1-15
- Daily limit 2 hatchery steelhead, Ringold Spring Hatchery only. RSH steelhead are adipose clipped and right ventral fin clipped
- Sport harvest and adult return will be monitored in-season.
- Potential for early closure
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Spring Chinook:
  - Icicle River closed pre-season
  - Improved forecast of ~2,600 adults
  - If forecast holds up, open via emergency rule

- Mainstem CR Summer Chinook & Sockeye Seasons:
  - Seasons will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
    - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
  - Daily limit 6 salmon. Minimum size 12”. No more than 2 adult hatchery chinook and no more than 2 sockeye. Release wild adult chinook and coho
  - Use of two poles permitted with endorsement and barbed hooks allowed
  - PRD-RID: Jul 1-Aug 31
  - RID-WED: Jul 1-Oct 15
  - WED-Brewster Bridge: Jul 16-Sept 30
  - Brewster Bridge-CJD: Jul 1-Oct 15
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Sockeye Quotas:
  - PRD to CJD: 10,949 (81.4%)
  - Adjust quotas up or down in-season based off run size updates
  - WDFW will monitor harvest closely
  - WDFW may consider shorter seasons to start
  - Season may close suddenly by emergency rules
  - Anglers should check WDFW website routinely for updates
  - Interested in angler’s thoughts on fishing boundaries (e.g., PRD-CJD, above RRD only, Brewster Pool only, etc.)
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Tributary Summer Chinook Seasons:
  - Seasons will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
    - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
  - Daily limit 6 salmon. Minimum size 12”. No more than 2 adult hatchery chinook. Release wild adult chinook, sockeye, and coho.
    - Except for Entiat River (see below)
  - Wenatchee River: Aug 1-Sep 30 (night closure and selective gear rules, but bait allowed)
  - Entiat River: Jul 16-Sep 30; Daily limit 6 chinook. Minimum size 12”. Release all salmon other than chinook. (night closure and barbed hooks allowed)
  - Chelan River: Jul 16-Oct 15 (night closure and barbed hooks allowed)
  - Okanogan River:
    - Mouth to Hwy 97 Bridge: Jul 1-Oct 15 (night closure, anti-snagging rule, & two poles allowed with endorsement)
    - Hwy 97 Bridge to Malott Bridge: Jul 1-Oct 15 (night closure and anti-snagging rule)
    - Upstream of Malott Bridge: Jul 1-Sep 15 (night closure and anti-snagging rule)
  - Similkameen River: Jul 1-Sep 15 (night closure and anti-snagging rule)
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- Lake Wenatchee Sockeye Season:
  - TBD
  - Pre-season forecast of 19,200 is 68.6% of the minimum 28,000 (23,000 escapement goal + 5,000 for harvest) preferred to open a season
  - Monitor the run in-season
  - Open by emergency rule if appropriate

- Fall Chinook Seasons:
  - Seasons will be listed in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
    - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
  - Daily limit 6 salmon. Minimum size 12”. No more than 2 adult chinook. Release all other salmon other than chinook.
  - Use of two poles permitted with endorsement and barbed hooks allowed
  - PRD-RID: Sep 1-Oct 15
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (continued)

- **Coho Seasons:**
  - TBD
  - Based off run size over PRD
  - Opened by emergency rule if appropriate

- **Steelhead Seasons:**
  - TBD
  - Based off run size over PRD
  - Opened by emergency rule if appropriate
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

- **Spring Chinook**: Plan to open Little Goose and Ice Harbor areas for two days/week
  - Estimate opening the first week in May under emergency rule depending on run timing
  - While harvest allocation is slightly better, we do not anticipate opening on weekend days
  - Daily limit 6 salmon, only one adult may be retained

- **Fall Chinook**:
  - Clarkston area upstream
    - August 18th-October 31 under emergency rule
    - Daily limit of three adult Chinook no limit on jacks
  - Below Lower Granite
    - We are reviewing options for fisheries below Lower Granite that may provide a non-selective fishery option.
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

- **Steelhead**: Expect emergency rules for 2022/2023 season.
  - WDFW will evaluate Steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam and adjust seasons through emergency rules.
  - Seasons could include reduce limits, size restrictions or area closures.
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Summer Steelhead:

- 2017, 2019-2021 fishery limitations were primarily based on low B-run forecasts, with 2020 and 2021 also focused on A-run. Fisheries were structured with block closure to be protective of fish as they progressed upstream.
  - Record low returns in 2021 (since 1938)
  - Limited additional restrictions were available in-season due to the precautionary approach implemented through NOF.
- Continued low A-run and B-run forecasts, with only 1,900 wild B-run fish expected to return during 2021.
  - Similar to 2021 preseason concerns.
Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Proposed Season Structure for 2022:

- Rolling block closures (e.g., 2017, 2019-2021) from mouth of the Columbia beginning in August continuing upstream. Consideration for the mainstem to remain closed for the most to the run (~July-March in some areas). Night closure.

- Tributary mouths (e.g., Drano Lake) will be closed similarly to the mainstem rolling block closure early summer to fishing for steelhead (no catch and release). Night closure.

- Expect no open fishing or abbreviated seasons on the Snake River and tributaries.

- Do not expect to fish the upper Columbia River and tributaries above Priest Rapids Dam.

- Abbreviated harvest limits in areas that are open (e.g., 1 fish). If actual return is lower than anticipated there may be only catch and release opportunity offered (e.g., mainstem Snake River above Clarkston).
Comments can be submitted here:  https://wdfw.wa.gov/nof

Regional contact information:
Region 1, (509) 892-1001 or TeamSpokane@dfw.wa.gov
Region 2, (509) 754-4624 or TeamEphrata@dfw.wa.gov
Region 3, (509) 575-2740 or TeamYakima@dfw.wa.gov