

2024 Columbia River North of Falcon Public Meeting

2023 COLUMBIA RIVER (SUMMER/FALL) FISHERIES REVIEW

2024 COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERY OUTLOOK

All data preliminary and subject to change

March 21, 2024

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries is presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available online. The most recent reports relevant to these fisheries are the 2023 Fall Report (July 10, 2023) and the 2024 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 1, 2024). The 2024 Fall Report is expected to be available in late July and will be found at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

2023 RETURNS AND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook (summer Chinook)

- Pre-season forecast was 85,400 fish
- Actual return was 54,722 fish (64% of forecast)

Sockeye

- Pre-season forecast was 234,500 fish
- Actual return was 329,040 fish (140% of forecast)

Snake River Wild (SRW)/Upriver Bright (URB) Fall Chinook

- Preseason
 - URB run size = 278,500
 - Snake River wild (SRW) run size = 13,300
 - Total allowable URB harvest rate (HR) = 45%
 - Non-Treaty fisheries HR allowed = 15%
 - Treaty Indian fisheries HR allowed = 30%
- Actual
 - URB run size = 338,990 (122% of forecast)
 - SRW run size = 12,420 (93% of forecast)
 - Total URB HR = 29.7% (45% HR allowed)
 - Non-Treaty fisheries URB HR = 11.1% (15% HR allowed)
 - Treaty Indian fisheries URB HR = 18.5% (30% HR allowed)

Lower Columbia River Tule (LCR) Fall Chinook

- Preseason
 - Lower River Hatchery tule (LRH) run size = 77,100
 - Total allowable ocean and Columbia River exploitation rate (ER) = 38%
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER expectation = 38%
 - Columbia River ER = 9.4%; Ocean ER = 28.6%

- Actual
 - LRH run size = 87,130 (113% of forecast)
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER = 28.9% (38% ER allowed)
 - Columbia River ER = 5.4%; Ocean ER = 23.5%

Columbia River Coho

- Preseason
 - Columbia River Coho (ocean abundance) run size = 886,100 (481,800 early stock, 404,300 late stock)
 - In-river run size = 595,300 (354,000 early stock, 241,300 late stock)
 - Total allowable ocean and Columbia River (Lower River Natural (LCN)) ER = 23%
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER expectation = 19%
 - Columbia River ER (including Buoy 10) = 4.6%; Ocean ER = 14.4%
- Actual
 - Columbia River Coho (ocean abundance) run size = 508,900 (57% of forecast; 365,300 early stock, 143,600 late stock)
 - In-river run size = 419,631 (70% of forecast; 308,175 early stock, 11,456 late stock)
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER = 13.5% (23% ER allowed)
 - Columbia River ER (including Buoy 10) = 1.6%; Ocean ER = 11.9%

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Preseason
 - Bonneville Dam passage (A-/B-Index, July – October) = 63,400 (1,300 wild B-Index)
 - Non-Treaty ESA impact limit = 2.0% wild A-Index and 2.0% wild B-Index
- Actual
 - Bonneville Dam passage (A-/B-Index, July – October) = 110,687 (175% of forecast), return included 1,616 wild B-Index (124% of forecast)
 - Non-Treaty ESA impact = <1% wild A-Index and <1% wild B-Index (both prelim.)

2023 NON-TREATY FISHERIES REVIEW

Recreational Fisheries

- The preseason plan for summer Chinook retention was to be open June 16 – July 31 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). Sockeye retention was also expected to be open. Steelhead retention was scheduled to be open throughout the summer management period with a one steelhead daily bag limit.
 - The summer Chinook run size was downgraded in-season resulting in lower than expected allocations available for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. The Chinook fishery downstream of PRD closed effective July 1.
 - Summer steelhead and sockeye fisheries remained open through July 31.
 - Total catch estimates for the summer fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam include 2,019 adult Chinook kept (950 released), 1,365 sockeye kept (71 released), and 1,904 hatchery steelhead kept (1,794 released) from 36,044 angler trips.
 - For the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to PRD, summer season catches included 120 adult Chinook kept (103 released), 1,124 sockeye kept (29 released), and 48 steelhead released from 10,336 angler trips.
- Summer Chinook fisheries (including tributaries) upstream of Priest Rapids Dam were open from July 1 – October 15.
 - Total catch estimates include 5,735 adult Chinook kept (1,384 released), 33,909 sockeye kept (55 released), and 23 steelhead released from 41,869 angler trips.
- The preseason plan for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge was for Chinook and Coho retention to be open August 1 – October 15 and then open October 16 – December 31 for Coho retention only with a two adult salmon (only one Chinook when allowed) daily bag limit and a requirement that wild Coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge had to be released. Steelhead was to be closed August 1 – October 31 in the Bonneville Pool and September 1 – December 31 (plus January through March 2024) upstream of The Dalles Dam to Highway 395. Preseason modeling for this fishery included 6,300 adult Chinook.
 - The Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge fishery occurred as planned through October 15. In-season action added Chinook retention October 16 – December 31 due available URBs and steelhead retention January 1 – March 31 due to the upriver summer steelhead return coming in above forecast.
 - Season total catch estimates include 15,883 kept adult Chinook (1,879 released), 3,464 Coho kept (445 released), and two steelhead kept plus 383 steelhead released from 50,394 angler trips.
- The fall LCR recreational fishery preseason plan included opening August 1 in two subareas. Puget Island upstream to Warrior Rock was expected to be open to Chinook and hatchery Coho retention from August 1 – September 4 and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery Coho retention. Salmonid angling was planned to be closed in this area from September 5 – 30. Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island upstream to Bonneville Dam was expected to be open to Chinook and hatchery Coho retention August 1 – September 14 and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery Coho retention. Salmonid angling was expected to be closed in this area from September 15-30.

- In both areas, the daily bag limit was two adult salmon with no more than one Chinook, and retention of wild Coho was not allowed. Steelhead retention was planned to be closed August 1 – October 31. Preseason harvest expectations (kept plus release mortalities) for both areas combined included 22,730 Chinook; about 2,600 Coho were available for these fisheries.
- The west Puget Island to Warrior Rock fishery occurred as planned through September 4; in-season action added Chinook and hatchery Coho retention September 15-17 and September 22-30, and Chinook retention October 1 – December 31 due to available URBs and remaining LRH balance.
- The Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam fishery occurred as planned through September 14; in-season action added Chinook and hatchery Coho retention September 15-30 and Chinook retention October 1 – December 31 due to available URBs and a remaining LRH balance.
- Season total catch estimates include 27,406 kept Chinook (2,341 released), 3,288 Coho kept (1,487 released), and 610 steelhead released from 97,715 angler trips.
- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island recreational fishery preseason plan was for Chinook and Coho retention to be open August 1–20, August 24–27, and August 30 – September 4 under mark-selective-fishery (MSF) regulations with a daily adult bag limit of two salmon but only one Chinook when Chinook retention was allowed. Salmonid angling was to be closed in this area during August 21–23 and August 28–29. From September 5 – December 31, Chinook retention was to be closed and the daily adult Coho limit would increase to three hatchery fish; retention of hatchery steelhead was allowed beginning November 1. Preseason harvest expectations (kept plus release mortalities) included 37,450 Chinook; up to 46,000 Coho were available for this fishery.
 - The fishery occurred as planned through September 4; in-season action added Chinook retention using non-mark –selective-fishery (nMSF) regulations from September 8 – December 31 due to available URBs and a remaining LRH balance.
 - Season total catch estimates include 18,630 kept Chinook (16,078 released), 10,136 Coho kept (7,212 released), and 117 steelhead released from 79,802 angler trips.
 - The LRH ER was 64% of planned and the SRW HR was 46% of planned.

Commercial Fisheries

- A commercial summer Chinook fishery did not occur since current Oregon Commission guidance requires the use of gear other than traditional gillnets for this fishery. Currently, viable alternative gears are not available.
- The August (Early Fall) Chinook-target fishery was modeled to begin the week of August 6 and expected to continue into the week of August 27, with fishing periods occurring one to three nights per week. Fishery structure was expected to include eight, 9-hour (9pm – 6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The landings expectation included 30,220 adult Chinook.
- The Late Fall (mid/late September through October) Chinook-target fishery was planned to begin the week of September 17, dependent on in-season factors. Fishery structure was expected to include about three, 10-hour (8pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 5,310 adult Chinook and 6,500 Coho were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.

- The preseason plan also included a hatchery Coho tangle net fishery in Zones 1-3 beginning as early as the week of September 17 and continuing through October 31. Up to 44,300 hatchery Coho and 1,920 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery.
- The actual Early Fall season was prosecuted as planned preseason. Landings included 27,383 Chinook and 1,662 Coho in eight periods. Eleven additional Chinook-directed fishing periods occurred in the Late Fall season (September 17 – October 9) due to available URBs and LRH; landings included 4,942 Chinook and 941 Coho. Of note, the period on September 19 occurred in OR waters only. Chinook landings during both the Early Fall and Late Fall commercial drift net fisheries were similar to preseason expectations.
 - Deliveries per period for the fall Chinook-directed fisheries averaged 46 in the Early Fall and 20 during the Late Fall Zone 4-5 fisheries. Ex-vessel value averaged \$2.17/lb for Chinook and \$1.45/lb for Coho during the Zone 4-5 fisheries.
- The Coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear consisted of 28 fishing periods during September 18 – October 27 with an estimated 5,737 adult hatchery Coho and 1,575 Chinook.
 - Ex-vessel value averaged \$2.62/lb for Chinook and \$1.41/lb for Coho in this fishery.

2024 OUTLOOK: FORECASTS, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES, AND POLICY GUIDANCE

Columbia River fisheries are managed to meet the following guidelines and objectives:

Federal/State Endangered Species Act

- Sockeye, steelhead, Chinook, Coho, Chum
- NOAA Guidance Letter – See “Salmon Guidance Letter to PFMC” for additional information.

U.S. vs. OR Management Agreement (MA)

- 2018-2027 MA in effect

OFWC/WFWC Guidance

- Summer Chinook
 - Harvestable surplus allocation available to in-river fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam (<PRD) is not concurrent. Oregon rule allocates non-treaty sharing as 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Washington Policy sharing is 70% recreational and 30% commercial.
 - Therefore, staff is modeling fisheries at 70% recreational, 20% commercial with 10% unallocated <PRD.
 - Policy guidance regarding allowable commercial gears is not concurrent. OR rules do not allow use of gillnets for summer season mainstem commercial fisheries, while WA policy does.
 - Due to non-concurrence guidance regarding use of gillnet gear in the mainstem and the fact that no other gears are readily available to the commercial fleet, no mainstem commercial fishery is expected to occur.
- Sockeye: Policy guidance regarding allocation of sockeye impacts is not concurrent. Oregon rule allocates non-treaty sharing as 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Washington Policy sharing is 70% recreational and 30% commercial.
 - Therefore, staff is modeling fisheries at 70% recreational, 20% commercial with 10% unallocated.
- Fall Chinook
 - Policy guidance on fall Chinook is concurrent. No more than 70% of allowable ESA impacts on the most constraining fall Chinook stock may be allocated to recreational fisheries, and no less than 30% to commercial.
 - Policy guidance allows for gillnets to be used in the mainstem in Zones 4-5.
 - OR rule limits impacts for use in lower river alternative gear commercial fisheries to 2 percentage points of the non-treaty allocation and is considered part of commercial share.
 - Policy guidance for recreational fishery Chinook retention season objectives is not concurrent. The OR rule provides the guidance shown below, but the WA policy does not provide any guidance.
 - OR rule provides fall Chinook recreational fishery season objectives for fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam; if season objectives are predicted to be met, additional opportunity for mainstem commercial fisheries shall be provided.

- Coho
 - LCN Coho ESA impacts are prioritized to Select Area commercial fisheries, mainstem commercial Chinook fisheries, and commercial hatchery Coho fisheries (OR), followed by recreational fisheries, and then Coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (OR & WA).
 - Policy guidance regarding allowable commercial gears is not concurrent. OR rules do not allow use of gillnets in Zones 1-3 while WA policy does.
 - Due to non-concurrence, no mainstem gillnet fishery in Zones 1-3 is expected to occur. However, a Coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear and additional live-capture techniques is expected to occur.
- Commercial Alternative Gear Fisheries
 - The states expect that limited alternative gear fisheries (up to 3 pound nets and 3 seines) will occur in 2024 as part of a multi-year evaluation conducted through WDFW's Emerging Commercial Fishery process. OR/WA will set aside 2% ESA impacts of the non-treaty share for the most constraining stock for use in these fisheries; these impacts are considered part of the commercial share where numerical commercial allocation exists.

WDFW/Colville Tribe Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA)

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook
- Sockeye

Summer Chinook

- Pre-PFMC Forecast = 53,000
- Ocean non-treaty catches are considered part of the non-treaty allocation per *U.S. vs. OR MA*
- Due to non-concurrence in OR/WA policy guidance, staff is modeling fisheries at 70% recreational, 20% commercial with 10% unallocated for non-treaty fisheries <PRD.
- The first in-season run size update is typically not available until around July 1.

Sockeye

- The 2024 sockeye forecast is 401,700 which is 121% of the 10-yr average return.
 - Wenatchee escapement goal (23,000) is forecasted to be met.
- The allowable impact rate on Snake River sockeye is 1.0% (4,017 fish) for non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Forecast = 126,200 (Skamania + A-Index + B-Index)
 - A-Index = 89,900 (32,400 wild)
 - B-Index = 32,200 (4,000 wild)
- The allowable ESA impact rate on both wild A-Index and wild B-Index is 2.0% during fall-season non-treaty fisheries.
- Given the poor expected return for upriver summer steelhead, fishery restrictions will be similar to the last several years.

Lower Columbia River (LCR) Tule Fall Chinook

- Preliminary pre-PFMC forecast = 85,500
- Total ocean and Columbia River ER limit = 41%

- NMFS recently revised the abundance tier values in the harvest rate matrix to account for anticipated lower tule Chinook salmon abundance beginning in 2024 as a result of reductions in Mitchell Act-funded hatchery production of tule fall Chinook. The reductions were realized with the juveniles released in 2022 (i.e., brood year 2021 for tule fall Chinook). See Agenda Item C.1.a Supplemental NMFS Report 1 March 2024 for more information.
- For 2024, LRH is considered the most constraining fall Chinook stock for pre-season planning purposes.
- No more than 70% of allowable ESA impacts on the most constraining fall Chinook stock may be allocated to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial.

Snake River Wild/Upriver Bright (URB) Fall Chinook

- Preliminary pre-PFMC forecast = 258,300 URB and 9,300 SRW
- Allowable Columbia River non-treaty harvest rate = 15.0%

Stock Group	2023		2024
	February Forecasts	Actual Returns	February Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery - LRH	77,100	87,127	85,500
Lower River Wild - LRW	8,600	11,415	10,500
Lower River Bright - LRB	4,300	3,160	2,400
Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	136,100	198,864	129,800
Upriver Bright - URB	272,400	338,991	258,300
<i>Snake River Wild (SRW)</i>	<i>13,300</i>	<i>12,420</i>	<i>9,300</i>
Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	48,300	78,938	61,000
Select Area Bright - SAB	600	1,742	300
Columbia River Total	547,400	720,237	547,800

Columbia River Coho

- Ocean abundance (pre-fishery) forecast = 401,100 adults
 - 227,500 early stock and 173,600 late stock
- Total ocean and Columbia River ER limit = 23%
 - Most constraining coho stock during March PFMC modeling
 - 50% of the ocean abundance of upriver-origin Coho must be allowed to return to Bonneville Dam

2024 PRESEASON MODELING ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

NOF Ocean Fishery Alternatives – See “NOF Ocean Alternatives” handout for additional information.

Columbia River non-treaty fisheries

- URB and SRW preseason forecasts are sufficient to plan non-treaty fisheries up to the 15% harvest rate thresholds.
 - URB/SRW could become a limiting stock if catch rates, stock composition, or abundance projections are different than preseason expectations.
 - Need to balance the time and area use of URB/SRW to ensure fisheries do not exceed the allowable HR as the run size in-season and post-season will be revised based upon in-year information. Allowable HR below 200,000 URBs is 8.25%.
- LRH allowable exploitation rate in 2024 is 41% and is shared between the river and ocean fisheries, which includes northern fisheries (Canada and southeast Alaska).
 - Northern fishery abundance and fishery harvest estimates are typically updated in late March and will be reflected in April PFMC modeling.
 - In-river fisheries may need to be modified accordingly to stay within the allowable ESA impact rate during the remainder of NOF/PFMC as models are updated.
- March PFMC (March 6-11) developed three ocean alternatives. Results below also provide the corresponding non-treaty summer Chinook allocations, in-river LRH ERs, and preliminary ER expectations for Coho:
 - Alternative 1; Chin0724 and Coho2410 (high):
 - Summer Chinook (non-treaty): 5,828 ocean; 7,824 in-river
 - LRH fall Chinook: 40.6% total ER; 10.5% in-river ER
 - LCN Coho: 22.3% total ER; 5.2% in-river ER
 - Alternative 2; Chin0824 and Coho2411 (medium):
 - Summer Chinook (non-treaty): 4,366 ocean; 9,073 in-river
 - LRH fall Chinook: 39.5% total ER; 10.7% in-river ER
 - LCN Coho: 20.8% total ER; 5.8% in-river ER
 - Alternative 3; Chin0924 and Coho2412 (low):
 - Summer Chinook (non-treaty): 2,896 ocean; 10,339 in-river
 - LRH fall Chinook: 38.6% total ER; 10.8% in-river ER
 - LCN Coho: 19.8% total ER; 6.3% in-river ER
- Next in-river fishery modeling steps for 2024
 - Summer Chinook allocation for <PRD: 70% recreational, 20% commercial, 10% unallocated.
 - Fall Chinook allocation: no less than 30% for commercial fisheries and no more than 70% for recreational fisheries for the most constraining Chinook stock (LRH).
 - Consideration of URB/SRW use by time and area to ensure fisheries do not exceed the allowable HR.
 - In-river Coho modeling is on-going. Fisheries are expected to be similar in structure compared to recent years except for the addition of the limited Commercial Alternative Gear Fishery.

- Model fall commercial fisheries based on Commercial Advisory Group input and policy guidance.
 - Expect 2024 fishing plan be similar to the 2023 pre-season planned fisheries except for the addition of the limited Alternative Gear Fishery.
- Discuss recreational fishery concepts in order to meet conservation objectives and policy guidance, while still providing consistent and meaningful fishing opportunities in a manner that reduces in-season closure risk.
 - Recreational Chinook fishery season objectives as described in the Oregon rule are not expected to be achieved.
 - Variety of scenarios were modeled within the LRH in-river ER while also taking into account URB/SRW usage by time and area.
 - Additional opportunities may exist in-season if URB run comes in larger than forecast.
- Reserve Chinook mortalities to cover Coho-directed fisheries.
- Set aside non-treaty ESA-impacts for commercial alternative gear implementation.
- Steelhead modeling is not complete but recreational and commercial fisheries are expected to be well within the allowable ESA-impact rates with similar restrictions as 2023.

RECREATIONAL DISCUSSION

Objective and Concepts for Consideration

- Discuss recreational fishery concepts staff modeled based on past feedback and experience.
 - Staff intends to consider a single in-river fishery package for April PFMC and will adjust fisheries/dates/regulations accordingly to achieve conservation and policy objectives.

Fishery Modeling Rationale/Assumptions

- Model runs incorporate the following:
 - Chinook FRAM output from March PFMC Alternative 1 (high); Chin0824
 - LRH: 40.6% ER; in-river: 10.5% ER
 - URB and SRW: ≤15% HR
 - Summer Chinook in-river non-treaty allocation: 7,824
 - Coho FRAM output from March PFMC Alternative 1 (high); Coho2410
 - LCN Coho: 22.3% ER (ocean + preliminary in-river); in-river: 5.2% ER
 - Upriver Coho Bonneville passage: 59%
- Summer Chinook allocation for <PRD: 70% recreational, 20% commercial, 10% unallocated.
- Fall Chinook allocation: no less than 30% for commercial fisheries and no more than 70% for recreational fisheries for the most constraining stock (LRH).
- URB/SRW could become a limiting stock if catch rates/stock composition are different than preseason expectations or if the URB abundance is projected to be below 200,000 adults during an in-season run size update.
- 2024 objective for planning is to provide fishery consistency and reduce the need for in-season closures with an understanding that the closure risk cannot be eliminated.
 - Staff will make every attempt to provide as much notice as possible for potential action related to fishery closures but cannot guarantee any set amount of notice due to the volatile nature of catch rates, changing CWT/stock composition, and run size updates for URB fall Chinook.
- Staff weighed issues/concepts/comments received from previous NOF discussions, Compact/Joint State hearing testimony, [2023 angler survey](#), and recreational advisory group feedback in conjunction with policy guidelines and conservation objectives:
 - Summer Chinook mark-selective fishery (MSF) start June 16
 - Ocean/in-river sharing balance for fall Chinook
 - Minimize risk for in-season closures
 - NMSF/MSF Chinook at Buoy 10
 - Delay start date, days per week, and/or closure days for Chinook retention
 - Overlap Chinook retention fisheries to limit effort shift
 - Reserve impacts for Coho-directed fisheries
 - Additional Coho opportunity (e.g., sub-area openings for Coho, nMSF Coho)
 - Sub-area closures (not considered for 2024)
 - Limit guides/charters (not considered for 2024)
 - Annual/area Chinook limit (not considered for 2024)
 - Angling gear modification (not considered for 2024)
 - Steelhead restrictions in mainstem and tributary recreational fisheries
- Viable concepts must fit within the allowed ESA-impact rates for wild A/B-Index steelhead.

Mainstem

- Sockeye retention is expected to be allowed in the daily salmonid bag limit starting June 16.
- Summer Chinook allocation is low but can provide a limited Chinook retention opportunity. Will need to account for non-target handle during sockeye/steelhead retention fisheries when Chinook retention is closed.
 - Allocations will change as ocean fisheries are adjusted during April PFMC.
 - Recent 5-year average mark rate observed at Bonneville Dam for June is 74% and July is 59%.
 - <PRD recreational allocation: 1,076
 - Astoria-Megler Bridge to Bonneville Dam: 915
 - June 16 start translates into ~4 retention days
 - July 1-4 start translates into ~7 retention days
 - Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam: 161
 - Insufficient allocation to provide a full season; anticipate allocation is sufficient for majority of either June 16-30 or July.
- Fall Chinook
 - Provide for Chinook opportunity in all areas.
 - Tongue Point–west Puget Island is a Chinook management sub-area within the Buoy 10 fishery.
 - Standard two fish, one Chinook daily limit (nMSF retention regulations) when Chinook retention is allowed in all areas unless stated otherwise in the table below.
 - Recreational fishery scenario considerations incorporate similar LRH impact rate sharing between recreational fisheries.
 - Recreational fishing concepts incorporate modifications to slow the accrual of LRH impacts and allow for improved in-season fishery assessment as compared to recent years with the intent to improve season stability.
 - Modeling of recreational fisheries, particularly Buoy 10, incorporates the recent trend of higher-than-average Chinook handle rates.
 - Multiple Buoy 10 Chinook fishery concepts provide for a pathway to reduce impacts to LCR tute Chinook, reduce risk to in-season closures, and/or aide in estimation of dynamic catch/stock metrics.
 - MSF regulations
 - nMSF regulations in late Aug/early Sept
 - Closure days
 - Combination of approaches
 - Season structure concepts attempt to align Chinook retention seasons to the extent possible in order to reduce effort shift into adjacent fishing areas. Some effort shift is expected to occur.
 - Reserve Chinook mortalities for Buoy 10 Coho target fishery and October Coho target fisheries upstream of Puget Island.

- Staff will select one fishery management strategy per area and update the modeling and associated timeframes during April PFMC.
 - Fishery concepts presented will be adjusted as final ocean fisheries will be set during April PFMC.
 - Northern fishery abundances and fishery harvest estimates (Southeast Alaska and Canada) are typically updated in late March.
 - If further adjustments are needed during in-river fisheries planning in order to meet conservation objectives for LRH (or other stocks), staff will consider the following:
 - Reduce risk of in-season closures
 - Aide in catch/stock estimation for in-season management
 - Consideration for effort shift
 - Limit additional regulation complexity
 - Policy guidance/objectives

2024 COLUMBIA RIVER RECREATIONAL FISHERY CONCEPTS FOR DISCUSSION; DATES AND RETENTION LIMITS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Area	Concepts	Chinook Retention ¹	Coho Retention	Steelhead Retention ²	Daily Adult Bag Limit	Chinook Kept	Chinook Rel Morts
Bonneville - Hwy. 395 Br.	1	8/1 - 9/15 nMSF (46d)	8/1 - 9/15 10/1 - 12/31	Closed 8/1-10/31	2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 9/15 2 Coho 10/1 - 12/31	7,600	200
Lewis/Warrior - Bonneville	1	8/1 - 9/15 nMSF (46d)	8/1 - 9/15 10/1 - 12/31		2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 9/15 2 Coho 10/1 - 12/31	11,800	800
W. Puget Is. - Lewis/Warrior	1	8/1 - 9/7 nMSF (38d)	8/1 - 9/7 10/1 - 12/31		2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 9/7 2 Coho 10/1 - 12/31	11,200	100
W. Puget Is. - Lewis/Warrior	2	8/1 - 9/4 nMSF (35d) 9/5 - 9/11 MSF (7d)	8/1 - 9/11 10/1 - 12/31		2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 9/11 2 Coho 10/1 - 12/31	10,300	700
Buoy 10 - W. Puget Is.	1	8/1 - 8/30 MSF (30d) 8/31 - 9/4 nMSF (5d)	8/1 - 12/31		2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 9/4 2 Coho 9/5 - 12/31	31,200	5,600
Buoy 10 - W. Puget Is.	2	8/1 - 8/25 MSF (25d) 8/26-28 Closed (3d) 8/29-9/4 nMSF (7d)	8/1 - 8/25 8/26-28 Closed 8/29 - 12/31		2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 8/25 2 fish/1 ChF 8/29 - 9/4 2 Coho 9/5 - 12/31	28,300	4,900
Buoy 10 - W. Puget Is.	3	8/1 - 9/2 MSF (33d) 9/3 - 9/15 nMSF (13d)	8/1 - 12/31		2 fish/1 ChF 8/1 - 9/15 2 Coho 9/16 - 12/31	32,000	5,500

¹Salmonid angling closed when Chinook retention closes unless otherwise noted. Additional Chinook opportunity to be determined in-season.

²Steelhead retention closed Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam 8/1-10/31 and from The Dalles Dam to Hwy 395 Bridge 9/1-12/31.

- Bonneville Dam to Highway 395 at Pasco, WA
 - This fishery has grown recently, and the 2022–2023 average catch is ~14,400 Chinook.
 - Given effort shift when lower river fisheries are restricted and that fishers have been able to target URBs, staff will apply a conservative Chinook retention season approach. Additional opportunity after September 15 can be considered when in-season catch and URB run size information is available.
 - Salmonid angling closure when Chinook retention closes, except Coho retention allowed beginning October 1.
 - Coho with 2 adult fish limit when open; MSF regulations in effect downstream of the Hood River Bridge.
- West Puget Island to Bonneville Dam: Staff developed two concepts for downstream and one for upstream of the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line.
 - Concept 1 incorporates nMSF Chinook regulations.
 - Concept 2 for west Puget Island – Lewis River/Warrior Rock incorporates an additional week of MSF Chinook regulations similar to the OR recreational season objective and is impact neutral as compared to Concept 1 for this river section.
 - Salmonid angling closure when Chinook retention closes, except Coho retention allowed beginning October 1.
 - Coho MSF with 2 adult fish limit when open.
- Buoy 10: Staff considered a variety of strategies that incorporate the majority of Chinook retention being mark selective, with additional elements of nMSF considered due to an increase in available LRH ER for in-river fisheries this year.
 - Although more LRH ESA impacts are available this year, the Buoy 10 Chinook fishery is dynamic and in-season stock composition and catch rates may differ from preseason expectations.
 - In order to reduce the risk of in-season closures, staff considered a variety of approaches that take into account the timing of the fishery, incorporate recent trends of higher-than-average Chinook handle rates, and ability to assess catch and stock composition in-season.
 - MSF regulations reduce the relative mortalities of unmarked fish, since they are released, while allowing the retention of marked hatchery fish only. This allows for additional days to fish as compared to nMSF regulations.
 - Forecasted Chinook mark rate is ~55% in August and ~45% mark rate in September.
 - The post-season estimate of the Chinook mark rate observed during the 2023 MSF was 54%.
 - Late August/early September start date for nMSF Chinook regulations avoids expected peak LRH abundance while accessing bright fall Chinook.
 - Provides over-lap of nMSF regulations with fisheries upstream of west Puget Island.

- A pause in Chinook retention allows those associated ESA-impacts to be utilized for additional nMSF days.
 - This approach also provides staff additional time to assess the catch and stock composition estimates in-season. Some effort shift is expected to occur on open days relative to a full seven-day-per-week schedule.
 - All of the Buoy 10 concepts shown in the table above are intended to allow staff the opportunity to review and update catch rate and stock composition prior to transitioning to nMSF Chinook regulations. If in-season information indicates a change from the preseason plan is warranted, the initial consideration would be to delay the transition to nMSF regulations.
 - Coho MSF regulations with two fish limit.
 - Buoy 20 subarea fishery concept could provide August Coho retention opportunity if Chinook retention is closed; however, Chinook handle would need to be accounted for.
 - Buoy 10 fishery was historically a Coho-target fishery focused in the area from Buoy 10 to the Chinook/Hammond line with the most success occurring during the incoming tide.
 - Buoy 20 subarea approach is a concept intended to provide a Coho-focused fishery during times of high Chinook abundance. This concept was requested by the public during a Joint State Hearing in the fall of 2022 and was discussed during the 2023 NOF meeting but did not receive public support at that time.
- Recreational allocation of LRH is no more than 7.34% ER; tributary recreational fisheries are expected to use 0.27% LRH ER.
- Additional Chinook and Coho opportunities may be considered in-season after estimates of catches, stock composition, and associated ESA-impacts are available.

- Summer steelhead regulations proposals are similar to recent years and are presented in the following table.
 - However, the John Day Arm (John Day River downstream of Tumwater Falls) is expected to be closed to salmon/steelhead angling this year as opposed to steelhead retention closures used in past years.

Columbia River mainstem and tributary summer steelhead regulation summary for 2024 (preliminary).											
Water Body	June 16-June 30	July	August	September	October	November	December	Comments			
Columbia River mainstem											
Below I-5 Bridge	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)		Some periods of salmon/steelhead angling closures when salmon retention is closed.			
15-Bridge to Bonneville Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention								
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention								
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention							
John Day Dam to McNary Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention							
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention							
Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam	Perm. Regs (Closed to angling for steelhead)				Daily limit 1. Ringold Springs Hatchery only (ADRV).		Dependent upon actual UCR and RSH returns. Fishery through 3/31 (Bank 4/1-15). Permanent night closure.				
Columbia River tributaries											
Wind/White Salmon (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)	Closed to angling for steelhead				Perm. Regs (Daily limit: 3 Wind R; 2 White Salmon R)		Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.			
Drano Lake (WA)						Daily limit 1		Closure improved enforceability.			
Klickitat (WA) tributary lower reaches						Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)		Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.			
Deschutes River (OR) mouth	Daily limit 1	Thermal Angling Sanctuary Regs - closed to angling (7/15-9/15)			Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)		Combination of old perm. regulations (Herman/Eagle Cr. Closures, new permanent regulations, 2020 TAS), and intended MS regs by pool which affect these tribs. Note: Herman Cr. Youth and Disabled Angler Angling Area not included; see permanent regulations for this area.				
Eagle Cr. (OR) mouth	Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)								Perm. Regs (closed to angling)		
Herman Cr. (OR) Lagoon											
Herman Cr. (OR) mouth to RR bridge					Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)						
Eagle Cr. (OR) RR bridge to hatchery deadline	Daily limit 1				Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)						
Deschutes River (OR) lower reach (below Moody Rapids)											
John Day R (downstream of Tumwater Falls)			Closed to salmon/steelhead angling								

- Other
 - Barbless hooks required in mainstem Columbia River (mouth upstream to the Highway 395 at Pasco, WA upstream of McNary Dam) year-round.
 - During fall fisheries, each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.

What to expect

- Staff will select one fishery management strategy per area and update the models and associated timeframes during April PFMC.
 - Fishery concepts presented today will likely be adjusted as final ocean fisheries will be set during April PFMC.
 - Northern fishery abundances and fishery harvest estimates (Canada and southeast Alaska) are typically updated in late March.
 - If further adjustments are needed during in-river fisheries planning to meet conservation objectives for LRH (or other stocks), staff will consider the following:
 - Reduce risk of in-season closures
 - Aide in catch/stock estimation for in-season management
 - Consider effort shift
 - Limit additional regulation complexity
 - Policy guidance/objectives
- Staff will monitor abundances of upriver stocks and fishery performance in-season and adjust fisheries accordingly. As a reminder, in-season fishery actions may occur with short notice (e.g., <24 hours). Staff will make every attempt to provide as much notice as possible for potential action related to fishery closures but cannot guarantee any set amount of notice due to the volatile nature of catch rates, changing CWT/stock composition, and run size updates for URB fall Chinook.

WA Tributary Recreational Handout – See “WDFW Region 5 Tributary Salmon and Steelhead Proposals” handout for additional information.

*Oregon/Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife
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