Columbia & Snake Rivers North of Falcon 2024 Salmon & Steelhead Seasons

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Outline

- NOF/PFMC Schedule & Commenting
- Harvest Management Jurisdictions
- Forecast & Returns
- 2023 Fishery Summaries
- 2024 Forecasts & Proposed Seasons



https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input

Fishing & Shellfishing / Managing fish populations / North of Falcon / Public input

Fishing & Shellfishing

Fishing regulations

Shellfishing regulations

Places to go fishing

Fishing and stocking reports

Fishing and shellfishing basics

Managing fish populations

Tribal fishing

Commercial fishing

Fishing events

Monofilament recovery and recycling program

Public input

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 <u>current rule-making activity</u> webpage.

Recreational fisheries

The department is considering amending current recreational fishing rules resulting from stakeholder recommendations made during the 2024 North of Falcon process.

The recreational fishing rules based on North of Falcon recommendations change from year to year to reflect resource availability and to achieve conservation goals. Amendments to recreational fishing rules are needed to implement the agreed-upon changes.

Documents

CR-101 – filed as WSR 24-03-120 on January 19, 2024

Public comments

You may submit comments using the field below. You may also leave comments by sending an email to <u>recreational-fisheries@PublicInput.com</u> or by leaving a voicemail message at 855-925-2801 and entering project code 3210.

Submit your comment below:	
	Your name (optional)
	Name
	Comment

Post Publicly



NOF/PFMC Schedule

Meetings

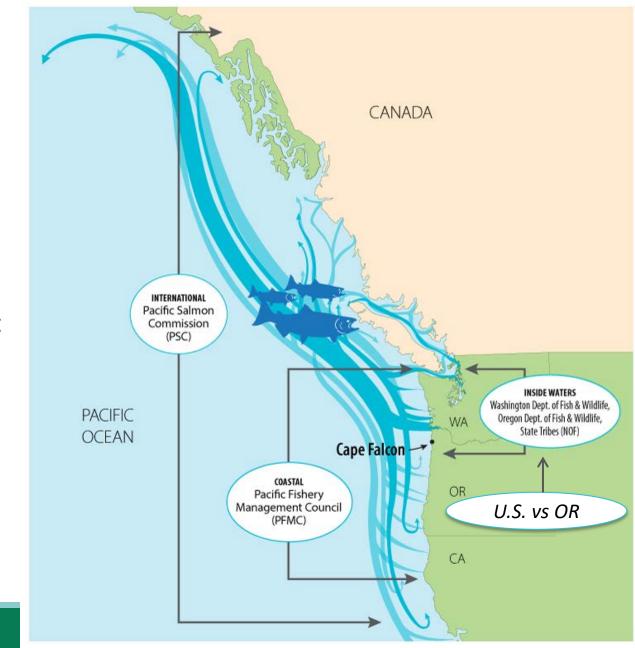
- March 1: Forecast
- March 6-11: Pacific Fishery Management Council #1
 - Develops ocean fishing options
- March 13: Puget Sound, Coast #1
- March 21: Columbia River (Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 at Pasco)
- March 25: Washington Ocean hearing
- March 27: NE McNary (Hanford, Upper Columbia, Snake)
- March 27: Puget Sound, Coast #2
- April 6-11: Pacific Fishery Management Council #2
 - Finalize seasons



Harvest Management Jurisdictions

Fishery managers must weigh many 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 splitting 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.



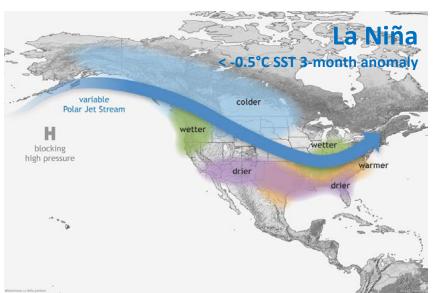
Jurisdictions

- <u>U.S. v Washington</u>: 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.
- <u>U.S. v Oregon</u>: A federal court proceeding issued in 1969 that enforces the fishing rights of Columbia River treaty tribes (Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs). The associated management plan details salmon and steelhead allocations between treaty and non-treaty fishers. <u>U.S. v</u> Oregon Management Agreement (2018-2027) provides treaty/non-treaty allocations and ESA limits.

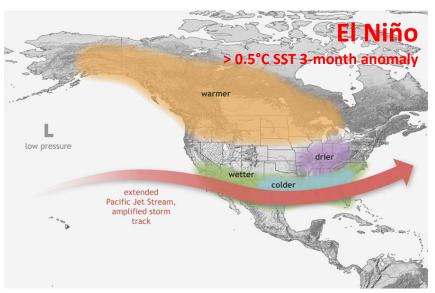
Jurisdictions

- 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.

Three-peat La Niña Aug 2020-Jan 2023 was favorable for salmon marine survival





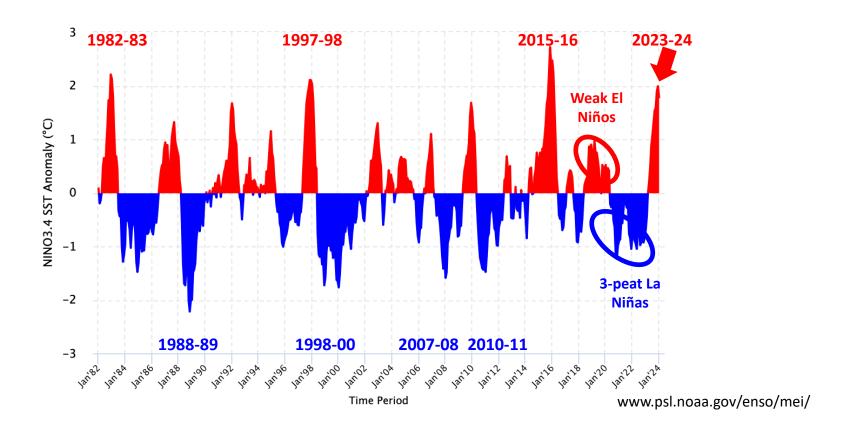


Bad for PNW Salmon

www.climate.gov



Strong El Niño's/La Niña's (1982-2024)





Salmon Indicators: Bad -> Fair -> Good

	ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RIC &	PDO (Sum Dec-March)	23	9	5	17		25	16	21	18	13	7	2	20	6	4	11	14	26	24	22	1.5	19	12	8	3	1
ATMOSPHERIC	PDO (Sum May-Sept)	14	5	11	8	13	23	18	21	17	19	7	16	9	4	3	10	24	26	25	20	15	22	12	6	2	1
ATA .	ONI (Average Jan-June)	25	1	1	9	17	19	18	21	10	15	3	13	22	6	8	10	12	23	26	16	7	24	20	5	4	14
	SST NDBC buoys (°C; May-Sept)	21	7	9	5	6	13	26	14	2	17	1	12	3	8	10	19	24	23	22	15	18	25	11	4	20	16
CAL	Upper 20 m T (°C; Nov-Mar)	25	14	11	13	8	19	20	16	17	7	1	12	22	6	4	9	3	26	24	23	18	21	2	10	15	5
LOCAL PHYSICAL	Upper 20 m T (°C; May-Sept)	18	12	14	5	1	3	26	21	10	11	2	7	19	9	8	20	24	15	16	13	17	25	23	4	22	6
Loca	Deep Temp (°C; May-Sept)	25	7	10	5	1					_	_						~-	~-			~~		26	3	23	22
	Deep Salinity (May-Sept)	25	4	12	5	7						_			0		n							24	1	23	19
	Copepod richness (May-Sept anom)	24	3	1	11	10		r		u		=	V		Ш				18	3 U	W.	3		7	5	2	8
	N copepod biomass (May-Sept anom)	24	19	14	15	6		18	25	20	16	9	13	-11	3	5	7	8	22	26	23	10	4	2	1	17	12
Į.	S copepod biomass (May-Sept anom)	26	2	7	4	3	18	20	25	17	14	1	9	21	13	10	8	15	23	24	22	16	19	12	5	6	11
LOCAL BIOLOGICAL	Biological transition	24	14	10	9	12	19	15	23	18	5	1	2	21	3	13	6	6	24	24	22	17	19	8	11	4	16
AL BIC	Nearshore Ichthyoplankton (Jan-Mar)	21	4	14	8	1	25	26	20	11	22	3	17	2	10	5	13	23	18	19	16	12	24	9	6	15	7
3	Near & offshore Ichthyoplankton (community index Jan-Mar)	11	6	4	8	10	13	20	24	1	16	3	12	18	5	2	7	9	22	25	26	21	23	19	15	14	17
	Chinook salmon juvenile catch	23	2	7	20	6	10	18	25	14	12	1	8	5	16	3	4	9	17	22	26	21	15	24	13	11	19
	Coho salmon juvenile catch	24	13	21	5	7	6	23	25	19	2	4	10	11	20	15	1	12	18	17	26	3	16	22	14	9	8

Physical indicators:
Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) the best

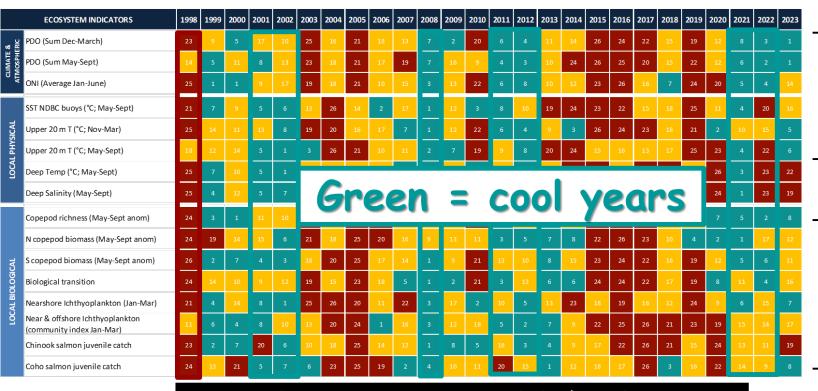
Biological indicators (e.g., prey) were good to average in 2023

Juveniles entering ocean in 2023 = Ranked 11th out of 26 years

www.nwfsc.noaa.gov



Salmon Indicators: **Bad** -> Fair -> Good



Physical indicators:
Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) the best

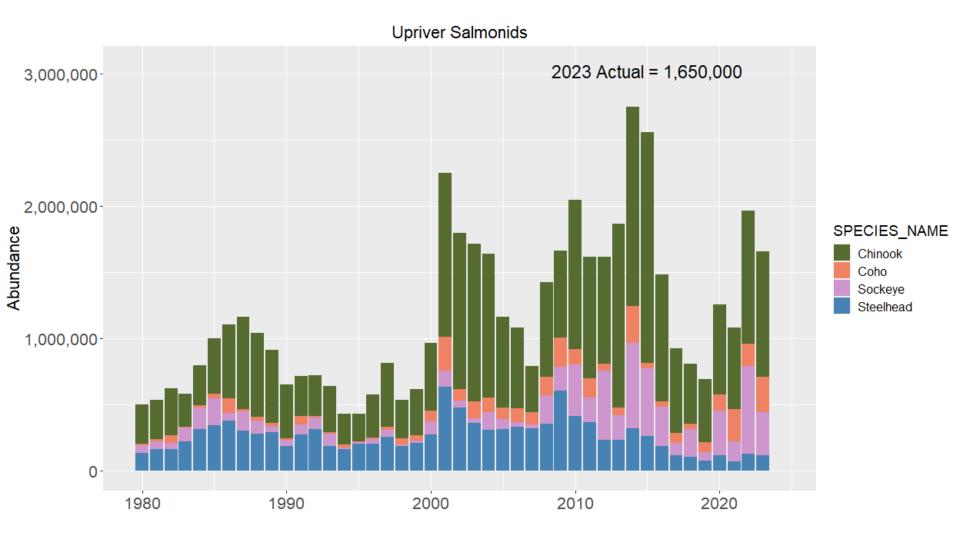
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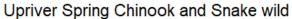
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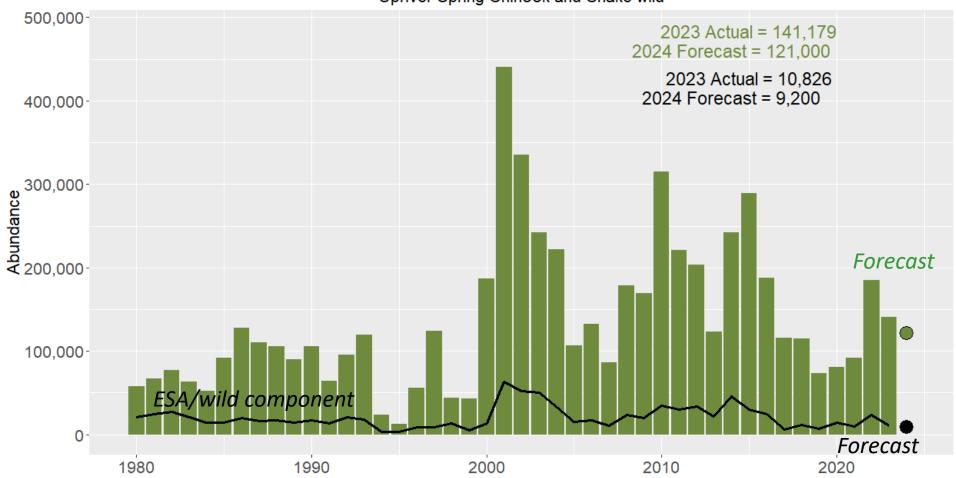


Forecasts & Returns

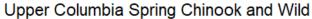


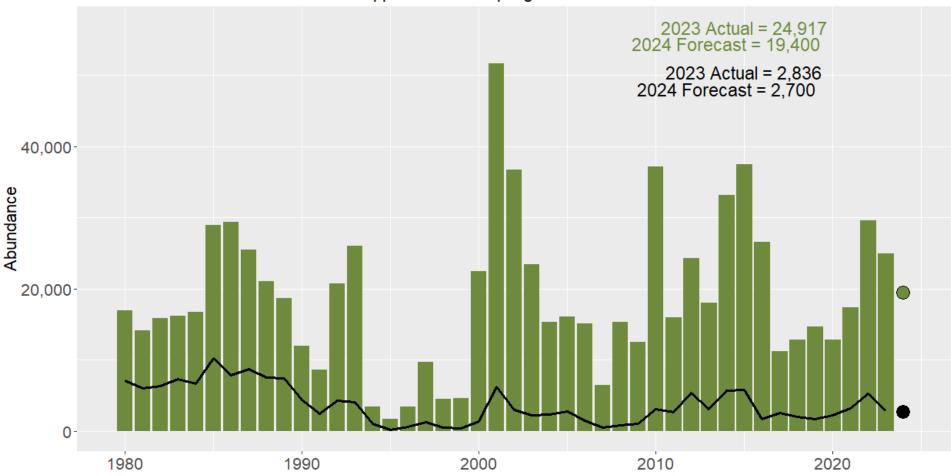




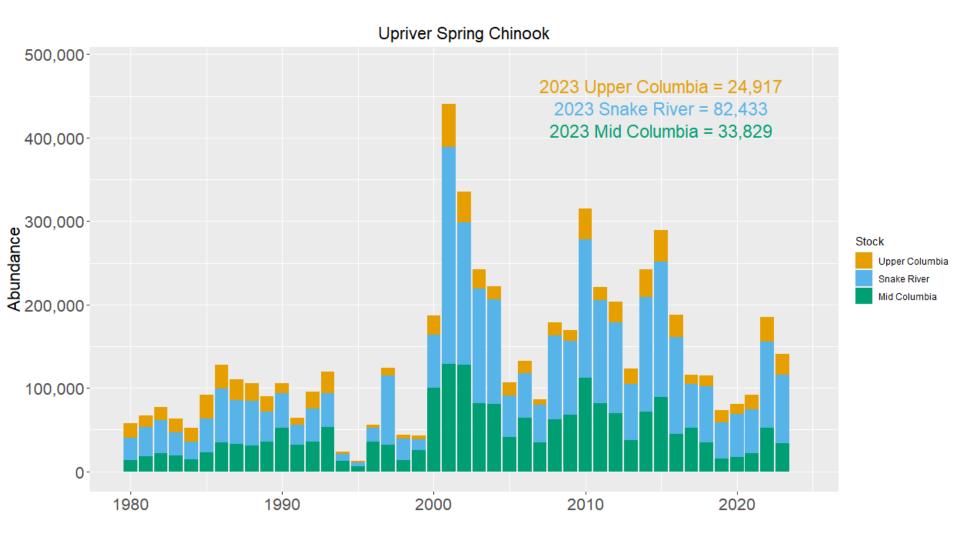




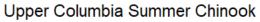


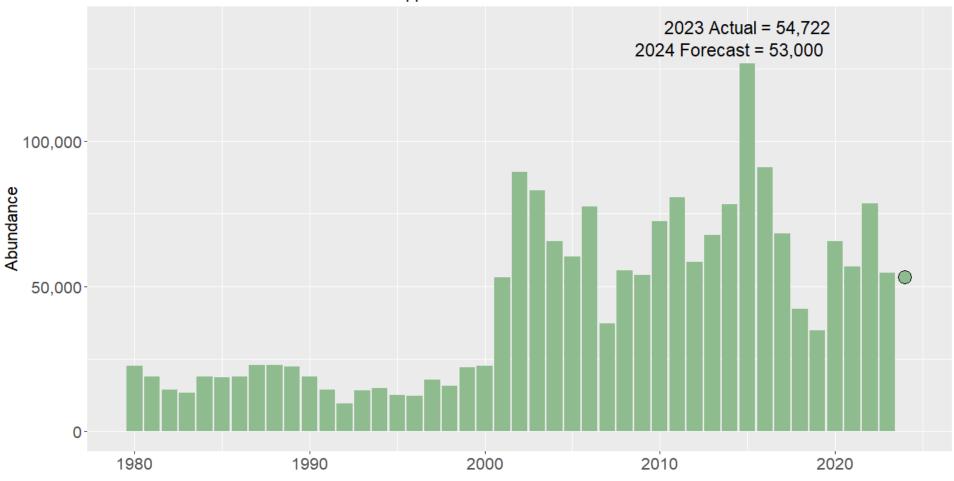




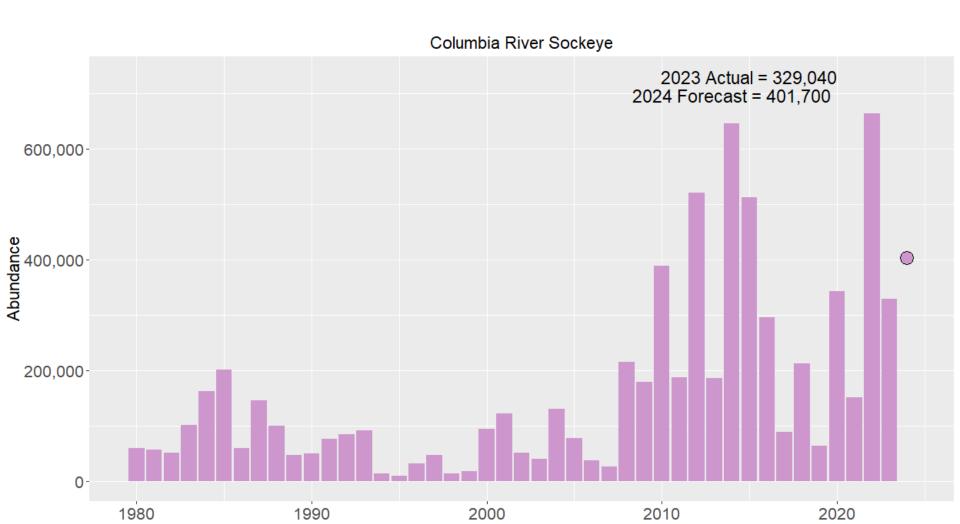




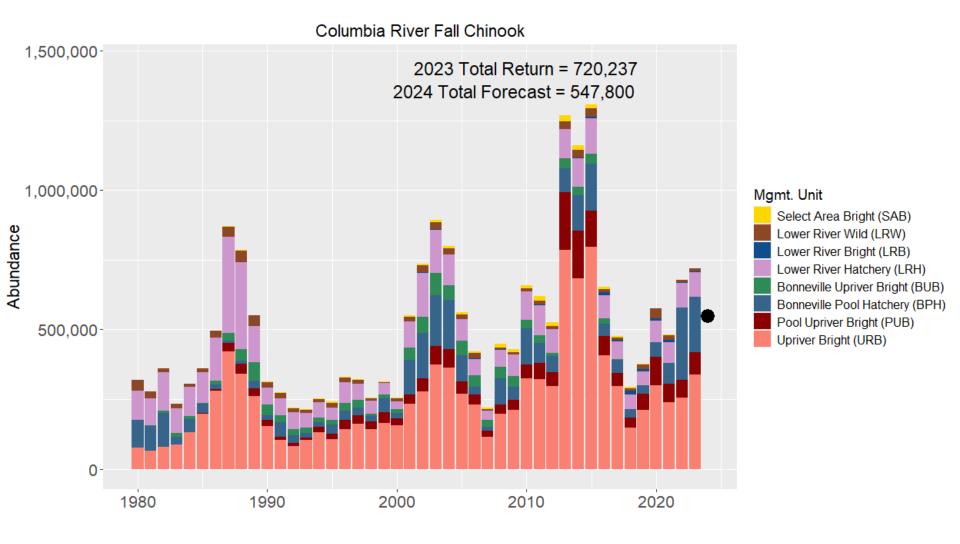




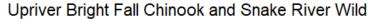


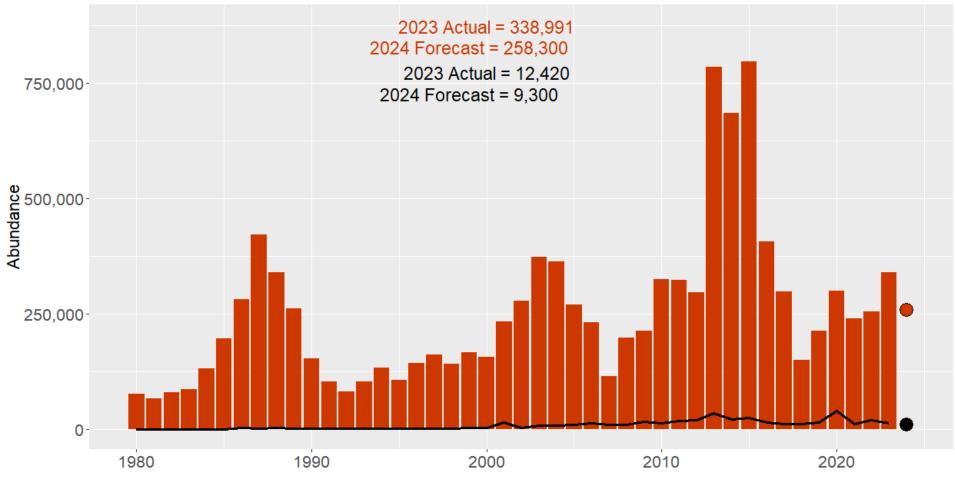




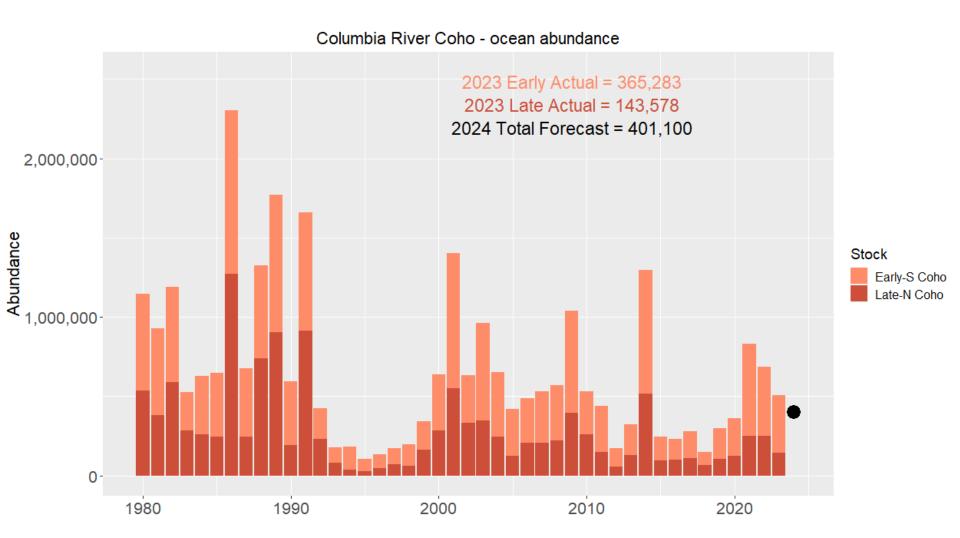




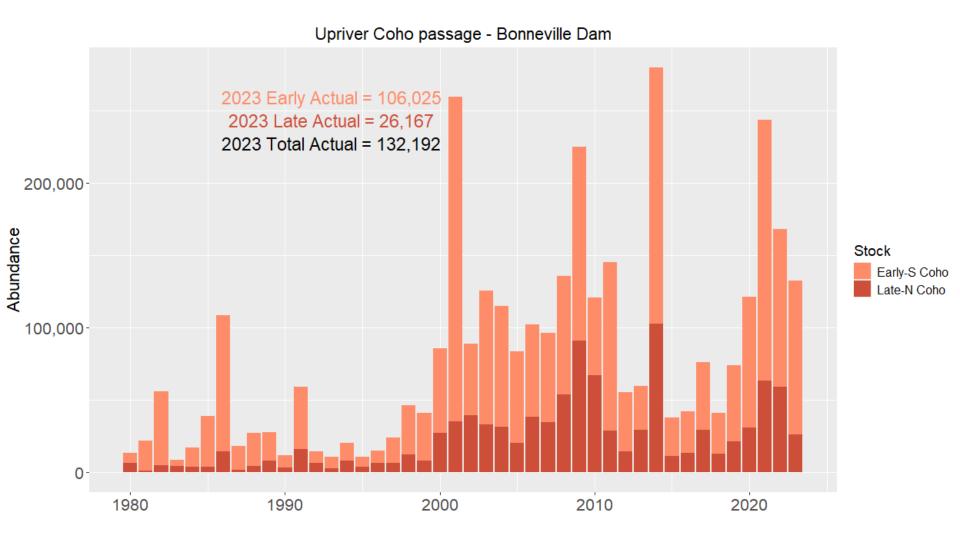




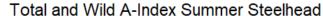


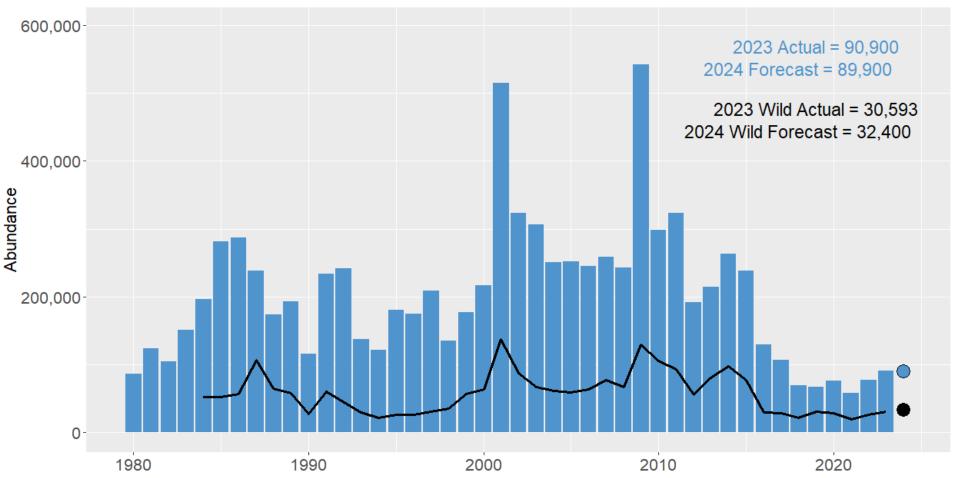




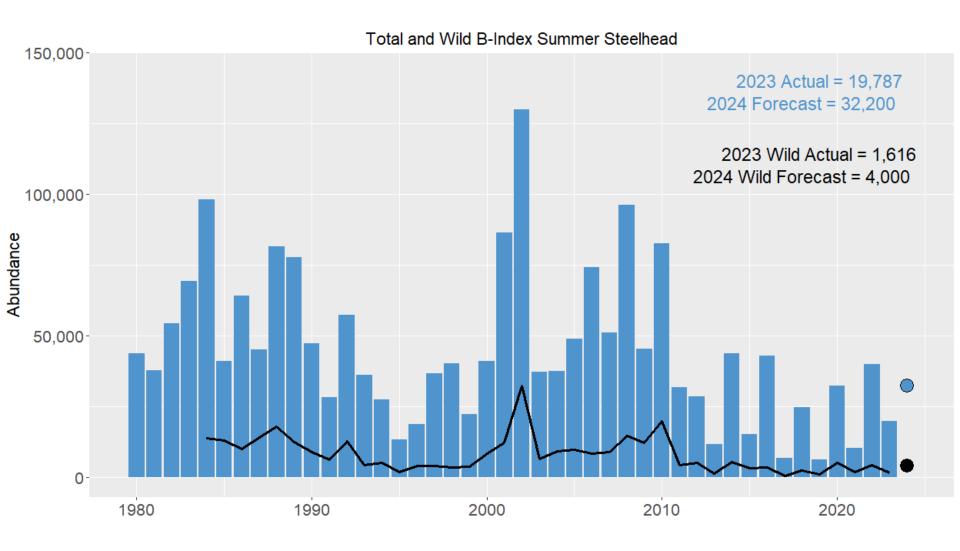














2023 Fishery Summaries

Stock	Area	Season
Upriver Spring Chinook	 Yakima Snake Icicle 	 Closed Open 16 days between May 4-Jun 10 May 16-Jun 30
UCR Summer Chinook	 Hanford Reach PRD to RID RID to WED WED to Brewster Br. Brewster Br. To CJD Wenatchee River Entiat River Chelan River Okanogan/Similkameen Rivers 	 Jun 16-Aug 15 Jul 1-Aug 31 Jul 1-Oct 15 Jul 16-Sep 30 Jul 1-Oct 15 Aug 1-Sep 30 Jul 16-Sep 30 Jul 16-Sep 30 Jul 17-Sep 30 Jul 17-Sep 15 or Oct 15
Sockeye	 Hanford Reach PRD to RID RID to WED WED to Brewster Br. Brewster Br. To CJD Lake Wenatchee Wenatchee River Okanogan/Similkameen Rivers 	 Jun 16-Jul 19 Jul 1-Aug 31 Jul 1-Oct 15 Jul 16-Sep 30 Jul 1-Oct 15 Jul 26-Aug 31 Aug 1-Sep 30 Jul 1-Sep 15 or Oct 15
Upriver Summer Steelhead	 Hanford Reach Snake Upper Columbia 	 Closed Sep 1-March 31 Closed
URB Fall Chinook	 Hanford Reach Snake PRD to RID 	 Aug 16-Oct 15/31 Aug 18-Oct 31 Sep 1-Oct 15



Mixed bag of forecasts.

Stock	Forecast	Comments
Upriver Spring Chinook	121,000	79% of 10-year average; Snake (63,500), Yakima (2,400), Icicle (4,500-5,000)
Upper Columbia Summer Chinook	53,000	76% of 10-yr avg; 29,000 escapement goal to Col. River mouth
Upriver Bright Fall Chinook	258,300	70% of 10-yr avg; Hanford Reach (64,800, ~22% wild); Snake River (26,100, ~32% wild)
Upriver Summer Steelhead	A-index: 89,900 (32,400 wild) B-index: 32,200 (4,000 wild)	A-index 77% of 10-yr avg (wild: 80%) B-index 129% of 10-yr avg (wild: 95%)
Sockeye	401,700	119% of 10-year average; Okanogan (288,700); Lake Wenatchee (97,000)

Mainstem Columbia River: Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- Spring Chinook: Similar forecast for lower river stocks and a reduced abundance for upriver stocks. Pre-update fishery open through April 5.
- Summer Chinook: Anticipate limited fishing opportunity.
- Sockeye: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- Fall Chinook:
 - In-season stability measures will be considered to reduce risk of closures. May include elements of mark-selective (Buoy 10), salmonid angling day/block closures, consider effort shift, and high handle rates.
 - Anticipate fishing opportunity as abundance is similar to last year.
- <u>Coho</u>: Anticipate harvest opportunity. Majority of harvest occurs in Buoy 10.
- <u>Upriver summer steelhead</u>: Closures with very limited hatchery harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent year regulations.
- Other: Barbless hooks required.



Mainstem Columbia River: Bonneville Dam to Hwy 395 at Pasco

- Spring Chinook: Pre-update fishery open April 1 through May 2.
- Summer Chinook: Anticipate limited fishing opportunity.
- Sockeye: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- <u>Fall Chinook</u>: Upriver bright/Snake River wild Chinook catches may limit fishery in-season.
- <u>Coho:</u> Forecast large enough to provide harvest opportunity.
- <u>Upriver summer steelhead:</u> Closures with very limited hatchery harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent year regulations.
- Other: Barbless hooks required.



Region 5 (WA tributaries upstream to Dalles Dam)

Fall Chinook and coho:

- Preseason forecast for 73,500 LRH (tules) and 8,100 LRW (Lewis/Sandy brights)
- Tributaries open under permanent pamphlet rules except for the Green River where the proposed daily salmon limit will be 3 coho adults, but no Chinook retention.
- Tributaries without rule change proposals:
 - Elochoman River
 - Cowlitz River
 - Toutle/NF/SF Rivers
 - Lewis River

- Kalama River
- Washougal River
- Drano Lake
- Klickitat River



Region 5

Steelhead Conservation Strategy Continuations:

- Wind, Drano, White Salmon, and Klickitat cold water refugia reaches
- July October: Steelhead angling/retention closed, night closure for salmon and steelhead



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

Spring Chinook:

Yakima River

- Preseason forecast 2,370 adult chinook including 1,490 Cle Elum Hatchery
- Closed unless actual passage at Prosser Dam comes in significantly above forecast
- 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

Both Areas

- Daily limit 6 salmon
- Up to 4 adults may be retained, 1 Chinook
- Release wild adult chinook
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement
- Barbed hooks allowed.





Region 3 (continued)

Fall Chinook & Coho:

Yakima River:

- Pre-season forecast for 2,398 adult chinook
- Fishery planned for Sept 15-November 15 (Dates shifted to allow later opportunity for coho)

Hanford Reach: Forecast 64,800 adults (14,000 wild + 50,800 hatchery)

- Daily limit 6 salmon. Up to 1 adult may be retained. Coho & Chinook. Early closure possible.
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement. Barbed hooks allowed.
- Fourth year of adult coho returns to Ringold Springs Hatchery.
- Hwy 395 Br. To I-182 Br. (CRC 534)
 - September 15 to December 31
- I-182 Br. To Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing (CRC 535)
 - September 1 to December 31 (extended for RSH coho fishery)
- Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing to Priest Rapids Dam, (CRC 536)
 - August 16 to October 15

Ringold Steelhead:

- Potential for early closure based on low forecast
- Open from I-182 (Richland) upstream to the Hanford Townsite powerline crossing
- Open October 1 March 31, bank only April 1-15
- Daily limit 1 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.



Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Spring Chinook:
 - Icicle River
 - Preliminary forecast of 4,500-5,000 hatchery-origin spring Chinook
 - Forecast certainty not known until PIT tagged spring Chinook start passing through and detected at mainstem dams which occurs in April/May
 - Very optimistic there will be a season, but technically TBD
 - Open via emergency rule change
 - Season structure likely same as in 2023 (mid- to late-May through June)
 - Daily limit 2 or 3 hatchery spring Chinook (adult or jack)
 - Mandatory retention of hatchery spring Chinook
 - Night closure



Forecasts & Proposed Seasons Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Mainstem CR Summer Chinook & Sockeye Seasons:
 - Seasons will be listed in the 2024-2025 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 4 sockeye, and release coho and wild adult chinook
 - Use of two poles permitted with endorsement
 - 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 (<u>Potential area chinook closure around mouth of Okanogan River</u>)
- Tributary Summer Chinook Seasons:
 - Seasons will be listed in the 2023-2024 Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet
 - Check sport fishing rules pamphlet for complete details
 - Wenatchee River:
 - Aug 1-Sep 30
 - Daily limit 6 salmon, minimum size 12", no more than 2 adult hatchery chinook, and release sockeye, coho, and wild adult chinook
 - Night closure and selective gear rules (except bait allowed)



Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Tributary Summer Chinook Seasons (cont.):
 - Entiat River:
 - Jul 16-Sep 30
 - Daily limit 6 chinook, minimum size 12", and release all salmon other than chinook.
 - Night closure
 - Chelan River:
 - Jul 16-Oct 15
 - Daily limit 6 salmon, minimum size 12", no more than 2 adult hatchery chinook, and release sockeye, coho, and wild adult chinook
 - Night closure and anti-snagging rule
 - Okanogan and Similkameen Rivers:
 - **Potential salmon fishing closure



Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Lake Wenatchee Sockeye Season:
 - Optimistic there will be a season, but technically TBD
 - Pre-season forecast of 97,000
 - Monitor the run in-season
 - Open via emergency rule change

Fall Chinook Seasons:

- Seasons will be listed in the 2024-2025 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
- PRD-RID: Sep 1-Oct 15



Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Coho Seasons:
 - TBD
 - Based off in-season run over PRD
 - Open via emergency rule change
 - Icicle River (October through November) and mainstem Columbia River (mid-September through mid-October; coincides with open summer Chinook seasons).
- Steelhead Seasons:
 - TBD
 - 2023 was the highest return (~8,400) since 2015 (14,041)
 - Minimum run size for total steelhead and natural-origin steelhead over PRD required before recreational fishing can open
 - Potential opener via emergency rule change



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.
 - Allocation is 493, we do not anticipate opening on weekend days.
 - Daily limit 6 salmon, only one hatchery 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.
- Lyons Ferry
 - Similar to the fishery held in 2023.
 - Fishery open early September, Thursday through Sunday, under emergency rule
 - Daily limit of two adult Chinook, one of which may be unmarked. No limit on jacks.
 - If wild impacts are reached fishery may change to mark selective.



Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

- <u>Coho:</u> Possibility for opportunity, forecast is lower than the last couple of years.
- <u>Steelhead</u>: As with recent years low return estimated for 2023/2024 season.
 - WDFW will evaluate Steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam and Lower Granite Dam and will adjust seasons through emergency rules.
 - Seasons could include reduce limits, size restrictions or area closures.



Summer Steelhead:

- 2017, 2019-2023 fishery limitations were primarily based on low Brun forecasts, with 2020-2023 also focused on A-run. Fisheries were structured with block closure to be protective of fish as they progressed upstream.
 - Run size will be updated in-season.
- Continued low A-run and B-run forecasts relative to pre-2017 returns of runs larger than 200,000 fish.
 - 2024 forecast is 128% of recent 5-year average return as compared to 52% of the 20-year average return.
 - There is forecast uncertainty with regards to one-aged ocean returning fish. A-index run is primarily comprised of these oneaged ocean fish. Run size will be updated inseason (mid-August for A-index and mid-September for B-index).



Proposed Season Structure for 2024:

- Rolling block closures (e.g., 2017, 2019-2023) 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 open fishing but possibly abbreviated seasons on the Snake River and tributaries.
- Do not expect to fish the upper Columbia River and tributaries above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Abbreviated hatchery 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.



Columbia River mainste	em and tribu	itary s	umme	r steelhead	regula	tion s	ummary fo	r 2024 (preli	minary).			
Water Body	June 16-June 30	Ju	ly	August	Septe	mber	October	November	December			
Columbia River mainstem												
Below I-5 Bridge		Daily l	Daily limit 1 Closed to retention Daily limit 1 Closed to retention									
I5-Bridge to Bonneville Dam		Daily l							Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)			
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily l	Daily limit 1 Closed to retention									
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam	Daily illinic 1		Daily l	imit 1			Closed to	retention				
John Day Dam to McNary Dam			Daily l	limit 1			Closed to	retention				
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco			Daily l	limit 1			Closed to	retention				
Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam	Perm.	Regs (C	losed to	angling for ste	elhead)	Daily limit 1.	Daily limit 1. Ringold Springs Hatchery only (ADRV).					
Columbia River tributaries	•											
Wind/White Salmon (WA) tributary lower reaches Drano Lake (WA)	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)							Perm. Regs (Daily limit: 3 Wind R; 2 White Salmon R) Daily limit 1				
Klickitat (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)							Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)				
Deschutes River (OR) mouth	Daily limit	: 1		nal Angling Sanction		Perm.	Regs (defaults	(defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)				
Snake River												
Mouth upstream to Couse Creek boat ramp	Perm. Regs (C	gs (Closed to steelhead retention) TBD e-rule published by Sept 1										
Couse Creek boat ramp upstream to WA/OR/ID stateline	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention) TBD e-rule published by Sept 1											



Comments can be submitted here: https://wdfw.wa.gov/not

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

Region 5, (360) 696-6211 or TeamRidgefield@dfw.wa.gov