PS Rec Updates
MA-10 Discussion

November 30, 2021
Current Season Plan

• January 1 – March 31
• Two fish limit
• No other restrictions
  • Open 7 days a week
  • No gear restrictions
2022 Fishery Controls

• Total Chinook salmon encounters in winter Area 10 is 8,475
• WDFW will also manage to:
  • 1,105 total unmarked encounters
  • 7,319 total sublegal encounters
• Fishery closed when one of these criteria is met
# 2021 vs 2022 Fishery Controls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishery Control</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
<th>2021-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Encounters</td>
<td>3,751</td>
<td>8,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarked Encounters</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>1,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sublegal Encounters</td>
<td>3,224</td>
<td>7,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concerns

- In 2021, season lasted just 18 days due to unmarked encounters.
Concerns

• We want to be cautious with our approach and maximize the season length even with increased encounters

• Remember there is always a couple days lag in estimates
Alternative Management Ideas

- **Partial Week Opening**
  - Weekend only – Saturday through Monday
  - Holiday weekends included
  
  **Benefits:**
  - Decrease the overall fishing effort
  - Gives sampling unit staff time to assess catches in between weekend openings, analyze test fishing data, and provide updated catch estimates to managers.
  - Weekday, weekend, and holidays to accommodate schedules
Alternative Management Ideas

- **Later Season Start**
  - Preliminary work shows a predictable growth pattern among the primary age classes of Chinook in MA-10 during the winter fishery.
  - Delay the start of the winter fishery based on growth rates
  - Benefits:
    - More legal sized fish are likely to be encountered in the fishery later in season
    - Test fishing in early season will provide info on LM status and catch rates
Alternative Management Ideas

• **Decrease Daily Limit**
  • Early indications are that high effort could lead to a higher than predicted number of sublegal encounters.
  • Similar to MA-11 winter Chinook fishery
  • Supported both by MA-11 anglers and the Puget Sound Sport Fishing Advisory Group.

• **Benefits:**
  • This change was made to potentially reduce sublegal encounters
  • Conservative approach to available encounters
Thoughts?

Things to consider:

- Larger number of encounters this year
- Effort has been consistently high
- Test fishing will continue throughout season on full Murthy schedule
- Gear study will continue while test fishing is occurring

We want to hear from you!
Questions/Comments?