

2025 Columbia River North of Falcon Public Meeting

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2025 (SUMMER/FALL) FISHERIES

All data preliminary and subject to change

April 3, 2025

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 2024 Fall Report (July 5, 2024) and the 2025 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (January 31, 2025). The 2025 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>

FISHERY GUIDANCE AND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

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

Federal/State Endangered Species Acts

- Chinook, chum, coho, sockeye, steelhead
- Annual 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
 - Guidance specific to allocation of harvestable surplus to in-river non-treaty fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam (<PRD) is not concurrent. Oregon rule allocates sharing as 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Washington policy sharing is 80% recreational and 20% commercial with abundances below 50,001 fish, 70% recreational and 30% commercial from 50,001-100,000 fish, and 60% recreational and 40% commercial above 100,000 fish.
 - Policy guidance regarding allowable summer-season mainstem commercial gears is not concurrent. Oregon rules do not allow use of gillnets, while Washington policy does.
- Sockeye
 - Policy guidance regarding allocation of sockeye ESA 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.
- 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.
 - Oregon rule allows for gillnets to be used in the mainstem in Zones 4-5 only. Washington policy allows for gillnets to be used in Zones 1-5.
 - Policy guidance for recreational fishery Chinook retention season objectives is not concurrent. The Oregon rule provides guidance while the Washington policy does not.

- Oregon rule provides season objectives for recreational fall Chinook fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam; if season objectives are predicted to be met, additional opportunity for mainstem commercial fisheries shall be provided.
 - Buoy 10: August 1 through Labor Day (34 days; assuming Labor Day is September 3).
 - Tongue Point to Warrior Rock: August 1 through September 7 as non-mark selective (non-MSF) and an additional week of mark-selective (MSF) September 8-14 (45 days).
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam: August 1 through October 31 (92 days).
- Coho
 - Impacts on ESA-listed LCN coho 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. Oregon rules do not allow use of gillnets in Zones 1-3 while Washington policy does.
- Commercial Alternative Gear Fisheries
 - The states created a limited alternative-gear fishery (up to 3 pound-nets and 3 seines) beginning in 2024 as part of a multi-year evaluation conducted through WDFW's Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) process. OR/WA set aside two percentage points of the ESA impacts from 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

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook
- Sockeye

2024 RETURNS AND FISHERIES REVIEW

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook (summer Chinook)

- Preseason forecast: 52,600 fish
- Postseason: 42,511 fish (81% of forecast)

Sockeye

- Preseason forecast: 401,700 fish
- Postseason: 761,682 fish (190% of forecast)

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

- Preseason
 - URB forecast = 261,800
 - Snake River wild (SRW) forecast = 9,300
 - Total allowable URB harvest rate (HR) = 45%
 - Non-Treaty fisheries HR allowed = 15%
 - Treaty Indian fisheries HR allowed = 30%

- Postseason
 - URB = 318,100 (122% of forecast)
 - SRW = 12,660 (136% of forecast)
 - Total URB HR = 34.7% (45% HR allowed)
 - Non-Treaty fisheries URB HR = 15.8% (15% HR allowed)
 - Treaty Indian fisheries URB HR = 18.9% (30% HR allowed)

Lower Columbia River Tule (LCR) Fall Chinook

- Preseason
 - Lower River Hatchery tule (LRH) forecast = 85,500
 - Total allowable ocean and Columbia River exploitation rate (ER) = 41%
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER expectation = 40.2%
 - Ocean ER = 29.7%; Columbia River ER = 10.5%
- Postseason
 - LRH = 114,430 (134% of forecast)
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER = 30.8% (41% ER allowed)
 - Ocean ER = 24.5%; Columbia River ER = 6.3%

Columbia River Coho

- Preseason
 - Columbia River coho (ocean abundance) forecast = 401,100 (227,500 early stock, 173,600 late stock)
 - River mouth forecast = 279,900 (171,800 early stock, 108,100 late stock)
 - Total allowable ocean and Columbia River (Lower River Natural (LCN)) ER = 23%
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER expectation = 23.0%
 - Ocean ER = 15.4%; Columbia River ER (including Buoy 10) = 7.7%
- Postseason
 - Columbia River coho (ocean abundance) = 737,000 (184% of forecast; 496,800 early stock, 240,200 late stock)
 - River mouth = 603,240 (215% of forecast; 424,604 early stock, 178,635 late stock)
 - Total ocean and Columbia River ER = 11.8% (23% ER allowed)
 - Ocean ER = 9.1%; Columbia River ER (including Buoy 10) = 2.6%

Summer Steelhead

- Preseason forecasts and post-season estimates of total abundance are not made for lower river Skamania summer steelhead. A minimum of 66,200 hatchery-origin lower river Skamania-stock steelhead are estimated to have returned in 2024.
- Preseason
 - Bonneville Dam passage (upriver Skamania, A-Index, B-Index forecast = 126,200
 - Upriver Skamania = 4,000 (1,800 wild)
 - A-Index = 89,900 (32,400 wild)
 - B-Index = 32,200 (4,000 wild)
 - Non-Treaty ESA impact limit = 2.0% wild A-Index and 2.0% wild B-Index

- Postseason
 - Bonneville Dam passage (upriver Skamania, A-Index, B-Index = 179,154 (142% of forecast)
 - Upriver Skamania = 9,409 (235% of forecast; 3,484 wild)
 - A-index = 121,579 (135% of forecast; 36,543 wild)
 - B-index = 48,166 (150% of forecast; 4,115 wild)

Recreational Fisheries

- The preseason plan for summer Chinook retention was to be open June 16–19 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge to Bonneville Dam, and June 16–30 from Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). Sockeye retention was also expected to be open through July 31. 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 <PRD. Despite summer Chinook catches downstream of Bonneville Dam being higher than projected, the Chinook fishery <PRD closed effective July 1 following the preseason plan. Due to the recreational ESA sockeye allocation being met, sockeye retention was closed from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge on June 28.
 - Total catch estimates for the summer fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam include 798 adult Chinook kept (670 released), 4,143 sockeye kept (400 released), and 3,957 hatchery steelhead kept (2,860 released) from 34,996 angler trips.
 - For the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to PRD, summer season catches included 114 adult Chinook kept (52 released), 7,857 sockeye kept (137 released), and 80 steelhead released from 14,821 angler trips.
 - Summer Chinook fisheries (including tributaries) upstream of PRD were open from July 1 – August 15 excluding several sub-area closures. Sockeye fisheries were open July 1 – September 20.
 - Total catch estimates include 3,320 adult Chinook kept (574 released), 89,905 sockeye kept (33 released), and 74 steelhead released from 41,869 angler trips.
- The fall 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 – September 15 and then open October 1 – 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 must be released. Steelhead was to be closed August 1 – October 31 in the Bonneville Pool and September 1 – December 31 upstream of The Dalles Dam to Highway 395. Preseason modeling for this fishery included 5,950 adult Chinook.
 - The Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge fishery occurred as planned through September 15. In-season action added Chinook retention in several steps from September 16 – December 31 due to available URBS. From The Dalles Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge from November 1 – December 31, hatchery steelhead retention was allowed in addition to the preseason plan based on in-season abundance information.
 - Season total catch estimates include 11,811 kept adult Chinook (3,000 released), 5,215 coho kept (789 released), and 36 hatchery steelhead kept plus 300 steelhead released from 45,800 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 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, September 5–11 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention only. Salmonid angling was expected to be closed in this area from September 12–30. Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island upstream to Bonneville Dam was expected to be open to Chinook and hatchery coho retention August 1 – September 15 and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention. Salmonid angling was expected to be closed in this area from September 16–30. In both areas, steelhead retention was planned to be closed August 1 – October 31. Preseason harvest expectations (kept plus release mortalities) for both areas combined included 24,980 Chinook; about 3,250 coho were available for these fisheries.
 - The west Puget Island to Warrior Rock fishery occurred as planned with non-MSF through September 4 and MSF September 5–11. In-season action added Chinook and hatchery coho retention September 20 – December 31 due to available URBs and remaining LRH balance estimated in-season utilizing Coded Wire Tags and other associated biological data.
 - The Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam fishery occurred as planned through September 15; in-season action added Chinook and hatchery coho retention September 16 – December 31 due to available URBs and a remaining LRH balance.
 - Combined season total catch estimates for both subareas include 31,850 kept adult Chinook (3,758 released), 6,135 coho kept (2,506 released), and 1,214 steelhead released from 117,900 angler trips.
- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island recreational fishery preseason plan was for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention to be open August 1–29, August 30 – September 3 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and September 4 – December 31 for retention of hatchery coho. The daily adult bag limit was two fish but no more than one could be a Chinook. Wild coho could not be retained, and steelhead could not be retained from August 1 – October 31. Preseason harvest expectations (kept plus release mortalities) included 39,570 Chinook and up to 29,000 coho were available for this fishery.
 - The Chinook fishery occurred as planned with MSF regulations through August 29, non-MSF regulations through September 3, and retention closed from September 4–11. In-season action added Chinook retention using non-MSF regulations from September 12 – December 31 due to available URBs and a remaining LRH balance. Retention of hatchery coho was open from August 1 – December 31 as planned preseason.
 - Season total catch estimates include 18,654 kept Chinook (18,245 released), 35,533 coho kept (22,830 released), and 146 steelhead released from about 102,400 angler trips.

Commercial Fisheries

- A mainstem 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 4 and expected to continue into the week of August 25, with fishing periods occurring 1-3 nights per week. The fishery structure was expected to include eight 9-hour periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The landings expectation included 29,320 adult Chinook.
 - The actual Early Fall season was prosecuted as planned preseason. Landings included 28,002 Chinook and 2,045 coho in nine periods.
- The Late Fall (mid/late September through October) Chinook-target fishery would begin the week of September 15, dependent on the remaining commercial share, updated URB run size, and ESA-impact limits. Fishery structure was expected to include 10-hour periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 1,590 adult Chinook and 3,800 coho were set aside for this fishery in preseason modeling.
 - Twenty-one Chinook-directed fishing periods (September 12 – November 1) occurred in the Late Fall season due to available URBs and LRH; landings included 17,235 Chinook and 1,742 coho.
- Zones 4-5 deliveries per period for the fall Chinook-directed fisheries averaged 46 in the Early Fall and 11 during the Late Fall fisheries. Ex-vessel value averaged \$2.21/lb for Chinook and \$1.57/lb for coho during the Zone 4-5 fisheries.
- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery coho using 3.75-inch multifilament tangle nets were expected to begin as early as the week of September 15 and continue through October 31 with up to five fishing periods per week (Mon–Fri) in Zones 1-3, except closing at 6pm on Fridays. Up to 4,700 hatchery coho and 2,000 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery in preseason modeling.
 - The coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear consisted of 33 fishing periods during September 16 – October 31 with an estimated 5,099 adult hatchery coho and 1,344 Chinook landed. An estimated 2,559 unmarked adult coho and 171 steelhead were released.
 - Ex-vessel value averaged \$3.25/lb for Chinook and \$1.52/lb for coho in this fishery.
- A limited entry alternative-gear commercial fishery targeting hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho with live-capture regulations in Zones 1-3 was expected to begin no earlier than August 8 and planned to continue through mid-October. Participants for the fishery were selected by lottery; expected gears include up to three pound nets and three seines (one beach and two purse). Up to 2,600 hatchery coho and 3,500 hatchery adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery.
 - Only three selected fishers were able to participate and all used seines (beach or purse) following live-capture regulations. The Individual Fishery Quotas (IFQ) would control the harvest in the fishery and was set at 630 adult kept Chinook, 2,250 adult kept coho, and 250 released steelhead.
 - The actual fishery was open in Zones 1-3 on weekdays (excluding September 2) from August 8 through October 31. Fishers kept 88 marked Chinook and 11 marked coho with 39 unmarked Chinook, 11 unmarked coho, 16 steelhead, and one sturgeon released.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2025 FISHERIES: FORECASTS, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES, POLICY GUIDANCE, AND PRESEASON MODELING

NOAA Guidance Letter

- See “NOAA Salmon Guidance Letter to PFMC_2025” for additional information.

Summer Chinook

- Pre-PFMC Forecast = 38,000
- Ocean non-treaty catches are considered part of the non-treaty allocation per U.S. vs. OR MA.
- The first in-season run size update is typically not available until around July 1.
- Commission allocations <PRD are concurrent with 80% recreational and 20% commercial.
- Mainstem summer Chinook (recreational and commercial) retention fisheries are not expected to occur <PRD.

Sockeye

- The 2025 sockeye forecast is 350,200 which is 101% 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% (3,502 fish) for non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco.
 - Non-concurrent commission allocations are 70% recreational, 20% commercial, and 10% unallocated.
- Commercial fisheries targeting sockeye are not allowed in rule/policy. The commercial allocation of sockeye is available for use in Chinook-directed fisheries.

Summer Steelhead

- Preseason forecasts are not made for lower river Skamania summer steelhead.
- Forecast = 73,900 (upriver Skamania + A-Index + B-Index)
 - Upriver Skamania = 6,500 (2,600 wild)
 - A-Index = 55,600 (19,000 wild)
 - B-Index = 11,800 (1,100 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 (minimum mesh size restrictions for Zone 4-5 commercial fisheries and rolling block closures for recreational fisheries).

Fall Chinook

- Preliminary pre-PFMC forecast = 718,000
- 2025 constraints are expected to be similar to what occurred in 2024 given allowable ESA-impact rates and abundances for 2025 are similar as what occurred in 2024.
 - Fall Chinook allocation is concurrent: no less than 30% of the most constraining stock to the commercial fishery.
 - Due to non-concurrence, large-mesh gillnets will be allowed in Zones 4-5 only.
- 2025 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.

- Lower Columbia River (LCR) Tule Fall Chinook
 - Preliminary pre-PFMC forecast = 121,500
 - NOAA revised the abundance tier values in the harvest rate matrix (see below) in 2024 to account for reductions in Mitchell Act production of lower tule Chinook.

| LRH Abundance | Exploitation Rate |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 24,000 | 0.30 |
| 24,000 - 31,000 | 0.35 |
| 31,000 - 67,000 | 0.38 |
| >67,000 | 0.41 |

- The preseason LRH forecasted abundance allows for a total exploitation rate (ER) of 41% which is shared between in-river and ocean fisheries.
- Snake River Wild/Upriver Bright (URB) Fall Chinook
 - Preliminary pre-PFMC forecast = 313,400 URB and 9,000 SRW
 - Allowable Columbia River non-treaty harvest rate = 15.0%

| Stock Group | 2024 | | 2025 |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | February Forecasts | Actual Returns | February Forecasts |
| Lower River Hatchery - LRH | 85,500 | 114,431 | 121,500 |
| Lower River Wild - LRW | 10,500 | 15,105 | 14,200 |
| Lower River Bright - LRB | 2,400 | 8,708 | 4,300 |
| Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH | 129,800 | 129,006 | 184,700 |
| Upriver Bright - URB | 258,300 | 318,089 | 313,400 |
| <i>Snake River Wild (SRW)¹</i> | <i>9,300</i> | <i>12,657</i> | <i>9,000</i> |
| Pool Upriver Bright - PUB | 61,000 | 78,868 | 79,000 |
| Select Area Bright - SAB | 300 | 5,298 | 900 |
| Columbia River Total | 547,800 | 669,505 | 718,000 |

Columbia River Coho

- Ocean abundance (pre-fishery) forecast = 479,700 adults
 - 338,100 early stock and 141,600 late stock
- Total ocean and Columbia River ER limit = 23%
 - LCN is a constraining coho stock during PFMC modeling
 - No less than 50% passage at Bonneville Dam of the ocean abundance of upriver-origin coho

Chum

- Recreational and commercial harvest is not allowed. The ESA-impact limit is 5.0% HR for combined Columbia River non-treaty fisheries.

Commercial Alternative Gear Fisheries

- The states expect that limited alternative gear fisheries (up to three pound-nets and three seines) will occur in 2025 as part of a multi-year evaluation conducted through WDFW's ECF process. OR/WA will set aside 2% ESA impacts of the non-treaty share for the most constraining stocks for use in these fisheries.

Preseason Ocean Modeling

- NOF Ocean Fishery Alternatives – See “NOF Ocean Alternatives” handout for additional information.
 - See “2025 North of Falcon Ocean Alternatives_PFMC1” for additional information.
 - <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2025/03/pacific-fishery-management-council-adopts-2025-west-coast-ocean-salmon-seasons-updated-march-11-2025.pdf/>

Preseason Columbia River Non-Treaty Fishery Modeling

- URB and SRW preseason forecasts are sufficient to plan non-treaty fisheries up to the 15% harvest rate thresholds.
 - URB/SRW is the most constraining stock and could become more limiting if catch rates, stock composition, or abundance projections are different than preseason expectations.
- LRH allowable exploitation rate in 2025 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 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 5-11) developed three ocean alternatives. The results below are the corresponding outputs pertinent to both ocean and in-river planning purposes:
 - Alternative 1 (high); Chin1025 and Coho2410:
 - Summer Chinook (non-treaty): 5,712 ocean; 1,218 in-river
 - LRH fall Chinook: 41.9% total ER; 10.3% in-river ER
 - LCN coho: 21.0% total ER; 5.7% in-river ER
 - Upriver coho Bonneville passage: 60%
 - Alternative 2 (medium); Chin1125 and Coho2511:
 - Summer Chinook (non-treaty): 4,184 ocean; 2,436 in-river
 - LRH fall Chinook: 40.4% total ER; 10.5% in-river ER
 - LCN coho: 20.0% total ER; 6.0% in-river ER
 - Upriver coho Bonneville passage: 60%
 - Alternative 3 (low); Chin1225 and Coho2512:
 - Summer Chinook (non-treaty): 3,315 ocean; 3,083 in-river
 - LRH fall Chinook: 38.5% total ER; 10.9% in-river ER
 - LCN coho: 17.0% total ER; 6.1% in-river ER
 - Upriver coho Bonneville passage: 64%

- Next in-river fishery modeling steps for 2025
 - Summer Chinook allocation for <PRD: 80% recreational, 20% commercial.
 - Sockeye allocation of Snake River ESA: 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 (URB/SRW).
 - 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 to recent years and include a limited Commercial Alternative Gear Fishery.
 - Recreational Discussion: 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.
 - A Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group meeting occurred on March 17 where advisors provided 2025 fishery structure input to staff for consideration. Elements of this input are incorporated into the Recreational Discussion section.
 - 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 and/or if fisheries are tracking within preseason expectations.
 - Commercial Discussion: Review modeled fall commercial fisheries based on Commercial Advisory Group input and policy guidance.
 - A Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group meeting occurred on March 13 where advisors provided 2025 fishery structure input to staff for consideration. Elements of this input are incorporated into the Commercial Discussion section.
 - Expect 2025 fishing plan be similar to the 2024 preseason planned fisheries.
 - Set aside non-treaty ESA-impacts for commercial alternative gear implementation.
 - Reserve Chinook mortalities to cover coho-directed fisheries.
 - 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 2024.

RECREATIONAL DISCUSSION

Objective and Concepts for Consideration

- Discuss the recreational fishery concepts staff developed based on past feedback and experience.
 - Staff intend 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 and Assumptions

- Model runs incorporate the following: Chin1125 and Coho2511
 - Chinook FRAM output from March PFMC Alternative 2 (medium); Chin1125
 - LRH: 40.4% total ER; 10.5% in-river ER
 - URB/SRW: ≤15% HR
 - Summer Chinook in-river non-treaty allocation: 2,436
 - Coho FRAM output from March PFMC Alternative 1 (high); Coho2510
 - LCN coho: 21.0% total ER; 5.6% in-river ER
 - Upriver coho Bonneville passage: 60%
- Summer Chinook allocation for <PRD: 80% recreational, 20% commercial.
- Sockeye allocation of Snake River ESA: 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.
 - There is consideration of URB/SRW use by time and area to ensure fisheries do not exceed the allowable HR as these are expected to be the primary constraining stocks during preseason planning.
 - LRH could become a limiting stock in-season if catch rates/stock composition are significantly different than preseason expectations.
- Viable concepts must fit within the allowed ESA-impact rates for wild A/B-Index steelhead.
- Staff weighed issues/concepts/comments received from previous NOF discussions, Joint State hearing testimony, [2023 angler survey](#), and recreational advisory group feedback in conjunction with policy guidelines and conservation objectives:
 - Steelhead restrictions in mainstem and tributary recreational fisheries
 - Sockeye early closure
 - Ocean/in-river sharing balance for fall Chinook
 - Minimize risk for in-season closures
 - NMSF/MSF Chinook at Buoy 10 and west Puget Island to Warrior/Lewis
 - Delay start date, days per week, and/or closure days for Chinook retention
 - Overlap Chinook retention fisheries to limit effort shift
 - Warrior Rock-Lewis River line
 - Reserve impacts for coho-directed fisheries
 - Additional coho opportunity (e.g., sub-area openings, nMSF)
 - Sub-area closures (not considered for 2025)
 - Limit guides/charters (not considered for 2025)
 - Annual/area Chinook limit (not considered for 2025)
 - Angling gear modification (not considered for 2025)
- A Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group meeting occurred on March 17 and provided input to staff for consideration. Elements of this discussion are incorporated into the Recreational Discussion section.

- The 2025 objective for preseason 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 Chinook stock composition of harvest, and in-season abundance updates for upriver stocks of fall Chinook.

Mainstem

- Summer Chinook allocations will change after ocean fisheries are finalized during April PFMC.
 - Current <PRD recreational allocation is 195 total allowable mortalities (Alternative 2) but could be as low as 97 (Alternative 1).
 - Summer Chinook retention is not expected to be allowed in mainstem fisheries downstream of PRD due to insufficient recreational allocation (similar to 2018 and 2019).
 - Allocation is sufficient to provide for non-target mortalities during steelhead/sockeye fisheries assuming adult Chinook handle is similar to what was observed during past closures.
 - Consideration of no hatchery jack retention, similar to 2018 and 2019, to minimize the potential of additional adult Chinook handle.
 - Any consideration of directed harvest in fisheries downstream of PRD would be dependent on a combination of an in-season run size update that typically occurs in early July and the resulting <PRD recreational allocation balance.
- Sockeye
 - During the past five years, increasing catch rates have led to early sockeye closures in 2020 and 2024.
 - A combination of recreational allocation of sockeye and summer Chinook are necessary to allow for the steelhead fishery to remain open during the summer season.
 - Recreational allocation for fisheries downstream of the Highway 395 Bridge is for 2,451 sockeye mortalities and is sufficient to provide for retention opportunities.
 - In order to reduce the risk of exceeding the recreational sockeye allocation and potentially impact other opportunities during the summer season (steelhead and summer Chinook), staff are considering a limited sockeye harvest approach.
 - Allow sockeye retention June 23 – July 31 with a 2 salmonid limit (no more than 1 sockeye and 1 steelhead).
 - An alternative approach is to allow sockeye retention June 21-30 with the reduced sockeye daily limit.
 - Any consideration for additional time and an increased daily limit would be dependent on a combination of a run size update that typically occurs in late June/early July and the resulting recreational allocation balance.

- Fall Chinook
 - Provide for Chinook opportunity in all areas.
 - 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 concepts incorporate similar LRH and URB/SRW 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, from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge, incorporates the recent trend of higher-than-average Chinook handle rates.
 - 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.
 - Staff intend to align the Chinook retention end dates, when possible, for the Buoy 10 and west Puget Island to Lewis/Warrior fisheries, and also for the Lewis/Warrior to Bonneville Dam and Bonneville Dam to Highway 395 Bridge fisheries.
 - Reserve Chinook mortalities for the 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.
 - Northern fishery abundances and fishery harvest estimates (southeast Alaska and Canada) are typically updated in late March/early April and will be incorporated during the April PFMC meeting.
 - If further adjustments are needed during in-river fisheries planning in order to meet conservation objectives (including LRH), 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

2025 COLUMBIA RIVER RECREATIONAL FISHERY CONCEPTS FOR DISCUSSION; DATES AND RETENTION LIMITS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

| Area | Concept | Chinook Retention | Coho Retention | Steelhead Retention ¹ | Chinook Kept | Chinook Release Morts |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Bonneville Dam - Hwy. 395 Bridge | 1 | 8/1 - 9/16 nMSF (47d) | 8/1 - 9/16 10/1 - 12/31 | Closed 8/1-10/31 | 8,500 | 570 |
| | 2 | 9/5 - 10/31 nMSF (57d) | 9/5 - 12/31 | | 10,463 | 200 |
| Lewis/Warrior - Bonneville Dam | 1 | 8/1 - 9/16 nMSF (47d) | 8/1 - 9/16 10/1 - 12/31 | | 12,500 | 800 |
| west Puget Island - Lewis/Warrior | 1 | 8/1 - 9/6 nMSF (37d) | 8/1 - 9/6 10/1 - 12/31 | | 11,600 | 210 |
| | 2 | 8/1 - 9/4 nMSF (35d) 9/5 - 9/11 MSF (7d) | 8/1 - 9/11 10/1 - 12/31 | | 11,200 | 550 |
| Buoy 10 - west Puget Island | 1 | 8/1 - 8/26 MSF (26d) 8/27 - 9/6 nMSF (11d) | 8/1 - 12/31 | | 31,700 | 4,180 |
| | 2 | 8/1 - 8/16 nMSF (16d) 8/30 - 9/6 nMSF (8d) | 8/1 - 12/31 | | 17,600 | 3,080 |
| | 3 | 8/25 - 9/7 nMSF (14d) | 8/1 - 12/31 | | 16,600 | 3,120 |
| | 4 | 8/18 - 8/25 MSF (8d) 8/26 - 9/6 nMSF (12d) | 8/1 - 12/31 | | 24,700 | 3,900 |

¹ Steelhead 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 2022–2024 average catch is ~14,600 Chinook.
 - Given effort shift when lower river fisheries are restricted and that fishers have been able to target URBs, staff will continue to apply a conservative Chinook retention season approach.
 - Coho with 2 adult fish limit when open; MSF regulations in effect downstream of the Hood River Bridge.
 - **Concept 1:** Chinook retention opens August 1 and remains open through mid-September. Opportunity in late September can be considered when in-season catch and URB run size information is available.
 - Salmonid angling closure when Chinook retention closes until coho retention opens on October 1.
 - **Concept 2:** Salmon closure until early September. This delayed start approach reduces URB harvest by ensuring fishing occurs in most of September and through October when there is a mixture of PUB and URB stocks in this portion of the river.
 - Under this concept, there is no ability to allow Chinook retention earlier than scheduled, and the season structure is dependent on the URB abundance coming in near or above the preseason forecast.
 - Coho retention remains open on November 1.
- **West Puget Island to Bonneville Dam**
 - Staff developed two concepts for downstream and one for upstream of the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line.
 - Salmonid angling closure when Chinook retention closes, except coho retention allowed beginning October 1.
 - Coho MSF with 2 adult fish limit when open.
 - **Concept 1 for Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam:** This concept incorporates nMSF Chinook regulations.
 - Opportunity after mid-September can be considered when in-season catch and URB run size information is available.
 - **Concept 1 for west Puget Island to Lewis/Warrior:** This concept incorporates nMSF Chinook regulations.
 - Opportunity after early September can be considered when in-season catch and URB run size information is available. Extension consideration is likely later given peak abundance of LRH in adjacent waters through mid-September.
 - **Concept 2 for west Puget Island to Lewis/Warrior:** Similar to 2024, this concept incorporates an additional week of MSF Chinook regulations similar to the Oregon recreational season objective and is impact neutral as compared to Concept 1 for this river section.
 - This concept was not preferred by the recreational advisor group.

- **Buoy 10 to west Puget Island**

- To reduce the risk of in-season closures, staff considered a variety of approaches that consider the timing of the fishery, recent trends of higher-than-average Chinook handle rates, and the ability to assess catch and stock composition in-season.
 - Although the forecasted LRH abundance is larger this year (same allowable LRH ER as 2024), the Buoy 10 Chinook fishery remains dynamic. As such, in-season stock composition and catch rates may differ from preseason expectations.
 - For example, staff are unable to predict if a thermal block will set up in 2025 which has the potential to substantially increase Chinook handle.
 - 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.
 - The 2025 forecasted Chinook mark rate is ~55% in August and ~45% in September. The observed post-season mark rate during the Chinook MSF in 2024 was 48%.
 - The recreational advisors generally supported enhanced nMSF regulations at the cost of some opportunity.
- Coho MSF with 2 adult fish limit.
- Multiple fishery concepts were explored to provide a pathway to reduce LRH ER, reduce risk to in-season closures, and/or aide in estimation of dynamic catch/stock metrics.
 - MSF regulations
 - Enhanced nMSF regulations
 - Chinook closure days
 - Combination of approaches
- **Concept 1:** This concept is similar to the 2024 season approach beginning with MSF and converting to nMSF in late August and is open through most of the first week of September.
 - This concept allows for the most open Chinook retention days and converts to nMSF during expected peak bright Chinook abundance.
- **Concept 2:** The first half of August is open under nMSF regulations, closes to Chinook retention (remains open for coho) for ~13 days, and then re-opens late August under nMSF regulations through most of the first week of September.
 - This concept utilizes a split season approach that involves a mid/late August Chinook retention closure to achieve the most nMSF days.
- **Concept 3:** This concept has a delayed Chinook start (open for MSF coho retention only for ~24 days) which opens late August for Chinook under nMSF regulations through the first week of September.
 - This concept avoids expected peak LRH abundance while accessing bright fall Chinook under nMSF regulations.
 - If coho retention were closed, nMSF Chinook retention would begin one day earlier.
 - Alternatively, if nMSF Chinook opened beginning August 1, the last Chinook retention date would be ~August 20. This may result in reduced days for upstream fisheries due to effort shift.
- **Concept 4:** This concept has a delayed start (open for MSF coho retention only for ~17 days) that opens mid-August for Chinook under MSF regulations for nearly a week, then converts to nMSF Chinook regulations through the first week of September.

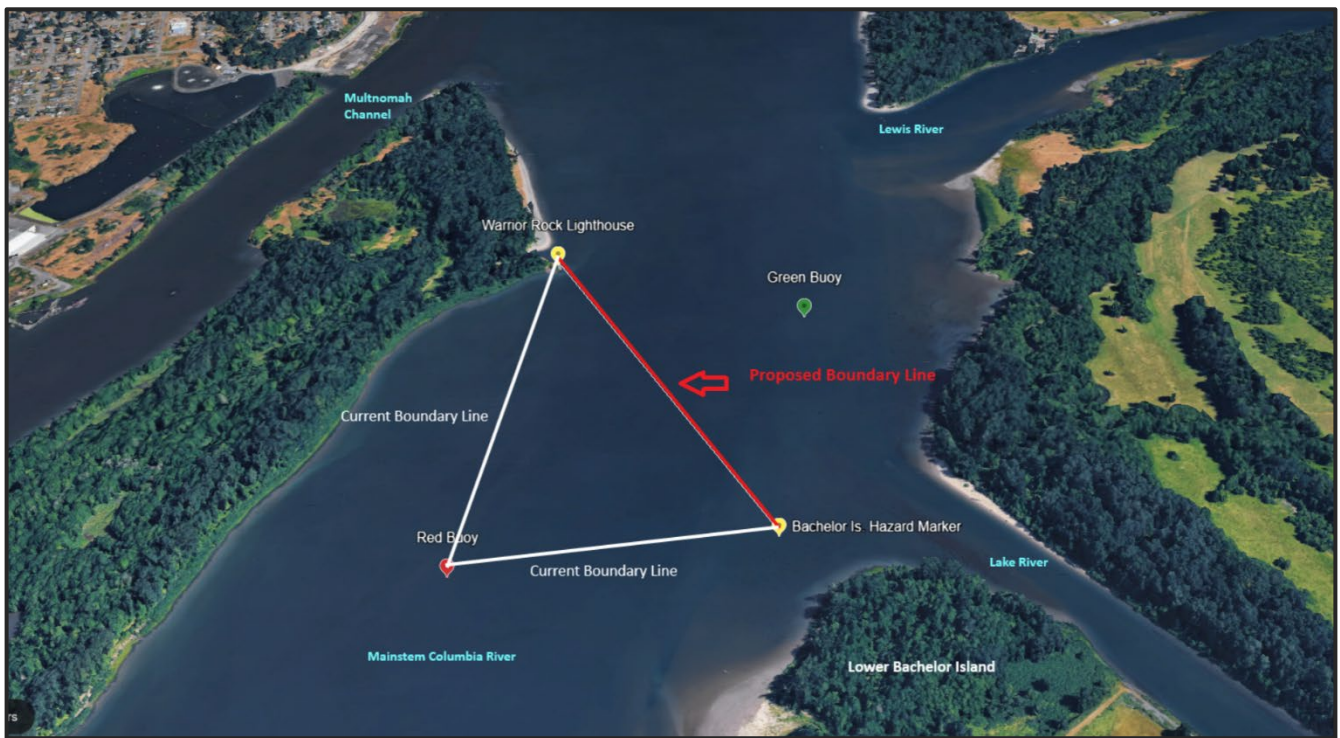
- This concept is similar to Concept 3 but allows for earlier Chinook retention under MSF regulations initially, then converts to nMSF.
- An alternative delayed start approach staff explored resulted in MSF Chinook regulations during the last half of August and nMSF Chinook regulations from late August through mid-September.
- Additional Chinook and coho opportunities may be considered in-season after estimates of catches, stock composition, and associated ESA-impacts are available.
- Recreational allocation of URB/SRW is no more than 10.5% HR. The associated LRH ER with the concepts described are ~7.0%; tributary recreational fisheries are expected to use ~0.30% LRH ER.

- Summer steelhead regulations proposals are similar to recent years and are presented in the following table.

| Columbia River mainstem and tributary summer steelhead regulation summary for 2025-26 fisheries (preliminary) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------|-----------|---|--|---------------|------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Water Body | June 16-June 30 | July | August | September | October | November | December | Jan-March | Comments | | | |
| Columbia River mainstem | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Below I-5 Bridge | Daily limit 1 | Daily limit 1 | Closed to retention | | | Permanent Regs for winter steelhead (Daily limit 2) | | | Some periods of salmon/steelhead angling closures when salmon retention is closed. | | | |
| I5-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 | | | | TBD in-season | | | | | |
| John Day Dam to McNary Dam | | Daily limit 1 | Closed to retention | | | | TBD in-season | | | | | |
| McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco | | Daily limit 1 | Closed to retention | | | | TBD in-season | | | | | |
| 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) | | Perm. Regs | 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, 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) | | Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2) |
| Herman Cr. (OR) Lagoon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Herman Cr. (OR) mouth to RR bridge | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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.
 - Warrior-Lewis River line modification
 - Anglers have inadvertently fished downstream of the current boundary line in closed areas due to difficulties identifying proximity to projected boundary lines while on the water.
 - Staff consulted with the Recreational Advisory group and enforcement to develop a straight and visually observable line using well-known features without significantly changing catch expectations and stock composition.
 - This modification is intended help anglers better identify the projected line while on the water and improve enforcement.
 - The two visual features of the proposed line are the Warrior Rock lighthouse (downstream boundary) to the marker atop the piling dolphin located at the downstream end of Bachelor Island near the Washington shore (upstream boundary).

Map 1: Proposed Boundary Line for the Warrior-Lewis (red) and the current boundary line (white).



What to expect

- Staff will select one fishery management strategy per area and update the models and associated timeframes during April PFMC.
 - Dates associated with concepts presented today may need to be adjusted as final ocean fisheries are finalized during April PFMC.
 - Northern fishery abundances and fishery harvest estimates will be reflected in the April PFMC modeling.
 - Fall Chinook allocation: no less than 30% for commercial fisheries and no more than 70% for recreational fisheries for the most constraining stock (URB/SRW) for in-river fisheries.
 - Additional comments can be submitted at the following link, preferably by April 6 in order to be considered in advance of the PFMC meeting:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input>
 - If further adjustments are needed during in-river fisheries planning in order to meet conservation objectives (including LRH), 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
 - 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 Fisheries (downstream of McNary Dam)

- See “WDFW Region 5 Tributary Salmon and Steelhead Proposals” handout for additional information.

COMMERCIAL DISCUSSION

- A Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group meeting occurred on March 13 and provided input to staff for consideration. Elements of this input are incorporated into the Commercial Discussion section.

Summer Chinook

- Commercial allocation:
 - PFMC Alternatives 1-3: 24 to 64 fish
- No mainstem fishery; allocation is sufficient to cover Select Area commercial fisheries.

Fall Chinook

- Zones 4-5 commercial fishery to fish Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays nights during 3-days per week periods and fish Mondays and Wednesday nights during a 2-days per week period approach.
- During the August (Early Fall) Zones 4-5 fishery, the fishery structure would be expected to include 9-hour (9pm – 6am) periods with a 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. During the Late Fall Zones 4-5 fishery, the fishery structure would be expected to include 10-hour (8pm – 6am) periods with an 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction.

| 2025 Commercial Concepts | | | | | | | URB/SRW HR | |
|--------------------------|-------|------------------------|------|---------------|----------|--------------|--------------|------|
| | | | | | | | NT Share | 15% |
| | | | | | | | Comm % | 30% |
| | | | | | | | Allowable | 4.5% |
| Commercial | Week | Dates | Zone | Catch | #Periods | URB/SRW HR | LRH ER | |
| Aug 3-9 | 32 | Aug 4, Aug 6 | 4-5 | 480 | 2 | 0.11% | 0.02% | |
| Aug 10-16 | 33 | Aug 10, Aug 12, Aug 14 | 4-5 | 2,340 | 3 | 0.31% | 0.15% | |
| Aug 17-23 | 34 | Aug 17, Aug 19, Aug 21 | 4-5 | 9,290 | 3 | 0.78% | 0.41% | |
| Aug 24-30 | 35 | Aug 24, Aug 26, Aug 28 | 4-5 | 20,570 | 3 | 1.50% | 0.84% | |
| Early fall subtotal | | | | 32,680 | 11 | 2.70% | 1.42% | |
| Late fall placeholder | TBD | TBD | 4-5 | 7,310 | TBD | 0.71% | 0.60% | |
| Coho Tanglenet | 38-44 | TBD | 1-3 | 2,230 | TBD | 0.52% | 0.18% | |
| Select Area | | | | 8,170 | | 0.27% | 0.40% | |
| ECF | | | | TBD | | 0.30% | 0.21% | |
| Grand Total | | | | 50,390 | | 4.50% | 2.81% | |

Coho

- Tangle net
 - Zones 1-3 beginning as early as Sept. 15, with up to 5 days/week (Mon-Fri), 4am-10pm with a 6pm closure on Fridays per industry request.
 - Same gear regulations as 2024
 - Model includes ~20,000 coho landed
 - Continue use of voluntary logbooks and observation

Emerging Commercial Fishery

- Commercial Alternative Gear Fisheries
 - The states expect that limited alternative gear fisheries (up to three pound-nets and three seines) will occur in 2025 as part of a multi-year evaluation conducted through WDFW's ECF process. OR/WA will set aside 2% ESA impacts of the non-treaty share for the most constraining stocks for use in these fisheries.
 - This set aside has been incorporated into the modeling.
 - Staff intend to meet with the participating fishers in April to further discuss the 2025 preseason plan, including the IFQs and regulatory approach.

*Oregon/Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife
April 3, 2025*