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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

DFW 8-2026

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED

01/27/2026 8:03 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Modify Wild Spring Chinook Regulations in Umpqua District

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/2026 THROUGH 06/30/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 12/19/2025

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Filed By:

Linda Spansel

Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This rule is needed to implement the harvest sliding scale for wild spring Chinook established pursuant to the CMP. The sliding scale annually considers populations in the North Umpqua and South Umpqua rivers when regulating the fisheries in the North and Mainstem rivers; wild fish harvest is already restricted in the South Umpqua River under permanent rule given that population's concerning status. The North and South populations both migrate through and are susceptible to fisheries in the Mainstem river. The purpose of the sliding scale is to reduce harvest (which can have an impact on one or both of the populations) when one or both of the populations are expected to be at a low level. This year, data indicate that, in the North Umpqua River, the average of the previous year's spawner count and the 2026 forecast is >2,000 and <4,500 fish. In the South Umpqua, the average of the previous year's spawner count and the 2026 forecast is <150 fish. Under the sliding scale, these levels trigger specific wild fish harvest levels in the mainstem Umpqua River and North Umpqua River in order to further reduce fishery impacts on the Chinook populations.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

The data used for the sliding scale determination are only able to be generated a short time before the fishery is scheduled to occur. There is not adequate time to go through normal rulemaking proceedings to modify these rules before the fishery begins on February 1. These modifications are consistent with the with the sliding scale established pursuant to ODFW's Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP, OAR 635-500-6775). Failure to adopt these rules would allow wild spring Chinook to be harvested when they are expected to be at low levels. This harvest would reduce the number of spawners in the South and North Umpqua rivers' spring Chinook salmon populations. These spawners are necessary to "replenish" the population to higher numbers, so allowing their harvest would cause serious prejudice to the public interest by resulting in greater harvest restrictions for future fisheries. This rule will prevent depletion of wild Chinook salmon in the Umpqua Basin by prohibiting or reducing retention of these wild fish.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

1. ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (available on website).
2. ODFW CMP Umpqua River Spring Chinook Sliding Scale (guidance document; available on website).

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking [the above document(s)] are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Linda Spansel at 503-947-6233 or linda.d.spansel@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

AMEND: 635-016-0500

RULE SUMMARY: This amended rule will prohibit retention of all wild Chinook on the Mainstem Umpqua River. It will restrict harvest to one wild adult Chinook per day and ten wild adults per season on the North Umpqua River from February 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, in accordance with the sliding scale established pursuant to the State's Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP).

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-016-0500

Umpqua District

(1) The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Southwest Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time and to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(2) Effective February 1 through June 30 the following regulations apply:¶

(a) In the Umpqua River (Mainstem), retention of wild Chinook salmon is prohibited; and¶

(b) In areas of the North Umpqua River open to retention of wild Chinook salmon by permanent rule, the daily bag limit for adult wild Chinook salmon is one fish and no more than 10 adult wild Chinook salmon may be kept during the period of February 1 through June 30.¶

(3) Effective July 1 through November 30, the following regulations apply in the Mainstem Umpqua River, Smith River, and North Fork Smith River on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays:¶

(a) The daily adult Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶

(b) No more than one adult Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶

(c) The Department shall close this fishery when it has determined 500 wild Chinook have been harvested.¶

(34) Effective September 14 through October 15, 2024, the following regulations apply in the Mainstem Umpqua River from the mouth to Scottsburg Bridge at RM 27.5:¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish;¶

(b) No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period; and¶

(c) The daily wild jack coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

(45) All other permanent rules for the Southwest Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162