

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

#### Coastal Fall Chinook

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is being asked to adopt restrictive regulations for Oregon coastal fall Chinook in ocean terminal, bay and river fisheries this fall in response to declines in spawning escapements in 2007-08 and poor forecasts for this fall. Restrictions are needed to meet conservation needs of these stocks that are well below spawning escapement goals as well as to meet international agreements established under the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty related to Oregon's North Oregon Coastal (NOC) Chinook stocks and management objectives established by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The decline in Oregon coastal Chinook follow similar declines observed for Chinook on the West Coast including the collapse in Sacramento fall Chinook that resulted in historic closures of ocean commercial and recreational Chinook fishing the last two years off Oregon and California.

The affected Oregon coastal fall Chinook fisheries include ocean sport and commercial terminal fisheries in the three traditional terminal areas off Garibaldi, Port Orford and Brookings and bay and river sport fisheries for over 20 watersheds along the Oregon coast.

Guiding principles to develop regulation options for Commission consideration include: a) Pacific Salmon Treaty and Pacific Fishery Management Council obligations, b) additional restrictions to address critical conservation needs, c) coast wide consistency for management and enforcement, and d) maintain opportunities for traditional fisheries.

#### Coho

The Commission is being asked to adopt sport angling regulations that allow retention of non fin-clipped (or wild) coho salmon in tidewater areas of four coastal river basins (*i.e.* Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos, and Coquille). If adopted, the proposed coho fisheries would be the first recreational fisheries on wild coho in coastal river basins since the mid 1990's. These proposed fisheries are designed to be similar to the successful wild coho fisheries that have been in place in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes since 2003.

Targeted fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho are identified as a management approach in the State of Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (Coho Plan) which was approved by the Commission in 2007. Fisheries targeting wild coho salmon are being proposed at this time because of anticipated strong adult returns in 2009. To be consistent with the Coho Plan and because Oregon Coast coho salmon are listed as a *Threatened* species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the proposed 2009 fisheries are designed to be very conservative and comply with allowable fishery mortality from both the

ocean and terminal fisheries as prescribed under Amendment 13 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan (Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) 1999).

Approval by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is also required to open these fisheries due to the ESA status of Oregon Coast coho salmon. A Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) and a proposal specific to the 2009 fishery have been submitted to NOAA for their consideration. NOAA will have a 30 day public comment period for these fisheries which they expect to begin in early to mid June. NOAA has also indicated they expect a final decision on the fisheries by early August (Lance Kruzic, personal communication, May 8, 2009).

The Commission is also being asked to adopt a temporary sport angling regulation that allows retention of one additional adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) coho salmon in the Tillamook and Nehalem basins for 2009 in addition to the two salmon/steelhead daily bag limit currently allowed under permanent rule. The purpose of this rule is to: (1) allow additional angling opportunity on strong forecasted returns of hatchery coho to Trask River Hatchery (Tillamook Basin) and North Fork Nehalem Hatchery (Nehalem Basin) in 2009; (2) reduce in-basin stray rates and interaction with wild coho on the spawning grounds; and (3) reduce the number of fish handled at hatchery facilities,. This proposed rule would run from August 1 through October 31 in the Tillamook Bay Basin and from August 1 through December 31 in the Nehalem Bay Basin.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

A series of public meetings were held on the Oregon coast between April 28 and April 30 in Gold Beach, North Bend, Newport, and Tillamook. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) staff presented background information and run forecasts for coastal fall Chinook, and outlined the proposed structure of wild Coho fisheries. Over 250 people attended the meetings and provided input both verbally and in writing (see Attachment 5). In addition, the draft FMEP and 2009 Coho Fishery Proposal have been posted on the department's website since late April at [http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho\\_proj.shtml](http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho_proj.shtml) . Proposals for conducting wild coho creels in the Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos, and Coquille Rivers have been submitted for funding under the Restoration and Enhancement Program (see Attachment 4).

**ISSUE 1**

**OCEAN SPORT AND COMMERCIAL CHINOOK REGULATIONS FOR TERMINAL AREAS**

**ANALYSIS (overview)**

Due to continued low returns of fall Chinook to the Sacramento, the Council again closed the ocean off Oregon and California this year to sport and commercial fishing for Chinook South of Cape Falcon, except for a limited (ten day) recreational fishery off Brookings. However, the Council adopted one of the most robust recreational fisheries for hatchery coho with the largest quota since 1992. Consistent with the

Council's recommendations and management guidelines, the adopted federal regulations for the ocean in 2009 allow Oregon to adopt salmon fisheries in state waters including the traditional areas off the Tillamook, Elk and Chetco Rivers.

In addition to guidelines by the Council, the department is required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 635-500-0135 to adopt regulations for ocean mixed-stock and terminal area fisheries that meet three specific criteria: 1) provide access by fisheries to harvestable surpluses of Chinook salmon that may exist, 2) maintain traditional in-river fisheries and 3) meet spawning escapement goals in wild coastal Chinook populations. These ocean mixed-stock fisheries also cannot impact other regional depressed salmon stocks under Council or Oregon management plans. These were the primary sideboards used to develop and evaluate terminal fishery alternatives.

Sport and commercial terminal fisheries have occurred in most recent years in the Garibaldi ocean area (targeting Tillamook Bay River's fall Chinook), the Port Orford ocean area (targeting Elk River fall Chinook), and the Brookings ocean area (targeting Chetco River fall Chinook).

**ANALYSIS  
(Traditional Ocean  
Terminal Fisheries)**

**Tillamook Bay Terminal Fishery**

The fall Chinook terminal area includes the area between Twin Rocks and Pyramid Rock, 0-3 miles. In 2008, the sport season was September 1- November 15 (only one non fin-clipped Chinook per day and five per season combined with other open areas in the Marine, Northwest (NW), and Southwest (SW) Zones including terminal areas and river fisheries) and the commercial season was September 1- November 15 or quota of 500 Chinook. The 2009 forecast of 12,074 Chinook for Tillamook Bay rivers exceeds the minimum escapement goal established under the Council (11,016) and is near the 1990-2008 average (12,855).

For 2009, a **sport season** is recommended September 1- October 31 in the terminal area consistent with the daily and seasonal bag limits for Marine, NW and SW Zone sport regulations. In **zone sport regulations**, no more than one non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and five non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the seasonal aggregate when combined with all other waters in the NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone with a five Chinook salmon seasonal aggregate limit. No more than ten total non fin-clipped Chinook in the seasonal aggregate from all waters in the NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2009.

For 2009, a **commercial season** is recommended September 1- October 31 in the terminal area with a quota of 300 Chinook and a landing and possession limit of 25 Chinook per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) and 28 inch minimum length.

## **OPTIONS (Tillamook)**

1. **Sport**- September 1-October 31 season in the terminal area with daily and seasonal bag limits consistent with Marine, NW and SW Zone regulations (see above).
2. **Commercial**- September 1-October 31 season in the terminal area with a quota of 300 Chinook and a landing and possession limit of 25 Chinook per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) and 28 inch minimum length.
3. Same **sport** regulations but for **commercial**, a 250 Chinook quota.

## **ANALYSIS (Elk)**

### **Elk River Terminal Area**

The fall Chinook terminal area has included the area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mountain, 0-3 miles. In 2008, the sport season was November 1-30 (with Zone regulations as described for Tillamook) and the commercial season was November 1-30 or quota of 250 Chinook with a daily landing limit of 10 Chinook and 28 inch minimum length. The 2009 forecast for the wild Elk River of 1,505 is near the 1990-2008 average of 1,623. For the Sixes River that is adjacent to the Elk River, the 2009 forecast of 978 Chinook is well below the 1990-2008 average of 1,653.

For 2009, a **sport** season is recommended October 15-November 30 consistent with the daily and seasonal bag limits in the Marine, NW and SW Zone regulations (see above).

For 2009, a **commercial** season is recommended October 15-November 30 or a quota of 300 Chinook, a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day, and a 28 inch minimum length. Both sport and commercial fisheries would be limited to the area inside a 20 fathom line between Cape Blanco and Tichenor Rock.

## **OPTIONS (Elk)**

1. **Sport**- October 15-November 30 season in the terminal area with daily and seasonal bag limits consistent with Marine, NW and SW Zone regulations.
2. **Commercial**- October 15-November 30 season or a quota of 300 Chinook and a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day and a 28 inch minimum length. Both sport and commercial fisheries would be limited to an area inside a 20 fathom line between Cape Blanco and Tichenor Rock.
3. Same **sport** regulations; for **commercial** a 250 Chinook quota.

## **ANALYSIS (Chetco)**

### **Chetco River Terminal Area**

The traditional fall Chinook terminal area includes the area between the north shore of Twin Rocks and the Oregon/California border, 0-3 miles. In 2008, the sport season was October 1-4 and October 11 with a goal of 250 Chinook (additional days of October 10-11 and 17-18 if weather limits effort and goal is not reached), one Chinook per day and four per season consistent with Zone regulations. Actual season open days were

October 1-4 and 11. The commercial season was October 5-8, 12-15, and 19-31 or a quota of 250 Chinook with a daily landing and possession limit of ten Chinook and 28 inch minimum length. Actual season dates were October 5-8 and 12.

The 2009 forecast for the Chetco River of 874 fish is only 22 percent of the 1990-2008 average of 3,912.

For 2009, due to chronic low escapements and poor forecast for 2009, closure of the traditional Chetco terminal area for sport and commercial Chinook fishing in October is recommended.

#### **OPTIONS (Chetco)**

1. **Sport-** Closed.  
**Commercial-** Closed.
2. **Sport-** Two day season in October.  
**Commercial-** Five day season in October with 125 Chinook quota and daily landing and possession limit of ten Chinook.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Amend sport and commercial angling regulations for coastal fall Chinook in Tillamook, Elk and Chetco ocean terminal areas.

#### **ISSUE 2**

#### **AMEND SPORT ANGLING REGULATIONS FOR OREGON COASTAL FALL CHINOOK IN BAYS AND RIVERS TO MODIFY THE DAILY AND SEASONAL BAG LIMITS AND AREA CLOSURES**

#### **ANALYSIS**

Declines have been observed in escapements of Oregon coastal fall Chinook during 2007-08 following a period of high abundance 2001-2005 for many stocks. The last two years (longer in some cases) most populations have been well below escapement goals with similar trends forecasted for 2009. Oregon's three NOC indicator stocks established under the Pacific Salmon Treaty are the Nehalem, Siletz and Siuslaw Rivers. We did not meet escapement goals in the last two years in the Siletz and Siuslaw and the last three years in the Nehalem. All three are forecasted to be on average 30 percent below goals in 2009.

Under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Oregon must reduce its aggregated freshwater harvest for NOC Chinook to 60 percent of the 1979-1982 base period (termed "general obligation"). Some improvement in returns to north coast populations may occur due the new Chinook agreement under the Pacific Salmon Treaty where 15-30 percent reductions in Alaska and Canadian fisheries will be implemented beginning this year. Similarly, closure of nearly all Council area fisheries for Chinook may improve returns coast wide especially to mid and south coast populations.

Under the Council's Fishery Management Plan, Oregon is obligated to reduce fisheries to meet escapement goals of 60-90 adult spawners per mile for Oregon coastal Chinook as an aggregate. NOC Chinook populations are harvested little (less than five percent) in Council area

fisheries, but Mid and South Oregon populations are harvested significantly (greater than 20 percent). The minimum escapement goal of 60 adults per mile was not met in both 2007 and 2008, and if not met in 2009 as forecasted, will trigger an “Overfishing Concern” similar to what occurred for Klamath River Chinook in California requiring an Overfishing Review by the Council and development of a rebuilding plan. Oregon would like to avoid triggering this review as it is likely that higher interim escapement goals may be imposed by the Council (as occurred in the Klamath) to rebuild populations that may further constrain Oregon fisheries in future years when more fish may be available for harvest.

Last year, daily and seasonal bag limits of Oregon coastal Chinook were reduced from two daily and 20 seasonal to one daily non fin-clipped Chinook and five seasonally in aggregate within the Marine, NW and SW Zones August 1-December 31 and implemented about 125 miles of area closures to improve escapements of Chinook. The regulation changes in 2008 helped improve escapements but were insufficient to make the improvements needed to meet escapement objectives in 2008. Staff concluded that the only effective means to make significant progress in meeting Pacific Salmon Treaty and Council obligations and to address our conservation concerns was to propose even more restrictive seasonal bag limits with additional area closures and selective seasonal closures for populations that posed significant conservation and fishery management risks. Similar to last year, little or no support was heard in the public meetings for reducing days per week so this option was again not considered. As the different populations are showing different trends and status, staff approached proposing regulation options that addressed needs of individual populations while attempting to strike the appropriate balance between addressing conservation needs of the fish while maintaining as much opportunity for fisheries and minimizing impacts on coastal communities.

Staff evaluated punch card data for sport catch of fall Chinook in Oregon coastal streams for 2005-2007 to determine the potential benefits of further reducing seasonal bag limits. Based on these analyses, compared to last year’s one daily and five seasonal bag limits for non fin-clipped Chinook, it is estimated that escapements coast wide would be improved an additional 7 percent.

Staff also evaluated various options for temporarily moving deadlines further downstream including options proposed by the public to protect spawning fish but also maintain as much traditional boat and bank angling opportunities as possible. Staff recommendations are included for additional area closures as described below. For the additional 110 miles proposed for area closures, staff estimates that spawning escapements will be improved by about three percent.

**It is recommended that Chinook angling deadlines are moved downstream for the following rivers:**

Siletz River- Move deadline for Drift Creek 7.5 miles downstream from Sampson Creek (RM 15.5) to Quarry Creek (RM 8.0) and close 6.5 miles of Rock Creek. Move the mainstem deadline 13 miles downstream from the Hwy 229 Bridge to Morgan Park (RM 25.0).

Yaquina River- Move mainstem deadline 18 miles downstream from 2.5 miles upstream of Eddyville to the confluence with the Big Elk at Elk City (RM 18.3). Close 21.5 miles of Big Elk Creek to fall Chinook harvest.

Alsea River- Move deadline for Drift Creek 13.5 miles downstream from Bohannon Falls to the downstream boundary of the Drift Creek Wilderness (RM 10.5) and maintain the temporary closure of Five Rivers and maintain temporary mainstem deadline at Five Rivers (RM 23.0).

Siuslaw River- Maintain closure of Lake Creek and mainstem deadline at Lake Creek (RM 30.0).

Umpqua River- Maintain closure of N. Fork Smith River.

Coos River- Maintain South Fork deadline at Besse Creek (RM 6.0) and Millicoma at Doris Place Ramp (RM 0.25).

Coquille River- Move mainstem deadline downstream to Hwy 42S Bridge at Sturdivant Park (RM 24.0).

Floras Creek and Floras Lake Outlet- Maintain deadline at Floras Creek Bridge (RM 5.0).

Sixes River- Maintain mainstem deadline at Edson Creek (RM 10.0).

Chetco River- Close mainstem at USFS Bridge (RM 10.5) and close above Hwy 101 Bridge until Nov. 7.

Overall benefits of the recommended reduced seasonal bag limits and area closures to improving spawning escapements of fall Chinook is estimated to be 10 percent.

**OPTIONS  
(Amend sport angling regulations for coastal fall Chinook in bays and rivers to modify daily and seasonal bag limits and area closures)**

1. Amend Marine, NW and SW Zone regulations for the **Necanicum, Tillamook Basin, Sand Lake, Nestucca Basin, Salmon, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coquille and Elk Rivers** to allow no more than one non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and five non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the seasonal aggregate when combined with all other waters in the NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone with a five Chinook salmon seasonal aggregate limit. No more than ten total non fin-clipped Chinook in the seasonal aggregate from all waters in the

NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2009.

Amend Marine, NW and SW Zone regulations for the **Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Yachats, Sixes, New and Pistol Rivers, Floras and Hunter Creeks, and Floras and New Lakes** to allow no more than one non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and two non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the seasonal aggregate when combined with all other waters in the NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone with a two Chinook salmon seasonal aggregate limit. No more than ten total non fin-clipped Chinook in the seasonal aggregate from all waters in the NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2009.

Amend Marine, NW and SW Zone regulations for the **Coos and Rogue Rivers** to allow no more than two non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and ten non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the seasonal aggregate from all waters in the NW Zone, SW Zone, and all state waters terminal area seasons in the Marine Zone. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2009.

Amend NW and SW Zone regulations to close the **Nehalem Basin and Winchuck River** to Chinook angling between August 1 and December 31, 2009.

Amend NW and SW Zone regulations to establish temporary 2009 new angling deadlines for Chinook in the **Siletz** (close Drift Creek upstream of Quarry Creek (RM 8.0) and close mainstem and all tributaries upstream of Morgan Park (RM 25.0)). **Yaquina** (close mainstem upstream from the confluence of Big Elk Creek at RM 18.3 and close Big Elk Creek). **Alsea** (close Drift Creek at downstream boundary of the Drift Creek Wilderness RM 10.5 and mainstem at Five Rivers RM 23.0 and close Five Rivers). **Siuslaw** (close Lake Creek and mainstem upstream from the confluence with Lake Creek RM 30.0). **N. Fork Smith River** (closed). **South Fork Coos** (Besse Creek RM 6.25). **Millicoma** (Doris Place Ramp RM 0.25). **Coquille** (mainstem at Hwy 42S Bridge at Sturdivant Park RM 24.0). **Floras Creek and Floras Lake** outlet (Floras Creek bridge RM 5), and **Sixes** (Edson Creek RM 10). **Chetco River** (USFS Bridge RM 10.5 and close above Hwy 101 Bridge until Nov. 7).

2. Same as Option 1 except adopt one daily/two seasonal bag limit for the **Nehalem River**(close South Fork at Miami Foley Bridge RM 7.8 and North Fork at North Fork Bridge at Aldervale RM 4.0) and **Winchuck River** (closed until Nov. 7) consistent with Zone Regulations described above.

3. Same regulations as 2008.

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations for coastal fall Chinook in bays and rivers August 1-December 31, 2009.

**ISSUE 3**

**AMEND SPORT ANGLING REGULATIONS FOR NEW SPORT FISHERIES FOR WILD COHO IN COASTAL BAYS**

**ANALYSIS**

A technically-based stepwise process was used to identify potential basins for 2009 wild coho fisheries. The initial step was to consider only medium and large size independent populations as identified in the recent department Coho Plan. Dependent populations and small independent populations including the Necanicum, Salmon River, Beaver Creek, Floras Creek and the Sixes River were rejected from consideration. Other criteria used to evaluate potential fishery locations are identified in the Coho Plan and consider combined impacts from ocean fisheries along with those in estuary fisheries. The four primary criteria for evaluating the fisheries are as follows:

1. Amendment 13 to the Council;
2. NOAA's Technical Recovery Team Assessment;
3. Additional Biological and Social Factors; and
4. Department Spawner-Recruit Assessment.

**Allowable Fishery Mortality under Council Amendment 13 (A-13)**

A-13 (Council 1999-citation in FMEP document at ([http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho\\_proj.shtml](http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho_proj.shtml)) harvest matrix sets a maximum allowable fishery impact rate for Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho in ocean and inland fisheries. The department will only propose terminal fisheries in basins where the fishery will not exceed the total allowable fishery mortality rate when considered in combination with ocean fisheries. A-13 allows total maximum fishing mortality at the population level ranging from 15 to 30 percent. Those basins with 15 percent maximum allowable mortality (Siletz, Alsea, and Siuslaw) were removed from consideration as candidates because after ocean fishery impacts (set at 15 percent or less for 2009), there would not be sufficient impact allowance remaining for a terminal fishery.

**Application of NOAA Technical Review Team (TRT) Recovery Criteria**

Remaining candidate basins were then assessed relative to the biological recovery criteria developed by the NOAA TRT in 2008 (Wainwright et al. 2008- citation in FMEP document at ([http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho\\_proj.shtml](http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho_proj.shtml))). Populations considered to be biologically sustainable relative to the TRT's criteria were further considered for a fishery. Populations that had additional impact

allowance under A-13 were rejected based on the application of the TRT criteria include the Tillamook and Umpqua.

**Other Biological and Social Considerations**

Populations that remained as candidates for fisheries following assessments of consistency with A-13 and viability criteria include the Nehalem, Nestucca, Yaquina, Tenmile Lakes, Coos and Coquille. Two of these basins, the Nestucca and Tenmile Lakes, were rejected as likely candidates for fisheries based on further assessment of biological and social factors. The Nestucca was not considered appropriate for a fishery because it is thought to have limited high quality coho habitat (Nickelson, 1998- citation in FMEP document at [http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho\\_proj.shtml](http://www.oregon-plan.org/OPSW/cohoproject/coho_proj.shtml) ) and had low parental abundance in 2006. Tenmile Lakes is not proposed for a fishery because of social considerations related to landowners not supporting the fishery.

**Department Stock-Recruit Analysis**

Stock-recruit analysis was applied to the remaining populations (Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos and Coquille) and was used to provide a population specific forecast for 2009 pre-harvest adult coho abundance and provide a value to represent spawner abundance needed for full seeding. This analysis, along with A-13 criterion for fully seeding of high quality juvenile habitat, showed that forecasted coho abundance in 2009 in each basin was above the level needed to fully seed available habitat in the basins (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Average and forecasted abundance, and seeding levels for selected Oregon coast wild coho salmon populations along with recent spawner averages for reference.

Population	2001-08 avg. spawner estimate	2009 Forecast	NEQ <sup>1</sup>	A-13 full-seeding
Nehalem	18,692	24,904	11,763	17,500
Yaquina	8,102	7,280	4,557	7,100
Coos	21,952	15,466	14,520	7,200
Coquille	16,541	25,225	14,048	5,400

<sup>1</sup> NEQ is the estimated equilibrium production for each population in the complete absence of any fishing mortality and assuming average environmental conditions. It represents an interpretation of “full seeding”.

**Regulations for Proposed 2009 Wild Coho Fisheries**

Staff recommends that conservative fisheries on wild coho in tidewater areas of the Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos, and Coquille be implemented in 2009. To maintain extended fishing opportunity, staff recommends that these fisheries be based on harvest quotas, as well as modest daily and seasonal bag limits. Basin-specific harvest quotas as identified in Table 2 will prevent the overall fishery mortality from both the ocean and terminal fisheries in each population from exceeding the allowable mortality for that population under A-13. Annual and daily catch limits are proposed at one non adipose fin-clipped coho adult per day and up to five non adipose fin-clipped adult coho for the entire season in

aggregate with other wild coho fisheries including the two existing lake fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch. The daily catch limit would also include one non adipose fin-clipped jack coho salmon per day. Seasons would run seven days a week from September 1 to the end of November or the attainment of the quota. Statistical creels will be implemented in each basin to monitor the harvest and make estimates of total harvest on a weekly basis.

Proposed open areas to fishing in each basin are exclusively in tidewater. Open areas in the Nehalem extend from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Miami Foley Bridge on the South Fork and upstream to the North Fork Road Bridge (at Aldervale) on the North Fork. Open area in the Yaquina extends from the tips of the jetties upstream to the confluence of the Yaquina River and Big Elk Creek. Open areas in the Coos Basin extend from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Doris Place Boat Ramp at river mile 0.25 on the Millicoma and upstream to the confluence with Besse Creek at river mile 6.25 on the South Fork Coos River. Open areas in the Coquille extend from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Highway 42S bridge (Sturdivant Park) at river mile 24.0.

Table 2. Run size forecast, quota, and harvest rates for basins proposed for tidewater wild coho terminal fisheries in 2009.

Basin	Run Size Forecast Post ocean impacts	Quota	In-basin Harvest Rate
Nehalem	22,339	1,000	4.5%
Yaquina	6,530	500	7.7%
Coos	13,873	1,000	7.2%

**OPTIONS**  
**(Amendments to sport angling regulations for wild coho in bays)**

1. Establish new terminal tidewater recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho on the Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos, and Coquille rivers September 1- November 30, 2009 as proposed by staff.
2. Same as 2008, retention of non adipose fin-clipped coho salmon remains closed in the Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos and Coquille basin recreational fisheries.

**STAFF**  
**RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations to provide new terminal tidewater recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho on the Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos and Coquille Rivers September 1-November 30, 2009.

**ANALYSIS**

Trask River Hatchery and North Fork Nehalem Hatchery each produce approximately 100,000 adipose fin-clipped coho smolts annually for on-site release into their respective basins. Adult returns to these facilities under low to moderate marine survival range between approximately 1,000 and 3,000 fish. This level of return is well above the 150 fish needed for broodstock at each facility.

With favorable ocean conditions the past several years and strong returns of jack coho to Trask and Nehalem hatcheries in 2008, the District is forecasting an excellent hatchery return of hatchery coho to these basins. Based upon previously observed average jack:adult ratios, the 2009 forecasted returns to Trask and North Fork Nehalem hatcheries is approximately 11,000 and 4,000 fish, respectively.

In the Tillamook Bay basin, interception of hatchery coho occurs primarily in the bay and in the Trask River. In the Nehalem basin, interception of hatchery coho occurs primarily in the bay and in the North Fork Nehalem River. The peak catch period for both basins extends from August through October in most years, although some fish are also caught in November and December.

This proposal would extend from August 1 to October 31 in the Tillamook basin and from August 1 to December 31 in the Nehalem basin. The rationale for the October 31 end date in the Tillamook basin is to limit additional impacts on wild coho that return to the basin from late October through December. Unlike the Nehalem basin, Tillamook basin wild coho comprise a relatively small population that is not considered to be sustainable by the NOAA TRT (Wainwright, et al., 2008). As such, additional catch and release mortality in November and December on Tillamook wild coho is considered undesirable relative to the benefits achieved by harvesting additional hatchery fish during that time period.

**OPTIONS**  
**(Amend sport angling regulations for hatchery coho in bays to modify daily bag limits)**

1. Allow retention of one adipose fin-clipped coho in the Tillamook Basin August 1- October 31, 2009 and Nehalem Basin August 1- December 31, 2009, in addition to the two salmon/steelhead per day allowed under permanent rule.
2. Same as 2008, two salmon/steelhead per day in the Tillamook and Nehalem basins.

**STAFF**  
**RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations to allow retention of 1 adipose fin-clipped coho in addition to the two salmon/steelhead per day in the Tillamook and Nehalem basins.

**DRAFT MOTION**

I move to adopt, in concept, the 2009 regulations for fall Chinook in ocean sport and commercial terminal fisheries and bay and river sport fisheries and coho in sport bay and river fisheries as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

August 1, 2009.