

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

#### Coastal Fall Chinook

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is being asked to adopt restrictive regulations for north coastal fall Chinook in bay and river fisheries this fall in response to continued low spawning escapements in 2009 and average to below average forecasts for these populations. Overall, 2009 spawning escapements in north coast populations have improved compared to 2007-08, but the Nehalem River is still 30 percent below the escapement goal and the Nestucca River continues to sharply decline. Due to potential sampling design problems at low abundance, we are not confident in the estimate of spawning escapement in the Nestucca, but are confident that the returns in 2010 will be low, although not as low as 2009.

Although the Tillamook Basin showed improved escapement and the forecast is above the 20 year average, the river is bordered by two watersheds of concern (Nehalem to the north and Nestucca to the south). Restrictions are needed to meet conservation needs of these populations as well as to meet international agreements established under the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) related to Oregon's North Oregon Coastal (NOC) Chinook stocks and management objectives established by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) Fishery Management Plan. Coastal Chinook populations in the mid and south coast (from the Alsea River south) have shown improved escapements (in some cases much improved) in 2009 and no restrictions beyond permanent bag limit regulations are being recommended. Many area and low flow closures are recommended to be continued. The affected Oregon coastal fall Chinook fisheries also include ocean sport and commercial terminal fisheries in the three traditional areas off Garibaldi, Port Orford and Brookings and regulation options are presented.

The continued low Chinook spawning escapement in the Nehalem and Nestucca is inconsistent with trends for other adjacent far north migrating Chinook stocks in other coastal basins and the Columbia River. The Department has secured PST funding to conduct research studies in three north coast rivers (Nehalem, Nestucca and Siletz) this fall to improve estimates of spawning escapements and provide insight on factors constraining abundance of Chinook populations in these areas.

Guiding principles to develop regulation options for Commission consideration include: a) PST and PFMC obligations, b) additional restrictions to address conservation needs, c) coast wide consistency for management and enforcement, and d) maintain opportunities for traditional fisheries.

*With improved overall escapements and forecasts, the Department is not recommending any fishery closures for coastal fall Chinook this year.*

### **Coastal Wild Coho**

The Commission is being asked to adopt sport angling regulations that allow retention of non fin-clipped (or wild) coho salmon in three coastal basins (Coquille and Siletz rivers, and Tenmile Lakes). If adopted, the proposed coho fisheries would be the first recreational fisheries on wild coho in the Siletz and Tenmile Lakes basins since the mid 1990's. These proposed fisheries are designed to be similar to the successful wild coho fisheries that have occurred in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes since 2003, and also similar to the wild coho fisheries that occurred in four coastal basins in the fall of 2009.

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 selected basins in 2010. 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 2010 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 (A-13) to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan (PFMC 1999). In addition to A-13, the coho fisheries must be consistent with other criteria in the Coho Conservation Plan, other PFMC amendments, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requirements.

Approval by NOAA is required to open these fisheries due to the ESA status of Oregon Coast coho salmon. A Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) was submitted to NOAA for their consideration prior to conducting the 2009 fisheries. The report to NOAA describing the results of the 2009 wild coho fisheries and the proposal for the 2010 fisheries will be submitted by their June 1, 2010 deadline.

**PUBLIC  
INVOLVEMENT**

A series of public meetings were held on the Oregon coast between April 26 and April 28, 2010 in Gold Beach, North Bend, Newport, and Tillamook. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) staff presented background information and run forecasts and outlined the proposed structure of Chinook and wild coho fisheries. Over 100 people attended the meetings and provided input both verbally and in writing (see Attachment 5). In addition, the FMEP has been posted on the department's website since April 2009 and can be accessed at: [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal\\_coho/Draft\\_Coastal\\_Coho\\_FMEP.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal_coho/Draft_Coastal_Coho_FMEP.pdf). Proposals for conducting wild coho creels in the Nehalem, Yaquina, Coos (included Chinook creel and population monitoring), and Coquille Rivers were submitted in spring 2009 and funded under the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program.

Previously-approved R&E funding for the Coos and Coquille salmon fisheries would continue in 2010. R&E and other funding will be sought for the proposed Tenmile fishery (June 25<sup>th</sup> R&E application deadline); the Siletz will be covered by an existing creel program planned for 2010.

**ISSUE 1**

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

**ANALYSIS (Overview)**

Due to improved forecast of Sacramento fall Chinook, the PFMC adopted the first ocean commercial and recreational fisheries for Chinook off Oregon and California in three years. Consistent with the PFMC's recommendations and management guidelines, the federal salmon regulations for the ocean in 2010 allow Oregon to adopt ocean commercial and recreational Chinook fisheries in state waters in the traditional ocean terminal areas off Garibaldi (targeting Tillamook Bay Rivers fall Chinook), Port Orford (targeting Elk River fall Chinook), and Brookings (targeting Chetco River fall Chinook).

In addition to guidelines by the PFMC, 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 mixed-stock ocean fisheries also cannot impact other regional depressed salmon stocks under PFMC or Oregon management plans. These were the primary sideboards used to develop and evaluate terminal ocean fishery alternatives.

**ANALYSIS  
(Traditional Ocean  
Terminal Fisheries)**

*As with the last two years, restrictions for sport ocean terminal as well as bay and river fisheries are for non fin-clipped Chinook only. The department will continue a two salmon or steelhead per day and 20 per season rule coast wide that allows anglers to continue to fish for fin-clipped Chinook, coho, or steelhead up to their 2 daily/20 seasonal bag limits after they have retained their daily and seasonal bag limits for non fin-clipped Chinook.*

### **Tillamook Bay Terminal Fishery**

The fall Chinook ocean terminal area includes the area between Twin Rocks and Pyramid Rock, 0-3 miles. In 2009, the **sport** season was September 1- October 31 (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 ocean areas and river fisheries with 1 daily/5 seasonal bag limits. The **commercial** season was September 1- October 31 or quota of 300 Chinook. The 2010 forecast of 15,368 Chinook for Tillamook Bay rivers is above the 1990-2009 average (12,603).

For 2010, a **sport season** is recommended September 1- October 31 in the terminal area with a 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limit when combined with all north coast rivers with a 10 seasonal bag limit (Necanicum River, Tillamook Bay rivers, Salmon River, Siletz River, and Yaquina River) between August 1 and December 31, 2010.

For 2010, a **commercial season** is recommended September 1- October 31 in the terminal area with a quota of 500 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 a 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limit combined with all north coast rivers with a 10 seasonal bag limit. **Commercial**- September 1-October 31 season in the terminal area with a quota of 500 Chinook and a landing and possession limit of 25 Chinook per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) and 28 inch minimum length.
2. Same **sport** regulations; for **commercial** same except a 600 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. The open area for the Elk River fall Chinook fishery was modified in 2009 to reduce the potential impacts to Sixes River Chinook by limiting the open area to the area shoreward of Orford Reef. For 2010, we propose extending the southern edge of the open area back to the original southern boundary at the latitude of Humbug Mt. while still staying in the nearshore area to avoid potential harvest of Chinook other than Elk River stock. In 2009, the **sport** season was October 15- November 30 with 1 daily/5 seasonal bag limit (aggregate bag limit as described above) and the **commercial** season was October 15- November 30 or quota of 300 Chinook with a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day. The 2010 forecast for Elk River wild Chinook of 1,508 is near the 1990-2009 average of 1,627. The 2010 forecast for Elk River hatchery Chinook is 5,151. For the Sixes River that is adjacent to the Elk River, the 2010 forecast of 1,652 wild Chinook is above the 1990-2009 average of 1,394.

For 2010, a **sport** season is recommended October 15-November 30 with Permanent Regulation bag limits.

For 2010, a **commercial** season is recommended October 15-November 30 or a quota of 1,250 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 a nearshore area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mt.

#### **OPTIONS (Elk)**

1. **Sport**- October 15-November 30 season with Permanent Regulation bag limits. **Commercial**- October 15-November 30 season or a quota of 1,250 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 a nearshore area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mt.
2. Same **sport** regulations; for **commercial** same except a 1,000 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 2009 due to concerns with low escapement in the Chetco River, the Chetco Terminal Area was closed. In 2008, the **sport** season was October 1-4, and additional days of October 10-11 and 17-18 if weather limits effort, with a goal of 250 Chinook, one Chinook per day and four per season (no mark distinction) consistent with Zone regulations. Actual open days were October 1-4 and 11. The **commercial** season in 2008 was October 5-8, 12-15, and 19-31 or a quota of 250 Chinook with a daily landing and possession limit of 10 Chinook and 28 inch minimum length. Actual season dates were October 5-8 and 12.

The 2010 forecast for the Chetco River of 4,669 wild Chinook is nearly double the 1990-2009 average of 2,516. The 2010 forecast for Chetco River hatchery Chinook is 2,232.

Due to an excellent forecast for 2010, a **sport** season is recommended October 1-12 with a 1 daily/5 seasonal bag limit and 24 inch minimum length.

For **commercial**, an October 13-31 season or 500 Chinook quota is recommended with a 20 Chinook daily landing limit and 28 inch minimum length.

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

1. **Sport**- October 1-12 season with a 1 daily/5 seasonal Chinook bag limit (no mark distinction) and 24 inch minimum length.  
**Commercial**- October 13-31 season or a 500 Chinook quota with a daily landing and possession limit of 20/day and 28 inch minimum length.

2. **Sport-** October 1-12 or 250 Chinook quota. **Commercial-** October 13-31 or 250 Chinook quota.

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

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

**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**

Department staff recommend continuation of restrictive regulations for north coastal fall Chinook from the Necanicum south to the Yaquina due to generally below average forecast for these populations. The Nehalem River PST indicator stock is forecasted 30 percent below the escapement goal established under the treaty and the forecast for the Nestucca River is extremely low. From the Alsea River south to the California border escapements and forecasts are average or above average. Modifications to permanent regulations are limited to deadline adjustments that reduce allowable fishing area or low flow closures.

In 2007-08 in response to declines in most coastal fall Chinook populations that were well below escapement goals, the Commission adopted restrictive regulations including limited daily and seasonal bag limits, area closures, and closure of fisheries. These restrictions were needed to address conservation needs of populations but also to meet expectations of the PST and PFMC. Oregon's three North Oregon Coast (NOC) indicator stocks established under the Treaty are the Nehalem, Siletz and Siuslaw rivers. We did not meet PST indicator stock escapement goals in the last three years in the Nehalem and Siletz and during 2007-08 in the Siuslaw River. Both the Siletz and Siuslaw are forecasted to be above goal in 2010 but the Nehalem is forecasted to be about 30 percent below goal. The Nestucca River, a basin within the NOC stock aggregate, has a point estimate forecast of less than 700 wild Chinook, only 6 percent of the 20 year average of 10,700. Due to potential sampling design problems at low abundance, we are not confident in this point estimate, but are confident that the returns in 2010 will be low, although not as low as 2009.

Under the PST, if escapement goals for indicator stocks are not met, Oregon is expected to reduce its' aggregated freshwater harvest for NOC Chinook to 60 percent of the 1979-1982 base period (termed "general obligation") before harvest rates are reduced in Alaska and Canada under provisions of the PST.

Although we do not have complete data to determine how effective harvest restrictions imposed on coastal Chinook in 2008-09 were in meeting our general obligation for the NOC stocks as an aggregate (harvest rate of approximately 10 percent and exploitation rate of 5-6

percent), we have indications from our mark/recapture studies that for the Siletz River indicator stock that freshwater and estuary harvest was reduced from a three year average of 22 percent during 2005-07 under permanent regulations to 16 percent in 2009 suggesting that our regulations were effective in reducing in basin harvest. We also know that closure of the Nehalem River in 2009 reduced freshwater harvest rate that has been averaging about 28 percent in recent years.

Under the PFMC'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 in 11 index areas. NOC Chinook populations are harvested little (<5 percent) in Council area fisheries, but from the Umpqua River south are harvested significantly (>20 percent). The minimum escapement goal of 60 adults per mile was not met in both 2007 and 2008, but was met in 2009 (61 spawners/mile). Regulation actions taken in 2009 were effective in meeting the PFMC conservation objective for Oregon coastal Chinook thus avoiding the triggering of an "Overfishing Concern" similar to what occurred for Klamath River Chinook in California requiring an Overfishing Review by the PFMC and development of a rebuilding plan. If an overfishing concern was triggered for Oregon coastal Chinook, it is likely that higher interim escapement goals would have been imposed by the PFMC (as occurred in the Klamath) that would have constrained Oregon fisheries this year when more fish are available for harvest.

The department is currently working on a conservation plan for the Rogue fall Chinook species management unit, which covers all Oregon coastal populations of fall Chinook from Euchre Creek to the California border, including the Rogue River Basin. As part of plan development, department scientists are developing measurable criteria indicating a significant decline in status for each independent population that can be used to trigger restrictive fishery regulations and other management actions to ensure each population maintains viability. These criteria will be used to inform fisheries in state waters, and will be in addition to escapement goals developed to maintain optimal ocean fisheries under the PST and PFMC. The department intends to complete the Rogue Fall Chinook Conservation Plan this winter, and hopes to begin development of a conservation plan for all other coastal populations of fall Chinook in the next few years.

In the last two years, daily and seasonal bag limits of Oregon coastal Chinook were reduced from 2 daily/20 seasonal to one or two daily non fin-clipped Chinook and two, five, or ten seasonally in aggregate within the Marine, NW and SW Zones August 1-December 31. In 2009, because of continued declines, the Nehalem and Winchuck rivers and Chetco ocean terminal area were closed. The department also implemented about 110 miles of additional area closures (for a total of 235 miles in 2008-09) in the estuaries and rivers during the last two years to improve escapements of Chinook.

Staff evaluated punch card data for sport catch of fall Chinook in Oregon coastal streams for 2005-2007 to determine the potential benefits of reducing daily and seasonal bag limits. Based on these analyses, compared to permanent regulation bag limits (2 daily/20 seasonal) for non fin-clipped Chinook, it is estimated that north coast escapements would be improved an additional 5 percent by the proposed restrictive daily and seasonal bag limits.

Staff also evaluated various options for area closures 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 277 miles proposed for area closures (42 additional miles in 2010), staff estimates that spawning escapements coast wide will be improved by about 5 percent.

**It is recommended that Chinook area and season closures are implemented for the following rivers:**

Nehalem River- Mainstem (bay) closed to all salmon/steelhead angling downstream from line extending from Nehalem Bay State Park Boat Ramp to Fishery Point July 1- September 30 and closed to all Chinook angling upstream of Hwy 53 Bridge (River Mile (RM) 5.8) at Mohler September 1 through December 31. Closed to all Chinook angling upstream of Miami-Foley Bridge July 1-December 31.

Nestucca River- Mainstem Nestucca tidewater and bay downstream of Cloverdale Bridge (RM 7.1): closed to all salmon/steelhead angling August 1 through September 15. Mainstem Nestucca upstream of Cloverdale Bridge (RM 7.1) closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through September 15. Nestucca Bay downstream of department sign at the southern end of Guardrail Hole (aka Fishery Point, Brooten Road MP 4.5): closed to all salmon/steelhead angling August 1 through December 31. Little Nestucca including all Little Nestucca tidewater: closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31. Mainstem Nestucca River upstream of Farmer Creek (RM 12.5): closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Siletz River- Closed mainstem and tributaries above Old Mill Park Boat Launch (RM 36.0) and Drift Creek closed above Quarry Creek (RM 8.0).

Yaquina River- Closed mainstem above Big Elk Creek (RM 18.3) and Big Elk Creek closed.

Alsea River- Closed Drift Creek above the western boundary of the Drift Creek Wilderness (RM 10.5) and mainstem closed above Five Rivers (RM 21) and Five Rivers closed.



Siuslaw River- Closed mainstem above Lake Creek (RM 30) and Lake Creek closed including and Lake Creek below Fish Creek closed to all angling October 1- November 30.

Coos River- South Coos closed above Dellwood (RM 10).

Floras Creek and Floras Lake Outlet- Closed above Floras Creek Bridge (RM 5.0).

Sixes River- Closed above Edson Creek (RM 10.0).

Chetco River- Closed above Powerline crossing (RM 2.2) August 1- November 5.

Winchuck River- Closed August 1- November 5.

**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 NW Zone regulations for the **Necanicum, Tillamook Basin, Salmon, Siletz and Yaquina rivers** to allow no more than one non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and ten non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the seasonal aggregate when combined with all other waters in the NW Zone waters a ten Chinook salmon seasonal aggregate limit. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2010.

Amend NW Zone regulations for the **Nehalem and Nestucca River including Three Rivers and Little Nestucca rivers** 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 combined with all waters in the Nehalem and Nestucca rivers. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2010.

Amend NW and SW Zone regulations to establish area and season closures described above.

2. Same as Option 1 except for modified area closures. **Nehalem**- Mainstem (bay) closed to all salmon/steelhead angling downstream from line extending from Nehalem Bay State Park Boat Ramp to Fishery Point and closed to all Chinook angling upstream of Hwy 53 Bridge (RM 5.8) at Mohler July 1-December 31. **Nestucca**- Mainstem Nestucca tidewater and bay below Cloverdale Bridge (RM 7.1) including Little Nestucca tidewater below Hwy 101 bridge closed to all salmon/steelhead angling August 1 - September 30 and closed to all Chinook angling November 16 - December 31. Mainstem Nestucca above Cloverdale Bridge (RM 7.1) closed to all Chinook angling August 1 - September 30 and November 16 - December 31. Little Nestucca above Hwy 101 Bridge closed to all Chinook angling August 1 - December 31. Mainstem upstream of First Bridge (RM 15.8) closed to all Chinook angling August 1 - December 31.

**Siletz-** Closed mainstem and tributaries above Morgan Park (RM 25.0) and Drift Creek closed above Quarry Creek (RM 8.0).

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

1. **Option 1.** Amend sport angling regulations for coastal fall Chinook in bays and rivers August 1 - December 31, 2010.

**ISSUE 3**

**AMEND SPORT ANGLING REGULATIONS FOR WILD COHO  
SPORT FISHERIES IN COASTAL BAYS, RIVERS, and LAKES**

**ANALYSIS**

A technically-based stepwise process was used to identify potential basins for 2009 wild coho fisheries, and repeated for the 2010 proposal. 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 five primary criteria for evaluating the fisheries are as follows:

1. Amendment 13 (A-13) to the Council;
2. Full-seeding requirement post-fishery, from A-13 habitat model;
3. NOAA's Technical Recovery Team Assessment;
4. Additional Biological and Social Factors; and
5. Department Spawner-Recruit Assessment.

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

Amendment 13 (Council 1999-citation in FMEP document at [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal\\_coho/Draft\\_Coastal\\_Coho\\_FMEP.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal_coho/Draft_Coastal_Coho_FMEP.pdf)) 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 at 15 to 30 percent for populations with parental spawners in the "low", "medium", or "high" categories (most coastal populations). A-13 allows for maximum fishing mortality of only 11 percent on populations with parental spawners estimated to be in the "very low" category. Basins in the "very low" parental category that were removed from consideration as candidates because after ocean fishery impacts there would not be sufficient impact allowance remaining for a terminal fishery are the Coos and Siuslaw populations. The Nehalem and Yaquina are removed from consideration because they do not have sufficient seeding following fisheries, based on the A-13 habitat model.

**Comment [OE1]:** STEVE W: This sounds funny, do you want to rephrase?  
SF

**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). 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, but were rejected based on the application of the TRT criteria, were the Tillamook, Alsea, and Umpqua. The Umpqua basin failed the 2008 TRT assessment due to hatchery coho influences in the North Umpqua subbasin. Department management of hatchery coho has been changed in the North Umpqua, and the NOAA TRT will be re-evaluating coho populations based on the latest information. The status of the Umpqua coho population as a candidate for wild coho fisheries may change in the future, depending on the updated results from the TRT assessment.

**Other Biological and Social Considerations**

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), even though it passes other criteria. The Nestucca only had an estimated 394 coho spawners in 2007-08 from random surveys. It is not proposed to target a fishery on production from such a small parental return even though it meets criteria.

**Department Stock-Recruit Analysis**

Stock-recruit analysis was applied to the remaining populations (Siletz, Tenmile Lakes, and Coquille) and was used to provide a population specific forecast for 2010 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 high quality juvenile habitat, showed that forecasted coho abundance in 2010 in each basin was above the level needed to fully seed available habitat in the basins. (Table 1). Under this analysis, the Forecast to River must be above the 75 percent NEQ level in order to pass this criterion for a fishery.

Comment [OE2]: STEVE W: Spell out NEQ??? SF

**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	2001-09 avg. spawner estimate	2010 Forecast to River	75% NEQ <sup>1</sup>	A-13 full-seeding
Siletz	8,690	6,801	1,733	4,300
Tenmile	10,248	8,860	7,118	4,400 <sup>2</sup>
Coquille	17,060	23,089	8,018	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 one interpretation of “full seeding”.

<sup>2</sup> Seeding based on partitioning of “Lakes Complex” (Siltcoos, Tahkenitch, and Tenmile lakes) full-seeding estimate, with Tenmile Basin having approx. 55% of the Lakes Complex production.

### **Regulations for Proposed 2010 Wild Coho Fisheries**

Staff recommends that conservative fisheries on wild coho in the Siletz, Coquille, and the Tenmile Lakes basins be implemented in 2010. 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. For Coquille and Tenmile Lakes, the 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. For the Siletz, the annual and daily catch limits are proposed at one non adipose fin-clipped coho adult per season, with this one fish included in the five fish aggregate for all basins with a wild coho fishery. For any open wild coho fishery, the daily catch limit would also include one non adipose fin-clipped jack coho salmon per day.

Seasons in the Coquille and Siletz would run seven days a week from September 1 to the end of November or attainment of the quota. The season in Tenmile Lakes would run from October 1 to the end of December, or 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 in lower river areas or in lakes. Open area in the Coquille extends from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Highway 42 Bridge near Sturdivant Park, near RM 24.5. Open area in the Siletz extends from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Old Mill Park Boat Launch below the town of Siletz, near RM 36.0. Open areas of the Tenmile basin would be North and South Tenmile Lakes upstream of Hilltop Bridge, exclusive of the canal that connects the lakes. Tributaries above the lakes would also be closed. The Two Rod License would not be valid in Tenmile Lakes during this open fishery.

Table 2. Run size forecast, proposed quota, and harvest rates for basins proposed for wild coho terminal fisheries in 2010.

Basin	Run Size Forecast Post ocean impacts	Quota	In-basin Harvest Rate
Siletz	6,801	400	5.9%
Tenmile	8,860	500	5.6%
Coquille	23,089	1,200	5.2%

**OPTIONS**  
**(Amendments to sport angling regulations for wild coho in bays, rivers, and lakes)**

1. Establish terminal recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho on the Siletz and Coquille rivers September 1- November 30, 2010, and in North and South Tenmile Lakes October 1 – December 31, 2010 (or attainment of quotas) as proposed by staff.
2. Retention of non adipose fin-clipped coho salmon remains closed in the Siletz, Tenmile, and Coquille basin recreational fisheries.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

1. **Option 1.** Amend sport angling regulations to provide terminal recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho in the Siletz, Tenmile and Coquille basins with open areas, bag limits, seasons, and quotas as proposed by basin.

**DRAFT MOTION**

I move to adopt, in concept, the 2010 regulations for fall Chinook in ocean sport and commercial terminal fisheries and bay and river sport fisheries and coho in sport bay, river, and lake fisheries as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

August 1, 2010.