

**Coastal Fall Chinook and Coho
2010 Temporary Angling Regulations Public Meeting
April 28 in Tillamook**

Approximately 60 people were in attendance at this meeting held at the Oregon Department of Forestry Conference Room in Tillamook. Public comment was as follows:

Necanicum:

Stay with 1/5 regulation.

Nehalem Basin:

Open river to Beaver Slide to allow bank and drift boat access.

Close all salmon fishing prior to August 1 (Summer Chinook protection)

1/3 or 1/4 bag limit better than 1/2

No seasonal closure from State Park down to jaws.

Need equity between bank and boat anglers

Need ocean bubble closure

Close Jaws to Chinook, open for hatchery coho

Likes closure at Miami-Foley Bridge

Tillamook Bay Basin:

Stay with 1/5 regulation (7 votes)

1/10 (14 votes)

Tillamook Bubble:

One comment to extend season to November 15

Need to extend bubble North

Nestucca Basin:

Close all angling above Moon Creek to improve enforcement on illegal activity

In favor of Option 1

Rack your rod after keeping one chinook

General Comments:

Barbless Hooks Coast-wide (7 in favor; 12 against)

2010 Coastal Chinook and Coho Regulation Meeting
Curry Showcase Building, Curry Cty Fairgrounds
Gold Beach, OR
April 26, 2010

ODFW Staff: Ron Boyce, Russ Stauff, Todd Confer, Steven Mazur

OSP Staff: Dan Stinnett

Public Attendance: 22; including Representative Wayne Krieger, Curry County Commissioner Georgia Nowlin, and local media (2)

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda:

ODFW presentation included 1) an overview of fisheries; 2) 2010 escapement forecasts; 3) review of 2009 fisheries; 4) options for 2010; 5) proposed freshwater wild coho fisheries.

ODFW staff identified option 2 as the preferred option for the south coast. With improved escapement in 2009 and further improvement expected based on 2010 forecasts the immediate conservation need that was present in 2008 and 2009 has abated. Option 2 proposes to revert to permanent rule, except that deadlines would be retained on Floras and Sixes, and low flow closures would again be implemented on the Chetco and Winchuck. Option 2 includes terminal seasons for the Chetco (sport: Oct. 1-12, troll: 500 Ch quota), and Elk (sport: Oct. 15-Nov. 30, troll: 1000 Ch quota).

Staff noted that effort has increased significantly on the Chetco and Sixes rivers over the past 20 years, with a corresponding increase in harvest rates. Harvest rates likely often exceed 40%. While the increased harvest rates do not constitute an immediate conservation need, long-term action should be taken to dampen harvest in the Chetco and Sixes rivers. Changes to permanent regulations for the Chetco and Sixes rivers likely will be considered with the adoption of a conservation plan (Chetco), or through the 2012 public regulation process (Sixes).

All comments received from the public were directed at either the Chetco, Chetco terminal, or Elk terminal fisheries options.

Public comments received at the Gold Beach meeting are listed below:

1. Oregon South Coast Fishermen, Inc (OSCFI) submitted several comments regarding the Chetco:
 - a. Chetco terminal (sport)
 - i. Recommend season dates of October 1 – October 17
 - ii. Recommended bag limit for terminal fishery of 2 fish/day, only one of which can be non fin-clipped, 5 non fin-clipped Ch/season

- b. Recommend that the Chetco River and terminal fisheries be managed as a single unit; re: include the terminal fishery with the estuary and in-river season setting process.
 - i. Create management zones for the Chetco fishery (create location codes for 4 management zones on the Chetco so that differential regulations may be implemented in order to equitably allocate harvest to various fisheries. Suggested management zones include:
 1. Ocean terminal area
 2. Estuary area from the tips of the jetties to the power line crossing at rm 2.2.
 3. Mid-river area from the power line crossing at rm 2.2 to the second bridge at rm 10.5.
 4. Upper river area from the second bridge at rm 10.5 to the South Fork at rm 18.0.
2. Brookings area trollers provided the following comments:
 - a. Chetco terminal (commercial)
 - i. Recommend season dates of October 13 – October 31
 - ii. Recommend 750 Ch quota, landing limit of 20/day
 - iii. Do not support extension of sport season to Oct. 17. Presence of sport boats Oct. 13-17 would interfere with trollers best days on the water.
 - iv. Recommend additional 5 days for commercial fishery if sport season were extended to Oct. 17.
 - v. Fishery should include area north to Twin Rocks.
 3. Comments received regarding the Chetco River:
 - a. ODFW should continue the Ch closure (deadline) upstream of 2nd bridge (rm 10.5) on the Chetco to protect important spawning habitat.
 - b. ODFW should consider implementing a mark selective fishery in the Chetco River and/or terminal sport season.
 - c. If a deadline at rm 10.5 is implemented, would like to see the closure start December 1st. That would allow limited harvest while also protecting spawning Ch.
 - d. Leave Chetco River open upstream of rm 10.5.
 4. Comments received regarding the Elk terminal fishery (commercial):
 - a. Season should start October 1 to allow more time on the water to account for lost days due to bad weather. The Port of Port Orford has some issue with shoaling at different tides which further restricts the flexibility of the commercial fleet.
 - b. Recommend a 1500 Ch quota.
 - c. Recommend landing limit of 15 Ch/day. Lower landing limit would slow harvest rate and allow opportunity for more trollers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Nestucca Fall Chinook public meeting notes
Kiawanda Community Center, Pacific City
4/7/10

85 members of the public in attendance (plus 10 staff and 1 OSP)

Deal with cormorants

Do spawning surveys in Elk Creek

Factor in high water issues (can't see fish, washes out carcasses)

Personal observations don't track with forecast

More emphasis on hatcheries in southern Oregon

Production capacity is changing

Regulations should account for businesses

Restrict upper river (above 4th bridge)

Shoot seals

Surplus hatchery fish should be released in the river

Avian and seal predation is a problem

Include option for increasing harvest if more fish return (if initial limit is less than 1/5)

Fish caught in multiple basins should count toward season limit of 5

Reduce chinook harvest and increase coho harvest

~~Support a 1/3 bag limit~~

Either 1 fish limit (25 people rose hands in support) or complete closure (9)

Have a catch and release season only

Suggest 1/4 and keep Little Nestucca open

Consider increased mortality (from catch and release) in relation to 1/5 bag limit

Consider fishing up to Thanksgiving

Cut cost of license and tag fees (don't qualify for pioneer license yet)

Close entire coast to egg fishing

Record pinniped marks on captured fish (mark-recapture project)

Release more hatchery fall chinook

Predators are a problem (mentioned numerous times)

Escapement estimate is not consistent with anglers saw (especially in 09)

Why are there management differences (especially with hatcheries) between north and south coast.

Is there a plan to deal with El Nino/global warming in the future?

Open fishery for wild coho.

Close fishing above 1st bridge. End season approximately Nov. 15th-Thanksgiving. 1/5 or 1/2 would be ok.

Close above 1st bridge. Close mouth of bay to Little Nestucca.

Continue the 1/5 bag limit. Deadline at 1st Bridge. Boats at mouth may deter seasl, leave that open. Nov. 15 closure not a bad idea.

Deadline poll- deadline with number of people supporting is shown:

Moon Cr.- 0

1st bridge- 50

Farmer Cr.- 1

3 Rivers- 0

Cloverdale- 0

Woods Bridge- 0

PC Bridge- 0

Mouth- L. Nest.- 1

1st bridge deadline, 1/5 bag. Nov 15 closure- show of hands indicated almost everyone in attendance would support

Close to steelhead angling also (areas with ChF closure)

Why is Tillamook Bay above average? Fish went into the same ocean.

Increase hatchery releases to compensate for low production.

Suggestion for permanent closure (ChF) above Stella Falls on Little Nestucca.

Start with 1/3 limit, expand if more fish show up.

Do not close below PC Bridge (unanimous)

Close all species above Moon Cr.

Nehalem Fall Chinook Fishery Public meeting Notes

3/18/10

Meeting was held from 6-8 pm at the Pine Grove Community Center in Manzanita
Approximately 110 people in attendance (in addition to staff)

Comments received and recorded at the meeting:

Consider a specific time frame closure (example: fishery does not open until September 15th; or August-October open, then close)

Concern stated about any area closures- do not recommend; suggest having a quota (quota mentioned multiple times during the meeting)

Concern stated about guides/non-guides allocation- guides should have season limits or a guide quota

Support for chinook closure if needed; willing to give up this year for long term benefits

Suggested mandatory fish check in, with penalty for not reporting (supported by at least two people)

Raise hatchery fall chinook in the Nehalem.

Predator issue brought up (multiple times)

Suggestion for 1/5 bag limit, close bar, close above tidewater (Roy Cr. or Miami-Foley Bridge)

Ban fish eggs for bait (statewide)

Close chinook from the bar to Paradise Cove

Analyze seasonal bag limit to allow for consistent fishing season

Maintain equity for bay/river fishing (supported by at least two people)

Support for in-season closure if fish don't show up

Restrict days guides can fish (because season limits don't apply since they have different people every day)

Quit fishing after retaining a chinook

Manage for escapement first, then open fishery (similar to AK)
Retain first legal fish

Close above CC bridge

Close bar to state park (hand count was 47 in favor)

Everyone needs to be part of the solution and give up something

Leave bar open (hand count was 30 in favor)

Restrict sex of retain fish (bucks only)

Need habitat enhancement

Suggestion for 3 day/week fishery

Need to protect spawners

Close above tidewater (Miami-Foley or Mohler)

Have a quota for the bar area (need to determine number)

If bar is closed, will it be open for coho?

Issues at Wheeler too, similar to bar

Seal predation numbers (how many fish do they eat?)

Closing one area will shift pressure to another area

Need research on area fishing pressure (parts of the bay where catch occurs); Question on bag limit, how much increased savings do you get?

Let the biologists set the quota

Close the entire river for fall chinook (hand count of 16 in favor)

Have some form of fall chinook fishery (hand count of 38 in favor)

Another suggestion for mandatory fish check in

Have a quota per boat (individual quota)

ODFW should list other issues (limiting factors). ODFW will provide by e-mail.



MEMORANDUM

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date: April 29, 2010

To: Ron Boyce

From: Derek Wilson

Subject: 2010 Rivers and Bays Public Meeting Summary

A public meeting was held in Newport on April 27th and 28th to review the 2010 Chinook and coho river and bay fishery forecasts and options. A second meeting was held on the 28th because of a misprint in the local paper stating the wrong date. Approximately 30-35 non staff was in attendance for the 27th meeting and 8 for the 28th meeting.

In general, most people were supportive of continuing deadline adjusts, staying with a daily limit of 1 wild Chinook, and proposed terminal coho fisheries but were concerned with over harvest of CHF in the ocean / PST treaty issues, the lack of terminal coho fisheries (Alsea and Siuslaw) and uneven allowable impact rate split between ocean and inland fisheries. The following is a summary of public comments taken from both meetings. Keep in mind that most of these were reiterated several times.

- There was a lot of support for keeping Lake Creek (Siuslaw Basin) closed to Chinook retention. Some suggested a full closure to all fishing to prevent people from claiming to be angling for "steelhead". Others suggested having a seasonal closure to all fishing such as Sept. through mid to late Oct. then open to normal fishing regs including for Chinook.
- Otherwise open Lake Cr back up to Indian Creek since snaggers are fishing there anyway. Needs to have increased enforcement.
- Several people supported a first two salmon and your done regulation. This could be used in combination with the ocean fisheries.
- Many people want terminal coho fisheries more consistently and in areas like the Alsea and Siuslaw, i.e. at least some type of coho harvest opportunity such as down stream of Hwy 101 on the Alsea Bay. Ultimately many feel that the criteria need to be reevaluated. Many areas are likely hitting realistic historical highs with coho in recent years.
- Get NOAA to hold or attend public meetings to discuss fisheries.
- Coho spawner estimates are underestimated. Improve methodology.
- Need to reevaluate incidental catch rate mortality in the river and ocean fisheries.
- A "definable" or actually "marked" fishing boundary needs to be established on the Alsea at the jaws to prevent people from catching staging fish in the ocean/estuary entrance area.

- Close the Alsea from hwy 101 to the jaws.
- Bottom line, anglers just want an opportunity to catch fish regardless of a 2/20 or a 1/10.
- Stay with the daily 1 wild fish limit on Alsea but if you kill it you're done.
- Keep Five Rivers closed to Chinook angling.
- Suggest that ODFW go to a permanent regulation that is biologically sound and still offers anglers opportunity consistently through time, long term. Such as a permanent 1/10 which likely will not have significant impacts during low return years and not try to maximize harvest during big return years.
- People are willing to help ODFW in ways to get more fisheries open, i.e. coho fisheries more regularly in most or all basins.
- Go to a 1/20 any fish regulation.
- 2 Chinook limit with 1st any size and the second under a preset size limit, i.e. less than 28 inches. This may help prevent people from just targeting the large fish.
- Spay and Neuter local seals. Look at "Nonlethal" population control options.
- Keep 1/5 Chinook limit on Siletz and the Morgan Park deadline. Consider emergency closure if forecast does not hold.
- Consider social and economic impacts.
- More balance between ocean and inland harvest, a more equitable split in the allocation of allowable impacts.
- Public wants to have a process/informational base to be able to have more impact on Federal decisions.
- Federal goals for coho are unattainable.
- Need to have more PST representatives / votes from Oregon.
- Are others making cuts like Oregon in the PST treaty? The public needs more involvement.
- There has been a large increase recently in lodges in Canada/Alaska which are also targeting Oregon Chinook.
- Opportunity to harvest more wild coho jacks.
- Public comments don't ever seem to get considered or enacted by the commission.
- Change the 24" Chinook jack rule up to 26" and develop a proposal showing evidence for such change.
- A 1 fish daily limit causes anglers to target only the large fish. Could have some type of size/slot limits to keep smaller fish.
- Keep the first fish caught regardless of species / clip.
- Move Siletz deadline back up around the town of Siletz to allow more bank access and drift boat use. Reduce to a 1/5 to justify the deadline move upriver.
- If you remove a fish from water (to measure or what ever) then you have to keep it. This needs to be in writing.