Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND **Coastal Fall Chinook**

In 2008-09, due to poor returns of coastal fall Chinook, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) adopted restrictive regulations and area closures, including some complete fishery closures in 2009. These changes were implemented to address conservation needs and to meet objectives established under the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). By 2011, many streams were forecasted to have improved returns, although low expected numbers in some North Coastal streams prompted continuation of restrictive regulations in some areas. From the Alsea River south, no restrictions beyond permanent bag limit regulations were adopted, but many area and low flow closures were continued.

Returns for North Coastal streams continued to improve in 2011, and forecasts for 2012 for many basins are similar to last year's returns. In 2011, the Nehalem River exceeded the PST minimum escapement goal and is projected to exceed the goal again for 2012. The forecasts for the Nehalem and Tillamook rivers are at or above the 20-year average. In contrast, the Nestucca River is forecasted to remain well below the 20-year average, although confidence in the point estimate is low. As a result of the overall trend in improving returns, the Department is proposing a restoration of the historic two fish daily bag limit in NW Zone waters, but continuation of the recent ten fish aggregate seasonal limit. These limits apply only to non adipose fin-clipped Chinook and would be in place for all coastal streams from the Necanicum River south to the Yaquina River.

From the Alsea River south, only the Sixes and Elk rivers have proposed bag restrictions, with one non adipose fin-clipped Chinook per day and ten per season limits, as in 2011. These regulations are intended to increase the focus of harvest on hatchery Chinook and improve runs of wild Chinook. Although some continued area and low flow closures are recommended, no other changes to permanent bag limit regulations (two per day and 20 per season) are proposed for the remainder of the streams between the Alsea River and the Oregon/California border. The Yachats and Pistol rivers and Hunter Creek are restricted to one Chinook per day and five per season under permanent rules and no changes are proposed.

The Department is recommending continuation of traditional commercial and recreational ocean terminal fisheries off the Elk and Chetco rivers. Due to substantially increased ocean fishing opportunities no other ocean terminal fisheries are proposed for 2012.

The Department is completing a conservation plan for the Rogue fall Chinook species management unit (SMU), which will cover the Rogue River Basin and other coastal populations of fall Chinook from Euchre Creek to the California border. The department intends to present a final draft of the Rogue Fall Chinook Conservation Plan to the Commission in October of 2012.

The Department's "Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management

Plan" (Coastal Plan; draft title) process is also now underway. The Coastal Plan will supplement ocean fishery management processes already in place to provide a comprehensive framework for future management and conservation of populations of Chinook salmon, steelhead, chum salmon, and cutthroat trout in coastal streams north of Cape Blanco. The Coastal Plan is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013, or earlier. Summaries and analyses of the status and viability of current populations are mostly completed and discussions of potential management needs and actions with public stakeholder groups will begin shortly.

Both plans will contain measurable criteria to detect the occurrence of significant declines in status, which would be used to trigger management actions, including but not limited to fishery restrictions, to ensure that these populations maintain long-term viability.

Coastal Wild Coho

Returns of wild coho on the Oregon coast have increased dramatically over the last decade. The average adult return for Oregon Coastal natural (OCN) coho for the period 1990-2000 was 48,800 adults. Since 2001, this average has increased to 199,100 adults (66,000 to 291,000). Over the most recent five year period, the average return has increased to 216,700 adults. The preliminary estimate of the 2011 adult return is 291,400, and the forecast for 2012 is 291,000. ODFW monitors wild smolt abundance at 11 coastal smolt traps and the estimated abundance at these sites of progeny contributing to the 2012 return was 118,000 total smolts. This estimate is somewhat higher than the median smolt estimate for the time series (1998-current), indicating that the parental return of 263,000 adults in 2009 produced good, but not exceptional numbers of smolts.

Due to changes in management strategies and harvest limitations on other stocks, ocean harvest impacts on OCN coho have been markedly lower since the 1990s than they were prior to that time. Including inland harvests when allowed, total exploitation rate (ER) on OCN coho has not exceeded 12% since 1993, and has averaged 6.6% from 2007-2011.

As a result of substantially increased abundances of OCN coho, the Department has been able to provide limited harvest opportunities for wild coho in selected coastal streams. These fisheries have proven to be successful and popular, while meeting conservation and recovery needs for the wild coho populations.

In 2011, wild coho recreational harvest fisheries were allowed under temporary rules in several areas, and under permanent rules in two areas. These included: the Nehalem River, Tillamook Bay and rivers, the Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille rivers, and Tenmile Lakes – all recent areas for wild coho fisheries; and Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes – which are open annually under permanent rules. All areas had a daily bag limit of one non adipose fin-clipped adult coho salmon per day. Seasonal catch limits for adults varied from one to five depending on area. Bag limits also included one non adipose fin-clipped jack coho salmon per day, with no seasonal limit.

For the Nehalem and Umpqua rivers, the 2011 seasonal catch limit was two non adipose fin-clipped adult coho in aggregate with all other wild coho

fisheries with a two adult non adipose fin-clipped coho salmon seasonal aggregate limit. Fisheries in Tillamook Bay and rivers and the Nestucca River were limited to a daily and seasonal bag limit of one non adipose fin-clipped adult coho. A five non adipose fin-clipped fish seasonal limit was in place for all remaining open streams from the Siletz south to the Coquille and in Tenmile Lakes.

Coho seasons began on September 15 and were planned to end November 30, except for Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes, which are open under permanent regulations from October 1 through December 31 and are no longer managed under a quota. With the exception of the Nehalem River and Tenmile Lakes, all of the quota-based fisheries closed prior to November 30 due to attainment of quota, with most reaching the quota in early or mid-October. Overall, the 2011 fisheries harvested 8,050 adult wild coho, or 89% of the planned overall of 9,050 fish. The estimated ER on the ESU coho for 2011, including ocean and inland fisheries, was about 8%. The cumulative ER for individual populations ranged from 4.9% to 14.1%, compared to the allowed limitation of ≤15%.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public meetings were held April 25 and 26 in Tillamook and Newport, respectively, to discuss proposed regulations for 2012 Chinook and coho fisheries in coastal bays and streams. ODFW staff presented background information and run forecasts, and solicited input on staff proposals. About 80 people attended both meetings and provided input (summarized by staff in Attachment 6). Additional written comments received from the public prior to May 22 are included in Attachment 7.

Creel projects to monitor wild coho fisheries were recommended for funding at the April 26th R&E Board meeting; this funding is subject to Commission approval, as are the individual basin fisheries proposed. Match funding is provided by ODFW Fish Districts, Fish Division staff, and existing PST-funded fall Chinook creel projects.

ISSUE 1 OCEAN SPORT AND COMMERCIAL CHINOOK REGULATIONS FOR TERMINAL AREAS

BACKGROUND

Due to large forecasts for 2012 Klamath and Sacramento fall Chinook returns, the PFMC adopted more liberal ocean fishery regulations off Oregon and California than have been seen in several years. The Commission adopted matching regulations for state waters at their April 20th meeting.

In addition to guidelines from 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 in most coastal river basins, and 3) meet spawning escapement goals in wild coastal Chinook populations. These fisheries also cannot impact other regional depressed salmon stocks under PFMC or Oregon management plans.

Staff is proposing sport and commercial troll seasons in two traditional terminal areas for 2012: Elk River - off Port Orford, and Chetco River - off Brookings. These terminal fisheries are highly successful at harvesting stocks returning to these locations, with little interception of other Chinook

stocks. Because the area of the traditional Tillamook Ocean fall terminal fishery has already been approved for 2012 under ocean rules, this fishery is not being proposed by staff. For the same reason, staff is not proposing 2012 fisheries in the Coos-Coquille Terminal area which was conducted in 2011.

ANALYSIS

Elk River Ocean Terminal Fishery

The 2012 forecast for Elk River wild Chinook is 2,700 (1990-2011 average 2,300), and the forecast for Elk River hatchery Chinook of 8,900 fish is similar to the 2011 return of 9,200. The 2012 forecast for the Sixes River is 2,500 Chinook (1990-2011 average 1,800).

The Elk River terminal area traditionally included the area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mountain and seaward 3 nautical miles. The area was modified beginning in 2009 by limiting the fishery to the area shoreward of Orford Reef, to reduce potential impacts to Sixes River Chinook. The Department proposes staying with this definition for 2012 to avoid potential harvest of Chinook other than Elk River stock.

In 2011, the sport season was November 1-30 with bag limits of two Chinook per day, but no more than one non adipose fin-clipped Chinook per day and ten per season. The 2011 commercial season was November 1-30 with a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day and a minimum size of 24 inches. This was the first time that a minimum Chinook size less than 26 inches had been adopted for any Oregon commercial troll season. The reduced size limit was in response to a request from a segment of industry and was intended to increase the harvest of smaller age 2 and 3 Chinook returning to the Elk River Hatchery.

The Department is proposing the same season and bag limit and landing limit regulations for 2012, but with a return to a 26-inch minimum length in the commercial troll fishery. In 2011, no coded-wire-tagged (CWT) age 2 Elk River stock Chinook were harvested in this fishery. All CWTs recovered from small fish were from non-local stocks. Returning to a larger size limit is intended to reduce the harvest of non-local stocks, which is a goal for this terminal fishery.

The commercial fishery has historically been a no quota fishery, and staff is proposing no quota for 2012. Commercial catch in 2011 was 2,000 fish and the highest catch observed since 1993 was 2,200 in 2004; neither of these years was operated under a quota.

OPTIONS

1. **(Staff Recommendation)**

   Sport - November 1-30 with two Chinook per day, no more than one non adipose fin-clipped per day and ten per season in aggregate with the Sixes and Elk rivers.

   Commercial - November 1-30 season with a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day and a 26 inch minimum length. Both sport and commercial fisheries would be limited to a near-shore area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mountain and shoreward of Orford Reef.

2. **Modify staff recommendation.**

ANALYSIS

Chetco River Ocean Terminal Fishery

The 2012 forecast for the Chetco River is 4,000 Chinook (to the 1990-2011 average 4,100). The forecast for the Winchuck River is 1,000 fish (1990-2011 average 600).

This fall Chinook terminal area includes the area between the north shore of Twin Rocks and the Oregon/California border. In 2011, the sport season was October 1-12 with a one Chinook per day (clipped or unclipped)/five per season bag limit and 24 inch minimum length. As in past years, the October 1-12 dates were structured to encompass two full weekends of recreational opportunity.

The commercial season was the earlier of October 13-31 or a 750 Chinook quota, with a 20 Chinook daily landing limit and 28 inch minimum length. This quota was not reached in 2011, with only 100 Chinook landed.

The Department is proposing the same season structures for 2012.

OPTIONS

1. **(Staff Recommendation)**

   Sport - October 1-12 with a one daily/five seasonal Chinook bag limit (clipped or unclipped) and 24 inch minimum length.

   Commercial –October 13 through the earlier of October 31 or a 750 Chinook quota, with a daily landing and possession limit of 20 per day and a 28 inch minimum length.

2. **Sport –** October 1-14 with a one daily/five seasonal Chinook bag limit (clipped or unclipped) and a 24 inch minimum length.

   Commercial – October 13 through the earlier of October 21 or a 750 Chinook quota, with a daily landing limit of 20 per day and a 28 inch minimum length.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Amend sport and commercial fishing regulations for 2012 coastal fall Chinook in Elk and Chetco ocean terminal areas as proposed by staff.

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**

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Returns for North Coastal streams continued to improve in 2011, and forecasts for 2012 for many basins are similar to last year's returns. The Nehalem River PST indicator stock exceeded the PST minimum escapement goal in 2011 and is forecasted to exceed the goal by nearly 2,000 fish in 2012. The 2011 return and 2012 forecast for the Nestucca River are both lower than historic averages (1990-2011 average 8,600). Historic index surveys used for estimating escapement in the Nestucca may lead to underestimates of abundance when returns are relatively low. A research program is currently underway in the Nestucca to estimate abundance using mark-recapture methods to help reduce uncertainties in these estimates. The 2011 return and 2012 forecast for the Siletz River are about 25% below the long-term average and below the goal specified in OAR 635-500-4550 (4,925), but above the PST minimum escapement goal. From the Alsea River south to the California border, escapements and forecasts are average or above average.

In 2011, daily and seasonal bag limits of North Coastal fall Chinook from the Necanicum River south to the Salmon River were reduced from the permanent rules of two non adipose fin-clipped fish per day to one per day. Season limits on non adipose fin-clipped Chinook were also reduced from 20 per season to ten per season in the Necanicum and Salmon River basins (Nehalem, Tillamook, and Nestucca are managed under a ten Chinook per season in aggregate limit by permanent rule). The Siletz and Yaquina rivers were managed for a two non adipose fin-clipped per day and ten per season bag limit. Daily and seasonal bag limits in the Alsea, Siuslaw, and entire SW Zone matched permanent rules with the exception of the Elk and Sixes rivers, where a one non adipose fin-clipped per day and ten per season bag limit was in place.

Due to overall improved returns in most North Coastal streams, the Department is proposing more liberal daily bag limits in North Coastal streams and identical regulations in the remainder of coastal streams compared to 2011. Staff is proposing a two non adipose fin-clipped Chinook per day and ten per season in aggregate bag limit for all streams from the Necanicum River south to the Yaquina River, inclusive. Public comments provided at a public meeting in Tillamook on April 25 included support for this proposal as well as several requests to maintain a more conservative one per day and ten per season bag limit. While the Department staff does not oppose the proposal to maintain the more conservative limit, it does not appear that the one fish per day limit is biologically necessary.

For streams from the Alsea River, inclusive, south to the California border, bag limits under permanent rules would apply in all areas except the Elk and Sixes rivers, where the 2011 bag limit of two salmon, only one of which may be a non adipose fin-clipped Chinook per day and ten non adipose fin-clipped Chinook per season would be carried over for 2012.

Staff evaluated various options for area closures proposed by staff and the public, but tried to maintain as much traditional angling area as possible. Most closures are designed to protect spawning fish, but some, such as in the Nestucca River, are also intended to reduce harvest rates and provide additional protection to the populations. The proposed 2012 upstream boundaries for salmon angling in the Nehalem and Siletz rivers extend available fishing areas compared to 2011, and the Department is proposing elimination of the 2011 closure at the Nehalem River bar.

A summary of fall Chinook regulations for 2011 and proposed regulations for 2012 is provided in Attachment 3.

OPTIONS

1. **(Staff Recommendation)**

   Amend NW Zone and SW Zone regulations implement 2012 fall Chinook regulations as outlined in Attachment 3.

2. **Modify staff proposal.**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations for coastal fall Chinook in bays and rivers Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012 and in the Nehalem River Jul. 1 – Dec. 31, 2012 as proposed in Attachment 3.

ISSUE 3 **ADOPT SPORT ANGLING REGULATIONS FOR WILD COHO SPORT FISHERIES IN COASTAL BAYS, RIVERS, and LAKES**

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

As a result of substantially increased abundances of OCN coho, the Department has been able to provide limited recreational harvest opportunities for wild coho in selected coastal streams. These fisheries have proven to be successful and popular, while meeting conservation needs for wild coho populations. Targeted fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho are identified as a desired management approach in the State of Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (Coho Plan), which was approved by the Commission in 2007.

Annual approval from NOAA is required to conduct these fisheries because OCN coho are ESA-listed. Per a letter from Rob Jones (NOAA) to Bruce McIntosh (ODFW) on Aug. 24, 2011, NOAA will approve impacts in these fisheries in combination with other fisheries up to those allowed under the harvest matrix adopted by the PFMC. For 2012, harvest for all populations must be managed for ≤15% ER. Ocean fisheries for 2012, including incidental release mortality in terminal Chinook fisheries, are anticipated to have an ER of 9% on OCN coho, leaving a balance of ≤6% for use in terminal fisheries.

A Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Oregon inland wild coho fisheries was accepted by NOAA in 2009. As a condition in the FMEP, ODFW will provide a report to NOAA describing the results of the previous year's wild coho fisheries and the proposal for the upcoming year by July 1.

Proposed 2012 terminal wild coho fisheries

Inland coho fisheries are proposed in 11 basins in addition to fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes which are managed under permanent regulations. These fisheries would allow a potential total harvest of up to 14,000 wild coho, resulting in a cumulative impact rate of 14.5% on populations that are proposed to have terminal fisheries (Table 1), as well as resulting in ER's ≤15% for all individual populations.

Table 1. Projected 2012 abundances, in-river quotas, and exploitation rates for OCN coho populations with proposed terminal fisheries.

	Pre-harvest abundance forecast	Ocean ER[1]	Proposed in-river quota	Proposed in-river ER	Total ER
Nehalem	23,809	9.0%	1,200	5.0%	14.0%
Tillamook	18,257	"	1,000	5.5%	14.5%
Nestucca	5,150	"	250	4.9%	13.9%
Siletz	20,013	"	1,200	6.0%	15.0%
Yaquina	13,415	"	800	6.0%	15.0%
Alsea	16,175	"	950	5.9%	14.9%
Siuslaw	28,341	"	1,700	6.0%	15.0%
Umpqua	68,254	"	3,000	4.4%	13.4%
Tenmile	12,817	"	600[2]	4.7%	13.7%
Coos	22,491	"	1,200	5.3%	14.3%
Coquille	28,211	"	1,500	5.3%	14.3%

Silt/Tahk	--		715[3]	--	<15%
Total	256,933	9.0%	14,115	5.5%	14.5%

1. Includes non-retention coho mortalities during in-river Chinook fisheries.
2. Staff will propose no quota for Tenmile Lakes in the proposal to NOAA.
3. Fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch are managed under permanent regulations without quotas and have an anticipated harvest of 715 (3-yr average).

Other Biological and Social Considerations

ODFW reviewed other biological information on the likely status of OCN coho returning in 2012. Wild smolt abundance (progeny contributing to this year's adult return) measured at eleven coastal smolt traps was 118,000, which is somewhat higher than the median smolt estimate for the time series (1998-current). While the number of smolts produced does not correlate directly to the number of subsequent adults returning, this information indicates that production of wild coho in Oregon coastal streams for the brood year comprising this year's adult return was in the upper half of smolt production that has been observed.

Consideration of population viability criteria

Candidate basins were assessed relative to the biological recovery criteria developed by the NOAA Technical Recovery Team (TRT) in 2008 which was updated to include returns through 2009 (Pete Lawson, NOAA, email April 3, 2011). This is a consideration for these fisheries because of language in the Coho Plan (ODFW, 2007) stating that "populations that fail the viability criteria defined in this plan will not be considered for direct harvest fisheries". Since the Coho Plan did not have criteria defining viability, the TRT Recovery Criteria were used. This most recent assessment indicated that all populations where a fishery is proposed are above the sustainability, with the exception of the North Umpqua. The North Umpqua fails the criteria due to the influence of excessive hatchery straying that occurred prior to termination of hatchery coho releases in the North Umpqua. As a result of this change, hatchery coho strays have sharply declined and are now at low levels. However, the sustainability criteria for the North Umpqua have not yet been recalculated to include this change. Recent wild coho returns to the North Umpqua have been at the highest levels since counts at Winchester Dam began in 1946. The three other coho populations in the Umpqua Basin which would be affected by harvest occurring in the lower basin all passed the TRT criteria. Inland harvest in the Umpqua Basin is projected to bring the cumulative impact rate to 13.4%.

Full seeding after fisheries

ODFW manages directed wild coho fisheries with the intent of having adequate spawners to fully seed available high-quality habitat after all fisheries are completed. For the ESU as a whole, the 2012 forecasted OCN coho abundance following all fisheries is about 247,000 spawners; almost double the ESU full-seeding level of 126,700. Wild coho populations across the ESU have been consistently strong in recent years, and it is anticipated that individual populations where inland fisheries are proposed will have sufficient spawners for full seeding of high quality habitat.

LCM sites provide precise measurements of coho spawners and smolt production at several tributaries across the ESU. These sites demonstrate that coho habitat has been fully-seeded on a consistent basis in recent years. Given the forecasts, it is highly likely there will be full seeding across the ESU in 2012.

Most individual coho populations are forecasted to exceed full seeding of high quality habitat using the habitat model methodology for individual basins (Table 2). There is a high degree of statistical imprecision in this habitat model-based analysis, which leads to assignment of low thresholds in some basins and very high thresholds in others. The expected spawner abundance in the Alsea River falls slightly below the full seeding criteria using the habitat model. In 2011, the expected Alsea River return was similar to the 2012 projection; however, 22,400 wild spawners returned, exceeding the full seeding goal by nearly 50%. As an additional measure to ensure low fishery impacts, staff is proposing a reduced seasonal bag limit for the Alsea River for 2012.

Table 2. Expected 2012 spawning escapement under proposed fisheries compared to full seeding goals.

	Projected Spawners	Full Seeding	% of Full Seeding
Nehalem	20,466	17,500	117
Tillamook	15,614	2,000	781
Nestucca	4,437	1,800	246
Siletz	17,012	4,300	396
Yaquina	11,408	7,100	161
Alsea	13,769	15,100	91
Siuslaw	24,090	22,800	106
Umpqua	59,111	29,400	201
Tenmile	11,063	4,000	277
Coos	19,267	7,200	268
Coquille	24,172	5,400	448
Total	220,409	116,600	189

Regulations for Proposed 2012 Wild Coho Fisheries

Staff recommends that harvest fisheries for wild coho in the Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille rivers, and the Tenmile Lakes basins, be implemented in 2012. Staff recommends that these fisheries be based on harvest quotas (Table 1) with the exception of Tenmile Lakes, along with modest daily and seasonal bag limits. The quotas are recommended at this time as a safeguard to prevent the fisheries from having higher than desired impacts while modest daily and seasonal bag limits are proposed to extend the season and distribute the limited harvest among more anglers.

For all basins, the daily bag limit would be one non adipose-fin-clipped adult coho salmon per day, with seasonal bag limits ranging from one to five fish, depending on location. These bag limits would also allow one non adipose fin-clipped jack coho salmon per day, with no seasonal limit for jacks.

For the Nehalem River, the proposed seasonal catch limit is two non adipose fin-clipped adult coho in aggregate with all other wild coho fisheries. The Nehalem River was the only river fishery in 2011 that did not close prior to the planned November 30 date due to the quota being achieved, and staff does not believe that a seasonal limit of one fish is necessary for 2012.

For Tillamook Bay and rivers and the Nestucca River the seasonal bag limit would be one non adipose-fin-clipped adult coho in aggregate with all other wild coho fisheries. Both of these systems would be open for coho retention for only two days per week. The reasons for this strategy are twofold. First, it is an attempt to extend the duration of the fishing season, since fisheries in these systems ended after two or three weeks in 2011. Secondly, it is an attempt to craft a fishing season with fixed start and end dates that will result in very low harvest impacts on the wild populations, as the Department attempts to evaluate management strategies with reduced dependence on quotas and creel surveys.

For the Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Umpqua and Siuslaw rivers staff proposes a seasonal bag limit of two fish in aggregate with other rivers with a two fish limit. The intent of the more conservative limits is to establish a set of regulations that will produce predictably low impact rates. These regulations may then form the basis for future management without quotas. This strategy should also allow the fisheries to continue beyond mid-October when the quotas were achieved in 2011 under a more liberal five fish season bag limit. Another benefit of an extended season is that harvest is less likely to differentially impact any particular run component.

The proposed bag limits for other locations including the Coos and Coquille rivers and Tenmile Lakes are one non adipose fin-clipped adult coho per day and five per year in aggregate. For all streams, a season quota would remain in effect, and creel surveys will be used to confirm that catches are within expectations. If river-specific quotas are achieved before the proposed end date is reached, the fisheries would be closed.

Seasons in all basins except the Alsea River and Tenmile Lakes would run from September 15 to the earlier of November 30 or attainment of the quota. The fishery for the Alsea River is proposed for October 1 through December 15, to help prevent the fishery from differentially harvesting early-returning fish and to achieve balanced opportunity for tidewater and upriver anglers. The season in Tenmile Lakes would run from October 1 through December 31. Catches in Tenmile Lakes have been far below allowable quotas, with about 30 fish caught in each of the last two years, compared to allowable limits of several hundred fish. Because of this, the Department feels it is unnecessary to establish a quota or creel survey for this fishery.

Adopted wild coho fisheries from 2011 and proposed 2012 wild coho fisheries are summarized in Attachment 4, and are generally similar to areas open to Chinook harvest. The areas open to coho harvest are sometimes restricted to further downstream in the basin to allow harvest of ocean bright fish and to limit the open area to facilitate the conduct of creel surveys.

Monitoring of wild coho catches in the Nehalem, Nestucca, and Siletz rivers will be fully or partially covered by existing creel programs funded under PST Chinook salmon research studies in 2012. Monitoring in the remaining

systems would be funded by a recently approved proposal through the Restoration and Enhancement Board (R&E), pending approval by the Commission.

Creel surveys and quota based management allows the Department to accurately calculate impact rates in these fisheries to help establish a basis for future management under fixed seasons similar to Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes. There is a strong desire to transition to management similar to these two lakes, which operate under fixed seasons rather than quotas. Derivation of appropriate harvest quotas in individual basins is complicated by difficulties in generating accurate river-specific forecasts. Management of quota fisheries in such situations can be difficult, as the predictive error can translate into large runs resulting in more rapid attainment of the quota and shortened seasons, but lower than planned harvest rates, while smaller runs can produce reduced catches and longer seasons, but may result in higher than anticipated impacts. Management of quota fisheries also necessitates accurate and continual monitoring, such as creel surveys, which are logistically difficult and expensive to maintain.

OPTIONS

1. **(Staff recommendation)**
   Establish inland recreational harvest fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho as proposed outlined in Attachment 4.
2. Retention of non adipose fin-clipped coho salmon remains closed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations to provide terminal recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho as proposed in Attachment 4.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to adopt the 2012 regulations for fall Chinook in ocean terminal and inland fisheries and for coho in inland fisheries as proposed by staff in Attachments 3 (Chinook) and 4 (coho) and as reflected in draft OARs shown in Attachment 5.
EFFECTIVE DATE	July 1, 2012.