

Summary of Changes in the ODFW Commission Draft of the CMP

A “Public Draft” of ODFW’s *Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan* (CMP) was released for public review and comment in early January 2014. Subsequently, the CMP was revised based on public comments heard or received throughout the comment period. The resulting revised draft (“Commission Draft”) is being provided to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for their review and further public comment in April 2014. The following list summarizes the key elements in the Commission Draft that are different from what was contained in the Public Draft. **No new hatchery program reductions are proposed in the Commission Draft CMP.**

What has changed in Commission Draft of the CMP?

General Items

- ✓ Text revised to better describe the goals for Desired Status and how progress towards those goals will be measured
- ✓ Naturally spawning hatchery fall-run Chinook in the Elk River were raised from a secondary limiting factor to a primary limiting factor
- ✓ Management strategies were added for each of the four management categories (hatcheries, fishing/harvest, predation, habitat)
- ✓ New *Pilot Implementation Programs*, in which ODFW proactively and quickly works to implement, support, and monitor actions in the CMP, are proposed for the two populations found to be not viable in the status assessment (Elk River Chinook and South Umpqua Spring Chinook)
- ✓ A section was added to describe the overarching strategies to address limiting factors, including a priority to address the limiting factors for the non-viable populations and chum
- ✓ The importance of habitat protection and restoration was accentuated and the context, scope, and importance of the habitat strategies identified in the CMP were better emphasized
- ✓ The conservation concern and uncertainty for chum was accentuated and the context, results, and strategies relating to chum were consolidated into one new summary section
- ✓ A new monitoring initiative was added to develop a field research capability (within ODFW’s current monitoring capacity to the extent possible) that will focus on answering specific management questions, including how best to estimate the proportion and effects of hatchery winter steelhead that spawn naturally in places like the Nestucca River (where hatchery programs co-exist with strong naturally-producing populations)

Hatchery Items

- ✓ Total hatchery smolt/pre-smolt releases were increased from 6.0 million currently to 6.36 million (increase was to 6.30 million in Public Draft)
- ✓ Text added to explain that wild populations that co-exist with hatchery programs are still expected to remain or become healthy, and a primary management tool to achieve this is by limiting the proportion of hatchery fish that spawn naturally
- ✓ A better description of hatchery program areas and wild fish emphasis areas was added

- ✓ Text was revised to more clearly explain that new spring Chinook hatchery programs proposed in Yaquina and Coos Bays are contingent on local support to secure funding and to develop and operate the program
- ✓ Clarity was provided that proposed hatchery release levels are intended to be maintained until the CMP is re-evaluated in 12 years, or adaptive management suggests changes are needed
- ✓ Hatchery summer steelhead releases in the Nestucca River were reduced (70,000 to 50,000) to allow an increase in summer steelhead (STS) releases in the Wilson River (30,000 to 50,000) (in the Public Draft all Wilson STS releases were to be shifted to the Nestucca)
- ✓ The total release number of hatchery fall-run Chinook in the Coquille River will remain the same, with Halls Creek releases moved to the lower estuary (the 55,000 Halls Creek releases were proposed to be eliminated in the Public Draft)
- ✓ Hatchery winter steelhead from the East Fork Coquille (20,000) were shifted into the North Fork Coquille (they were proposed to be shifted into the South Fork Coquille in the Public Draft)
- ✓ More actions were proposed to reduce the number of naturally spawning hatchery fall-run Chinook in the Elk River (including enlisting the help of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center)
- ✓ Proposed goals limiting the proportion of hatchery fish that spawn naturally were revised in a few populations (Elk Chinook, Necanicum and Nestucca winter steelhead, early-run Tillamook Chinook)

Harvest Items

- ✓ Text added to explain that the retention limit for fall-run Chinook in the Yachats River is proposed to be 1 wild fish per day and 5 per year in all years (same as current, but not described in previous drafts)
- ✓ Under the sliding scale concept, retention limits for fall-run Chinook under average survival conditions in the North Coast stratum and Salmon River were shifted to 2 per day/10 per year (they were 1 per day/10 per year in the Public Draft)
- ✓ The sliding scale for fall-run Chinook in the Mid-Coast and Umpqua strata was modified to be only a two-tiered scale with a retention limit of 2 per day/20 per year to be in place in all years except low survival years (there was a third, middle tier at 2 per day/10 per year in the Public Draft)
- ✓ The sliding scale for fall-run Chinook in the Mid-South-Coast (e.g., Coos/Coquille) will not be implemented until essentially all of the hatchery fish releases are marked and expected to return to the fishery.
- ✓ The sliding scale retention limits for spring Chinook in the North Umpqua were modified to be higher than in the mainstem Umpqua under average (2 per day/10 per year) and high (2 per day/20 per year) survival years (they were proposed to be the same as the mainstem at 2 per day/5 per year and 2 per day/10 per year in the Public Draft)
- ✓ Text was added to clarify that the South Umpqua mainstem is currently open for harvest of cutthroat trout, but proposed to be changed to catch-and-release only
- ✓ A new deadline is proposed for the Siletz fall-run Chinook fishery: open to Illahee Park ramp with several major spawning areas between Illahee and Ojalla marked and closed to fishing (the entire section from Old Mill to Ojalla was proposed to be closed in the Public Draft)