



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



2017
Non-Treaty Columbia River Summer/Fall
Fishery Allocation Agreement
June 15, 2017

Management Intent and Expectations for Summer Chinook and Sockeye Fisheries

- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 63,100 fish to the Columbia River. Under the *U.S v Oregon* Management Agreement the allowable harvest (including release mortality) for all non-treaty fisheries is 17,100 adult fish, 12,600 of which are available for harvest in Columbia River fisheries.
- Based on the WDFW Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 3,906 Chinook mortalities (31% of available in-river). Commission guidance allocates the harvestable share 80% recreational and 20% commercial in 2017.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open from June 16 through July 31 for hatchery summer Chinook, with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit. The management guideline for this fishery is 2,656 summer Chinook.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam will be open from June 16 through July 31 for hatchery summer Chinook, with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit. The management guideline for this fishery is 469 summer Chinook.
- Commission guidance requires the use of gear other than traditional gillnets for the commercial summer Chinook fishery beginning in 2017. Based on results of recent gear evaluations, and the limited commercial sockeye allocation, there are few if any alternative gears currently available to access the commercial share of summer Chinook, especially in an open-competitive fishery. Staff will continue to work with industry to determine potential gears and evaluate a fair approach to implementing future summer commercial fisheries. The 2017 management guideline for this fishery is 781 summer Chinook.

The preseason forecast for sockeye is 198,500 fish. Non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed for an impact limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the run, (~1,985 fish). Commission guidance allocates the harvestable share 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Retention of sockeye will be allowed during recreational summer Chinook fisheries, but in-season action may be required to remain within ESA limitations.

Management Intent for Fall Season Fisheries

- This agreement reflects the intent of the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission policies and the management objective to optimize non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries while remaining within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- This agreement was developed during the March and April 2017 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and North of Falcon meetings, which included input from the public and commercial and recreational fishery representatives.
- Management objectives for Columbia River fisheries include maximizing the harvest of healthy stocks of fall Chinook and hatchery Coho, while remaining within the limits for all ESA-listed stocks.
- The non-treaty fishery conservation responsibility for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead is shared between recreational and commercial fisheries.
- The preseason forecast, after ocean fisheries, for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 275,210 adult fish and includes 12,400 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the ESA limit on SRW Chinook is 15% for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries. The HR anticipated from preseason fishery modeling totals 12.1%.
- Based on the preseason forecast, the ESA impact for LCR wild tules is limited to a 41% exploitation rate (ER), which is shared between ocean and inriver fisheries. The ER anticipated from ocean and inriver fishery modeling totals 36.9%; non-treaty fisheries are modeled for a 9.1% ER (ocean at 27.8 % ER).
- Preseason shares of LCR tule impacts for Columbia River fisheries are expected to be 69% recreational and 31% commercial. Shares for URB/SRW impacts are expected to be 64% recreational and 36% commercial. Impact limitations on steelhead will keep both fisheries from accessing the maximum allowable ESA impact for either LCR tule or SRW Chinook.
- The preseason Coho forecast is 319,350 adults to the Columbia River (390,390 ocean abundance). The ESA impact limitation for Lower Columbia River natural (LCN) Coho is an 18.0% ER. The total ER is expected to be 11.3%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 3.4%, or 30% of the total.

Fall Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fall fishery expectations outlined in this agreement are based on the Chinook Model Run “MR2017-Final Preseason”.
- Catch estimates are primarily based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and past stock-specific harvest rates.
- In-season management decisions by the Columbia River Compact/Joint States for commercial and recreational fall-season fisheries, will be based on the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, and the state commissions’ policies and objectives.
- Preseason catch expectations (including release mortalities) for adult fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (i.e. excluding tributary recreational and Select Area commercial

fisheries) are 48,100 fish in recreational fisheries (51%) and 45,900 adults in commercial fisheries (49%).

- Harvest, season structures, and impacts accrued will be influenced by actual fall Chinook abundances and stock-specific harvest rates by each respective fishery.
- Due to low projected steelhead returns, preseason plans for both recreational and commercial fisheries include management actions to reduce steelhead harvest and ESA impacts.

Goals/expectations for fall recreational fisheries include:

- The Buoy 10 recreational fishery will begin on August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook daily limit through September 4 (Labor Day) per Commission guidance.
 - From September 5 through September 30, Chinook retention will be closed.
 - From October 1 through December 31, the daily limit will be two fish/two Chinook.
 - In-season considerations will include the potential for allowing a Chinook mark-selective fishery (MSF) during all or part of the scheduled Chinook non-retention period (September 5-30). Any decision to extend the fishery beyond policy objectives will be made in-season and will take into account fishery performance to date.
 - Harvest (including release mortality) expectations include 22,100 Chinook (1.6% SRW harvest rate; 4.8% LCR wild ER) and 16,560 Coho (including 1,500 release mortalities).
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open August 1 through December 31 but Chinook retention seasons and bag limits vary by river section with the intent of maximizing opportunity while minimizing impacts to LCR tule Chinook.
 - From the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line, Chinook retention is allowed August 1 through September 7 followed by a Chinook MSF (adipose and/or left-ventral fin clip) period from September 8-14 per Commission guidance. The daily limit for both fisheries is two fish/one Chinook. Beginning October 1, Chinook retention will reopen with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit.
 - From the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention August 1 through December 31 with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit.
 - In-season considerations will include the potential for allowing Chinook mark-selective fishery (MSF) during all or part of the scheduled Chinook non-retention period (September 15-30). Any decision to extend the fishery beyond policy objectives will be made in-season and will take into account fishery performance to date.
 - Harvest (including release mortality) expectations include 21,890 adult Chinook (5.4% SRW harvest rate; 1.5% LCR wild ER) and 1,040 Coho (including 40 release mortalities).

- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington will begin on August 1 with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit through December 31. The kept catch expectation is 4,080 adult Chinook.
- During all fall fisheries (August 1 through December 31) from Buoy 10 upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam) each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid bag limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- The dates, area restrictions, and catch expectations described above are based on preseason planning and input from the recreational fishing community. In-season events may change many of these expectations.
- Due to low projected steelhead returns, fishery constraints are expected including:
 - June 16 through December 31: Daily bag limit may not include more than one hatchery steelhead,
 - June 16 through December 31: Night fishing closures (except for registered anglers fishing for Pikeminnow in the mainstem Columbia).
 - Rolling 1-2 month steelhead retention closures for mainstem and some tributary recreational fisheries:
 - August: Buoy 10 to The Dalles Dam
 - September: The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam
 - September and October: John Day Dam to McNary Dam
 - October and November: McNary Dam to Hwy 395 Bridge (Pasco)

Goals/expectations for fall commercial fisheries include:

- The August (Early Fall) fishery is modeled to begin the week of August 20 and is expected to continue through September 1, with fishing periods three days per week. Fishery structure is expected to include 9-hour (9 PM-6 AM) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The kept catch expectation is 45,900 adult Chinook (4.1% SRW harvest rate; 2.9% LCR wild ER). Additional fishing period(s) with reduced area or hours may be considered in early September to meet harvest guidelines.
- Any additional commercial fisheries will be addressed in-season, after the fall Chinook and steelhead run-size updates are available.
- The dates, areas, gear restrictions, and catch expectations described above are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events may change many of these expectations.
- Due to low projected steelhead returns, fishery constraints are expected including:
 - No early August fishery; August fishery focused on optimal Chinook:steelhead timeframe, onboard fishery monitoring will occur.
 - No fishing in weeks 36-37.

- Late fall fisheries to be considered after in-season Chinook and steelhead run updates are available.
- Consideration for 9-inch minimum mesh size during late September (week 39).
- No late fall Coho-directed (6-inch) gillnet fishery.
- Sturgeon harvest will likely be allowed in summer/fall Select Area and fall mainstem commercial fisheries.

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