

2020 Columbia River North of Falcon Virtual Meeting

April 1, 2020

2020 PRESEASON SYNOPSIS

- Summer Chinook
 - 2020 forecast – 38,300; 34,600 actual return in 2019; 10-year average ~72,000.
 - No harvestable surplus; therefore, no targeted summer Chinook fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.
 - Incidental catch in steelhead sport fisheries (release mortalities) and SAFE.

- Sockeye
 - 2020 forecast – 246,300; 63,200 actual return in 2019; 10-year average ~317,000.
 - Anticipate sockeye retention concurrent with recreational steelhead retention.
 - All sockeye considered adults and included in daily adult bag.

- Summer Steelhead
 - 2020 forecast – 99,900; 75,600 actual return in 2019; 10-year average ~229,600.
 - Likely recreational fishery regulations – (discussion in breakout session)
 - Open May 16/June 16 –July 31 (two fish/one steelhead)
 - Night angling closure above McNary Dam (Oregon)
 - Area-specific, multi-month retention closures beginning August 1
 - Oregon tributary mouth angling closures (Eagle, Herman, Deschutes) anticipated
 - Washington tributary lower reach closures (Cowlitz, Lewis, Kalama, Wind, Drano, White Salmon, Klickitat) anticipated
 - Salmonid angling closed when Chinook retention prohibited (specific areas)
 - Staff will monitor the run status and fisheries in-season to determine if further restrictions are necessary.

- Fall Chinook
 - For LRH and URB/SRW fall Chinook, Commission guidance for ESA impact sharing of the most constraining stock is no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
 - 2020 forecast – 431,000 (pre-PFMC); 375,700 actual return in 2019; 10-year average ~732,300.
 - URB (233,300 pre-PFMC) and Snake River wild (10,900) forecasts equate to an allowed non-treaty harvest rate (HR) of ≤15%.
 - The URB forecast is not high enough to eliminate the risk of the actual URB return being below 200,000 (8.25% HR).

- Non-treaty SRW/URB fisheries exceeded allowed ESA impacts in 2017 (107%) and 2018 (113%).
- Staff intends to manage for 8.25% of the forecasted URB/SRW run size prior to the in-season run update (mid-September). If the URB in-season run update exceeds 200,000 (86% of forecast), additional fisheries would be adopted based on the remaining balance available at a 15% HR.

Recreational

- Due to the mid-September timing of the URB run update, staff's modelling allocates a higher share of the recreational URB allocation to the Buoy 10 and Tongue Point-Warrior Rock fisheries prior to the run update since these fisheries will either not be able to (Buoy 10), or have a harder time (TP-WR), accessing their typical share of the recreational URB allocation if the run exceeds 200,000 in-season.
- Conversely, modelled recreational fisheries upstream of Warrior Rock are allocated a lower proportion of their base URB sub-allocation prior to the run-update, but would be expected to utilize a higher proportion of the post run-update recreational balance if the URB run exceeds 200,000.
- Based on input from NOF #1, staff modelling assumes a one fish daily bag when Chinook retention seasons are open.
- Staff did not consider a rack-your-rod rule when modelling fall fisheries since it is difficult to model the actual effect considering most recent fall fisheries have incorporated a one Chinook daily bag.
- Utilizing the general approach described above, staff has modelled several recreational fall fishery scenarios for consideration (discussion in breakout session). The exact dates for pre-update Chinook retention could change slightly depending on which ocean fishery option (and associated harvest rates) is selected, which may change the expected fall Chinook return to the Columbia River mouth.

Commercial

- Modelling for the August commercial fishery includes seven fishing periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size (discussion in breakout session).
- If the in-season URB run update exceeds 200,000 adults, additional fishing periods in September could occur in Zones 4-5 to access the remaining URB allocation.
- Considering the relatively low forecast for natural-origin B-Index steelhead, and below average fall Chinook and Coho forecasts, staff is not considering alternative gear fisheries in 2020 (same as 2017-2019) in order to maximize commercial economics by providing access to their URB sub-allocation.

➤ Coho

- 2020 forecast – 181,000 (pre-PFMC); 210,900 actual return to Columbia in 2019; 10-year average ~323,000
- Projected 2020 fishery exploitation rates (ER):
 - Total: 15.6% on LCN (18% limit) – Ocean Option 1
 - In-river fisheries: B10 ~2.3%, LCR ~0.8%, Commercial Z1-5 ~1.0%, SAFE ~0.2%

Recreational

- Considering the low Coho forecast, high handle rates of Chinook during non-retention periods in 2019, and likely steelhead retention closures, staff is planning for salmonid angling to be closed upstream of the Tongue/Rocky Point line whenever Chinook retention is closed to minimize non-target handle and associated release mortalities.
- For Buoy 10, Coho retention would remain open (when Chinook retention is closed) since the handle rate of hatchery Coho is much higher. To minimize excessive Chinook handle during the post-retention timeframe, staff recommends the one fish daily bag limit continue through approximately September 10, after which a two Coho bag limit could be considered.

Commercial

- Coho tangle net fisheries will be considered in-season when more information will be available.

*Oregon/Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife
April 1, 2019*

RECREATIONAL-COMMERCIAL FISHERY DISCUSSIONS (BREAKOUT SESSIONS)

RECREATIONAL MODELLING RESULTS

MR 2020 – Opt 1 (standard block)	Chinook Retention		Daily Bag	Other*
	Pre-Update	Post Update?		
Buoy 10	8/1 – 8/23 (23 d)	9/23 –10/31 (39 d)	1 fish pre- update, TBD post-update	Coho open 8/1- 10/31
Tongue Point to Warrior Rock	8/1 – 9/1 (32 d)			Salmonid angling closed when Chinook retention closed
Warrior Rock to Bonneville	8/1 – 9/3 (34 d)			
Zone 6+McN-395	8/1 – 9/8 (39 d)		1 fish	

*Rolling steelhead angling closures will be in effect

Pros: 1) Provides most Chinook retention days pre-update, 2) likely most accurate model

Cons: 1) Allows for effort to follow Chinook abundance due to staggered closures

MR 2020 – Opt 2 (Delayed start)	Chinook Retention		Daily Bag	Other*
	Pre-Update	Post Update?		
Buoy 10	8/16 – 8/27 (12 d)	9/23 –10/31 (39 d)	1 fish pre- update, TBD post-update	Coho open 8/16- 10/31
Tongue Point to Warrior Rock	8/16 – 9/1 (17 d)			Salmonid angling closed when Chinook retention closed
Warrior Rock to Bonneville	8/16 – 9/3 (19 d)			
Zone 6+McN-395	8/16 – 9/11 (27 d)		1 fish	

*Rolling steelhead angling closures will be in effect

Pros: 1) Aug 1-15 closure protects SABs and LRH, 2) more prime Chinook days at B10

Cons: 1) Fewer open fishing days in all areas, 2) higher risk due to later Chinook season at B10, 3) B10 closed to Coho Aug 1-15

MR 2020 – Opt 3 (LCR- 3 days/wk; Fri-Sun) Z6- 7d/wk	Chinook Retention		Daily Bag	Other*
	Pre-Update	Post Update?		
Buoy 10	8/7 – 9/4 (13 d)	9/23 –10/31 (39 d)	1 fish pre- update, TBD post-update	Coho open 8/1- 10/31
Tongue Point to Warrior Rock	8/7 – 9/5 (14 d)			Salmonid angling closed when Chinook retention closed
Warrior Rock to Bonneville	8/7 – 9/6 (15 d)			
Zone 6+McN-395	8/1 – 9/11 (42 d)		1 fish	

*Rolling steelhead angling closures will be in effect

Pros: 1) Limited effort shift potential, 2) extends Chinook retention period closer to run-update

Cons: 1) Fewest Chinook retention days pre-update

PRE-UPDATE SEASONS		2020 Fall Chinook Season - Recreational Fishery Options						Total @ 15%			
		August		September		October		URB	%	CHF	
Option 1 (standard block)	B10 (8/1-23)			Likely TAC				7,740	32%	22,080	
	TP-WR (8/1-9/1)			URB run				5,270	22%	6,940	
	WR BO (8/1-9/3)			update				9,260	38%	12,730	
	Z6+ (8/1-9/8)							2,120	9%	5,630	
								24,390		47,380	
		August		September		October		URB	%	CHF	
Option 2 (Aug 16 start)	B10 (8/16-27)	Closed			Likely TAC				7,870	32%	19,500
	TP-WR (8/16-9/1)				URB run				5,270	22%	6,940
	WR BO (8/16-9/3)				update				9,180	38%	12,620
	Z6+ (8/16-9/11)								2,090	9%	5,540
								24,410		44,600	
		August		September		October		URB	%	CHF	
Option 3 (LCR 3 days/wk; Fri-Sun, Z6 7d/wk)	B10 (8/7-9/4) (13d)			Likely TAC				7,870	32%	20,710	
	TP-WR (8/7-9/5) (14d)			URB run				5,280	22%	6,950	
	WR BO (8/7-9/6) (15d)			update				9,200	38%	12,640	
	Z6+ (8/1-9/11)							2,040	8%	5,410	
								24,390		45,710	
Chinook retention											
Coho only retention (B10)											
Closed to salmonid angling											

Columbia River mainstem and tributary steelhead regulations under consideration for the 2020-21 season.

Water Body	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-March	Comments		
Columbia River mainstem											
Below Bonneville Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Daily limit 1			Converts to closed to angling when Chinook/coho retention ends. Permanent night closure.		
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Daily limit 1			Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Permanent night closure.		
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention						Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Permanent night closure.		
John Day Dam to McNary Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1		Closed to retention					Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Permanent night closure.		
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1		Closed to retention					Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Night closure.		
Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam	Closed to angling for steelhead				Daily limit 1. Ringold Springs Hatchery only (ADRV).		TBD		Dependent upon actual UCR and RSH returns. Fishery through 3/31 (Bank 4/1-15). Permanent night closure.		
Columbia River tributaries											
Cowlitz/Lewis/Kalama WA tributary lower reaches		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention	Daily limit 1						Permanent night closure	
Wind/White Salmon/Klickitat WA tributary lower reaches	Closed to angling for steelhead									Additional restrictions closed to fishing and time, to provide more protection. Permanent night closure.	
Drano Lake	Closed to angling for steelhead									Additional restrictions closed to fishing and time, to provide more protection. Permanent night closure.	
Deschutes River lower reach/mouth area closures	TBD - likely closed to angling									Potential specific dates and area to be determined.	
Eagle/Herman OR tributary lower reaches/mouth area closures	TBD - likely closed to angling		Note: A/B-index upriver summer steelhead catch accounting (green cells)								Potential specific dates and area to be determined.

COMMERCIAL MODELLING RESULTS

2020 Commercial Option OPTION 1 15% total NT preseason and commercial industry request		
Allowable URBs: 10,454		
	CHF	Season
<u>Commercial</u>		
Zone 4-5 Wk 32. Aug 2-8	0	none
Zone 4-5 Wk 33. Aug 9-15	860	2 periods
Zone 4-5 Wk 34. Aug 16-22	3,080	2 periods
Zone 4-5 Wk 35. Aug 23-29	5,120	2 periods
Zone 4-5 Wk 36. Aug 30-Sep 5	4,360	1 period
<i>August Subtotal</i>	<i>13,420</i>	
Zone 4-5 Wk 38. Sep 13-19	3,710	1 period
Zone 4-5 Wk 39. Sep 20-26	2,450	1 period
Zone 4-5 Wk 40. Sep 27-Oct 3	1,140	1 period
Oct Coho Tanglenet	760	similar to 2019
<i>September+ Subtotal</i>	<i>8,060</i>	
Select Areas	4,820	Full Season
Grand Total	26,300	