



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



2013 Non-Indian Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishery Allocation Agreement May 15, 2013

Management Intent for 2013 Summer and 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 harvest of Chinook and coho within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- This agreement was developed during the March and April 2013 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and North of Falcon meetings, which included input from commercial and recreational fisheries representatives.
- For 2013, the most constraining stocks and associated ESA limitations are:
 - A 41% exploitation rate (ER) for lower Columbia River wild/natural tule Chinook (LCR tule). The Lower River Hatchery (LRH) stock is the surrogate for LCR tules.
 - A 15% ER for Lower Columbia River wild/natural coho (LCN coho).
 - These two limitations include harvest in ocean and freshwater fisheries. As a result, if any of the fisheries exceed their share of the limit, other fisheries must be reduced. Similarly, if any fishery does not use all of its limitation, the balance may be used by other fisheries.
 - As an in-season buffer, the ocean fishery will not transfer LCR tule savings to freshwater fisheries unless the savings is greater than 2% (of the total 41% ER) and only the amount in excess of 2% can be transferred.
- The preseason forecast, after ocean fisheries, for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 434,600 adult fish and includes 31,600 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the ESA harvest rate limit on URB/SRW Chinook is 15% for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries.

- Management objectives for Columbia River Chinook fisheries include maximizing the harvest of healthy stocks of fall Chinook, while remaining within the limits for all ESA-listed stocks.
- The non-Indian conservation responsibility for ESA-listed Chinook is shared between recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Preseason shares of LCR tule impacts for each fishery are expected to be 69% recreational and 31% commercial. Shares for URB/SRW impacts are expected to be 44% recreational and 56% commercial.

Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fishery expectations outlined in this agreement are based on Model Run "MR2013-Final Preseason".
- Catch estimates are based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and past stock-specific harvest rates.
- For Columbia River recreational and commercial fall-season fisheries, the Columbia River Compact/Joint States will use the expected preseason shares of LCR and URB- Chinook and LCN coho impacts for each fishery as the primary guidance for making in-season management decisions.
- Preseason catch expectations for fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (excluding tributary recreational and commercial Select Area Fisheries) are 55,600 adults in recreational fisheries (50%) and 55,400 adults in commercial fisheries (50%).
- Harvest, season structures, and impacts accrued will be influenced by actual fall Chinook abundances and stock-specific harvest rates by each respective fishery.

Goals/expectations for the recreational fishery include:

- The Buoy 10 recreational fishery will begin on August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook daily limit through September 1. From September 2 through 30, only hatchery coho may be retained. Beginning October 1 through December 31, the daily limit will be two fish/one Chinook. Harvest (including release mortality) expectations include 20,000 adult Chinook (4,000 LRH) and 13,100 hatchery coho.
 - A mark-selective fishery (MSF) for fall Chinook may occur in the Buoy 10 recreational fishery from September 2 through 30. WDFW and ODFW will evaluate in-season Chinook harvest and monitoring strategies before a final decision is made regarding implementation in 2013. If a MSF is possible, the decision will be made at an in-season Columbia River Compact hearing. The catch expectation for this

fishery is 1,800 adult Chinook (600 LRH), which includes release mortalities.

- The mainstem recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam will begin August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook daily limit. The daily limit will include only one Chinook during the entire season.
 - From the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Lewis River, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention through September 5. A MSF for fall Chinook will occur from September 6 through 12 downstream of the Lewis River. Beginning October 1, Chinook retention will reopen below the Lewis River.
 - From the Lewis River upstream to Bonneville Dam, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention through December 31.
- Kept catch expectations for the mainstem recreational fishery from August through December are 26,500 adult Chinook (2,900 LRH) and 1,700 adult hatchery coho.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam 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 7,300 adult Chinook.
- To maximize opportunity, recreational fisheries are expected to remain open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead August 1 through December 31 throughout the river, including times and areas closed for Chinook retention.
- 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.

Goals/expectations for the commercial fishery include:

- The August fishery is modeled to begin on August 13 in Zones 4-5. The fishery is expected to continue through the end of August, with fishing periods of two to four days per week. The catch expectation is 38,800 adult Chinook (26,500 URB and 2,500 LRH). Additional fishing period(s) with reduced area or hours may be considered in early September to meet harvest guidelines.
- Fishing hours during August are expected to be 9 PM-6 AM, and mesh size will be 9-inch minimum.

- The late fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 15 in Zones 4-5 with 8-inch or 9-inch minimum mesh. The catch expectation is 13,200 adult Chinook (7,800 URB and 600 LRH).
- The preseason allocation is 29,200 kept coho for all mainstem commercial fisheries. A full fleet pilot coho fishery is expected in early October using 3.75-inch tangle nets. After two weekly fishing periods, if there are coho left to harvest, an additional fishing period is expected using unslackened 6-inch maximum-mesh gillnets. As in past years, target coho fisheries will likely occur during daylight hours in Zones 1-3.
- 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.
- Sturgeon management will be consistent with the sturgeon protocol developed with the Columbia River Commercial Fishery Advisor Group.
 - Catch expectations are 600 white sturgeon for August fisheries and 440 for September/October fisheries.
 - Landing limits may be in place throughout the fall fisheries.
 - Fish remaining from 2013 winter-summer commercial fisheries will be rolled forward to guidelines for fall commercial fisheries.

Summer Chinook Fishery Expectations:

- The preseason run forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 73,500 fish to the mouth of the Columbia River. The ocean harvest in non-treaty fisheries south of the U.S./Canada border is modeled at 4,300 fish. Based on an escapement goal of 29,000 at the Columbia River mouth and the *U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement*, the allowable harvest for all non-Indian fisheries in the Columbia River in 2013 is 16,600 fish.
- Based on commission guidance and the WDFW Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest for recreational and commercial fisheries downstream from Priest Rapids Dam is 5,700 Chinook, which is allocated 55% recreational and 45% commercial. Additional fish may be transferred from fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam in-season if the actual run size is near the preseason forecast.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open from June 16 through June 30 for hatchery summer Chinook, with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit. The fishery may be extended if the in-season run-size update is near the preseason forecast. The management guideline for this fishery is 2,500 summer Chinook.

- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam 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 600 summer Chinook.
- The commercial fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam may open as early as June 16. Additional fishing periods may occur the following week, depending on catch and run status. The management guideline for this fishery is 2,600 summer Chinook. The management guideline for white sturgeon during this summer season is 300 fish, plus all fish remaining from the winter and spring commercial fisheries. Weekly landing limits for white sturgeon will be used to manage harvest.
- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 180,400 fish. Non-Indian fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed for an impact limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the run, or $\leq 1,800$ fish. Retention of sockeye will be allowed during recreational and commercial summer Chinook fisheries. No commercial fisheries targeting sockeye are planned.

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