



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



**2015
Non-Indian Columbia River Summer/Fall
Fishery Allocation Agreement
May 8, 2015**

Management Intent for 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-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries while remaining within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- This agreement was developed during the March and April 2015 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-Indian 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 518,300 adult fish and includes 20,900 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the ESA limit on SRW Chinook is 15% for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries.
- For 2015, the most constraining fall Chinook stock is lower Columbia River wild/natural tule Chinook (LCR tule). The Lower River Hatchery (LRH) stock is the surrogate for LCR tules. The ESA limitation is a 41% exploitation rate (ER) for both ocean and Columbia River fisheries; however, guidance for the 2015 fisheries is 40%. Columbia River fisheries were modeled with an 8.7% ER (22% of the total).
- Preseason shares of LCR tule impacts for Columbia River fisheries are expected to be 70% recreational and 30% commercial. Shares for URB/SRW impacts are expected to be 55% recreational and 45% commercial.
- The preseason Coho forecast is 539,600 adults to the Columbia River (nearly 800,000 ocean abundance). The ESA limitation for Lower Columbia River wild/natural (LCN) Coho is a 23% ER under the new matrix implemented in 2015. The ER from Columbia River fisheries is expected to be 9.4%, or 41% of the total allowed.

Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fall fishery expectations outlined in this agreement are based on the Chinook Model Run “MR2015-Final Preseason”.
- Catch estimates are primarily 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 combined with the state commissions policy objectives and the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement as the primary guidance for making in-season management decisions.
- Preseason catch expectations for adult fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (excluding tributary recreational and commercial Select Area Fisheries) are 74,100 fish in recreational fisheries (50%) and 74,600 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 7 (Labor Day).
 - From September 8 through September 30, Chinook retention is closed.
 - From October 1 through December 31, the daily limit will be two fish/two Chinook.
 - In-season considerations will include the potential for a Chinook mark-selective fishery (MSF) during all or part of the scheduled Chinook non-retention period (Sept. 8-30). 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 34,800 Chinook (4.1% LCR Wild ER) and 45,800 hatchery Coho (6,900 unmarked 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 fin clip) period from September 8 - 14. 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 the lower end of the Steamboat Landing dock near Washougal, WA, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention August 1 through December 31 with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit.

- From Steamboat Landing upstream to Bonneville Dam, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention August 1 through December 31 with a three fish/three Chinook daily limit.
- Harvest (including release mortality) expectations include 30,200 adult Chinook (2.0% LCR Wild ER) and 3,200 adult hatchery Coho.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington will begin on August 1 with a three fish/three Chinook daily limit through December 31. The kept catch expectation is 9,000 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 to Chinook retention.
- 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.

Goals/expectations for the commercial fishery include:

- The August (Early Fall) fishery is modeled to begin the week of August 9 and is expected to continue through the end of August, with fishing periods of two to 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 catch expectation is 47,500 adult Chinook (1.7% LCR Wild ER). Additional fishing period(s) with reduced area or hours may be considered in early September to meet harvest guidelines.
- The Late Fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 13 in Zones 4-5 with 8-inch or 9-inch minimum mesh. The catch expectation is 19,100 adult Chinook (0.6% LCR Wild ER).
- Coho-directed fishing periods using 3.75- inch tangle nets (MSF) are expected to occur throughout October. Fishing periods using conventional 6-inch maximum mesh nets are expected to begin in late September/early October (if impacts allow) and continue through October. As in past years, target Coho fisheries will likely occur during daylight hours in Zones 1-3. Based on preseason forecasts, up to 51,600 Coho may be available for commercial mainstem fisheries. The interim tangle net release mortality rate will be 30% for unclipped adult Coho.
- Limited commercial beach and purse seine fisheries are also expected to occur in Zones 2-4 during the fall of 2015. Season structure will be determined in-season through the Columbia River Compact. Preseason modeling set aside 10% (0.3%) of the LCR Wild impacts available to commercial fisheries. The kept catch expectation is around 5,000 adult Chinook.
- A limited beach and purse seine research fishery is expected to occur in Zone 5. Associated impacts would fall under research impacts.

- 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 harvest will be prohibited, consistent with the policies adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commissions of both Washington and Oregon.

Summer Chinook and Sockeye Fishery Expectations:

- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 73,000 fish to the Columbia River. The ocean harvest in non-Indian fisheries south of the U.S./Canada border is modeled at 5,000 fish. Based on an escapement goal of 29,000 adult fish to the Columbia River mouth and the *U.S v Oregon* Management Agreement, the allowable harvest (including release mortality) for all non-Indian fisheries in the Columbia River is 21,000 fish.
- Based on the WDFW Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest for fisheries downstream from Priest Rapids Dam is 5,500 Chinook (34.3% of available in-river). Commission guidance allocates the harvestable share 70% recreational and 30% commercial in 2015.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open from June 16 through July 6 for hatchery summer Chinook, with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit. The management guideline for this fishery is 3,200 summer Chinook. Staff will monitor the fishery in-season and potentially recommend modifications to the July portion of the fishery (which may include extending the season or allowing the retention of any 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 600 summer Chinook.
- The commercial fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam may open as early as June 17. Additional fishing periods may occur later, depending on catch and run status. The management guideline for this fishery is 1,600 summer Chinook.
- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 394,000 fish. Non-Indian fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed for an impact limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the run, ($\approx 3,900$ fish). Retention of sockeye will be allowed during recreational and commercial summer Chinook fisheries.

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