

PS Rec Updates MA-10 Discussion

November 30, 2021



Current Season Plan

- January 1 – March 31
- Two fish limit
- No other restrictions
 - Open 7 days a week
 - No gear restrictions



2022 Fishery Controls

- Total Chinook salmon encounters in winter Area 10 is 8,475
- WDFW will also manage to:
 - 1,105 total unmarked encounters
 - 7,319 total sublegal encounters
- Fishery closed when one of these criteria is met



2021 vs 2022 Fishery Controls

Fishery Control	2020-21	2021-22
Total Encounters	3,751	8,475
Unmarked Encounters	579	1,105
Sublegal Encounters	3,224	7,319



Concerns

- In 2021, season lasted just 18 days due to unmarked encounters

2021 Puget Sound Winter Recreational Mark-selective Chinook Salmon Fisheries								
Marine Area	Scheduled Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Management Objective	Updated Estimate	FRAM	Ratio Est/Modelled	Sampling Method	Update Through
Area 10	Jan. 1- March 31	Jan. 1 - Jan. 18	Total encounters	3,579	3,751	95%	Full Murthy	1/18
			Total unmarked encounters	738	579	127%		1/18
			Total sublegal encounters	3,223	3,224	100%		1/18



Concerns

- We want to be cautious with our approach and maximize the season length even with increased encounters
- Remember there is always a couple days lag in estimates



Alternative Management Ideas

- Partial Week Opening
 - Weekend only – Saturday through Monday
 - Holiday weekends included
 - Benefits:
 - Decrease the overall fishing effort
 - Gives sampling unit staff time to assess catches in between weekend openings, analyze test fishing data, and provide updated catch estimates to managers.
 - Weekday, weekend, and holidays to accommodate schedules



Alternative Management Ideas

- Later Season Start

- Preliminary work shows a predictable growth pattern among the primary age classes of Chinook in MA-10 during the winter fishery.
- Delay the start of the winter fishery based on growth rates
- Benefits:
 - More legal sized fish are likely to be encountered in the fishery later in season
 - Test fishing in early season will provide info on LM status and catch rates



Alternative Management Ideas

- Decrease Daily Limit

- Early indications are that high effort could lead to a higher than predicted number of sublegal encounters.
- Similar to MA-11 winter Chinook fishery
- Supported both by MA-11 anglers and the Puget Sound Sport Fishing Advisory Group.
- Benefits:
 - This change was made to potentially reduce sublegal encounters
 - Conservative approach to available encounters



Thoughts?

- Things to consider:
 - Larger number of encounters this year
 - Effort has been consistently high
 - Test fishing will continue throughout season on full Murthy schedule
 - Gear study will continue while test fishing is occurring
- We want to hear from you!



Questions/Comments?

