

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Coastal Fall Chinook

In 2008-09 due to poor returns of fall Chinook coast wide, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) adopted restrictive regulations, area closures, and in 2009 complete fishery closures to address conservation needs of these populations as well as to meet international agreements established under the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) and to meet management objectives established by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) Fishery Management Plan. In 2010 with improved escapements and forecasts except for the north coast, the Commission continued restrictive regulations in north coast streams especially the Nehalem and Nestucca rivers. From the Alsea River south, no restrictions beyond permanent bag limit regulations were adopted but many area and low flow closures were continued.

In 2011, escapements and forecasts continue to improve except for the north coast and the Commission is being asked to continue restrictions on the Nehalem, Tillamook, and Nestucca rivers. The Nehalem River failed to meet the minimum escapement goal established under the PST and the 2011 forecasts for the Nehalem, Tillamook, and Nestucca rivers are at or below the 20 year average. Restrictions are also proposed to continue on Salmon River to increase harvest of hatchery fish and protect wild Chinook. From the Siletz River south, no restrictions beyond permanent bag limit regulations (2 daily/20 seasonal) are being recommended but many area and low flow closures are recommended to be continued. The exceptions are the Sixes and Elk rivers where 1 daily/10 seasonal non fin-clipped Chinook per day are recommended to increase harvest of hatchery Chinook and improve runs of wild Chinook.

The Department is recommending to continue traditional ocean terminal commercial and recreational fisheries off the Tillamook, Elk, and Chetco rivers with more liberal fisheries in the Elk and Chetco ocean terminal areas. In response to very high escapement in the Coos and Coquille in 2010 and high (160-380% of 20 year average and the highest on record for the Coquille) forecasts for 2011 with over 50k total wild and hatchery Chinook forecasted, the Department is proposing a new ocean terminal commercial fishery off the Coos and Coquille rivers September 1-30 to target surplus Chinook returning to these watersheds.

Coastal Wild Coho

The Commission is being asked to adopt sport angling regulations that allow retention of non fin-clipped (or wild) coho salmon in eleven coastal basins from the Nehalem to the Coquille. These proposed fisheries are designed to be similar to the successful wild coho fisheries that have occurred in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes since 2003, and also

similar to the wild coho fisheries that occurred in coastal basins in the fall of 2009 and 2010.

Targeted fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho are identified as a desired management approach in the State of Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (Coho Plan) which was approved by the Commission in 2007. Fisheries targeting wild coho salmon are being proposed at this time because of anticipated strong adult returns in selected basins in 2011. To be consistent with the Coho Plan and because Oregon Coast coho salmon are listed as a *Threatened* species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the proposed 2011 fisheries are designed to be very conservative and comply with allowable fishery mortality from both the ocean and terminal fisheries as prescribed under Amendment 13 (A-13) to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan (PFMC 1999). In addition to A-13, the coho fisheries must be consistent with other criteria in the Coho Conservation Plan, and criteria set by the PFMC.

Approval by NOAA is required to open these fisheries due to the ESA status of Oregon Coast coho salmon. A Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) was submitted to NOAA for their consideration prior to conducting the 2009 fisheries. Fisheries implemented in 2010 were also conducted under this FMEP. Under the FMEP, the report to NOAA describing the results of the previous fall's wild coho fisheries and the proposal for the upcoming fall fisheries will be submitted by their July 1 deadline.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A series of public meetings were held on the Oregon coast between April 26 and April 28, 2011 in North Bend, Newport, and Tillamook. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff presented background information and run forecasts and outlined the proposed structure of Chinook and wild coho fisheries. Over 80 people attended the meetings and provided input both verbally and in writing (see Attachment 6). In addition, the multi-year FMEP has been posted on the Department's website since April 2009 and can be accessed at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal_coho/Draft_Coastal_Coho_FMEP.pdf. Proposals for conducting wild coho creels in the Nehalem, Tillamook Bay, Nestucca, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos (included Chinook creel and population monitoring), Tenmile Lakes, and Coquille rivers were submitted in spring 2011 and approved by the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board at their April 29, 2011 meeting. Those R&E projects were then forwarded to the F&W Commission for approval at the June 3 meeting. The Siletz will be fully covered and the Nestucca and Nehalem partially covered by existing creel programs planned under PST research studies for 2011.

ISSUE 1

OCEAN SPORT AND COMMERCIAL CHINOOK REGULATIONS FOR TERMINAL AREAS

ANALYSIS (Overview)

Due to an improved and now near average forecast of Sacramento fall Chinook (>730k), the PFMC adopted the most liberal ocean commercial

and recreational fisheries for Chinook off Oregon and California in four years. Consistent with the PFMC's recommendations and management guidelines, the federal salmon regulations for the ocean in 2011 allow Oregon to adopt ocean commercial and recreational Chinook fisheries in state waters. Staff is proposing fisheries in the three traditional ocean terminal areas off Garibaldi (targeting Tillamook Bay rivers fall Chinook), Port Orford (targeting Elk River fall Chinook), and Brookings (targeting Chetco River fall Chinook). As discussed, because of record returns to the Coos and Coquille rivers in 2010 and very high forecasts for 2011, the Department is also proposing an ocean terminal area commercial fishery to target surplus wild and hatchery Chinook returning to the Coos and Coquille rivers.

In addition to guidelines by the PFMC, the department is required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 635-500-0135 to adopt regulations for ocean mixed-stock and terminal area fisheries that meet three specific criteria: 1) provide access by fisheries to harvestable surpluses of Chinook salmon that may exist, 2) maintain traditional in-river fisheries and 3) meet spawning escapement goals in wild coastal Chinook populations. These mixed-stock ocean fisheries also cannot impact other regional depressed salmon stocks under PFMC or Oregon management plans. These were the primary sideboards used to develop and evaluate terminal ocean fishery alternatives.

ANALYSIS (Traditional and New Ocean Terminal Fisheries)

Similar to the last two years, restrictions for sport ocean terminal as well as bay and river fisheries are for non fin-clipped Chinook only. The Department will continue a two salmon or steelhead per day and 20 per season rule coast wide that allows anglers to continue to fish for fin-clipped Chinook, coho, or steelhead up to their 2 daily/20 seasonal bag limits after they have retained their daily and seasonal bag limits for non fin-clipped Chinook.

Tillamook Ocean Terminal Fishery

The fall Chinook ocean terminal area includes the area between Twin Rocks and Pyramid Rock, 0-3 miles. In **2010**, the **sport** season was September 1- October 31 (only one non fin-clipped Chinook per day and ten per season combined with other open areas in the Marine and Northwest (NW) Zones including terminal ocean areas and river fisheries with 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limits). The **commercial** season was September 1- October 31 or quota of 600 Chinook. The 2011 forecast of 7,340 Chinook for Tillamook Bay rivers is below the 1990-2010 average (12,239) that is in part due to application of a 40% buffer to account for over forecasting in previous years.

For **2011**, a **sport season** is recommended October 1-31 in the terminal area with a 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limit when combined with all north coast rivers with a 10 seasonal bag limit (Necanicum River, Nehalem River, Tillamook Bay rivers, Nestucca River, and Salmon River) between August 1 and December 31, 2011 except in the Nehalem River where the seasonal aggregate applies July 1- December 31, 2011.

For **2011**, a **commercial season** is recommended September 1-30 in the terminal area with a landing and possession limit of 25 Chinook per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) and 28 inch minimum length. No quota is recommended as commercial catch is typically low (<100) at the expected abundances including in 2010 where only 68 of the 600 Chinook quota was caught.

OPTIONS (Tillamook)

1. **(Staff Recommendation) Sport-** October 1-31 season in the terminal area with a 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limit combined with all north coast rivers with a 10 seasonal bag limit. **Commercial-** September 1-30 season in the terminal area with a landing and possession limit of 25 Chinook per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) and 28 inch minimum length.

ANALYSIS (Elk)

Elk River Ocean Terminal Fishery

The Elk River terminal area has traditionally included the area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mountain, 0-3 miles. The open area for the fall Chinook fisheries was modified in 2009 and 2010 to reduce the potential impacts to non-local stocks and Sixes River Chinook by limiting the open area to the area shoreward of Orford Reef. For 2011, we propose staying with this nearshore area to avoid potential harvest of Chinook other than Elk River stock. In **2010**, the **sport** season was October 15- November 30 with permanent bag limit regulations and the **commercial** season was October 15- November 30 or quota of 1,250 Chinook with a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day. The 2011 forecast for Elk River wild Chinook is 2,271 that is above the 1990-2010 average of 1,641. The 2011 forecast for Elk River hatchery Chinook is 9,590 nearly double last year. For the Sixes River that is adjacent to the Elk River, the 2011 forecast of 1,699 wild Chinook is above the 1990-2010 average of 1,453.

For **2011**, a **sport** season is recommended November 1-30 with 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limit in aggregate with the Sixes and Elk rivers. A 1/10 bag limit is being proposed to increase harvest of the abundant Chinook returning to Elk River hatchery while protecting wild Chinook in the Elk and Sixes rivers.

For **2011**, a **commercial** season is recommended November 1-30 with a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day, and a 28 inch minimum length. Both sport and commercial fisheries would be limited to a nearshore area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mt. No quota is recommended given that this fishery has historically been a no quota fishery and based on landings since 1993 catch is not expected to exceed last years' quota of 1,250. Even if catch matched the highest observed since 1993 (2,200 in 2004), this harvest rate is acceptable given the large forecast of Chinook returning to Elk R. hatchery.

OPTIONS (Elk)

1. **(Staff Recommendation) Sport-** November 1-30 season with 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limit in aggregate with the Sixes and Elk rivers. **Commercial-** November 1-30 season with a landing and possession limit of 20 Chinook per day and a 28 inch minimum

length. Both sport and commercial fisheries would be limited to the nearshore area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mt.

2. **Sport-** Permanent bag limit regulations October 15- November 30.
Commercial- November 15- December 15, adipose fin-clipped only. Gull Rock to Humbug Mt., 0-3 miles.

ANALYSIS (Chetco)

Chetco River Ocean Terminal Fishery

The traditional fall Chinook terminal area includes the area between the north shore of Twin Rocks and the Oregon/California border, 0-3 miles. In **2010**, the **sport** season was October 1-12 with a 1 daily/5 seasonal Chinook bag limit (no mark distinction) and 24 inch minimum length. In **2010**, the **commercial** season was October 13-31 or a 500 Chinook quota with a 20 Chinook daily landing limit and 28 inch minimum length.

The 2011 forecast for the Chetco River of 3,536 wild Chinook is above the 1990-2010 average of 2,619. The 2011 forecast for Chetco River hatchery Chinook is 1,738.

Due to good forecasts for **2011**, a **sport** season is recommended October 1-12 with a 1 daily/5 seasonal chinook bag limit (no mark distinction) and 24 inch minimum length.

For **2011** a **commercial** season is recommended October 13-31 or a 750 Chinook quota with a 20 Chinook daily landing limit and 28 inch minimum length.

OPTIONS (Chetco)

1. **(Staff Recommendation) Sport-** October 1-12 season with a 1 daily/5 seasonal Chinook bag limit (no mark distinction) and 24 inch minimum length. **Commercial-** October 13-31 season or a 750 Chinook quota with a daily landing and possession limit of 20/day and 28 inch minimum length.
2. **Sport-** October 1-14 with a 1 daily/5 seasonal bag limit.
Commercial- October 13-31 or 500 Chinook quota.

ANALYSIS (Coos/Coquille)

Coos/Coquille Ocean Terminal Fishery

The Department is proposing a new ocean terminal commercial fishery off the Coos and Coquille rivers September 1-30 to target abundant surplus Chinook returning to these watersheds. In most normal fishing years this area has been open to commercial Chinook fishing throughout the full season which typically ran through October under the general ocean salmon regulations adopted by PFMC for federal (3-200 miles) waters and matched by the Commission for state (0-3 miles) waters. In recent years, concern over impacts on Klamath and Sacramento fall Chinook has resulted in the September and October being closed during the general season. Catches of these stocks after September 1 are charged to the catch the following season (termed "credit card fish"). The expectation is that few if any Chinook from the Sacramento or Klamath rivers will be caught in the fishery as these fish are usually

much further offshore and not present in the proposed fishery area.

In addition to concerns over the Klamath and Sacramento fall Chinook, September was not included in the general ocean salmon season from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain this year to reduce impacts to ESA listed Columbia River tule Chinook. Tule Chinook are not an issue for the Coos/Coquille ocean terminal area as their ocean distribution is primarily to the North and in more offshore areas, and most of these Chinook will have returned to the Columbia by early September.

No quota is proposed for this fishery as the expectation for effort and catch will be low based on past Special State Waters Commercial Fisheries including those that occurred in 2006 and 2007 (as part of the Governors disaster relief assistance program) that included a terminal ocean commercial fishery off the Coos in both years.

The fishery has broad support with south coast trollers that wanted opportunity for commercial Chinook fishing during the month that the general ocean salmon season is closed. It is expected that 12-15 boats, primarily from Coos Bay, will participate in the fishery and catch is unlikely to exceed 3,000 given the 50 weekly landing limit. Landings will be limited to Coos Bay or Bandon.

**OPTIONS
(Coos/Coquille)**

1. **(Staff Recommendation) Commercial-** September 1-30 in the terminal area with a landing and possession limit of 50 Chinook per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) and 28 inch minimum length. Landings limited to Coos Bay or Bandon. Terminal area is inside 30 fathom line between 43°31'00" and 43°16'00" and within 3 miles 43°16'00" to Crooked Cr. (43°04'50").

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Amend sport and commercial fishing regulations for coastal fall Chinook in the Tillamook, Elk, Chetco, and Coos/Coquille Ocean Terminal Areas as described above.

ISSUE 2

**AMEND SPORT ANGLING REGULATIONS FOR OREGON
COASTAL FALL CHINOOK IN BAYS AND RIVERS TO
MODIFY THE DAILY AND SEASONAL BAG LIMITS AND
AREA CLOSURES**

ANALYSIS

Department staff recommends continuation of restrictive regulations for north coastal fall Chinook from the Necanicum River south to the Salmon River due to generally below average forecasts for these populations. The Nehalem River PST indicator stock did not meet the PST escapement goal but is forecasted to be slightly above the goal in 2011. Although the Siletz forecast is also below the 20 year average, staff is not recommending bag limit restrictions because the Siletz will meet the PST escapement goal with a two daily bag limit. The angling

deadline on the Siletz River is also moved downstream from Moonshine Park to Ojalla Bridge a distance of about 21 miles. Additional area closures are being made on Drift Creek on the Siletz to prevent Chinook angling in an additional 7 miles of stream. The Yaquina is also forecasted to be below average and staff is recommending a continued closure of all previous fishable areas upstream from tidewater. Staff is not recommending bag limit restrictions because of the conservation achieved through the area closure and a desire to maintain consistency with bag limit rules to the south. From the Alsea River south to the California border escapements and forecasts are generally good and in some cases greatly above average. Modifications to permanent regulations from the Siletz River south are limited to deadline adjustments that reduce allowable fishing area or low flow closures. The exceptions are the Sixes and Elk river where 1 daily/10 seasonal non fin-clipped Chinook per day are recommended to increase harvest of Elk River hatchery Chinook and reduce catch of wild Sixes and Elk rivers Chinook.

In 2008-09 in response to declines in most coastal fall Chinook populations that were well below escapement goals, the Commission adopted restrictive regulations including limited daily and seasonal bag limits, area closures, and closure of fisheries. In 2010 with improved status of stocks, the Commission continued bag limit restrictions in only north coast streams. These restrictions were needed to address conservation needs of the populations but also to meet expectations of the PST and PPMC. Oregon's three North Oregon Coast (NOC) indicator stocks established under the Treaty are the Nehalem, Siletz and Siuslaw rivers. We did not meet PST escapement goals 2006-10 in the Nehalem, 2007-09 in the Siletz and during 2007-08 in the Siuslaw River. All three indicator stocks are forecasted to be above goal in 2011 but there is reason to be cautious in the Nehalem as we are just recovering from five years of low returns below the goal.

Under the PST, if escapement goals for indicator stocks are not met for any year, Oregon is expected to reduce its aggregated freshwater harvest for NOC Chinook to 60 percent of the 1979-1982 base period (termed "general obligation") before harvest rates can be considered to be reduced in Alaska and Canada fisheries under provisions of the PST.

Although we do not have complete data to determine how effective harvest restrictions imposed on coastal Chinook in 2008-10 were in meeting our general obligation for the NOC stocks (general obligation is a harvest rate of approximately 10% and exploitation rate of 5-6%), we have indications from our mark/recapture studies that for the Siletz River indicator stock that freshwater and estuary harvest was reduced from a three year average of 23% during 2005-07 under permanent bag limit regulations to 16% in 2008-10 suggesting that our regulations were effective in reducing chinook harvest. We also know that closure of the Nehalem River in 2009 (and lesser extent closure of the bar in 2010) reduced freshwater harvest rate that had been averaging about 28% in recent years.

Under the PFMF's Fishery Management Plan, Oregon is obligated to reduce fisheries to meet escapement goals of 60-90 adult spawners per mile for Oregon coastal Chinook as an aggregate in 11 index areas. NOC Chinook populations are harvested little (<5%) in Council area fisheries, but from the Umpqua River south are harvested significantly (>20%). The minimum escapement goal of 60 adults per mile was not met in either 2007 or 2008, but was met in 2009 and 2010 (62 and 79 spawners/mile). Regulation actions taken in 2009 and 2010 were effective in meeting the PFMF conservation objective for Oregon coastal Chinook thus avoiding the triggering of an "Overfishing Concern" similar to what occurred for Klamath and Sacramento River Chinook in California requiring an Overfishing Review by the PFMF and development of a rebuilding plan.

The Department is currently working on two conservation plans for Coastal salmonids. The plan for the Rogue fall Chinook species management unit, which covers all Oregon coastal populations of fall Chinook from Euchre Creek to the California border, including the Rogue River Basin, is in the final development stages and should be complete by the end of 2011. Another plan addressing Coastal fall Chinook, spring Chinook, winter steelhead, summer steelhead, chum, and cutthroat species management units, which covers populations from the Elk (fall Chinook) and Sixes (all others) Rivers north to the Necanicum River, is also under development. This plan is currently scheduled to be complete by the end of 2012. For both plans, measurable criteria have been or will be identified that, if monitoring shows criteria thresholds are reached, will indicate a significant decline in status for each independent population that can be used to trigger restrictive fishery regulations and other management actions to ensure each population maintains acceptable health. These criteria will be used to inform fisheries in state waters, and will be in addition to escapement goals developed to maintain optimal ocean fisheries under the PST and PFMF.

In the last three years, daily and seasonal bag limits of Oregon coastal Chinook were reduced from 2 daily/20 seasonal (permanent bag limits) to one daily non fin-clipped Chinook and two, five, or ten seasonally in aggregate within the Marine, NW and SW Zones August 1-December 31. Staff evaluated punch card data for sport catch of fall Chinook in Oregon coastal streams for 2005-2007 to determine the potential benefits of reducing daily and seasonal bag limits. Based on these analyses, compared to permanent regulation bag limits for non fin-clipped Chinook, it is estimated that north coast escapements and in the Sixes and Elk rivers would be improved an additional 7.5% by the proposed 1 daily/10 seasonal bag limits.

Staff also evaluated various options for area closures proposed by the public to protect spawning fish with the goal of maintaining as many traditional boat and bank angling opportunities as possible. Staff recommendations are included for additional area closures as described

below. For the 265 miles proposed for area closures (12 less miles than 2010), staff estimates that spawning escapements coast wide will be improved by about 5%.

It is recommended that Chinook area and season closures are implemented for the following rivers:

Nehalem River- Mainstem (bay) closed to all salmon/steelhead angling downstream from Nehalem Bay State Park Boat Ramp July 1- September 14 and closed to all Chinook angling upstream of Peterson Creek (River Mile (RM) 10.2) July 1 through December 31.

Nestucca River- Mainstem Nestucca upstream of First Bridge (RM 15.8) near Beaver closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Siletz River- Mainstem and tributaries above Ojalla Bridge (RM 31.0) and Drift Creek above Quarry Creek (RM 8.0) closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Yaquina River- Mainstem above Big Elk Creek (RM 18.3) and Big Elk Creek closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Alsea River- Drift Creek above the western boundary of the Drift Creek Wilderness (RM 10.5), mainstem above Five Rivers (RM 21), and Five Rivers closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Siuslaw River- Mainstem above Lake Creek (RM 30) and Lake Creek closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31. Lake Creek below Fish Creek closed to all angling October 1- November 30.

Coos River- South Coos closed above Dellwood (RM 10) to all salmon angling August 1 through December 31 and closed to steelhead August 1 through November 14.

Floras Creek and Floras Lake Outlet- Floras Creek above Floras Creek Bridge (RM 5.0) closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Sixes River- Mainstem above Edson Creek (RM 10.0) closed to all Chinook angling August 1 through December 31.

Chetco River- Mainstem above Powerline crossing (RM 2.2) closed to all angling August 1 through November 4.

Winchuck River- Closed to all angling August 1 through November 4.

OPTIONS
(Amend sport angling
regulations for coastal
fall Chinook in bays

1. **(Staff Recommendation)** Amend NW Zone regulations for the **Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook Basin, Nestucca, and Salmon rivers** to allow no more than one non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and ten non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the

and rivers to modify daily and seasonal bag limits and area closures)

seasonal aggregate when combined with all other waters in the NW Zone waters and the Tillamook Ocean Terminal Area with a 10 Chinook salmon seasonal aggregate limit. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2011 except in the Nehalem River where the seasonal aggregate applies between July 1 through December 31 and the Tillamook Ocean Terminal Area where the seasonal aggregate applies October 1-31.

Amend SW Zone regulations for the **Sixes and Elk rivers** to allow no more than one non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained per day and ten non fin-clipped Chinook salmon in the seasonal aggregate combined with all waters in the Sixes and Elk rivers and Elk River Ocean Terminal Area. Seasonal aggregate applies to all non fin-clipped Chinook salmon retained between August 1 and December 31, 2011.

Amend NW and SW Zone regulations to establish these daily and seasonal bag limit regulations and area closures described above.

2. Same as Option 1 except for the **Elk River Ocean Terminal Area:**

Sport- Permanent bag limit regulations, Oct. 15-Nov. 30, 24 inch minimum, nearshore area between Cape Blanco and Humbug Mt.

Commercial- Nov. 1-Dec. 15, adipose fin-clipped Chinook only, Gull Rock to Humbug Mt. 0-3 miles, 24 inch min. length.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations for coastal fall Chinook in bays and rivers August 1 - December 31, 2011 and in the Nehalem River July 1 – December 31, 2011.

ISSUE 3

**AMEND SPORT ANGLING REGULATIONS FOR WILD COHO
SPORT FISHERIES IN COASTAL BAYS, RIVERS, and LAKES**

ANALYSIS

Amendment 13 to the PPMC Fishery Management Plan and other considerations were used to identify potential basins for 2011 wild coho fisheries. The initial step was to consider only medium and large size independent populations as identified in the Coho Conservation Plan. Dependent populations and small independent populations including the Necanicum and Salmon rivers and Beaver Creek were rejected from consideration. Other criteria used to evaluate potential fishery locations are identified in the Coho Plan and consider combined impacts from ocean and inland fisheries. The five primary criteria for evaluating the fisheries are as follows:

1. Amendment 13 (A-13) to the PFMC;
2. Full-seeding requirement post-fishery;
3. NOAA's Technical Recovery Team Population Viability Assessment;
4. Department Spawner-Recruit Assessment; and
5. Additional Biological and Social Factors;

Allowable Fishery Mortality under PFMC Amendment 13 (A-13)

Amendment 13 (PFMC 1999-citation in FMEP document at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal_coho/Draft_Coastal_Coho_FMEP.pdf) harvest matrix sets a maximum allowable fishery impact rate for Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho in ocean and inland fisheries. The Department will only propose terminal fisheries in basins where combined ocean and terminal fisheries will not exceed the total allowable fishery mortality rate under A-13 at the sub aggregate level. NOAA Fisheries provided clarification to ODFW on the application of A-13 to individual populations. NOAA indicated that for inland fisheries, if a population had total fishing mortality less than the A-13 criteria, it was not a requirement that it also meet all the additional criteria under the FMEP for inland fisheries. The requirements in the FMEP were only necessary from NOAA's perspective if a particular population was proposed for a fishery at levels greater than the overall A-13 impact rate limit (Lance Kruzic/NOAA e-mail to Kevin Goodson, March 3, 2011).

For 2011, A-13 as revised in 2000 allowed a total fishing mortality on OCN coho of 15 %. Projected ocean mortality based on PFMC and Commission adopted ocean seasons and incidental inland release mortality is about 9 %. Remaining impact allowance for bay and river coho fisheries is 6 %. For wild coho populations with proposed 2011 inland fisheries, total mortality ranges up to 14.1 % (Table 1). This meets the NOAA requirement that ocean and inland fisheries in combination for individual populations have impact rates that are lower than the overall A-13 cap.

Table 1 Oregon Coast wild coho salmon pre harvest abundance forecast, proposed inland quota and anticipated impact rates.

	Forecast	Proposed Quota	Inland Impact	Total Impact
Nehalem	24466	1200	4.9%	13.8%
Tillamook	12042	600	5.0%	13.9%
Nestucca	3870	200	5.2%	14.1%
Siletz	19067	700	3.7%	12.6%
Yaquina	11446	575	5.0%	13.9%
Alsea	13486	675	5.0%	13.9%
Siuslaw	25834	900	3.5%	12.4%
Umpqua	55073	1300	2.4%	11.3%
Tenmile	17507	875	5.0%	13.9%
Coos	24277	1200	4.9%	13.8%
Coquille	16483	825	5.0%	13.9%

ODFW also considered criteria for individual populations when developing quotas although this is not a NOAA requirement for any of the 2011 proposals. For populations that met all of the FMEP criteria, quotas and overall impacts were set at about 5 % while impacts were reduced in populations that did not meet all FMEP criteria.

Other Biological and Social Considerations

ODFW reviewed other biological information on likely status of OCN coho returning in 2011. Wild smolt abundance (progeny contributing to adults returning this year) measured at eleven coastal smolt traps was the highest since the smolt trapping was initiated on a consistent basis in 1998. The high abundance of coho smolts is indicative of strong parental spawner abundance in 2008, and favorable environmental conditions during the freshwater rearing phase.

Additional information on marine survival indicates it will likely be higher than the low category recognized in A-13 which forecast wild coastal coho marine survival based on hatchery jack returns almost exclusively to the Columbia River. At a coastal wild coho monitoring site on Mill Creek, Yaquina, jack returns were very strong and would forecast an exceptional OCN return in 2011. Coastal jack returns were also strong at a trap on Drift Creek (Alsea River) and at Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua. These strong coastal jack returns are likely a better forecast tool for coastal coho adult returns than the Columbia River hatchery jacks.

Application of NOAA Technical Review Team (TRT) Recovery Criteria

Remaining populations were assessed relative to the NOAA Viability Criteria which has been updated to include coho returns through 2009 (Pete Lawson, April 3, 2011 e-mail). This assessment had all populations where a fishery could be considered above the criteria for a fishery (a population sustainability criteria > 0) except the North Umpqua. The North Umpqua failed because of excessive hatchery strays prior to termination of all hatchery coho releases in the North Umpqua in 2008. Since then, hatchery coho strays have gone down sharply and are now at acceptable levels. Recent year wild Coho returns to the North Umpqua have been at the highest levels since counts at Winchester Dam began in 1946. The other three coho populations in the Umpqua Basin which would be impacted by harvest in the lower basin passed all criteria for a fishery. Given this along with the strong returns to the North Umpqua since hatchery programs were terminated, ODFW chose to move the overall Umpqua Basin forward as a conservative harvest option. This is consistent with direction from NOAA Fisheries saying a fishery with a total combined impact consistent with A-13 could be implemented even if the specific criteria in the FMEP were not met (Lance Kruzic e-mail to Kevin Goodson, March 3, 2011). Overall inland harvest impacts in the Umpqua are projected at 2.4 % which is less than half the allowable maximum.

ODFW Stock-Recruit Analysis

Stock-recruit analysis was applied to the candidate populations and was used to provide a secondary population specific forecast for 2011 coho abundance and provide a value to represent spawner abundance needed for full seeding. This showed that forecasted coho abundance in 2011 in each basin was above the level needed to fully seed available habitat in the basins except for the Siuslaw (Table 1). Under this analysis, the forecast after fisheries must be above the 75 percent of the full seeding level in order to pass this criterion for a fishery. This stock recruit analysis includes an environmental variable selected from a suite of potential options through auto correlation and had the Siuslaw slightly below this full seeding criteria. ODFW staff could not determine a technical basis for the Siuslaw's failure of this criteria given its strong recent year coho returns and an overall ESU forecast for spawner abundance almost double that needed for full seeding. ODFW staff therefore proceeded with a conservative inland harvest proposal for the Siuslaw with impact level forecasted at 3.5 % well below the maximum allowable.

Full seeding requirement post fishery

An FMEP and PPMC criteria for inland wild coho harvest is a need to have adequate spawners for full seeding of high quality habitat after all fisheries. For the Oregon Coast coho ESU as a whole, the 2011 forecasted coho abundance following all fisheries is about 216,000 adult spanwers which is almost double the A-13 requirement for full seeding of high quality habitat. Direct observation of ESU spawners and subsequent smolt production over the last 13 years indicates that the overall ESU forecasted spawner return should be more than double that needed to seed available habitat. Wild coho populations across the ESU are currently performing in a consistent manner so it is anticipated that individual populations where inland fisheries are proposed will have sufficient spawners for full seeding of high quality habitat.

ODFW life cycle monitoring sites provide precise measurements of coho spawners and smolt production at several tributaries across the ESU. These sites demonstrate that coho habitat has been fully seeded on a consistent basis in recent years, and that with 2011 forecasts, it is highly likely there will again be full seeding across the ESU.

Most but not all coho populations are forecasted to exceed full seeding of high quality habitat using the habitat model methodology for individual basins outlined in the FMEP. In this methodology for individual populations, there is a high degree of statistical imprecision resulting in some basins with low thresholds and others with very high thresholds. The Alsea and Siuslaw fall slightly below this criteria using the habitat model. However, strong evidence suggests that populations in both these basins will actually have sufficient spawners following all fisheries to meet this criteria.

Regulations for Proposed 2011 Wild Coho Fisheries

Staff recommends that conservative fisheries on wild coho in the Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille rivers and Tenmile Lakes basins be implemented in 2011. To maintain extended fishing opportunity, staff recommends that these fisheries be based on harvest quotas, as well as modest daily and seasonal bag limits. Basin-specific harvest quotas as identified in Table 2 will prevent the overall fishery mortality from both the ocean and terminal fisheries in each population from exceeding the allowable mortality for that population under A-13. For Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile Lakes, the annual and daily catch limits are proposed at one non adipose fin-clipped coho adult per day and up to five non adipose fin-clipped adult coho for the entire season in aggregate with other wild coho fisheries including the two existing lake fisheries in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch. For the Nehalem and Umpqua basins, the annual and daily catch limits are proposed at one non adipose fin-clipped coho adult per day and two non adipose fin-clipped adult coho for the entire season in aggregate with other wild coho fisheries having the two-fish seasonal limit. For the Tillamook and Nestucca basins, the annual and daily catch limits are proposed at one non adipose fin-clipped coho adult per day and only one non adipose fin-clipped adult coho for the entire season in aggregate with other wild coho fisheries having the one-fish seasonal limit. For any open wild coho fishery, the daily catch limit would also include one non adipose fin-clipped jack coho salmon per day.

Seasons in all river basins would run seven days a week from September 15 through the end of November or attainment of the quota. The season in Tenmile Lakes would run from October 1 to the end of December, or attainment of the quota. Statistical creels will be implemented in each basin to monitor the harvest and make estimates of total harvest on a weekly basis.

Proposed open areas to fishing in each basin are in lower river areas or in lakes. The Two Rod License would not be valid in Tenmile Lakes during this open fishery.

Table 2. 2011 Proposed Coast Wild Coho Fisheries in Rivers and Lakes (Staff Recommendation).

<u>Basin</u>	<u>Area</u>
Nehalem River	Jetty tips to Peterson Creek (RM 10.2) on South Fork and North Fork Road Bridge on North Fork.
Tillamook Bay Rivers	Jetty tips upstream to Hwy, 101 Bridge on Miami, Kilchis, Wilson, and Trask rivers and Burton Bridge on Tillamook River.

Nestucca River	Mouth to Cloverdale Bridge (excludes L. Nestucca tidewater).
Siletz	Mouth to Ojalla Bridge (RM 31).
Yaquina River	Mouth to confluence of Yaquina R. and Big Elk Cr.
Alsea River	Mouth to Five Rivers (RM 21).
Siuslaw River	Mouth to Lake Cr. (RM 30).
Umpqua River	Mouth to Scottsburg Bridge. Smith River closed.
Coos River	Mouth to Dellwood and E./W. Millicoma confluence.
Tenmile Lakes	Open in North and South Tenmile Lakes. Closed downstream of Hilltop Bridge, canal between lakes, and all tributaries above lakes.
Coquille River	Mouth to Sturdivant Bridge (Hwy. 42S).

OPTIONS

(Amendments to sport angling regulations for wild coho in bays, rivers, and lakes)

1. Establish terminal recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho on the Nehalem, Tillamook Bay rivers, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille rivers, September 15- November 30, 2011, and in Tenmile Lakes, October 1 – December 31, 2011 (or attainment of quotas) as proposed by staff.

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Amend sport angling regulations to provide terminal recreational fisheries for non adipose fin-clipped coho in the Nehalem, Tillamook Bay rivers, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille rivers and in Tenmile Lakes basins with open areas, bag limits, seasons, and quotas as proposed by basin.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to adopt the 2011 regulations for fall Chinook in ocean sport and commercial terminal fisheries and bay and river sport fisheries and coho in sport bay, river, and lake fisheries as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2011.