

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Coastal Fall Chinook

In 2008-09, due to poor returns of coastal fall Chinook, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) adopted restrictive regulations and area closures, including some complete fishery closures in 2009. Returns for North Coastal streams continued to improve in 2011-12, and returns in 2013 and forecasts for 2014 have rebounded to abundances prior to 2008. Pending analysis of salmon/steelhead harvest card returns, anecdotal information indicates that the 2013 coastal fall Chinook fishing season was very productive.

The Commission adopted the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) at the June meeting. The CMP provides a comprehensive framework for management and conservation of populations of Chinook salmon, steelhead, chum salmon, and cutthroat trout in coastal streams north of Cape Blanco. Angling regulations associated with the CMP will be promulgated to begin in the 2015 calendar year. However, many of the proposals for the 2014 season are consistent with or identical to these regulations.

Coastal Wild Coho

Returns of wild coho on the Oregon coast increased dramatically over the last decade. The average adult return for Oregon Coastal natural (OCN) coho for the period 1990-2000 was 49,000 adults. Since 2001, this average has increased to 191,000 adults (66,000 to 356,000). Over the most recent five year period, the average return has been 225,000 adults. The 2013 adult return was 124,000, which was 65% of the forecast. The forecast for 2014 is 231,000.

Due to changes in management strategies and harvest limitations on other stocks, ocean harvest impacts on OCN coho have been markedly lower since the 1990s than they were prior to that time. For 2014, the maximum allowable exploitation rate is 30%; however, the planned fisheries are projected to be below that rate.

As a result of increased abundances of OCN coho, the Department has been able to provide limited harvest opportunities for wild coho in selected coastal streams. These fisheries have proven to be successful and popular, while meeting conservation and recovery needs for the wild coho populations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

For Chinook fisheries, few changes are proposed over 2013. South Coast proposals were developed and reviewed with direct involvement of local stakeholders.

Because few changes are proposed over 2013 for coho fisheries, no additional public meetings have been held to discuss proposals. Some input on in-river fisheries was received during the Ocean Salmon Industry Group public meeting in February.

ISSUE 1

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

Chinook forecasts for 2014 for many basins are similar to last year's strong returns. All three of Oregon's PST indicator stocks (Nehalem, Siletz, and Siuslaw) are projected to be above the adopted PST goals.

For areas from the Salmon River, inclusive, north, the proposed Chinook bag limits are 2 per day and 10 for the season. This rule is consistent with recent years including 2013 and no changes to the OARs for these areas are proposed.

From the Siletz River south to the Coquille River, the proposed Chinook bag limits are for the permanent rules as published in the 2014 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

In total, the only changes to OARs from 2013 are for the Siletz, Yaquina, Chetco, and Winchuck rivers. Staff is proposing to close the Winchuck River for the remainder of 2014 due to low expected returns. This action is consistent with the Rogue Fall Chinook Salmon Plan.

A summary of proposed coastal fall Chinook regulations for 2014 is provided in Attachment 4.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Establish changes to fall Chinook fisheries in the Northwest and Southwest zones as outlined in Attachment 4.

Option 2. Maintain fall Chinook fisheries as adopted in 2013.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

ISSUE 2

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

ANALYSIS

As a result of substantially increased abundances of OCN coho, the Department has been able to provide limited recreational harvest opportunities for wild coho in selected coastal streams. These fisheries have proven to be successful and popular, while continuing to meet conservation needs for wild coho populations. 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.

Annual approval from NOAA is required to conduct these fisheries because OCN coho are ESA-listed. Per a letter from Rob Jones (NOAA) to Bruce McIntosh (ODFW) on Aug. 24, 2011, NOAA will approve impacts in these fisheries in combination with other fisheries up to those allowed under the harvest matrix adopted by the PFMC. For 2014, harvest for all populations must be managed for $\leq 30\%$ ER. Ocean fisheries, including incidental release mortality in terminal Chinook fisheries, are anticipated to have a maximum ER of 16.4% on OCN coho and impacts for in-river fisheries were set to a maximum of 8.9%.

A Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Oregon inland wild coho fisheries was accepted by NOAA in 2009. As a condition in the FMEP, ODFW will provide a report to NOAA describing the results of the previous

For all basins, the daily bag limit would be one non adipose-fin-clipped adult coho salmon per day, with seasonal bag limits ranging from one to five fish, depending on location. These bag limits would also allow one non adipose fin-clipped jack coho salmon per day, with no seasonal limit for jacks.

Other than a reduced quota in the Umpqua and a few calendar date updates in north coast streams, all daily and seasonal bag limits and open fishing periods would be identical to those adopted in 2013, thus few changes to OARs are needed.

Monitoring of wild coho catches in the basins with quotas will be covered by District staff (Beaver and Floras creeks), or by a recently approved proposal (Umpqua) through the Restoration and Enhancement Board (R&E), pending approval by the Commission.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Establish inland recreational harvest fisheries for non-adipose fin-clipped coho as outlined in Attachment 5.

Option 2. Maintain coho fisheries as adopted in 2013.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to adopt the 2014 regulations for fall Chinook in ocean terminal and inland fisheries and for coho in inland fisheries as proposed by staff in Attachments 4 (Chinook) and Attachment 5 (coho) and as reflected in the draft OARs shown in Attachment 3.
EFFECTIVE DATE	August 1, 2014.