



**Comments on Oregon Temporary Administrative Rules
Snake River Fall Chinook Fisheries
ORS 635-023-0134**

October 7, 2019

The Commission will be asked to approve an earlier adopted temporary rule put in place in concurrent Oregon-Idaho waters of the Snake River. That rule authorizes continued sport angling for hatchery fall Chinook. The previous rule in place allowed retention of one wild fall Chinook (ESA-listed) among a six-Chinook bag limit per angler per day.

The revised rule retains the six-Chinook bag limit but prohibits retention of any wild Chinook.

Key Question: Whether ESA-listed wild Snake River Fall Chinook and ESA-listed and disastrously depressed Summer Steelhead are adequately protected by a non-retention rule when each participating angler may continue to catch and release wild Fall Chinook while fishing to fill a six-fish Fall Chinook bag limit?

The Conservation Angler is concerned about several issues that are not clearly explained by the temporary rule. We believe the Commission should have answers to the following questions before deciding to adopt this temporary rule:

1. What is the encounter rate of wild steelhead in this chinook fishery?
2. What is the handle-rate of wild Chinook in this fishery while anglers continue fishing to retain six hatchery Chinook?
3. What is the mark-rate for Snake River fall Chinook (i.e., are all hatchery Chinook marked)?
4. Have Idaho and Oregon measured or monitored the overall fishery effort and shifts in effort on the Snake River since the Clearwater has been closed to all steelhead fishing?
5. What are the most recent 5-year wild adult spawning abundance trends for Snake River Fall chinook in Idaho and Oregon fall chinook rivers?
6. Are Snake River Fall Chinook meeting wild spawning escapement criteria in Oregon and Idaho stream reaches?
7. Are Oregon and Idaho on track to achieve ESA Recovery goals for ESA-listed wild Snake River Fall Chinook?

Here is the original rule authorizing wild fall chinook harvest in the Snake River:

file:///C:/Users/theco/Downloads/DFW_140-2019TrackedChanges.pdf

Here is the revised rule:

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2019/10_Oct/100319.asp

Commission Options:

1. Adopt the temporary rule put in place by the Director's Emergency Rule on September 17.
2. Not adopt or rescind the revised temporary rule and ask the Director to rescind the original rule authorizing the fall chinook fishery adopted on
3. Amend the new temporary rule by lowering the bag limit of the revised rule to reduce the encounter and handle rate of wild fall chinook and summer steelhead in this ongoing fishery.

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