



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

June 13th, 2025, Commission Conference Call

Agenda Item: Salmon Season Setting for the South Fork Salmon, Lochsa, and Upper Salmon **(Action)**

Prepared by: Chris Sullivan, Anadromous Fisheries Program Coordinator

Agenda Item No.: 1

Bureau Chief Approval: LH

Background:

This agenda item concerns modification to the season limit for Chinook Salmon Fisheries statewide and setting of Chinook Salmon fishing seasons for adult anadromous Chinook Salmon in the South Fork Salmon River, Upper Salmon River, and Lochsa River. Staff will review estimated in-season returns over Bonneville Dam and propose fishing seasons or adjustments, if appropriate based on returning numbers of fish. Fishing seasons will only be proposed in areas where enough hatchery salmon are forecast to return in 2025 to provide sport fisheries that target the non-tribal harvestable share after hatchery brood stock targets are considered. A brief update on spring Chinook Salmon fisheries previously approved by the Commission will also be provided.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Statute 36-104(b)2 gives the Commission the authority to make a rule or proclamation establishing seasons and methods for the taking of fish. Fishing Rules are provided in IDAPA 13.01.11

Public Involvement Process:

Public meetings to seek input on 2025 Chinook Salmon seasons were held in Riggins, Lewiston, Orofino, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Cascade, Nampa, and during February. Fish and Game Regional staffs hosted each of the meetings to provide information on 2025 projected salmon returns and to allow for public comment on potential 2025 seasons.

Justification:

Salmon and steelhead mitigation hatcheries were built to mitigate or compensate for fishing opportunities lost as a result of hydropower development. The proposed seasons would provide anglers the opportunity to fish for returning adult hatchery Chinook Salmon produced at Idaho mitigation hatcheries.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed 2025 modification to the statewide Chinook Salmon season limit and proposed fishing seasons for Chinook Salmon.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Commission approve the modification to the statewide Chinook Salmon season possession limit and the Chinook Salmon seasons as proposed.