

2026 CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY MODIFICATION

July 16, 2026

I. SEASONS – SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER SUMMER CHINOOK SALMON

A. Bag and Possession Limit Modification-

The department recommends modifying the daily bag and possession limits for Chinook Salmon in the South Fork Salmon River as follows: Bag limit- Four (4) adipose clipped Chinook Salmon daily, only two (2) of which may be adults; Possession Limit- twelve (12) adipose clipped salmon of which no more than six (6) may be adults.

B. Bag Limit Modification- Fall Chinook Salmon

The department recommends modifying the number of unclipped adult fall Chinook Salmon that may be kept as part of the daily bag limit to only allow 1 unclipped adult fall Chinook Salmon to be kept daily as reflected in Figure 2 below. The total daily bag limit remains at 3 adult fall Chinook.

Figure 1. Current fall Chinook seasons and limits table.

Fall Chinook Salmon Seasons and Limits			
River Section	Bag/Possession Limits		
	Daily limit is 3 adult fall Chinook Salmon (greater than or equal to 24 inches length), no limit on jacks (less than 24 inches length). Adipose clipped or unclipped fish may be kept. Possession limit is 3-times daily bag limit. No season limit.		
	Aug	Sept	Oct
Clearwater River: Mouth to Memorial Bridge	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31	
Clearwater River: Memorial Bridge to Orofino Bridge		Aug 18 - Oct 14	Closed Oct 15
Clearwater River: Orofino Bridge to South Fork Clearwater River		Aug 18 - Oct 31	
North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam	Closed	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam Salmon River: Mouth to upper Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31	

Figure 2. Fall Chinook Salmon seasons and limits table with proposed modification.

Fall Chinook Salmon Seasons and Limits			
River Section	Bag/Possession Limits		
	Daily limit is 3 adult fall Chinook Salmon (greater than or equal to 24 inches in length), no limit on jacks (less than 24 inches in length). Adipose-clipped or unclipped fish may be kept. Only 1 unclipped adult fall Chinook may be kept daily. Possession limit is 3-times the daily bag limit. No season limit.		
	Aug	Sept	Oct
Clearwater River: Mouth to Memorial Bridge	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31	
Clearwater River: Memorial Bridge to Orofino Bridge		Aug 18 - Oct 14	Closed Oct 15
Clearwater River: Orofino Bridge to South Fork Clearwater River		Aug 18 - Oct 31	
North Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Dworshak Dam	Closed	Sept 1 - Oct 31	
Middle Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Clear Creek South Fork Clearwater River: Mouth to Red River Snake River: ID/WA border to Hells Canyon Dam Salmon River: Mouth to upper Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp	Closed	Aug 18 - Oct 31	

Suggested motion: I move the Commission adopt the summer and fall Chinook Salmon bag and possession limit modifications as recommended by the Department.