

Meeting Date: January 28, 2021

Agenda Item No.10

Agenda Item: Preseason Forecast for Spring Chinook

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Chris Sullivan

Background:

Fisheries staff will update the Commission on the pre-season forecasts for Snake River spring and summer Chinook salmon returns for 2021. Staff will review the forecasted returns and potential salmon seasons based on previous year's actual returns and fisheries. Snake River salmon will begin entering the Columbia River in early March. Fisheries staff proposes to return to the Commission in March with recommendations for 2021 Chinook salmon sport fisheries to be conducted in the Clearwater River, Salmon River and Snake River drainages. During January and February Fisheries staff will be involved in Columbia River basin processes that set spring Chinook fishing seasons on the Columbia River. Those season setting processes and the potential impacts of Columbia River fisheries on Idaho-bound salmon will be described. Staff will also provide a summary of 2020 Chinook salmon fisheries.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

None

Public Involvement Process:

None

Staff Recommendation:

None

Justification:

Keeps Commission informed prior to setting Chinook salmon fishing seasons in March.