

## 2020 Fall Chinook Salmon Fishery Proposal

### I. Fall Chinook Salmon returns to Lower Granite Dam

	2020 Forecast	2019 Forecast	2019 Actual
Natural Adults	6,590	5,435	6,558
Hatchery Adults	11,560	10,016	9,950
Total Adults	18,150	15,451	16,508

### II. Fall Chinook Salmon Fishery

#### A. Management Intent

1. Provide an opportunity for anglers to harvest adult fall Chinook Salmon and jack fall Chinook Salmon (adipose clipped or unclipped) from mid-August to October which is prior to the peak of fall Chinook Salmon spawning.
  - The return of wild fall Chinook is projected to be sufficiently large to support a fishery and meet fall Chinook brood stock requirements.
  - Brood stock collection occurs primarily at Lower Granite Dam (downstream of the fishery).
2. Provide fishing opportunity in November to harvest fall Chinook Salmon in an area immediately downstream of Hells Canyon Dam.
  - Adults returning to Hells Canyon Dam are not trapped for broodstock.

#### B. ESA Permit Issues

##### 1. Background

- Hatchery and natural origin Snake River fall Chinook Salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- IDFG submitted a new Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan for fall Chinook Salmon fisheries to NOAA Fisheries and received approval in the fall of 2019 which allowed anglers to retain adipose-intact fall Chinook.

## **2020 FALL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY PROPOSAL**

### **III. SEASONS**

#### **A. Opening Dates**

1. **Clearwater River** – from its mouth upstream to the confluence of the Middle Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater rivers: Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon will open on August 18, 2020.
2. **North Fork Clearwater River** – from its mouth upstream to Dworshak Dam: Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon will open on September 17, 2020.
3. **Salmon River** – from its mouth upstream to the Twin Bridges boat ramp: Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon will open on August 18, 2020.
4. **Snake River** - from the Washington/Idaho border upstream to Hells Canyon Dam: Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon will open on August 18, 2020.

#### **B. Closing Dates**

1. **Clearwater River and North Fork Clearwater River** – Closure upon notice or midnight on October 18, 2020, whichever comes first
2. **Salmon River and that part of the Snake River downstream of Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7)** - Closure upon notice or October 31, 2020, whichever comes first
3. **Snake River** – from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7) - Closure upon notice or November 30, 2020, whichever comes first

#### **C. Fishing Days**

1. **Clearwater River from mouth to Memorial Bridge** - Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon is open 7 days per week
2. **Clearwater River from Memorial Bridge upstream to the confluence of the Middle Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater rivers** - Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon is open 4 days per week, Thursday through Sunday.
3. **North Fork Clearwater River** - Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon is open 4 days per week, Thursday through Sunday.
4. **Snake River and Salmon River** - Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon is open 7 days per week.

### **IV. LIMITS**

#### **A. Bag (Daily):**

1. Three (3) adult fall Chinook Salmon, only one (1) may have an adipose fin.

#### **B. Possession:**

1. Nine (9) adult fall Chinook Salmon, only three (3) may have an adipose fin.

**C. Season:**

1. There is no limit on the number of adult fall Chinook Salmon that can be harvested during the fall Chinook season. (All adult Chinook Salmon that are harvested must be recorded on a salmon permit.)

**D. Jack fall Chinook Salmon:**

1. Anglers can retain any jack fall Chinook Salmon (adipose-clipped or unclipped) if they have a valid salmon permit. There are no daily bag, possession or season limits for jack fall Chinook Salmon. Anglers are not required to record jack fall Chinook Salmon on their salmon permit.

**V. Definitions Pertaining to Limits**

**A. Adult Chinook Salmon** – Adult Chinook Salmon are 24 or more inches in total length.

**B. Jack Chinook Salmon** – Jack Chinook Salmon are less than 24 inches in total length.