

2019 Snake and Salmon Rivers Fall Chinook Salmon Update and Fishery Proposal

I. Fall Chinook Salmon returns to Lower Granite Dam

	2019 Forecast	2018 Forecast	2018 Actual
Natural Adults	5,435	6,113	6,133
Hatchery Adults	10,016	12,013	9,936
Total Adults	15,451	18,126	16,069

II. Fall Chinook Salmon Fishery

A. Management Intent

- Provide an opportunity for anglers to harvest adipose-clipped adult fall Chinook Salmon and any 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).
- Provide fishing opportunity in November to harvest fall Chinook Salmon in an area immediately downstream of Hells Canyon Dam.
 - Adipose-clipped juvenile fall Chinook Salmon are released at the base of Hells Canyon Dam.
 - Adults returning to Hells Canyon Dam are not trapped for broodstock.

B. ESA Permit Issues

1. Background

- IDFG submitted a new Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan for fall Chinook Salmon fisheries to National Marine Fisheries Service. Once approved, anglers will be able to retain adipose-intact fall Chinook.

2019 FALL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY PROPOSAL

I. SEASONS

A. Opening Dates

The following areas open to fishing for fall Chinook Salmon on *August 24, 2019*:

1. **Salmon River** – from its mouth upstream to the Twin Bridges boat ramp
2. **Snake River** - from the Washington/Idaho border upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.

B. Closing Dates

1. **Salmon River and that part of the Snake River downstream of Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7)** - Closure to fishing on midnight October 31, 2019 or may close earlier by emergency order of the Director.
2. **Snake River** – from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7) - Closure to fishing on midnight November 17, 2019 or may close earlier by emergency order of the Director.

C. Fishing Days: Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon in the Salmon River and Snake River is open 7 days per week.

II. LIMITS

A. Bag (Daily):

1. Prior to NMFS Permit: Six (6) adipose fin-clipped adult fall Chinook Salmon.
2. Upon approval of NMFS permit: Six (6) adult fall Chinook Salmon, only one (1) may have an adipose fin.

B. Possession:

1. Prior to NMFS Permit: Eighteen (18) adipose fin-clipped adult fall Chinook Salmon.
2. Upon approval of NMFS permit: Eighteen (18) adult fall Chinook Salmon, only three (3) may have an adipose fin.

C. Season: 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: 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.

III. Definitions Pertaining to Limits

- A. Adult Chinook Salmon** – Adult Chinook Salmon are 24 or more inches in length.
- B. Jack Chinook Salmon** – Jack Chinook Salmon are less than 24 inches in length.
- C. NMFS Permit**- Approval by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the Snake River Fall Chinook Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) submitted by IDFG, WDFW, ODFW as meeting the criteria required by the limit 4 of the 4(d) rule.