

2018 Fall Chinook Salmon Update and Fishery Proposal

I. Fall Chinook Salmon returns to Lower Granite Dam

| | 2018 Forecast | 2017 Forecast | 2017 Actual |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Natural Adults | 6,113 | 8,134 | 6,966 |
| Hatchery Adults | 12,013 | 19,056 | 17,814 |
| Total Adults | 18,126 | 27,190 | 24,780 |

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 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 hatchery origin 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

- Hatchery and natural origin Snake River fall Chinook Salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Idaho's previous fishery management plan (FMP) for the steelhead fishery did not propose harvest of hatchery fall Chinook salmon and the previous NOAA fisheries permit (1481) for Idaho salmon and steelhead fisheries precluded harvest of any fall Chinook.
- After NOAA's approval of the previous steelhead FMP, the listing policy for hatchery populations was amended and adipose fin-clipped hatchery fish were exempted from the ESA take prohibition.
- IDFG submitted a new Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan for steelhead and fall salmon fisheries to NOAA Fisheries in December 2010.

2018 FALL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY PROPOSAL

I. SEASONS

A. Opening Dates

The following areas open to fishing for fall Chinook Salmon on August 18, 2018

- 1. Snake River** - from the Washington/Idaho border upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.
- 2. Clearwater River** - from its mouth upstream to Memorial Bridge
- 3. Salmon River** – from its mouth upstream approximately three-fourths of a mile to Eye of the Needle Rapids

B. Closing Dates

- 1. Clearwater River, Salmon River and that part of the Snake River downstream of Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7)** - Closure upon notice or October 31, 2018, whichever comes first.
- 2. Snake River** – from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7) - Closure upon notice or November 18, 2018, whichever comes first.

II. LIMITS

- A. Bag (Daily):** Six (6) adipose fin-clipped adult fall Chinook Salmon.
- B. Possession:** Eighteen (18) adipose fin-clipped adult fall Chinook Salmon.
- 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.