

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRELIMINARY DEFINITION
OF 2006 SALMON MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan recognizes and allows for annual management targets to be established for Puget Sound Chinook and coho salmon pursuant to rules and procedures established under U.S. v. Washington. It further recognized that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the effected tribes were establishing new objectives for coho salmon based on stepped exploitation rates, which would replace the previously defined management objectives. It also recognized that for Puget Sound Chinook salmon, which are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, additional conservation objectives would be provided by National Marine Fisheries Service, WDFW, and the Tribes.

As provided for in Amendment 14, WDFW and the effected tribes have established, pursuant to their obligations and authorities under U.S. v. Washington, management objectives for Puget Sound Chinook and coho salmon. The attached tables provide the objectives for use during the 2006 regulation setting process. They are based on a similar approach to the objectives provided to the Council the past several years. The management objectives define the maximum impact levels allowed for 2006 fisheries.

For Puget Sound Chinook salmon the management objectives are part of a six-year harvest plan (2004 through 2009) developed by WDFW and the Puget Sound Tribes. Specific details on interpretation and implementation of the objectives are provided in the plan document. NOAA-Fisheries has made a determination that this plan meets the requirements of the ESA, under limit #6 of the 4(d) rule for the Puget Sound Chinook evolutionarily significant unit.

PFMC
03/07/06

2006 Puget Sound Primary Natural Coho Management Unit Exploitation Rate Ceilings

<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>Preseason Forecast Of Abundance</u>	<u>Management Status</u>	<u>Allowable Exploitation Rate</u>
Strait of Juan de Fuca	22,200	low	40%
Hood Canal	59,400	normal	65%
Skagit	106,600	normal	60%
Stillaguamish	45,000	normal	50%
Snohomish	139,500	normal	60%

Table 3. Rebuilding exploitation rates, low abundance thresholds and critical exploitation rate ceilings for Puget Sound chinook management units.

Management Unit	Rebuilding Exploitation Rate	Low Abundance Threshold	Critical Exploitation Rate Ceiling
Nooksack North Fork South Fork	Under development	1,000 ¹ 1,000 ¹	7% / 9% SUS ³
Skagit summer / fall Upper Skagit summer Sauk summer Lower Skagit fall	50%	4,800 2200 400 900	15% SUS even-years 17% SUS odd-years
Skagit spring Upper Sauk Upper Cascade Suiattle	38%	576 130 170 170	18% SUS
Stillaguamish North Fork Summer South Fk & MS Fall	25%	650 ¹ 500 ¹ N/A	15% SUS
Snohomish Skykomish Snoqualmie	21%	2,800 ¹ 521 ¹ 1745 ¹	15% SUS
Lake Washington Cedar River	15% PT SUS	200 ¹	12% PT SUS
Green	15% PT SUS	1,800	12% PT SUS
White River spring	20%	200	15% SUS
Puyallup fall	50%	500	12% PT SUS
Nisqually	Terminal fishery managed to achieve 1,100 natural spawners		
Skokomish	15% PT SUS	1,300 ²	12% PT SUS
Mid-Hood Canal	15% PT SUS	400	12% PT SUS
Dungeness	10% SUS	500	6% SUS
Elwha	10% SUS	1,000	6% SUS
Western JDF	10% SUS	500	6% SUS

¹ natural-origin spawners.

² The threshold is escapement of 800 natural and/or 500 hatchery (see Appendix A).

³ Expected SUS rate will not exceed 7% in 4 out of 5 years (see Appendix A)