

## JOINT WASHINGTON, OREGON AND QUINAULT INDIAN NATION REPORT ON THE NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY

This report is submitted by the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW and ODFW, respectively) and the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) to provide an update on the 2016 anchovy fishery and information generally describing the fishery, regulations and monitoring activity. Preliminary total landings by the combined fisheries are approximately 4,800 metric tons (mt) through September 14, 2016 (Figure 1). This level of harvest has not previously been seen in this fishery.

The fisheries conducted in Oregon and Washington harvest fish from the Northern subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (NSNA), a management unit species in the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Federal management reference points for the NSNA include an overfishing limit (OFL) of 39,000 mt, an acceptable biological catch (ABC) and an annual catch level (ACL) of 9,750 mt and an annual catch target (ACT) of 1,500 mt. Attaining or exceeding the ACT is intended to trigger consultation by Oregon and Washington as catches reaching that level would indicate a change in the fishery. This year the ACT was exceeded in August and immediately prompted information sharing and discussions between Oregon, Washington and the QIN.

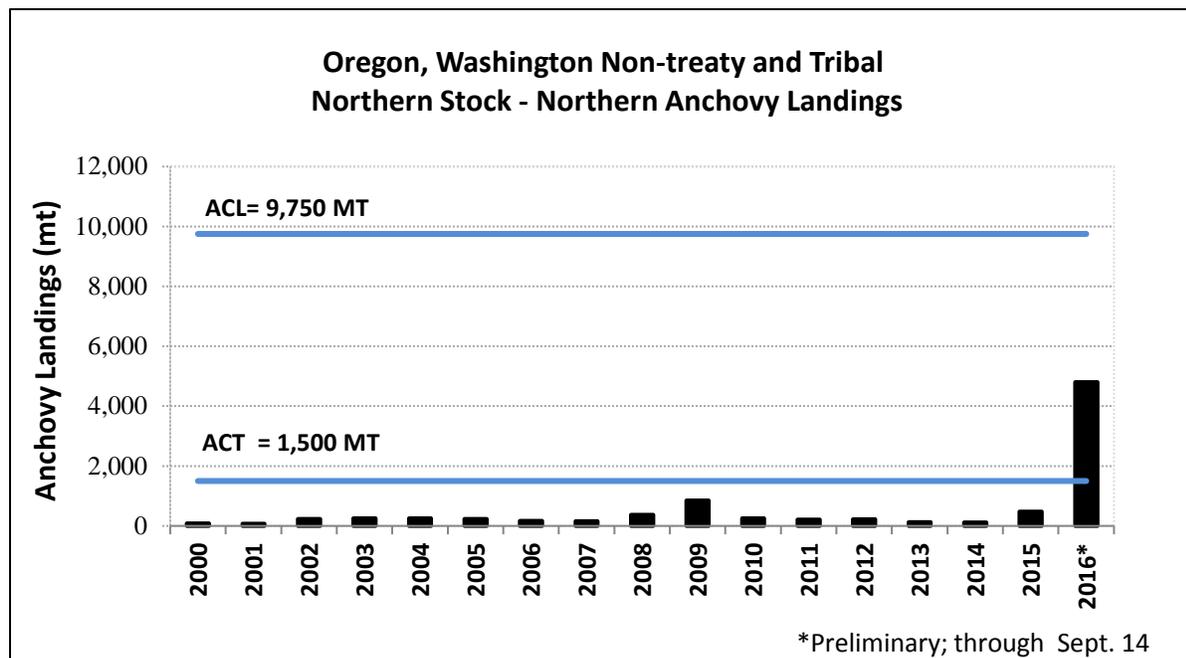


Figure 1. Annual landings of Northern Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy combined for Oregon Washington, Non-treaty and Tribal, 2000 – 2016.

Oregon, Washington and the QIN are monitoring their respective fisheries to track landings and collect biological data. In addition, because the majority of landings in 2016 are from the Columbia River, Oregon and Washington are collaborating to send observers aboard purse seine

vessels fishing in the river, and Oregon is monitoring the offloading of some trips as a further check on landed bycatch.

### **Oregon**

The purse seine fishery is open access and open all year. In addition to federal requirements, Oregon rules are designed primarily to reduce bycatch and wastage. They require fishers to maintain and submit a logbook, release salmon and groundfish quickly from the net, use a grate with 2 3/8" bars over the intake to prevent large fish from going into the hold, and no more than 10 percent of the weight of a landing may be used for reduction purposes. Maximum net dimensions are specified for fishing in the Columbia River.

The 2016 fishery began in early-summer and continues with landings most days, with up to three vessels participating recently. The fishery is primarily supplying fish for human consumption overseas with much lesser amounts sold for bait (e.g., for albacore or crab fishing). The ex-vessel revenue is nearly \$1 million.

Based on available fish ticket data, the recent mean rate of landings (mt/day) during Aug. 26-Sept. 11 is 87 mt for the 15 days when landings were made. No landings were made on 6 days during this period. Landings to date of other species reported on fish tickets total 1.7 mt including mainly sardine, a few hundred pounds each of mackerels, shad, small Dungeness crab, plus three salmon. Logbook records representing about 1,500 mt of landed anchovy during July and August show that 24 adult salmon (species unknown) were released from the pursed seines and 5 (21%) were reported as dead when released.

### **Washington**

The Washington non-treaty fishery is open year-round and participation is not limited. Anchovy fisheries in Washington are conducted to provide live bait for recreational and commercial fisheries, and packaged bait for retail to recreational fishermen. The primary ports of landing are Ilwaco and Westport. Historically, the fishery operates from April to late October.

Distinguished by gear type, fisheries for anchovy include a lampara-gear fishery and a seine-gear fishery. The lampara-gear fishery is comprised of albacore tuna fishers that catch and hold anchovy in onboard live-wells to meet their own bait needs. The purse-seine fishery harvests and holds live bait in dockside net pens for retail sale to recreational and commercial fishers.

On a per landing basis, regulations prohibit the delivery and purchase of anchovy, in excess of fifteen percent of the total landing weight, for the purposes of conversion into fish flour, fishmeal, fish scrap, fertilizer, fish oil, or other fishery products. Landings are also subject to trip limits imposed in the form of possession/retention limits of a daily maximum of 5 mt (11,000 pounds) and a calendar week maximum of 10 mt (22,000 pounds). Washington does not require a logbook, rather all anchovy caught whether for sale or personal use as bait (e.g. commercial albacore tuna fishers) must be reported on state fish receiving tickets.

Landings into Washington in 2016 are from the Lower Columbia River, Grays Harbor and offshore Oregon. Combining purse seine and lampara gear (and excluding non-CPS gears), 12 vessels have landed anchovy into Washington in 2016. The levels of harvest and fishery participation are typical of recent years. The average amount per landing is similar for the two

gears – about 1.5 metric tons – although the total volume is greater for purse seine gear. To date, landings of fish other than anchovy total about 2.5 metric tons, primarily comprised of Pacific sardine.

In 2016, ex-vessel value was split at 10 or 50 cents per pound, or zero because no sale actually occurs with anchovy caught for personal-use bait. Retail price of anchovy bait ranges from \$1 to \$7 per pound, depending on volume purchased and whether bait are live or packaged.

### **Quinault Indian Nation**

The Quinault Indian Nation has not previously participated in the anchovy fishery and did not seek a specified amount of anchovy for the 2016 fishing year, but did indicate to NMFS and the state of Washington the possibility of participating in the fishery. Tribal regulations were issued in May. To date participation has been limited to one vessel. Consistent with standards for confidentiality, landings are not reported here. However, landings data have been shared with co-managers and are accounted for in assessing fishery impacts and included in reports of total catch. Harvest from the tribal fishery is being sold for human consumption and bait. Tribal biologists are monitoring the fishery.

PFMC  
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