

**JOINT ODFW, WDFW, AND QUINAULT INDIANT NATION SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT  
 ON THE NORTHERN SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY**

This report is submitted by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW and WDFW, respectively) and the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) to provide an update on the 2016 anchovy fishery, regulations, and monitoring activity since our September 2016 Supplemental Report (Agenda Item E.3.a). Preliminary total landings by the combined fisheries are about 5,588 metric tons (Figure 1), 788 mt more than the estimated 4,800 mt reported in September. All commercial fishing on the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy is believed to have ended for the 2016 fishery year. Federal management reference points for the annual catch limit (ACL) and annual catch target (ACT) are also shown in Figure 1.

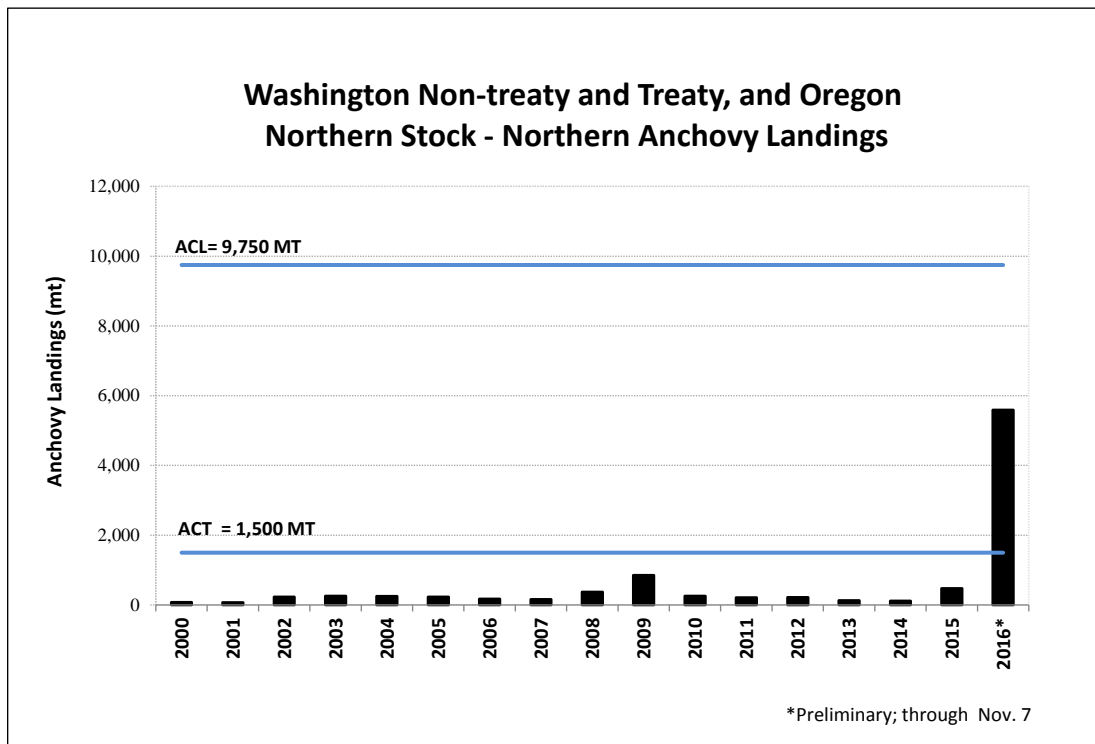


Figure 1. Annual landings of Northern Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy combined for Oregon, Non-Treaty Washington and Tribal, 2000-2016.

Oregon, Washington and the QIN continued to monitor their respective fisheries to track landings and collect biological data. Updates of their fishery and management activities since the September PFMC meeting are presented below.

Oregon

ODFW closely monitored the fishery through regular communication with fishers and processors, tracked landings, reviewed logbooks and observed dockside landings. In collaboration with WDFW, ODFW also observed fishing operations at sea and dockside.

Nearly all the anchovy landings in Oregon came from the Columbia River. Three purse seine vessels and two Astoria processors participated in the Oregon fishery. One of these vessels ceased fishing in mid-September and all had stopped fishing anchovy in Oregon by September 27, as weather worsened and anchovy were more difficult to locate.

ODFW and WDFW observers collected information on the incidental catch of other species, primarily to detect salmonids, in the Oregon anchovy fishery. Three fishing trips, representing about 127 mt of anchovy landed, were observed during September 21-26. On these trips, one vessel made an unsuccessful set for anchovy in the river, but otherwise all fishing and catch occurred in the ocean. Small amounts of sardine, mackerels, and crab were observed at sea. On one set in the ocean, no anchovy were caught but a small amount of incidental catch was brought on board briefly before being returned to the water. This catch included jellyfish, a couple crab, and a few (< 10) unidentified small fish, potentially salmonids. Staff also monitored the offloading of the entire landing (about 106 mt total) for two of the observed trips. As at sea, some sardine and mackerel were observed, but no salmonids were seen during these offloads.

ODFW staff reviewed published research (listed below) and survey information relevant to salmon smolt and anchovy distribution in the Lower Columbia River and offshore. Staff also met with Dr. Laurie Weitkamp, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, to discuss recent unpublished results from NWFSC surveys in the Lower Columbia River.

Due to uncertainty about the impacts of the anchovy fishery on salmon, other fish species, and the ecosystem, ODFW restricted commercial fishing in the Columbia River to match WDFW restrictions there. By temporary rule, ODFW established trip limits for vessels fishing for anchovy inside the Columbia River, effective October 3, 2016 through March 31, 2017. Commercial fishing vessels were limited to 5 mt per day and 10 mt per week of anchovy from any trip where fishing occurred upstream of Buoy 10. Consequently, small-scale bait fishing in the river was allowed to continue, but boats had to go to the ocean to seek larger volumes if demand continued.

ODFW will work with interested parties to evaluate the fishery and determine how the 2017 fishing season can balance the economic benefits with conservation goals that include protecting ESA-listed salmon and other sensitive species and maintain an adequate forage base.

### Washington

The Washington non-treaty fishery for anchovy largely experienced a typical year. Licenses to target anchovy are non-limited and gear-specific, and gear type denotes the target fishery. Five licenses were issued for purse-seine gear (baitfish) and 30 licenses for lampara gear (bait for albacore tuna) similar to recent years. Actual landings were reported by three purse-seine gear vessels and 10 lampara gear license holders. One Washington purse-seine vessel was also licensed by Oregon and substantially contributed to landings at Astoria.

WDFW conducted weekly port visits to collect biological samples from purse-seine gear landings and also maintained contact with dealers to monitor the fishery. Based on anecdotal reports, anchovy were heavily distributed shore-ward. Fish receiving ticket information confirmed that baitfishing operations stayed within the Lower Columbia River and Grays Harbor

throughout the season. Landings by lampara gear were reported taken offshore of Oregon but this most likely represents the area fished for albacore tuna, not anchovy for bait, as Washington regulation requires the anchovy to be reported on the target species ticket. Albacore tuna vessels were also observed fishing in Grays Harbor. For 2017, WDFW is considering requiring an anchovy logbook to improve monitoring of actual catch location.

Fishing activity concluded in the Columbia River in September and in Grays Harbor during October.

#### Quinault Indian Nation

One purse seine vessel fished during this first year of the QIN's participation in the anchovy fishery. Consistent with standards for confidentiality, landings are not reported here but are accounted for in the 2016 total reported above. For the 2017 anchovy fishery, the QIN has requested 2,000 mt for its fishery.

#### Publications

Weitkamp, Laurie A., David J. Teel, Martin Liermann, Susan A. Hinton, Donald M. Van Doornik, and Paul J. Bentley. 2015. Stock-specific size and timing at ocean entry of Columbia River juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead: Implications for early ocean growth. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries: Dynamics, Management and Ecosystem Science*. 7: 370-392.

Weitkamp, Laurie A., Paul J. Bentley, and Marisa M. C. Litz. 2012. Seasonal and interannual variation in juvenile salmonids and associated fish assemblage in open waters of the lower Columbia River estuary, *Fish. Bull.* 110: 425-450.