

2013 Ocean Mark Selective Fisheries Tribal Concerns

At the appropriate time, I will offer a Motion for Chinook and coho quotas for the Treaty troll fisheries. I would like to offer a few comments first.

For the ocean mark selective Chinook and coho fisheries that are proposed for 2013 the tribes are in support for Washington State to continue those fisheries for this season, with the following concerns:

For Chinook:

The tribes are concerned with the continued low return of the volunteer trip report (VTR) cards from Area 3 during the June fishery. Until this is resolved, the tribes do not feel any expansion above the current 8,000 Chinook sub-quota should occur.

For Coho:

The tribes are concerned that FRAM consistently is predicting a higher mark rate than what has been observed in the fishery. As a result, the preseason modeling is under-predicting the mortality of wild unmarked fish. Again, we renew our request for the STT or SSC to address this known bias.

The tribes would like to commend WDFW on their post-season mark selective fisheries reports. In order for proper analysis to be done, the tribes would like to receive the reports before the next year's ocean mark selective fisheries are proposed at the March PFMC meeting.