

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