

Tribal and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 2016
Management Objectives for
Puget Sound Chinook and Coho Salmon

As provided for in Amendment 14, and pursuant to rules and procedures established under U.S. v. Washington, WDFW and the affected Tribes have established management objectives for Puget Sound Chinook and coho salmon. The Management objectives applicable to the 2016 regulations setting process are presented in the following tables. They are based on a similar management approach and methodologies as the objectives provided to the Council the past several years. The management objectives define the maximum impact levels allowed for 2016-17 salmon fisheries.

For Puget Sound Chinook salmon, the management objectives in Table 1 are part of the current harvest management plan developed by the Puget Sound Tribes and WDFW. The state and tribal co-managers expect that fishing considered by the Council for the 2016-17 season will be consistent with these objectives. The Puget Sound Harvest Management plan is in the process of being approved by NOAA Fisheries and is consistent with the NOAA Guidance Letter presented in Agenda item E.4.b Supplemental NMFS Report 2.

Table 1. Exploitation rate ceilings, upper management thresholds, low abundance thresholds, and critical exploitation rate ceilings for Puget Sound Chinook Management Units for the 2016-2017 season.

Management Unit	Exploitation Rate Ceiling	Upper Management Threshold	Low Abundance Threshold	Critical Exploitation Rate Ceiling
Nooksack North Fork South Fork		4,000 2,000 2,000	1,000 ¹ 1,000 ¹	7% / 9% SUS ³
Skagit summer/fall Upper Skagit summer Sauk summer Lower Skagit fall	50%	14,500	4,800 2,200 400 900	15% SUS even-years 17% SUS odd-years
Skagit spring Upper Sauk Upper Cascade Suiattle	38%	2,000	576 130 170 170	18% SUS
Stillaguamish North Fork South Fk & MS	25%	900 600 300	700 ¹ 500 ¹ 200 ¹	15% SUS
Snohomish Skykomish Snoqualmie	21%	4,600 3,600 1,000	2,800 ¹ 1,745 ¹ 521 ¹	15% SUS
Lake Washington ^{5,6} Cedar River	20% SUS	1,680	200	10% PT SUS
Green ⁵	15% PT SUS	5,800	1,800	12% PT SUS
White River spring	20%	1,000	200	15% SUS
Puyallup fall ⁵	50%	500 (South Prairie Cr.)	500	12% PT SUS
Nisqually	52% ⁷		700	50% reduction of SUS ER ⁴
Skokomish	50%	3,650	1,300 ²	12% PT SUS
Mid-Hood Canal	15% PT SUS	750	400	12% PT SUS
Dungeness	10% SUS	925	500	6% SUS
Elwha	10% SUS	2,900	1,000	6% SUS
Western JDF	10% SUS	850	500	6% SUS

¹ Natural-origin spawners

² Skokomish LAT is escapement of 800 natural spawners and hatchery escapement of 500.

³ SUS ER will not exceed 7% in 4 out of 5 years.

⁴ 50% reduction in the difference between 52% and the expected northern fishery ER.

⁵ Hatchery rack escapement needs are also considered for these Management Units.

⁶ The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (MIT) and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) for the 2016/17 fishing season are in discussion regarding the distribution pre-terminal/terminal of the Lake Washington (Cedar River) chinook management objective (20% SUS). Additionally, MIT and WDFW for 2016 have agreed to manage to meet the adult Chinook hatchery rack escapement goal for both Soos Creek and Issaquah Creek facilities. The goal for Soos Creek Hatchery is 4,454 and Issaquah Creek Hatchery is 2,288.

⁷ Discussions are on-going between co-managers and NOAA regarding the Nisqually Chinook management objective. This issue is being worked on and will be resolved prior to the April 2016 Council meeting.

Table 2

2016 Puget Sound Primary Natural Coho Management Unit Exploitation Rate Ceilings

<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>Preseason Forecast</u> <u>Of Abundance</u> ¹ (Ocean Age Three)	<u>Management</u> <u>Status</u> ²	<u>Total</u> <u>Exploitation Rate</u> <u>Ceiling</u>
Strait of Juan de Fuca	4,400	critical	20%
Hood Canal	35,300	low	45%
Skagit	8,900	critical	20%
Stillaguamish	2,800	critical	20%
Snohomish	20,600	critical	20%

1 Concern for low returns extend to both natural and hatchery stocks throughout Puget Sound and the Washington Coast. The enacted annual fishery regulation will need to provide for adequate spawning escapement for natural stocks and hatchery rack returns for hatchery stocks.

2 All the critical stocks are well below their critical low abundance threshold that denotes stock instability. Spawning escapement targets below this threshold must be agreed by the co-managers. These discussions are on-going between the co-managers.