

## **Quileute Tribe’s Concerns with the State of Washington’s Proposal for a Late-Season Recreational Fishery**

The Quileute Tribe has concerns with the State of Washington’s Alternative 1 proposal for a late season (October 1-14) recreational fishery in the La Push sub-area with a Chinook guideline of 150. The effort in this fishery regularly exceeds the allowable guideline as shown in Table 1. For example, last year 240 anglers participated in the fishery resulting in a Chinook overharvest of 64%. The bulk of this harvest was taken in the first week, yet the fishery was kept open through the second week and did not close early. Increasing the guideline to 150 chinook provides little assurance that the guideline will not be exceeded again this season. This fishery occurs at a time in the season when the capacity to monitor and enforce in-river fisheries and hunting activities on the west end of the Olympic Peninsula by WDFW is challenged due to the lack of dedicated enforcement that has not existed on the west Peninsula for several years. So adding an additional fishery stresses an already overextended monitoring and enforcement staff.

The Tribe is also concerned with the incidental take of Quillayute River natural-origin coho and the potential impact these mortalities could have on the tribal in-river fishery that occurs during this time. Estimated returns for natural coho to the Quillayute River this season are expected to be on the lower end of the escapement range and the expectation is for a very limited in-river tribal fishery with a very high potential of closure if expectations don’t meet reality, which has occurred in recent years due to the tremendous uncertainty associated with ocean productivity.

Therefore, the Quileute Tribe recommends this late-season fishery be removed from consideration for the 2020 fishing season and specifically removed from the state’s Alternative 1 proposal.

**Table 1. Fishery performance in the La Push late-season recreational fishery**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Chinook Harvest</b>	<b>Chinook Guideline</b>	<b>% of Guideline</b>
2012	133	50	266%
2013	119	50	238%
2014	110	50	220%
2015	164	100	164%
2019	164	100	164%

Source: PFMC Review of 2019 Ocean Fisheries