

Tribal and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 2021
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, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the affected Puget Sound Tribes (Tribes) have established management objectives for Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Coho salmon, with the exception of the Mid Hood Canal Chinook management unit. That management objective is the subject of ongoing discussion among the state and tribal co-managers as well as NOAA. The management objectives applicable to the 2021 regulation setting process based on this year's forecasts are presented in the following tables. The management objectives define the maximum impact levels allowed for 2021-22 salmon fisheries and are based on a similar approach and methods as the objectives provided to the Council the past several years.

For Puget Sound Chinook salmon, the management objectives in Table 1 are part of the proposed harvest management plan developed by the Tribes and WDFW that is currently under review by NOAA, except for Mid Hood Canal and Mid-Sound stocks (i.e. the Green, Lake Washington, and Puyallup). Discussions with NOAA regarding interim escapement objectives for 2021 for the Green, Lake Washington, and Puyallup management units are still ongoing. The Tribes and WDFW expect that fishing considered by the Council for the 2021-22 seasons will be consistent with these objectives.

For Puget Sound Coho salmon primary natural management units, the management objectives in Table 2 are consistent with the 2009 revision of the Puget Sound co-managers Comprehensive Coho Management Plan. The Strait of Juan de Fuca and Snohomish Management Units are currently under Rebuilding Plans and will be managed accordingly. This includes a minimum escapement target of 55,000 Snohomish Coho. While that target escapement level may not be achievable based on the forecasted abundance, it is the expectation that fisheries will be managed to promote escapement towards that level.

Table 1. Puget Sound Chinook salmon management objectives for fishery year 2021. Objectives are specified as escapement-based objectives or as either Total, Southern U.S. (SUS), or pre-terminal SUS (PT SUS) exploitation rate limits.

| Management Unit | Exploitation Rate Ceiling |
|--|---|
| Nooksack River North/Middle Fork South Fork | 10.5% SUS ER |
| Skagit Summer/Fall ¹ Upper Skagit summer-run Sauk summer-run Lower Skagit fall-run | 17% SUS |
| Skagit spring-run ¹ Upper Sauk Upper Cascade Suiattle | 10.3% SUS |
| Stillaguamish River ² - Unmarked - Marked | 22% Total / 8% SUS max 12% SUS |
| Snohomish River ¹ Skykomish summer-run Snoqualmie fall-run | 8% SUS ER |
| Lake Washington – Cedar River fall-run ³ | 13% PT SUS ⁴ |
| Green River fall-run ³ | 13% PT SUS ⁴ |
| White River spring-run | 22% SUS |
| Puyallup fall-run ³ | 13% PT SUS ⁴ |
| Nisqually | 49% Total (47% + ≤2% for experimental selective fishery) |
| Skokomish fall-run | 50% Total |
| Mid-Hood Canal | TBD |
| Dungeness | 10% SUS |
| Elwha | 10% SUS |
| Western Strait of Juan de Fuca – Hoko River ⁵ | 10% SUS |

¹ In 2021, these stocks are below their LAT and, in addition to the ER limits presented, conservation considerations are an additional management expectation to improve stock status.

²In 2021, Stillaguamish Populations are below LAT defined by the Co-Managers and with the NOR component forecasted below 400 CET as defined by NOAA, therefore conservation considerations may need additional management actions.

³ Hatchery Escapement goals are an additional management consideration for harvest of these stocks.

⁴ Based on the pre-season forecasts for Lake Washington, Green River, and Puyallup River, the ER ceiling for the pre-terminal fisheries will be 13% PT SUS. Discussions between co-managers and NOAA regarding natural escapement objectives for 2021 are still ongoing.

⁵ Although not part of the Puget Sound Chinook salmon ESU, Hoko River Chinook management objectives are a management consideration for Puget Sound co-managers.

Table 2. 2021 Puget Sound Primary Natural Coho Management Unit Exploitation Rate Ceilings.

| Puget Sound Stocks | 2021 Adult Forecast (Ocean Age 3) | 2020 Assigned FMP Status | Total ER Ceiling |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Strait of Juan de Fuca ¹ | 6,684 | Critical | 20 % |
| Hood Canal | 28,843 | Low | 45 % |
| Skagit | 58,434 | Low | 35 % |
| Stillaguamish | 26,824 | Normal | 50 % |
| Snohomish ^{1,2} | 60,000 | Low | 40 % |

¹ Strait of Juan de Fuca and Snohomish stocks are under Rebuilding Plans.

² Snohomish is also managed to meet a minimum escapement target of 55,000. While that escapement may not be achievable based on the forecasted abundance, fisheries will be managed to promote escapement towards that target.