

## **Tribal and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023 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 2023 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 2023-24 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 Coho salmon primary natural management units, the management objectives in Table 1 are consistent with the 2009 revision of the Puget Sound co-managers Comprehensive Coho Management Plan. Of note, the Strait of Juan de Fuca Management Units is currently still under a Rebuilding Plan and will be managed accordingly.

For Puget Sound Chinook salmon, the management objectives in Table 2 are part of the proposed harvest management plan developed by the Tribes and WDFW that is currently under review by NOAA. The Tribes and WDFW expect that fishing considered by the Council for the 2023-24 seasons will be consistent with the bolded objectives.

Table 1. 2023 Puget Sound Primary Natural Coho Management Unit Exploitation Rate Ceilings.

Puget Sound Stocks	2023 Adult Forecast (Ocean Age 3)	2023 Assigned FMP Status	Total ER Ceiling
Strait of Juan de Fuca <sup>1</sup>	15,625	Low	40 %
Hood Canal	37,888	Low	45 %
Skagit	43,146	Low	35 %
Stillaguamish	30,238	Normal	50 %
Snohomish	76,500	Low	40 %

<sup>1</sup> Strait of Juan de Fuca stock is under a Rebuilding Plan.

Table 2. Puget Sound Chinook Management Unit exploitation rate ceilings, low abundance thresholds, and critical exploitation rate ceilings for the 2023-2024 season. Bolded ER objectives note controlling rates for the 2023-2024 season based on pre-season forecasts and NALF model runs.

Management Unit	Exploitation Rate Ceiling	Low Abundance Threshold	Critical Exploitation Rate Ceiling
Nooksack North Fork South Fork		400 <sup>1</sup> 200 <sup>1</sup>	<b>10.9% SUS</b>
Skagit summer / fall Upper Skagit summer Sauk summer Lower Skagit fall	52% Total	7,844 <sup>1</sup> 2,200 <sup>1</sup> 400 <sup>1</sup> 900 <sup>1</sup>	<b>17% SUS odd-years</b>
Skagit spring Upper Sauk Upper Cascade Suiattle	<b>36% Total</b>	1,024 <sup>1</sup> 130 <sup>1</sup> <b>170<sup>1</sup></b> 170 <sup>1</sup>	10.7% SUS
Stillaguamish <sup>2</sup> Unmarked Marked	<b>9% SUS</b> <b>14% SUS</b>	900	
Snohomish Skykomish Snoqualmie	9.3% SUS	3,250 <sup>1</sup> 2,015 <sup>1</sup> 1,132 <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.3% SUS</b>
Lake Washington Cedar River <sup>3</sup>	<b>500 Escapement (15% PT SUS)<sup>4</sup></b>	200	12% SUS
Green <sup>3</sup>	<b>2,744 Escapement (15% PT SUS)<sup>4</sup></b>	1,098	12% SUS
White River spring	<b>22% SUS</b>	400	15% SUS
Puyallup fall <sup>3</sup>	<b>1,170 Escapement (15% PT SUS)<sup>4</sup></b>	468	15% SUS
Nisqually	<b>47% Total</b>	6,300 <sup>5</sup>	Up to 50 percent reduction in SUS ER
Skokomish	<b>50% Total</b>	1,300 <sup>6</sup>	12% PT SUS
Mid-Hood Canal <sup>7</sup>		200	
Dungeness	<b>10% SUS</b>	500	6% SUS
Elwha	<b>10% SUS</b>	2,000	6% SUS
Western JDF	<b>10.6% SUS</b>	500	6.3% SUS

<sup>1</sup> Natural-origin spawners.

<sup>2</sup> If forecast is below LAT, co-managers will develop a framework for consideration of management actions during NOF including SUS exploitation rate limits.

<sup>3</sup> Hatchery escapement goals also a management consideration for harvest of these stocks.

<sup>4</sup> Based on the pre-season forecasts for Lake Washington, Green River, and Puyallup River, the ER ceiling for the pre-terminal fisheries will be 15% PT SUS. Terminal fisheries management will be implemented to meet the noted escapement goals.

<sup>5</sup> Nisqually River LAT is comprised of all adults escaping fisheries and returning to either of the hatchery facilities and to spawning grounds, regardless of mark status.

<sup>6</sup> Skokomish LAT is escapement of 800 natural spawners and 500 escapement to the hatchery.

<sup>7</sup> The exploitation rate limit for the Mid-Hood Canal MU equals the marine exploitation rate associated with achieving management objectives for the other 14 Management Units.