

Viewpoints about 2023 Columbia and Snake River Salmon Returns to Increase for Recreational, Tribal, and Commercial Fishing

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Viewpoints for each Salmon Specie Returning to Idaho

- Spring Chinook
- Summer Chinook
- Sockeye
- Fall Chinook
- Coho

Spring Chinook

- 2023 Forecast Upriver Columbia River Spring Chinook--198,600 to 216,800
- Actual Spring Chinook Return over Bonneville Dam—109,964
 - Forecast was 81 to 97% higher than actual return
 - Average returns for the last 10 years—115,110
 - No significant change in the last 10 years
- Sea Lions and Seals
 - WDFW have counted more than 6,000 seals and 1,600 sea lions in the Astoria area
 - Sea and Sea lion predation could theoretically be killing an estimated 22,500-57,000 Columbia River salmon. That amounts to 20 to 50% of the annual spring chinook returning over Bonneville Dam in the last 10 years

Spring Chinook Continued

- 2023 Spring Chinook Recreational Quota in Idaho—5,583
 - 79% Upriver Spring Chinook are hatchery-origin
- Actions Needed by PFMC to Increase Adult Returns are
 1. Forecast needs to be significantly improved from an 80 - 90% forecast error
 2. Increase Sea Lion and Seal Removal from the Columbia River in accordance with approved legislation (Introduced by Sen. James Risch and Maria Cantwell)
 3. Continue funding of existing hatcheries
 4. Take steps to increase the number of hatchery spring chinook available for recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing

Summer Chinook

- Forecast Columbia River Upriver Summer Chinook—84,800
- Actual Summer Chinook Return at Bonneville—79,262
 - Difference between forecast and actual was only 7% higher than actual
 - Average returns for the last 10 years—93,503
 - No significant change in the last 10 years
- 2023 Summer Chinook Recreational Quota in Idaho—53
 - 73% Summer Chinook are hatchery-origin
 - Actual Summer Chinook return over Lower Granite Dam—10,319
- Actions Needed by PFMC to Increase Adult Returns are
 1. Continue funding of existing hatcheries
 2. Take steps to increase the number of hatchery summer chinook available for recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing

Sockeye

- Forecast Snake River Sockeye—2,600
- Actual return—2,269
 - Forecast was 13% higher than actual return
- Average returns for the last 10 years—1,249
 - Sockeye returns are increasing
- 1 sockeye (Lonesome Larry) returned in 1992
- Snake River Sockeye would be extinct without “safety net” hatchery program
- There is no recreational, commercial or tribal fishing for sockeye

Sockeye continued

- Since 1954 Lower Snake River Water Temperature has exceeded the water quality temperature standard annually during July, August, and September when the sockeye upriver migration occurs
- Actions Needed by PFMC to Increase Adult Returns are
 1. Continue funding for the existing “safety net” hatchery Program
 2. Take steps to increase the number of sockeye to provide for recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing
 3. Urge and support Federal and State agencies to implement Total Maximum Daily Loads for Temperature in Lower Snake River within Washington State and to achieve and maintain the Water Quality Standard for Temperature in the Snake River during upriver migration

Fall Chinook

- Forecast Columbia River Fall—456,800 – 489,962
 - Actual Columbia River Fall—530,746
 - Forecast was 8 to 16% lower than actual return
 - Forecast error has varied between 5 and 53% in the last six years (average was 26%)
- Forecast Snake River Fall—45,200
 - Actual Snake River Fall—50,304
 - Forecast was 11% lower than actual return
 - Average returns for the last 10 years —38,681
 - Snake River Fall Chinook returns are increasing

Fall Chinook continued

- 73% Fall Chinook are hatchery-origin
- Actions Needed by PFMC to Increase Adult Returns are
 1. Forecast needs to be significantly improved from a forecast error as high as 53%
 2. Continue funding of existing hatcheries
 3. Take steps to increase the number of hatchery fall chinook available for recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing

Coho

- Actual Coho Returning over Ice Harbor Dam—13,390
- Average Coho returns for the last 10 years—2,485
 - Coho returns are increasing
- Coho were declared extinct in 1986
- Starting in 1994, the Nez Perce Tribe have successfully reintroduced Coho to the Snake River Basin

Coho continued

- Coho are 100% hatchery-origin
- Actions Needed by PFMC to Increase Adult Returns
 1. Increase Hatchery Production in Columbia and Snake River Basins to build upon coho reintroduction from Tribal programs.
 2. Continue funding of Tribal Coho Reintroduction Program
 3. Continue funding of existing hatcheries
 4. Take steps to increase the number of hatchery coho available for recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing