

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION PLAN

Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan for the State of Idaho Coho salmon Sport Fishery

Prepared by:
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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Title. Fishery Management and Evaluation Plan for the State of Idaho Coho Salmon Sport Fishery

Responsible Management Agency.

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SECTION 1. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1.1) General objectives of the FMEP

This FMEP is being submitted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), hereafter referred to as the “Department” for authorization of indirect take of listed Snake River (SR) fall Chinook Salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in non-tribal fisheries targeting Coho Salmon. The States coordinated the development of this FMEP with representatives from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, IDFG, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

The objective of this FMEP is to harvest SR Coho Salmon in a manner that does not jeopardize the survival and recovery of listed SR fall Chinook Salmon or SR steelhead. SR spring/summer Chinook salmon are not encountered in these fisheries due to non-overlapping adult run timing and spatial segregation of spawning aggregates. SR Sockeye are not likely to be encountered in these Coho Salmon fishing areas due to difference in run timing and spawning locations. The Coho Salmon fishing areas

include the main stem Clearwater River, Middle Fork, South Fork and North Fork Clearwater rivers and the lower main stem Snake River.

The Department submitted an FMEP in 2018, addressing impacts to steelhead from non-tribal fisheries targeting adipose-clipped hatchery steelhead (IDFG 2018). This FMEP was reviewed by NMFS and approved in March 2019 (NMFS 2019) under limit 4 of the 4(d) Rule. The Department submitted an FMEP in March of 2019, describing both the directed take of fall Chinook from non-tribal fisheries targeting adipose-intact fall Chinook Salmon and the indirect take of fall Chinook Salmon from non-tribal fisheries targeting adipose-clipped fall Chinook Salmon and steelhead (IDFG et al. 2019). These two FMEPs are hereby incorporated by reference. The harvest regime described below for Coho Salmon will not result in any additional take beyond what is currently outlined in the steelhead (NMFS 2019) and fall Chinook Salmon (IDFG et al. 2019) FMEPs.

1.1.1) List of the “Performance Indicators” for the management objectives.

Coho Salmon Fishery Performance Indicators:

- total fishing effort and fishing opportunity (number of anglers, hours fished, days of opportunity, number of river miles open);
- harvest of Coho Salmon in each fishery management area;
- numbers of caught and released adipose-clipped and adipose-intact Coho Salmon;
- estimated encounters and encounter rate of unlisted Coho Salmon;
- estimated total mortality and mortality rate of unlisted Coho Salmon;
- estimated encounters of bull trout, fall Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, and steelhead incidentally caught in this fishery

1.1.2) Description of the relationship and consistency of harvest management with artificial propagation programs.

Coho Salmon were native to the lower Clearwater River and its tributaries, including the North Fork Clearwater River, Lochsa River, Selway River, and South Fork Clearwater River. However, these runs were eliminated after the construction of Harpster and Lewiston dams in 1910 and 1927, which did not have adequate passage facilities (IDFG 2019). The Department conducted supplementation efforts using eyed-eggs from 1962-1968. Following limited success in the form of adult returns, the program was

terminated. No fish returned in 1986 and Snake River Coho Salmon were declared extirpated. Coho Salmon in Snake River drainage of Idaho are not listed under the ESA.

A reintroduction program was initiated by the Nez Perce Tribe in 1995 using juvenile releases from the lower Columbia River (primarily the Eagle Creek stock). Recent hatchery efforts have focused on these reintroductions and specifically transitioning from the original out-of-basin stock to a localized broodstock. Approximately, 1,500 spawned hatchery-origin adults are necessary to meet current hatchery production goals. These fish are collected at Lower Granite Dam and may be collected at Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, Dworshak National Fish Hatchery and the Lapwai Creek and Clear Creek weirs in years when the entire broodstock needs cannot be collected at Lower Granite Dam. All Coho Salmon hatchery production is contained in the *U.S. v. Oregon 2018-2027 Management Agreement*. The Nez Perce Tribe developed a Hatchery Genetic Management Plan for hatchery production (NPT 2016) and consulted on the Coho hatchery programs using the proposed action of five spring/summer Chinook and Coho Salmon hatchery programs in the Clearwater River basin (NMFS 2017). As a result of these supplementation efforts, Coho Salmon are currently present in the Clearwater River sub basin and support limited sport-fishing.

Table 1. Coho Salmon hatchery production in the Snake Basin as agreed to in the 2018-2027 *U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement*.

Release Site	Rearing Facility	Target Release Number	Primary Program Purpose
Clear Cr., Lapwai Cr., Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery	Eagle Creek	550,000	Supplementation
Grande Ronde/ Lostine River	Cascade	500,000	Fishery/ Reintroduction
Clear Creek	Dworshak/ Kooskia	500,000	Supplementation
Subtotal		1,550,000	

Since these fish are not listed, there are no ESA impact limits for the directed harvest of Coho Salmon. This FMEP will address harvest allocation of Coho Salmon that return to locations within the Snake River and Clearwater River drainage and indirect impacts to ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

1.1.3) General description of the relationship between the FMEP objectives and Federal tribal trust obligations.

Management of Coho Salmon hatchery production, broodstock collection, and harvest in the Snake basin

is coordinated through in-season management calls, which include ODFW, IDFG, WDFW, CTUIR, SBT, NPT, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All Coho Salmon production is contained in the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (2018). The FMEP is consistent with agreements within *U.S. v. Oregon* (2018). The States coordinate with those Federal agencies with direct tribal trust obligations (USFWS, NOAA) through such avenues as *U.S. v. Oregon*, ESA permitting, the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan and other coordination activities.

1.2) Fishery management area(s).

1.2.1) Description of the geographic boundaries of the management area of this FMEP.

Coho Salmon Fishery Management Units

Coho Salmon fishery management units addressed in this FMEP include the lower main stem Snake River and main stem Clearwater River, Middle Fork, South Fork and North Fork Clearwater rivers. The geographic boundaries of the fishery management areas (FMA) correspond with how impacts to steelhead and fall Chinook Salmon will be reported for non-treaty sport fisheries. Annual fisheries proposals may include time/area regulations within this FMA to target specific locations, and to minimize impacts to natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon or steelhead.

The geographic areas are described below:

Lower Main Stem Snake River: The Department plans to propose fisheries for Coho Salmon in the main stem Snake River from the Washington/Idaho border to Hells Canyon Dam. Annual fisheries proposals may include time/area regulations within this FMA to target specific hatchery runs, and to minimize impacts to natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon or steelhead.

Main Stem Clearwater River: The Department plans to propose fisheries for Coho Salmon in the main stem Clearwater River from the mouth of the river upstream to the South Fork Clearwater River (RM 74.7). General fishing boundaries are divided into the area below the Orofino Bridge and area above the Orofino Bridge. Annual fisheries proposals may include time/area regulations within this FMA to target specific hatchery runs, and to minimize impacts to natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon or steelhead.

Middle Fork Clearwater River: The Department plans to propose fisheries for Coho Salmon in the Middle Fork Clearwater River from the confluence of the South Fork Clearwater River and Middle Fork Clearwater rivers upstream to the confluence of the Selway and Lochsa rivers. Annual fisheries proposals may include time/area regulations within this FMA to target specific hatchery runs, and to minimize impacts to natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon or steelhead.

North Fork Clearwater River: The Department plans to propose fisheries for Coho Salmon in the North Fork Clearwater River from the mouth of the river upstream to Dworshak Dam. Annual fisheries proposals may include time/area regulations within this FMA to target specific hatchery runs, and to minimize impacts to natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon or steelhead.

South Fork Clearwater River: The Department plans to propose fisheries for Coho Salmon in the South Fork Clearwater River from the mouth of the river upstream to the confluence of American and Red Rivers. Annual fisheries proposals may include time/area regulations within this FMA to target specific hatchery runs, and to minimize impacts to natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon or steelhead.

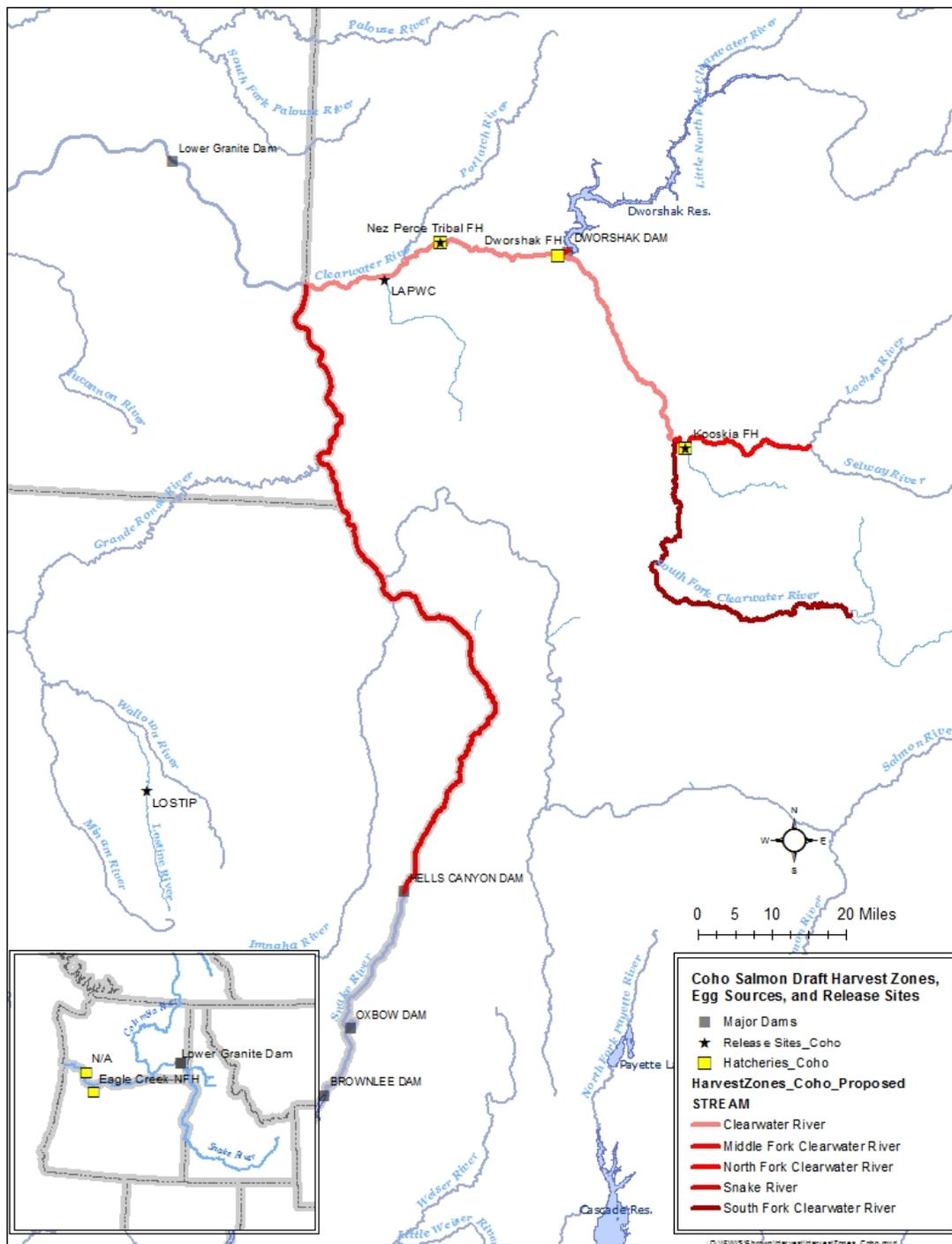


Figure 1. Map of Snake River Coho Salmon harvest zones and locations of hatcheries and release sites.

1.2.2) Description of the time periods in which fisheries occur within the management area.

Time periods in which fisheries occur are either authorized by the Commission or through an emergency/temporary rule process for each state agency. The Department proposes that retention fisheries for Coho Salmon will open September 1st and close no later than December 31st for the FMAs described above. Since Coho Salmon are not ESA-listed, hatchery Coho Salmon with an intact adipose fin may be kept in addition to adipose-clipped Coho Salmon and fisheries will be managed to stay within appropriate ESA impacts on ESA-listed natural origin salmon and steelhead.

1.3) Listed salmon and steelhead affected within the Fishery Management Area specified in section 1.2.

Listed Populations Affected by a Coho Salmon Fishery

Coho Salmon were extirpated from the Clearwater River basin, Idaho, and current hatchery efforts focus on re-establishing a population with non-listed hatchery fish. Coho Salmon in Idaho are not ESA-listed as they became extirpated prior to the listing of salmon species under the ESA.

ESA-listed SR fall Chinook Salmon and SR steelhead may be affected by non-tribal fisheries targeting Coho Salmon in the geographic areas described above. Anglers are required to have a Salmon Permit to fish for and retain Coho or fall Chinook Salmon and a Steelhead Permit to fish for and retain adipose-clipped hatchery steelhead, and this requirement will continue to apply to anglers in Idaho. We anticipate that the Coho Salmon fishery will have no additional impacts on SR steelhead or SR Fall Chinook Salmon beyond what is currently authorized for SR summer steelhead (NMFS 2019) or outlined in the Fall Chinook Salmon FMEP (IDFG et al. 2019). Future seasons may be adjusted in space or time to minimize impacts to natural-origin salmon and steelhead.

ESA-listed SR sockeye will rarely be affected by non-tribal fisheries targeting Coho Salmon because of non-overlapping run timing across Lower Granite Dam and spatial separation of spawning areas. Spring/Summer Chinook in the Clearwater basin are not ESA-listed and are unlikely to be encountered due to non-overlapping migration and spawn timing.

1.3.1) Description of “critical” and “viable” thresholds for each population (or management unit) consistent with the concepts in the technical document “Viable Salmonid Populations and the Recovery of Evolutionarily Significant Units.”

Coho Salmon in Idaho are not ESA-listed, therefore, there are no “critical” or “viable” thresholds that pertain to the reintroduction of this species into the Clearwater River sub basin or harvest management.

1.3.2) Description of the current status of each population (or management unit) relative to its “Viable Salmonid Population thresholds” described above. Include abundance and/or escapement estimates for as many years as possible.

Over the past decade, Coho Salmon returns at LGR have ranged from 1,509 adults in 2010 to 18,098 adults in 2014. The most recent five-year average (2013 – 2017) for adult returns is 6,532 adult fish. Since reintroduction efforts have begun, and adult escapement levels have increased to a point where SR Coho salmon can support broodstock needs and tribal/non-tribal fisheries in most years.

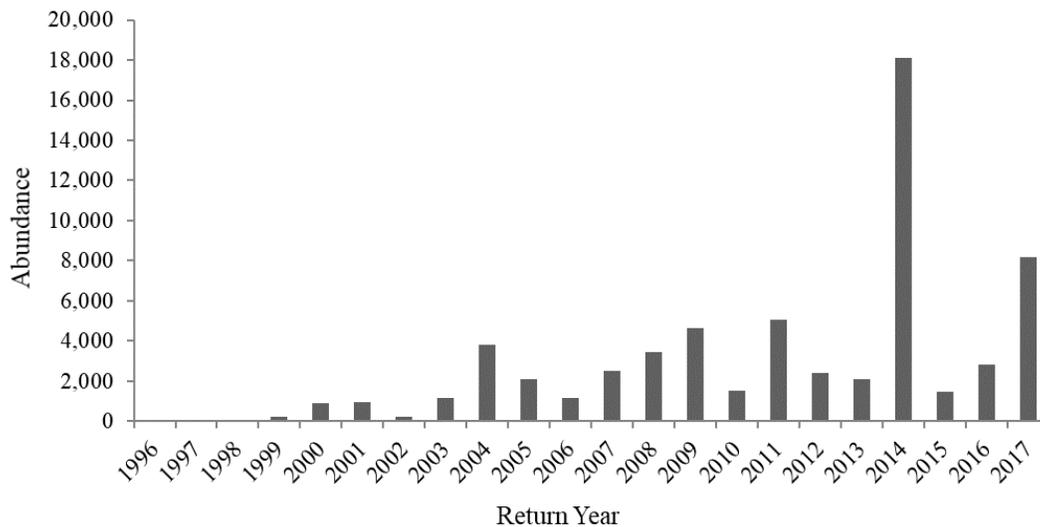


Figure 2. Abundance of Coho Salmon at Lower Granite Dam from 1996-2017.

1.4) Harvest Regime

1.4.1) Provide escapement objectives and/or maximum exploitation rates for each population (or management unit) based on its status.

Natural spawning escapement goals have not been formally adopted in the Snake Basin. Current escapement goals are focused on escaping sufficient fish through the fisheries to ensure broodstock collection (~1550 adults; USFWS 2019). Harvest will be determined on an annual basis. The Department intends to continue coordination with other fishery managers to ensure that there is a 50% non-tribal and 50% tribal share when preseason forecasts indicate that the return is large enough to support a fishery. The preseason forecast will be updated in-season on a weekly basis using PIT tag detections and window counts at dams on the Columbia River and Snake River.

The timing and geographic location of this fishery overlaps with the existing fall Chinook Salmon and steelhead fisheries. However, the amount of directed effort for Coho is anticipated to be small relative to the other fisheries and we anticipate that the Coho fishery will have no additional impacts beyond those authorized for SR summer steelhead (NMFS 2019) and described for Fall Chinook Salmon (IDFG et al 2019). Impacts for the steelhead fishery are described under the signed biological opinion for SR steelhead (NMFS 2019). Impacts for the Fall Chinook Salmon fishery are presented in the submitted three state-agency FMEP (IDFG et al. 2019).

1.4.2) Description of how the fisheries will be managed to conserve the weakest population or management unit.

As described in section 1.1.2, Coho Salmon were extirpated in the Snake River and are not an ESA-listed species. Current non-tribal fisheries in these areas target adipose-clipped hatchery steelhead, unclipped Fall Chinook jacks, and adipose-clipped fall Chinook Salmons and are proposing to target adipose-intact Fall Chinook adults. We anticipate that the Coho Salmon fishery will have no additional impact for SR steelhead or SR Fall Chinook Salmon beyond what is currently authorized for SR summer steelhead (NMFS 2019) or outlined in the Fall Chinook Salmon FMEP (IDFG et al. 2019). Any impacts from this Coho fishery to SR summer steelhead or Fall Chinook Salmon will be reported in the impact rates for these species. Bag limits, gear restrictions, seasons and area restrictions will be employed to regulate the fishery and protect ESA-listed salmon and steelhead that may be encountered within the fishery.

1.4.3) Demonstrate that the harvest regime is consistent with the conservation and recovery of commingled natural-origin populations in areas where artificially propagated fish predominate.

As described in section 1.1.2, Coho Salmon were declared as extirpated in the Snake River. The hatchery releases of Coho Salmon in the Snake River basin are intended to provide fishery benefits after broodstock needs have been met. The hatchery program is scaled to provide harvest opportunities for tribal members and non-tribal anglers. The harvest regime provides an opportunity to retain adipose-intact and adipose-clipped Coho Salmon encountered in non-tribal and tribal fisheries, consistent with reintroduction objectives of the hatchery programs.

1.5) Annual Implementation of the Fisheries

The Department anticipates an implementation framework similar to that used for existing FMEPs. A fisheries proposal will be annually submitted to NOAA fisheries and Tribes that describes expected run levels, outlines fishery parameters, and broodstock needs. The State Commission has the authority to set and modify fishing seasons; salmon fishery rules may be set based on run forecasts or in-season projections, and modified as necessary based upon in-season information updates. Rules may change in-season based on updated run-size projections of hatchery and natural runs, or fishery impacts, and seasons may be modified or closed as necessary. Coordination on fishing proposals, seasons and rules occurs pre-season and in-season between the States and with NOAA Fisheries, the NPT, CTUIR, and SBT. Season and bag limits will be annually coordinated between States with the intent to provide consistency between state regulations and reporting of non-tribal impacts.

SECTION 2. EFFECTS ON ESA LISTED SALMONIDS

2.1) Description of the biologically-based rationale demonstrating that the fisheries management strategies will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the affected ESU(s) in the wild.

As stated above, Coho Salmon are not ESA-listed and current reintroduction efforts are focusing on providing fisheries, creating a localized broodstock, and increasing natural spawner abundance. Both ESA-listed steelhead and Fall Chinook Salmon are present at the locations and during times when the Coho fisheries will be conducted. The Department proposes to manage the non-tribal steelhead fishery under the framework recently approved by NMFS (2019). All incidental mortality rates from the Coho fishery would be included in the impact rates for Snake River steelhead (NMFS 2019). Similarly, the Department has worked with the ODFW, WDFW, and the NPT to develop abundance-based harvest rates

for Fall Chinook Salmon (IDFG et al. 2019). The Department proposes to manage the non-tribal Fall Chinook Salmon fishery under this framework and all incidental mortality rates from the Coho fishery would be included in the impact rates outlined in the Fall Chinook Salmon FMEP (IDFG et al. 2019). Anglers targeting Coho Salmon will be those identified as carrying a salmon permit as determined through creel surveys. However, the Department anticipates that very few anglers will solely be fishing for Coho Salmon and will be primarily fishing for steelhead or fall Chinook. Bag limits, gear restrictions, seasons and area restrictions will be employed to regulate the fishery and protect ESA-listed salmon and steelhead that may be encountered within the fishery.

2.1.1) Description of which fisheries affect each population (or management unit).

SR steelhead populations and the SR fall Chinook Salmon population that may be encountered in the proposed Coho Salmon retention fishery in each of the management units and river sections are identified in Table 2. Populations which spawn, stage, or migrate through a management unit are identified as “encounters”. As described elsewhere in this document, we do not anticipate any additional impacts to SR steelhead or Fall Chinook Salmon from the proposed fisheries or any incidental take of these ESA-listed fish beyond what is currently authorized (or in the authorization process, as is the case for Fall Chinook Salmon).

Table 2. Locations where SR steelhead and fall Chinook Salmon populations could be affected by non-tribal fisheries targeting Coho Salmon. River location codes represent IDFG harvest reporting sections.

River Location Code	Description of River Location	Coho Salmon	Fall Chinook Salmon	Steelhead
01	Snake River, from ID/Wa border to Salmon River	X	X	X
02	Snake River, from Salmon River to Hells Canyon Dam	X	X	X
03	Clearwater River, downstream from Orofino Bridge	X	X	X
04	Clearwater River, upstream from Orofino Bridge	X	X	X
05	North Fork Clearwater River	X	X	X
06	Middle Fork Clearwater River	X	X	X
07	South Fork Clearwater River	X	X	X

2.1.2) Assessment of how the harvest regime will not likely result in changes to the biological characteristics of the affected ESUs.

A non-selective fishery on Coho Salmon as proposed under this FMEP would pose little or no additional risk to biological diversity of the affected SR steelhead DPS or Fall Chinook ESU. The Department anticipates that the fishery will provide harvest opportunity for anglers already targeting hatchery

steelhead or fall Chinook Salmon in ongoing fisheries, but anglers could shift to utilizing techniques that target Coho Salmon when steelhead and/or fall Chinook Salmon catch rates are low, when bag limits have been met, or when they are in an area where Coho Salmon congregate.

2.1.3) Comparison of harvest impacts in previous years and the harvest impacts anticipated to occur under the harvest regime in this FMEP.

A non-tribal Coho Salmon fishery was open in Idaho in 2014 and 2017. In these two years, the fishery was open in the Clearwater River sub basin from October through mid-November. Anglers caught 115 and 178 Coho Salmon and effort was 27,130 and 12,647 hours, respectively for each year (Table 3). In 2015, the Department proposed to open a Coho fishery but the season was closed on September 18th, before any fish entered Idaho and could be harvested. The harvest season, as proposed in this FMEP, will open sooner than what occurred during these past years based upon the preseason forecast.

Table 3. Information for the Coho Salmon Fishery in 2014 and 2017, including total abundance at LGR, the timeframe and areas open for non-tribal fishing, number of Coho Salmon harvested, released and caught and total angler hours.

Year	Adult Abundance at LGR	River Location Codes Open	Timeframe	Coho Harvested	Coho Released	Total Caught	Angler Hours
2014	18,098	1-5	Oct 17th - Nov 16th	90	25	115	27,130
2017	8,178	1-8	Oct 7th - Nov 19th	164	14	178	12,647

Overall, this was a very small fishery and the majority of the anglers carried a steelhead permit as well. To put the scale of this fishery into perspective with the steelhead fishery, we summarized the steelhead harvest data in 2017. In this fall period in the Clearwater River sub basin, there were over 23,736 days of fishing, which equates to 142,416 angler hours and 3,477 adipose-clipped steelhead harvested. Anglers fishing for Coho Salmon and Steelhead constituted less than 8% of the fall effort in the Clearwater River sub basin. The Department anticipates that the Coho Salmon fishery, as proposed in this FMEP, will continue to be incidental to the steelhead and fall Chinook salmon fisheries and not result in any additional impacts to wild steelhead or Fall Chinook Salmon beyond those authorized for steelhead (NMFS 2019) or listed in the Fall Chinook Salmon FMEP (IDFG et al. 2019).

2.1.4) Description of additional fishery impacts not addressed within this FMEP for the listed ESUs specified in section 1.3. Account for harvest impacts in previous year and the impacts expected in the future

Below we describe the ongoing fisheries for steelhead and Fall Chinook Salmon to provide a framework for existing impacts to these ESA-listed species.

SR steelhead are harvested or subject to incidental mortality in fisheries outside Idaho, primarily in the main stem Columbia River, and Snake River in Washington. SR steelhead are rarely caught in ocean fisheries, and are therefore not subject to management by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC 2003). Whatever small amount of ocean harvest occurred in the past is incorporated into the ICTRT (2007) base productivity through use of observed escapements and recruits. Harvest impacts in the main stem Columbia River during 1980-2007 are incorporated into the ICTRT (2007) base abundance and productivity through use of observed escapements and recruits. Under the 2018-2027 Management Agreement, total allowable harvest impacts on natural B-index SR steelhead will range from 15% to 22%, depending on run sizes of (wild and hatchery) B-index steelhead and URB fall Chinook Salmon (*U.S v. Oregon* 2018).

SR fall Chinook Salmon experience substantial harvest in ocean and Columbia River fisheries. These fisheries are coordinated through the Pacific Salmon Commission and the U.S. regional fisheries management councils and regulated through a Pacific Salmon Treaty, U. S. vs OR negotiations and/or NOAA Fisheries authorization processes. Total harvest of Snake River fall Chinook Salmon was reduced substantially after they were first listed under the ESA in 1992 (NMFS 2008; p. 7-8). Since 1992 the total exploitation rate for all fisheries averaged 48%. NMFS (2008; p. 7-13) states that NOAA Fisheries has managed ocean fisheries to a single ESA Section 7 consultation standard since 1996. The standard requires all ocean fisheries contained in the SE Alaskan, Canadian, and PFMC fisheries collectively achieve a 30% reduction in the age-3 and age-4 adult equivalent total exploitation rate relative to the 1988 to 1993 base period. NMFS (2008) concluded with certainty that ocean fisheries will be managed pre-season to meet or exceed the 30% reduction requirement. Currently, about 10% of the take occurs in the Southeast Alaska fishery, 22% in the Canadian fishery, 26% in the coastal fishery and 42% in the Columbia River fishery.

Harvest impacts of adult SR fall Chinook Salmon in the main stem Columbia River are managed under the framework of the *U.S. v. Oregon* 2018-2027 Management Agreement (*US v. Oregon* 2018), using an abundance based sliding scale. Under the 2018-2027 Management Agreement, total allowable harvest impacts on natural SR fall Chinook Salmon range from 20% to 45% depending on run sizes of upriver bright and natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon. Upriver brights are defined as all fall Chinook Salmon originating upstream of McNary Dam but also includes the Deschutes River. The Snake River wild harvest rate is assumed to be the same as the Upriver Bright harvest rate in the main stem. The Snake River fall-run Chinook salmon run size has increased from an average of 14,821 salmon returning to the mouth of the Columbia River from 2008-2012 to 23,684 salmon from 2013-2016 (TAC 2017). The total harvest rate has ranged from 17.5 to 32.0% since 2008. In most years, the actual harvest rates are less than the maximum allowable harvest rates; the average harvest rate on natural-origin fall Chinook Salmon has averaged 11.4% and 21.6% since 2008 for non-tribal and tribal fisheries, respectively (TAC 2017).

In addition to the incidental mortality in the ocean and Columbia River fisheries, natural SR steelhead and fall Chinook Salmon are subject to direct and incidental mortality in Non-Treaty and Treaty Indian fisheries within Idaho, conducted by the NPT and SBT. This incidental mortality is discussed in submitted FMEPs and TRMPs (WDFW 2009, IDFG 2018, IDFG et al. 2019, ODFW 2019).

SECTION 3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

3.1) Description of the specific monitoring of the “Performance Indicators” listed in section 1.1.3.

The Department proposes to continue the monitoring programs to estimate the harvest, effort and incidental mortality of listed salmon and steelhead, which are routinely conducted pursuant to existing permits. Specifically:

- The steelhead fishery is monitored by the Department using a roving and access creel survey and a telephone survey. The same monitoring and reporting has been continued under the FMEP.
- The SR fall Chinook Salmon fisheries targeting adipose-clipped hatchery Chinook have been monitored using creel surveys, and will continued to be reported under the FMEP for both adipose-clipped and adipose-intact fall Chinook Salmon.
- Fisheries targeting Coho Salmon will be monitored using creel surveys and non-target species (e.g., bull trout) incidentally caught in the Coho Salmon fishery will be monitored and reported.

Funding is available to the Department to implement monitoring programs, and minimize and mitigate impacts through; 1) the sale of fishing licenses, 2) Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, 3) contracts with the Idaho Power Company and, 4) the Dingle/Johnson Sportfish Restoration Program.

3.2) Description of other monitoring and evaluation not included in the Performance Indicators (section 3.1) which provides additional information useful for fisheries management.

Dam counts of Coho Salmon passing Columbia and Snake River dams, LGD trap sampling and broodstock collection, and trapping information at the weirs all provide information about run size and migration timing relative to past years. PIT-tagged hatchery Coho Salmon allows for estimation of timing and survival through the hydrosystem, and evaluation of FCRPS management actions. All broodstock are 100% parentage-based-tagged, which can provide information relative to the age, release location, and origin of returning adults.

3.3) Public Outreach

Fishing rules adopted by the IDFG Commission may be accessed online at the following link: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/fish/rules/>. In general, fishing rules limit not only harvest, but also disturbance of fish, particularly adult spawners.

The Department dedicates a substantial amount of time and effort to inform anglers and non-anglers regarding the conservation of native fishes. Subjects include fishing seasons and rules, fish identification, management rationale, and major threats to populations. We use printed material, regulation pamphlets, news releases, blogging, the IDFG web page, social media, and signs at specific locations. We use radio and television contacts including call-in radio shows. We host public meetings and give presentations to schools, and a variety of sportsman's organizations and local civic groups. Creel surveys designed for fisheries monitoring will be utilized to inform anglers regarding the status of fish populations and habitat, recovery efforts, and the importance of proper fish handling techniques as well as other related topics. The high degree of compliance with fishing rules, particularly the adipose-clip rule for salmon and steelhead show that anglers understand and are willing to comply with these rules. Illegal take of adult salmon and steelhead has been minimal.

3.4) Enforcement

The Department provides an enforcement presence year round. Law enforcement staff patrol the non-tribal fisheries both in uniform, and in plain clothes. In addition, biological staff are authorized to enforce fishing rules. The combined presence of enforcement officers and biological staff conducting creel surveys provides excellent monitoring. A report of activities including the number of licensed checked, and number and types of violations will be included in the post season fishery report.

The low incidence of serious violations that would adversely impact listed fish confirms that both the public education and enforcement activities conducted by the Department works effectively. In addition to law enforcement measures taken, creel survey crews and check station operations, and Citizens Against Poaching programs provide a significant deterrent to deliberate illegal take of listed species.

3.5) Schedule and process for reviewing and modifying fisheries management.

3.5.1) Description of the process and schedule that will be used on a regular basis (e.g. annually) to evaluate the fisheries, and revise management assumptions and targets if necessary.

The Department proposes the following process and schedule. The Department will provide the annual preseason fishery plans by August 31st and consult with NOAA Fisheries on any substantive new rule proposals. Proposals will be developed consistent with FMEP objectives. The Commission will authorize annual salmon seasons and rules. The Department will coordinate in-season with ODFW, WDFW, Tribes, NOAA Fisheries and other entities on status of run size, harvest and escapements. The Department will provide NOAA Fisheries with annual post season reports. All incidental take will be included in the steelhead and Fall Chinook Salmon harvest reports as described in NMFS (2019) and IDFG (2019).

3.5.2) Description of the process and schedule that will occur to evaluate whether the FMEP is accomplishing the stated objectives. The conditions under which revisions to the FMEP will be made and how the revisions will likely be accomplished should be included.

The Department proposes a five-year review schedule to evaluate whether the FMEP is accomplishing the stated objectives. The FMEP may be revised accordingly to accommodate recommendations from recovery plans, harvest management plans, hatchery production and management plans, biological opinions, or other appropriate mechanisms. The Department expects written notification by NOAA Fisheries of new information or policies related to the FMEP, and the Department, in consultation with NOAA Fisheries, will propose appropriate modifications to this FMEP.

SECTION 4. CONSISTENCY OF FMEP WITH PLANS AND CONDITIONS SET WITHIN ANY FEDERAL COURT PROCEEDINGS

The IDFG, WDFW, and ODFW are parties to the *U.S. v. Oregon* process and are affected by the 2018-2027 Management Agreement. Development of this FMEP is consistent with the expectations defined in the 2018-2027 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement. The Department has coordinated with the NPT, SBT, and CTUIR during development of strategies in this FMEP (these tribes are also parties to the *U.S. v. Oregon* forum).

References

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