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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED

06/25/2025 1:21 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Amend Regulations for 2025 Coho Salmon Seasons in Oregon Coastal Streams

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 08/15/2025 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

CONTACT: Linda Spansel
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4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:
Linda Spansel
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 08/15/2025

TIME: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

OFFICER: Michelle Tate

IN-PERSON HEARING DETAILS

ADDRESS: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

This hearing will be conducted as a hybrid meeting, providing an opportunity to give testimony either in person or virtually. Additional information regarding participation will be posted on our website at www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/. The meeting can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/IEODFW. Any changes to the meeting format (to virtual only if emergency arises) will be posted to our website as soon as possible.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

Under the Coastal Multispecies Plan, ODFW is directed to conduct annual reviews of fish populations and not to wait until a critical level has been reached to adjust the management for a population including considering reduced retention limits, shorter seasons, or other measures necessary to prevent a declining population from falling to its critical level. Consistent with this, bag limits for wild Coho on the Oregon Coast are set annually based on several factors, including but not limited to, recent population trends, forecast returns (and forecast uncertainty), environmental factors, and harvest rate trends. For 2025, ODFW staff are proposing basin specific daily and annual bag limits for wild fall Coho salmon that protect and maintain populations and allow for sustainable utilization. Adoption of lower bag limits or shorter seasons would reduce public opportunity; adoption of higher bag limits or longer seasons would increase the likelihood of impacting the populations and future utilization opportunity.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

1. Staff report prepared for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission hearing on 08/15/2025, including the

presentation and all provided materials.

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking [the above document(s)] are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Linda Spansel at 503-947-6233 or Linda.D.Spansel@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

The Department has solicited input from representatives of underrepresented communities likely to be affected on whether the proposed rule will have a fiscal impact on the community, the extent of the fiscal impact, and whether the rules will have significant impact on underrepresented communities. <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/OARs/index.asp>

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The rules are expected to result in minimal fiscal impacts, with the potential for localized economic impacts in regions affected by proposed changes to angling opportunities.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

State agencies that could be affected by the amendments in coastal coho fishing regulations are the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon State Police (OSP). ODFW impacts include fisheries management costs and license sales, while OSP impacts are from monitoring and enforcement costs. Overall, the proposed rule amendments are not expected to result in significant changes to current levels of costs for ODFW or for OSP. Any potential changes to ODFW revenues from license sales would depend substantially on changes to participation rates and purchases from the sport angling community. The proposed 2025 regulations for wild coho salmon angling would increase the seasonal bag limits from 2 to 3 in the Nehalem, Tillamook, and Nestucca basins while closing the Umpqua basin (last open in 2024 with bag limits of 1 coho/day, 3 coho/season). The increased bag limits are expected to result in an increase in angling effort and participation, while the Umpqua basin closure is expected to result in a decrease. The exact magnitude and direction of these offsetting impacts cannot be forecast with the data available. Overall, the proposed 2025 coastal coho recreational seasons and bag limits are similar to 2024's and thus are not expected to result in significant impacts to angler participation rates or ODFW revenues.

Units of local government which could be affected by sport fishing regulations include port authorities and county governments. Port authorities and county governments may experience costs and derive revenues related to the provision of moorage and other support facilities for sport fishing. We do not have precise information on how much the 2025 coastal coho regulations will affect the units of local government in a fiscal sense. We are not able to project the magnitude of the fiscal effects, because the data required to link allowable harvests and local government revenues and expenditures are not available.

The public is affected by rules relating to angling regulations. Rule amendments could result in decreased angler trips due to the Umpqua basin closure, while other rule amendments may lead to an increase in trips through the higher season bag limits in the Nehalem, Tillamook, and Nestucca basins. Additional angler trips would mean more spending by anglers, which can have positive impacts on local communities near fishing areas. Conversely, the closure of the Umpqua basin season may result in decreased spending by anglers at fishing supply and accommodation businesses in

the area. The cumulative magnitude of these effects cannot be forecast with any precision because a variety of factors, such as run sizes, weather, gas prices, etc. determine the number of angler trips in any given year.

Although amendments to angling regulations which restrict harvests can be viewed as reducing positive economic impacts in the short run, conservation through the regulation of seasons and other factors is intended to perpetuate Oregon's fishery resources at optimal levels in the long run. Failure to restrict harvests of fish to allow escapement for reproduction would result in severe adverse economic impacts in the future. Harvest regulations attempt to strike a balance, which will provide optimal angling opportunities subject to the need to sustain fish population levels and to maintain future benefits.

(2) Effects on Small Businesses:

(a) The types of businesses that may be indirectly affected are those that supply goods or services to anglers. These may include fishing guides, private marinas, food and beverage stores, gasoline stations, sporting goods stores, general merchandise stores, accommodation businesses, and food services and drinking places. Given that angling occurs in myriad locations where these regulations are applicable, the number of small businesses subject to the rule cannot be estimated.

(b) There are no projected reporting, recordkeeping, or other administrative activities required for compliance with these amendments.

(c) There are no projected equipment, supplies, labor, or increased administration costs required for compliance with these amendments.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses have not been directly involved in the development of the rules proposed to the Commission. We do not believe that a less intrusive or less costly alternative adaptation to only small businesses is consistent with the proposed rule. Opportunity for the public to provide input and recommendations will be provided at the August 15th, 2025, Commission Hearing.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

An Administrative Rule Advisory Committee was not consulted. The rules are believed to be fully compatible with legislative direction on the goals of fishery management in Oregon. At the Commission Hearing, public correspondence and testimony will be accepted into the record as part of the rulemaking process.

RULES PROPOSED:

635-014-0500, 635-014-0510, 635-016-0510, 635-016-0520

AMEND: 635-014-0500

RULE SUMMARY: The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will review and consider permanent fishing regulations for 2025 wild coho salmon angling in coastal lakes and streams. This is a scheduled process in response to annually changing and new and available information on wild coho salmon population status such as adult spawner abundance, environmental conditions, and last year's fisheries performance. Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho salmon are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and these fish stocks have been performing relatively well since 2021. Department staff has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure that the available data supports the proposed regulation changes and will not negatively impact or compromise achieving critical population metrics such as suitable forecast of adult spawners and conservative harvest levels that will not deter the recovery of these listed fish. Harvest fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho salmon are identified as a desired management outcome in the State of Oregon's Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (ODFW 2007), which was approved by the Commission in 2007. The Coastal Multispecies Conservation and Management Plan (CMP;

ODFW 2014) adopted by the Commission also supported and provided guidance on establishment of wild coho salmon fisheries. If the staff proposed seasons are adopted by the Commission, the proposed rules modify existing fishing regulations that are referenced in the 2025 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations and posted on the Department's MyODFW website for the following bays, rivers and tributaries, within the NW and SW zones: Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Beaver Creek, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, and Floras Creek/New River. The Commission may decide not to adopt the proposed rules or may amend one or more of the proposed rules including amendments that may affect other bays, rivers, and tributaries.

The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-014-0500

North Coast District

(1) The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Northwest Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time and to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶¶

(2) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Necanicum River:¶¶

(a) From August 1 through November 30, the daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish;¶¶

(b) From August 1 through November 30, no more than two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period; and¶¶

(c) From December 1 through December 31, angling for, and retention of, all Chinook salmon is closed.¶¶

(3) Effective July 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Nehalem River and Bay and in the North Fork Nehalem River:¶¶

(a) From July 1 through November 30, the daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish and no more than ~~five~~two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained in aggregate for the period; and¶¶

(b) From December 1 through December 31, angling for, and retention of, all Chinook salmon is closed.¶¶

(4) Effective September ~~7~~10 through October ~~23, 2024~~6, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Saturdays, the following regulations apply in the Nehalem Bay from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Miami-Foley Road Bridge and in the North Fork Nehalem River from the mouth upstream to the North Fork Road Bridge at Aldervale:¶¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶¶

(b) No more than ~~two~~three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶¶

(c) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶¶

(5) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in Tillamook Bay, Tillamook River, Wilson River, Trask River, Kilchis River, and Miami River:¶¶

(a) From August 1 through November 30, the following regulations apply:¶¶

(A) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate; and¶¶

(B) No more than two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate.¶¶

(b) From December 1 through December 31, angling for, and retention of, all Chinook salmon is closed.¶¶

(6) Effective September ~~7~~10 through October ~~23, 2024~~6, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Saturdays, the following regulations apply in Tillamook Bay from the tips of the jetties upstream to the Highway 101 bridges on the Miami, Kilchis, Wilson, and Trask Rivers and upstream to the Burton Bridge on the Tillamook River:¶¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶¶

(b) No more than ~~two~~three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶¶

(c) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶¶

(7) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Nestucca River and Bay, the Little Nestucca River, and Three Rivers:¶¶

(a) From August 1 through November 30, the following regulations apply:¶¶

(A) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate; and¶¶

(B) No more than ~~5~~five adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate.¶¶

(b) From December 1 through December 31, angling for, and retention of, all Chinook salmon is closed.¶¶

(8) Effective September ~~7~~10 through October ~~23, 2024~~6, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Saturdays, the following regulations apply in the Nestucca Bay from the river mouth upstream to the Cloverdale Bridge and in the Little Nestucca River from the bay upstream to the Highway 130 Bridge (MP 1.2):¶¶

- (a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶
 - (b) No more than ~~two~~three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶
 - (c) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶
- (9) All other permanent rules for the Northwest Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146
- Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will review and consider permanent fishing regulations for 2025 wild coho salmon angling in coastal lakes and streams. This is a scheduled process in response to annually changing and new and available information on wild coho salmon population status such as adult spawner abundance, environmental conditions, and last year's fisheries performance. Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho salmon are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and these fish stocks have been performing relatively well since 2021. Department staff has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure that the available data supports the proposed regulation changes and will not negatively impact or compromise achieving critical population metrics such as suitable forecast of adult spawners and conservative harvest levels that will not deter the recovery of these listed fish. Harvest fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho salmon are identified as a desired management outcome in the State of Oregon's Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (ODFW 2007), which was approved by the Commission in 2007. The Coastal Multispecies Conservation and Management Plan (CMP; ODFW 2014) adopted by the Commission also supported and provided guidance on establishment of wild coho salmon fisheries. If the staff proposed seasons are adopted by the Commission, the proposed rules modify existing fishing regulations that are referenced in the 2025 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations and posted on the Department's MyODFW website for the following bays, rivers and tributaries, within the NW and SW zones: Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Beaver Creek, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, and Floras Creek/New River. The Commission may decide not to adopt the proposed rules or may amend one or more of the proposed rules including amendments that may affect other bays, rivers, and tributaries.

The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-014-0510

Mid-Coast District

(1) The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Northwest Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time and to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(2) Effective August 1 through December 31, no more than ten adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in the Salmon River.¶

(3) Effective August 1 through December 31, no more than ten adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in the Siletz River and Drift Creek (Siletz Basin, Lincoln Co.) in aggregate.¶

(4) Effective September 14³ through November 15, 2024, the following regulations apply in the Siletz River, Drift Creek, and Schooner Creek upstream to Erickson Creek:¶

(a) From September 14³ through ~~October 6~~¹⁴, retention of wild coho salmon is allowed from the mouth upstream to an ODFW marker sign approximately 1,200 feet upstream of the Ojalla Bridge;¶

(b) From October 7 through November 15⁴, retention of wild coho salmon is allowed from the mouth upstream to the Illahee Boat Ramp;¶

(c) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish;¶

(d) No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the entire period; and¶

(e) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

(5) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations applyies in the Yaquina River and Bay and Big Elk Creek:¶

~~(a) No more than ten adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and.¶~~

~~(b) From Effective September 14³ through October 15, 2024, the following additional regulations apply to the Yaquina River from the mouth upstream to Simpson Creek, and Big Elk Creek from the mouth upstream to Bear Creek:¶~~

~~(Aa) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶~~

~~(Bb) No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶~~

~~(Cc) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶~~

(~~67~~) Effective August 1 through December 31, no more than ten adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in the Alsea River and Bay and Drift Creek in aggregate.¶

(~~78~~) Effective September 14~~3~~ through October 13~~2~~ and October 26~~5~~ through November 10, 2024~~7~~, the following regulations apply in the Alsea Bay and River from the mouth upstream to the U.S. Forest Service River Edge Boat Landing and in Drift Creek from the mouth upstream to the lower Wilderness Boundary:¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶

(b) No more than ~~two~~three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶

(c) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

(~~89~~) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Yachats River:¶

(a) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish; ~~and~~¶

(b) No more than two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period.¶

(~~910~~) Effective November 1 through November 30, 2024, the following regulations apply in Beaver Creek from the walking bridge at Ona Beach State Park upstream to the confluence of Beaver Creek and in ~~a~~ South Fork Beaver Creek:¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶

(b) No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶

(c) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

(10~~1~~) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Siuslaw River, in the North Fork Siuslaw River and in Sweet Creek:¶

(a) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate; ~~and~~¶

(b) No more than two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate.¶

(11~~2~~) Effective September 14~~3~~ through ~~November 15, 202~~October 14, the following regulations apply in the Siuslaw River from the mouth upstream to the confluence of Lake Creek, in the North Fork Siuslaw River from the mouth upstream to Meadows Bridge, and in Sweet Creek from the mouth upstream to head of tide:¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶

(b) No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶

(c) The daily jack wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

(12~~3~~) All other permanent rules for the Northwest Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will review and consider permanent fishing regulations for 2025 wild coho salmon angling in coastal lakes and streams. This is a scheduled process in response to annually changing and new and available information on wild coho salmon population status such as adult spawner abundance, environmental conditions, and last year's fisheries performance. Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho salmon are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and these fish stocks have been performing relatively well since 2021. Department staff has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure that the available data supports the proposed regulation changes and will not negatively impact or compromise achieving critical population metrics such as suitable forecast of adult spawners and conservative harvest levels that will not deter the recovery of these listed fish. Harvest fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho salmon are identified as a desired management outcome in the State of Oregon's Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (ODFW 2007), which was approved by the Commission in 2007. The Coastal Multispecies Conservation and Management Plan (CMP; ODFW 2014) adopted by the Commission also supported and provided guidance on establishment of wild coho salmon fisheries. If the staff proposed seasons are adopted by the Commission, the proposed rules modify existing fishing regulations that are referenced in the 2025 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations and posted on the Department's MyODFW website for the following bays, rivers and tributaries, within the NW and SW zones: Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Beaver Creek, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, and Floras Creek/New River. The Commission may decide not to adopt the proposed rules or may amend one or more of the proposed rules including amendments that may affect other bays, rivers, and tributaries.

The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-016-0510

Coos-Coquille District

(1) The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Southwest Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time and to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(2) Effective July 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Coos River, Coos Bay, South Fork Coos River, and Millicoma mainstem:¶

~~(a) No~~ no more than ten adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and.¶

~~(b3) From Effective September 143 through October 10, 2024, the following regulations apply in the Coos River from the tips of the jetties to the head of tide at Dellwood (RM 10), South Coos River mainstem, and Millicoma River mainstem from the mouth upstream to the confluence of the East Fork and the West Fork Millicoma River:~~¶

~~(Aa)~~ The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶

~~(Bb)~~ No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶

~~(Cc)~~ The daily wild jack coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

~~(34)~~ Effective June 1 through October 31, the following regulations apply in the Coquille River (Mainstem), East Fork Coquille River, Middle Fork Coquille River, North Fork Coquille River, and in the South Fork Coquille River from the mouth upstream to the USFS boundary near Powers:¶

~~(a)~~ Spears and spear guns may be used to harvest smallmouth bass; and¶

~~(b)~~ Use of bait is allowed.¶

~~(45)~~ Effective September 143 through October 15, 2024, the following regulations apply in the Coquille River from the mouth upstream to the Highway 42S bridge at Sturdivant Park:¶

~~(a)~~ The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish;¶

~~(b)~~ No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period; and¶

~~(c)~~ The daily wild jack coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

~~(56)~~ All other permanent rules for the Southwest Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will review and consider permanent fishing regulations for 2025 wild coho salmon angling in coastal lakes and streams. This is a scheduled process in response to annually changing and new and available information on wild coho salmon population status such as adult spawner abundance, environmental conditions, and last year's fisheries performance. Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho salmon are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and these fish stocks have been performing relatively well since 2021. Department staff has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure that the available data supports the proposed regulation changes and will not negatively impact or compromise achieving critical population metrics such as suitable forecast of adult spawners and conservative harvest levels that will not deter the recovery of these listed fish. Harvest fisheries on healthy populations of wild coho salmon are identified as a desired management outcome in the State of Oregon's Coastal Coho Conservation Plan (ODFW 2007), which was approved by the Commission in 2007. The Coastal Multispecies Conservation and Management Plan (CMP; ODFW 2014) adopted by the Commission also supported and provided guidance on establishment of wild coho salmon fisheries. If the staff proposed seasons are adopted by the Commission, the proposed rules modify existing fishing regulations that are referenced in the 2025 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations and posted on the Department's MyODFW website for the following bays, rivers and tributaries, within the NW and SW zones: Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, Yaquina, Beaver Creek, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, and Floras Creek/New River. The Commission may decide not to adopt the proposed rules or may amend one or more of the proposed rules including amendments that may affect other bays, rivers, and tributaries.

The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-016-0520

South Coast District

(1) The current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations provide requirements for the Southwest Zone. However, additional regulations may be adopted in this rule division from time to time and to the extent of any inconsistency, they supersede the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.¶

(2) Effective August 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in Floras Creek and New River:¶

(a) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate; and¶

(b) No more than ~~one~~two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate.¶

(3) Effective November 1 through November 30, ~~2024~~, the following regulations apply in New River and in Floras Creek from the BLM boat ramp at Storm Ranch upstream to the confluence of Floras Creek and Floras Lake outlet:¶

(a) The daily adult wild coho salmon bag limit is one fish in aggregate;¶

(b) No more than three adult wild coho salmon may be retained for the period in aggregate; and¶

(c) The daily wild jack coho salmon bag limit is one fish.¶

(4) Effective July 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Sixes River:¶

(a) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish;¶

(b) No more than ten adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period;¶

(c) From October 1 through ~~Dec~~November 31, the ~~Sixes River~~ is closed to all angling from the Hughes House Boat Ramp upstream to the mouth of Crystal Creek ~~until the low water closure is lifted~~; and¶

(d) From October 1 through December 31, closed to all angling from Edson Creek upstream to the South Fork Sixes River.¶

(5) Effective July 1 through December 31, the Elk River is closed to angling for and retention of all wild Chinook salmon.¶

(6) Effective October 1 through December 31, ~~Hunter Creek is closed to all angling~~the following regulations apply in Hunter Creek:¶

(a) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish;¶

(b) No more than two adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period.¶

(7) Effective September 1 through December 31, the following regulations apply in the Chetco River, Pistol River, and Winchuck River:¶¶

(a) The daily adult wild Chinook salmon bag limit is one fish; ~~and~~¶¶

(b) No more than five adult wild Chinook salmon may be retained for the period.¶¶

(8) All other permanent rules for the Southwest Zone, as stated in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, remain in effect.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.162