

Supplemental Skagit Spring Chinook Fishery Plan for 2021 Tribal Fisheries

4/16/2021

The Skagit section (2.5 Skagit Terminal Region) of the 2020-21 Co-Managers' List of Agreed Fisheries (LOAF) allowed the Skagit Tribes to open April/May 2021 spring Chinook fisheries, pending a supplemental plan describing the 2021 management objectives, allowable impacts, and proposed fishing package, which were unavailable at the writing of the 2020-21 LOAF.

The management objectives for 2021-22 on Skagit spring Chinook are:

Management Unit/Population	Normal Abundance Regime	Minimum Fishing Regime	
	Exploitation Rate Ceiling	Low Abundance Threshold	Critical Exploitation Rate
	Total		SUS
Skagit Spring Suiattle Upper Sauk Cascade	37.5%	823 170 130 170	10.3%

The raw (unFRAMized) 2021 preseason estimates of terminal run size for the Skagit wild spring Chinook populations were 464 Suiattle springs, 937 Upper Sauk springs, and 165 Cascade springs. Because the Cascade spring forecast is below its LAT, the 2021-22 Skagit spring Chinook management objective is to not exceed the Southern US (SUS) critical exploitation rate ceiling of 10.3%, in accordance with the Skagit Management Unit Profile.

As part of the 2021 North of Falcon/PFMC process, the Skagit co-managers have proposed an agreed-to a set of fisheries that meet the SUS exploitation rate objective. A final 2021-22 FRAM run is not yet available, but based on the most recent FRAM Chin3621 from the final day of PFMC #2 and updated with an additional 34 C&S springs for the Skagit tribes, the projected SUS exploitation rate with these fisheries is 10.2%.

The final set of Skagit spring Chinook tribal commercial fisheries in this model were:

- Swinomish Tribe (Area 8/78C): week 18 (week of April 25th) 4 days, week 19 (week of May 2nd) 4 days.
- Upper Skagit Tribe (Area 78C/78D): week 19 (week of May 2nd) 1.25 days, week 20 (week of May 9th) 1.5 days.
- Sauk-Suiattle Tribe (Area 78P): week 21 (week of May 16th) to week 22 (week of May 23rd), 7 days/week; week 23 (week of May 30th) to week 30 (week of July 18th), 2 days/week

Projected mortality in these commercial fisheries as calculated in this FRAM run was 79 wild spring Chinook and 1,166 hatchery spring Chinook. An additional 10 wild spring and 24 hatchery spring were

modeled as tribal C&S, and an additional 9 wild springs were modeled as bycatch during the Sauk-Suiattle tribe's Sauk River pink fishery, which does not begin until July 15th. The projection for mortalities in Skagit River test fisheries was 11 wild and 26 hatchery spring Chinook.

Tribal Fishery	Wild Spring	Hatchery Spring
Commercial	88	1,166
C&S	10	24
Test	11	26
Total	109	1,216

Tribal fishery biologists will sample a portion of the catch to collect biological data, check mark status, and collect coded-wire-tags for later analysis. Tribal Fisheries enforcement will monitor activity during fishery openings to verify compliance with associated fishing regulations. All harvest will be reported on treaty fish tickets and uploaded to the tribal TOCAS database.