Lil'wat Nation Chinook Salmon Harvest Plan

This plan consists of strategies to help reduce the number of targeted fisheries to ensure the required amount of salmon species make the escapement numbers needed to spawn each year. Fish being caught are to be reported for harvesting counts and to ensure our targeted fish species numbers meet an acceptable percentage for spawning.

We conduct a fish count for the purpose of the calculating salmon fishing efforts as a part of fisheries management to ensure that we as Lil'wat people harvest a certain percentage of the targeted fish species for food, social and ceremonial purposes in a sustainable manner.

For some time we have been approaching the Chinook salmon food fisheries with caution so that we can ensure our stocks not be impacted due to our harvesting efforts.

The following are some of the measures that are of consequence to ensure that a sustainable catch margin for the returning fish.

Catch and release methods are encouraged for the female Chinook Salmon, so as to meet the spawning requirements.

Fishing Dates & Times

Suggested fishing times for targeted species such as Chinook in Lil'wat Nation Watersheds should only be on the days set out in the communal fishing license. Fishing for other species other than Chinook may have its own fishing dates & times in the case of low stock numbers to meet the spawning requirements within the Lil'wat Nation Traditional Territory.

Fishing Areas

Fishing for targeted species is permitted throughout the traditional territories of Lil'wat Nation and its watersheds.

Fishing Methods

All fishing methods are permitted in Lil'wat Territories watersheds, but only if is not affecting targeted fish species. It is encouraged to utilize the more selective fishing type gear for the target species and in order to limit amount of catch and any impact to the salmon stock.

Rod and Reel gear should have barbless hooks to reduce mortality for the catch and release efforts.

Gill nets with the appropriate mesh size is preferred and must have buoy attached beachside of the net with clear band number displayed on top to show ownership and membership to this band. Gill nets

used in river systems should not impeded 1/3 waterway for river navigations. Gill nets may not be permitted during endangered salmon stock migrations to ensure future returns.

Catch Limits

At this time, there are no catch limits per individuals, but as a community a percentage of between 15 to 20 percent of estimated stocks returning to spawning channels. Any catch of the female Chinook salmon species targeted is encouraged to be released unharmed. It may not be enforced applicably that all Female Chinook be released, but these measures are to ensure stock numbers are acceptable for future returns.

Catch & survey Reporting

On a weekly basis, fishers are encouraged to provide information on their fishing activities, the species they have caught, if they released their species, and the condition it was released to ensure a healthy recovery. The data collected through survey reports are strictly confidential and entered into data as statistical datum. In addition, used only for, Lil'wat Fisheries and Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada fisheries management stock assessment purposes.

Harvesting Targets

Harvesting certain salmon species (e.g. Chinook) per quota in season of species is established primarily through Lil'wat Nation to ensure quality-fishing opportunities. These targets most likely based of salmon species return estimations, historic escapements, and fishing trends of catch and effort of targeted species.

Designation to Fish

The Lil'wat Nation has proclaimed that all individuals must hold on their person documented membership status of their band to while fishing under authority of this plan. At all times, carry documentary membership status while fishing in Lil'wat Nation Territories watershed. The food, social and ceremonial fishery is subject to monitoring by the appropriate authorities.

Exceptions: some non-band members maybe designated to fish under authority of this plan, as per historical protocols but in some instances, the right to fish under authority of this plan can be amended or withdrawn.

Restrictions/Closures

At this time, there are no closures to fishing in areas, species, but the need to limit your fishing efforts and apply self-regulation for the ***protection of our salmon stocks.***

All female Chinook and undersize salmon to be released as encouraged from Lil'wat Nation for the purpose stock re-building.

Harvest Plan Lil'wat Nation

Lil'wat Nation reserves the right to permit target species being fished be amended or withdrawn to ensure future returns of targeted species to our watersheds.

WHILE YOU HAVE AN ABORIGINAL RIGHT TO FISH,

YOU ALSO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO FISH SUSTAINABLY

KEEPING IN MIND OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED AND USE ALL THAT YOU TAKE