

WDFW Region 6 - District 17N Grays Harbor 2024 Public Fishery Suggestion Summary as of 4/16/2024

2-23/24

Can we just go to one salmon daily limit and allow party fishing? The mortality from release, seal lion/seal intercept of released fish and complicated regulations are crazy. Tribal hatcheries clip only a small fraction of fish if any that we as taxpayers pay for. It is time to make the wholesale change and call it good for now.

GH/WB Forecast Meeting 2/2/24

- December fishery – not many steelhead in the river. Not a rational approach to restrict salmon season to protect steelhead.
 - Model through Dec 15 because already showed that there are little impacts.
 - Maybe Dec 1 switch to a 1 fish limit
 - GH Chehalis – a long term solution on December fishery needs to come to agreement with tribe on steelhead
 - Agrees with modeling through Dec 15 and 1 hatchery fish limit through Dec 16 from Porter to Borst Parkin Centralia. It would be great to get that opportunity back.
 - Supportive with continued discussions with QIN regarding steelhead to provide opportunity that time of year
 - Provide the number of coho spawners in Dec and Jan (true late coho) per month for GH
 - Protection of late coho is needed (Nov – Jan)
- Model MS Chehalis 2 fish bag, with 1 hatchery Chinook
- Marine Area East Bay Sept 16 – Nov 30 – 2 fish limit, 1 hatchery Chinook
- Marine Area North Bay August 1 – September 15 – 1 fish limit, possible Chinook retention, 1 wild coho
- Jack fishery in Chehalis August 1 – September 16 – no limit

- How comparable are these forecasts to 2023?
- Do we look at run timing?

James Losee (WDFW): if you want individual stock, species, or river specific information, reach out to staff

- Humptulips River: rollover last year's fishery for Chinook and coho.
- Consider going to no eggs/bait at all in Chehalis. Coho can be caught without eggs.
- Jack fishery is from South Montesano to Fuller Hill in GH
- Won't catch any Chinook while fishing for jacks with a 10-pound leader
- Consider when it comes to hooking mortality, if you see a fin on a fish using bait, you should not touch or net the fish. Just release the fish by cutting leader. Protect adult chinook. Mortality will go down.

2/25/24

I would like to see a wild Chinook retention back on the humptulips, last year had a huge run of wild Chinook in the beginning and I seen thousands of people get skunked

Please change rules back on the copalis river. It's has never been changed until this last year. Warden showed up on opening day ,gave out 16 tickets and arrested someone. Maybe a warning would have been better

2/29/2024

Commercial comments - Support the recommendations presented by the WA Controllers Association

3/4/2024

And it's time to reduce the amount of Chinook salmon you have on your punch card from each watershed to no more than five Chinook, salmon out of the Puget Sound, Grays Harbor Bay, Willapa Bay, lower Columbia river, upper Columbia river, and the Washington coast, salmon fishery, and the same restriction goes for Coho. And the quote is for Chinook and Coho need to be separated from the total catch in other words sports boats would get 50% of the quota and charters/guide boats would get 50% of the quota/impacts on Chinook and coho salmon.

3/14/2024

Leave the fish alone

3/15/2024

GH Commercial Fisheries: Limit tangle net days, prior to Oct. 18th is OK and get back a day that was lost.

3/17/2024

Any commercial harvest that doesn't involve the release of all species, origin, or otherwise needing protection should not be allowed.

If the purpose is to protect specific runs of salmon and steelhead, the targeting of those runs should not be allowed until they reach the given water body. If that means closing the Chehalis River below the mouth of the Satsop river or higher then so be it. Trying to manage any fish below the areas that need managed is senseless. If this means closing the bay, then so be it. Doing otherwise is catering to commercial and money influential purposes instead of any type of conservation.

3/18/2024

I was wondering if the model run has been changed to reflect the reduction in the commercial fleet?

Do wild Chinook jacks (under 24 inches) count as part of the escapement goal? If not all fisher groups should be allowed to keep them.

If QIN fishes during a week why cant the commercials be allowed to fish at the same time for at least 3 of those days? Most of the good QIN fishers are now rigging up to go after crab, why would they fish for a few thousand dollars worth of salmon when they can catch up to a million dollars worth of crab?

What is WDFW going to do about the few thousand sea lions in Grays Harbor eating salmon by the thousands every year?

3/25/2024

I would like to see a closure on the lower humptulips river from the Thorberg launch to the mouth in September. Or open the entire river Oct. 1st. The kings take a beating in the low water while they are in that section of the river. With the kings continued decline in numbers give them free passage in September to try and get more fish up river in the low water.

GH/WB NOF# 2 Meeting 3/28/24

Rec

- Support for Model B Dec. 15th
- Bag limits early in season
 - 3 fish limit in Oct/Nov no more than one wild

Rec

- Distribution of coho- shift back to Nov. if lose Dec. fishery
- If steelhead negotiations happen too late in the season; Will we lose the ability to shift fishery away from Dec.?
 - Mike S – Will have negotiations with QIN, if does not look good will shift earlier

Rec

- Closing the S. Elma Bridge section on Chehalis R.; Is it for conservation of Chinook? Rec. Bay fishery target wild Chinook and catch and release.
 - Mike S – It's to keep people from targeting adult versus going after jacks during jack only fishery
- Model A Dec. - 2 fish limit hatchery only. Release wild coho

Rec

- Support Model B
- 2 coho clipped only available in Dec.
- Make in-season adjustment for extra bag limit in Oct. & Nov. if Dec. does not happen
 - Mike S – could move impacts to different time frame, go to 3 fish bag
 - James L – intention is to fish in Dec.
- Prefer 2 fish bag limit, maybe increase to 3 later in season if it looks favorable

Rec

- Support Model B
- Agree with change of jack fishery to Fuller

Rec

- There is no harvest for Chinook in Chehalis R. – Chinook taken by AK & BC
 - Not fair to change one section of the river at S. Elma
 - How is it different from ocean and tide water Chinook releases?
 - Mike S – Happy to talk more about this issue with you tomorrow or next week

3/29/2024

I would like to suggest an alternative for the 2024 jack salmon season for the Fuller Hill to South Elma Bridge reach of the river. Would you consider a bait ban there rather? You might consider that until October 1st when above Porter opens.

4/4/2024

Suggest closing all gillnetting in Washington and Oregon waters.
Suggest no bait for all fisheries.
Suggest no fisheries allowed during spawning season.

4/8/2024

Barbed hooks allowed until Sept. 1st in all Grays Harbor tributaries except Chehalis and Humptulips River. Low flows in August prevent Chinook from entering tributaries.

4/16/2024

No mention of jack limit number, 6, should be more. Just an oversight?