



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Southwest Region 5 • 5525 South 11th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642
Telephone: (360) 696-6211 • Fax: (360) 906-6776

January 23, 2024

Washington or Oregon Columbia River Gill Net License Holder,

You are receiving this letter because after our initial lottery selection held through WAC 360-220-520 we are looking to fill the remaining **seine gear permits only** in the newly designated Emerging Commercial Fishery in the Lower Columbia River. Qualifications for individuals who qualify for these permits are under WAC 360-220-510.

The Department, with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is conducting a lottery to select up to two (2) additional fishers who are interested in fishing with either a beach seine or purse seine to participate in this fishery. The due date to apply for the lottery is February 16, 2024. A fishery implementation plan, and an application with instructions are also enclosed for your convenience. Both items can also be found on our website: [Limited entry fisheries commercial licenses | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

If you have questions as you review this information, please contact Beth Deacy (Bethany.deacy@dfw.wa.gov, 360-600-7069) or Charlene Hurst (Charlene.Hurst@dfw.wa.gov, 360-605-5247).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlene Hurst".

Dr. Charlene Hurst
Columbia River Management Unit Lead
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Instructions

Applications are currently being accepted for participation in the lower Columbia River Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) for the fall season. Applications are available on-line at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/commercial/limited-entry-fisheries#emerging>. Applications must be postmarked before midnight on **February 16, 2024** via mail (USPS, FedEx, UPS), FAX, or e-mail. This application is the first step required if you are interested in participating in the Lower Columbia River ECF.

The Lower Columbia River ECF will be limited entry, with licenses/permits randomly awarded by gear type to qualified individuals (see WAC 220-360-510) via lottery. Payment of the associated fee(s) are due upon successful selection in the lottery. Given the sub-allocation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) impacts for this fishery, it is anticipated that up to 3 seine permits and up to 3 pound net permits will be issued. After our initial round of applicant selection, we are currently seeking to fill two (2) seine permits only that remain unallocated. Notifications for successful applicants are expected to occur around early to mid-March 2024. If an individual is drawn for a permit, the applicant must respond within ten (10) business days of being notified to accept the permit and pay any fees due.

Washington license holders that are drawn in the lottery will need an Emerging Fishery License (EFL) and an Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) issued by WDFW upon receipt of payment. Oregon license holders can choose to purchase a Washington EFP and EFL or purchase an Experimental Gear Permit issued by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). All successful applicants with a Washington EFL and EFP will be eligible for WA's modified gear grant and separate funding for related costs of participation. Fees are non-refundable and successful applicants with an Oregon Experimental Gear Permit in lieu of WA EFL and EFP will not be eligible for the above grant and separate funding for related costs of participation. Should a successful applicant chose to participate in the grant program and/or cost program, any moneys received may need to be reimbursed to WDFW should the applicant not participate in the fishery as required.

Season details will be discussed at North of Falcon during the Pacific Fishery Management Council's season setting processes in March and April and adopted by the Columbia River Compact.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO: Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife	
USPS Mailing address Commercial Licensing P.O. Box 43154 Olympia WA 98504	Phone: 360-902-2464 opt 4 TDD 360-902-2207 FAX: 360-902-2945
Fed-Ex or UPS use this Address: 1111 Washington St SE Olympia WA 98501	EMAIL: Commercial.sales@dfw.wa.gov

Please direct any questions to:

WDFW – Beth Deacy; Bethany.Deacy@dfw.wa.gov

ODFW – Jeff Whisler; Geoffrey.S.Whisler@odfw.oregon.gov

WDFW (Rev. 9/2023) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Application for Emerging Commercial Fishery License for the Year 2024		Department Use		
		License Number	Payment Receipt	
		License Type		
		ECF-CR		
	Resident	Non-Res		
	\$440.00	\$825.00		
Gear Type (choose one)		Species	License District	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach seine <input type="checkbox"/> Purse seine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pound net		SALMON	COLUMBIA RIVER	
Preferred Commercial Fishing Zones (choose all that apply; not a criterion for selection and actual commercial fishing zones to be fished will be determined at the time of season setting by fishery managers):				
<input type="checkbox"/> Zone 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Zone 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Zone 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Zone 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Zone 5				
Applicant				
Name:				
Street address:				
Mailing address:				
Phone number:				
e-mail:				
Residency (choose one)				
<input type="checkbox"/> I have been a resident of Washington for the previous 90 days and am not licensed as a resident in another state.				
<input type="checkbox"/> I am not a resident of Washington State.				
Qualifications (select all that apply)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant possesses a Columbia River salmon commercial permit/license. Number and state issued:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has landed salmon in Oregon or Washington under the license listed above within the most recent 5 calendar years.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has participated in a test fishery (WA) within the most recent 5 calendar years or has possessed and used an experimental gear permit (OR) using alternative commercial fishing gears				
<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least three years of commercial salmon fishing experience.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least one year of fishing experience (commercially or in a research/test fishery capacity) with purse seines, beach seines, or a pound net.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Be free of a commercial fishing or other related violation within the last 10 years.				

Emerging Commercial Fishery Implementation Plan as of September 20, 2023

Timing

Washington and Oregon are planning to offer this Emerging Commercial Fishery for the first time in the fall of 2024, and annually for several years after, to gather information on a variety of alternative commercial gears needed to inform the WA legislature on the commercial viability of those gears.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the qualifications in WAC 220-360-510 to apply for this fishery. Selected applicants will be chosen from a lottery taking place October 15, 2023. Alternates will be chosen at this time to fill spots in the event a selected applicant is no longer able to participate.

Gear

There are three gears eligible at this time for use in this fishery: pound nets, purse seines, and beach seines. Our initial pre-season modeling will include up to 3 fishers/permits/licenses for pound nets, and up to 3 fishers/permits/licenses for seines.

Funding

WDFW received one-time funding from the WA Legislature to use for gear modifications as a participation incentive in the first year of this fishery. All successful applicants with a Washington Emerging Fishery License (EFL) and an Experimental Fishery Permit (EFP) will be eligible for WA's modified gear grant (up to \$20,000 per fisher in fiscal year 2024) and separate funding for related costs of participation (up to \$5,000 per fisher in fiscal year 2025). Due to budgetary constraints, it is unclear what funding may be available for incentive programs in subsequent years of the fishery. Fees are non-refundable and successful applicants with an Oregon Experimental Gear Permit in lieu of a Washington EFL and EFP will not be eligible for the above grant and separate incentive for related costs of participation. Upon selection, WDFW staff will work with successful applicants on the details of accessing these funds.

Harvest Constraints

This fishery is part of a suite of fisheries managed by the states of Oregon and Washington within various harvest constraints. In January 2023, both states signed a letter stating that the Emerging Commercial Fishery would be managed using up to 2% of available non-treaty commercial ESA impacts for the most constraining stock, as detailed in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 635-500-6730 and 635-500-6735.

Season Planning

We now have a draft working alternative gear implementation model that we continue to refine based on advisory board input. We plan to use this model annually to help us determine the specifics of a fall Emerging Commercial Fishery in the month leading up to North of Falcon with a decision on the final pre-season structure at the conclusion of the North of Falcon/PFMC discussions in April 2024.

Regulations

The Designation of the Emerging Commercial Fishery and the WACs for applicant qualifications, license and permit conditions, season, area, and gear requirements, and allowable possession and sales are posted on our website (220-360-500 to 220-360-540: [Chapter 220-360 WAC](#):). Note, WAC 220-360-520 was recently modified via permanent rule-making to refine application timelines.

Contact Information

For any additional questions or concerns, please contact WDFW at the information below:

Beth Deacy

Columbia River Fisheries Sampling Coordinator

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

360-600-7069

Bethany.Deacy@dfw.wa.gov

Data Collection

WDFW is required by statute to deliver a report to the Washington State legislature on the status of the fishery and recommendations for whether and how to move forward with establishing a permanent fishery (RCW 77.70.180). To facilitate the preparation of this report, WDFW will conduct an extensive data collection effort. Observer coverage for all days fished is mandatory and may be supplemented with additional survey data. Data to be collected by our state observers and via surveys to inform commercial viability is likely to include:

Pound Nets

- Fishing start and end time.
- Released fish: species, mark status, adult/jack or length estimation, stock call (Chinook Tule/Bright).
- Kept fish (while fishing): species, mark status, adult/jack estimation.
 - Kept fish also sampled through commercial sampling procedures: species, mark status, fork length measurement, stock call (Chinook Tule/Bright), CWT presence/absence, PIT presence/absence, DNA fin clip (Chinook), scales (Chinook).
- Pinniped encounters.
- Ecology has requested we include kayak/recreational user numbers observed near the pound nets during operation.
- Weekly commercial landings summary.
- Vessel and business costs.

Seines (Drift and Purse)

- Location, net layout, start and end time, sort start and stop time.
- Net length, depth, and mesh size.
- Released fish: species, mark status, adult/jack or length estimation, released status (alive/dead).
- Kept fish (while fishing): species, mark status, adult/jack estimation.
 - Kept fish also sampled through commercial sampling procedures: species, mark status, fork length measurement, stock call (Chinook Tule/Bright), CWT presence/absence, PIT presence/absence, DNA fin clip (Chinook), scales (Chinook).
- Pinniped encounters.
- Weekly commercial landings summary.

Vessel and business costs.

Additional Resources

- [Columbia River alternative gear | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- [Columbia River Alternative Gear Advisory Board | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- WDFW's initial rule-making to designate the Emerging Commercial Fishery, detail applicant qualification, and describe terms of participation: [Columbia River non-treaty commercial fisheries | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- WDFW's recently completed rule-making that refines timelines for applicant selection and gear possession, and clarifies some terms of participation: [2023 Columbia River Emerging Commercial Fishery | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)