



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

*48 Devonshire Road ☐ Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 ☐ (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689*

September 29, 2015

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of commercial salmon gillnet fishery regulations in Grays Harbor during 2015.

Retention of sturgeon and steelhead is strictly prohibited. Encounters of sturgeon with tags of any sort should be reported. **DO NOT REMOVE** tags; carefully obtain and submit information from tags to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563.

During all commercial fishing for salmon in Grays Harbor:

- Commercial fishers **MUST**:
  - Have in their possession a WDFW-issued “fish Friendly” certification card.
  - Carry an on-board observer when requested by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to do so.
  - Report encounters of green sturgeon through the Quick Report system or to a dealer for reporting. Direct reporting by fishers shall include name of the fisher and vessel #, date, catch area, and number of green sturgeon encountered.
  
- Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish **MUST**:
  - Report purchases of salmon including all “take home” to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets. A copy of the “Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet” can be downloaded on our website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/>. Dealers should use the “buyer only” portion of the fish ticket to list the number of green sturgeon encountered with any landing and in the pounds/price columns label as ‘encountered’.

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to verify schedules and regulations on the WDFW hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before fishing.

This letter and other relevant information regarding this fishery are available on the WDFW website at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/netting\\_schedules.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/netting_schedules.html). For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

## **Fall Fishery** (openers occurring between October 1 and November 30):

### Gear restrictions:

- It is unlawful to utilize any object, except the vessel deploying the gear, to impede a gillnet or its attached line or float from drifting.
- The lead line must not rest on the bottom in such a manner as to prevent the net from drifting.
- It is unlawful to use a gillnet to fish for salmon if the lead line weighs more than two pounds per fathom of net as measure on the cork line.

### Area 2A and 2D:

- Maximum mesh size is 6 ½ inches.
- Nets may be no more than 55 meshes deep.

### Area 2C:

- Maximum mesh size is 9 inches.

### Mark selective fishery and recovery box requirements:

- Soak time is limited to 45 minutes during any set.
- Recovery boxes are **REQUIRED** and must be operating when gear is being retrieved and when a natural (unmarked) Chinook (in Areas 2A & 2D), natural (unmarked) Coho (in Area 2C), or steelhead is being held to recover.
- All natural (unmarked) Chinook (in Areas 2A & 2D), wild (unmarked) Coho (in Area 2C), and all steelhead **MUST** be placed in an operating recovery box and remain until they are not lethargic and not bleeding; ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook (in Areas 2A & 2D), wild (unmarked) Coho (in Area 2C), and ALL Steelhead are required to be released.

## **Atlantic Salmon**

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.