



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

April 20, 2016

To All Licensed Washington Troll Fishers:

On Thursday, April 14, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) adopted final ocean salmon fishery management recommendations for 2016. The adopted non-treaty troll fishery regulations for the area north of Cape Falcon will operate under the following regulations:

MAY - JUNE FISHERY

Washington Catch Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 from Cape Falcon, Oregon north to the United States - Canada border will be open for a Chinook directed, all-salmon-except-coho fishery beginning May 1. The fishery will be open for the following periods: May 1-3, May 6-10, May 13-17, May 20-24, May 27-31, June 3-5, June 10-16, and June 24-30. The fishery will close the earliest of June 30 or attainment of the quota of 14,000 Chinook, no more than 4,600 of which may be caught in the area between the United States-Canada border and the Queets River and no more than 4,600 of which may be caught in the area between Leadbetter Point and Cape Falcon. All salmon **except coho** are legal. There is a landing and possession limit of **40** Chinook per vessel per open period. Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones are closed. (See definitions below.) **Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. Vessels in possession of salmon north of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) by phone at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Wendy.Beehley@dfw.wa.gov with Area fished, total Chinook and halibut catch aboard, and destination. Vessels in possession of salmon south of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Wendy.Beehley@dfw.wa.gov with Area fished, total Chinook and halibut catch aboard, and destination. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing north of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and north of Leadbetter Point; vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing south of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point except Oregon permitted vessels may land their fish in Garibaldi, Oregon.** The minimum size limit for Chinook is 28 inches. Gear is restricted to all legal troll gear with single point, single shank barbless hooks only. **An in-season conference call will occur when it is projected that 75% of the Chinook quota in the area north of the Queets River or 75% of the Chinook quota in the area between Leadbetter Point and Cape Falcon or 75% of the overall Chinook quota has been landed to consider modifying the open period and adding landing and possession limits.**

JULY 8 - AUGUST 23 FISHERY

Washington Catch Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 from Cape Falcon, Oregon north to the United States - Canada border will be open for a Chinook directed, **all-salmon-except-coho** fishery beginning July 8. The fishery will be open for the following periods: July 8-14, July 22-28, August 1-7, and August 15-23 with a landing and possession limit for each open period of **50** Chinook per vessel per open period. The fishery will be open until reaching the earliest of August 23 or the quota of 21,000 Chinook (no more than 8,300 of which may be caught in the area between the United States-Canada border and the Queets River). **No coho retention.** No chum retention north of Cape Alava during August. Gear is restricted to all legal troll gear with single point, single shank barbless hooks only. Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery, and Columbia Control Zones are closed. **Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. Vessels in possession of salmon north of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Wendy.Beeghley@dfw.wa.gov with Area fished, total Chinook, coho, and halibut catch aboard, and destination. Vessels in possession of salmon south of the Queets River may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Wendy.Beeghley@dfw.wa.gov with Area fished, total Chinook, coho, and halibut catch aboard, and destination. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing north of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and north of Leadbetter Point; vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing south of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point except Oregon permitted vessels may land their fish in Garibaldi, Oregon.** The minimum size limit for Chinook is 28 inches. Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be instituted or adjusted in-season.

The Washington State Quick Reporting System will be in effect throughout the 2016 commercial troll fishery. All wholesale dealers or trollers retailing their fish will be required to report their landing by 10:00 a.m. the day following delivery. Reports can be made by telephoning 1-866-791-1279 or faxing to (360) 902-2949 and reporting the fish ticket number, the gear, the date of landing, **the Area fished**, the number of days fished, the number of fish by species and the total weight by species including halibut.

Conservation Area and Control Zone Definitions

Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area - The area in Washington Marine Catch Area 3 from 48°00.00' N latitude; 125°14.00' W longitude to 48°02.00' N latitude; 125°14.00' W longitude to 48°02.00' N latitude; 125°16.50' W longitude to 48°00.00' N latitude; 125°16.50' W longitude and connecting back to 48°00.00' N latitude; 125°14.00' W longitude.

Cape Flattery Control Zone - The area from Cape Flattery (48°23'00" N. latitude) to the northern boundary of the United States Economic Exclusion Zone (U.S. EEZ); and the area from Cape Flattery south to 48°10'00" N. latitude and east of 125°05'00" W. longitude.

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Grays Harbor Control Zone – The area defined by a line drawn from the Westport Lighthouse (46°53.18' N latitude; 124°07.01' W longitude) to Buoy #2 (46°52.42' N latitude; 124°12.42' W longitude) to Buoy #3 (46°55.00' N latitude; 124°14.48' W longitude) to the Grays Harbor north jetty (46°36.00' N latitude; 124°10.51' W longitude).

Columbia Control Zone - An area at the Columbia River mouth, bounded on the west by a line running northeast/southwest between the red lighted Buoy #4 (46°13'35" N. latitude, 124°06'50" W. longitude) and the green lighted Buoy #7 (46°15'09" N. latitude, 124°06'16" W. longitude); on the east, by the Buoy #10 line which bears north/south at 357° true from the south jetty at 46°14'00" N. latitude, 124°03'07" W. longitude to its intersection with the north jetty; on the north, by a line running northeast/southwest between the green lighted Buoy #7 to the tip of the north jetty (46°15'48" N. latitude, 124°05'20" W. longitude) and then along the north jetty to the point of intersection with the Buoy #10 line; and, on the south, by a line running northeast/southwest between the red lighted Buoy #4 and tip of the south jetty (46°14'03" N. latitude, 124°04'05" W. longitude), and then along the south jetty to the point of intersection with the Buoy #10 line.

HALIBUT AND GROUND FISH REGULATIONS IN THE 2016 SALMON TROLL FISHERY

The operator of a vessel that has been issued an incidental halibut harvest license may retain Pacific halibut caught incidentally in Catch Area 2A during authorized periods while trolling for salmon. The following landing restrictions govern the incidental harvest: License holders may land no more than one halibut per each three Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement. No more than 20 halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must meet the minimum size limit of 32 inches total length with head on. Incidental halibut harvest is authorized from May 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and from April 1 through April 30, 2017 only during the May and June troll season as long as fish remain on the commercial quota and if announced on the National Marine Fisheries Service hotline at 1-800-662-9825. In-season action may be taken to avoid exceeding the commercial halibut allocation.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council adopts regulations to address conservation concerns for a number of depressed groundfish stocks and to comply with stock rebuilding plans mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. These regulations affect all coastal commercial and recreational fisheries. Regulatory rockfish groupings (nearshore, shelf and slope) require identification and sorting of rockfish in the catch. Additionally, since limits are based upon 1- or 2-month cumulative periods, fishers need to keep track of their catch by calendar month in order to avoid exceeding limits. Limits apply to fixed calendar months (2-month limit periods are May-June, July-August, September-October). Rockfish must be recorded by trip limit category on the fish ticket. North of 40°10' N. latitude, salmon troll vessels may retain up to one pound of yellowtail rockfish for every two pounds of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 pounds per month. This limit is within the 200 lb. per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. The 200 pounds per month cumulative limit includes fish caught both within and outside of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

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In addition to rockfish, salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 15 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. This limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed and is not "CLOSED." The number of lingcod must be recorded on the fish ticket together with total weight.

The RCA includes all areas inside the 100 fathom curve off Washington and between 30 fathoms and 100 fathoms off Oregon and California, for more detail check the website listed below. Only yellowtail rockfish and halibut may be retained while fishing inside the 100-fathom curve or RCA. If all fishing during the trip takes place outside of the RCA, then open access groundfish limits for all species apply. Vessels fishing pursuant to the harvest guidelines, quotas, and other management measures governing open access groundfish are required to activate and use a vessel monitoring system (VMS). Rules pertaining to the VMS requirement can be found at 50 CFR Part 660. See also 72 FR 69162 (December 7, 2007) and a correction at 73 FR 4759 (January 28, 2008). Complete groundfish regulations can be viewed on the web at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Goundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm>.

Commercial troll fisheries are managed on a quota. Open days, landing and possession limits, or any other regulation could change at any time. **Always contact the fisheries hotline (1-360-902-2500) prior to going fishing.**

Sincerely,

James Unsworth, Ph.D.

Director