

Puget Sound Commercial Fisheries Hotline

Message **Number 3**,

Friday, August 19, 2011 at 12:30 PM.

The 2011 Puget Sound Commercial Salmon Regulation pamphlet may now be downloaded from our web site:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/>

Copies were distributed by mail to licensed fishers on Friday, August 5.

Fishers are reminded that a Fish Friendly certification card will be required to participate in any Area 7 or 7A commercial salmon fisheries.

Area 7 and 7A sockeye fisheries are not posted on this hotline. Please call the National Marine Fisheries Hotline: 1-(800)-662-9825.

In addition to Fish Friendly cards, please be aware of specific gear requirements during Area 7 and 7A sockeye openings:

- Gillnets require "Seabird Strips" to participate.
- Purse Seines are required to brail and have an operational recovery box aboard to participate.
- Reef nets are required to have a Puget Sound Reef Net Logbook aboard to retain any marked Chinook.

For fishers who possess a Direct Retail Endorsement please remember per Washington Administrative Code (or WAC) 220-47-001 that all Puget Sound commercial salmon fisheries are designated as "Quick Reporting Required" and you must comply with provisions of WAC 220-69-240 subsection 12.

Gillnet fishers are reminded that buoy requirements, as listed on page 15 of the pamphlet, are in effect for 300 fathom drift gill nets for all openings.

**For the period of August 21<sup>th</sup> – August 27<sup>th</sup> all non Fraser Panel controlled areas are currently closed except as follow:**

**Area 7B and 7C Bellingham Bay and Samish Bay** will be open to gill nets using 7-inch minimum mesh size during the following dates and times:

- 7 PM Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> to 8 AM Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 7 PM Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 8 AM Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 7 PM Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 8 AM Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 7 PM Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to 8 AM Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Area 7B and 7C Bellingham Bay and Samish Bay** will be open to purse seines with a 5-inch strip from 6 AM to 8 PM on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Brailing and recovery box are required and all coho must be released.

**Area 8 Skagit Bay** will be open to gill nets using 5-inch minimum 5 ½ inch maximum mesh size, 60 meshes deep, during the following dates and times:

- 5 AM to 11 PM Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 5 AM to 11 PM Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Area 8 Skagit Bay** will be open to purse seines with a 5-inch strip during the following dates and times:

- 6 AM to 8 PM Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 6 AM to 8 PM Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Release Chinook, coho, sockeye and chum.

**Area 8A Port Susan and Port Gardner, waters north of line from Mukilteo Ferry Dock to Clinton Ferry Dock only**, will be open to gill nets using 5-inch minimum 5 ½ inch maximum mesh size, during the following dates and times:

- 5 AM to 11 PM Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 5 AM to 11 PM Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Area 8A Port Susan and Port Gardner, waters north of line from Mukilteo Ferry Dock to Clinton Ferry Dock only**, will be open to purse seines with a 5-inch strip, during the following dates and times:

- 6 AM to 8 PM Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 6 AM to 8 PM Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Release Chinook, coho, sockeye and chum.

**Area 9A Port Gamble Bay** will be open to skiff gill nets limited to 600 feet in length and 60 meshes in depth using 5-inch minimum mesh size from 7 AM Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> continuously through 7 PM Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. All Chinook and chum salmon must be released by cutting the meshes ensnaring the fish.

**Area 10 Seattle** will be open to gill net vessels ST JAMES and WN0691RU using 4 ½ inch minimum 5 ½ inch maximum mesh, from 5 AM to 11 PM on the following dates:

- Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Soak times are limited to 45 minutes from first web in to last web out. A recovery box is required and must be operating at all times to participate. All non-pink salmonids must be released and if injured or lethargic, be placed in the recovery box for release after they have recovered. A Department observer is required on board to participate.

**Area 10 Seattle** will be open to purse seine vessels SOUND STAR, HARBOR GEM, NEW OREGON, and ST ZITA, with a 5-inch strip, from 6 AM to 8 PM on the following dates:

- Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Brailing or rolling wedge and recovery boxes are required and must be operating at all times to participate. All non-pink salmonids must be released and if injured or lethargic, be placed in the recovery box for release after they have recovered. A Department observer is required on board to participate.

**Area 12A Quilcene Bay** will be open to beach seines not to exceed 600 feet in length or 100 meshes in depth, from 7 AM to 7 PM daily Monday, August 22<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Release all salmon except coho.

Vessel operators should be aware that new Federal regulations were recently enacted to protect Killer Whales. These new rules prohibit vessels from approaching any killer whale closer than 200 yards and forbid vessels from intercepting a whale or positioning the vessel in its path. Exemptions to the rules apply to treaty Indian and non-treaty commercial fishing vessels lawfully engaged in actively setting, retrieving, or closely tending fishing gear or transferring catch. The regulations **DO** apply to all fishing vessels transiting to or from fishing areas. WDFW also encourages all vessel operators to "GO SLOW" in the vicinity of killer whales, and in areas frequented by the whales.

If you suspect an error in this message, or if you have questions please contact Steve Thiesfeld at (360) 902-2715. Thank you for calling the WDFW hotline for Puget Sound commercial fishing information.

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