



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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April 19, 2018

To All Licensed Washington Troll Fishers:

On Tuesday, April 10, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) adopted final ocean salmon fishery management recommendations for 2018. 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 May 1-June 30 seven days per week. The fishery will close the earlier of June 30 or attainment of the quota of 16,500 chinook, no more than 5,200 of which may be caught in the area between the U.S.-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.

Landing and possession limits **per vessel per landing week** (Thursday through Wednesday) are in place:

- U.S.-Canada border to the Queets River: **50** chinook; or
- Queets River to Leadbetter Point: **100** chinook; or
- Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon, Oregon: **50** chinook

Landing and possession limits may be modified in-season.

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.Beeghley@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.Beeghley@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 **60%** of the overall chinook quota or **60%** of the any sub-area chinook quota has been landed to consider modifying the open period or landing and possession limits.

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 19 FISHERY

Washington Catch Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 from Cape Falcon, Oregon north to the United States - Canada border will be open for an all salmon species fishery beginning July 1. The fishery will be open seven days per week. The fishery will close the earlier of September 19 or the quota of 11,000 chinook or 5,600 coho. No more than 4,600 chinook may be caught in the area between the U.S.-Canada border and the Queets River, and no more than 1,300 chinook may be caught in the area between Leadbetter Point and Cape Falcon.

Chinook and coho landing and possession limits **per vessel per landing week** (Thursday through Wednesday) are in place:

- U.S.-Canada border to the Queets River: **50** chinook and **10** coho; or
- Queets River to Leadbetter Point: **10** coho (no limit on chinook); or
- Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon, Oregon: **50** chinook and **10** coho

Landing and possession limits may be modified prior to or after the July 1 start date.

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. The Grays Harbor Control Zone is closed beginning August 13. **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.Beehley@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.Beehley@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; the minimum size limit for coho is 16 inches. Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be instituted or adjusted in-season. An in-season conference call will occur when it is projected that **60%** of the chinook quota in the area north of the Queets River or **60%** of the overall chinook quota has been landed to consider modifying the open period and adding or modifying landing and possession limits.

The Washington State Quick Reporting System will be in effect throughout the 2018 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 calling **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.

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 2018 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 two chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement. No more than 25 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, 2018, through December 31, 2018, and from April 1 through April 30, 2019, only during the 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 one or two-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 (two-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 pound 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).

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.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish/index.html>.

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,



Joe Stohr
Director