



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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

July 17, 2019

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of commercial salmon fishery regulations in Willapa Bay during 2019.

Please be aware that not all commercial fishing areas are open during each opener and that the area around the North River (see summary of schedule for a specific description of closed area) in area 2T is CLOSED to fishing through September 30, 2019.

Retention of all sturgeon and all 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: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563.

During all commercial fishing for salmon in Willapa Bay:

- 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’.
 - Include the Port Code for the location of delivery is required on fish receiving tickets (See WAC 220-352-040 and additional letter included with this mailing).

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. You may obtain a copy of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for this fishery at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/2019>.

This letter and other relevant information regarding this fishery are available on the WDFW website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/gillnet#information>. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-1213 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

Fall Fishery (openers occurring between September 3 and November 29, 2019):

Gear restrictions:

- Areas 2M, and 2N – Tangle net gear (maximum mesh size is 4 ¼ inches) September 3 through September 13, 2019. Maximum mesh size is 6 1/2 inches September 16 through October 10, 2019.
- Area 2T and 2U– Maximum mesh size is 6 1/2 inches is scheduled for the entire season.
- Maximum mesh size is 6 ½ inches for all areas (2M, 2N, 2R, 2T, and 2U) November 4 through November 29, 2019.
- **Notice of Intent to fish Willapa Bay is REQUIRED by 5 p.m. August 23, 2019.**

Area restrictions:

- During the fall season, no openers are scheduled in Areas 2U and 2T until 6:00 a.m. September 16, 2019.
- Area 2T, north of a line from Toke Point channel marker 3 easterly through Willapa Harbor channel marker 13 (green), then northeasterly to the power transmission pole located at 46°43.1907'N; 123°50.83134'W), is **CLOSED** to fishing September 16 through September 30, 2019.

Mark selective fishery and recovery box requirements:

- From 12:01 a.m. September 3 through 11:59 p.m. November 29, 2019.
 - o Soak time is limited to 45 minutes during any set.
 - o Recovery boxes are **REQUIRED** and must be operating when gear is being retrieved and when a wild (unmarked) Chinook, steelhead, or Chum are being held to recover.
 - o **ALL** wild (unmarked) Chinook and **ALL** steelhead **MUST** be placed in an operating recovery box and remain until they are not lethargic and not bleeding from September 3 through November 29, 2019.
 - o **ALL** wild (unmarked) Chinook and **ALL** steelhead are required to be released September 3 through November 29, 2019.
 - o Chum are required to be released beginning November 4 through November 29, 2019 and are required to be placed in an operating recovery box and remain until they are not lethargic and not bleeding.

Atlantic Salmon

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife if Atlantic salmon are 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.