



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Coastal Region • Region 6 • 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563-9618  
Telephone: (360) 249-4628 • Fax: (360) 249-1229

August 12, 2019

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of commercial salmon gillnet fishery regulations in Grays Harbor during 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 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.
  - Provide notice of intent to participate by contacting Quick Reporting by phone, fax or email prior to 12:00 p.m. on October 04, 2019 for openings in Areas 2A, 2C, or 2D.
  
- 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. You may obtain a copy of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for this fishery at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/2019#19-15-054>.

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 Mike Scharpf at (360) 249-1205 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

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

Gear restrictions:

- Areas 2A and 2D – Maximum mesh size is 6 1/2 inches
- Area 2C – Maximum mesh size is 9 inches.

Mark selective fishery and recovery box requirements:

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