

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Region 5
2020 North of Falcon
Tributary Salmon and Steelhead Proposals

Lower Tributary Reach Steelhead Regulations

Modify steelhead fishing and retention rules in the lowest reaches of some rivers to provide conservation for steelhead stocks forecast to return to the Columbia Basin in low abundances.

1. Tributaries and reaches under consideration below Bonneville Dam:
 - a. Cowlitz – downstream of Lexington Drive/Sparks Road bridge
 - b. Kalama River – downstream of the railroad bridge below I-5
 - c. Lewis River – waters downstream of confluence with the East Fork

Conservation strategies:

- i. Night closure for salmon and steelhead from July 1 through September 30
 - ii. Daily limit of 1 hatchery steelhead during July and September
 - iii. Steelhead fishing closure during August

2. Tributaries and reaches under consideration above Bonneville Dam
 - a. Wind River – waters downstream of Shipherd Falls, including area outside of the Highway 14 bridge
 - b. Drano Lake
 - c. White Salmon River – downstream of the county road bridge
 - d. Klickitat River – waters downstream of Fisher Hill Bridge

Conservation strategies:

- i. Night closure for salmon and steelhead from July 1 through October 31
- ii. Steelhead fishing closure from July 1 through October 31

Grays River

1. Open retention of hatchery coho in the mainstem and West Fork Grays rivers.
Justification: The hatchery coho program on the Grays River has been transitioned to the Elochoman River and broodstock collection is no longer occurring at Grays River Hatchery. Opening retention of hatchery coho will provide anglers with opportunity to harvest out of basin salmon and potentially reduce interactions between hatchery and natural origin fish in spawning areas.

2. Open hatchery Salmon and gamefish retention from August 1 through the end of December between the Highway 4 bridge and mouth of the South Fork.
Justification: Provides concurrency in rules between adjacent stream reaches.

Elochoman River

1. Open hatchery coho retention above the Beaver Creek Road Bridge with a 1 or 2 adult daily limit, or maintain current closure and monitor hatchery returns in-season.

Justification: Opening coho retention in this area would provide anglers with fishing opportunity, while also allowing WDFW to achieve broodstock goals and continue evaluating harvest opportunity in lower river areas.

2. Modify hatchery salmon harvest rules to include ventral fin mark retention language.

Justification: Provides additional opportunity for anglers to harvest Chinook straying from out of basin releases.

Lower Cowlitz River

1. Salmon: modify adult salmon daily limit to 2 hatchery coho; release all other adult salmon.

Justification: The fall Chinook escapement goal has not been met during the last two years. Closing Chinook retention and implementing a conservative Coho limit should allow for enough escapement to achieve hatchery broodstock collection goals. This will also allow for upriver transport to the Tilton and Upper Basin for reintroduction and provide opportunity for hatchery-origin Coho harvest in both upper basins.

Tilton River

1. Modify closed waters definition to read: within posted “CLOSED WATERS” signs around the adult fish release sites.

Justification: Addition of a new adult salmonid release site on Bremer Road.

Toutle/Green Rivers

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to 1 hatchery Chinook or hatchery coho.

Justification: This rule provides a conservative management approach that balances angling opportunity with hatchery broodstock needs. If necessary, timely in-season management can be accomplished through coordination with weir and hatchery staff.

Lewis River

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to 2 Chinook or hatchery Coho through mid-October, then implement coho closure beginning in mid-October, or Full season coho closure.

Justification: Escapement forecast is appropriate to allow harvest opportunity for early coho and still achieve hatchery escapement goals and US-v-Oregon obligations in addition to allowing coho transport to the upper Lewis Basin for reintroduction. Permanent rules related to Chinook retention would remain unchanged.

Kalama River

1. Modify adult coho daily limit to 2 hatchery fish, or Maintain current rule and manage in season.

Justification: Aligns fishery rules with preseason forecasts, expected sport harvest, and hatchery broodstock needs.

Camas Slough

1. Align Salmon seasons and rules with those for adjacent waters of the mainstem Columbia River. Defined area of Camas Slough and the Washougal River mouth would remain the same.

Justification: Provides consistency with adjacent waters, rule simplification, and clarifies catch reporting requirements.

Washougal River

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to 1 hatchery Chinook or hatchery coho from August 1 to December 31.

Justification: This rule provides a conservative management approach that balances angling opportunity with hatchery broodstock needs. If necessary, timely in-season management can be accomplished through coordination with weir and hatchery staff.

Wind River

1. Restore rule that: between August 1 and October 31, from the mouth to the Highway 14 bridge, the daily catch limit and retention regulations for hatchery and wild fish follows the most liberal regulation of the mainstem Columbia or Wind rivers, when both areas are open concurrently for Salmon.

Justification: Provides additional angling opportunity.

Klickitat River

1. Standardize salmon daily limit to 6 fish, 2 adults in upper and lower river areas.

Justification: Rule simplification; aligns adult salmon limits in upper and lower river areas.