North of Falcon Process

Each year state, federal and tribal fishery managers gather to plan the Northwest’s recreational and commercial salmon fisheries. This salmon season-setting process is known as North of Falcon (NOF). NOF refers to northern Oregon’s Cape Falcon, the southern border of active management for Washington salmon stocks. Salmon migrate and are intercepted by fisheries from California up to Alaska. The NOF process coincides with meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the federal authority responsible for setting ocean salmon seasons 3 to 200 miles off the Pacific coast. NOF also functions in tandem with the Pacific Salmon Commission’s Pacific Salmon Treaty agreements, which guide the conservation and management of salmon fisheries for the U.S. and Canada.

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**Public meetings**

- Coast Proposals
- Columbia River Proposals
- Puget Sound Proposals

**Dates to come in 2021**

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**March**

- **WDFW**
  - Develops salmon run forecasts.

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**February-March**

- **WDFW & Tribal Governments**
  - Releases initial forecasts for Columbia River, Puget Sound, and Washington Coast.

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**March**

- **WDFW**
  - Receives comments and feedback from public on potential fishing seasons based on pre-season forecasts.

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**March**

- **Pacific Fishery Management Council**
  - WDFW works with state, tribal and federal fisheries managers and other representatives to develop preliminary options for ocean fisheries based on annual abundance forecasts.

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**March-April**

- **WDFW & Tribal Governments**
  - Government to government negotiations

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**April**

- **Pacific Fishery Management Council**
  - Adopts final recommended regulations for ocean fisheries.

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**May**

- **National Marine Fisheries Service's approval**
  - Co-managers submit the list of agreed upon fisheries to the National Marine Fisheries Service for environmental review and approval.

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**June**

- **WDFW**
  - Hears public comments under the Administrative Procedure Act process. WDFW director adopts state fishing regulations.

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**December**

- **Fish & Wildlife Commission**
  - Approves and adopts an update to North of Falcon Policy.

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**Ongoing**

- **Seasons implemented**
- **Monitoring**
- **Seasons modified based on actual return**

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**Tribal Governments**