

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Region 5 Tributary Salmon and Steelhead Proposals

North of Falcon, Meeting 2: April 1, 2021

Lower Tributary Reach Steelhead Regulations

Maintain 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 – 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

Elochoman River

1. Modify the salmon daily limit and season to allow harvest of hatchery coho salmon below the Beaver Creek Road Bridge. Open salmon fishing from 200 feet above the weir to the Elochoman Hatchery bridge during September and October.

- **Rule-** from the mouth to the West Fork, Salmon: from the Saturday before Memorial Day through March 15: Daily limit 6, up to 2 adults may be retained; release all salmon other than hatchery coho and Chinook with an adipose and/or ventral clip with a healed scar. The ‘Closed Waters’ area around the weir would remain unchanged (while installed).
- *Justification:* Provides anglers with the opportunity to harvest salmon returning from recently established hatchery releases, while also allowing WDFW to establish baseline harvest data in these expanded reaches

Lower Cowlitz River

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to allow increased harvest of hatchery coho salmon.

- **Rule:** From the mouth up to the posted markers below Barrier Dam. August 1 to December 31. Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 3 hatchery adult coho salmon. Release all salmon other than hatchery coho.

- *Justification:* Aligns fishery rules with preseason forecasts, expected harvest and hatchery broodstock needs. The hatchery fall Chinook escapement goal has not been met during four of the last five years, resulting in below goal hatchery releases. Restricting Chinook retention and allowing an increased coho limit is anticipated to achieve hatchery broodstock collection goals (for both Chinook and coho), provide quality hatchery coho harvest opportunity in the lower Cowlitz, allow for upriver transport of coho to the Tilton and Upper Cowlitz Basin for reintroduction and harvest opportunity in both upper basins. There are no proposed harvest changes to current regulations for the Tilton or Upper Cowlitz Basins.

Toutle/N.F. Toutle/Green Rivers

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to allow increased harvest of hatchery coho salmon.
 - **Rule:** August 1 to November 30. Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 3 hatchery adult salmon, of which up to 1 may be a Chinook. Release all salmon other than hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho.
 - *Justification:* Aligns fishery rules with preseason forecasts, expected harvest and hatchery broodstock needs. The ‘Closed Waters’ area around the weir would remain unchanged (while installed).

Lewis River

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to allow increased harvest of hatchery coho salmon.
 - **Rule:** August 1 to December 31. Daily limit 6; up to 3 adult salmon may be retained of which 2 may be Chinook.
 - *Justification:* Aligns fishery rules with preseason forecasts, expected sport harvest, hatchery broodstock needs, US-v-Oregon obligations and coho transport needs to the upper Lewis Basin for reintroduction. Permanent rules related to Chinook retention and closed areas would remain unchanged (i.e. Chinook: August through September, hatchery only; October through December, any Chinook; November 1 to December 15, closed between Colvin Ck. and powerlines below Merwin Dam).

Kalama River

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to allow increased harvest of hatchery coho salmon.
 - **Rule:** from the mouth to 1,000 feet below the fishway at Kalama Falls hatchery. Salmon: August 1 to December 31. Daily limit 6; up to 3 adult salmon may be retained. Release all salmon other than hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho.
 - *Justification:* Aligns fishery rules with preseason forecasts, expected sport harvest, and hatchery broodstock needs. The ‘Closed Waters’ area around the weir would remain unchanged (while installed).

Washougal River

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to allow increased harvest of hatchery coho salmon.
 - **Rule:** August 1 to December 31. Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 3 adult salmon may be retained, of which up to 1 may be a Chinook. Release all salmon other than hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho.

- *Justification:* Aligns fishery rules with preseason forecasts, expected sport harvest, and hatchery broodstock needs. The ‘Closed Waters’ area around the weir would remain unchanged (while installed).

Drano Lake

1. Modify adult salmon daily limit to allow harvest of up to 2 salmon, of which 1 may be a Chinook.
 - **Rule:**
 - August 1 through October 31. Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 2 adult salmon may be retained, of which no more than 1 may be a Chinook. Steelhead closed.
 - November 1 through December 31. Salmon and steelhead: Daily limit 6; up to 2 adults may be retained, of which no more than 1 adult Chinook and 1 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
 - *Justification:* Provides a modest increase in harvest opportunity for stray coho and a conservative Chinook limit which is anticipated to achieve broodstock collection goals at Little White Salmon National Fish hatchery.
2. Maintain current daily limits, monitor adult returns, and manage fishery in-season.
 - **Rule:**
 - August 1 through October 31 Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 1 adult salmon may be retained.
 - November 1 through December 31. Salmon and steelhead: daily limit 6; up to 1 adult salmon or 1 hatchery steelhead may be retained.