

2021 North of Falcon

NOF # 1 Ocean Options

March 16, 2021



WELCOME – THANKS FOR JOINING US!

ZOOM MEET/ CALL LOGISTICS / GROUND RULES

- You can turn your camera on and mute or unmute yourself through the control panel at the bottom of your screen.
- We will keep folks muted during the beginning of our program, then will unmute folks when we open it up for questions and feedback. Callers can unmute yourself by pressing *6 on your phone.
- We ask that you “raise their hand” to ask a question which you can access through the control panel at the bottom of the screen. You can also raise your hand by hovering over your face or name on the list of participants. Callers can raise their hand by dialing *9.
- Be respectful of others
 - Mute phone or line
 - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations
 - No personal attacks, insults or threats
 - Listen
 - Speak and act professional – *no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity*
 - Allow for a balance of speaking time – *limit length and number of times to speak on each topic*
- If you have any technical issues during the call, use the chat button and we will help you through those.
Please do not use the chat for questions or comments on the presentation, we will take those live.



Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- COVID-19 update and NOF process for 2021
- What is North of Falcon/Management Framework
- North Of Falcon process overview
- Forecast recap/Management objectives/Stocks of concern for 2021
- PFMC - Non-treaty ocean options
- Preliminary modeling results
- Challenges for 2021
- Remaining meeting schedule



Covid and 2021 NOF process

- Primary concern is for the health and safety of our employees and constituents.
- No in-person public meetings were scheduled this year. All meetings are occurring via virtual meetings and other digital formats that will ensure processes continue and information is disseminated.
- The final PFMC meeting scheduled for early April will be by digital only format. Specific information can be found at <https://www.pcouncil.org>
- Check the WDFW often for all related materials, recordings of meetings, public comment sections.
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon>

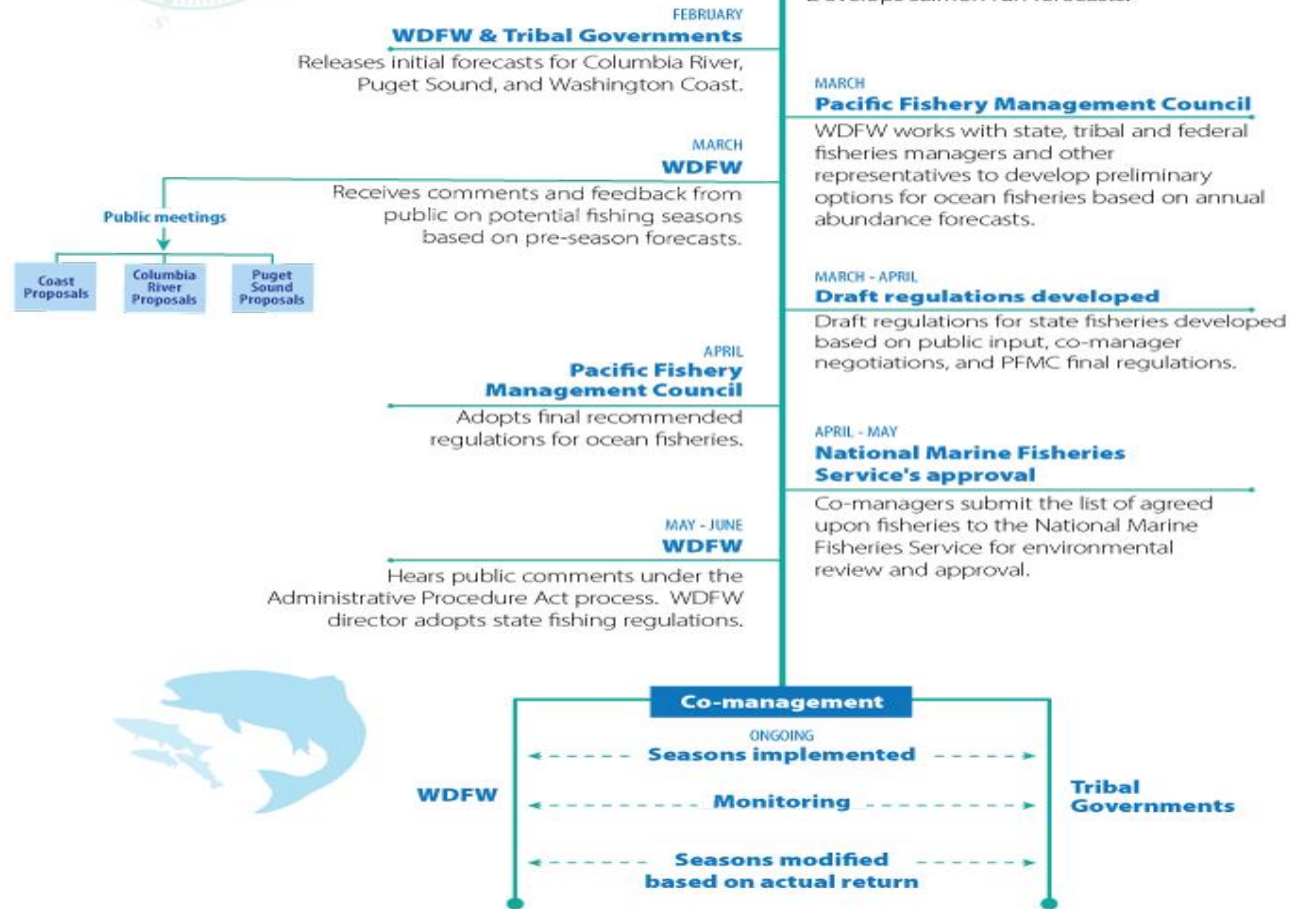


What is North of Falcon?

- North of Falcon is the annual, cooperative process to set salmon seasons in Washington waters.
- The name refers to waters north of Oregon's Cape Falcon, which marks the southern border of Washington's management of salmon stocks.
- One component of a larger salmon season-setting process that also involves the state, tribal governments, federal regulators, other U.S. states, and Canada.



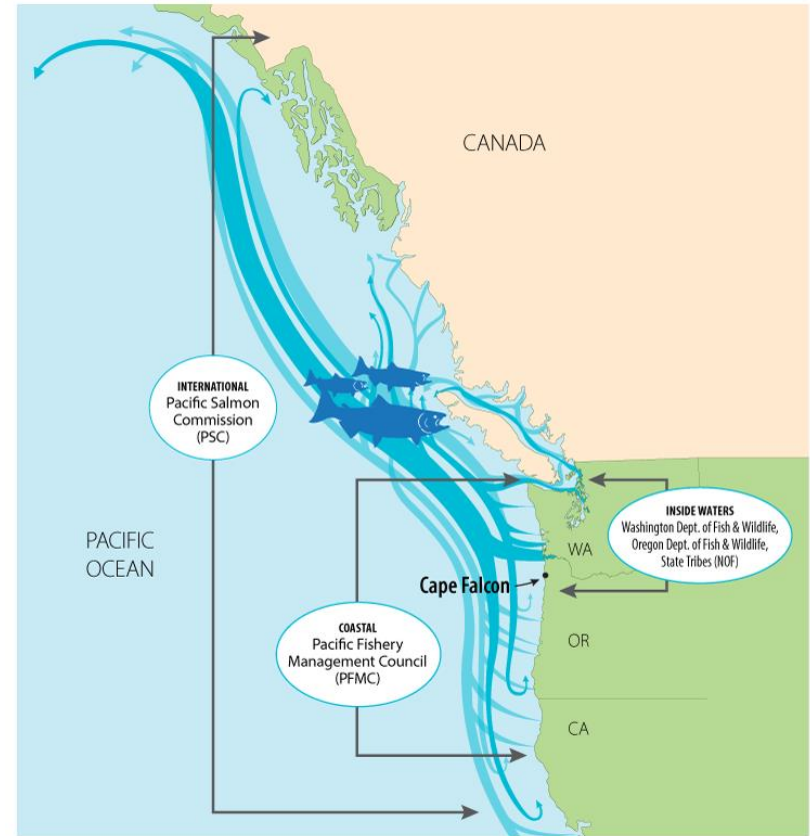
North of Falcon timeline



What guides North of Falcon?

Fishery managers must weigh many factors when developing salmon seasons, including:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) constraints
- Commission policy
- Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations
- Tribal co-management: Washington's treaty tribes manage their own fisheries, sharing data and splitting harvest with the state
- Extensive monitoring and evaluation of fisheries statewide



North of Falcon Process

1. FORECAST THE ABUNDANCE OF EACH STOCK.

2. DETERMINE IF THERE IS A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS.

3. PROPOSE FISHERIES.

4. MODEL FISHERIES TO DETERMINE WHICH STOCKS ARE OF CONSERVATION CONCERN, CONSTRAINING FISHERIES.

5. NEGOTIATE WITH TRIBES AND OTHER STATES FOR FAIR SHARING OF CATCH AND IMPACTS ON STOCKS THAT ARE CONSTRAINING.

6. FINAL AGREED-TO STATE AND TRIBAL SALMON FISHERIES (OCEAN, PUGET SOUND) ARE DESCRIBED IN THE "LIST OF AGREED FISHERIES" DOCUMENT.



Forecast Recap for 2021

Puget Sound Chinook:

- Natural stocks down 20% and Hatchery stocks down 2% from recent 10 yr avg

Coastal Chinook:

- Natural Stocks up 9% and Hatchery stocks up 8% from recent 10yr avg

Columbia River Chinook:

- Lower expected returns for Spring and Summer stocks
- Lower river Hatchery stocks down 15% from recent 10 yr avg

Puget Sound Coho:

- Natural stocks down 15% and Hatchery stocks up 35% from 10 yr avg

Coastal Coho:

- Natural Stocks down 43% and Hatchery stocks down 10% from 10yr avg

Columbia River Coho:

- Very good returns forecasted for 2021 - ~1.5 million.



Ocean/Columbia River Management Objectives

Key Stock	Management Criteria (ER or esc)
Columbia Lower River Tules (Chinook)	38% Total ER
Lower Columbia River Natural (Coho)	30% Total ER
Grays Harbor Natural Coho	35,400 esc
Queets Natural Coho	5,800 esc
Hoh River Natural Coho	2,000 esc
Quillayute River Fall Natural Coho	6,300 esc
Oregon Coastal Natural Coho	15% Total ER
Interior Fraser River (Thompson) Coho (Canada)	10% SUS ER



Chinook Management Objectives PS

Management Unit	NMFS Guidance/Co-Manager Proposal
Nooksack Spring	10.5% SUS ER
Skagit Summer/Fall	17% SUS ER
Skagit Spring-run	10.3% SUS ER
Stillaguamish River	22% Total / 8% UM; 12% M SUS max
Snohomish River	19% Total / 8% SUS ER
Lake Washington	13% PT SUS
Green River	13% PT SUS
White River Spring-run	22% SUS
Puyallup	13% PT SUS
Nisqually	47% Total
Skokomish fall-run	50% total
Mid Hood Canal	TBD PT SUS
Dungeness	10% SUS
Elwha	10% SUS



Coho Management Objectives

Puget Sound

Puget Sound Wild Management Units	2021 Modeled Escapement (High Opt-b)	2021 Assigned FMP Status	Total ER Ceiling
Strait of Juan de Fuca	6,040	Critical	10% SUS
Hood Canal	16,544	Low	45%
Skagit	40,350	Low	35%
Stillaguamish	19,716	Normal	50%
Snohomish	47,113	Low	40%
Thompson (Fraser Rv)	34,744	Low	10% SUS



Proposed Non-Treaty Ocean quotas for 2021

Alternative #1		Alternative # 2		Alternative # 3	
2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Chinook 60,000	Chinook 60,000	Chinook 50,000	Chinook 45,000	Closed to salmon fishing	Closed to salmon fishing
Coho 80,000	Coho 35,000	Coho 90,000+20K	Coho 25,000	Closed to salmon fishing	Closed to salmon fishing



Ocean/Columbia River Preliminary Modeling

Key Stock	Management Criteria (ER or esc)	High Ocean Option
Columbia Lower River Tules (Chinook)	38% ER	39.3%
Lower Columbia River Natural (Coho)	30% ER	12.7%
Grays Harbor Natural Coho	35,400 esc	42,437
Queets Natural Coho	5,800 esc	3,323
Hoh River Natural Coho	2,000 esc	2,502
Quillayute River Fall Natural Coho	6,300 esc	7,155
Oregon Coastal Natural Coho	15% ER	11.4%
Interior Fraser River (Thompson) Coho (Canada)	10% SUS ER	7.8%



Current Chinook Modeling PS

Management Unit	NMFS Guidance/Co-Manager Proposal	2020 Fisheries/2021 Abundances (High Ocean Option)
Nooksack Spring	10.5% SUS ER	10.2%
Skagit Summer/Fall	17% SUS ER	29.2%
Skagit Spring-run	10.3% SUS ER	9.8%
Stillaguamish River	22% Total / 8% UM; 12% M SUS max	20.1% Total/8.5% UM; 12.1% M SUS
Snohomish River	19% Total /8% SUS	17.5% Total/6.7% SUS
Lake Washington	13% PT SUS	12.8%
Green River	13% PT SUS	12.8%
White River Spring-run	22% SUS	16.2%
Puyallup	13% PT SUS	12.8%
Nisqually	47% Total + 2% Exp	52.3%
Skokomish fall-run	50% total	49.7%
Mid Hood Canal	TBD PT SUS	14.2%
Dungeness	10% SUS	4.2%
Elwha	10% SUS	3.9%

Current Coho Modeling (2021 Abundances with 2020 Fisheries)

Management Unit	ER CEILING	High	Mid	Low
SKAGIT	35%	31.3%	30.8%	28.8%
STILLY	50%	26.7%	26.3%	24.9%
SNOHOMISH	40%	21.7%	21.3%	19.8%
SNOHOMISH ESC	55,000	47,113	47,355	48,227
HOOD CANAL	45%	42.9%	42.3%	40.3%
JUAN DE FUCA TRIBS	10% SUS	6.5%	5.9%	3.9%
Lower Fraser (Thompson)	10% SUS	7.8%	7.0%	4.4%



Challenges for 2021 salmon season

- Obstacles due to COVID-19
- Low forecasted returns of Chum
- Timely agreement with co-managers
- Stillaguamish and Mid-Hood Canal Chinook
- Snohomish Coho



2021 NOF Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held virtually

Meeting links and materials are available on the WDFW webpage

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-meetings>

Date	Purpose
Feb. 25	Willapa Bay – Grays Harbor Forecast meeting
Feb. 26	Statewide Forecast Meeting
Mar. 2-5, 8-11	Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting
Mar. 16	North of Falcon #1
Mar. 17	Willapa Bay Fisheries Discussion
Mar. 17	Columbia River Fisheries Discussion



2021 NOF Meeting Schedule (cont.)

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Date	Purpose
Mar. 23	Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Discussion
Mar. 23	Public Hearing on Ocean Salmon Management Options
Mar. 24	Grays Harbor Fisheries Discussion
Mar. 25	Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Discussion
Mar. 31	North of Falcon #2
Apr. 1	Columbia River and Ocean Fisheries Discussion
Apr. 5	Willapa Bay Fisheries Discussion
Apr. 6	Grays Harbor Fisheries Discussion
Apr. 6-9, 12-15	Final Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting



Questions/Comments?

