

2021 Public Fishery Suggestion Summary To Date

2/25 Forecast Meeting Suggestions

Fishery conservation restrictive fishing – model terminal fisheries similar to ocean, lose 2 days a week of fishing rather than all days in a row.

Should be allowed to retain hatchery Chinook and coho. Focus on hatchery coho & chum. Conserve wild coho & Chinook.

Spring Chinook conservation – will the entire river be shut down? Will there be other restriction for more targeted approach? No need to close everything the entire time, upper basin recreational fishers should bear most of the conservation.

3/1 Coho Jack Limit

Increase coho jack limit in the Chehalis River (mouth Satsop to S. Montesano) to 12 per day.

3/21 Coho Jack Season

Extend coho jack season on Chehalis River until Sept. 30.

3/23 Recreational Seasons

MSF coho Sept. 15 to Nov. 30

Reduce coho impacts by 20% try weekly Wed.-Sun. rec. fishery with Mon. & Tues. closures (marine and freshwater).

If not in 3/5 box with coho; one adult limit Sept. 15 to Nov. 30 with possible shortened fishery by one or two days per week.

No Chinook retention

3/24 Commercial Non-treaty

Chehalis 2A/D 8 days

Tangle net WK 41 – 1 day

Tangle net WK 42 – 1 day

Gillnet WK 43 – 3 days

Gillnet WK 44 – 3 days

3/24 NOF # 1 Meeting Suggestions – Recreational only

Lose days (such as Mon. & Tues.) instead of two week shut down

Catch and release all wild coho and Chinook to help make escapement

Use impacts for release of wild coho

Chinook have harvestable numbers, need to release (be conservative), if allow hatchery retention could attract too many people and impacts will be too high

Coho jack fishery extend to middle of October

Current limit of 6 – cannot find when limit was established

Would like coho jack limit increased to 12

Days off for fishery (Dave H. recommendation)- please do not shut off one of the weekend days; allows anglers working Mon. to Fri. opportunity to fish

3/25 – 4/1 Statewide NOF Comments from webpage

Regarding the rest of the salmon fishing, I think the *all the rivers in Washington state* and the Columbia river from the mouth to Chief Joseph dam should also be closed down for the next 4-6 years to give the salmon a chance to come back.

I wish the non-profits, the commercial interests, the west coast States, and the Feds, would band together and put forth more effort to **reduce the harvest, both legal and illegal**. Habitat cannot be our only savior, nor can all ills simply be blamed on "poor ocean conditions".

Everybody agrees that salmon and steelhead runs are in trouble. Let's **stop all directed fisheries** while we can.

A complete closure of salmon fisheries will be difficult but necessary.

In the Columbia river at buoy 10 you need to go to a three fish limit to hatchery Coho and one chinook. You need to go to a two pole endorsement in that area of the Columbia. And in your limit between tongue point and the Astoria bridge you should allow the sportsman to keep Jack's.; Buoy 10 fisheries from tongue to buoy 10 should be barbed hooks for salmon in the 2021 season. You should be able to keep Jack's from tongue to the Astoria bridge. And think about the amount of revenue you are missing out on Washington fish and wildlife by not having a two pole endorsement from tongue Point to buoy 10. Washington fish and wildlife you should open up the two pole endorsement on the lower Columbia river for Chinook, Coho salmon season 2021. And the charters and guides should have their own quota on salmon and the Columbia river it should be separate from the sports boats quota.; ***It's time for Washington fish and wildlife to eliminate commercial gillnetting for salmon on the Columbia river system, Willapa Bay system, Grays Harbor bay system, Washington coastal rivers, Puget sound.*** Quit putting off it is way past due Canada and Alaska and the commercial fishing in the ocean can supply the state of Washington .we have plenty of commercial caught salmon and better quality caught salmon caught in the Pacific ocean by the troll fleet.; We should be able to use barbed hooks in the Columbia River buoy 10 fishery. All boats that includes charter boats should have to use knotless rubber nets to protect native stocks. We should be able to keep jacks in the area of tongue point to the Astoria bridge. Charter boats and guides should have their own quota on the Columbia river separate from the sports fisherman private boats. The buoy 10 to tongue point should be a two pole endorsement. We should be able to keep all hatchery Chinooks in the Columbia river we should not have to release any hatchery fish. We pay for these fish with our taxes and our fishing license. The chinook season should be open from August 1 to September 30 to keep all hatchery clip Chinooks. We should not be throwing hatchery Chinooks overboard and watch them float belly up or feed them to the sea lions.

Close the seasons; In view of the State of the Salmon Report consider closures.; In view of the State of the Salmon Report, consider closures.; Read the State of the Salmon report. **Be most conservative in setting seasons.**

If some fisheries are not able to withstand harvest-based salmon fisheries, then to provide continued fishing opportunities, **catch and release fisheries for salmon with selective gear restrictions should be considered (both fresh and saltwater).**

Please close all recreational, saltwater salmon fishing in your jurisdiction until all salmon species, steelhead and the Southern Resident Orcas no longer qualify to be listed on the ESA list, no-longer qualify to be on any threatened species list, and no-longer qualify to be on any species-of-concern list.

Please consider:

- 1) Building state-run live fish traps on lower tributaries to allow only native, anadromous fish access to their spawning beds.
- 2) Leasing the use of the live fish traps to commercial fisherman for harvesting hatchery and non-native fish (e.g., bass, walleye, northern pike, etc.) to fund the operations and maintenance of the traps.
- 3) Making the live fish traps available to universities and other research organizations to help us better understand anadromous fish species so that we can learn how to change our behavior and stop driving them to extinction.
- 4) Changing how the WDFW prioritizes the preservation, protection and perpetuation of fish, wildlife and ecosystems so that the native, anadromous fish are the departments highest priority. For example, ***please consider changing the freshwater fishing regulations so that there are no size limits, no daily limits, and no possession limits for every non-native fish species in a river or lake that is accessible to anadromous fish.***

As a lifetime salmon sports fisherman, the most important thing is just having the opportunity to go fishing! ***I would like to see WDFW extend fishing seasons when needed by limiting salmon limits to one salmon per day.*** Along with that I think there could be more catch and release opportunities

Please always provide anglers with the most opportunity and time on the water. At the end of the day, i feel most anglers want opportunity/time to spend on their passion.

3/26 Recreational Seasons

Model a Saturday only rec fishery to see what the impact would be. If there is room look into adding Friday or Sunday morning until we get to the 5% exploitation. It could also be trimmed with the bag limit at 2 or 1 fish.

Public Responses to Draft GH 2021 Fall Salmon Fishery Ideas 1-7

Recreational Season

3/31 Provide justification for Chehalis River 1 fish, release wild Chinook & coho while bay gets to kill non select.

- 3/31** Close Mon-Wed vs. a weekend day. If have shut down days, need total fishing closure on same days.
- 4/1** Release adult Chinook vs. release Chinook
- Equal coho harvest opportunity for user groups: marine water/L. Chehalis River wild retention vs. upper Chehalis River mark select
- 4/2** Prefer idea 1 or 2; includes 7 days a week fishing all areas
- 4/3** Prefer idea 7 and “one and done” for any coho caught
- 4/5** Ideas 3 and 6 close to 5.0% management objective, could meet by adjusting opening date by a day or two. Overall, prefer idea 3 with suitable adjustment to start date to reach 5.0% management objective.
- 4/5** Prefer idea 1 with a few changes:
- Open Chehalis from 101 to 107 bridge on Oct. 1st, very few jacks caught in this area with high occurrence of Chinook catch and release
 - Open Chehalis from 107 to S. Elma bridge Sept. 1-30th; release all adults before Sept. 15th and Sept. 16th forward allow hatchery coho retention
 - Close Dec. 15th instead of 31st to conserve wild coho
- 4/5** Prefers one hatchery adult in the Chehalis system from top to bottom and tribes
- 4/6** Regarding fishing ideas; recreational taking percentage cut from last year. Do the ideas meet GHMP and sharing percentage?
- 4/6** Jacks only Sept. 1-30 release all adults: Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 release adult Chinook and wild coho, and increase jack limit to 12
- 4/6** Prefers idea 5
- Other options:
- Delay all areas open Oct. 15
 - Oct. 1-Nov. 15: Yearly retention of wild coho - five per year all areas
 - Nov. 15 – Dec. 31 one hatchery coho

NT Commercial Season

- 4/6** What percentage cut are NT commercial taking from last year?

Recreational Season Cont'd

- 4/7** Increase hatchery production
- 4//9** In the Chehalis:
- From mouth (Hwy 101 bridge) to South Elma release Chinook and wild coho

4/12 Concerns with Ideas 3, 3B & 3C:

- Mis-characterized Idea 3 should be “Open Season Earlier closed Sun-Mon”
- 3B & 3C
 - Misinterpret what Idea 3 hoped to accomplish
 - Impose restriction of fishing 5 days per week with no significant value in return