



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, Olympia, WA

April 19, 2023

To All Licensed Washington Troll Fishers:

On Thursday, April 6, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) adopted final ocean salmon fishery management recommendations for 2023. The non-treaty troll fishery in the area north of Cape Falcon will operate under the following regulations:

MAY - JUNE FISHERY

Washington Catch Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 from Cape Falcon, Oregon north to the United States - Canada border will be open for a Chinook directed, all-salmon-except-coho fishery **May 1-June 29**. The fishery will close the earlier of June 29 or attainment of the quota of **26,000** Chinook, no more than **6,890** of which may be caught in the area between the U.S./Canada border and the Queets River and no more than **6,040** of which may be caught in the area between Leadbetter Point and Cape Falcon. If the Chinook quota is exceeded, the excess will be deducted from the all-salmon season. Fishing is open seven days per week. All salmon **except coho** are legal.

Landing and Possession Limits

For the period **May 1-10**:

Landing and possession limit for the entire area between Cape Falcon, Oregon and the U.S./Canada border of **200** Chinook per vessel.

Landing and possession limits per vessel are in place for the following sub-areas:

- U.S./Canada border to the Queets River: **105** Chinook; or
- The Queets River to Leadbetter Point: **200** Chinook; or
- Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon, Oregon: **90** Chinook

Beginning May 11:

Landing and possession limit for the entire area between Cape Falcon, Oregon and the U.S./Canada border of **150** Chinook per vessel per landing week (Thursday through Wednesday) **May 11-June 21** and for the period **June 22-29**.

Landing and possession limits per vessel per landing week (Thursday through Wednesday) **May 11-June 21** and for the period **June 22-29** are in place for the following sub-areas:

- U.S./Canada border to the Queets River: **70** Chinook; or
- The Queets River to Leadbetter Point: **150** Chinook; or
- Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon, Oregon: **60** Chinook

Please be aware that **landing and possession limits may be added or modified in-season.**

Vessel Landing and Call-in Requirements

- Vessels in possession of salmon **north** of the **Queets River** or vessels in possession of salmon **south** of the **Queets River** may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov with area fished, total Chinook and halibut catch aboard, and destination.
- Vessels fishing, or in possession of salmon **north** of **Leadbetter Point** must land and deliver all species of fish in a Washington port and must possess a Washington troll and/or salmon delivery license. **Vessels may not land fish east of the Sekiu River or east of Tongue Point, Oregon.** For delivery to Washington ports south of Leadbetter Point, vessels must notify WDFW at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov prior to crossing the Leadbetter Point line with area fished, total Chinook and halibut catch aboard, and destination with approximate time of delivery. **During any single trip, only one side of the Leadbetter Point line may be fished.**
- Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing **south** of **Leadbetter Point** must land and deliver their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point except Oregon permitted vessels may land their fish in Garibaldi, Oregon.

General Rules

- The minimum size limit for Chinook is **27** inches.
- Gear is restricted to all legal troll gear with single point, single shank barbless hooks only.
- Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be instituted or adjusted in-season.
- When it is estimated that approximately 50% of the overall Chinook quota or any Chinook subarea guideline has been landed, in-season action may be considered to ensure the quota and subarea guidelines are not exceeded.
- Grays Harbor Control Zone is **open**. Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones are closed. (See definitions below.)
- **Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery.**
- Please check the fisheries hotline at (360) 902-2500 for regulation updates prior to going fishing.

JULY - SEPTEMBER FISHERY

Washington Catch Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 from Cape Falcon, Oregon north to the United States - Canada border will be open for all salmon species **July 1- September 30**. The fishery will close the earlier of September 30 or the attainment of the quota of **13,000** Chinook or **30,400** marked coho. All landed coho must be marked with a healed adipose fin clip. Fishing is open seven days per week. An impact neutral non-selective coho fishery may be considered through in-season management action later in the season.

Landing and Possession Limits

A landing and possession limit of **150 marked coho** per vessel per landing week (Thursday through Wednesday) is in place. Please be aware that **landing and possession limits may be added or modified in-season prior to or after the July 1 start date**.

Vessel Landing and Call-in Requirements

- Vessels in possession of salmon **north** of the **Queets River** or vessels in possession of salmon **south** of the **Queets River** may not cross the Queets River line without first notifying WDFW by phone at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov with area fished, total Chinook, coho, and halibut catch aboard, and destination.
- Vessels fishing, or in possession of salmon **north** of **Leadbetter Point** must land and deliver all species of fish in a Washington port and must possess a Washington troll and/or salmon delivery license. **Vessels may not land fish east of the Sekiu River or east of Tongue Point, Oregon**. For delivery to Washington ports south of Leadbetter Point, vessels must notify WDFW at (360) 249-1215 or by email at Danielle.Williams@dfw.wa.gov prior to crossing the Leadbetter Point line with area fished, total Chinook, coho and halibut catch aboard, and destination with approximate time of delivery. **During any single trip, only one side of the Leadbetter Point line may be fished.**
- Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing **south** of **Leadbetter Point** must land and deliver their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point except Oregon permitted vessels may land their fish in Garibaldi, Oregon.

General Rules

- All salmon are legal, except no chum retention north of Cape Alava beginning August 1.
- The minimum size limit for Chinook is **27** inches and the minimum size limit for coho is 16 inches.
- Gear is restricted to all legal troll gear with single point, single shank barbless hooks only.
- Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be instituted or adjusted in-season.
- Grays Harbor Control Zone is **open**. Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones are closed. (See definitions below.)

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- **Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery.**
- Please check the fisheries hotline at (360) 902-2500 for regulation updates prior to going fishing

QUICK REPORTING SYSTEM

The Washington State Quick Reporting System is in effect throughout the 2023 commercial troll fishery. All wholesale dealers or trollers retailing their fish are required to report their landing by 10:00 a.m. the day following delivery. Reports can be made by email at trollfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov, by faxing to **(360) 902-2949**, or by calling **(866) 791-1279**. Please report dealer name and license number, the date of landing, the fish ticket number, the gear, the area fished, the number of days fished, the number of fish by species and the total weight by species including halibut.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is engaged in rule-making to explore modification of the Quick Reporting rules to require additional information for Puget Sound Commercial and Coastal Troll salmon fisheries. At the time of this letter, the rule-making process is at the proposal stage. Additional information, including means to provide public comment, can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development/quick-reporting-vessel-information>. The modification, should it be approved, is not anticipated to go into effect until sometime during the July-September fishery. Any commercial troll fishery participants can voluntarily assist in improving fishery management in advance of the rule-making process concluding by providing a **vessel name and/or vessel ID** when completing a Quick Report, in addition to the Washington State Quick Reporting System requirements currently in place.

CONSERVATION AREA AND CONTROL ZONE DEFINITIONS

Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area - The area in Washington Marine Catch Area 3 from 48°00.00' N latitude; 125°14.00' W longitude to 48°02.00' N latitude; 125°14.00' W longitude to 48°02.00' N latitude; 125°16.50' W longitude to 48°00.00' N latitude; 125°16.50' W longitude and connecting back to 48°00.00' N latitude; 125°14.00' W longitude.

Cape Flattery Control Zone - The area from Cape Flattery (48°23'00" N. latitude) to the northern boundary of the United States Economic Exclusion Zone (U.S. EEZ); and the area from Cape Flattery south to 48°10'00" N. latitude and east of 125°05'00" W. longitude.

Grays Harbor Control Zone – The area defined by a line drawn from the Westport Lighthouse (46°53.18' N latitude; 124°07.01' W longitude) to Buoy #2 (46°52.42' N latitude; 124°12.42' W longitude) to Buoy #3 (46°55.00' N latitude; 124°14.48' W longitude) to the Grays Harbor north jetty (46°36.00' N latitude; 124°10.51' W longitude).

Columbia Control Zone - An area at the Columbia River mouth, bounded on the west by a line running northeast/southwest between the red lighted Buoy #4 (46°13'35" N. latitude, 124°06'50" W. longitude) and the green lighted Buoy #7 (46°15'09' N. latitude, 124°06'16" W. longitude); on

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46°14'00" N. latitude, 124°03'07" W. longitude to its intersection with the north jetty; on the north, by a line running northeast/southwest between the green lighted Buoy #7 to the tip of the north jetty (46°15'48" N. latitude, 124°05'20" W. longitude) and then along the north jetty to the point of intersection with the Buoy #10 line; and, on the south, by a line running northeast/southwest between the red lighted Buoy #4 and tip of the south jetty (46°14'03" N. latitude, 124°04'05" W. longitude), and then along the south jetty to the point of intersection with the Buoy #10 line.

HALIBUT AND GROUND FISH REGULATIONS IN THE 2023 SALMON TROLL FISHERY

The operator of a vessel that has been issued an incidental halibut harvest license may retain Pacific halibut caught incidentally in Catch Area 2A during authorized periods while trolling for salmon. The following landing restrictions govern the incidental harvest: Halibut retained must meet the minimum size limit of 32 inches total length with head on. Halibut retention is allowed only during the troll season as long as fish remain on the commercial quota and if announced on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) hotline at (800) 662-9825 or (206) 526-6667. In-season action may be taken to avoid exceeding the commercial halibut allocation.

Incidental halibut harvest is authorized from May 1, 2023 through May 15, 2023 under rules adopted in 2022 which allow for the retention of one halibut per each two Chinook salmon, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement and no more than **35** halibut may be landed per trip.

From May 16, 2023 through the end of the 2023 salmon troll season and beginning April 1, 2024 until modified through in-season action or superseded by the 2024 management measures, license holders may land no more than one halibut per each two Chinook salmon, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement. No more than **35** halibut may be landed per trip.

The PFMC adopts regulations to address conservation concerns for a number of depressed groundfish stocks and to comply with stock rebuilding plans mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. These regulations affect all coastal commercial and recreational fisheries. Regulatory rockfish groupings (nearshore, shelf and slope) require identification and sorting of rockfish in the catch. Additionally, since limits are based upon one or two-month cumulative periods, fishers need to keep track of their catch by calendar month in order to avoid exceeding limits which apply to fixed calendar months (two-month limit periods are May-June, July-August, September-October). Rockfish must be recorded by trip limit category on the fish ticket.

Commercial salmon trollers may retain incidental groundfish catch subject to the limits, restrictions, and closed areas detailed in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), at 50 CFR Part 660, Subparts C through F. The current management measures are described below; however, these limits and restrictions may change during the year. Salmon trollers that retain groundfish are considered to be participating in the open access groundfish fishery with non-trawl gear and must abide by the regulations for the open access groundfish fishery, including areas closed to

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groundfish fishing for vessels using non-trawl gears, such as the non-trawl rockfish conservation areas (RCAs).

Vessels participating in the salmon troll fishery that take and retain or possess groundfish in federal waters (3-200 nautical miles offshore) are required to have a vessel monitoring system (VMS). If groundfish are taken and retained or possessed on a trip that occurs both in federal and state waters or transits through federal waters with groundfish on board, a VMS is required regardless of where the groundfish were taken from.

North of 40°10' N. latitude, salmon troll vessels may retain and land up to 500 pounds of yellowtail rockfish per month as long as salmon is on board. This limit is within the 1,500 pound per month limit for yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. The 500 pounds per-month cumulative limit includes fish caught both within and outside of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

In addition to rockfish, salmon trollers may retain and land up to one lingcod per **two** Chinook per trip, plus one lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. This limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed and is not "CLOSED". The number of lingcod must be recorded on the fish ticket together with total weight.

The RCA includes all areas inside the 100-fathom curve off Washington and between 30 fathoms and 100 fathoms off Oregon and California, for more detail check the website listed below. Only yellowtail rockfish, lingcod, and halibut may be retained while fishing inside the 100-fathom curve or RCA. If all fishing during the trip takes place outside of the RCA, then open access groundfish limits for all species apply. For current groundfish regulations and information on VMS requirements call NMFS West Coast Region, Seattle, Sustainable Fisheries Division Office at **(206) 526-6140** or visit:

<https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-660>

Commercial troll fisheries are managed on a quota. Open days, landing and possession limits, or any other regulation could change at any time. Always contact the fisheries hotline at (360) 902-2500 prior to going fishing.

Sincerely,



Kyle Adicks
Intergovernmental Salmon Manager
Fish Program