

2023 Willapa Bay NOF Fishery Suggestions or Comments Received from the Public

As of 0.12.2023

General

- Need more accessibility for handicapped fishers and allow disabled anglers to fish from a boat when rules state no fishing from a floating device
- Used test fishing to determine an in-season runsize for Chum

Commercial

- Take a day away from the NALF commercial schedule to get the chum escapement to meet the goal
- Add more days during coho time to reduce surplus
- Look at additional hours during days scheduled beyond 12 hours/day
- Add days earlier during hatchery Chinook time in August and reduce days Sept 1 – 7 depending on stat weeks.
- Sept 15 through first week of October - would like to model 6 days for those weeks and areas

Recreational

General

- Open Sturgeon fishing
- Open Spring Chinook 2-3 weeks earlier

Willapa River

- More enforcement needed
- A rule that would make all fish that would be legal to retain (species/origin) and foul hooked be counted as part of one's daily limit but still prohibit the retention of these foul hooked fish
- Close the area from Forks Creek mouth to hatchery/weir and close the ADA fishery at the hatchery due to insufficient hatchery fish escaping

Nemah River

- Modify section language to read: From the Hancock property line, upstream to the fishing boundary sign (approx. 210' upstream of the Nemah hatchery bridge. In addition, suggested Night Closure, 1 single barbless hook, no lead headed jigs, release all wild chinook, lead line must be 12' above hook. Min. size 12". Daily limit 6. Seniors (70 older) only.
- Don't close North Nemah River to save coho because there are no coho available in October

Naselle River

- A rule that would make all fish that would be legal to retain (species/origin) and foul hooked be counted as part of one's daily limit but still prohibit the retention of these foul hooked fish
- The selective gear rule (SGR) should go into effect Dec 15 instead of Dec 1 to allow additional late coho harvest
- The anti-s snag rule should go into effect Nov 1 instead of Nov 15 to reduce gear changes in-season
- No barbless hooks starting Nov 1 (barbless rule goes into effect Aug 1 – Nov 15 then is reinstated with SGR on Dec 1)
- 3 fish adult bag limit with only 1 wild coho retention allowed

- Find a solution to the illegal snagging with twitching jigs and fish that are repeatedly foul hooked
- Open the section below the Naselle Hatchery earlier to remove hatchery Chinook
- 3 fish adult bag limit starting Oct 16 with only 1 wild coho retention allowed
- Add a senior fishery below the Naselle hatchery