

Public Meeting Guidelines and Etiquette

Please note the following guidelines for our meeting:

- Upon joining the virtual meeting, your microphone will be muted automatically.
- In case of any technical issues during the meeting, notify us in the chat, and we will help you. Please note that the chat will only be monitored for technical assistance.
- Public comments are welcome and will be rotated between in-person and virtual attendees.
- To ask a question or make a comment, please use your device's "raise hand" feature. If on the phone, dial *9 on Zoom, and if using a computer, click the hand/reactions icon at the bottom of your screen.
- During the comment period, the host will enable you to unmute yourself. You can then unmute yourself by pressing the mute button on your device or dialing *6 on your phone.
- Keep discussions focused on the agenda items and questions at hand. Offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity, personal attacks, threats, or insults towards individuals, governments, or organizations, is strictly prohibited.
- Assume positive intentions from those speaking and listen respectfully.
- To ensure a balanced discussion, limit your comments to two minutes with one clarifying follow-up question.
- Provide constructive feedback regarding the fisheries in which you participate. Remember that the most compelling comments are those that pertain to the topics under discussion.
- WDFW staff may close public comment to stay on schedule with the agenda or to provide others who still need to comment with an opportunity to speak.
- The Hybrid meetings will be recorded and posted online.
- If you have further questions or comments, please submit them in written format on our public comment webpage:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input>



NOF Puget Sound and Coastal Freshwater Recreational Discussion

March 19, 2024



Agenda

- Puget Sound Forecasts Review
- Coastal Forecasts, Trends, & Opportunities
- Puget Sound Chinook and Coho Management Objectives
- Puget Sound Modeling Runs
- Recreational Considerations
- Public Comment



What is North of Falcon?

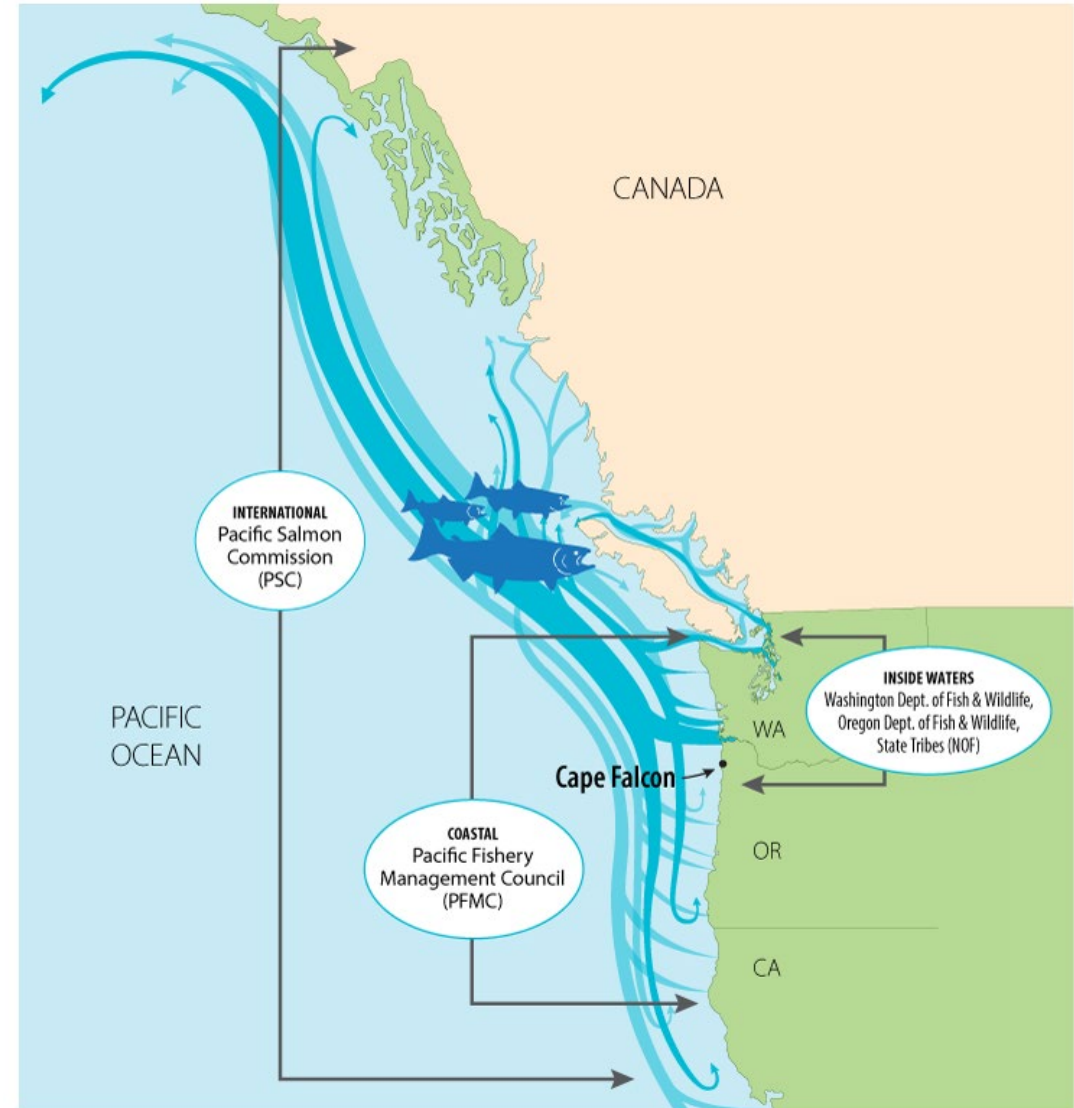
- North of Falcon is the annual, cooperative process to plan salmon seasons in Washington waters
- The name refers to waters north of Oregon's Cape Falcon, which marks the southern border of Washington's management of salmon stocks
- One component of a larger salmon setting process that also involves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



What guides North of Falcon?

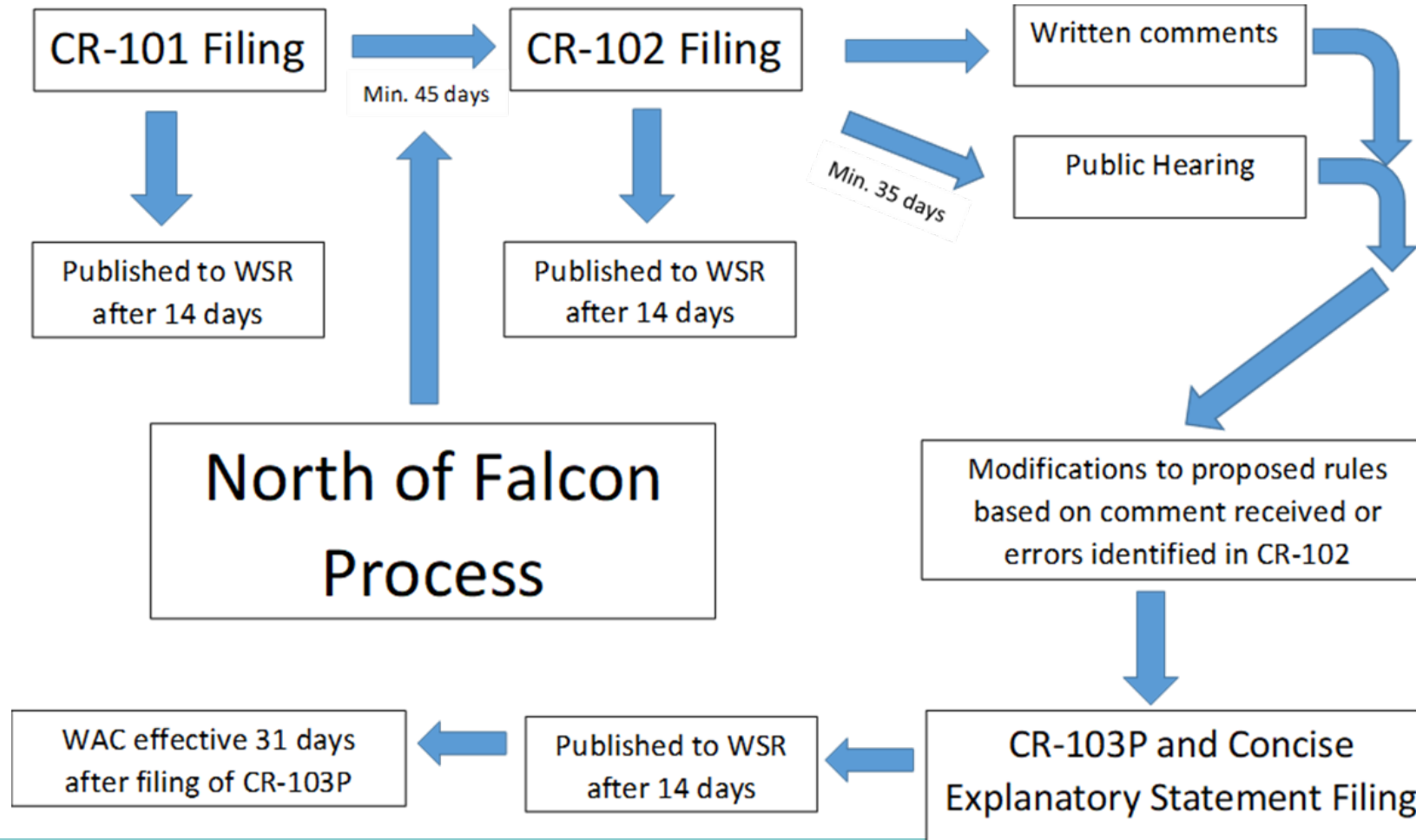
Fishery managers must weigh many factors when developing salmon seasons, including:

- 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



2024 Salmon Fishery Rulemaking

Administrative Procedure Act Process



Forecast Recap for 2024

Puget Sound Chinook:

- Overall, total Chinook **down 3%** from last years forecast
- Natural stocks **down 6%** and Hatchery stocks **up 22%** from recent 10-yr avg

Coastal Chinook:

- Natural Stocks **up 2%** and Hatchery stocks **down 7%** from recent 10-yr avg, both slightly down from 2023 forecasts

Columbia River Chinook:

- Forecasts for Spring and Summer Chinook are **less than** the 2023 forecasts and similar to actual returns
- Lower river Hatchery and Upriver Bright stocks are similar relative to last year's forecast, Bonneville Pool Hatchery forecast is **slightly less** than last year's forecast

Puget Sound Coho:

- Overall, total Coho **down 5%** from last years forecast
- Natural stocks **up 15%** and Hatchery stocks **up 43%** from 10-yr avg

Coastal Coho:

- Natural Stocks **up 15%** and Hatchery stocks **up 52%** from 10-yr avg
- Natural stocks and Hatchery stocks **down 22%** from last year's forecasts

Columbia River Coho:

- The Columbia River Coho forecast methodology was changed starting in 2024 and therefore cannot be compared to previous forecasts



Forecast Recap for 2024

Puget Sound Chum:

- Natural stocks **down 25%** and hatchery stocks **down 46%** from 10-year average
- PS Fall Chum total ~818k

Coastal Chum

- Willapa **up 40%** and Grays Harbor is **up 24%** from 10-year average



Chinook Management Objectives PS

Management Unit	NMFS Guidance/Co-Manager Proposal
Nooksack Spring	TBD*
Skagit Summer/Fall	15% SUS ER
Skagit Spring-run	36% Total
Stillaguamish River	9% UM SUS max; 14% M SUS max
Snohomish River	TBD*
Lake Washington	14% PT SUS
Green River	14% PT SUS
Puyallup	14% PT SUS
Nisqually	47% Total
Skokomish fall-run	50% total
Mid Hood Canal	<4 spawner reduction in PS
Dungeness	10% SUS
Elwha	10% SUS



2024 Coho Management Objectives Puget Sound

Wild Management Units	Ocean Age-3 Forecast	Assigned FMP Status	Total ER Ceiling
Strait of Juan de Fuca	19,690	Low	40%
Hood Canal	36,541	Low	45%
Skagit	63,430	Normal	60%
Stillaguamish	30,809	Normal	50%
Snohomish	71,600	Low	40%
Thompson (Interior Fraser)		Low* (PST status)	10% SUS



North Coast Forecast Comparisons

	Hoh Forecasts		
	2023	2024	Comparison
Wild Fall Chinook	2,599	3,460	1.33
Wild Spring Chinook	1,045	1,146	1.10
Wild Fall Coho (OA3)	6,528	4,870	0.75

	Quillayute Forecasts		
	2023	2024	Comparison
Hatchery Spring Chinook	2,812	2,489	0.89
Wild Fall Chinook	9,946	8,552	0.86
Wild Summer Chinook	1,314	1,560	1.19
Hatchery Summer Coho (OA3)	3,911	2,315	0.59
Wild Summer Coho (OA3)	1,638	393	0.24
Hatchery Fall Coho (OA3)	19,116	10,298	0.54
Wild Fall Coho (OA3)	13,470	10,244	0.76



Chinook and Coho Management Objectives North Coast

Quillayute Natural Summer Chinook	Guideline of 1,200 escapement.
Quillayute Natural Fall Chinook	Spawning escapement goal for all Quillayute basin fall Chinook stocks combined = 3,000 or 60% of runsize, whichever is greater
Hoh Natural Spring/Summer Chinook	900 or 69% of runsize, whichever is greater
Hoh Natural Fall Chinook	1,200 or 60% of runsize, whichever is greater
Sol Duc Natural Summer coho	No goal established, 900 - 1200 guideline
Quillayute Natural Fall coho	Fall stocks combined = 6,300-15,800.
Hoh Natural Coho	2,000-5,000



2024 Marine Recreational Considerations

- Nooksack Spring Chinook, Skagit Summer/Fall Chinook, Snohomish Chinook and Coho
- Stillaguamish and Snohomish Chinook conservation limits will continue to drive most recreational opportunity
- Maximizing fishing opportunity within available impacts/conservation constraints – MA 10/11
- Recent year variability and effort trends
 - Increases in effort over historical averages
- Reduced forecast of Puget Sound Chinook and Coho relative to 2023
- Environmental Concerns
 - Current El Nino
 - Droughts / Floods



Proposed Non-Treaty Ocean quotas for 2024

Alternative #1		Alternative # 2		Alternative # 3	
2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Chinook					
85,000	85,000	78,000	75,000	72,000	65,000
Coho					
105,000	200,000	95,000	185,000	80,000	170,000



Ocean Preliminary Modeling

Key Stock	Management Criteria (Total ER)	High Ocean Option (Chin-0724, Coho-2410)
Columbia Lower River Tules (Chinook)	41%	40.6%
Lower Columbia River Natural (Coho)	23%	17.1% (marine)
Grays Harbor Natural Coho	57%	56.0%
Queets Natural Coho	55%	41.6%
Hoh River Natural Coho	59%	51.2%
Quillayute River Fall Natural Coho	39%	42.6%
Oregon Coastal Natural Coho	30%	26.2%
Interior Fraser River (Thompson) Coho (Canada)	10% SUS ER	9.8%



	Management Criteria			Chin1024 (High Alt)			
Stock	Abundance Tier	ER Ceiling	ER Type	Escapement	Total ER	SUS ER	PT-SUS ER
Spring/Early:							
Nooksack - Total		10.9%	SUS		32.2%	<u>12.7%</u>	5.1%
North/Middle Fork	< LAT			29			
South Fork	> LAT			330			
Skagit - Total	> LAT	36.0%	Total	1,307	29.7%	<u>19.8%</u>	3.2%
Upper Sauk	> LAT			775			
Upper Cascade	> LAT			170			
Suiattle	> LAT			362			
White	> UMT	22.0%	SUS	2,236	21.0%	<u>17.1%</u>	5.0%
Dungeness	> UMT	10.0%	SUS	1,255	21.3%	<u>5.3%</u>	5.3%
Summer/Fall:							
Skagit - Total	> LAT	15.0%	SUS	8,876	39.5%	<u>18.0%</u>	5.1%
Upper Skagit	> LAT			6,677			
Sauk	< LAT			318			
Lower Skagit	> LAT			1,375			
Stillaguamish							
Unmarked ER	> LAT	9.0%	UM SUS	983	30.2%	<u>11.7%</u>	7.3%
Marked ER		14.0%	M SUS		34.3%	<u>15.3%</u>	11.1%
Snohomish - Total				2,584	22.7%	<u>10.3%</u>	9.1%
Skykomish	< LB	Discuss	SUS	1,905			
Snoqualmie				679			



	Management Criteria			Chin1024 (High Alt)			
Stock	Abundance Tier	ER Ceiling	ER Type	Escapement	Total ER	SUS ER	PT-SUS ER
Lake WA (Cedar R.)	> UMT	14.00%	PT-SUS	648	39.10%	27.80%	<u>14.20%</u>
Green	> UMT	14.00%	PT-SUS	3,450 6,010	58.30%	47.00%	<u>14.20%</u>
Puyallup	> UB	14.00%	PT-SUS	3,046 6,066	58.80%	47.50%	<u>14.20%</u>
Nisqually	> LAT	47%	Total	8,035	<u>47.80%</u>	40.50%	17.70%
Western Strait-Hoko	> UMT	11%	SUS	3,112	22.80%	<u>1.80%</u>	1.80%
Elwha	> LAT	10%	SUS	2,962	21.40%	<u>5.80%</u>	5.70%
Mid-Hood Canal	< LAT	NA	ESC Change	13	26.70%	17.30%	16.00%
Skokomish	NA	50%	Total	2,716 14,318	<u>52.30%</u>	43.00%	16.50%



Current Coho Modeling Puget Sound

Management Unit	ER CEILING	High (2413)	Mid (2414)	Low (2415)
SKAGIT	60%	45.4%	43.9%	43.4%
STILLY	50%	39.1%	38.6%	38.1%
SNOHOMISH	40%	41.7%	41.2%	40.7%
HOOD CANAL	45%	45.4%	44.8%	44.2%
JUAN DE FUCA TRIBS	40%	14.5%	13.7%	12.9%
Lower Fraser (Thompson)	10% SUS	10.1%	9.1%	8.2%



Chinook Proposed Seasons

Puget Sound Recreational Chinook Seasons 2024-25 Modeling Proposal													
Area	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
5			M	M	M	NR	NR	NR			M	M	M
6			M	M	M	NR	NR	NR					
7			M**	M	NR	NR	NR						
81				NR	NR	NR	NR	NR'					
82				NR	NR	NR	NR***						
9			M**	M	NR	NR	NR						
10		NR	NR	M'	M	M	NR	NR	NR	NR	M	M	
11		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	NR	NR	NR	M	
12 NoA				NR*	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR			
12 SoA			M*	M	M	M	M	M	NR	NR	NR	NR	
13	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	

Nooksack	M	Skykomish	M	Sammamish	NR	Nisqually	M
Samish	NS	Skagit/Cascade	M	Puyallup	M	Skokomish	
Elliot Bay SAF	NS	Sinclair Inlet	M	Tulalip Bubble	NS	Year-round piers	NS
Duwamish	NS	Bellingham	NS				

NR Non-Retention	NS non-sel	M Mark selective	 Closed
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* NOA: Starting Aug 1, SOA: Starting July 1
 *** Closes 9/24 'NR Oct. 1-13
 **3 day openings, additional opening pending impact availability, mid July start



Chinook – Current Proposed Season in modeling

- MA-5/6 – July 1-Aug 15
- MA-7 – Short openers in July
- MA-9 – Short openers in July
- MA-10 – July start
- MA-11 – June and Jul-Sep season
- MA-12 – July 1 SOA/ Aug 1 NOA
- MA-13 – no changes
- Winter Seasons same as 2023-24



Coho Proposed Seasons

Puget Sound Recreational Coho Seasons - 2024-25											Draft 3/19/24				
Area	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr			
5			M M M M	M * NS *	NS *						NR NR NR NR				
6			M M M M	M * NS *	NS *										
7			M** M M	NS NS											
81				NS NS	NS NS	NS***									
82				NS NS	NS NS^										
9			M** M M	M^^ NS											
10		NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS		NS NS NS				
11		NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS		NS NS NS				
12 NoA				NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NR NR								
12 SoA			NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NS NS	NR NR								
13	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M	M M			

Dungeness	M	Cascade	NS	Lake Sammamish	NS	Nisqually	M	Year-round piers	NS
Nook/Samish	NS	Stillaguamish	NS	Green	NS	Quilcene	NS	Tulalip	NS
Skagit	NS	Snohomish	M	Puyallup	NS	Skokomish		Sinclair Inlet	NS
		Lake WA	NS						

NR Non-Retention	NS non-sel	M Mark Selective	■ Closed
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* MS through 9/22, NS 9/23-10/15
 ** 3 day openings, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, starting mid-July (TBD), with additional openings pending
 *** through 10/13 ^ through 9/24 ^^ through 9/23



Coho - Current Proposed Season in Modeling

- MA-5/6 – **MSF through 9/22, NS 9/23-9/30 (1 coho), 10/1-10/15 (2 coho)**
- MA-7 – MSF in August (2 coho) **NS in Sept (1 coho)**
- MA 8-1 NS **8/1-10/13**
- MA 8-2 NS 8/1-9/24 **(2 coho)**
- MA-9 – MSF through **9/23**, NS **9/24-10/30** (1 coho)
- MA-10 / 11– **NS 11/1-11/15**
- MA12– SOA – July 1; NOA – Aug 1
- MA13 – no change



Freshwater Fishery Considerations

Most rivers expected to have similar opportunities as 2023 seasons

Snohomish

- Continued poor stock performance will likely result in similar season structures as 2023

Concerns regarding unruly fisheries

- Cascade, Green, Minter, Naselle, Nisqually, Puyallup, Quilcene, and Samish River
- Considering a range of possible gear or retention rule changes



Hood Canal Salmon (Freshwater)

River	Sections	Salmon Regulations
Big Quilcene River	prior to 2023 Rodgers St to 101	08/16-10/31, Coho, limit 4, anti-snagging rule
	Mouth to 101	08/16-08/31. Coho, limit 4, anti-snagging rule
	2023 and proposed 2024 Mouth to downstream terminus of WDFW easement	09/01-10/31, CLOSED
	Downstream terminus upstream to 101	08/16-10/31, Coho, limit 4, anti-snagging rule
Dosewallips River	Mouth to PUD Lines	11/01-12/15, Chum, limit 2
Duckabush River	Mouth to 101	11/01-12/15, Chum, limit 2
Skokomish River	SALMON, CLOSED	Reservation Boundary dispute
Tahuya River	SALMON, CLOSED	Private property/Access issues
Dewatto River	SALMON, CLOSED	Summer chum impacts

Suggestions for North Coast freshwater regulations received from the public

- Prioritize a full season over a larger bag limit.
- Keep bait option for Sol Duc Spring Chinook fishery.
- Wild Chinook annual retention limit.
- Flow dependent bag limit (Quillayute).
- River specific mark selective fisheries.
- Allow one barbless treble hook (instead of one single point barbless hook).



2024 Considerations for North Coast Rivers

Hoh River

- **Wild Spring/Summer Chinook:**

- Forecast = 1,146 (2023 forecast: 1,045)
- Escapement goal = 900 or 69% of the run.
- Above escapement goal but not by much.

- **Wild Fall Chinook:**

- Forecast = 3,460 (2023: 2,599)
- Escapement goal = 1,200 or 60% of run size (60% = 2,076).
- Harvestable = 1,364 (692 share)

- **Wild Fall Coho:**

- Escapement goal = 2,000-5,000.
- OA3 forecast = 4,870 (less to terminal run) (2023: 6,529)
- Harvestable = up to ~2,000 (~1,000 share)



2024 Considerations for North Coast Rivers

Quillayute System

- **Wild fall Chinook:**
 - Forecast = 8,552 (2023: 9,946)
 - Escapement Goal = 3,000 or 60% of run.
 - Harvestable = 3,421 (1,710 share)
 - **Wild summer Chinook:**
 - Forecast = 1,560 (2023: 1,314)
 - Escapement guideline = 1,200
 - **Hatchery spring Chinook:**
 - Forecast = 2,489 (2023: 2,812)
 - Broodstock needs = ~900
 - Harvestable = 1,589 (795 share)
 - **Wild fall coho:**
 - Forecast (OA3) = 10,244 (2023: 13,470)
 - Escapement goal = 6,300-15,800
 - Harvestable = ~3,000 (~1,500 share) above lower end of escapement goal
 - **Hatchery fall coho:**
 - Forecast (OA3) = 10,298 (2023: 19,116)
 - Broodstock needs = ~600
 - Harvestable = ~8,000 (~4,000 share)
 - **Wild summer coho:**
 - Forecast (OA3) = 393 (2023: 1,638)
 - Escapement Goal = Not established, 900-1,200 fish guideline
 - **Hatchery summer coho:**
 - Forecast (OA3) = 2,315 (2023: 3,911)
 - Broodstock needs = ~150
 - Harvestable = ~1,800 (~900 shares)



Hoh River

Lower bag limit than 2023

Proposed for 2024;

- Mouth to Oxbow, Sept 16-Dec 15, **daily limit 2 only 1 adult may be retained.**
- Oxbow to Morgans Crossing, Oct 16-Dec 15, **daily limit 2 only 1 adult may be retained.**
- Only one single point barbless hook allowed.
- Dec 1-15 release all salmon other than coho.



Quillayute River

Proposed for 2024;

- Spring Fisheries, same as 2023
 - Quillayute & Sol Duc, May 1-Aug. 31, 4 salmon, only 2 adults, release wild Chinook, wild coho & sockeye. Bait allowed except July 16-Aug 31 on Sol Duc.
 - Bogachiel, Calawah, & Dickey, July 1-Aug. 31, 4 salmon only 2 adults, release wild Chinook, wild coho & sockeye. Bait prohibited.
- Fall Fisheries, potential MSF for coho, lower bag limit than 2023
 - Quillayute & Sol Duc, Sept 1-Dec 15, 6 salmon, **only 3 adults**, only 1 Chinook. **Release wild coho.** Bait allowed
 - Bogachiel, Calawah, & Dickey, Sept 1-Dec 15, 3 salmon, **only 1 adult.** **Release wild coho.** Bait allowed



Preliminary 2024 Washington Salmon Season Meeting Schedule

Date	Purpose	Location/Contact
March 21 (Thu)	Columbia River fisheries	Ridgefield, WDFW office and Teams (hybrid) (10am)
March 21 (Thu)	Recreational Fisheries - Puget Sound freshwater and Puget Sound	Zoom (6-8 pm)
March 25 (Mon)	PFMC Public Hearing on Ocean Salmon Alternatives	Chateau Westport, Westport WA; 7pm-9pm
March 27 (Wed)	WDFW and public North of Falcon meeting #2	In-person and online Lynnwood Embassy Suites, 20610 44 th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98036; 9 a.m.



Preliminary 2024 Washington Salmon Season Meeting Schedule Cont.

Date	Purpose	Location/Contact
March 27 (Wed)	NE of McNary/Upper Columbia/Snake River	Walla Walla Community College, Clarkston Campus, 1470 Bridge Street in Clarkston, WA (6-8 pm)
March 28 (Thu)	Willapa/Grays Harbor fisheries	Zoom (6-8 pm)
April 6 - 11	Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting	The Westin Seattle, 1900 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101
April 16 (Tue)	Willapa/Grays Harbor final proposed fisheries	Zoom (6-8 pm)

On-line commenting – March-April

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

Puget Sound Sport Fishing Advisory Group

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/pssfag>

Full NOF schedule also available on our website:

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



Questions/Comments?

