

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 & Freshwater Recreational Discussion

March 21, 2024



Agenda

- Puget Sound Forecasts Review
- Puget Sound Chinook and Coho Management Objectives
- Recreational Considerations
- Puget Sound Season Proposals
- Freshwater Season Proposals
- Public Comment



What is North of Falcon?

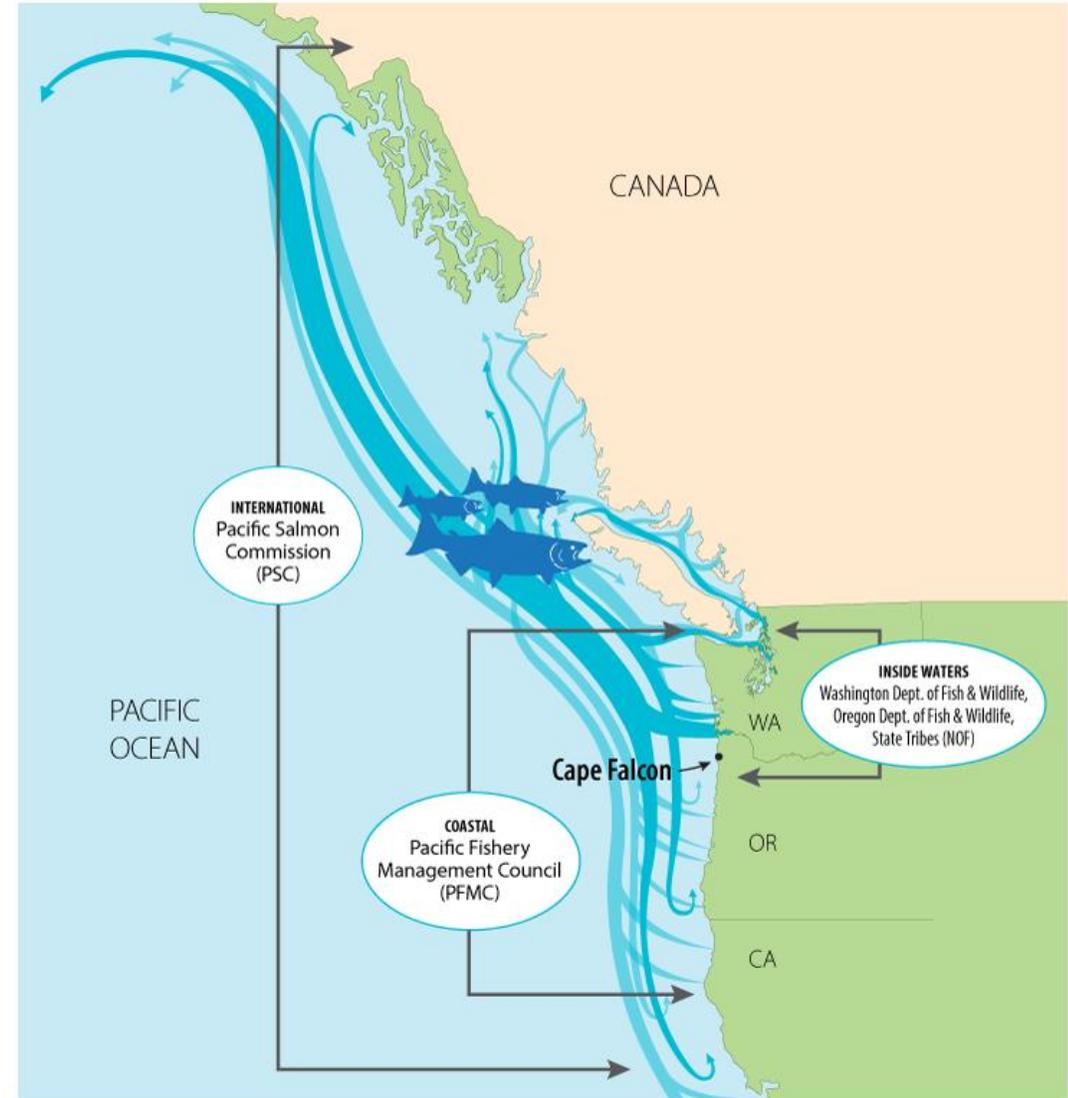
- North of Falcon is the annual, cooperative process to plan salmon seasons in Washington waters
- The name refers to waters north of Oregon's Cape Falcon, which marks the southern border of Washington's management of salmon stocks
- One component of a larger salmon setting process that also involves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



What guides North of Falcon?

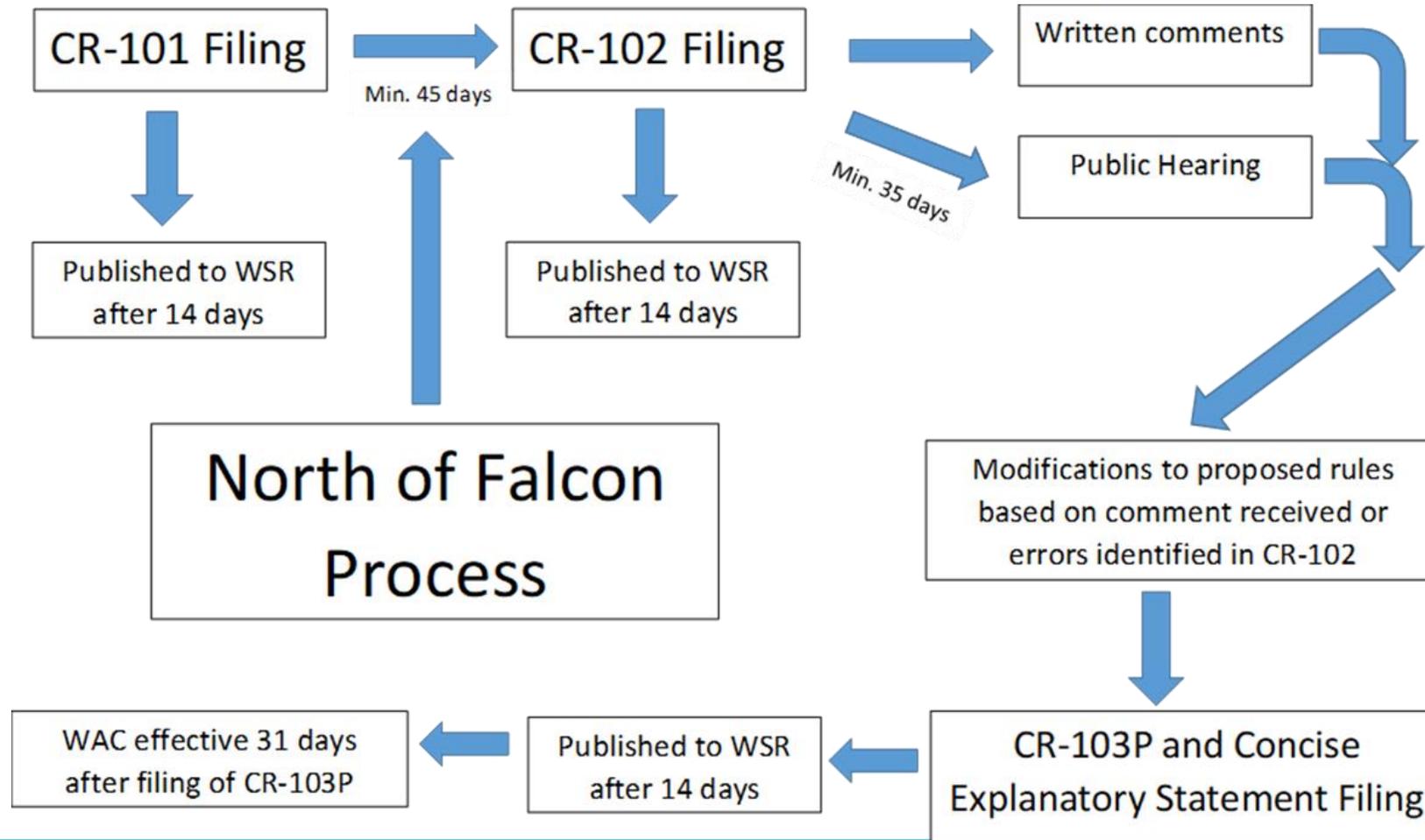
Fishery managers must weigh many factors when developing salmon seasons, including:

- 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



Forecast Recap for 2024

Baker Lake Sockeye:

- Forecast is **up 57%** from 10-year average
- 56k

Lake Washington Sockeye

- Forecast is **down 58%** from 10-year average
- 19k

Columbia River Sockeye

- Wenatchee is **up 46%** from last year's forecast
- Okanogan is **up 154%** from last year's forecast
- Total CR forecast ~401,700



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%



	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%



2024 Marine Recreational Considerations

- **Limiting Stocks** - 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
- MA-5, -6, and -7 will be closed to Sockeye retention due to lowest Fraser Sockeye forecast on record



Marine Areas	Fishery	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
5	Chinook Coho												
6	Chinook Coho												
7	Chinook Coho												
8-1	Chinook Coho												
8-2	Chinook Coho												
9	Chinook Coho												
10	Chinook Coho												
11	Chinook Coho												
12 North of Ayock Pt.	Chinook Coho												
12 South of Ayock Pt.	Chinook Coho												
13	Chinook Coho												

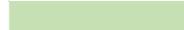
α 9/23-10/15 Non-Selective

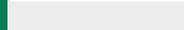
β Short openings based on available quota

ψ 10/1 - 10/13

 **Non-retention:** Anglers may fish for salmon but may not retain the species (coho or Chinook) listed

 **Non-Selective:** Anglers may keep either unmarked or hatchery fish.

 **Mark-Selective:** Anglers may keep hatchery salmon only and must release unmarked salmon. Hatchery salmon are marked with a clipped adipose fin.

 **Closed:** Fisheries are closed to all salmon fishing when listed as such.

Current Season Proposal



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 - 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 **9/24-9/30** (1 coho)
- MA-10 / 11– **NS 11/1-11/15**
- MA12– SOA – July 1; NOA – Aug 1
- MA13 – no change



Areas 10/11 Management Considerations

- A lot of feedback regarding 2023 season and desires to fish in August for Chinook in Area 11, less open/close in 10, more stability
- Approaches include different management targets, more adaptive management, shorter planned seasons
- Area 11 June could use an approach like Area 7 summer
- Adding more Chinook Non-retention to August (Area 11) to ensure fishery stays open



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, area, or retention rule changes



Freshwater Proposed Seasons – North Sound

- Nooksack
 - Coho same as 2023
 - Chum – proposed fishery area from I-5 to confluence of South Fork
 - No sport hatchery Spring Chinook fishery due to low forecast
- Samish
- Regular issues and complaints from anglers and neighbors:
 - Safety (anglers hit by gear)
 - Snagging
 - Crowding
 - Trespassing



Samish 2022 season. Some anglers described 2023 as even more crowded than 2022.

Photo credit: anonymous angler sent this to WDFW



Freshwater Proposed Seasons – North Sound

Samish Proposals

Mouth to Thomas Road

1. Stationary Gear rule

- ❖ *Stationary gear restriction* means the line and weight and lure or bait must be moving while in the water. The line and weight and lure or bait may not be stationary.

2. Hook size restriction. Adopt maximum hook gap of 1/2" from point to shank.

3. Extend fishing season through September 30, 2024.

4. Proposing a bait-only section from the Bayview-Edison Rd bridge upstream to wing wall (approx. 1000 ft). See next slide.

5. Proposing a Veterans/active military day in the bait-only section on September 14, 2024.

6. Other ideas we've heard

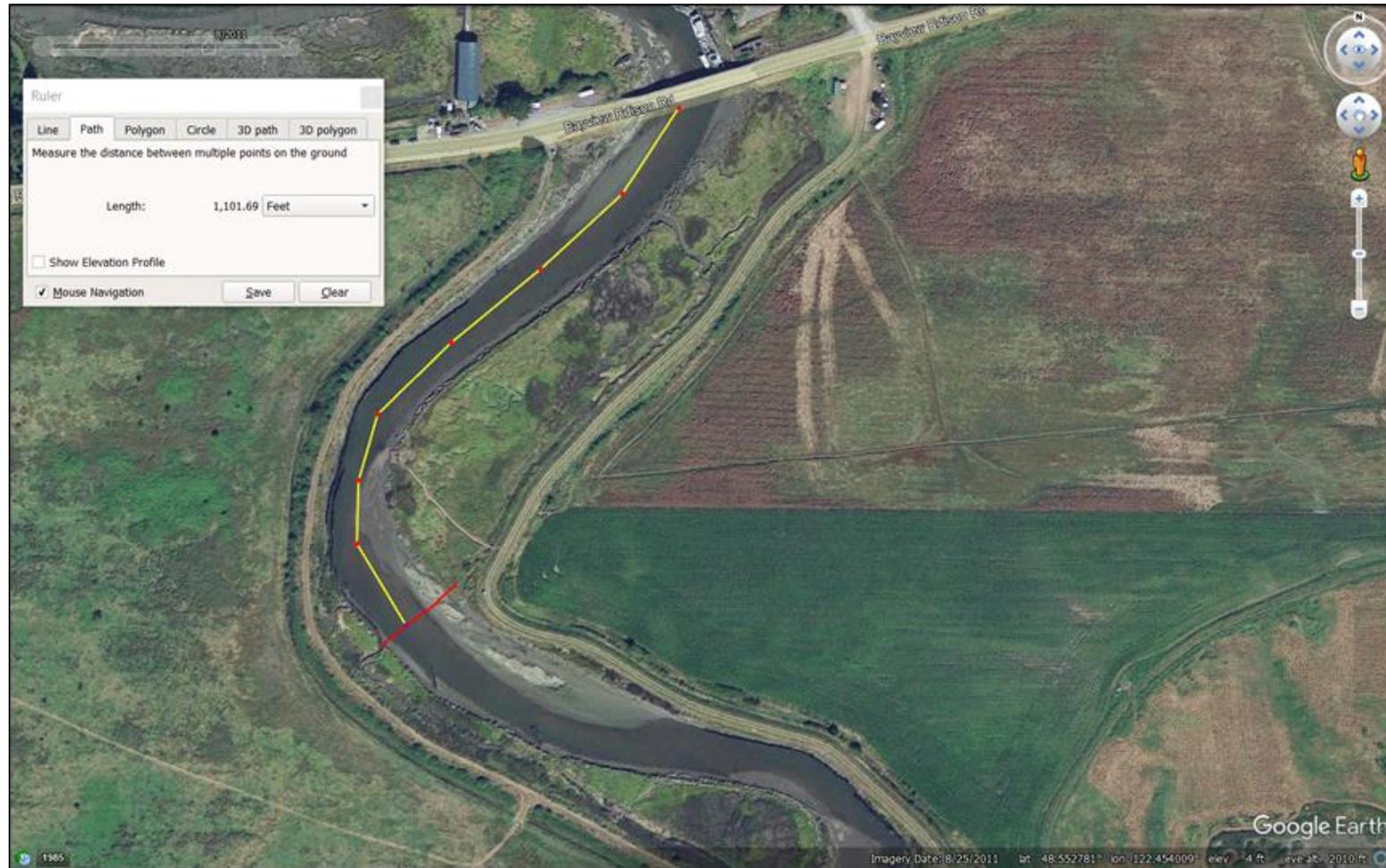
- ❖ Bare unweighted hook, no added weight, and bait only (free drifting)
- ❖ Return to float rules (lure or bait must be suspended under a float)

All area from mouth to hatchery rack, *when not open for Chinook*, closed waters through 10/31.

- ❖ Documented enforcement issues with regular trespassing complaints, and snagging Chinook.
- ❖ Agricultural concerns about tainting organic fresh-to-market crops
- ❖ Requested by enforcement and some neighbors.



Proposed Samish River Bait-Only Section



Freshwater Proposed Seasons – North Sound

Skagit

Hatchery spring Chinook – similar to previous seasons.

- Reminder to not target steelhead.

Sockeye – river and lake opportunity.

- Mount Vernon to Gilligan Creek, and Gilligan to Dalles Bridge
- 4 fish limit in river and lake. Catch split 75/25 lake/river
- Lake open 7/6 (even with zero hauled). Monitor trap count to make sure a trip is right for you.
 - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/reports/counts/baker-river>

Coho, 2 per day, hatchery or wild.

- In General: still need to be careful of wild Chinook catch.
 - ❖ Same general rules and openings as 2023.



Freshwater Proposed Seasons – Central Sound

- **Stillaguamish River**
 - Coho, mainstem, Sept. 21 – October 31
 - Consider fly-only trout opportunity in lower NF Stilly as in 2023, same time as Coho.
- **Skykomish River**
 - Chinook MSF, number of fishing days uncertain (currently modeled at 22 days). Make the best of available UM Chinook encounters.
 - Summer steelhead opening around Reiter (last year was open High-Bridge to confluence May 27 – Aug 2).
- **Snohomish River**
 - Coho, Sept. 21 below RR Bridge at Lincoln Street Boat Ramp, add upstream of RR Br. to forks October 1 – October 31.
- **Wallace River**
 - Coho, Oct. 16 – October 31, open earlier if flows show up to clear Chinook from the area.
- **Snoqualmie River – Closed**



Freshwater Proposed Seasons – Central Sound / South Sound

- **Lake Washington** – Seasons Similar to Last Year. Dependent on In-Season Update from Ballard Locks.
- **Green/Duwamish** - Seasons Similar to 2022 (previous non-pink year). Dependent on In-Season Update from Tribal Test Fishery in Elliot Bay.
- **Puyallup & Carbon**– Similar seasons relative to 2023
- **Nisqually** — Similar Seasons to 2023



Strait of Juan de Fuca / Hood Canal Salmon (Freshwater)

Dungeness River — similar plan to 2023, hatchery coho open 10/16

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	Privateproperty/Access issues
Dewatto River	SALMON, CLOSED	Summer chum impacts

Preliminary 2024 Washington Salmon Season Meeting Schedule

Date	Purpose	Location/Contact
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.
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>

Full NOF schedule also available on our website:

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



Puget Sound Sport Fishing Advisory Group
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/pssfag>

Questions/Comments?

