

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 #2 Puget Sound Recreational Breakout Discussion

March 27, 2024



Agenda

- Recreational considerations
- Current Puget Sound marine recreational season proposals
 - Chinook
 - Coho
- Current freshwater recreational seasons
- Modeling scenarios
- Public comment



2024 Salmon Season Considerations

- Several limiting stocks, including 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
- 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
 - Low Snowpack
- Fraser Sockeye lowest forecast on record
- Chum stocks continue to be in a low status
- Continued consideration for SRKW



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



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.



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 26 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



Hood Canal Freshwater Proposed Seasons

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



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



Current 2024 Puget Sound Recreational Feedback From Public

- Add Chum opportunity in MA 10/11 in Oct-Nov.
- Additional NS Coho opportunity in MA-5/6
- MA 11 more quota- more fishing days- 2 fish limit
- Samish River Chinook snagging issues- no weights
- MA 10 and 11 align summer fisheries June 01
- Postpone MA-10 opening until mid-July for Coho
- More stability for seasons in MA10/11
- Maintaining Freshwater Fisheries (Snohomish R)
- Limited (small) winter blackmouth fisheries in Marine Areas 7, 9, 8-1, 8-2
- Annual limit of Chinook per angler
- Shore fishing for salmon MA 11
- Baker Lake sockeye to open weekend after July 4th



Modeling Scenarios to meet objectives

Chinook:

<https://chinook-scenarios.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/index.html>

Coho:

<https://ty-vuejs.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/index.html>



Preliminary 2024 Washington Salmon Season Meeting Schedule

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)

Online 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 WDFW website:

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



Questions or comments?

