

# 2024 Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor North of Falcon (NOF) Public Meeting

Virtual via Zoom Platform  
March 28, 2024, 6 – 8 p.m.

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Meeting notes by Kim Figlar Barnes

WDFW Staff: Leah Snyder, Mark Baltzell, Marlene Wagner, Barbara McClellan, Mike Scharpf, Kim Figlar Barnes, Erin Witkop, James Losee, Nick Vanbuskirk, and 7 staff signed in  
Public: 29 individuals virtual via Zoom or phone

Leah Snyder (WDFW) – Reviewed meeting guidelines

Marlene Wagner (WDFW)

- Opening statements
- Presentation PowerPoint
  - Introductions
    - Meeting purpose: Provide information NOF, answer questions about information provided, hear initial fisheries suggestions from the public
  - NOF background and schedule
  - Non-treaty Ocean Options 2024

Mike Scharpf (WDFW) – Grays Harbor (GH) part of the presentation

- Hump river one fish limit MSF all season
- Chehalis jack fishery up to Fuller Bridge
- Dec. fisheries
  - All month
  - Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Closed in Dec.
- Rec Fisheries
  - NALF **does not** include latest FRAM run as Models to C
  - Last year's fishery compared to Models A to C
  - Models A to C impact comparisons
  - Commercial proposal review
    - Need to have more discussion with QIN regarding treaty schedule

Erin Witkop (WDFW) - Willapa Bay

- Proposals
  - MSF Naselle & Willapa Rivers
  - Limit commercial fishery openers in 2U & 2T
  - Snagging Naselle R.
  - Aug.1 to Oct. 15
    - Any fish not legally hooked goes towards bag limit
    - Natural-origin fish conservation & reduce gear conflict Naselle R.
      - Restrict fishing from floating device hatchery to Big Hill Rd. Bridge
  - Model Run Review A-NALF & B

## Public Comments

### WB Rec

- WB 25% more Chinook go to commercial than rec's
- Run a model with no nets before Sept 10<sup>th</sup>
- Bag Limits Naselle & Nemah R.
  - 2 Hatchery Chin bucks and only keep one hen so up to 3 adult limits
    - Help make pHOS
- Open Naselle R. up to hatchery deadline
- No clue how foul hook apply to limit
- Gear restrictions are already complicated, try to minimize any additional rules

### WB Rec

- WB coho MSF Willapa & Naselle
  - Supportive of esc goal across rivers
- What are mark rates expected to be encountered in MSF (HOR vs NOR)
  - James L. (WDFW) – Rate 3 to 1, HOR to NOR

### WB Rec

- Concern for RSI returns
- Need to improve SAR returns

### GH Rec

- Support for Model B Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>
- Bag limits early in season
  - 3 fish limit in Oct/Nov no more than one wild

### WB Rec

- Biggest impact to NOR fish
  - Is it Commercial or Rec?
    - Erin W – Commercial numbers available
- How do treat raised Chum regarding returns (hatchery raised vs wild)?
  - Erin W. (WDFW) – Not able to tell for Chum, not clipped
- How do release numbers from Forks Creek impact Rec fishery?

### GH Rec

- Distribution of coho- shift back to Nov. if lose Dec. fishery
- If steelhead negotiations happen too late in the season; Will we lose the ability to shift fishery away from Dec.?
  - Mike S – Will have negotiations with QIN, if does not look good will shift earlier

### GH Rec

- Closing the S. Elma Bridge section on Chehalis R.; Is it for conservation of Chinook? Rec. Bay fishery target wild Chinook and catch and release.
  - Mike S – It's to keep people from targeting adult versus going after jacks during jack only fishery
- Model A Dec. - 2 fish limit hatchery only. Release wild coho

#### GH Rec

- Support Model B
- 2 coho clipped only available in Dec.
- Make in-season adjustment for extra bag limit in Oct. & Nov. if Dec. does not happen
  - Mike S. (WDFW) – could move impacts to different time frame, go to 3 fish bag
  - James L. (WDFW) – intention is to fish in Dec.

#### WB Rec

- Anti-s snag rule that is in the books. Do staff have the authority to make changes to this rule?
  - Like to see rule define a legally hooked fish as in the mouth on Naselle R. for Chinook
  - The new snagging proposal; Would angler have to enter fish on a punch card?
    - James L. (WDFW) – No
    - Just counts towards bag limit
    - New proposal suggested by enforcement originally
    - Kit R - Similar to lake trout fishery if fish you with bait and release trout it goes towards limit
- Do not support Naselle opening up earlier to hatchery
- Leader and bobber reg. could help with snagging (like OR)
- Impact rate on WB coho is low

#### WB Rec

- Supports allowing the marine fishery to retain a wild coho in the bag limit

#### WB Rec

- Open Naselle up to hatchery as before, it has been opened and closed over time
- Do not understand rule for snagged fish and how it goes towards limit
- How will this be tracked? Especially when people move around to different areas of the river
- Seems like snagging is a jig problem

#### WB Rec

- Bag limits, not in favor of 3 fish bag limit
- Prefer 2 fish bag limit, maybe increase to 3 later in-season if run looks favorable and fish are available to have additional harvest

#### GH Rec

- Support Model B
- Agree with change of jack fishery to Fuller

#### GH Rec

- There is no harvest for Chinook in Chehalis R. – Chinook taken by AK & BC
  - Not fair to change one section of the river at S. Elma
  - How is it different from ocean and tide water Chinook releases?
    - Mike S – Happy to talk more about this issue with you tomorrow or next week

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm