

2024 Willapa Bay NOF Fishery Suggestions or Comments Received from the Public

As of 04.03.2024

Includes emails and online portal comments that have been received

General

- Produce less chum at Nemah Hatchery and produce more Chinook
- Improve hatchery efficiencies in fall Chinook production for better returns
- Shift coho hatchery production at Forks Creek Hatchery to provide better fishing opportunities by reducing the early coho hatchery production (prior to Sept 15) at Forks Creek by 75% and increase late coho hatchery production from mid-Sept to mid- October.
- Improve SAR (smolt to adult returns)
- Concern for RSI returns

Commercial

- Maintain fishery dates from the original Willapa Bay Salmon Mgmt Policy – No commercial fishing in south bay until after Labor Day and after Sept 16 in the north bay
- Limit the commercial net to only cover no more than 50% of the river (no set netting or blocking the entire width of the river)
- Use smaller mesh size 5” max
- No commercial fishing prior to Sept 10 in any area
- Limit fishing in 2T and 2U

Recreational

General

- River specific mark selective fisheries (4 support)
- Gear (jigs, leader length), area restrictions, or retention changes (all landed fish count against limit, retained fish must be hooked in the mouth) to address snagging issues
- Use hook size restrictions
- Does not support all landed fish count against the daily limit (1 support)
- Does support limiting or reducing jigging to deal with snagging (1 support)
- Support for Chinook recreational priority

Marine Area 2.1

- Support for allowing the marine fishery to keep a wild coho in the bag limit

Naselle River

- Apply any rule to reduce snagging from Hwy 101 to Hwy 4 Bridge
- All landed foul hooked fish count against the limit, retained fish must be hooked in the mouth August 1 – October 15 or Nov 1 (3 support)
- Reinstate bobber rule, and the lure and bait need to be suspended (not dragging the ground) to ensure Stationary Gear Rule compliance (1 support)
- Prohibit fishing from a floating device from the spanning concrete abutment at the hatchery to the Bighill Bridge (3 support)

- Prohibit jigs and twitching gear from August 1 – Oct 15 from the mouth of the SF to the Hwy 4 Bridge
- Require fish to be hooked in the mouth in freshwater from August 1 – October 15 or Nov 1 (3 support)
- Require max. 36” leader from hook to weight and when a bobber is used max. 5’ to bobber stop from bait or lure (1 support)
- Revise end date on use of barbless hooks (back off the date as early as possible)
- Reduce the barbless restriction date
- Close the section from the cement weir at the Naselle Hatchery up river to the Big Hill Bridge to fishing year round due to gear conflict and to allow wild fish a place to rest after going through the new weir and trap that will be constructed soon.
- 3 adults with only 1 hen (Chinook) (1 not supportive)
- Open up to the hatchery deadline (1 not supportive, 1 supportive)
- Redefine rule for legally hooked fish as in the mouth for Chinook
- Keep fishery as a 2 fish bag limit, increase to 3 fish later in-season, if favorable
- 3 adult limit

Willapa River

- Mark selective fisheries for coho (3 support)
- All landed foul hooked fish count against the limit, retained fish must be hooked in the mouth August 1 – October 15 (3 support)
- 3 adult limit

Nemah River

- 3 adults with only 1 hen (Chinook)
- 3 adults of which only 2 may be female