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**Mcclellan, Barbara A (DFW)**

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**From:** Mcclellan, Barbara A (DFW)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2024 2:18 PM  
**Subject:** 2024 Willapa Bay Fisheries Update - weeks 26 - 32  
**Attachments:** 2024 WB Marine Area Recreational Catch Estimate Summary Draft 08.16.2024.pdf;  
Naselle Hatchery Adult CHK Summary 08.16.2024.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Everyone,

It's that time of year again when WDFW south coast marine fisheries staff for Willapa Bay will be providing in-season weekly updates regarding recreational and commercial fisheries, hatchery broodstock, and spawning ground surveys as we move through the fall season. If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the information provided through these emails for the 2024 salmon season, please reply to this email and/or contact the regional staff directly at the Montesano office (#360-249-4628).

### **Recreational Marine Area Fishery**

The Willapa Bay recreational marine fishery opened on June 30, 2024, under Ocean Area 2 rules. Our recreational creel monitoring began on opening day and included the Tokeland boat launch and marina and the South Bend boat launch. We have had a better start to the 2024 salmon fishing season compared to last year during the same timeframe in July, but we did see effort pick up the week of July 22 then drop back down the last week of July. This may be due to several factors including a push of salmon into Willapa Bay that week or better fishable tides (high tide in the early morning hours). There were only a few days in July when high water occurred first thing in the morning (the most favored tide for Willapa Bay marine recreational). A midday high tide may have contributed to less fish biting given the warmer weather conditions, which may have also discouraged some anglers, but there were many anglers we interviewed who were crabbing inside Willapa bay in the early weeks of the fishery. Staff reported 47 Chinook salmon (15 unmarked, 32 AD-clipped) and 52 Ad-clipped coho landed in June and July.

August 1<sup>st</sup> signified a change in regulations from Ocean Area 2 rules to Willapa Bay specific rules. The regulations for 2024 starting August 1 are the same as the 2023 salmon season including the Willapa Bay Control Zone that is once again open for the August – September timeframe. During August and September, staff will monitor dockside locations that include both the Tokeland boat launch and marina, and the South Bend boat launch two days per strata (strata 1: Monday – Thursday; strata 2: Friday – Sunday). Staff saw an increase in effort the first full week of August with the highest effort for the week on Sunday, August 11. From August 1 – 11, there were several days (August 9-13) with an early morning high tide, the most favorable tide for Willapa Bay, however, it was a big tidal exchange with a minus tide at low water. The overall weather conditions were warmer throughout the day as well. There were 29

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hatchery Chinook salmon estimated to have been caught in the first weeks from August 1 – 11. (See attachment: *2024 WB Marine Area Recreational Catch Estimate Summary Draft 08.16.2024.pdf*)

For this week, August 12 - 18, there will be early morning and early evening high tides with smaller tidal exchanges, but it includes a few minus tides at low water later in the week starting Friday, August 16. This tide series will continue until well into the following week. If you are interested in any data collected by the Ocean Sampling Program for Ocean Areas 1- 4, you can find those data on our website at [Ocean sport salmon quota report | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

### **Spawning Ground Surveys**

Staff started weekly stream surveys on August 1 below the weir in Nemah and Naselle rivers. We have observed roughly 101 live Chinook salmon staging in the Naselle River and only 3 live Chinook staging in the Nemah River. At this point, we have not observed any spawning or redds in either of these river sections. Historically, Chinook salmon begin spawning in Willapa Bay rivers the middle of September.

### **Hatchery Chinook Rack Returns**

#### Naselle River Hatchery

To-date, 35 adult and 0 jack hatchery Chinook salmon have volunteered into the attraction channel and recruited into the hatchery. This is significantly lower than last year at this time. There have also been five unmarked, Chinook salmon that have volunteered into the hatchery at this point. Three were male Chinook and two was a female Chinook. All five fish have been planted upstream above the hatchery. There has been one female Chinook salmon mortality reported in the Naselle Hatchery last week from August 1 – 13, 2024. These data will be updated in the next weekly in-season email. (See attachment: *Naselle Hatchery Adult CHK Summary 08.16.2024.pdf*)

#### Nemah and Forks Creek hatcheries

To-date, there have been two hatchery, male Chinook volunteer into the pond at the Nemah Hatchery.

No Chinook salmon have recruited into the Forks Creek Hatchery at this point.

### **Commercial Fishery**

The commercial fishery in Willapa Bay is scheduled to open tomorrow, August 17, at the south end of the bay using tangle net gear in Areas 2N, 2M, and 2R.

An update from this opener will be provided in next week's weekly update email.

As always, in-season data is preliminary and subject to change.

All data provided through these weekly email updates for the months of August and September will be posted to the Willapa Bay Marine Area 2.1 Recreational Creel Monitoring page of our website listed below.

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If you have any comments or questions specific to the information provided in these emails, please submit your comments to [WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov). Additionally, if you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving these in-season update emails or any other information staff send out regarding Willapa Bay, please forward this email and have them reply to [WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov) stating they would like to be added to our email distribution list.

Thank you and Fish On! ><(((◦> ><(((◦>  
Barbara McClellan

Online reference links you may be interested in:

Willapa Bay Marine Area 2.1 Recreational Creel Monitoring: [Willapa Bay Recreational Salmon Reports | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor (non-treaty) Commercial Salmon fisheries (Regulations and landed catch): [Commercial Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor Gillnet Salmon Fishery | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

2024 Willapa Bay Marine Area Recreational Catch Estimate

updated 8/18/2024

CHK = Chinook  
AD = Adipose clipped (hatchery origin)  
UM = Unmarked (natural origin)

CPUE = Catch per unit effort  
Effort = An individual angler trip

Strata 1 - Mon - Thurs  
Strata 2 - Fri - Sun

June-July (Ocean 2 Rules) Unmarked Chinook retention allowed

Mgmt Week	Expanded Data		Expanded Data - Chinook						Expanded Data - Coho				Notes	Dates
	# Boats	# Anglers	Estimated Total Chinook Kept	Total Chinook CPUE	Estimated Total UM Chinook Kept	Willapa Origin Chinook UM Impacts	Estimated Total AD Chinook Kept	Willapa Origin Chinook AD Impacts	Estimated Total Coho Kept	Total Coho CPUE	Estimated Total UM Coho Kept	Estimated Total AD Coho Kept		
26	4	6	2	0.333	1	0	1	0	0	0.000	0	0	2 fish daily, only 1 Chinook allowed. No wild coho retention	June 24 - 30
27	17	37	2	0.054	0	0	2	1	11	0.297	1	10		July 1 - 7
28	11	23	2	0.087	0	0	2	1	5	0.217	0	5		July 8 - 14
29	23	44	4	0.091	0	0	4	1	11	0.250	3	8		July 15 - 21
30	50	116	33	0.284	13	4	20	6	24	0.207	0	24		July 22 - 28
31	11	25	4	0.160	1	0	3	1	1	0.040	0	1		July 29 - Aug 4
Season Total	116	251	47	0.187	15	5	32	10	52	0.207	4	48		

Starting in 2021, we switched to electronic data collection. The raw, actual data is now produced from the uploads each day and week. A copy of the raw data is now stored in the Rec Fishery Monitoring/year/Data folder. These data for the table below can be found in the Rec Fishery Monitoring/year/Data/Weekly data summaries. Choose the data that matches the stat week.

August and September				Boats and Anglers									Chinook Retained - Illegal to retain					Chinook Released					Marked Coho			Unmarked Coho			Total Coho																							
Mgmt Week - see note below for raw data source	Dates	Strata	Strata Description	Actual Raw Data			Actual Raw Data			Expanded			# CHK AD Kept		CHK AD CPUE Kept		Expanded # CHK AD Kept		# WB Origin CHK AD Impacts		# CHK UM Kept		CHK UM CPUE Kept		Expanded # CHK UM Kept		# CHK UM Released		CHK UM CPUE		Estimated Expanded CHK UM Encounters		Estimated Total CHK UM Impacts		# WB Origin CHK UM Impacts		# Coho AD Kept		Coho AD CPUE		Expanded # Coho AD Kept		# Coho UM Kept		Coho UM CPUE		Expanded # Coho UM Kept		Total Coho CPUE (AD+UM)		Total Expanded # Coho Kept (AD + UM)	
				32	8/5 - 8/8	1	Mon - Thur	82	8	90	186	48%	176	2.15	399	25	0.142	57	35	0	0.000	0	6	0.034	14	2	1	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0				
32	8/9 - 8/11	2	Fri - Sun	23	1	24	37	64%	43	1.87	70	4	0.093	6	4	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000	0										
33		1	Mon - Thur																																																	
33		2	Fri - Sun																																																	
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39		1	Mon - Thur																																																	
39		2	Fri - Sun																																																	
40		1	Mon - Thur																																																	
40		2	Fri - Sat																																																	
TOTALS				105	9	114	223		219	2.09	469	29	0.132	63	39	0	0.000	0	6	0.027	14	2	1	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0	0.000	0	0.000	0												

**Naselle Hatchery Adult Chinook Rack Returns**

**Preliminary/DRAFT \***

8/16/2024

Red value = peak run timing

Year	2022						2023						2024 *						Average 2015-2023		
	Hatchery			Natural			Hatchery			Natural			Hatchery			Natural			Stat week	Hatchery	Natural
Stat Week	Weekly Total	Cumulative	% Run Timing	Weekly Total	Cumulative	% Run Timing	Weekly Total	Cumulative	% Run Timing	Weekly Total	Cumulative	% Run Timing	Weekly Total	Cumulative	% Run Timing	Weekly Total	Cumulative	% Run Timing	Stat week	Hatchery	Natural
31	1	1	0%	0	0	0.0%	51	51	0%	3	3	0%	0	0		0	0		31	11	1
32	12	13	0%	0	0	0.0%	127	178	2%	5	8	1%	35	35	100%	5	5	100%	32	31	1
33	2	15	0%	0	0	0.0%	75	253	3%	3	11	2%							33	24	2
34	36	51	1%	6	6	1.0%	111	364	4%	7	18	3%							34	50	4
35	191	242	3%	17	23	3.7%	48	412	5%	8	26	4%							35	79	7
36	174	416	6%	15	38	6.0%	295	707	9%	15	41	6%							36	135	11
37	74	490	7%	11	49	7.8%	2	709	9%	0	41	6%							37	257	23
38	84	574	8%	6	55	8.7%	129	838	10%	3	44	6%							38	481	38
39	49	623	9%	2	57	9.0%	3,393	4231	51%	29	73	10%							39	1,181	40
40	608	1,231	18%	53	110	17.5%	1368	5599	67%	166	239	34%							40	564	99
41	2549	3,780	54%	152	262	41.6%	1326	6925	83%	277	516	74%							41	980	159
42	1696	5,476	79%	184	446	70.8%	1062	7987	96%	125	641	91%							42	866	154
43	619	6,095	88%	46	492	78.1%	169	8156	98%	45	686	98%							43	239	45
44	463	6,558	94%	88	580	92.1%	124	8280	100%	15	701	100%							44	173	28
45	207	6,765	97%	18	598	94.9%	9	8289	100%	1	702	100%							45	42	5
46	98	6,863	99%	31	629	99.8%	6	8295	100%	0	702	100%							46	20	4
47	76	6,939	100%	0	629	99.8%	0	8295	100%	0	702	100%							47	11	0
48	1	6,940	100%	0	629	99.8%	0	8295	100%	0	702	100%							48	0	0
49	4	6,944	100%	0	629	99.8%	0	8295	100%	0	702	100%							49	1	0
50	1	6,945	100%	1	630	100.0%	0	8295	100%	0	702	100%							50	1	0
51	1	6,946	100%	0	630		0	8295	100%	0	702	100%							51	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,946</b>			<b>630</b>			<b>8,295</b>			<b>702</b>			<b>35</b>			<b>5</b>			<b>Avg</b>	<b>5,092</b>	<b>620</b>

\* italics = partial week