

North of Falcon 2025 Update

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Outline

- What is North of Falcon?
- Public meetings & engagement
- Fishery summaries
- Next steps
- Questions



What is North of Falcon?

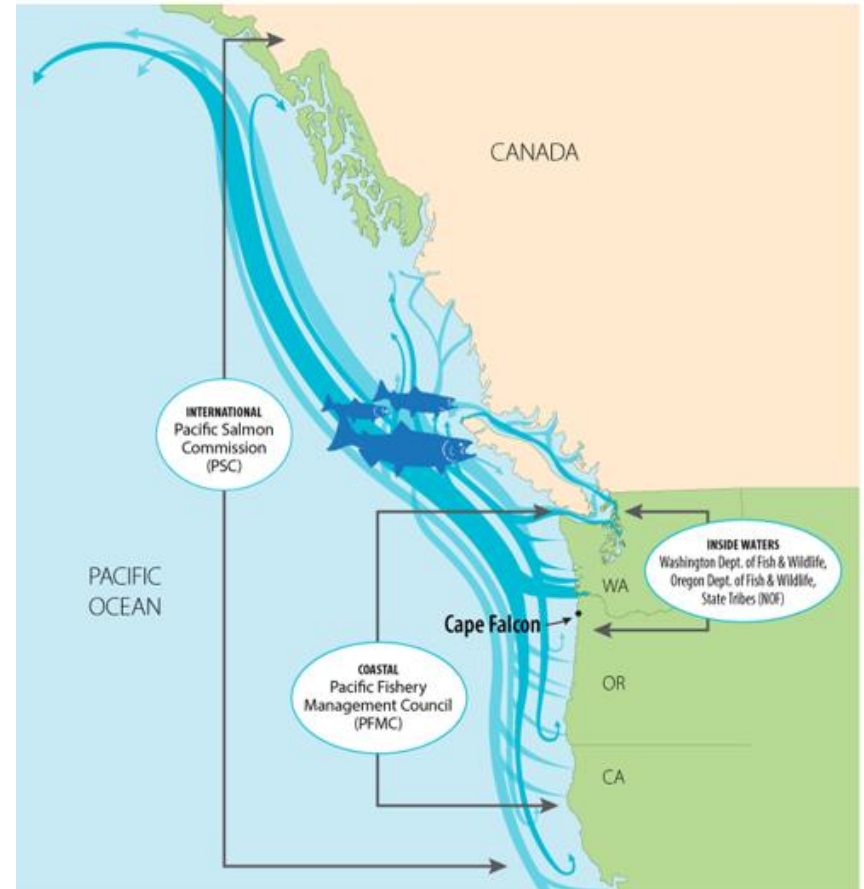
- North of Falcon is the annual, cooperative process to plan salmon seasons in Washington waters
- The name refers to waters north of Oregon's Cape Falcon, which marks the southern border of Washington's management of salmon stocks
- One component of a larger salmon setting process that also involves 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.



2025 North of Falcon Public Meetings

Date	Meeting
Feb. 28	Statewide forecast meeting - Olympia/hybrid
March 5-11	Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting – Vancouver, WA
Mar. 12	Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor fisheries
Mar. 18	Columbia River Fisheries – upper Columbia River/Snake River
Mar. 19	North of Falcon #1 – Olympia/hybrid
Mar. 24	PFMC public hearing – Westport, WA
Mar. 25	North of Falcon #2 – Lynnwood/hybrid
Apr. 1	Coastal/Olympic Peninsula freshwater recreational fisheries
Apr. 2	Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor fisheries
Apr. 3	Lower Columbia River Fisheries – Ridgefield/hybrid
Apr. 3	Puget Sound freshwater and marine recreational fisheries
April 10-15	Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting – San Jose, CA
Apr. 12-15	Public Calls with Ocean, PS Recreational, and PS Commercial each morning



2025 North of Falcon Meetings – Puget Sound Advisor Group

Date	Meeting
Feb. 27	Pre-Statewide Forecast Meeting with PS Recreational Sportfishing Advisors - Zoom
Mar. 13	PS Recreational Sportfishing Advisors - Zoom
Mar. 24	PS Recreational Sportfishing Advisors - Zoom
Apr. 11	PS Recreational Sportfishing Advisors - Zoom
Apr. 13 -14	PS Recreational Sportfishing Advisors - Hybrid



2025 North of Falcon Public Outreach

Newsroom / WDFW invites public participation in annual salmon season

WDFW process

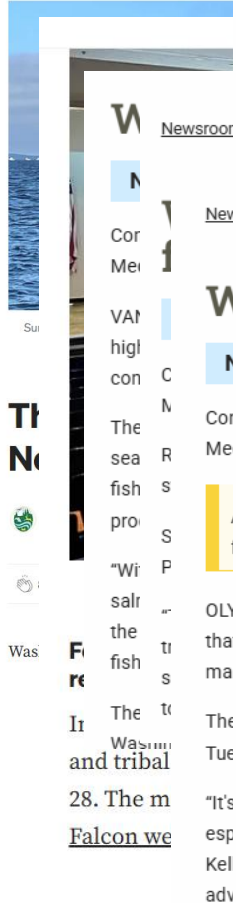
News release

Contact: Fish Program
Media contact: Media

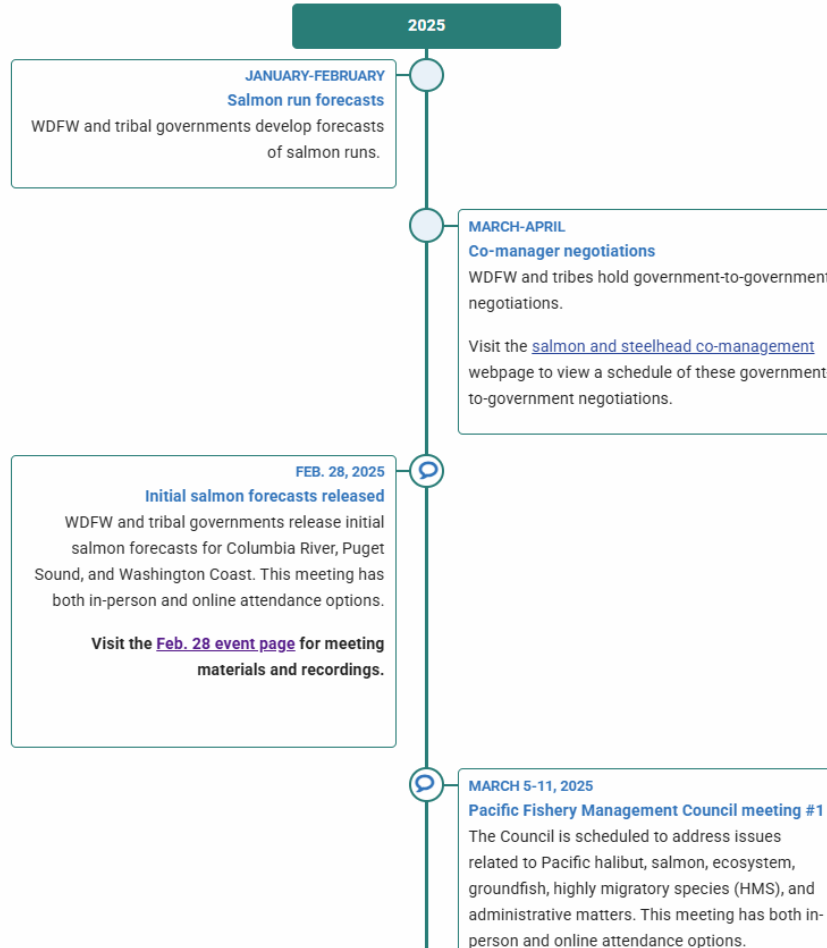
Washington's North

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The meeting, part
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2025 North of Falcon timeline



set for 2025-2026

Photos

Click to display full size or right-click to save to your device.

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2025 NOF Ocean Fisheries

- Developed and adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council for federal waters off the west coast
- Fisheries reflect large Columbia River hatchery Fall Chinook forecasts, particularly Bonneville Pool and lower Columbia hatchery stocks
- Impacts on Puget Sound Chinook stocks and Upper Columbia Summer Chinook were focuses of fishery shaping
- Recreational Chinook quota of 54,750 compared to 41,000 in 2024
- Recreational coho quota of 99,720 marked coho, compared to 79,800 marked coho in 2024
- Neah Bay, La Push, and Westport areas will open June 21, seven days per week, with Chinook only fishery to start in each area
- Columbia River Area will open June 25, open seven days per week
- Westport, La Push and Neah Bay will close September 15, Ilwaco September 30 (or when quotas are met)



2025 Puget Sound Marine Fisheries

- Overall abundance forecast for Puget Sound Chinook is similar to 2024
- Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Skokomish, Nooksack and Skagit summer/fall Chinook were all constraining stocks, but Nooksack became more constraining due to age structure
 - Forecast weighted heavily to 3-year old fish for Nooksack
 - Age 2 abundance is calculated based on Age 3 forecast
 - Age 2 abundance 4.8 times higher than in 2024
 - Biggest impact of non-tribal fisheries is in winter Chinook-directed fisheries
- Each of these stocks have different marine distributions in time and space within Puget Sound, so finding the best combinations of marine area fishing opportunities that meet conservation objectives when coupled with freshwater fisheries is challenging



2025 Puget Sound Marine Fisheries

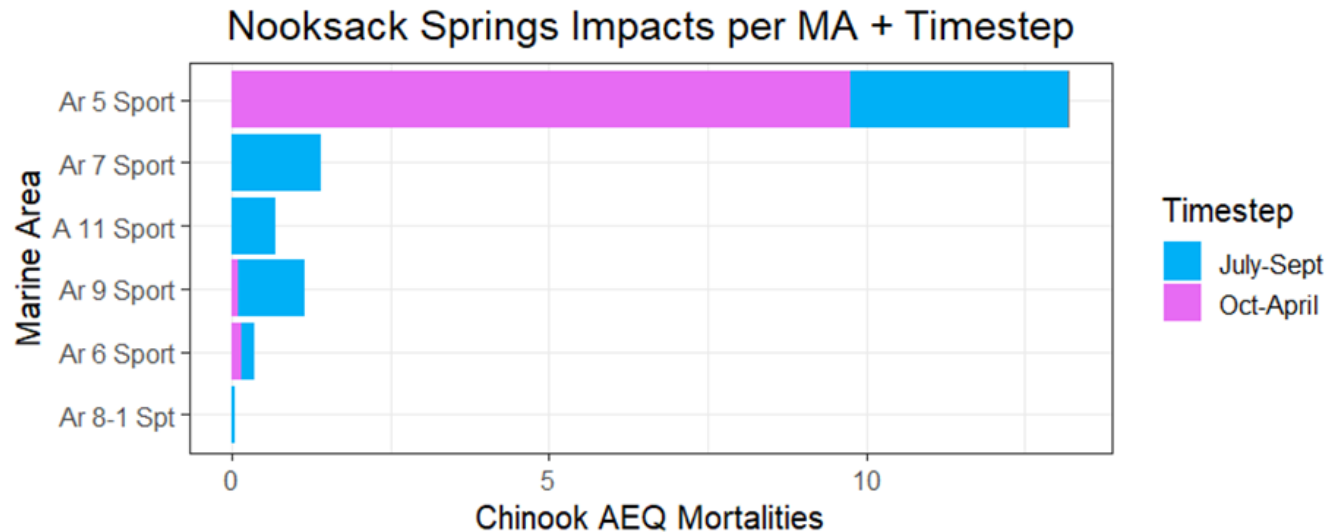


- Quotas for Areas 7,9, 10 and 11 identical to 2024
- Short duration, three-day concurrent mark-selective Chinook openings are planned for mid-July in Areas 7, 9, 10 and 11, with additional openings in each area dependent on fishery performance and remaining impacts available.
- Marine Area 5 closed in winter
- Marine Area 6 summer Chinook quota reduced (7258 to 4258) – lowered impact on Skokomish, Skagit summer/fall, and Lake Washington/Green/Puyallup



2025 Puget Sound Marine Fisheries

- Area 5 winter fishery had biggest impact on Nooksack spring Chinook. Was open for ~2 weeks in April of 2025, will be closed in 2026.



2025 Puget Sound Marine Fisheries



- Coho opportunity similar relative to 2024, some reduction to non-selective opportunity to reduce impact on Hood Canal and Interior Fraser natural coho
- Bonus pink limits in many marine areas (daily limit Chinook or coho + 2 additional pink salmon)
- Marine Area 8-1 Aug 16 start date
- Marine Area 8-2 closed to pink salmon retention (Stillaguamish pink below goal)



2025 Puget Sound Freshwater Fisheries

- Nooksack River salmon fishery scheduled to close 10/27 – there will be co-manager discussion on chum fishing schedules between now and then
- Baker sockeye forecast very strong
 - Skagit from Mt. Vernon to Dalles Bridge at Concrete open June 26 – July 15, four sockeye only daily limit
 - Baker Lake open July 12 – August 31 season, six sockeye daily limit
- Skykomish summer fishery open June 10 – July 10 for hatchery Chinook
- Good pink salmon fisheries expected in many rivers



2025 Coastal Freshwater Fisheries

- Quillayute basin – 4 fish daily limit, only 3 adults, only 1 may be wild
 - Release wild coho through Sept 15th
- Hoh River – 3 fish daily limit, only 2 adults, 1 may be a wild Chinook
 - Dec. fishery – daily limit 1 coho
- Clearwater and Salmon Rivers (Queets basin) – fall fisheries will be closed
- Humptulips River – Same as last year (Oct-Dec, Release Chinook)
- Chehalis basin – 2 fish daily limit in Sept – Oct, 1 fish daily limit Nov – Dec
- Naselle and Willapa River – 2 fish daily limit, only one may be wild coho



2025 NOF Columbia River Fisheries

Summer

- No mainstem summer Chinook-directed fisheries (recreational or commercial)
- Recreational fishery open to steelhead and sockeye; mainstem waters downstream of Hwy. 395 Bridge is open with a reduced 1 sockeye limit from June 22-July 6 .

Fall

- Upriver summer steelhead restrictions continue to be in place.
- Recreational pre-season similar to last year:
 - Buoy 10 non-MSF Chinook Aug. 1-6 & Aug 26-Sept 6 and MSF Chinook Aug 7-25; coho remains open with a limit of 2 after Chinook closes.
 - West Puget Island-Warrior/Lewis open non-MSF Chinook Aug 1-Sept 6.
 - Bonneville Dam to Hwy 395 Bridge non-MSF Chinook Aug 1-Sept 17.
 - Fisheries upstream of Buoy 10 close to salmon/steelhead after Chinook closes, then re-open for coho only starting Oct 1.
- Commercial pre-season similar to last year and include:
 - Large-mesh gillnet in Zones 4-5, tangle nets in Zones 1-3, and Select Areas
 - Set aside impacts/catch sharing for Emerging Commercial Fishery for beach/purse seines and pound nets



2025 Salmon Rule-Making Process

- Draft WAC language has been drafted to represent the proposed 2025-26 seasons
- CR-102s with WAC language were filed with the Code Reviser on May 6
- There will be an additional public comment period and a public hearing on the rules on June 12
- Final rule to be adopted some time after June 15
- 2025-2026 Fishing Regulation Pamphlet to be published in late June



Additional Information Online

- WDFW news release from April 15: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/newsroom/news-release/washington-salmon-fishing-seasons-tentatively-set-2025-2026-2>
- WDFW North of Falcon webpage: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/NOF>
 - Meeting recordings and materials: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-meetings>
 - Public input portals closed after final NOF meetings, reopened when draft rules were filed: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input>



Questions?

