

# Public meeting guidelines and etiquette

- 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. 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, if using a computer, click the hand/reactions icon at the bottom of your screen, and if in-person, please raise your hand.
- 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.
- 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](#).

# 2025 North of Falcon

## NOF # 1 - Preliminary Modeling

WDFW Fish Program staff

March 19, 2025



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH &  
WILDLIFE**

# Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- Overview of the North Of Falcon process
- Review of 2025 forecasts, management objectives, and stocks of concern
- PFMC - Non-treaty ocean options
- Preliminary modeling results
- Remaining meeting schedule
- PS Recreational/Commercial Breakouts

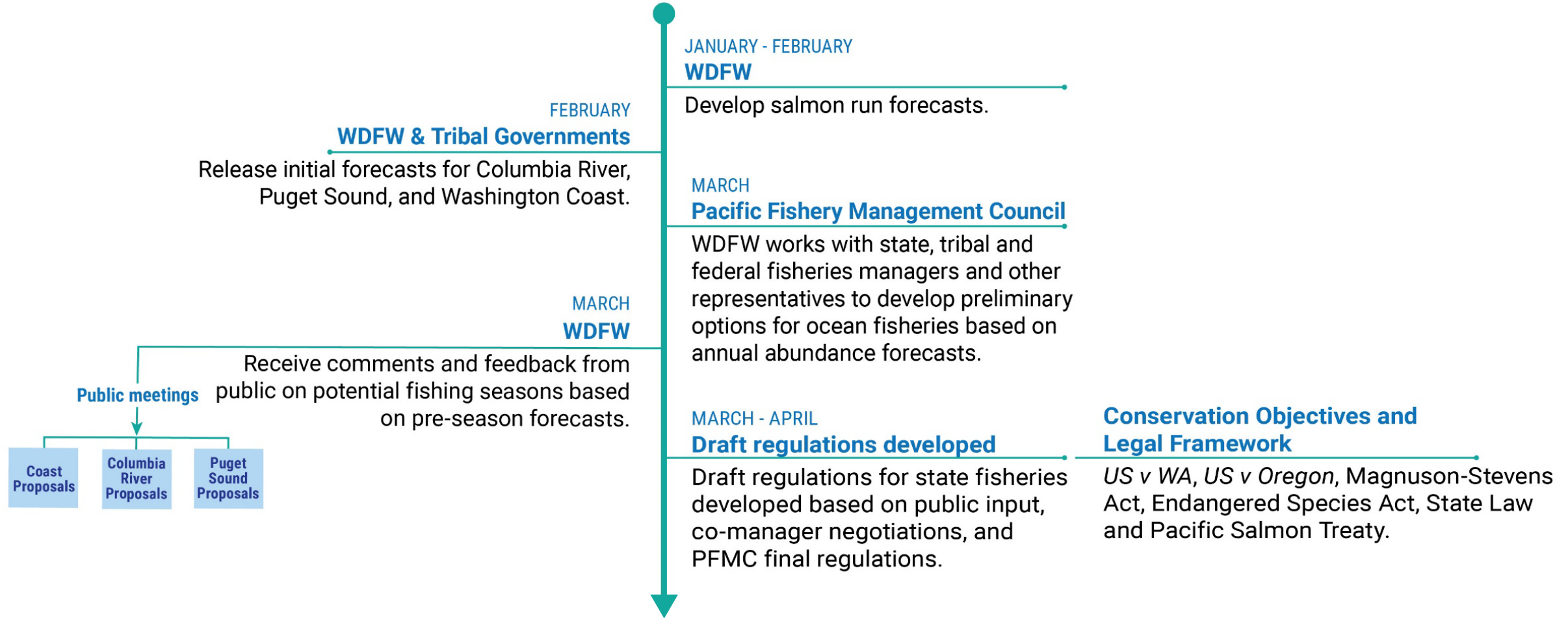


Salmon anglers fishing in central Puget Sound (Marine Area 10) with Mount Rainier, the City of Seattle, and commercial shipping vessels visible in the background. Photo WDFW.

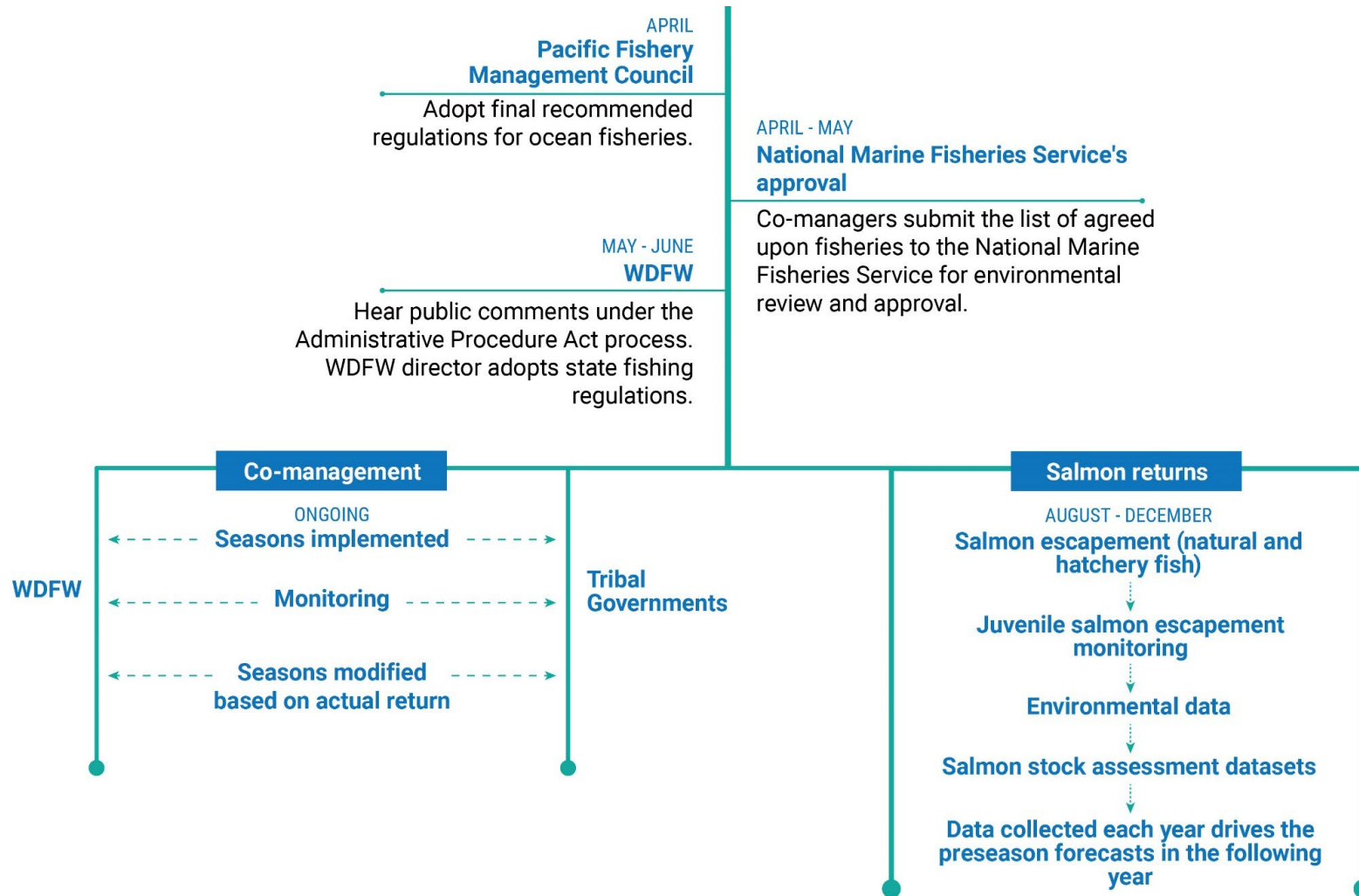
# What is North of Falcon?

- North of Falcon is the annual, cooperative process to set 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 season-setting process that also involves the state, tribal governments, federal regulators, other U.S. states, and Canada.

# North of Falcon timeline (Jan-April)



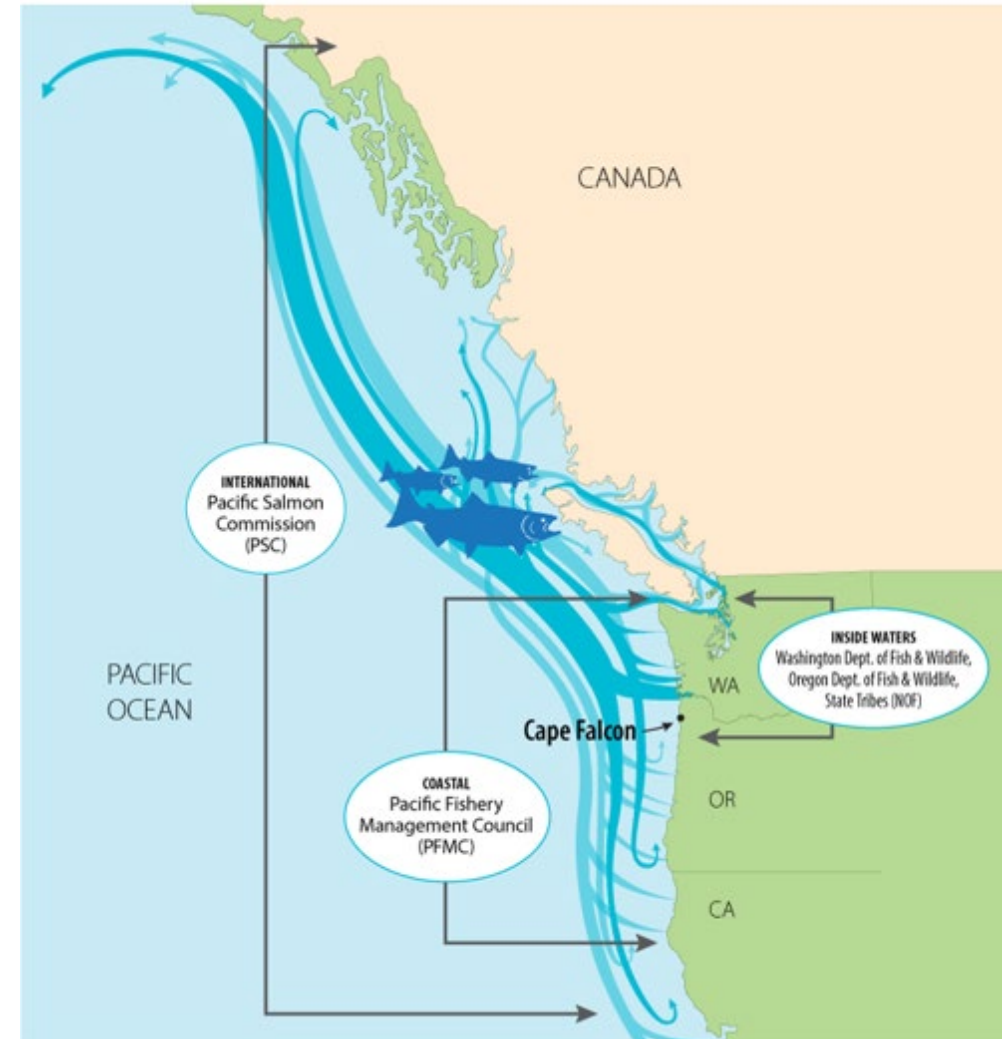
# North of Falcon timeline (April – ongoing)



# 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



Inside, coastal, and international waters management

# 2025 forecast recap

## Puget Sound Chinook:

- Overall, total Chinook **up 32%** from 10-yr avg, and **up 9%** from last years forecast
- Natural stocks **down 37%** and Hatchery stocks **up 53%** from recent 10-yr avg

## Coastal Chinook:

- Natural Stocks **down 9%** and Hatchery stocks **up 11%** from recent 10-yr avg
- Natural stocks **11% down** and Hatchery stocks **16% up** from 2024 forecasts

## Columbia River Chinook:

- Forecasts for Spring Chinook are similar to 2024, and Summer Chinook are **less than** the 2024 actual returns
- Lower river Hatchery and Lower River Wild stocks are similar relative to last year's forecast, Bonneville Pool Hatchery forecast is **above** last year's forecast

## Puget Sound Coho:

- Overall, total Coho **up 1%** from last years forecast
- Natural stocks **up 1%** and Hatchery stocks **up 22%** from 10-yr avg

## Coastal Coho:

- Natural Stocks **down 9%** and Hatchery stocks **up 23%** from 10-yr avg
- Natural stocks **down 13%** and Hatchery stocks **up 8%** from last year's forecasts

## Columbia River Coho:

- The Columbia River Early and Late Coho are both **up** relative to 2024 forecasts.



# 2025 forecast recap

## Puget Sound chum:

- Natural stocks **up 35%** and hatchery stocks **down 5%** from 10-year average
- PS Fall chum total ~1,297,154

## Coastal chum

- Willapa **up 36%** and Grays Harbor is **up 141%** from 10-year average

# 2025 forecast recap

## Puget Sound pink:

- Total pink **up 70%** from the 10-year cycle average
- PS pink total forecast 6.7 million
  - **Up 170%** from 2023 (3.95 M)
- Total Fraser Pink Forecast– 27.0 million

# 2025 forecast recap

## Baker Lake sockeye:

- Forecast is **up 57%** from 10-year average
- ~60,000

## Lake Washington sockeye

- Forecast is **down 17%** from 10-year average
- ~35,000

## Columbia River sockeye

- Wenatchee is **up 1%** from last year's forecast
- Okanogan is **down 2%** from last year's forecast
- Total CR forecast ~350,200

# Proposed non-treaty ocean quotas for 2025

Alternative #1		Alternative # 2		Alternative # 3	
2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
		<b>Chinook</b>			
122,500	85,000	112,500	78,000	92,500	72,000
		<b>Coho</b>			
120,000	105,000	115,000	95,000	90,000	80,000

# Ocean preliminary modeling

Key Stock	Management Criteria (Total ER)	Mid Ocean Option (Chin-1125, Coho-2511)
Columbia Lower River Tules (Chinook)	41%	40.4%
Lower Columbia River Natural (Coho)	23%	14.0% (marine)
Grays Harbor Natural Coho	50%	55%
Queets Natural Coho	36%	33.5%
Hoh River Natural Coho	63%	52.7%
Oregon Coastal Natural Coho	30%	24.6%
Interior Fraser River (Thompson) Coho (Canada)	10% SUS ER	9.6%

# Current Chinook modeling PS- mid

Management Unit	NMFS Guidance/Co-Manager RMP Exploitation Rate Limits	2024 Inside Fisheries/2025 Abundances (Mid Ocean Option Chin-1125)
Nooksack Spring	10.9% SUS ER	9.2% SUS ER
Skagit Summer/Fall	17% SUS ER	14.6% SUS ER
Skagit Spring-run	36% Total ER	29.4% Total ER
<b><u>Stillaguamish River</u></b>	<b><u>9% UM SUS ER; 14% M SUS ER max</u></b>	<b><u>9.1% UM ER; 13.4% M SUS ER</u></b>
Snohomish River	20% Total/8.3% SUS ER	18.1% Total/7.7% SUS ER
Lake Washington	14% PT SUS ER	13.3% PT SUS ER
Green River	14% PT SUS ER	13.3% PT SUS ER
Puyallup	14% PT SUS ER	13.3% PT SUS ER
Nisqually	47% Total ER	45.6% Total ER
<b><u>Skokomish fall-run</u></b>	<b><u>50% Total ER</u></b>	<b><u>50.8% Total ER</u></b>
Mid Hood Canal	<4 spawner reduction in PS	TBD
Dungeness	10% SUS ER	3.6% SUS ER
Elwha	10% SUS ER	4.3% SUS ER

# 2025 coho management objectives - Puget Sound

Wild Management Units	Ocean Age-3 Forecast	Assigned FMP Status	Total ER Ceiling
Strait of Juan de Fuca	14,038	Low	40%
<b><u>Hood Canal</u></b>	<b><u>22,896</u></b>	<b><u>Critical/Low</u></b>	<b><u>TBD</u></b>
Skagit	66,267	Normal	60%
Stillaguamish	27,473	Normal	50%
Snohomish	59,000	Low	40%
<b><u>Thompson (Interior Fraser)</u></b>	<b><u>N/A</u></b>	<b><u>Low (PST status)</u></b>	<b><u>10% SUS</u></b>

# Current coho modeling - Puget Sound (2025 abundances with 2024 inside fisheries)

Management Unit	ER CEILING	Low (2512)	Mid (2511)	High (2510)
Skagit	60%	43.9%	44.8%	45.4%
Stilly	50%	28.9%	29.7%	30.3%
Snohomish	40%	30.0%	30.9%	31.5%
<b>Hood Canal</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>49.5%</b>
Juan de Fuca tribs	40%	8.1%	9.4%	10.2%
<b>Interior Fraser (Thompson)</b>	<b>10% SUS</b>	8.0%	9.6%	<b>10.6%</b>



# 2025 NOF meeting schedule

Date	Meeting
<del>Feb. 28</del>	<del>Statewide forecast meeting</del>
<del>March 5-11</del>	<del>Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting – Vancouver, WA</del>
<del>March 12</del>	<del>Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor fisheries</del>
<del>March 18</del>	<del>Columbia River Fisheries – upper Columbia River (including Hanford) and Snake River</del>
March 19	North of Falcon #1 – Statewide proposals
March 24	PFMC public hearing – Westport, WA

# 2025 NOF meeting schedule (cont.)

Date	Meeting
March 25	North of Falcon #2 – statewide proposals
April 1	Coastal freshwater and Puget Sound recreational fisheries
April 2	Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor fisheries
April 3	Columbia River Fisheries: Buoy 10 to Highway 395 Bridge
April 3	Puget Sound freshwater and Puget Sound recreational fisheries
April 9-15	Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting – San Jose, CA

Registrations links and meeting materials are available on the [WDFW website](#).



# Questions?

Request this information in an alternative format or language at [wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation](https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation), 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or [CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov).