

**2025 NOF #1
Commercial
Breakout Session
March 19, 2025**



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE



2025 NOF Commercial Breakout Session

TEAMS MEETING/ CALL LOGISTICS / GROUND RULES

- You can turn your camera on and mute or unmute yourself through the control panel at the bottom of your screen.
- We will keep folks muted during the beginning of our program, then will unmute folks when we open it up for questions and feedback. Callers can unmute yourself by pressing *5 on your phone.
- We ask that you “raise your hand” to ask a question which you can access through the control panel at the bottom of the screen. You can also raise your hand by hovering over your face or name on the list of participants. Callers can raise their hand by dialing *6.
- Be respectful of others:
 - Mute phone or line.
 - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations.
 - No personal attacks, insults or threats.
 - Listen.
 - Speak and act professionally – *no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity.*
 - Allow for a balance of speaking time – *limit length and number of times to speak on each topic.*
- If you have any technical issues during the call, use the chat button and we will help you through those. ***Please do not use the chat for questions or comments on the presentation, we will take those live.***



NOF #1 Agenda

- Introduction
- State's objectives for 2025
- Agenda
- Proposed Amendments WAC 220-354-140
- Proposed Amendments WAC 220-354-050
- Overview of Limited Participation (LP) Fisheries
 - Why LP (Registration, not restriction)
 - LP Application Process
 - LP Application Fishery Options
 - How to Apply for LP
- GN WAC Adjustments (220-47-302)
- 2025 NT season planning
 - General Schedule
 - Proposed Fisheries
- Questions and comments



2025 NOF Questions & Answer Rules

- **Stay on Topic:** Questions should focus on the current discussion.
- **This is not a debate:** We are here to provide information, not to discuss grievances.
- **Use the Proper Channels:** Concerns, grievances, or broader issues should be submitted through our portal or public comment process.
- **Respect the Format:** This is a structured session for questions and answers not an open forum.
- **Keep it Brief:** Be clear and concise so we can address as many questions as possible.



NOF #1: WDFW Mission

- State's Commercial Objectives for 2025:
 - Understand precautions due to low abundance.
 - Craft fisheries when/where conservation measures can be attained.
- WDFW commitment:
 - Using all data and tools at our disposal investigate the most prudent path to 2025 fisheries.
 - Thinking outside the box; taking different ideas into consideration.
 - Soliciting input from the fishers.



WAC 220-354-140

- Since 1972, state law regarding the setting and operation of gillnets targeting salmon has remained largely the same, with the original 1972 language reading “The nets shall be operated substantially in a straight line. Circle setting with a gill net or setting a gill net other than substantially in a straight line shall be unlawful.”
- To meet the federal requirement of having a light at the end of the net “most distant from the vessel” at night, the nets need to be fished in a substantially straight line at night.

Proposed Changes:

WAC 220-354-140

Puget Sound salmon—Lawful gear—Gillnet.

(1) It is unlawful to use drift gillnet salmon gear in Puget Sound that exceeds 1,800 feet in length or contains meshes of a size less than 5 inches.

(2) It is unlawful to use skiff gillnet salmon nets in Puget Sound that exceed 600 feet in length, 90 meshes in depth, or that contain meshes of a size less than 5 inches, except in Area 9A, where skiff gillnets are further restricted by not being more than 60 meshes deep. It is unlawful to retrieve skiff gillnets by any means except by hand (no hydraulics may be used). It is unlawful to fail to attend to skiff gillnets at all times.

(3) Vessels engaged in gillnet fishing at any time between sunset and sunrise shall, display at the end of the net most distant from the vessel on all-round (32-point) white light visible for a minimum of two nautical miles and displayed from at least three feet above the surface of the water. During hours of darkness Drift gillnets and skiff gillnets shall be set and operated substantially in a straight line.

(a) It is unlawful to set drift gillnets and skiff gillnets such nets in a circle or to set them in other than a substantially straight line, except during daylight hours if there is A-1 buoys attached 12 feet prior to either end of the net, fishers may be set and operate the last 12 feet of the net in a semi-circle, also known as a “J” hook as long as the end of the net does not hook back past the A-1 buoy attached at the 12 foot mark. Daylight hours for this subsection is defined as, sunrise to sunset during open gillnet seasons. Considering currents, and weather drift gillnets and skiff gillnets shall be set and operated in a substantially straight line.

(ab) It is unlawful to operate any drift gillnet, attended or unattended, unless there is affixed, within five feet of each end of the net, two red size A-3 buoys, marking the visible end of the cork line portion of the net. One of the two buoys shall be marked in a visible, legible, and permanent manner with the name and gillnet license number of the fisher. It is unlawful to fail to attend to drift gillnets at all times.

(bc) The cork line portion of the net shall be marked every 300 feet50 fathoms of the net with size A-1 buoys.



WAC 220-354-050

Proposed Changes

- Title change to “Registration and Limited Participation Salmon Net Fisheries”
- Expansion to 7/7A, 7B, and 12/12B for registration purposes, but limits only to be applied when necessary
- Pre-season online application submission deadlines that correspond to each fishery
- In-season weekly online registration entry requirements via e-mail, phone, and text link



Why LP or Registration Fisheries

Purpose of LP/Registration Fisheries

- Specific management objectives for a species or area (i.e., limited harvestable surplus based on escapement and/or hatchery goals)
- Full-fleet participation may exceed co-manager or international agreed-to harvestable share and/or treaty defined harvest limit
- Bycatch Management: Helps track and reduce non-target catch (i.e., modeled sockeye or chinook impacts in pink fishery)



Why LP or Registration Fisheries Cont.

Benefits of LP:

- Achieve allocation within narrow management margins
- In-season catch projections and assessment with higher confidence
- Improving co-manager trust and confidence around operating fisheries within pre-season agreed-to impact rates
- Improving in-season observer catch tracking to compare and validate quick reports
- Scheduling flexibility (In-season preference selection)

Implications for Areas where the state traditionally prosecutes full fleet fisheries

- Example: Hood canal Purse Seine – 35 vessels completed pre-season LP Application, all 35 check (yes) on in-season form, all 35 go fishing and can still access other areas on the same day pending they land the fish before accessing different area or hold separately



Limited Participation Application Process

Submit Pre-Season LP Application online for each fishery
Pre-season Deadline: One Month Before Fishery

WDFW sends **In-Season Y/N Form every Friday In-season**

Submit the **In-Season Y/N Form by Monday at noon**

Go Fishing!

- Everyone who said yes, can fish!
- If fishery is limited, selection is based on who said yes



Limited Participation Fishery Options

Area	Species	Deadline *
Area 10	Pink	6/17/2025
Area 7B	Coho	7/10/2025
Area 7/7A (Fraser)	Pink	7/17/2025
Area 7/7A (Fraser)	Sockeye	7/17/2025
Area 7/7A (Fraser)	Chum	9/10/2025
Area 10/11 (SS)	Chum	9/10/2025
Area 12/12B (HC)	Chum	9/10/2025

*Proposed deadlines




How to Apply: Pre-season Application

Form Fields:

- Gear Type
- Fishery
- PS association
- Participation type
- License Type
- Valid License #
- Operator Name
- Vessel ID # - Name – WN #
- Valid Cell Phone
- Valid E-mail
- Valid Mailing Address

1
Todays Date (Required) *

Please input date (M/d/yyyy) 

2
Gear Type (Select One) *

Gillnet

Purse Seine

3
Which fishery are you registering for? (Select one per application) *

A separate registration application is required for each fishery. Applications will **not** be accepted after the fishery deadline.

Area 10: Pink - **Deadline 06/17/2025 (odd years only)**



How to Apply: In-season Survey Form (Y/N)

Form Fields:

- Gear Type
- Vessel ID - Boat Name
- What fisheries you plan to fish next week that correspond to your pre-season application
- Preferred fishing days

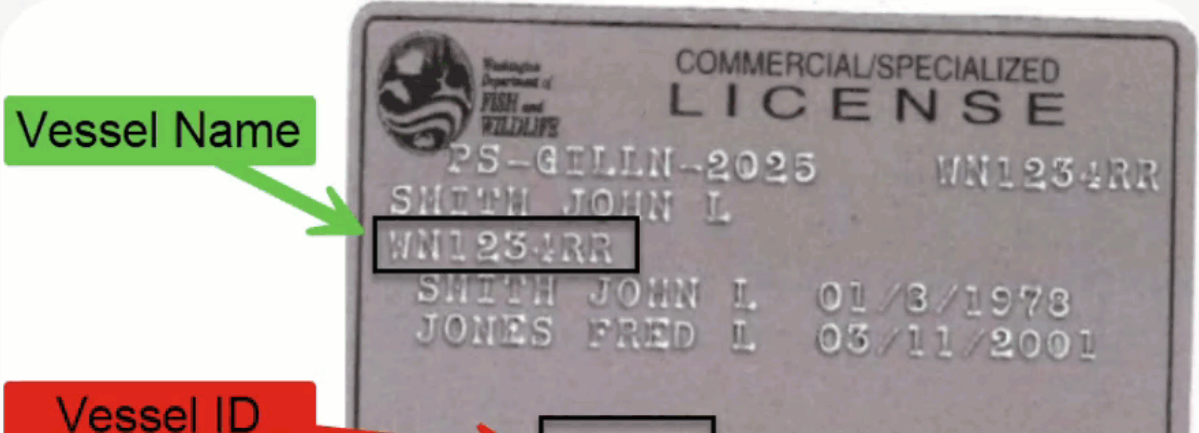
1
Gear Type (Select One) *

Gillnet

Purse Seine

2
Vessel ID - WN Number *

Enter vessel ID and Name in this format: Vessel ID - WN Numbers (Example: 33333 - WN1234RR)



Vessel Name

Vessel ID



Pre-season Application & Weekly In-season Form Distribution

- **Post-NOF Letter** – Sent with a link and website location
- **Pre-season Application** – Available on the website
- **Location of Pre-season Application**– Same place you find the hotline
- **Pre-season Application Deadline:** Month before fishery opens
- **Priority List Posted for each Area/Fishery:** A minimum of one week prior to fishery opens
- **In-season Y/N Form** – Emailed every Friday and a link posted on hotline
- **In-season Y/N Form Deadline: Monday by noon**
- **In-season E-regulation with list of registered fishers posted on hotline**
- Pre-season and In-season applications: **online-only process**



NOF #1: NT Season Planning

2025 Preliminary Expectations by Area:

- **6D:** Start week 39. No expected issues. Maintain closure areas
- **7/7A Pink/Sockeye:** Pink opportunity likely and sockeye retention to be discussed in-season (domestic sockeye payback)
- **7/7A Chum:** Chum opportunity not strong, to be evaluated in-season (international and domestic chum payback)
- **7B/7C:** Coho and Chum forecasts potentially allow for full schedule and proposed adjustments on earlier timing and daylight hours to be evaluated in side-model runs before determining if appropriate to propose to comanagers
- **8/8A/8D:** Proposed fisheries in 'public comments portal' being evaluated in side-model runs before determining if appropriate to propose to comanagers



NOF #1: NT Season Planning

2025 Preliminary Expectations by Area:

- **9 Chum:** Not being considered by the state at this time due to lack of Puget Sound wide comprehensive chum management plan and comanager sharing agreements
- **9A:** Proposed fisheries as full schedule. Closure areas to be discussed. Chum release requirement
- **10 & 11 Chum:** Full fleet fisheries to be proposed for week 42 based on pre-season forecast
- **10 Pink:** 300 chinook encounter limit being reviewed, split between GN and PS, with effort and schedule similar to 2023
- **12A:** HC Coho close to critical threshold
- **12 & 12B Chum:** Full fleet fisheries to be proposed for week 42 based on pre-season forecast
- **12C:** Beach Seine single day schedule with additional day to be discussed in-season based on hatchery and comanager discussion



2025 North of Falcon Meetings

March 5-11

- Pacific Fisheries Management Council #1
- Portland, OR

March 19

- North of Falcon #1 Public Meeting
- Olympia, WA

March 25

- North of Falcon #2 Public Meeting
- Lynnwood, WA - Lynnwood Embassy Suites

April 9-15

- Pacific Fisheries Management Council 2
- San Jose, CA – DoubleTree San Jose



Questions or comments?

Remember: If you would like to submit a public comment you have 3 options.

1. Online at [2025 NOF Puget Sound commercial fishing public engagement page](#).
2. Email to 2025_nof_ps_commercial_fishery@publicinput.com
3. Phone: Leave a voicemail message at 855-925-2801 and entering project code 10745.

