

**2025 NOF #2
Commercial
Breakout Session
Mar 25th, 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 professional – *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#2: Agenda

- Draft schedules and feedback
- Proposed WAC Changes
- Public comments and proposals



Draft Schedule page 1

2025 Mgt week	2025 Week Begins	Gillnet		Purse Seine	Areas 7 & 7A ²				Area 7B			Area 7C			Area 8 and 8A ³			Area 8D		
		Daily Hours ²	Nightly Hours ²	Daily Hours ²	mgt	GN ⁷	PS	RN ⁵	mgt	GN	PS	mgt	GN	PS	mgt	GN	PS	mgt	GN	PS
30	20-Jul	6am-11pm	8pm-7am	6am-9pm	SO	Fraser Panel Control														
31	27-Jul	6am-11pm	8pm-7am	6am-9pm	SO															
32	3-Aug	6am-11pm	8pm-7am	6am-9pm	SO															
33	10-Aug	6am-11pm	7pm-10am	6am-8pm	SO															
34	17-Aug	5am-11pm	7pm-10am	6am-8pm	PK	3	3	3	CO/CK	Su,<M,T>,W	W, *	CK	Su,M,T,W	W	PK					
35	24-Aug	5am-11pm	7pm-10am	6am-8pm	PK	3	3	3	CO/CK	Su,<M,T>,W	W,Th	CK	Su,M,T,W	W,Th	PK					
36	31-Aug	5am-11pm	7pm-8am	6am-8pm	PK	3	3	3	CO/CK	Su-Th8	W, *	CK	Su-Th8	W	PK					
37	7-Sep	5am-11pm	7pm-8am	7am-7pm	SO			Su-Sa	CO/CK	Su-Th8	M,W,F	CK	Su-Th8	M,W,F						
38	14-Sep	6am-10pm	6pm-8am	7am-7pm	CO			Su-Sa	CO	Su-Th8	M,W,F				CO			CO	Su,M-W,Th	³
39	21-Sep	7am-9pm	6pm-8am	7am-7pm	CO			Su-Sa	CO	Su-Sa9	Su-Sa9				CO			CO	Su,M-W,Th	³
40	28-Sep	7am-9pm	6pm-8am	7am-7pm	CO			Su-Sa	CO	Su-Sa9	Su-Sa9				CO			CO	Su,M-W,Th	³
41	5-Oct	7am-9pm	6pm-8am	7am-6pm	CM	Sa	Sa	Su-Sa	CO	Su-Sa9	Su-Sa9				CO			CO	Su,M-W,Th	³
42	12-Oct	7am-8pm	5pm-9am	7am-6pm	CM	Su, T, W	Su, T, W	Su-Sa	CO	Su-Sa9	Su-Sa9				CO			CO	Su,M-W,Th	³
43	19-Oct	7am-8pm	5pm-9am	7am-6pm	CM	Su-Sa	Su-Sa	Su-Sa	CO	Su-Sa9	Su-Sa9				CO			CO	Su,M-W,Th	³
44	26-Oct	7am-8pm	5pm-9am	7am-6pm	CM	Su-Sa	Su-Sa	Su-Sa	CM	M-F10,11	M-F10				CM			CM		
45	2-Nov	7am-7pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm	CM	Su-Sa	Su-Sa	Su-Sa	CM	M-F10,11	M-F10				CM			CM		
46	9-Nov	6am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm					CM	M-F10,11	M-F10				CM			CM		
47	16-Nov	6am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm					CM	M-F10,11	M-F10				CM			CM		
48	23-Nov	7am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm					CM	M-F10,11	M-F10							CM		
49	30-Nov	7am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm					CM	M-F10,11	M-F10									
50	7-Dec	8am-6pm	3pm-9am	8am-4pm																



Draft Schedule page 2

2025 Mgt week	2025 Week Begins	Gillnet		Purse Seine	Areas 10 & 11 ¹⁷			ACP/Area 11	Areas 12,12B & 12C				Area 6D			Area 9A		Area 12A		
		Daily Hours ²	Nightly Hours ²	Daily Hours ²				Test Fish												
					mgt	GN	PS		mgt	GN	PS	BS ⁶	mgt	BS	SK	mgt	SK ¹²	mgt	SK	BS
30	20-Jul	6am-11pm	8pm-7am	6am-9pm								1								
31	27-Jul	6am-11pm	8pm-7am	6am-9pm					CK			1								
32	3-Aug	6am-11pm	8pm-7am	6am-9pm					CK			1								
33	10-Aug	6am-11pm	7pm-10am	6am-8pm					CK			1				CO	Su-Sa			
34	17-Aug	5am-11pm	7pm-10am	6am-8pm	PK	3	3		CK			1				CO	Su-Sa			
35	24-Aug	5am-11pm	7pm-10am	6am-8pm	PK	3	3		CK			1				CO	Su-Sa	CO	³	M,T,W,Th,F
36	31-Aug	5am-11pm	7pm-8am	6am-8pm	PK	3	3		CK			1				CO	Su-Sa	CO	³	M,T,W,Th,F
37	7-Sep	5am-11pm	7pm-8am	7am-7pm												CO	Su-Sa	CO	³	M,T,W,Th,F
38	14-Sep	6am-10pm	6pm-8am	7am-7pm									CO			CO	Su-Sa	CO	³	M,T,W,Th,F
39	21-Sep	7am-9pm	6pm-8am	7am-7pm									CO		Su,M,T,W,Th	CO	Su-Sa	CO	³	M,T,W,Th,F
40	28-Sep	7am-9pm	6pm-8am	7am-7pm									CO		M,T,W,Th,F	CO	Su-Sa	CO	³	M,T,W,Th,F
41	5-Oct	7am-9pm	6pm-8am	7am-6pm				M					CO		M,T,W,Th,F	CO	Su-Sa			
42	12-Oct	7am-8pm	5pm-9am	7am-6pm	CM	2	1	M	CM	2	1		CO		M,T,W,Th,F	CO	Su-Sa			
43	19-Oct	7am-8pm	5pm-9am	7am-6pm	CM	2	1	M	CM	2	1		CO		M,T,W,Th,F	CO	Su-Sa			
44	26-Oct	7am-8pm	5pm-9am	7am-6pm	CM	2	1	M	CM	2	1		CO		M,T,W,Th,F	CO	Su-Sa			
45	2-Nov	7am-7pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm	CM	2	2	M	CM	2	2		CO		M,T,W,Th,F					
46	9-Nov	6am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm	CM			M	CM	2	1	14								
47	16-Nov	6am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm	CM			M	CM	1	1	14								
48	23-Nov	7am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm	CM							14								
49	30-Nov	7am-6pm	4pm-8am	7am-5pm																
50	7-Dec	8am-6pm	3pm-9am	8am-4pm																



WAC 220-354-050 (Proposed Revisions)

WAC 220-354-050 ~~-Registration and~~ Limited participation

salmon net fisheries. (1) When the director determines that a harvestable amount of salmon appears to be available, but that ~~unknown fishing effort and/or~~ full-fleet fishing effort has an unacceptable risk of exceeding the available harvest or compromises other specific management objectives, the director may authorize a ~~registration and/or~~ limited participation fishery in ~~extreme-terminal~~ fishing areas in order to provide additional opportunities for net fisheries where they might not otherwise exist. Such a fishery may be authorized for experimental or developmental fisheries, fisheries necessary to refine run size data, fisheries necessary to provide biological information, or in cases where:

(a) Other specific management objectives have been stated for the species and area in question; or

(b) There is a reasonable expectation that foregone opportunity will be claimed and the harvestable surplus cannot be carried forward to the next year of harvest; and

(c) Full-fleet participation with time, space, or gear restrictions ~~cannot achieve~~ may exceed the harvest goal.

(2) Only licensed commercial salmon fishers may participate in a ~~registration and/or~~ limited participation fishery. - Each license number may only be entered once per fishery. If multiple individuals share the same license number, only one entry may be submitted. Only the license owner, primary operator, or alternate operator(s) tied to the designated license number used for the registration fishery application may participate. Only one application entry per license listing is allowed. per license. Fishers

(3) The Commercial Salmon license holder, primary operator or alternate operator(s) must complete the online registration form and indicate the specific fishery they are interested in registering for by selecting the appropriate box on the form. Applicants must complete and submit the form with the following guidelines and deadlines to participate in the Puget Sound net fisheries below: who wish to



WAC 220-354-050 (Proposed Revisions Cont.)

(a) ~~have their name placed on a limited~~registered for participation in Puget Sound salmon net fisheries must register submit an application

(b) ~~and must mark the appropriate box on their license renewal application, or so notify the department, in writing, by July 31*-End of second week of July for Marine Areas 7/7A Pink (odd-years only), end of first week of July for Marine Areas 10 pink (odd-years only), end of second week of July for Marine Areas 7/7A sockeye, and by end of third week of September for Marine Areas 7/7A, 10/11, and 12/12B chum.~~

(c)Applicants must provide a valid Vessel ID per license number.

(d)~~Interested f~~Applicants ~~ishers~~ must provide a valid e-mail address and valid ~~message~~message-capable phone number to at which they may be contacted on a weekly basis to fill out an in-season registration form.

(e)Applicants must submit a separate registration application online for each marine area specific fishery they wish to register for. It is recommended that the primary or

alternate(s) operator apply for the registered fishery, not the owner.

(3) Each year the department will, ~~from the list of interested fishers,~~ use random selection from the list of approved online registration applications to create an ordered priority list for gillnet fishers and a ordered priority list for purse seine fishers by area listed in section 2(b). Priority ~~registers registration lists by area and fishery~~ will be available for inspection at the department's Olympia office, or upon written request to the department. Once the priority lists have been created, sale or transfer of the license shall invalidate the receiver from participation in that year's registration and/or limited participation fishery.

(4) The number of units of each gear type selected to participate in a registered ~~limited~~ participation fishery will reflect the most recent ratio of gear types in the full-fleet fishery directed at the species in question, except when conservation concerns, biological data collection needs, or specific management objectives dictate alternative ratios or use of a single gear type.



WAC 220-354-050 (Proposed Revisions Cont.)

(5) When a registration and/or limited participation fishery is authorized, the department will contact fishers from the priority register every Friday via e-mail and text message starting the management week before the first pre-season scheduled opening date of the applicant's selected fishery. at least twenty-four hours prior to the opening of the fishery. When a fisher cannot be contacted ~~after reasonable effort~~by Monday at noon the following management week, and/or has declined to decided to not respond to an online department approved In-season registration form, the department will select the next name, until the maximum number of allowable units of gear is reached. If not reached, the fisher's name will remain at the priority position, but the fisher may not participate in that registration or limited participation fishery. Agreement to participate, or declining to participate, will remove the fisher from the priority position, and place the name at the bottom of the priority list.

(b) Agreement to participate in an authorized registration or limited participation fisheries ~~will~~may require a department observer on board a participating vessel. An additional permit

may be required by a participating vessel to allow for a department observer to complete work associated with biological data collection needs meeting specific management objectives.

(c) Priority registered applicants will receive a request for a completed In-season registration form every Friday starting one-week prior to the fishery and for the duration of the fishery, and must submit the In-season registration form online by Monday at noon. Late submissions will not be accepted for that week's fishery. You must complete a separate In-season entry form for each fishery you registered to participate in that week. A new form is required to be submitted to be considered for next week's fishery. You will be notified of your eligibility to participate via the hotline, website and or/email.

(6) Examples of specific management objectives include but are not limited to:

(a) Reducing levels of incidental catch of wild salmon stocks;

(b) Reducing incidental catch of nontarget salmon species originating from regions other than the fishing area; or



WAC 220-354-140 (Proposed Revisions)

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 feet~~50 fathoms of the net with size A-1 buoys.

(4) It is unlawful to take or fish for salmon with gillnet gear in Areas 7 or 7A sockeye or pink salmon fisheries unless said gillnet gear is constructed so that the first 20 meshes below the cork line are composed of five-inch mesh, white opaque, minimum 210/30d (#12) diameter, nylon twine.

(5) It is unlawful to take or fish for salmon with gillnet gear when recovery box(es) are required in areas defined under WAC ~~220-301-030~~ unless the gillnet vessel has aboard and uses said operable recovery box(es) as described in this subsection.

(a) Dimensions and capacities of required recovery boxes:

(i) Recovery boxes must have two chambers, if one box, or one chamber in each box, if two boxes.

(ii) Each recovery box chamber must have an inside length measurement of 48 inches, an inside width measurement of 10 inches, and an inside height measurement of 16 inches.

Relevant Background

Puget Sound is a heavily utilized body of water with a variety of user groups ranging from commercial cargo vessels, critical vehicle/passenger transportation services, recreational boaters, commercial fishermen, etc. This amount of vessel traffic is not present in other parts of Washington, nor Alaska. Washington State and Federal regulations acknowledge these challenges in part by placing additional regulations on gillnet fishing methods and gear. 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.” Since then additional language was added to state law to increase the visibility of Puget Sound salmon drift gillnets requiring two red sized A-3 buoys within 5 ft of each end of the net, marking the visible end of the cork line portion of the net, and the cork line portion of the net must be marked every 50 fathoms with size A-1 buoys. This regulation is in place in large part to draw attention to the net’s location for other transiting vessels. Further, Federal law states referencing Puget Sound, “Vessels engaged in gill net fishing at any time between sunset and sunrise in any of the waters defining the regulated navigation are of this section shall, in addition to the navigation lights and shapes required by [Part 81 of this title](#) (72 COLREGS), 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.” In order 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.



Public Comments

- Purse Seine (Registration and Expansion of LP, Area 7B Chinook, Area 10 Pink, Area 10/11 Chum)
- Gill Net (Registration, Area 7C, Area 8D, Area 10/11 Chum)
- Beach Seine
- Reef Net (9/14 coho management, September quota, October quota)
- Pink proposals for Areas other than 7/7A and 10



Questions or Comments?

