

# 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](#).

# Puget Sound NOF Recreational Breakout Discussion

March 19, 2025

WDFW Recreational Fisheries Team



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH &  
WILDLIFE**

# WDFW Recreational Fisheries Team

- **Jake Rice**, Statewide Salmon and Steelhead Manager
- **Christina Iverson**, Puget Sound Salmon Manager
- **Lyle Jennings**, Puget Sound Recreational Salmon Manager
- **Hailey Rosenthal**, Puget Sound Recreational Support Biologist
- **Ty Garber, Yi Xu, & Collin Edwards**, FRAM modeling team
- **Sarah Richardson**, Mark Selective Fisheries Biologist

# Agenda

- WDFW mission and NOF policy review
- Chinook management objectives
- Coho management objectives
- Recreational considerations
- NOF schedule
- Public comment

# WDFW mission statement

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state's fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

# Puget Sound Fishery Objectives (FWC Policy: C-3608)

## Puget Sound

- The Puget Sound harvest management objectives for chinook and coho stocks, in priority order, are to: (1) provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities; and (2) identify and provide opportunities for commercial harvest. When managing sport fisheries in this region, recreational opportunities will be distributed equitably across fishing areas, considering factors such as: the uniqueness of each area; the availability of opportunities for various species in each area throughout the season; the desire to provide high levels of total recreational opportunity; and the biological impacts.
- Puget Sound-origin sockeye will be prioritized for recreational fishing opportunity
- For fisheries directed at Fraser River-origin chum, pink, and sockeye stocks, the majority of harvest will be provided to the commercial fisheries.
- For fisheries directed at harvestable Puget Sound-origin chum and pink stocks, provide meaningful opportunities to both commercial and recreational fisheries, while minimizing gear and other fishery conflicts. In most years, the majority of non-treaty chum harvest will be by commercial fisheries, and the majority of non-treaty pink harvest will be by recreational fisheries.

# Current Chinook modeling Puget Sound- 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 Puget Sound recreational considerations – Chinook

- Puget Sound Chinook forecasts
  - Hatchery total up slightly (+6%)
  - Wild total down slightly (-8%)
- Pink fisheries will be added to next round of modeling
- Other fishery inputs will be updated in next round of modeling
- Next model runs likely to exceed ER objectives for several critical stocks that are below limits in current modeling
  - Nooksack, Skagit summer/fall, Snohomish
- Uncertainties/variability in:
  - Effort during shortened seasons, pink vs non-pink years
  - Environmental variability
- Expectations for marine recreational fisheries for Chinook are similar to last year



# 2025 coho management objectives - Puget Sound

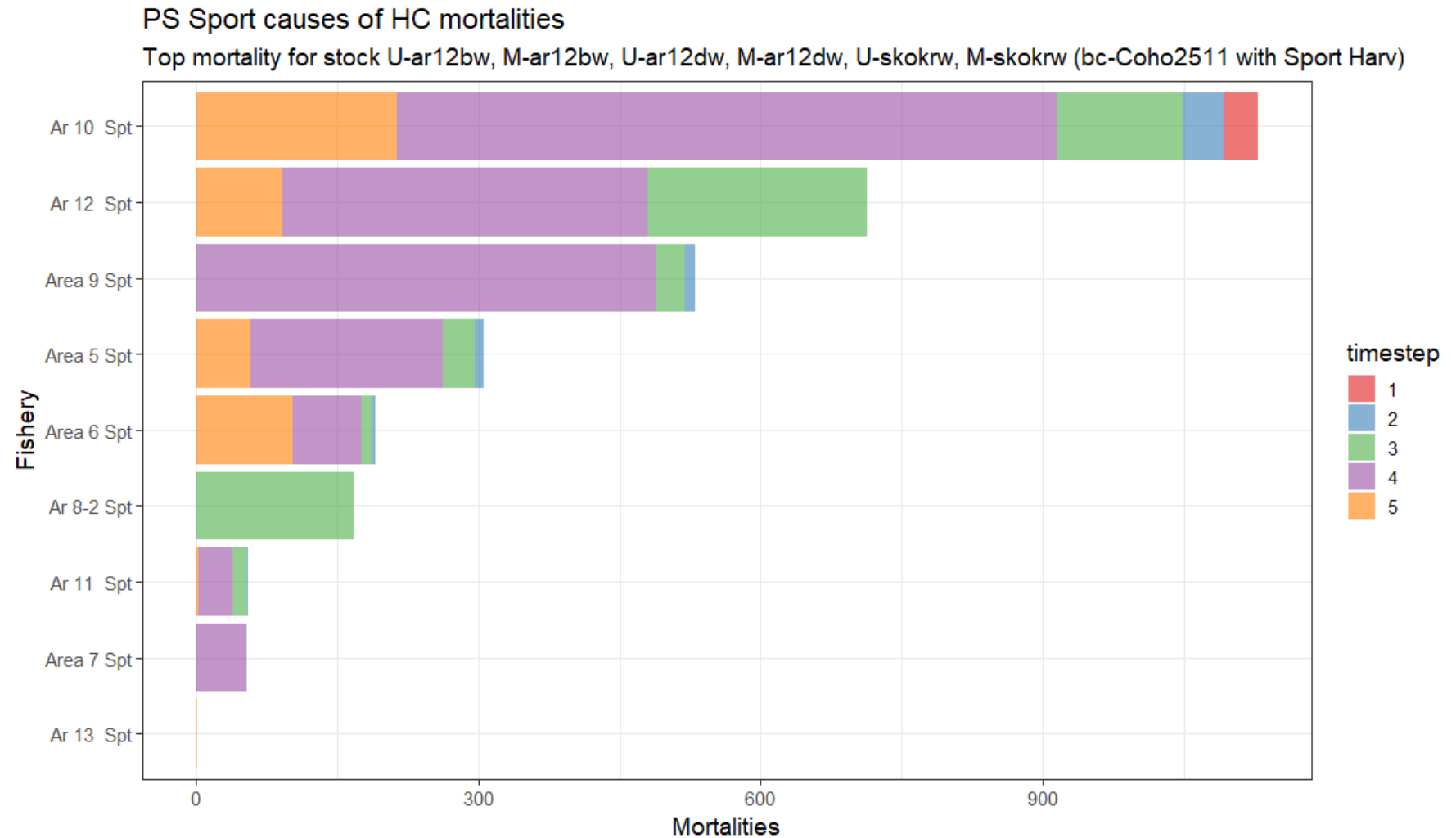
| Wild Management Units      | Ocean Age-3 Forecast | Total ER Ceiling | Mid (2511) |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Strait of Juan de Fuca     | 14,038               | 40%              | 9.4%       |
| Hood Canal                 | 22,896               | TBD              | 48.9%      |
| Skagit                     | 66,267               | 60%              | 45.4%      |
| Stillaguamish              | 27,473               | 50%              | 29.7%      |
| Snohomish                  | 59,000               | 40%              | 30.9%      |
| Thompson (Interior Fraser) | N/A                  | 10% SUS          | 9.6%       |

# 2025 PS Recreational Considerations – Coho

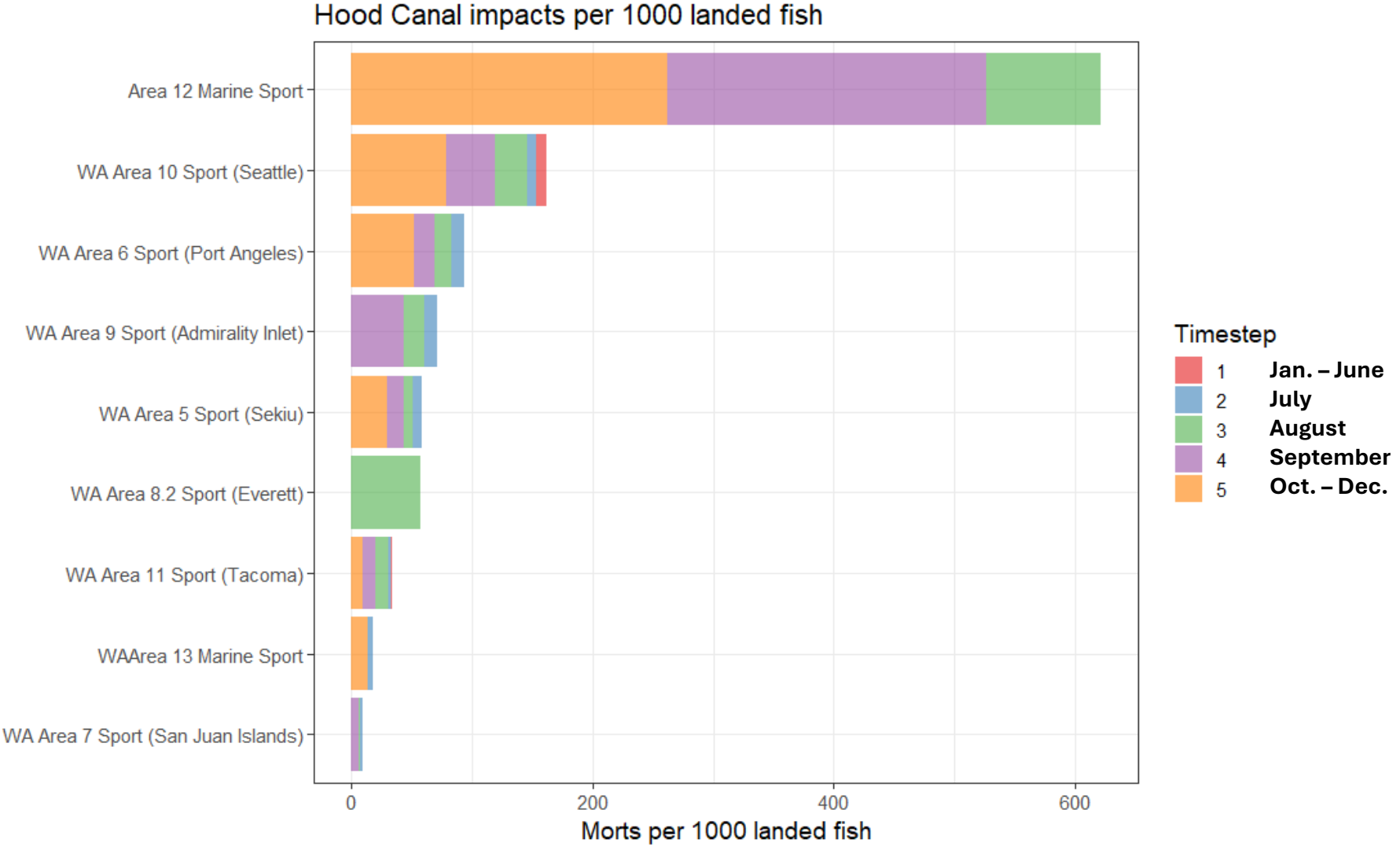
- Puget Sound coho forecasts
  - Hatchery total up slightly (+10%)
  - Wild total down slightly (-12%)
- Hood Canal Wild coho forecast is lower than previous years
  - HC coho will be above ER ceiling
- Thompson (Interior Fraser) will be at the ER ceiling
- Recent years NS coho opportunities will likely be reduced in 2025
- Pink fisheries will be added to next round of modeling

# Hood Canal Wild Coho Impacts by Marine Area and Time

- HC natural coho impacted in each marine area in each time step.
- Based on middle ocean option.
- Time Steps
  - 1 = Jan. – June (Red)
  - 2 = July (Blue)
  - 3 = August (Green)
  - 4 = September (Purple)
  - 5 = Oct. – Dec. (Orange)



# Hood Canal Wild Coho Impacts per 1,000 Landed Coho



# Freshwater Fishery Considerations

- Most rivers expected to have similar opportunities as 2024 seasons with the addition of pinks.

## Snohomish

- Continued poor stock performance will likely result in reduced season structure.
- Updated freshwater fishery proposal document on [NOF website](#).
  - Open for comments and suggestions.

# 2025 NOF meeting schedule

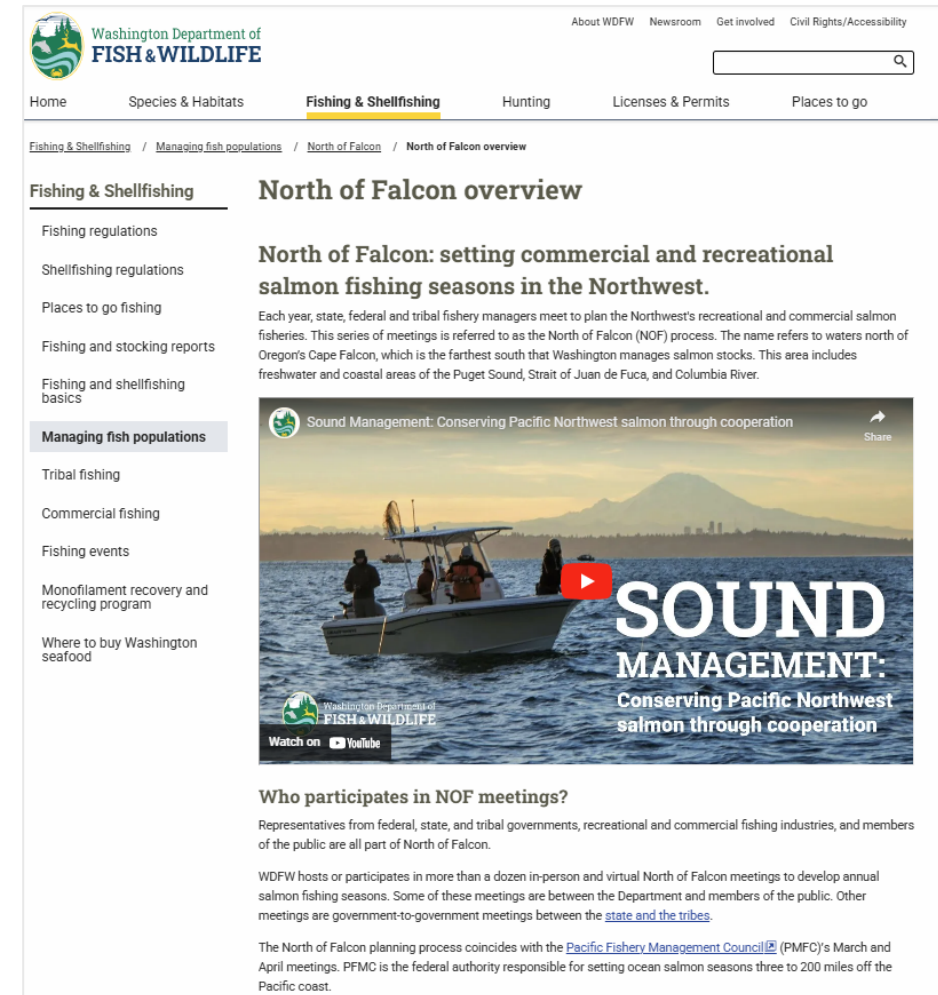
| Date       | Meeting   |
|------------|---|
| March 19   | North of Falcon #1 – Statewide proposals                          |
| March 24   | PFMC public hearing – Westport, WA                                |
| March 25   | North of Falcon #2 – statewide proposals                          |
| April 1    | Coastal freshwater and Puget Sound recreational fisheries         |
| April 2    | Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor fisheries                            |
| April 3    | Columbia River Fisheries – Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA |
| 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](#).

# Learn more at [WDFW.wa.gov/NOF](https://WDFW.wa.gov/NOF)

Find up-to-date information about:

- [Upcoming meetings](#)
- [Proposed seasons](#)
- [Updated forecasts and model runs](#)
- [Public input opportunities](#)
- [Salmon Fishing Current blog](#)



The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife website. The header includes the department logo, navigation links (Home, Species & Habitats, Fishing & Shellfishing, Hunting, Licenses & Permits, Places to go), and utility links (About WDFW, Newsroom, Get involved, Civil Rights/Accessibility). A search bar is present in the top right. The main content area is titled "North of Falcon overview" and includes a sub-header "North of Falcon: setting commercial and recreational salmon fishing seasons in the Northwest." Below this is a paragraph explaining the North of Falcon (NOF) process. A video player is featured with the title "Sound Management: Conserving Pacific Northwest salmon through cooperation" and a "Watch on YouTube" button. The video thumbnail shows a boat on the water with a city skyline in the background. Below the video, there is a section titled "Who participates in NOF meetings?" with text explaining the participants and the purpose of the meetings.



# 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).