

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](#).

NOF #2 Puget Sound Recreational Breakout Discussion

March 25, 2025



Agenda

- Recreational considerations
- Current Puget Sound marine recreational season proposals
 - Chinook
 - Coho
- Current freshwater recreational seasons
- Modeling scenarios
- 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.

2025 Salmon Season Considerations

- Potential limiting stocks include Nooksack Spring Chinook, Skagit Summer/Fall Chinook, Stillaguamish Chinook, Snohomish Chinook, Hood Canal coho, and Upper Fraser (Thompson River) coho.
- Maximizing fishing opportunity within available impacts/conservation constraints
 - Additional pink limits wherever applicable
- Recent year variability and effort trends
 - Increases in effort over historical averages

2025 Salmon Season Considerations, cont.

- Similar forecast of Puget Sound Chinook and Coho relative to 2024
 - Fluctuations with limiting stocks cause conservation concerns
- Environmental Concerns
 - La Nina / El Nino
 - Droughts / Floods
 - Low Snowpack
- Fraser Pinks highest forecast on record
- Chum forecast in abundant status
- Continued consideration for SRKW

Sport Fishing Matrix 2025

| Marine Areas | Fishery | May | | June | | July | | August | | September | | October | | November | | December | | January | | February | | March | | April | |
|--------------------------|---------|-----|--|------|--|------|---|--------|--|-----------|------|---------|--|----------|--|----------|--|---------|--|----------|--|-------|--|-------|--|
| 5 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | α | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | α | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | β | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8-1 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | | ψ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8-2 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | 9/24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | 9/24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | φ | | | 9/23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 North of Ayock Pt. | Chinook | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 South of Ayock Pt. | Chinook | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Chinook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Coho | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

α 9/23-10/15 Non-Selective
β Three Thur-Sat Openers
ψ 10/1 - 10/13
φ 7/16-7/31 (Likely to change to match chinook openers)
*Starting July 10th

- Non-retention: Anglers may fish for salmon but may not retain the species (coho or Chinook) listed
- Non-Selective: Anglers may keep either unmarked or hatchery fish.
- Mark-Selective: Anglers may keep hatchery salmon only and must release unmarked salmon. Hatchery salmon are marked with a clipped adipose fin.
- Closed: Fisheries are closed to all salmon fishing when listed as such.

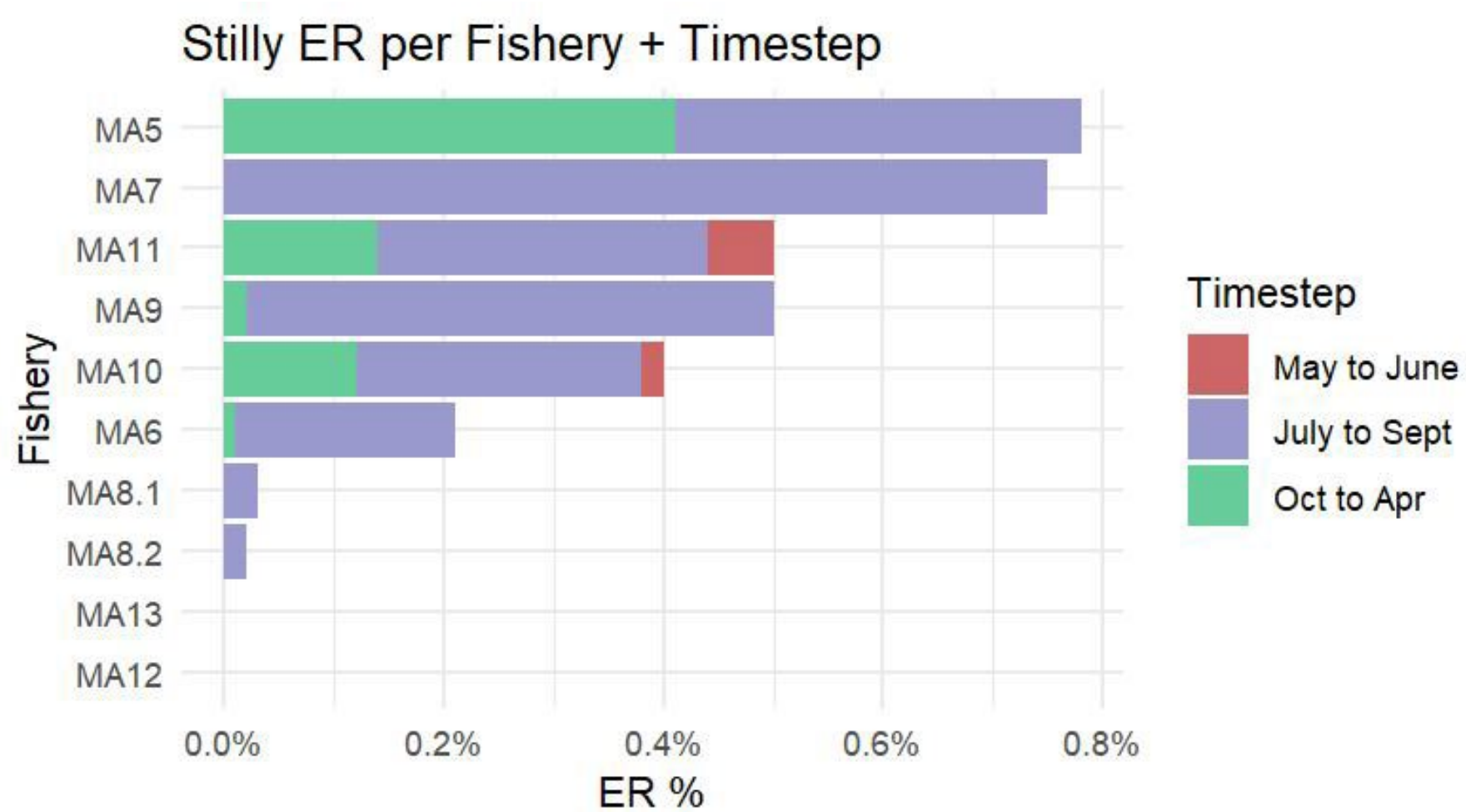
Current Chinook Modeling PS - Mid 1425

| Management Unit | NMFS Guidance/Co-Manager RMP Exploitation Rate Limits | 2024 Inside Fisheries/2025 Abundances (Mid Ocean Option Chin-1425) |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Nooksack Spring</u> | <u>10.9% SUS ER</u> | <u>13.1% SUS ER</u> |
| <u>Skagit Summer/Fall</u> | <u>17% SUS ER</u> | <u>25.9% SUS ER</u> |
| Skagit Spring-run | 36% Total ER | 16.8% Total ER |
| <u>Stillaguamish River</u> | <u>9% UM SUS ER; 14% M SUS ER max</u> | <u>13.3% UM ER; 17.7% M SUS ER</u> |
| <u>Snohomish River</u> | <u>20% Total/8.3% SUS ER</u> | <u>19.2% Total / 8.9% SUS ER</u> |
| <u>Lake Washington</u> | <u>14% PT SUS ER</u> | <u>15.3% PT SUS ER</u> |
| <u>Green River</u> | <u>14% PT SUS ER</u> | <u>15.3% PT SUS ER</u> |
| <u>Puyallup</u> | <u>14% PT SUS ER</u> | <u>15.3% PT SUS ER</u> |
| Nisqually | 47% Total ER | 46.8% Total ER |
| <u>Skokomish fall-run</u> | <u>50% Total ER</u> | <u>51.0% Total ER</u> |
| Mid Hood Canal | <4 spawner reduction in PS | TBD |
| Dungeness | 10% SUS ER | 6.0% SUS ER |
| Elwha | 10% SUS ER | 6.5% SUS ER |

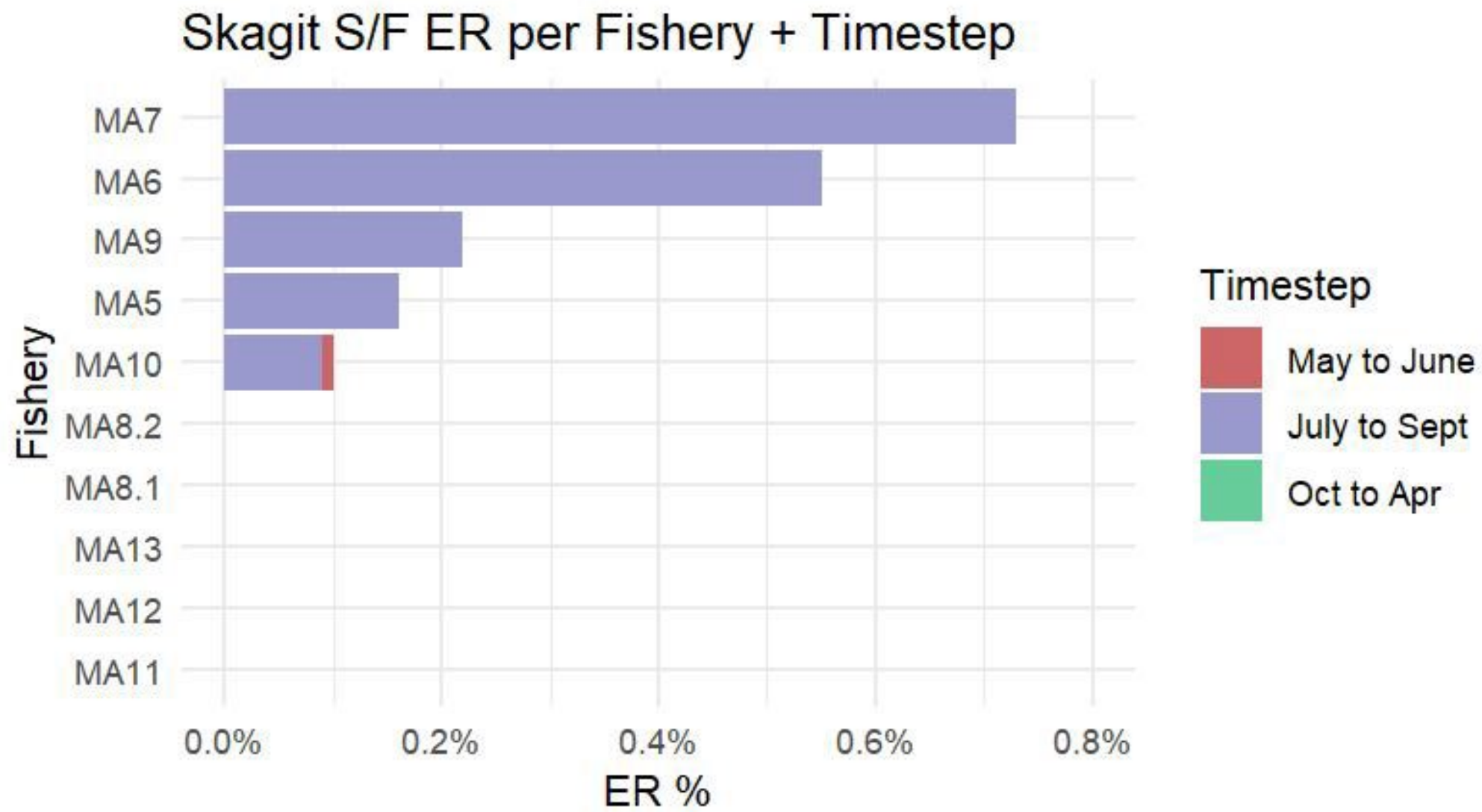
Chinook Talking Points

- The current modeling represents this year's abundances, sport inside fishery inputs from last year, updated Tribal and commercial fisheries and the ocean quotas from the PFMC options.
- Stocks of concern Stillaguamish, Skagit summer/fall, Snohomish, Central Sound (Lake Washington, Green, and Puyallup), Nisqually, and Skokomish.
- Currently, inside sport Chinook fishery inputs are the same as 2024.
- As we go through the following graphs on impacts to stocks of concern, please keep in mind where we'd like to prioritize our impacts.

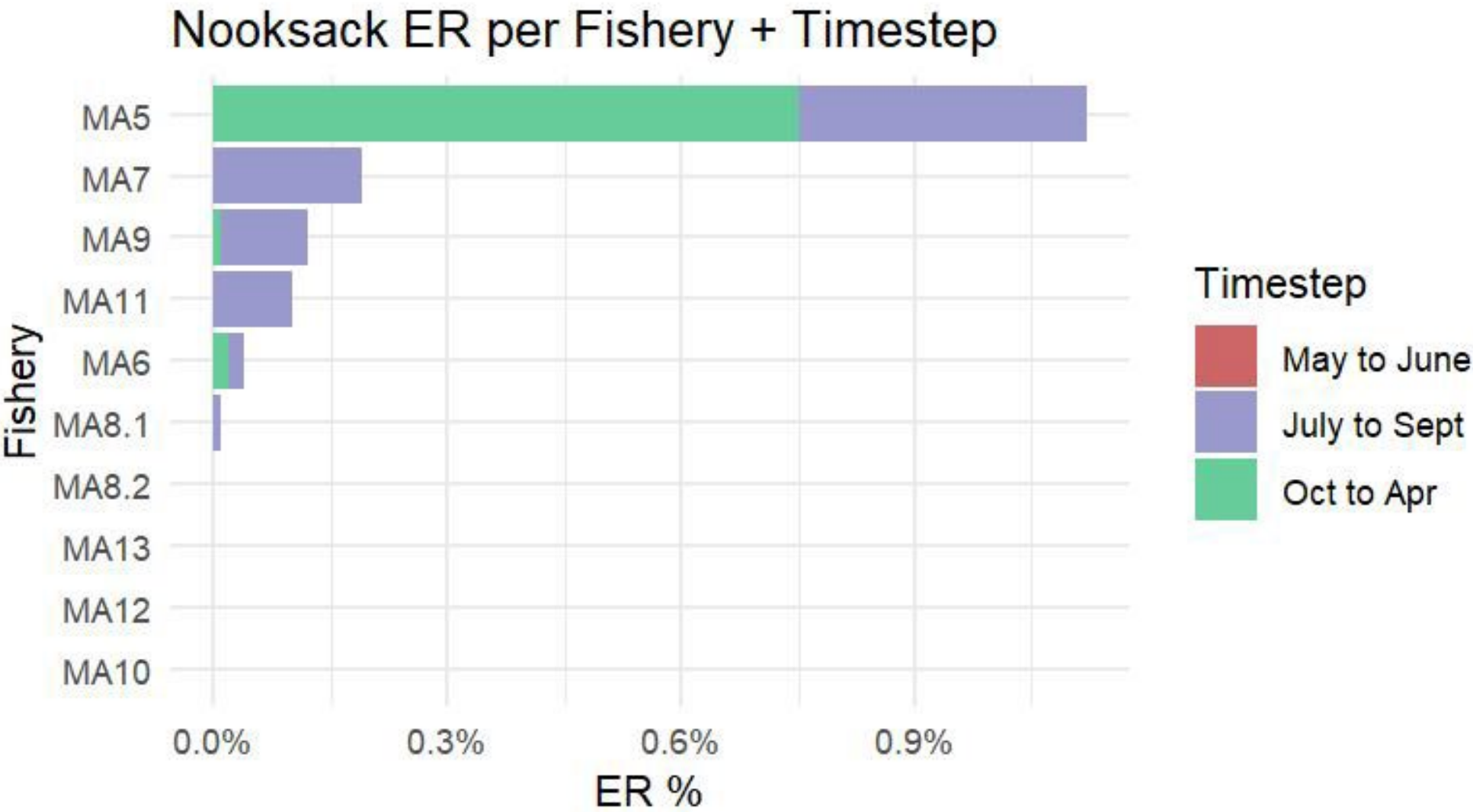
Stillaguamish Wild Chinook Impacts per MA and Timestep



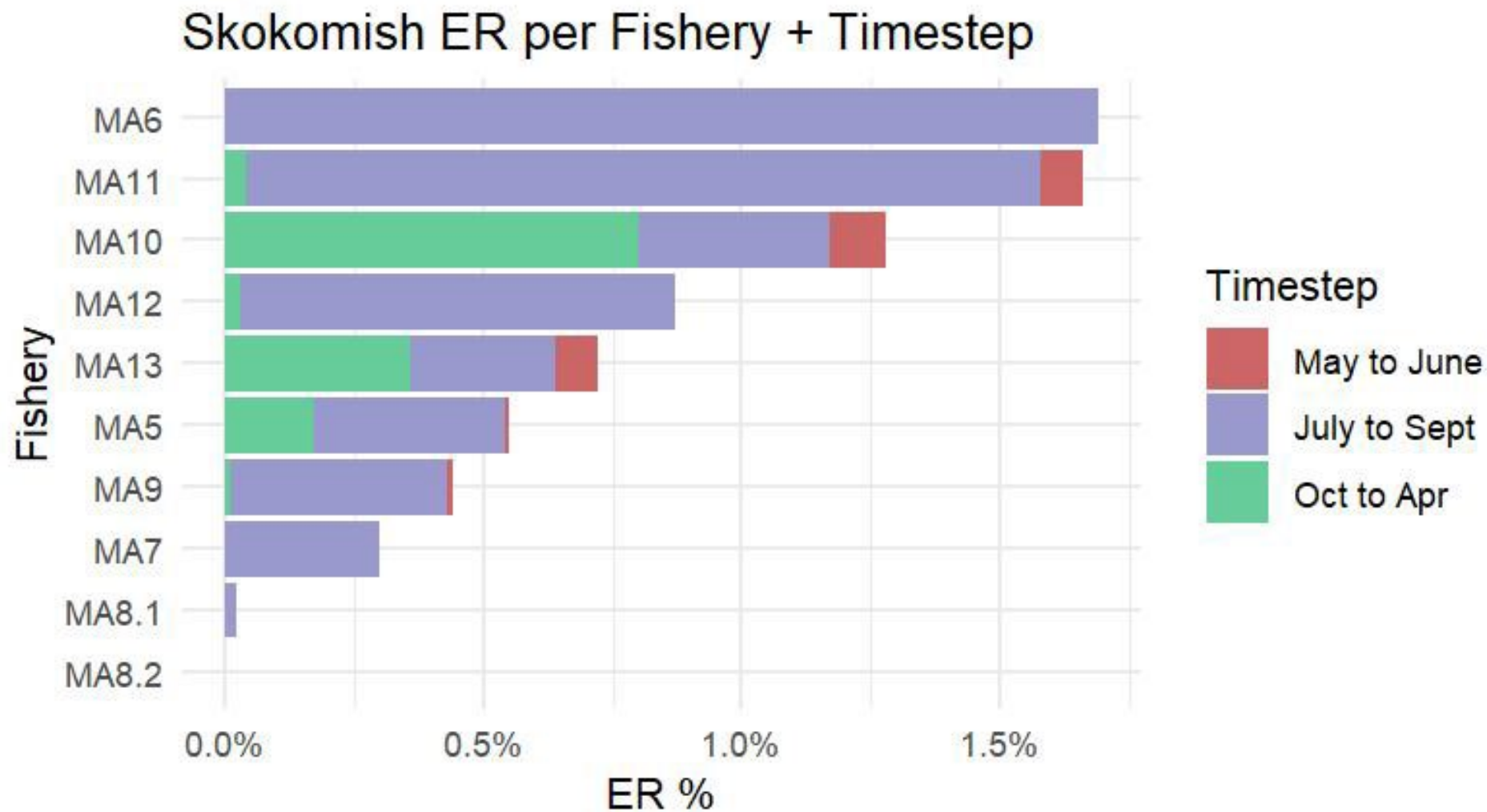
Skagit S/F Chinook Impacts per MA and Timestep



Nooksack Early Chinook Impacts per MA and Timestep



Skokomish Wild Chinook Impacts per MA and Timestep



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% |
| Hood Canal | 19,986* | TBD | TBD |
| Skagit | 66,267 | Normal | 60% |
| Stillaguamish | 27,473 | Normal | 50% |
| Snohomish | 59,000 | Low | 40% |
| Thompson (Interior Fraser) | N/A | Low* (PST status) | 10% SUS |

Current Coho Modeling Puget Sound

(2025 abundances with 2024 inside fisheries)

| Management Unit | ER CEILING | Mid (2514) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| SKAGIT | 60% | 48.0% |
| STILLY | 50% | 35.5% |
| SNOHOMISH | 40% | 35.3% |
| <u>HOOD CANAL</u> | <u>TBD</u> | <u>45.1%</u> |
| JUAN DE FUCA TRIBS | 40% | 10.9% |
| <u>INTERIOR FRASER (Thompson)</u> | <u>10% SUS</u> | <u>10.3%</u> |

Puget Sound Coho

- Hood Canal Natural Coho continues to be worked on. We have no additional updates to provide.
- Interior Fraser Coho impacts are over in the Middle Ocean Option (2514).

Freshwater Proposed Seasons – North Sound

Nooksack

- Chum: Oct. 1 – Dec. 31 from Lummi boundary to confluence of North/South Fork with 2 fish chum limit
- Pink: Aug. 1 – Sept. 31 from Lummi Boundary to FFA high school barn in Deming with 4 pink limit and 6 fish daily total

Samish

- Regular issues and complaints from anglers and neighbors:
 - Safety (anglers hit by gear)
 - Snagging
 - Crowding
 - Trespassing



Samish 2022 season. Some anglers described 2023 as even more crowded than 2022.

Freshwater Proposed Seasons – North Sound

Samish Proposals

Mouth to Thomas Road (Aug 1– Sep. 30)

1. Stationary Gear rule
 - *Stationary gear restriction* means the line and weight and lure or bait must be moving while in the water. The line and weight and lure or bait may not be stationary.
2. Hook size restriction. Maximum hook gap of 1/2" from point to shank. Only fish hooked inside mouth may be retained.
3. Proposing an **eggs only** and **unweighted tackle** only section from the Bayview-Edison Rd bridge upstream to wing wall (approx. 1000 ft).
4. Proposing a Veterans/active military day, youth day in the bait-only section TBD
5. Daily limit 2, release wild coho, chum, and pinks

All area from mouth to hatchery rack, *when not open for Chinook*, closed waters through 10/31.

- Documented enforcement issues with regular trespassing complaints, and snagging Chinook.
- Agricultural concerns about tainting organic fresh-to-market crops
- Requested by enforcement and some neighbors.

Freshwater Proposed Seasons – North Sound

Skagit

Hatchery spring Chinook – similar to previous seasons.

- Reminder to not target steelhead.

Sockeye – river and lake opportunity.

- Mount Vernon to Gilligan Creek, and Gilligan to Dalles Bridge
- 6 fish limit in river and lake. Catch split 75/25 lake/river
- 2-pole in river fishery
- Lake open 7/12 (even with zero hauled). Monitor trap count to make sure a trip is right for you.
 - <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/reports/counts/baker-river>

Coho, 2 per day, hatchery or wild.

- In General: still need to be careful of wild Chinook catch.
 - ❖ Same general rules and openings as 2024

Pink, 2 per day

Freshwater Proposed Seasons – Central Sound

- **Stillaguamish River**

- Coho, mainstem, Sept. 21 – Nov. 30
- Gamefish, North Fork to Cicero, Aug 30 – Nov. 30
- Gamefish, South Fork above Robe Canyon, May 24 – Nov. 30

- **Skykomish River**

- Chinook (AD) MSF, Lewis St. Br to Wallace R, June 21 – July 13
- Summer Steelhead, Railroad Trestle at High Bridge (U.S. Hwy 2) to confluence of North and South fork Skykomish rivers, June 21 – July 13, gear restrictions likely.
- Coho and Pink, gamefish, Mouth to confluence, Oct. 11 – Nov. 30, gear restrictions likely.

- **NF Skykomish**

- Gamefish, mouth to Bear Creek Falls, SGR, C&R, May 24 – Aug.22
- Coho and Pink, gamefish, Nov. 1 – Nov. 30

- **SF Skykomish**

- Gamefish, above Sunset Falls and Lower Beckler, SGR, C&R, May 24 – Aug. 22
- Coho and Pink, gamefish, Nov. 1 – Nov. 30

Freshwater Proposed Seasons – Central Sound

- **Wallace River**

- Coho and Pink, gamefish, Mouth to Hatchery weir, Oct. 11 – Nov. 30

- **Snoqualmie River**

- Gamefish, SGR, C&R, May 24 – July 13
- Coho and Pink, gamefish, Nov. 1 – Nov. 30

Freshwater Proposed Seasons – Central Sound / South Sound

- **Lake Washington** – Seasons similar to last year. Dependent on in-season update from Ballard Locks.
- **Green/Duwamish** - Seasons similar to last year. Dependent on in-season update from Tribal Test Fishery in Elliot Bay.
- **Puyallup** – 6 fish limit, 4 adults allowed, only 2 can be Chinook or coho
- **Minter Creek**- potential reduction in season length due to fishery issues
- **Carbon / Nisqually** — Similar seasons to last year.

Hood Canal Freshwater Proposed Seasons

Big Quilcene: similar to last year

Duckabush: similar to last year

Dosewallips: similar to last year

Skokomish: Closed

Dewatto: Closed

Tahuya: Closed

Dungeness

Proposed for 2025

- Low flows have delayed the traditional October 16 hatchery coho opening on the Dungeness in recent years. Open fishery 1 week later in the permanent rules and open earlier (October 16) via E-Reg if flows allow.
- Proposed rules are October 23 to January 31. Salmon daily limit 4, release all salmon other than hatchery coho.

Hoh River

Proposed for 2025

Higher daily limit than last year due to higher coho forecast.

- Mouth to Oxbow, Sept 16 – Nov. 30, **daily limit 3, only 2 adults** may be retained, only 1 may be a Chinook. December 1-15 daily limit 1 coho only.
- Oxbow to Morgans Crossing, Oct 16 – Nov. 30, **daily limit 3, only 2 adults** may be retained, only 1 may be a Chinook. December 1-15 daily limit 1 coho only.
- Only one single point barbless hook. Bait allowed.

Quillayute River

Proposed for 2025

- Spring Fisheries, same as 2024
 - Quillayute & Sol Duc, May 1-Aug. 31, 4 salmon, only 2 adults, release wild Chinook, wild coho & sockeye. Bait allowed except July 16-Aug 31 on Sol Duc.
 - Bogachiel, Calawah, & Dickey, July 1-Aug. 31, 4 salmon only 2 adults, release wild Chinook, wild coho & sockeye. Bait prohibited.
 - Concern for wild summer coho forecast at less than 400.
- Fall Fisheries, higher bag limit than 2024 on Bogachiel, Calawah, Dickey. **1 wild fish retention** (coho or Chinook).
 - Quillayute & Sol Duc, Sept 1-Dec 15, 6 salmon, **only 3 adults, only 1 wild**. Bait allowed
 - Bogachiel, Calawah, & Dickey, Sept 1-Dec 15, 3 salmon, **only 2 adults, only 1 wild**. Bait allowed.

Potential for In-Season Action on North Coast

Concern: In recent years, low flows, high temperatures, and run coming in below preseason forecast have led to in-season management actions through E-Reg.

- Possible in-season actions through E-Reg
 - Lower bag limit
 - Release stock of concern
 - Gear restrictions.
 - Closure of some areas
 - Closed to fishing

Current 2025 Puget Sound recreational proposals received from public comment

- Bonus 2 pink bag limit where applicable
- Add Chum opportunity in MA 10/11 in Oct-Nov.
- Additional NS Coho opportunity in MA-5/6
 - Mirror MA 7 coho season
- MA 11 increased quota and fishing days- 2 fish limit
- Samish River Chinook snagging issues- no weights and cured salmonid eggs only
- MA 10 and 11 align summer fisheries June 01
- Postpone MA-10 opening until mid-June for Coho
- More stability for seasons in MA10/11
- Maintaining Freshwater Fisheries (Snohomish R)
- Limited (small) winter blackmouth fisheries in Marine Areas 7, 9, 8-1, 8-2
 - Limited days w/ gear restrictions
- Use 1 management criteria for Marine Areas instead of multiple triggers
 - Total Mortality Index
- Annual limit of Chinook per angler
- Shore fishing for pink and coho in MA 9 on days not open for Chinook retention
- Baker Lake sockeye open on July 5th and a 6 fish daily limit
- NS Chinook fishery in the North End of Lk Washington for 3-Day season around Labor Day
 - Mandatory retention of any legal Chinook
- Other considerations as well

Modeling Scenarios to Meet Objectives

Chinook:

<https://chinook-scenarios.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/index.html>

Coho:

<https://ty-vuejs.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/index.html>

2025 NOF meeting schedule

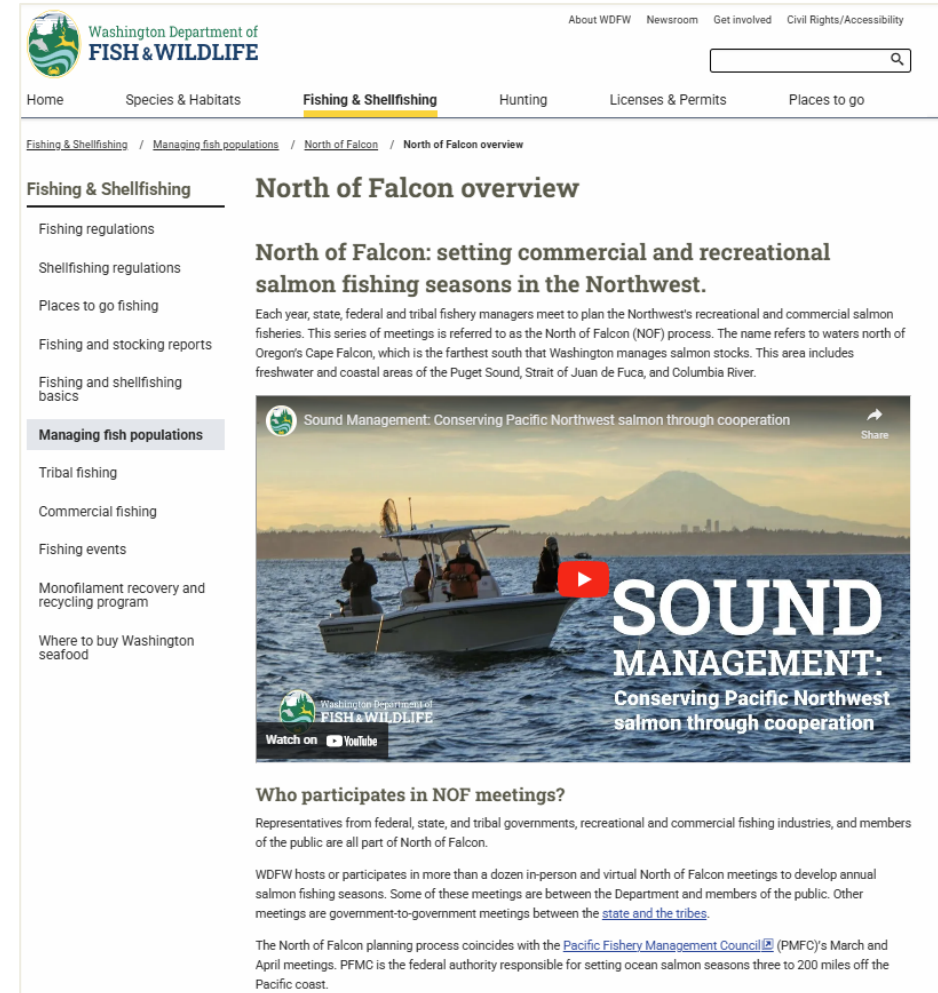
| Date | Meeting |
|---------------------|---|
| March 19 | North of Falcon #1 – Statewide proposals |
| March 24 | PFMC public hearing – Westport, WA |
| March 25 | North of Falcon #2 – statewide proposals |
| April 1 | Coastal freshwater and Puget Sound recreational fisheries |
| April 2 | Willapa 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

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 a search bar. The main content area is titled "North of Falcon overview" and features a video player with the title "SOUND MANAGEMENT: Conserving Pacific Northwest salmon through cooperation". The video player includes a play button and a "Watch on YouTube" link. Below the video, there is a section titled "Who participates in NOF meetings?" which describes the involvement of federal, state, and tribal governments, recreational and commercial fishing industries, and members of the public. The text also mentions that WDFW hosts or participates in more than a dozen in-person and virtual North of Falcon meetings to develop annual salmon fishing seasons.



Questions?

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