

2024 Willapa Bay NOF Fishery Suggestions or Comments Received from the Public

As of 03.25.2024

Includes emails and online portal comments that have been received

General

- Produce less chum at Nemah Hatchery and produce more Chinook
- Improve hatchery efficiencies in fall Chinook production for better returns
- Shift coho hatchery production at Forks Creek Hatchery to provide better fishing opportunities by reducing the early coho hatchery production (prior to Sept 15) at Forks Creek by 75% and increase late coho hatchery production from mid-Sept to mid- October.

Commercial

- Maintain fishery dates from the original Willapa Bay Salmon Mgmt Policy – No commercial fishing in south bay until after Labor Day and after Sept 16 in the north bay
- Limit the commercial net to only cover no more than 50% of the river (no set netting or blocking the entire width of the river)
- Use smaller mesh size 5” max

Recreational

General

- River specific mark selective fisheries
- Gear (jigs, leader length), area restrictions, or retention changes (all landed fish count against limit, retained fish must be hooked in the mouth) to address snagging issues
- Use hook size restrictions
- Does not support all landed fish count against the daily limit (1)
- Does support limiting or reducing jigging to deal with snagging (1)
- Support for Chinook recreational priority

Naselle River

- Apply any rule to reduce snagging from Hwy 101 to Hwy 4 Bridge
- All landed foul hooked fish count against the limit, retained fish must be hooked in the mouth August 1 – October 15 or Nov 1
- Reinstate bobber rule, and the lure and bait need to be suspended (not dragging the ground) to ensure Stationary Gear Rule compliance
- Prohibit fishing from a floating device from the spanning concrete abutment at the hatchery to the Bighill Bridge (2 support)
- Prohibit jigs and twitching gear from August 1 – Oct 15 from the mouth of the SF to the Hwy 4 Bridge
- Require fish to be hooked in the mouth in freshwater from August 1 – October 15 or Nov 1
- Require max. 36” leader from hook to weight and when a bobber is used max. 5’ to bobber stop from bait or lure
- Revise end date on use of barbless hooks (back off the date as early as possible)
- Reduce the barbless restriction date

Willapa River

- Mark selective fisheries for coho

Nemah River

- 3 adults with only 1 hen (Chinook)