



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

8/23/2024

Dear Puget Sound Commercial Salmon License Holder,

Earlier this year, Washington Department of the Fish and Wildlife negotiated new salmon seasons through the North of Falcon (NOF) / Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) process for 2024. This letter is being sent to allow the industry to prepare in advance for potential limited participation chum fisheries in Marine Areas 10 and 11.

Introduction

During our NOF/PFMC process for 2024, WDFW and tribal comanagers continued to recognize the need for a conservative approach to fisheries management related to the downward trend of Puget Sound chum abundance observed for the recent decade. Along with decreased abundance, the migration timing of fall and winter chum has also shifted from historical timing in South Puget Sound. For winter populations, this shift has opened the potential for convergence with fall populations in pre-terminal marine fishing areas, particularly later in the year. Additionally, managers have also recognized the very weak forecasts of Puyallup and Nisqually late/winter chum. Given these recently observed trends, chum conservation remains at the forefront of WDFW and tribal Puget Sound Fish Managers' planning efforts.

In response to these trends, WDFW and tribal technical staff reviewed the recent 52 years of South Puget Sound chum total abundance and escapement data, evaluating when escapement goals were met or failed to be met. Subsequently, staff identified in-season abundance thresholds, predicted by the Apple Cove Test Fishery In-Season Update (ISU) model, where pre-terminal fisheries can be safely prosecuted while meeting escapement goals.

Modeling and Management

Based on the pre-season forecast for South Puget Sound chum, the state will propose operating full fleet non-tribal fisheries in week 42 for Marine Areas 10 and 11. If the ISU run size is estimated between 350,000 to 460,000 in any given week 43-45, limited effort Marine Area 10/11 fisheries (described below) will be prosecuted to allow access to a portion (14,000/week) of the State's harvestable share of South Sound chum. Please recognize pre-terminal tribal fisheries will also be accessing only a portion of their allowable share (6,000/week) of South Sound chum at that given range of run sizes during the same management weeks. To ensure the state's fishery

does not exceed management objectives, strict management measures are being applied including limited participation, individual trip limits, and full-coverage observation (fishery observers may be required aboard). If the ISU run size is larger than 460,000 in weeks 43-45, Area 10/11 will be open to the full pre-season fishery schedule. As a reminder, this process only applies to South Puget Sound, while Hood Canal (Area 12/12B) will be open and monitored as scheduled starting in week 42.

Limited Participation Rules and Selection

Limited Participation and Trip Limit rules for the Area 10/11 chum fishery will be set to a weekly purse seine and gill net combined catch no greater than 14,000 per management week (43-45), resulting in a one day opening per week with 6 purse seine boats with full day trip limits of 1,600 chum/boat and 10 gill net boats with full day trip limit of 400 chum/boat.

If you are interested and want to pursue participation in the Area 10/11 chum fishery, please fill out the enclosed form and ensure it is postmarked to the department **no later than September 9th, 2024**.

On September 13th, WDFW Commercial Management will generate a randomized list from the pool of license holders who return completed applications with selections for the the Area 10/11 limited participation chum fishery. Applicants will be notified of the selection outcome during the third week of September, and results will be posted on our Puget Sound Commercial Fisheries web page (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/salmon/information#2024>). Each week for the limited participation fisheries, participants will be called in the order selected. If a fisher declines to participate, they will be moved to the bottom of the list and the next fisher on the list will be contacted. If the end of the list is reached, we will start over from the top again. When the selected fisher is contacted by WDFW to confirm participation, they will be required to provide the name of the buyer and the landing location. The name of the participating vessels will be included in our weekly commercial salmon regulation hotline.

Please see attached FAQ for answers to more questions regarding the limited participation application and fisheries.

Again, if you are interested and want to pursue participation in the Area 10/11 limited entry chum fishery, please fill out the enclosed form and **return it to WDFW's Fish Program in Olympia, postmarked no later than September 9th, 2024**

Thank you for your interest and participation,

Puget Sound Commercial Salmon Management
WDFW Fish Program

Limited Participation Commercial Fisheries – FAQs

When should I apply?

- If you are interested and want to pursue participation in the Area 10/11 chum fishery, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to WDFW's Fish Program in Olympia, postmarked no later than September 9th, 2024

Who can apply?

- Anyone who holds a Washington commercial fishing license, specific to the gear type, in the Limited Participation Fishery.
 - Example: A Limited Participation Chum Fishery occurs for Purse Seiners – Anyone who holds a commercial purse seine license may apply
- We ask that the operators who hold the imprint cards be the applicants, not the owner. This minimizes confusion during the selection process.
 - Example: If you're operating under a license held by a company then the operator of the vessel or the leasing operator should fill out the application.

Can I apply more than once?

- Each License number can be entered once (see attached example of an imprint card). If you are entering more than one vessel, each vessel must have its own unique operator enter the drawing
 - Example – Two brothers both enter the Limited Participation drawing, but their License number is the same (7xxxx), they can only be entered once. If their License number is selected, they decide who will partake in the fishery
 - Example – One person owns three vessels. Each vessel has separate operators, and different License numbers. Each of those may be entered for Limited Participation.

If I am selected, but cannot participate, can someone else fish for me?

- Only the primary and alternate operators tied to the designated license number (see attached example of an imprint card) that was used for the Limited Participation application and drawing may participate.

How are applicants drawn for Limited Participation?

- Each license number is assigned a random number, using the package "Random" in program R. We sort the random number in ascending order to determine the "drawing" order. There will

be one drawing for chum fisheries for all weeks.

We anticipate notifying applicants of the selection the third week of September 2024.

Are there vessel limits (number of participating vessels)?

- The goal of Limited Participation is to harvest only part of our available share at lower run sizes to support meeting conservation goals. The number of participating vessels will be limited to ensure we do not exceed the available share in any one management week.

Is there a daily catch limit? What are the daily catch limits?

- In previous seasons, a daily catch limit, per vessel, has been placed on participants. These limits will vary each season, and potentially in-season if the weekly total catch limit is exceeded for the prior week.

What happens if vessels go over the daily catch limit?

- Report overage to WDFW Commercial Staff at (564) 200-3642 (pscommercialsalmon@dfw.wa.gov) – Enforcement and WDFW Commercial Staff will meet you at buyer.
- The fisher and dealer may be cited if they do not report an overage.

If I am selected for Limited Participation in a certain week, how is that communicated to me?

- A list for chum fisheries will be emailed to all applicants and posted online.
- Participants will be contacted via email prior to the season notifying them of their placement
- Participants will be contacted via email and phone at least 24 hours prior to a Limited Participation opportunity in the week they were drawn, notifying them of the upcoming Limited Participation opportunity

If I am selected for Limited Participation, but cannot fish that week, what happens? Do I get to go the following week?

- If you are called and notified of a Limited Participation fishery, but cannot partake, you will be moved to the bottom of the list. If the list is exhausted, we will start over maintaining the new order of participants.
 - Example: You are drawn into the #3 spot, and you cannot participate when contacted. You will be moved to the bottom of the list. You then forego the #3 position. If the list were to start over, you will maintain the new position at the bottom.

Washington State Fishery License



*Registered vessels show the WN number as the 'name' (see sample Dungeness Crab - Coastal - 500 pot, p2)
 -Documented vessels show the actual name here



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APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT ON 2024 PUGET SOUND
COMMERCIAL SALMON LIMITED PARTICIPATION FISHERIES
REGISTRATION FORM

This application must be received by the WDFW Fish Program in Olympia, post marked **no later than September 9th, 2024**, to be considered for any 2024 limited participation commercial chum salmon fisheries.

To apply, fill out this form and mail to:

Attn: Puget Sound Salmon Management
WDFW Fish Program
PO Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504

OR email to:

pscommercialsalmon@dfw.wa.gov

Please refer to your imprint card, and the example on the back of this letter, to correctly fill out the application. To be considered for Limited Participation, this application must be filled out with no blank fields. Only one entry per License Number will be permitted.

Gear Type (**circle one**): **Gillnet** **Purse Seine**

Vessel Name (or WN number): _____

Washington Department of Licensing Vessel Number: _____

Puget Sound Commercial Salmon License Number: _____

License Operator Name: _____

Operator Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I hereby affirm and swear under penalty of perjury that the above information is true and correct. I understand that if my name is chosen for a limited participation fishery and I cannot be contacted after reasonable effort, I will be ineligible for the immediate fishery in question but will retain my standing on the priority register. I also understand that if I agree or decline to participate in a limited participation fishery my name returns to the bottom of this year's priority register. I understand that if I participate in a limited participation fishery, I will be required to have a department observer on board my vessel. (WAC 220-354-050)

Signature

Date