

Fish Committee Meeting: Coastal Steelhead

November 21, 2024



Agenda

1. Runsize and Pre-season Forecast
2. Public Comment Summary
3. Revised fisheries



2024/25 Pre-season schedule

- Mid July: Survey data exchange with tribal comanagers
- Mid August: Spawning escapement estimates finalized
- Early September: Exchange pre-season forecasts with Tribal Co-Managers
- Early October: Pre-season Forecasts Agreement with Tribal Co-Managers
- **October 21 Special Fish Committee Meeting:** WDFW will present preliminary forecasts
- **October 23 Town Hall #1:** Present Final escapements, preliminary forecasts, potential fisheries to the public for comment, seek public comment
- Mid October: Co-manager policy meetings to discuss fishery management planning
- **November 13 Town Hall #2:** Communicate updated fisheries to the public
- **November 21 Special Fish Committee Meeting:** Update committee
- Late November: Finalize Management Plans with tribal co-managers
- Last week of November: Announce winter fishing rules
- **December 12 Fish Committee Meeting:** Share final rules





Runsize and Pre-Season Forecast

2023/24 Review: Preliminary Wild Runsize

River/Area	Predicted Runsize	Actual Runsize	Escapement Goal	Actual Escapement
Willapa	4,085	4,945	4,206	4,847
Chehalis	7,148	8,534	8,600	8,505
Humptulips	1,343	1,200	1,600	1,200
Upper Quinault	1,870	2,099	1,200	1,682
Queets/Clearwater	4,150	4,314	2500/4200	3,962
Hoh	3,389	6,855	2,400	6,043
Quillayute	9,096	11,445	5,900	10,812



2024/25 Wild Forecast and Fishery Impact Limit

River/Area	Run-to-River	Escapement Goal	Wild Steelhead Relative To Goal	% Above/Below Goal	Sport Impact Limit
Willapa	4,923	4,206	717	17%	717
Chehalis	9,797	8,600	1,197	14%	484
Humptulips	1,482	1,600	-118	-7%	74
Upper Quinault	2,260	1,200	1,060	88%	530
Queets/Clearwater	4,345	2500/4200			
Hoh	4,287	2,400	1,887	79%	944
Quillayute	9,662	5,900	3,762	64%	1881



Public Comment Summary

Catch and Effort:

- Target hatchery fish in time and area
- Spread effort by opening more areas (compared to last season)

Boat Opportunity:

- Expand or restrict opportunities for fishing from a boat
- Continue to evaluate effects of “no fishing from boats”

Season Length:

- Mixed support for April closures or extended seasons

Gear restrictions:

- Support using bait in December to increase hatchery catch, concern for early wild returns

Methods and philosophy:

- Continue to manage using SSMP guidelines (All “H” approach, VSP parameters)
- Continue conservative approach and manage for long term trends
- Increase funding for monitoring and evaluation (harvest rate, encounter rate, mortality estimates, “No fishing from a boat” effects, VSP)

Townhall #1 stats:

- Attendees: 133
- Comments during meeting: ~25 (some were both written and spoken)
- Public Portal Comments, Calls or Emails: ~30

Townhall #2 stats:

- Attendees: 203
- Comments during meeting (written and spoken): ~45
- Public portal Comments, Calls or Emails: ~20





Revised Fisheries

Willapa Bay Rivers Proposed Regulations

Proposed Steelhead and Trout Rules going into effect December 2, 2024 through March 31, 2025;

Implement Selective Gear Rules (no bait), with only one single-point barbless hook allowed, require release of wild rainbow trout, open until March 31, 2025.

- Nemah River (North, Middle, South), Palix River, Bear River, Naselle River, North River, Salmon Creek, Willapa River, SF Willapa River



Mid Coast Rivers Proposed Regulations

Proposed Steelhead and Trout Rules going into effect December 2, 2024 through March 31, 2025;

- Implement Selective Gear Rules (no bait), with only one single-point barbless hook allowed, require release of wild rainbow trout.
 - Humptulips River Closed beginning February 3, 2025.
 - Chehalis River (mouth to confluence with Skookumchuck River), Wynoochee River (mouth to bridge on 7400 road), Satsop River (mouth to bridge at Schaffer Park) and Skookumchuck River, Closed beginning March 1, 2025.
 - All other tributaries to Grays Harbor and the Chehalis Basin closed beginning January 1, 2025.
 - Copalis River and Moclips River.

Queets and Upper Quinault rivers;

- Meeting to discuss proposals scheduled for Monday, November 25th.



North Coast Rivers Proposed Regulations

Proposed Steelhead and Trout Rules going into effect December 2, 2024 through March 31, 2025:

Quillayute, Bogachiel, Sol Duc, Calawah, and Dickey:

- Fishing from a floating device prohibited, except fishing from a floating device allowed on the Quillayute River, on the Bogachiel River below the mouth of Mill Creek (above the hatchery), on the Calawah River below the Highway 101 bridge, and on the Sol Duc River below the concrete pump station at the Sol Duc hatchery.
- Implement Selective Gear Rules (no bait), with only one single-point barbless hook allowed, require release of wild rainbow trout.
- Daily limit statewide minimum size/daily limit (no 3 fish bonus).

Hoh:

- Implement Selective Gear Rules (no bait), with only one single-point barbless hook allowed, require release of wild rainbow trout.
- Daily limit statewide minimum size/daily limit (no 3 fish bonus).
- Fishing from a floating device allowed under permanent rules.





Questions?