

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Region 5 2025 North of Falcon – Tributary Salmon and Steelhead Proposals

Tributaries With No Salmon Rule Changes Proposed

Based upon anticipated Chinook and coho salmon returns, expected sport harvest, and broodstock collection goals, no changes are proposed to salmon rules in the following rivers. Current rules are summarized below:

- **Cowlitz River** – Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained (hatchery coho only).
- **Toutle/NF Toutle/Green Rivers** – Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 1 may be a Chinook (hatchery Chinook/hatchery coho only)
- **SF Toutle River** – Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 2 adults may be retained (hatchery Chinook/hatchery coho only).
- **Lewis River** – Salmon:
 - Aug. 1-Sept. 30 - Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained (hatchery Chinook/hatchery coho only).
 - Oct. 1- Dec. 31 – Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults including no more than 1 Chinook (any Chinook/hatchery coho only).
- **Washougal River** – Salmon: Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults may be retained, of which up to 2 may be Chinook (hatchery Chinook/hatchery coho only).
- **Wind River (mouth to Hwy. 14 Bridge)** – Salmon:
 - July – September: Daily limit 6; up to 2 adults may be retained (hatchery Chinook/hatchery coho only).
 - October: Daily limit 6; up to 2 adult salmon may be retained. (any Chinook/hatchery coho only).
- **Drano Lake** – Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 1 adult salmon may be retained (any Chinook/any coho).
- **Klickitat River** – Salmon: Daily limit 6; up to 2 adults may be retained (any Chinook/any coho).

Rule Change Proposals to address other salmon management needs:

1. **Germany Creek:** add “Closed Waters” around the tributary weir planned for implementation in the late summer/fall of 2025

Explanation: Beginning in 2025 WDFW plans to install and operate a tributary weir to remove stray, hatchery fall Chinook from Germany Creek to minimize the proportion of hatchery origin spawners (pHOS). A standard best practice for tributary weirs across Region 5 has been to utilize a closed waters area above and below the weir where fish can accumulate.

Proposal: CLOSED WATERS - from 200 feet below to 200 feet above the temporary weir when the weir is installed in the river.

2. **Kalama River:** modify the “Closed Waters” boundary definition below Kalama Falls Hatchery to posted markers approximately 1,400 feet below the fishway entrance.

Current: the boundary is defined as a point “1,000 feet below fishway at Kalama Falls Hatchery”

Explanation: The current boundary definition of “1,000 feet below fishway at Kalama Falls Hatchery” is inconsistent with fishing boundary and closed waters markers posted on the river; the markers have been posted at their intended location for decades. While uncertain, the mismeasurement has likely persisted for many years due to inaccurate measuring techniques historically available. This inaccuracy was discovered following the introduction of mobile phone apps that allow field users to measure distance on aerial imagery. In their current location, the closed waters markers support WDFW’s fishery management and hatchery broodstock collection objectives. A deep pool, located just upstream of the intended boundary, is the last holding water for hatchery and natural upstream migrating salmonids to stage, before moving upstream to Kalama Falls and hatchery. WDFW Enforcement has documented snagging violations in this pool. Failure to redefine the boundary effectively opens this pool, which could be critical to meeting broodstock goals in low return years. WDFW staff recommend the following proposal to redefine this boundary landmark.

Proposal - redefine the “Closed Waters’ landmark to “posted markers approximately 1,400 feet below the fishway entrance at Kalama Falls Hatchery”.

Tributary ‘Dip-In’ Steelhead Conservation Strategy Continuation

Maintain current steelhead fishing and retention rules in the lowest reaches of Washington tributaries in Bonneville Pool to provide conservation for steelhead stocks forecasted to return to the Columbia Basin during periods of low abundances.

- a) Tributaries and reaches above Bonneville Dam
 - a. Wind River – waters downstream of Shipherd Falls, including area outside of the Highway 14 bridge
 - b. Drano Lake
 - c. White Salmon River – downstream of the county road bridge
 - d. Klickitat River – waters downstream of Fisher Hill Bridge

Conservation strategies:

- i. Night closure for salmon and steelhead from July 1 through October 31
- ii. Steelhead fishing closure from July 1 through October 31