

2025 North of Falcon Public Meeting Grays Harbor & Willapa Bay Fisheries Discussion #2

Link to join meeting via Zoom:

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

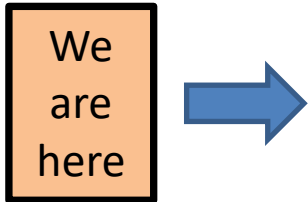


North of Falcon Process

1. Forecast the abundance of each stock
2. Determine if there is a harvestable surplus
3. Model fisheries to determine which stocks are the constraints
4. Predict what we will catch
5. Depending on the area, negotiate with treaty tribes and other states



2025 Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor NOF Public Meeting Schedule:



DATE	EVENT
March 19	North of Falcon Meeting #1 (hybrid)
	1115 Washington Street SE, Office Building 2 Auditorium, Olympia, WA 98504. Join Zoom Web Conference
March 25	North of Falcon Meeting #2
	20610 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036. Join Zoom Web Conference
April 2	Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor joint fisheries discussion #2
	6PM to 8PM PST. Join Zoom Web Conference
April 10-15	Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting #2
	View Meeting

Entire Schedule and links to individual meetings, including other regional meetings, can be found here:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-meetings>





Grays Harbor Management Objectives & Fishery Proposals

2025 Grays Harbor and Queets Management Objectives

Grays Harbor

- No Chehalis **Spring Chinook** fishery
- **Fall Chinook** (escapement goal 13,326 natural spawning)
- **Coho** (escapement goal 35,400 natural spawning)
 - Maximum Pacific Salmon Treaty exploitation rate 50%
- **Chum** (escapement goal 21,000 natural-origin)

Queets River

- Queets coho (escapement goal 5,800-14,500)



2025 Grays Harbor Public Comments

- Allow bait in Dec during salmon season
- Bonus chum
- South Elma to Centralia coho:
 - 2 fish Oct/Nov (1 hatchery & 1 wild)
 - End Nov only one hatchery
 - Oct/Nov only one wild
 - End Nov through Dec. 1 or 2 hatchery retention only
- Extend season as much as possible: one wild coho Oct/Nov and potential Dec. fishery
- Give up bag limit versus give up time to fish
- Skookumchuck & Bingham coho: MSF in Dec
- Jack fishery: retain adult hatchery coho
- GH Marine Waters keep a hatchery king
- Late Nov through Dec coho MSF
- Open L. Chehalis Oct. 1
 - Coho 2 fish bag if impacts allow through Dec
 - Coho 2 fish bag, only 1 wild coho if impacts allow through Dec
- Chinook use bait with bobber
- One Fall Chinook a year retention
- Two coho retention



Recreational Season Comparison

Grays Harbor Recreational Season Comparison

	2024	Model A	Model B
Marine 2-2 North	Aug 1-Sept 15 1-fish bag, release wild Chin & wild coho	Aug 1-Sept 15 1-fish bag, release wild Chin & wild coho	Aug 1-Sept 15 1-fish bag, release wild Chin & wild coho
	Sept 16-Nov 30 2-fish bag, release Chin	Sept 16-Oct. 31 2-fish bag, release Chin	Sept 16-Nov 30 2 -1-fish bag, release Chin
Marine 2-2 East	Sept 16-Nov 30 2-fish bag, release Chin	Sept 16-Oct. 31 2-fish bag, release Chin	Sept 16-Nov 30 2 -1-fish bag, release Chin
	Nov. 1-Nov. 30 2 -1-fish bag, release Chin	Nov. 1-Nov. 30 2 -1-fish bag, release Chin	Nov. 1-Nov. 30 2 -1-fish bag, release Chin
Humptulips	Sept 1-Oct. 24 1-fish bag, release wild Chinook and wild coho	Sept 1-Oct. 24 1-fish bag, release wild Chinook and wild coho	Sept 1-Oct. 24 1-fish bag, release wild Chinook and wild coho
	Oct 25-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin and wild coho	Oct 25-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin and wild coho	Oct 25-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin and wild coho
Lower Chehalis Mainstem	Sept 16-Nov 30 2-fish bag, release adult Chin	Sept 16-Oct 31 2-fish bag, release adult Chin	Sept 16-Oct 31 1-fish bag, release adult Chin
	Dec 1-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin	Nov 1-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin	Nov 1-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin
Tribes, include Chehalis above Fuller Bridge	Oct 1-Nov 30 2-fish bag, release adult Chin	Oct 1-Oct 31 2-fish bag, release adult Chin	Oct 1-Oct 31 1-fish bag, release adult Chin
	Dec 1-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin	Nov 1-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin	Nov 1-Dec 31 1-fish bag, release Chin



2025 Grays Harbor Fisheries Proposals

Grays Harbor Model Harvest Comparison									
Model	Grays Harbor Coho					Grays Harbor Chinook			
	2-2	FW	NT Comm	PST ER (50%)	Natural Spawners (35,400)	2-2	FW	NT Comm	Natural Spawners (13,326)
NALF	3,269	17,308	3,013	54.05%	31,727	143	186	83	12,537
A	3,255	16,096	1,781	52.90%	33,258	143	187	51	12,576
B	2,473	13,546	1,781	50.40%	35,178	143	164	51	12,602

Model	Chum			Sport	NT Comm
	2-2	FW	NT Comm		
NALF	202	2,880	10,222	2 fish Oct-Nov, 1 fish Dec.	NT Com. 2 days each wk 40, 43, 44, 45.
A	202	2,844	11,959	2 fish Oct, 1 fish Nov-Dec.	NT Com. 2 days wk 43, 3 days wk 44, 2 days wk 45
B	202	2,742	11,959	1 fish through Dec	NT Com. 2 days wk 43, 3 days wk 44, 2 days wk 45





Willapa Bay Management Objectives & Fishery Proposals

2025 Willapa Bay Management Objectives

- **Chinook**- 20% natural-origin impact rate cap for Willapa and Naselle rivers
- **Chum** – Escapement goal (35,400 natural-origin)
- **Coho** – Escapement goal (17,200 naturally spawning)



2025 Willapa Bay Public Comments

General:

- Concern for NOR Chinook impacts with this year's lower forecast
- Increase NOR Chinook impact rate for recreational fishery and reduce NOR Chinook impact on commercial fishery
- Model fisheries for 20% impact on natural origin Chinook
- Provide additional notice when the fishery is going to close in-season

WB Commercial:

- Allow use of only 1 recovery box or 1 chamber in a two-chamber recovery box in November
- Allow fishing 7 days/week after Sept 15 to access additional coho available

Naselle River:

- Ban professional fishing rafts from Bighill bridge to Hwy. 4 Bridge
- Prohibit fishing from floating device from concrete diversion structure upstream to at least Bighill Bridge from Oct 16 – Jan 31
- Keep river closed until mid October from Hwy 4 Bridge upstream
- Increase monitoring and enforcement for violations and trespassing
- Implement bobber rule (bait or lure must be suspended by a float) except for when trolling from South Fork upstream to Hwy. 4 bridge Aug.1- Oct. 15
- Modify language to read: It is unlawful to possess a fish that is not hooked in the mouth Aug. 1-Oct. 15
- Allow retention of at least 1 natural coho

Willapa River:

- Allow 1 natural coho retention



2025 Willapa Bay Fishery Proposals

2025 Willapa Bay Fishery Model Run Data Summary - North of Falcon

Preliminary Draft

Model	Expected Natural Chinook Impact Rate		Expected Escapement			Willapa Bay Total Expected Harvest						Allocation % by Sector			
	Willapa River Objective ≤ 20%	Naselle River Objective ≤ 20%	Natural Origin Chinook Goal = 4,353	Naturally Spawning Coho Goal = 17,200 (Natural Origin Goal = 13,600)	Chum Total Goal = 35,400	Chinook - Hatchery Origin Retention		Coho Total *		Chum		Chinook		Coho	
						Rec	Comm	Rec	Comm	Rec	Comm	Rec	Comm	Rec	Comm
Model A - NALF New abundances, last year's fisheries	14.9%	16.6%	1,984	52,340 (15,443)	52,207	4,245	5,319	6,236	35,478	143	42,114	44.4%	55.6%	14.9%	85.1%
Model B Rec 2 fish daily limit	19.9%	19.8%	1,897	43,300 (13,103)	39,889	5,143	6,550	8,130	43,506	109	54,466	44.0%	56.0%	15.7%	84.3%
Model C FW Rec 2 fish daily limit, only 1 wild coho	19.9%	19.8%	1,897	44,114 (13,917)	39,889	5,143	6,550	7,316	43,506	109	54,466	44.0%	56.0%	14.4%	85.6%

Green = Meets management objective

Red = Does not meet management objective

Chinook MSF = Mark Selective Fishery for all of Willapa Bay

*Recreational coho total includes marine and freshwater natural & hatchery coho expected harvest where applicable; Commercial coho total includes hatchery and natural coho expected harvest

In All Models below: All fisheries MSF NOR Chinook AND Fork Creek & Niawiakum Closed

Model A - NALF = 2025 New Abundances, Last year's Fishery: Recreational FW Naselle, Middle Nemah, South Nemah, Palix, Willapa and SF Willapa MSF NOR Coho.

Model B - Commercial Proposal; Marine area and Freshwater areas - 2 fish daily limit

Model C - Commercial Proposal from Model B; Recreational: Marine Area 2 fish daily limit, Freshwater 2 fish daily limit and only 1 may be a wild coho



2025 Willapa Bay Modeled Fishery Descriptions

Model Run	Fishery	Chinook Total Daily Limit	Chinook fishery - MSF UM Release Required for all fisheries	Natural Coho Daily Limit	Hatchery Coho Daily Limit	Chum	Commercial Ex-Vessel Value
A-NALF	Marine Rec	2	Mark Selective Fishery (MSF) starting August 1	2	2	Retention Allowed	na
	FW Rec	2	MSF	0 or 1	2	Retention Allowed	na
	Commercial	Tangle nets	MSF - Weeks 33-37 in south bay, 2T wk 37, 2U wk 37-38	-	-	Retention Allowed	\$949,566
		November	2T, 2N, 2R, 2M wks 44-48, 2U wks 47-48	-	-	Retention Allowed	
Model B Rec 2 fish daily limit	Marine Rec	2	MSF starting August 1	2	2	Retention Allowed	na
	FW Rec	2	MSF	2	2	Retention Allowed	na
	Commercial	Tangle nets	MSF -Weeks 33-37 in south bay, 2T & 2U Wks 37	-	-	Retention Allowed	\$1,181,534
		November	2T, 2N, 2R, 2M Wks 44-48, 2U Wks 45-48	-	-	Retention Allowed	
Model C FW Rec 2 fish daily limit, only 1 wild coho	Marine Rec	2	MSF starting August 1	2	2	Retention Allowed	na
	FW Rec	2	MSF	1	2	Retention Allowed	na
	Commercial	Tangle nets	MSF -Weeks 33-37 in south bay, 2T & 2U Wks 37	-	-	Retention Allowed	\$1,181,534
		November	2T, 2N, 2R, 2M wks 44-48, 2U wks 45-48	-	-	Retention Allowed	

Blue = Change from last year's season (NALF)



Questions/Comments/ Fishery Suggestions?

- You can “raise your hand” to ask a question, which you can access through the control panel at the bottom of the screen. You can also raise your hand by hovering over your face or name on the list of participants.
- Callers can raise their hand by dialing *9.
- Callers can unmute themselves by pressing *6.

Link to submit NOF-related Public comments electronically:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon>

