



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Coastal Region • Region 6 • 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563-9618
Telephone: (360) 249-4628 • Fax: (360) 249-1229

June 2023

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you of commercial salmon gillnet fishery regulations in Grays Harbor during 2023.

Retention of all sturgeon and all steelhead is strictly prohibited. Encounters of sturgeon with tags of any sort should be reported. **DO NOT REMOVE** tags; carefully obtain and submit information from tags to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563.

During all commercial fishing for salmon in Grays Harbor:

Commercial fishers **MUST**:

- Have in their possession a WDFW-issued “fish Friendly” certification card.
- Carry an on-board observer when requested by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to do so.
- Report encounters of green sturgeon through the Quick Report system or to a dealer for reporting. Direct reporting by fishers shall include name of the fisher and vessel #, date, catch area, and number of green sturgeon encountered.
- Provide notice of intent to participate by contacting Quick Reporting by phone, fax or email by 5:00 p.m. on September 26, 2023, for openings in Areas 2A, 2C and 2D.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish **MUST**:

- Report purchases of salmon including all “take home” to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets. A copy of the “Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet” can be downloaded on our website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/>. Dealers should use the “buyer only” portion of the fish ticket to list the number of green sturgeon encountered with any landing and in the pounds/price columns label as ‘encountered’.
- Port Code for the location of delivery is required on fish receiving tickets (See WAC 220-352-040, required information for Washington state non-treaty fish receiving tickets).

The following regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to verify schedules and regulations on the WDFW hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before fishing. You may obtain a copy of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for this fishery at [2023 North of Falcon- Coastal Commercial Fisheries | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

This letter and other relevant information regarding this fishery are available on the WDFW website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/gillnet#information>. For additional information or questions, please contact Kim Figlar Barnes 360-490-5839 or Barbara McClellan 360-470-3459.

Fall Fishery (openers occurring between September 28 and November 30, 2023):

Gear restrictions:

Areas 2A and 2D

- October 3-4 and October 18, 2023, tangle net gear maximum mesh size 4 ¼ inches
- October 26, October 30-31, and November 1, 2023, maximum mesh size is 6 1/2 inches

Area 2C – Maximum mesh size is 9 inches

Area restrictions:

- Oct. 3 and Oct. 21, 2023 (except those waters of Area 2D commonly known as the South Channel, shoreward of a line projected from a point on the southwest side of Hwy 105 bridge (46°53.925'N, 123°59.986'W) then northwest to a point on an unnamed projection of land (46°54.060'N, 124°0.239'W) then northerly to Channel Marker 8 (46°55.369'N, 124°00.576'W) and to Channel Marker 27 (46 ° 56.487'N, 124°0.394'W), then easterly to North Pipeline Beacon (46°57.329'N, 123°50.957'W) and south easterly in a straight line through the South Pipeline Beacon (46°57.303'N, 123°50.932'W) to the south shore are **CLOSED**).

Mark selective fishery and recovery box requirements:

Areas 2A and 2D

- Soak time is limited to 45 minutes during any set.
- Recovery boxes are **REQUIRED** and must be operating when gear is being retrieved and when a wild (unmarked) Chinook or steelhead is being held to recover.
- ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook and ALL steelhead **MUST** be placed in an operating recovery box and remain until they are not lethargic and not bleeding; ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook and steelhead are required to be released.

Area 2C

- Recovery boxes are **REQUIRED** and must be operating when gear is being retrieved and when a steelhead is being held to recover.
- All steelhead **MUST** be placed in an operating recovery box and remain until they are not lethargic and not bleeding; ALL steelhead are required to be released.

Additionally, regional staff are looking to utilize a mass text system to provide the commercial gillnet fleet in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor notices via text of any in-season changes or adjustments.

If interested in participating in this system to receive updates to the commercial fishery in Willapa Bay or Grays Harbor, please email WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov Or GraysHarbor@dfw.wa.gov and provide your name and cell phone number so you can be included.