

Mcclellan, Barbara A (DFW)

From: Willapa Bay (DFW)
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 9:23 AM
Subject: 2023 Willapa Bay Fisheries Update from June - August 6 - weeks 26 - 32
Attachments: 2023 WB Marine Area Recreational Catch Estimate Summary Draft 08.10.2023.pdf;
Naselle Hatchery Adult CHK Summary 08.10.2023.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Everyone,

It's that time of year again where WDFW staff for Willapa Bay will be providing in-season weekly updates regarding recreational and commercial fisheries, hatchery broodstock, and spawning ground surveys as we move through the fall season. If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the information provided through these emails for the 2023 salmon season, please reply to this email and/or contact the regional staff directly at the Montesano office (#360-249-4628).

Recreational Marine Area Fishery

The Willapa Bay recreational marine fishery opened on June 24, 2023, under Ocean Area 2 rules. Our recreational creel monitoring began on opening day and included the Tokeland boat launch and marina. We have had a slow start to the 2023 salmon fishing season compared to last year during this same timeframe in July, but we did see effort pick up in the last full week of July compared to previous weeks this year. This may be due to several factors including salmon not yet available inside Willapa Bay during the early part of the season or not having fishable tides (high tide in the middle of the day or big tidal exchanges with minus tides). There were only a few days in July when high water occurred first thing in the morning (the most favored tide for Willapa Bay marine recreational). A midday high tide may have contributed to less fish biting given the warmer weather conditions, which may have also discouraged some anglers, but several anglers we interviewed were out crabbing in the early weeks. Staff reported 36 Chinook salmon (15 unmarked, 21 AD-clipped) and 58 Ad-clipped coho landed in June and July.

August 1st signified a change in regulations from Ocean Area 2 rules to Willapa Bay specific rules. The biggest changes in regulations compared to the 2022 season is the Willapa Bay Control Zone is open to salmon fishing this year. Last year, the control zone was closed from August 1 through September 30, 2022. During August and September, staff will monitor dockside locations that include both the Tokeland boat launch and marina, and the South Bend boat launch two days per strata (strata 1: Monday – Thursday; strata 2: Friday – Sunday). Staff have seen a decrease in effort the first full week of August with the highest effort for the week on Sunday, August 6. From August 1 – 6, there was only one day (August 6) with an early morning high tide, the most favorable tide for Willapa Bay, however, it was a big tidal exchange with a minus tide at

low water. The overall weather conditions were warmer throughout the day as well. There were 8 hatchery Chinook salmon estimated to have been caught in the first week from August 1 – 6. (See *attachment: 2023 WB Marine Area Recreational Catch Estimate Summary Draft 08.10.2023.pdf*)

For the upcoming week, August 7 - 13, there will be early morning and late afternoon high tides (6 a.m. – 9 p.m.) with smaller tidal exchanges but includes a few minus tides at low water later in the week. This tide series will continue until well into the following week.

If you are interested in any data collected by the Ocean Sampling Program for Ocean Areas 1- 4, you can find those data on our website at [Ocean sport salmon quota report | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

Spawning Ground Surveys

Staff started weekly stream surveys on August 2nd below the weir in Nemah and Naselle rivers. We have observed roughly 70 Chinook salmon and one steelhead staging in the Naselle River, however, there have only been a few Chinook salmon observed in the Nemah River. At this point, we have not observed any spawning or redds in either of these river sections. Historically, Chinook salmon begin spawning in Willapa Bay rivers the middle of September.

Hatchery Chinook Rack Returns

Naselle River Hatchery

To-date, 98 adult and 21 jack hatchery Chinook salmon have volunteered into the attraction channel and recruited into the hatchery. There have also been five unmarked, male Chinook salmon that have volunteered into the hatchery at this point and all five fish have been planted upstream above the hatchery. There were no Chinook salmon mortalities reported in the Naselle Hatchery last week from August 1 – 6, 2023. These data will be updated in the next weekly in-season email. (See *attachment: Naselle Hatchery Adult CHK Summary 08.10.2023.pdf*)

Nemah and Forks Creek hatcheries

To-date, no Chinook salmon have recruited into the hatchery.

As always, in-season data is preliminary and subject to change.

All data provided through these weekly email updates for the months of August and September will be posted to the Willapa Bay Marine Area 2.1 Recreational Creel Monitoring page of our website listed below.

If you have any comments or questions specific to the information provided in these emails, please submit your comments to WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov.

Additionally, if you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving these in-season update emails or any other information staff send out regarding Willapa Bay, please forward this email and have them reply to WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov stating they would like to be added to our email distribution list.

Thank you and Fish On! ><(((°>

Barbara McClellan

Online reference links you may be interested in:

Willapa Bay Marine Area 2.1 Recreational Creel Monitoring: [Willapa Bay Recreational Salmon Reports | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor (non-treaty) Commercial Salmon fisheries (Regulations and landed catch): [Commercial Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor Gillnet Salmon Fishery | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

In-season Estimates of Effort and Salmon Catch
2023 Willapa Bay Marine Area Recreational Mark Selective Chinook Fishery

updated 8/10/2023

All data is preliminary and subject to change

Marked = Adipose fin clipped

Unmarked = Adipose fin not clipped

WB = Willapa Bay

| Month | Week | Dates | Regulation | Estimated Catch | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|------------------|--|-----------------|------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| | | | | Estimated | | Retained Chinook | | Retained Coho | |
| | | | | Boats | Anglers | Unmarked | Marked | Unmarked | Marked |
| July (Ocean Area 2 rules) | 26 | June 24-25 | 2 fish, 1 Chinook, No wild Coho retention allowed. Effective July 28, 2023, Friday and Saturdays, Release Chinook and wild coho. | 6 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| | 27 | June 26 - July 2 | | 8 | 19 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | 28 | July 3 - 9 | | 14 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 29 | July 10 - 16 | | 19 | 49 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| | 30 | July 17 - 23 | | 23 | 64 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 26 |
| | 31 | July 24 - 30 | | 48 | 116 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 22 |
| | 32 | 31-Jul | | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total to Date | | | | 122 | 291 | 15 | 21 | 0 | 58 |

| Estimated Willapa origin Chinook Impacts | |
|--|--------|
| Unmarked | Marked |
| 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 |
| 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 8 |

For July, dockside sampling was conducted only at the Tokeland boat launch and marina

| Month | Week | Dates | Regulation | Estimated Catch | | | | | | Estimated Encounters | | | Estimated Catch | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------------|--|-----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| | | | | Estimated | | Retained CHINOOK | | | | Released CHINOOK | | | Retained COHO | | | | | |
| | | | | Boats | Anglers | Marked | Marked CPUE | Marked WB origin impacts | Unmarked | UM CPUE | UM WB origin impacts | Unmarked Encounters | UM CPUE | UM WB origin impacts | Marked | Marked CPUE | Unmarked | Unmarked CPUE |
| August | 32 | Aug 1 - 6 | 6 fish daily, 2 adults, Release wild Chinook | 67 | 140 | 8 | 0.058 | 5 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 2 | 0.017 | 0 | 3 | 0.023 | 0 | 0.000 |
| | 33 | Aug 7 - 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 34 | Aug 14 - 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 35 | Aug 21 - 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| September | 36 | Aug 28 - Sept 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 37 | Sept 4 - 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 38 | Sept 11 - 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 39 | Sept 18 - 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 40 | Sept 25 - 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total to Date | | | | 67 | 140 | 8 | | 5 | 0 | | 0 | 2 | | 0 | 3 | | 0 | |

These data represent the estimated expanded values (not raw data).

No jacks included in estimates.

For Aug and Sept., dockside sampling was conducted at Tokeland and South Bend

Strata 1 - Mon - Thurs

Strata 2 - Fri - Sun

CPUE = Catch per unit effort

Effort = An individual angler trip

Naselle Hatchery Adult Chinook Rack Returns

Preliminary/DRAFT *

8/8/2023

| Year | 2020 | | | | | | 2021 | | | | | | 2022 | | | | | | 2023 * | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Origin | Hatchery | | | Natural | | | Hatchery | | | Natural | | | Hatchery | | | Natural | | | Hatchery | | | Natural | | |
| Stat Week | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing | Weekly Total | Cumulative | % Run Timing |
| 31 | - | - | | - | - | | | 0 | | | 0 | | 1 | 1 | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0 | |
| 32 | - | - | | - | - | | 1 | 1 | | 0 | 0 | | 12 | 13 | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 98 | 98 | 1% | 5 | 5 | 0.8% |
| 33 | 17 | 17 | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0% | 28 | 29 | 0% | 3 | 3 | 0% | 2 | 15 | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 34 | 59 | 76 | 1% | 3 | 3 | 0% | 63 | 92 | 1% | 0 | 3 | 0% | 36 | 51 | 1% | 6 | 6 | 1.0% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 35 | 52 | 128 | 2% | 6 | 9 | 1% | 50 | 142 | 2% | 1 | 4 | 1% | 191 | 242 | 3% | 17 | 23 | 3.7% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 36 | 107 | 235 | 4% | 5 | 14 | 2% | 4 | 146 | 2% | 0 | 4 | 1% | 174 | 416 | 6% | 15 | 38 | 6.0% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 37 | 649 | 884 | 13% | 34 | 48 | 7% | 73 | 219 | 3% | 4 | 8 | 1% | 74 | 490 | 7% | 11 | 49 | 7.8% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 38 | 372 | 1256 | 19% | 3 | 51 | 8% | 242 | 461 | 6% | 14 | 22 | 3% | 84 | 574 | 8% | 6 | 55 | 8.7% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 39 | 1,600 | 2856 | 43% | 6 | 57 | 9% | 3,000 | 3,461 | 42% | 0 | 22 | 3% | 49 | 623 | 9% | 2 | 57 | 9.0% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 40 | 892 | 3748 | 56% | 6 | 63 | 10% | 962 | 4,423 | 53% | 137 | 159 | 21% | 608 | 1,231 | 18% | 53 | 110 | 17.5% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 41 | 874 | 4622 | 69% | 178 | 241 | 37% | 940 | 5,363 | 64% | 81 | 240 | 32% | 2549 | 3,780 | 54% | 152 | 262 | 41.6% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 42 | 1122 | 5744 | 86% | 228 | 469 | 72% | 2304 | 7,667 | 92% | 388 | 628 | 85% | 1696 | 5,476 | 79% | 184 | 446 | 70.8% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 43 | 407 | 6151 | 92% | 118 | 587 | 91% | 306 | 7,973 | 96% | 72 | 700 | 95% | 619 | 6,095 | 88% | 46 | 492 | 78.1% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 44 | 492 | 6643 | 99% | 59 | 646 | 100% | 230 | 8,203 | 98% | 18 | 718 | 97% | 463 | 6,558 | 94% | 88 | 580 | 92.1% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 45 | 26 | 6669 | 100% | 1 | 647 | 100% | 88 | 8,291 | 99% | 17 | 735 | 99% | 207 | 6,765 | 97% | 18 | 598 | 94.9% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 46 | 10 | 6679 | 100% | 0 | 647 | 100% | 36 | 8,327 | 100% | 5 | 740 | 100% | 98 | 6,863 | 99% | 31 | 629 | 99.8% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 47 | 1 | 6680 | 100% | 0 | 647 | | 7 | 8,334 | 100% | 0 | 740 | | 76 | 6,939 | 100% | 0 | 629 | 99.8% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 48 | 0 | 6680 | | 0 | 647 | | 1 | 8,335 | | 0 | 740 | | 1 | 6,940 | 100% | 0 | 629 | 99.8% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 49 | 0 | 6680 | | 0 | 647 | | 0 | 8,335 | | 0 | 740 | | 4 | 6,944 | 100% | 0 | 629 | 99.8% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 50 | 0 | 6680 | | 0 | 647 | | 0 | 8,335 | | 0 | 740 | | 1 | 6,945 | 100% | 1 | 630 | 100.0% | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | 0.0% |
| 51 | 0 | 6680 | | 0 | 647 | | 0 | 8,335 | | 0 | 740 | | 1 | 6,946 | 100% | 0 | 630 | | | 98 | 1% | | 0 | |
| Total | 6,680 | | | 647 | | | 8,335 | | | 740 | | | 6,946 | | | 630 | | | 98 | | | 5 | | |