

What Fishers Need to Know

GENERAL

- Must have active fisher sticker on card.
- Tax period is April through March.
 - Taxes are due July 1.
- All commercial harvest must be put on a Fish Receiving Ticket or reported to the Natural Resources office to fill out a ticket within 24 hours, unless otherwise specified.
- Must have ID on person in order to harvest.
- Fish ticket must be filled out accurately.
 - Your signature on the ticket verifies that it is correct.
- Minors may harvest no earlier than one (1) hour after the school day ends and not later than 10 p.m. on a day immediately preceding a school day.

BOATS

- Must register all boats with a motor that will be used in a fishery.
- To register a boat, you must be in possession of a title of bill of sale.
- Registration must be kept on board boat at all times.
 - Must have boat # on each side.
 - Current year sticker required. Expiration is June 30.
- Coast Guard requirements must be followed.
- All deck hands must have ID on their person with an active sticker on card.
- No non-tribal assistance/transport of a commercial harvest.

SUBSISTENCE INFORMATION

- Separate cards are handed out for shellfish and finfish subsistence
- All species are recorded on the cards—not just clams/oysters or salmon.
- Subsistence cards are issued on a quarterly basis. Quarterly periods include:
 - January 1 - March 31
 - April 1 - June 30
 - July 1 - September 30
 - October 1 - December 31
- Cards issued within a quarterly period expire on the last day of the period.
- A subsistence card must be turned in to the Natural Resources office in order to receive a new card. If a subsistence card is lost, a blank card may be filled out with catch details from memory.
- All cards must be turned in by December 31.
- Harvesters are required to have a valid subsistence card in their possession during the subsistence harvest.
- Cards must be filled out at the time of harvest.

GENERAL—CRAB/SHRIMP

- Fishers need to register prior to fishery. Fishers need to report area plan to harvest, including number of pots, boat #, and cell phone number.
- All unattended pots/ring nets must have buoys attached.
- Buoys must be at least five (5) inches in diameter by 11 inches in length. Larger sizes are acceptable.
 - Buoys cannot be colored red/white or yellow.
 - All buoys must be marked with ID#/Tribe name or number, preferably burned into the buoy.
 - Plastic or metal bottles and other containers are prohibited.
 - Buoy line must be weighted.
- ONLY rot cord can be used to attach closure hook and escape hole.

CRAB

- General season runs from June through February.
 - Individual fisheries opened by emergency regulation.
- Legal gear that is authorized for use include crab pots, ring nets, dip nets, and other hand instruments that do not penetrate the shell.
- A commercial crab pot is defined as an enclosed trap with at least two escape rings or ports with an inside diameter of 4-1/2 inches or greater located in the upper half of the trap.
- Only legal-sized males –minimum of 6-1/4 inches measured across the back–may be harvested.
 - Soft-shells, females, and undersized males must be returned to the water immediately.
- Clam species dug from the beach for subsistence cannot be used as bait.
- Crab that is taken home during a commercial fishery must be recorded on fish ticket.
- Subsistence rules:
 - Subsistence harvest must be recorded on subsistence card.
 - Hood Canal is only open on even days with no overnight soak with a limit of three (3) pots and five (5) crab.
 - Subsistence harvester must be at least 10 years old.

SHRIMP

- General season runs from April through September.
 - Individual fisheries opened by emergency regulation.
- Maximum size of shrimp pot cannot exceed 12-1/2 feet in perimeter and 13 cubic feet in volume.
- Minimum mesh size on pots and ring nets is 1-inch. Mesh must freely permit the passage of a 7/8-inch square peg without changing the size of the mesh.

GEODUCK

There is a waiting list to enter the geoduck dive program. Please contact the Shellfish Manager to be added to the list or obtain additional information.

OTHER SHELLFISH, including octopus, squid, sea cucumbers, urchins, etc
Please contact Shellfish Manager for information.

Intertidal Shellfish Information

GENERAL

- All public beaches are closed to subsistence fishing four (4) hours before the scheduled opening and four (4) hours after the closure of a commercial clam or oyster fishery on the same beach.
- Intertidal schedule is tentative and subject to change.
 - Check regulations for actual time and date.

- All beaches are subject to emergency closure due to biotoxin levels (e.g. PSP, Vibrio, DSP). Check with Natural Resources office or Point No Point Treaty Council if you have questions.
- Monitor must wait one (1) hour after the start of a fishery. In no one shows up then the beach will be closed to harvest.
- Must report to monitor prior to harvest. ID is required.
- All clam beaches are monitored as are all oyster beaches.
 - You MUST have ID on your to present to monitor or you will not be allowed to harvest.
- Monitor may close beach is quota is reached prior to closure.
- Must report harvest and buyer to monitor prior to leaving the beach.
 - You need to find the monitor. Do no expect him/her to chase you down for this information.
- All harvesters must report to monitor if they plan on selling another harvester's product.
 - Minors must report harvest to monitor, which is required to be sold on an adult card.
- Harvest must be fully reported on a fish ticket.
- Bag tags:
 - All product must be tagged immediately upon harvest.
 - Each tag must have the growing area written on it. The growing area is listed on the regulation or available in a handout from the Natural Resources office.
- Rotation lists exist for certain beaches. Be sure to your name to these lists if you're interested. Be sure to specify if you want to be on the clam or oyster list. The lists include:
 - Bangor: clams and oysters
 - Indian Island: oysters
 - Private tidelands at Wolfle: clams and oysters
 - Private tidelands (most in Port Gamble Bay): clams and oysters
- No littering. You are expected to leave the beach in the same condition you found it.
- Drill (e.g. Japanese Oyster Drill) Restricted Areas: beaches must be strictly controlled to prevent the spread of this pest species.

OYSTERS

- The harvestable size for single oysters is 2-1/2 inches or greater.
- *Vibrio* season is May through September.
 - Special training and restrictions are in effect during this period.
 - Contract must be completed after training and prior to harvest.
- No stockpiling product prior to an opening. 'Stockpiling' includes picking, sorting, or placing in buckets or bags.
- Beach specific requirements will be listed in the emergency regulation.

CLAMS

- Harvestable size is 1-1/2 inches or greater. This is excepted on Quilcene beaches.
- Clams can only be harvested when a monitor is present.
- All holes made during clam digging must be back filled prior to digging at another location.
- No harvesting shall occur after a fishery is closed. This includes digging, sorting, or placing clams in buckets or bags.
- Beach specific requirements are listed in the emergency regulation.

Finfish Information

GENERAL–Salmon

- Commercial harvest: refer to annual regulations for information on location, open and closing times, and legal gear.
- Depending on location and time of year, certain species of salmon must be released on catch.
- All Chum and Chinook catches must be reported on a daily basis during commercial fisheries. These fisheries are monitored in-season.
 - Please refer to regulations for subsistence catch during a commercial fishery. All C&S must be recorded on your subsistence cards.

SOCKEYE & PINKS

- Opens by in-season emergency regulations only.

- Lawful gear, includes:
 - Drift gillnets—Maximum length: 150 fms. Minimum stretched mesh: 5 inches. Maximum stretched mesh: 5-7/8 inches.
 - Set gillnets—Maximum length: 150 fms. Minimum stretched mesh: 5 inches. Maximum stretched mesh: 5-7/8 inches.
- Each day's catch must be reported no later than the following morning with the exception of weekends.

ON-RESERVATION COHO

- On a rotation list. To be eligible, you must:
 - Be at least 18 years old.
 - Be fully paid on taxes.
 - Have your boat registered.
 - Come to fishery in person.
- Only two (2) individuals per household are eligible.
- *Nets North of Point Julia*
 - Rotation list is for the 10 spots on the outside of the Bay in Area 9A.
 - Nets north of Point Julia must have one end fastened to the shore at or above MLLW.
 - Nets move four (4) sites north on Sunday after NOON each week.
 - The fisher assigned to the spot on the rotation list must be present when net is set and pulled.
 - If a site is open (no net present) after 1 p.m. on Monday then any eligible fisher can occupy the spot as long as they notify the Natural Resources office.
 - Nets must be pulled by NOON on Friday of each week.
- *Nets South of Point Julia*
 - Bay spots have no designated areas.
 - No gill net may be operated south of Point Julia and north of a straight east-west line drawn between the tribal fisheries markers south of the hatchery. The exception is tribal staff for the direct benefit of the Tribe.
 - Gillnets may not be set in a manner that blocks more than half of the entrance to any stream at any tide level.
 - Bay does not close down between Friday and Sunday when the northern spots do.

QUILCENE RIVER

- Opens for Coho by emergency regulation only.
- Hand held gear only.

HALIBUT

- Opens by in-season emergency regulations only.
- Harvestable size-all halibut measuring less than 32 inches (head and tail on) must be returned to the water unharmed.
- Lawful gear, includes:
 - Set lines—Maximum of 500 hooks/skate. Maximum of 3,000 hooks/vessel.
 - Bottom fish troll gear—Maximum of 12 hooks/line. Maximum of four (4) lines/vessel.
 - Hand lines/jigs—Maximum two (2) hooks/line. Maximum two (2) lines/fisherman.
 - Power jigs—Maximum two (2) hooks/line. Maximum eight (8) lines/vessel.
- Reporting regulations, include:
 - Boats must sign up with the Natural Resources office to participate in the halibut fishery.
 - Catch must be reported daily.

- All fishers who use set gear must maintain a log book provided by the Natural Resources office.
 - Log books must be returned at the end of each fishery.
- Subsistence regulations, include:
 - Up to four (4) fish per boat can be kept during commercial fisheries.
 - Fish must be marked by cutting the tail.
 - Outside of the commercial fishery: open seven (7) days-a-week, 24 hours-a-day.
 - Closed 14 days immediately prior to the OPHC halibut season opening date.

BOTTOMFISH

Please refer to the Annual Bottomfish regulation regarding opening and closing times and legal gear.

LAKE FISH

Refer to WDFW pamphlet regarding opening and closing times, gear requirements, and boat restrictions.