

News Release



Department of Fisheries

DANIEL J. EVANS, GOVERNOR
THOR C. TOLLEFSON, DIRECTOR
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Contact: Don Reed 753-6620
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September 12, 1968

The immediate outlook for fishing in the special area at the Department of Fisheries' Washougal Salmon Hatchery is poor, Fisheries Director Thor C. Tollefson said today.

The catch last weekend averaged only 1/2 fish per angler and no appreciable change is expected this weekend, he said.

Tollefson said the jack coho return to the river has been below expectations so far, with most returning coho still in salt water as far up the coast as Neah Bay and Canadian waters. The fish that are in the Washougal are concentrated in small pockets due to low water, making fishing conditions difficult.

Last Sunday the special fishing area was very crowded, with an estimated 1500 anglers and onlookers and a total catch of only 66 fish. Rains should eventually bring up the water level, triggering the movement of more coho into the river and affording more room for fishing, Tollefson said. The special Washougal fishing area will be open through October 31.

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October 14, 1968

Commercial salmon net fishing will be extended to four days this week in all Puget Sound areas except Areas 1 & 2, Thor C. Tollefson, Director of the Department of Fisheries, said today.

Area 2, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, is closed as scheduled for the remainder of the season while Area 1 is open on Monday and Thursday as originally scheduled.

Purse seines may fish in Areas 3, 4, 4a, 6, 8, and 10 from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 14, 15, 16, and 17. Purse seines and reef nets may fish Area 1 from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday, October 14 and 17.

Gill nets may fish in Areas 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, October 14, 15, 16, and 17; gill nets may fish in Area 1 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday, and Thursday nights, October 14, and 17.

Originally scheduled for two days, the additional time in Areas 3 through 10 is granted to allow the harvest of a larger than predicted coho (silver) salmon run, Tollefson said.

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October 25, 1968

The special salmon sport fishery in the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam will be extended through December 31, Fisheries Director Thor C. Tollefson announced today.

Originally scheduled to close October 31, the season has been extended because fish are expected to remain in the area at least until the end of the year, Tollefson said.

The special fishing area runs to a point 400 feet downstream from the dam, the same deadline as that specified by the Department of Game for steelhead and other trout fishing. The daily bag and possession limit is six salmon not less than 10 inches long, not more than two of which may exceed 24 inches.

Returning coho (silver) salmon are "homing in" on spring water seepage along the north bank of the Snake below Ice Harbor Dam. So far the catch has been small, although the fish are definitely there, Tollefson said.

He added that anglers in the area are asked to cooperate with Bureau of Commercial Fisheries researchers checking for marked fish, and that "Ice Harbor" should be indicated as the catch area on salmon punch cards.

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November 20, 1968

Proposed 1969 sport fishing regulations for salmon will be presented by the Department of Fisheries at a public hearing on Saturday, December 14, at 10 a.m., Director Thor C. Tollefson announced today.

The hearing will be held in the main conference room of the General Administration Building on the Capitol grounds in Olympia, he said.

Most of the proposed regulation changes deal with freshwater and would provide more opportunity to catch hatchery-produced salmon. This favorable trend is the result of data obtained from salmon punch cards, together with a higher production rate in salmon hatcheries which has boosted freshwater catches 400 percent in the past four years, Tollefson said.

Saltwater regulation changes are primarily designed to protect the 1969 pink (humpie) salmon run into Puget Sound. The run is expected to be critically low due to flooding of spawning areas two years ago, Tollefson said. He emphasized that proposed closures to preserve the run are temporary and will be rescinded when it returns to a more favorable level.

Other saltwater regulation changes would prohibit cutting off heads or tails of salmon where a size or weight limit is imposed, and move the boundary between angling areas 5 and 6 in Juan de Fuca Strait to a more easily defined location.

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December 18, 1968

Sport fishing regulations for 1969 have been adopted by the Washington State Department of Fisheries, Director Thor C. Tollefson announced today.

Most of the changes from 1968 regulations are designed to provide more opportunity to catch hatchery-produced salmon in freshwater, and to protect a Puget Sound pink (humpie) run that is expected to be critically low.

Some of the new regulations are the direct result of suggestions made by the public at a hearing in Olympia last Saturday (December 14). These include the provision of more fishing area on the Green River in King County, a liberalized bag limit on the Puyallup River, and elimination of the weekly closure for personal use smelt jiggers in Puget Sound. Also a result of the public hearing, some areas of the Skagit River originally scheduled for complete closure will be closed for the taking of pink salmon only.

Other liberalized regulations will open new areas of Cowlitz County's Green and Toutle rivers for taking hatchery-produced coho with single hooks only; and will expand fishing areas on the Cowlitz, Elokomin and Grays rivers and permit taking of jack chinook salmon from the Elokomin, Grays, Kalama and Toutle.

The Puget Sound pink run, endangered by flooding of spawning areas in 1967 will be protected by improving temporary restrictions on the Dosewallips, Nooksack, Skagit, Skykomish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie and Stillaguamish rivers. The Dungeness, Elwha and Nisqually rivers and Morse Creek will be closed completely to salmon anglers.

Other regulations will prohibit cutting off heads or tails of salmon where a size or weight limit is imposed, and will move the 16-inch minimum size boundary approximately five miles west to Low Point at the mouth of the Lyre River.