

F23-038

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Ceremonial and Subsistence Coho Fishery
October 9-31, 2023, or until quota is taken.

These regulations shall apply to the Lower Elwha Klallam C&S fishery, for Coho salmon in management area 76B.

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Management Areas

76B (Elwha River), from the Elwha River Road Bridge to the mouth of the river. East side of the river ONLY.

B. Daily Period and Bag Limit

Opening Ceremony: October 9 at 9:00am and delayed start until 10:00am.

Fishery ends October 31, 2023, or until quota is taken.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Saturday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

4 fish per fisher. Once you catch your limit you are done for the whole opening*.

* This limit will ensure that all eligible fishers have an opportunity to fish. This quota may be adjusted mid-fishery, if catch data indicates that the quota may not be reached.

C. Registration

All fishers must register at the Department of Natural Resources prior to participating in the fishery. Fishers must be 13 years of age or older. All fishers shall have an Elwha River specific Tribal Subsistence Catch Reporting Card while subsistence harvesting, and record all subsistence catches on the subsistence card, as per the Tribal Fishing Ordinance. The Elwha subsistence catch card must remain visible on each fisher at all times while participating in the fishery.

All Elwha River specific Tribal Subsistence Catch Reporting Cards must be returned back to the Department of Natural Resources no later than November 15th, 2023. Failure to return subsistence card May result in ineligibility to participate in future Elwha River fisheries.

D. Lawful Gear

River set nets will be provided and installed by Natural Resources staff to ensure that all community members have an equal opportunity to participate in the set net fishery. Net mesh size may vary from 5.5, 5.75, or 6 inch*. River set nets: minimum stretched mesh, 5.5 inch: the maximum net length shall be 25 fathoms. No set-net may block more than one-half of the river cross-section which is navigable by salmon at low tide.

*variable set net mesh size will enable NR scientists to determine the most appropriate mesh size for future fisheries that may best exclude non-target species or allow greatest survival of natural origin fish, if a selective fishery is used in the future.

Hand held gear: hook-and-line, dip nets, barbed hooks allowed; no snagging or gaffing.

E. Catch Reporting

All catch must be recorded by Natural Resource staff on-site prior to leaving the river. All fishers will be required to stop by the check station located at the intersection of Lower Elwha and Hatchery Road if their catch has not been properly recorded by Natural Resource Staff on the river. Failure to report catch to staff may result in removal from the fishery and ineligibility to participate in future Elwha River fisheries.

F. Other Restrictions

- 1) No set-net may block more than one-half of the river cross-section which is navigable by salmon at low tide (This will be adjusted, as needed, by NR staff with assistance of tribal fishers, as set net stations will be pre-established).
- 2) It is prohibited to chase, herd, or otherwise cause fish to move from a closed area to an open area.
- 3) The sale of subsistence catch is prohibited. No person shall sell fish caught for subsistence and/or ceremonial purposes.
- 4) All non-target fish species must be released back to the river.

SECTION 2. SET NET STATIONS

Set net stations will be established in advance by the Natural Resources Department, starting on October 23 to enable lottery selected fishers to cycle through as they meet their catch quota. There will be up to four set net locations at designated sites along the lower Elwha River, with access from the east side. The Department of Natural Resources will have department issued/ Tribe owned nets that are to remain at each set net site for the duration of the fishery. A lottery system will be used to choose the location and order of set net sites for each fisher. Fishers must be at least 18 years old to be entered into the set net lottery. Youth accompanied with an adult may help out at set net locations during the fishery. All fishers must sign up at the Department of Natural Resources by October 11th, 2023 to get their name entered into the set net lottery. The fisher will be notified if they were selected in the set net lottery. If drawn each fisher may retain a limit of fish at the set net site before the rotation occurs. Set nets may not be left unattended. Due to the 4-fish harvest limit, multiple lottery selected fishers will be "on-call" to ensure that fishers are cycled through set net stations in a timely manner.

Cutting fish out of set nets is prohibited.

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