

F24-021

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Ceremonial and Subsistence Coho Fishery

September 23-October 31, 2024, 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 on the East and West sides of the river. West side access will be limited to public access locations below the bridge and the Place Road access near the mouth.

B. Daily Period and Bag Limit

Fishery ends October 31, 2024, or until quota is taken.

Monday through Sunday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Set Net, beginning Oct 8th 2024

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

4 fish per fisher per day.

Designated tribally enrolled fishers may be utilized to fish for enrolled tribal elders, so long as the catch is properly recorded on the subsistence fishing card for said elder. 4 fish per elder per week, or until all eligible elders have received 4 fish in a single week. Once a designated fisher catches 4 fish for an elder, they will return to the Natural Resources Department to pick up another subsistence fishing card for an eligible elder that has yet to receive fish that week. A sign-up sheet for designated fishers and enrolled elders will be posted in the Natural Resources Department.

C. Registration

All fishers must register at the Department of Natural Resources prior to participating in the fishery. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Natural Resources Department. 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 8th, 2024. 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 tribal members have an equal opportunity to participate in the set net fishery. Net mesh size may vary from 5.5 to 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.

* mesh sizes used will include 5.5" and 6" mesh.

Hand held gear: hook-and-line, dip nets, barbed hooks allowed starting September 23rd; snagging allowed starting October 21st if quota remains

E. Catch Reporting

All catch must be recorded by Natural Resource staff at the Natural Resources building. Fishers may report their catch the following ways:

- 1) Monday-Friday, 8:00 - 5:00pm
- 2) Saturday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm,
- 3) Sunday, 6:00pm - 7:00pm,
- 4) Natural Resources staff or enforcement officers, while on the river.
- 5) Fishers coming off the river after hours are asked to keep fish on ice overnight and check in next business morning (Monday-Friday). Ice will be provided by the Tribe outside the Natural Resources Office and at the Elwha Food & Fuel Convenience store.

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 NETS and DRIFT NETS

Set net stations will be established in advance by the Natural Resources Department, starting on October 8, 2024 to enable lottery-selected fishers to cycle through as they meet their catch quota. There will be up to three set net locations at designated sites near the mouth of the Elwha River, with access from the Place Road side. Set netting will occur Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, with additional days dependent upon remaining quota and resources. 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 may be used to choose the location and order of set net sites for each fisher. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Natural Resources Department. Due to the daily limit of four fish, multiple fishers may be selected for each set net site to ensure that individual fishers do not exceed daily bag limits and a rotation schedule will be made. Inexperienced fishers will be paired up with experienced fishers for safety and educational purposes if drawn. Fishers must be at least 18 years old to be entered into the set net lottery. All fishers must sign up at the Department of Natural Resources by October 1, 2024 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 and must be pulled when not in use and by 4:30pm each day.

Fishers are required to wear PFDs while operating boats. Natural Resources will loan PFDs to fishers, if needed. Youth must be accompanied by an adult to help out at set net locations during the fishery. Youth aged 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult and wearing PFD to assist on the boat. Cutting fish out of set nets is prohibited.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

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