

Dungeness Crab



June 1- May 31

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Usual and Accustomed Areas

Region 1 (North Puget Sound): 20B, 22A

Region 2W (Admiralty Inlet): 25B, 25D, 26A

Region 3 (Strait of Juan de Fuca): 23A-D, 25A, 25E, 29

Region 5 (Hood Canal): 25C, 27A, 27B

The Dungeness crab fishery design uses a combination of measures to target specific sex (males), size (animals greater than 6.25 inches), and season (only animals in hard-shell condition) to support the greatest crab resources in the Puget Sound. These waters are divided into crustacean management regions with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe participating in commercial and subsistence crab fisheries in Regions 1, 2W, 3, and 5. The commercial and non-commercial fisheries normally starts after the spring molt (molt ends normally in April) where crab are coming out of a dormant winter season, slightly larger from the previous year, and with a new shell. Lower Elwha has the most participation in the crab fisheries. Specific commercial openings by area are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Spot Shrimp



April 1- March 31

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Usual and Accustomed Areas

Region 1 (North Puget Sound): 20B, 22A

Region 2W (Admiralty Inlet): 25B, 25D, 26A

Region 3 (Strait of Juan de Fuca): 23A-D, 25A, 25E, 29

Region 5 (Hood Canal): 25C, 27A, 27B

There are several types of shrimp fisheries in Puget Sound based on species and gear type. The species primary targeted by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe is the species commonly known as Spot Prawns or Spot Shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*). The fishery is managed to only harvest the largest of the species that have been estimated to have spawned once and contributed to the sustainability of the local population. Traps allowed for fishing have minimum mesh size restrictions that support a selective fishery upon the larger animals. The timing of the fishery is between April and September as this allows the egg-bearing females to complete their spawning process and contribute to the resource. Each management region has its own quota based on resource availability. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Sea Cucumbers



August 1- July 31

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Usual and Accustomed Areas

Harvest District

1: 20B, 22A

2-1: 23A, 23C, 23D, 29

2-2: 23B, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E

The Puget Sound sea cucumber fishery is divided into six management regions. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe fishers have access to the sea cucumber resources in the harvest districts and areas listed above. Most of the landings are derived from the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the San Juan Islands. The fishery management is based on population counts, estimates of effort, and to avoid the spawning and lower quality product periods of the animal's life history. The fishery is conducted sub tidally and normally accessed with surface supplied commercial dive gear. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Sea Urchins



September 1- August 31

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Usual and Accustomed Areas

1-San Juan Islands: 20B, 22A

2- Admiralty Inlet: 23B, 25A, 25B

3- Port Angeles: 23C “East”, 23D, 23A

*Green Sea Urchins managed with one Strait of Juan de Fuca Quota

4- Sekiu: 23C “West”

*Green Sea Urchins managed with one Strait of Juan de Fuca Quota

5- Neah Bay: 29

6- Central Puget Sound (Green Urchins Only): 26A (Lower Elwha U & A areas in that portion of 26A south and west of the southern tip of Possession Point on Whidbey Island)

The Puget Sound sea urchin fishery targets two species of sea urchin, Green Sea Urchins (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*) and Red Sea Urchins (*Strongylocentrotus franciscanus*). These commercial fisheries are conducted with dive gear. Most of our participation occurs in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, and the San Juan Islands. The season for the fishery starts in late summer or early fall and continues into February. The urchins are harvested for their roe (eggs) that make up about 8% of the animal’s live weight. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Clams and Oysters



January 1 – December 31

Shellfish Catch Reporting Areas: 20B, 22A, 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E, 26A (all Klallam U & A areas in area 26A) 27A, 27B, (north of an east-west line from Ayock Point), and 29.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal members have the right to harvest shellfish from public beaches such as state and county parks and private tidelands. Washington State is one of the few states in the nation where tidelands are privately owned. Additional harvest agreements have been reached with private landowners as well as with the U.S. Navy at Indian Island. Commercial fisheries occur with a monitor present to observe the fishery and record the catch. Clams and oysters are harvested with hand-held implements including forks, rakes, shovels, picks, and prying tools. Harvesters wishing to commercially harvest oysters in the summer months need to complete a Vibrio Workshop. Ceremonial harvest for the Lower Elwha elders program as well as events also occurs throughout the year. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Geoduck



April 1 – March 31

Management Regions:

Eastern Straits

Hood Canal

North Central Sound

The Puget Sound geoduck fishery is managed by several regions. Each region has its own treaty quota and that quota is further shared by the local tribes with rights to fish those waters. Through extensive research a sustainable harvest level has been negotiated with co-managers to allow a harvest rate of the known biomass, per region, to establish the regional annual total allowable catch. The fishery is monitored by our shellfish monitor staff to avoid Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP), product discarding, poaching, and safety. Each week prior to commercial harvest, geoduck samples are supplied to the Washington State Department of Health to be tested for PSP.

Halibut



March 10 – May 31 2023

Mop up conducted after May 31st

Catch reporting areas: 20B, 22A, 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E, 27A, 27B and 29.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) researches and manages the stocks of Pacific halibut within conventional waters for the United States and Canada. The IPHC conducts different projects each year to assess the stock and health of Pacific halibut and research basic halibut biology. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe sends representatives to meetings with the United States and Canadian governments. At these meetings, they vote on harvesting limits and make recommendations to the commissioners who set the harvest and processing limits. After the IPHC meetings, each year the Treaty Tribes sign an annual halibut management agreement that establishes the hours and rules governing the unrestricted and restricted halibut openings. After the management plan is signed each Tribe is able to schedule their own halibut openings throughout the season.

Chinook



Troll and Commercial Set Net

Areas: 4B, 5, 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, (outside the exclusive harvest demarcation line for all member Tribes) 7, 9, 12, 12B.

Fisheries management planning includes coordinating with other Tribes, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and federal fisheries agencies, such as National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA). Annual management forums include the Pacific Fishery Management Council (North of Falcon Process) and the Pacific Salmon Commission. There are multiple regulations and seasons that provide opportunities for Elwha fishers to catch Chinook salmon. The Lower Elwha House of Salmon raises Chinook to release in the Elwha River. Please refer to our annual troll regulation and our annual summer-fall chinook regulation for specifics on areas and gear restrictions. The summer and winter Chinook troll fisheries in the Strait of Juan de Fuca are popular for Lower Elwha fishers.

Coho



Areas 4B, 5, 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D (outside the exclusive harvest demarcation line), 7, 9, 12, 12A, 12B, 75C (Hoko River), 76A (Dungeness River), 76B (Elwha River), 82F (Big Quilcene River).

The Lower Elwha House of Salmon raises Coho to release in the Elwha River. There are many commercial and subsistence opportunities for Coho salmon fishing in the marine areas as well as the Big Quilcene River, Dungeness River, Hoko River, and this year the Elwha River! Lawful gear for Coho fisheries include Marine drift gillnets, Beach Seines, Marine set nets, River set nets, and Hand held gear. Please refer to our annual Coho regulation for specifics on areas and gear restrictions. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Chum



Areas 4B, 5, 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D (outside the exclusive harvest demarcation line), 7, 9, 12, 12A & 12B.

Chum fishing usually occurs in October and November. Lower Elwha sees the highest participation in the Hood Canal and north of the bridge for commercial chum fishing. Lawful gear for Chum fisheries include Marine drift gillnets, Beach Seines, Marine set nets, Purse Seines, and Hand held gear. Please refer to our annual Fall Chum regulation for specifics on areas and gear restrictions. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Sockeye



Areas 4B, 5, 6, 6C and 7.

The Pacific Salmon Commission manages the Fraser sockeye run for the United States and Canada. Nine treaty tribes in western Washington have treaty-reserved rights to catch Fraser River sockeye in U.S. waters before they migrate upstream. Prior to the fishing season, the Fraser River Panel recommends a fishery regime and a management plan for Panel area fisheries to the Parties. When the forecasted runs are high enough the panel allows for Sockeye fisheries to occur. Sockeye fisheries usually happen in July through September. Lawful gear for Sockeye fisheries include Marine drift gillnets, Marine set nets, Purse Seines, and Hook and line. Please refer to our annual Sockeye regulation for specifics on areas and gear restrictions. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Steelhead



Marine Area 6D (outside of the Jamestown S’Klallam exclusive harvest zone).

Freshwater Areas: Hoko R., Clallam R., Pysht R., Deep Crk, E. & W. Twin R., Salt Crk., Lyre R., Morse Crk., Dosewallips., Duckabush R., Big Beef Creek, Big Quilcene R., and Hamma Hamma R.

The Lower Elwha House of Salmon raises steelhead to release in the Elwha River. Steelhead fishing usually occurs December through March. Lawful gear for steelhead fisheries include Marine drift gillnets, Marine set nets, river set nets, and hook and line gear. Please refer to our annual steelhead regulation for specifics on areas and gear restrictions. Specific commercial openings are announced in season by emergency regulations.

Bottom Fish



January 1 – December 31

Marine Fish and Shellfish Areas 22A, 23A, 23B, 23C 23D, 25A 25B, 25C, (except Port Gamble Bay) 25D, 25E, 27A, 27B (north of Ayock) and 29.

Species: Pacific cod, Walleye pollock, Pacific tomcod, whiting, flounders, dabs and soles (excluding Pacific Halibut), greenlings (including lingcod), ratfish, sablefish, cabezon, spiny dogfish, all species of sharks, Skates, all species of rockfish, and all surf perches, Sardines, anchovies, and smelt. Pacific halibut and herring are covered under separate regulations.

Bottom fish can be caught in both subsistence and commercial fisheries. There are many different species and multiple gear types for bottom fishing. Please refer to our annual bottom fish regulation for specifics on areas and gear restrictions.