



ELWHA FISHERIES OFFICE

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August 14, 2026

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Coho Regulation
F26-020

These regulations shall apply to the Lower Elwha Klallam Commercial fisheries, except troll, for coho salmon in on and off reservation management areas described below.

Section 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Management Areas

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).

B. Lawful Gear

Marine drift gillnets: minimum stretched mesh, 5-inch, maximum length as per Tribal Ordinance.

Beach Seines: minimum mesh, 3.5 inch; maximum 3.5" at the bunt, a maximum length 165 fathoms with 200 mesh maximum depth, multifilament net only.

Marine set nets: minimum stretched mesh, 5-inch; maximum length, 150 fathoms, except in Areas 6D and 12A where maximum length is limited to 100 fathoms.

River set nets: minimum stretched mesh, 5-inch: the maximum net length shall be 20 fathoms with a maximum lead length of 3 fathoms.

Handheld gear: (dip nets, snaglines/gaffs, hook-and-line) as specified in the Fishing Ordinance.

C. Management Periods

Fishing Area	Fishing Dates
Area 4B, 5, & 6C	August 16 through October 10
Area 6	August 30 through October 10
Area 6A	September 06 through October 17
Area 7	September 06 through October 17
Area 6B, 9	August 30 through October 10
Area 6D and Dungeness R. (Zone 1)	September 20 through October 24
Area 12	September 10 through October 17
Area 12B	September 14 through October 24
Area 12A	August 21 through October 10
Area 75C (Hoko R.)	September 27 through November 7
Area 76A (Dungeness R. Zone 2)	September 20 through October 31
Area 76B (Elwha River)	September 21 through October 31
Area 82F (Big Quilcene)	August 31 through October 20

Section 11. FISHERY OPENINGS

Areas 4B, 5, 6C

Openings shall be announced by in-season emergency regulation after the PSC Fraser Panel relinquishes control of Panel waters, based on in-season management considerations.

Areas 6, 6A, 6B, 7, 9, 76C (Hoko River)

Closed throughout the management period

Areas 12, 12B

Area 12: Beach seines and handheld gear shall be opened by in-season emergency regulation beginning September 16, subject to Restrictions #8 and #9 below. Gillnet gear closed through September 24. Gillnet gear shall be opened by in-season emergency regulation beginning September 25.

Area 12B: Beach seines and handheld gear shall be opened by in-season emergency regulation beginning September 16, subject to Restrictions #8 and #9 below. Gillnet gear closed through September 30. Gillnet gear shall be opened by in-season emergency regulation beginning October 1.

Areas 6D, 76A (Dungeness River)

Openings shall be announced by in-season emergency regulations, beginning no earlier than September 21.

Areas 12A, 82F (Big Quilcene River)

Area 12A: Closed through August 20; subsequent openings shall be announced by in-season emergency regulations; subject to Restrictions #5, #6, and #7 below

Area 82F: Openings to be determined in-season no earlier than September 1; openings shall be announced by in-season emergency regulations; subject to Restrictions #5 and #6 below. From Rogers Street to U.S. Hwy 101, dipnets and hook and line gear only.

Area 76B (Elwha River)

Openings shall be announced by in-season emergency regulations, beginning no earlier than September 23.

Section 111. SPECIAL CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS

- 1) No marine set nets or seine gear may be operated closer than 1,000 feet from any stream or river mouth which is not open to net fisheries. The mouth of each stream is generally defined by a line drawn across the seaward headlands at high tide. For the Big and Little Quilcene rivers is defined as the line drawn across the seaward headlands at any tide stage. For Big Beef Creek, the closed area shall be the area within 1,500 feet from the Seabeck Highway Bridge.
- 2) In Area 6D, the area within 1,500 feet from each mouth of the Dungeness River shall be closed to all fishing. The river mouth shall be defined as the line drawn across the seaward headlands at high tide.
- 3) In area 6D, fishers may operate a maximum of two set nets, if both nets are close enough to be visually monitored at all times. Fishers must attend to their gear at all times when fishing, through October 10. Fishers who use the Dungeness Spit, are reminded that access and use of the NWR property for treaty fishing, is governed by a Tribal-USFWS agreement. Fishers who use sites at San Juan Farms, on Cline Spit, are reminded that access may be governed by a Tribal-Property owner agreement. Copies of these agreements, where applicable, may be obtained from the Elwha Fisheries Office.
- 4) In Area 6D, any captured chum and chinook salmon, which are alive, must be released unharmed through October 10. Any chum or Chinook salmon retrieved dead from

gillnets must be retained intact for sampling purposes and recorded on fish receiving tickets as take-home catch.

- 5) In areas 12A and 82F, all chum and Chinook salmon captured by hand-held gear which are alive must be released unharmed through September 30 in area 12A and through October 15 in Area 82F. Chum and Chinook salmon which are not released alive must be kept intact and recorded on fish-receiving tickets as take-home catch.
- 6) Area 12A south of a line drawn due east of Pt. Whitney shall be closed to all fishing.
- 7) In Areas 12A and 6D, no treaty set net may be placed closer than 300 feet to any other treaty net. Also, in area 12A, no hook-and-line gear may be used within 100 feet from the net pens.
- 8) In Areas 12 and 12B, any Chinook or chum salmon captured by hand-held gear must be released unharmed through September 30.
- 9) In Area 12B, the use of gillnet gear shall be open October 1 through October 16, but closed to gill net fishing within 500 feet of the western shore through October 10. Hand-held gear operators must release all chum and Chinook salmon captured in this area through October 10.
- 10) No part of any river set-net may be closer than 150 feet to any other set-net. Also, no set-net may block more than one-half of the river cross-section which is navigable by salmon.
- 11) It is prohibited to chase, herd, or otherwise cause fish to move from a closed area to an open area.
- 12) Fishers are reminded that catches may be sampled by authorized Tribal, Federal, or WDFW samplers. Also, fishing gear must be handled only by their owner and/or fishers authorized by the owner, in addition to Treaty Area enforcement officers, in the performance of their duties.

Section IV. EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Openings as well as restrictions outlined in these regulations may be modified at any time by emergency regulations based on in-season management considerations.

Section V. EXPECTED EFFORT AND HARVEST

- a) Expected effort estimates will be included in the in-season emergency regulations.
- b) The Elwha Klallam tribe intends to fully harvest their lawful share of coho salmon.

Section VI. AUTHORITY

This regulation is promulgated by the Lower Elwha Klallam Fisheries Manager under authority specified by the Lower Elwha Klallam Fishing Ordinance, Third Edition.



Lane Jackson
Fisheries Management Biologist
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe