

F26-027

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Ceremonial and Subsistence Coho Fishery

September 21-October 31, 2026, 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, 2026, or until quota is taken.

Handheld Gear:

Open Monday through Sunday 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM each day.

Set Net:

Open Monday through Sunday, 24 hours a day

10 fish per fisher per day. A day begins at 07:00am for the purposes of the 24-hour net fishery.

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. 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 always remain visible on each fisher while participating in the fishery.

All Elwha River specific Tribal Subsistence Catch Reporting Cards must be returned to the Department of Natural Resources no later than November 7th, 2026. Failure to return subsistence card may result in ineligibility to participate in future Elwha River fisheries.

D. Lawful Gear

River set nets: Two nets will be provided by Natural Resources staff to ensure that all tribal members have an equal opportunity to participate in the set net fishery, other nets may be supplied by the fisher. River set nets: minimum stretched mesh, 5.5-inch, maximum stretched mesh 6-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. Set nets must be attended at all times while fishing.

Handheld gear: hook-and-line, dip nets, barbed hooks allowed starting September 21st; snagging allowed starting September 28th

E. Catch Reporting

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

- 1) Monday-Friday, 8:00 - 5:00pm,
- 2) Natural Resources staff or enforcement officers, while on the river,
- 3) 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,
- 4) Fishers must include all non-target fish caught and released (e.g. Chinook and Bull Trout) on their subsistence cards.
- 5) All overnight fish caught or released during the set net fishery must be reported to Natural Resource staff at the Natural Resources building by 5:00pm the following business day (Monday-Friday).

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 into the river from where it was caught.

SECTION 2. SET NETS and DRIFT NETS

Four set net stations will be established in advance by the Natural Resources Department to enable lottery-selected fishers to rotate through as they meet their catch quota. A 2-day rotation is required for all positions, one set downstream every two days. There is a two-hour grace period at the start of the day (7:00am) to retain a fisher's spot. If there are unoccupied sites after the two-hour grace period, only the next fisher in the rotation may move down into a vacant spot. Fishers who did not sign up for the lottery but wish to fish the season will be placed at the end of the rotation list, starting at the upstream end of the occupied sites. There will be up to two set net locations at designated sites near the mouth of the Elwha River, with access from the Place Road side.

A lottery system will 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. Fishers will need to indicate if they will fish with their own net or the Natural Resources supplied net at time of sign up. Due to the daily limit of ten fish, multiple fishers may be selected for each set net site to ensure that individual fishers do not exceed daily bag limits. 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 5:00PM on September 18, 2026, to get their name entered into the set net lottery. The fisher will be notified of their position in the set net lottery rotation by 10:00AM on September 19, 2026.

Each fisher may retain a daily limit of fish at the set net site before the next day begins at 7:00am. Set nets may not be left unattended and must be pulled when not in use. Setting, attending, or removing another fisher's gear is prohibited. Set nets may not be left unattended and must be pulled when not in use. Set Nets found unattended will be subject to removal by Natural Resources Enforcement.

Fishers are required to have PFDs present on boats while in operation. Natural Resources will loan PFDs to fishers, if needed. Youth must be accompanied by an adult to help 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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