

**2017/2018 Puget Sound Steelhead  
Harvest Management Report**

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
and  
Puget Sound Treaty Indian Tribes**

**January 25, 2019**

This annual post-season report, developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Puget Sound Treaty Indian Tribes (PSTIT), is submitted in compliance with the terms and conditions of the National Marine Fisheries Services' (NMFS) biological opinion (F/WCR-2017-6766), which considered the impacts during co-manager Puget Sound salmon fisheries occurring May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018, on ESA listed threatened Puget Sound steelhead.

Due to steelhead return timing and co-manager steelhead management timeframes, terminal fishery impacts on winter steelhead are reported for November 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018 rather than April 30, 2018. Additionally, the Skagit River terminal fishery impacts presented here cover July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, rather than through April 30, 2018. Even with these additional impacts included in the reporting (for simplicity), the 2017/2018 incidental fishery impacts on wild winter steelhead are well within the limits of the aforementioned 2017 consultation, i.e. 4.2% for the five wild winter steelhead management units (Skagit, Snohomish, Green, Puyallup, and Nisqually).

This report also contains preliminary estimates, where available, of the 2017/2018 spawning escapements by management unit and a brief description of escapement and catch monitoring that occurred.

### **Preseason Planning**

Annual steelhead harvest management plans for the 2017/2018 management cycle were developed pre-season for the Nooksack, Snohomish/Stillaguamish, Green, and Hood Canal management units. For the Puyallup and Nisqually management units, respective chum terminal harvest management plans described expected incidental steelhead impacts. Collectively, these plans provided Puget Sound steelhead forecasts, either as an expected number of hatchery and wild returns, or as an expected freshwater terminal runsize harvest rate (i.e. Nisqually River winter steelhead). Harvest management strategies were described within these documents.

For the Skagit River management unit, NMFS approved the Skagit Resource Management Plan (RMP) under Limit 6 of the 4(d) Rule on April 11, 2018; that document provides separate allowances and provisions for steelhead impacts within the Skagit River terminal area. Under that plan, a post-season report for the 2017/2018 steelhead management year was submitted to NMFS on November 29, 2018 (WDFW et al. 2018). We include a brief summary of that report here for requirements of the 2017/2018 Puget Sound salmon Biop. However, it is expected that the take of steelhead in the Skagit River terminal fisheries in the coming years will be accounted for separately under the Skagit River steelhead RMP authorization.

The incidental take statement (ITS) for steelhead in the 2017/2018 Puget Sound salmon BiOp limited wild steelhead impacts such that the average, terminal harvest rate for five wild winter steelhead management units (Skagit, Snohomish, Green, Puyallup and Nisqually) should not exceed 4.2%. For the other management units, fisheries management measures and harvest impacts are expected to not exceed those implemented in recent seasons. The Bi-Op also authorized harvest of up to 325 steelhead in Puget Sound marine water (pre-terminal) fisheries. The 2017 Bi-Op assumed the pre-terminal aggregate was 'an unknown proportion of ESA listed

steelhead, unlisted hatchery steelhead, and hatchery and natural-origin fish from Canada' (NMFS 2017). However, it is the position of the co-managers that the pre-terminal aggregate also includes non-ESA listed natural-origin steelhead (Parker and Unsworth 2017) from the Olympic Peninsula. Regardless, assumptions of the 2017 Bi-Op are adhered to in this reporting.

### **Harvest Summary**

Estimates of winter steelhead harvest in terminal tribal fisheries, summarized below (Table 1), are based on a preliminary accounting of tribal landings and catch sampling to estimate the number of wild steelhead which were incidentally harvested between November 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018. Where appropriate, a release mortality rate (18.5%) is applied to wild steelhead released during selective net fisheries. Net drop-out mortality is not included in this accounting; by convention it has been estimated to be 2% of the landed catch. Hooking mortality in recreational fisheries was estimated as 10% of the estimated number of encounters with wild steelhead. The number of encounters is estimated from the length of the recreational season, expressed as a proportion of the total run timing. Terminal harvest rate estimates are provided for areas where the Bi-Op requires terminal harvest rates to not exceed a 4.2% average (e.g. Skagit, Snohomish, Green, Puyallup and Nisqually management units).

Wild steelhead mortalities associated with the 2017/2018 tribal and recreational fisheries in the Snohomish, Green, Puyallup and Nisqually rivers (management units) were lower than projected pre-season (2.4%); their average was 0.5%, and incorporating Skagit River management unit was 0.8% (Table 1). The following summary discussion focuses on the five management units for which a maximum, average incidental mortality rate of 4.2% was specified in the incidental take statement of the current Biological Opinion rate.

### Freshwater – Tribal and Recreational Fisheries

In general, the tribal terminal-area fisheries that impacted listed steelhead operated as specified in the pre-season annual management plans. Wild steelhead mortality associated with these fisheries was lower than the number projected pre-season. Freshwater recreational winter steelhead fisheries managed by WDFW in the Puget Sound DPS were conducted as described in the pre-season, annual management plans and the *2017/2018 Washington Sport Fishing Rules, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018*. For the 2017/2018 season, WDFW did need to implement several emergency freshwater fishing rules (Appendix B) in the Puget Sound DPS. The emergency rules closed entire rivers or river systems (Snoqualmie River, Tolt River, Raging River, Nisqually River, Nooksack River system, Stillaguamish River system) to fishing for all steelhead and other game fish or all species, sections of streams and in the vicinity of hatchery facilities (Skykomish River near Reiter Hatchery Ponds and Wallace River) because of insufficient broodstock (egg-take) requirements. The Skykomish River and Wallace River emergency rule was repealed once egg-take needs were met. Also, the Nisqually River recreational chum salmon fishery was closed through December 18, 2017 because of chum salmon conservation concerns. Overall, wild steelhead mortality associated with these fisheries was lower than the number projected pre-season.

The following discussion focuses on the five management units for which the incidental take statement in the Bi-Op specified a harvest rate. Winter steelhead impacts in other basins within Puget Sound are also presented.

*Skagit:* In the Skagit River terminal area, the total kelt adjusted (8.78% kelt adjustment rate) incidental harvest mortality for tribal and state fisheries from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 was 116 steelhead or a 1.87% harvest rate. See WDFW et al. 2018 for further details on Skagit River terminal fishery steelhead impacts.

*Snohomish:* The stock composition of wild winter steelhead harvested in tribal fisheries conducted in Areas 8A and 8D is approximated by referring to the post-season, reconstructed abundance of the Snohomish and Stillaguamish returns, and assumptions about the composition of catch in sub-areas of 8A. The estimated mortality of Snohomish wild winter steelhead was four, substantially lower than the pre-season projection of 73 including net-drop out. For the state managed fisheries, estimated mortality of Snohomish fish was 11. Together, mortalities were 15, and terminal harvest rate is estimated as 1.2% (3.3% projected pre-season).

*Duwamish/Green:* There was no scheduled early winter hatchery steelhead (EWS) fishery in Duwamish/Green River for the 2017-2018 season as the Green River EWS hatchery program was discontinued in 2014. No wild winter steelhead were harvested by tribal fishers in the Duwamish/Green River chum fishery; two mortalities had been projected pre-season. For state managed fisheries, mortalities are estimated as 5 fish. The estimated terminal harvest rate is 0.5% (0.4% projected pre-season).

*Puyallup:* For the Puyallup river system, tribal fisheries report a single mortality. No mortalities are reported by the state. The resulting estimate of terminal harvest rate is 0.1% (0.7% projected pre-season).

*Nisqually:* The Nisqually Tribe's coho fishery operated during early November 2017, with no wild steelhead encountered. Initially, the co-managers agreed that commercial and sport winter chum-directed fisheries would likely result in the chum escapement goal not to be met, but in-season data (ISU) indicated a larger winter chum return than forecasted and each entity opened up respective fisheries. Two wild steelhead were harvested in mid-January during the end of the tribal chum fishery. No steelhead were reported as encountered by state-managed fisheries. The estimated terminal harvest rate is 0.1% (5.0% projected pre-season).

**Table 1. Incidental harvest and hooking mortalities in terminal fisheries from November 2017 through May 2018 (except Skagit River management unit covers July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018) and preliminary escapement estimates for wild winter steelhead throughout Puget Sound. Terminal harvest rates are presented for the five management units required under the Biop.**

Management Unit	Tribal Catch		Recreational Estimates		Total Mortality Estimate	Escapement	Terminal Harvest Rate <sup>h/</sup>	
	Total	Wild	Encounters	Hooking Mortality			Estimated	Preseason Estimate
<b>Nooksack<sup>a/</sup></b>	95; plus 1 kelt	32 mortalities				2,006		
<b>Samish</b>	0	0						
<b>Skagit<sup>b/</sup></b>		38		76	116	6,084	1.87%	N/A
<b>Stillaguamish</b>	12	3	38	4	7	422 <sup>c/</sup>		
<b>Snohomish Lake Washington/Cedar</b>	27	4	113	11	15	1,252	1.2%	3.3%
<b>Green</b>	0	0	0	0	0	4		
<b>Green</b>	0	0	48	5	5	970 <sup>d/</sup>	0.5%	0.4%
<b>Puyallup</b>	1	1	0	0	1	974	0.1%	0.7%
<b>White</b>	0	0	0	0	0	774 <sup>d/</sup>		
<b>Nisqually<sup>e/</sup></b>	2	2	0	0	2	1,738	0.1%	5.0%
<b>Skokomish</b>	13	13				902		
<b>East Hood Canal</b>						93		
<b>West Hood Canal</b>						110 <sup>f/</sup>		
<b>South Hood Canal</b>						132		
<b>Dungeness</b>	0	0				306		
<b>Elwha</b>	0	0				1,625 (893 HOR, 732 NOR) <sup>g/</sup>		
<b>Sequim Pt Townsend</b>						29 Snow Creek		
<b>Port Angeles</b>						45 McDonald Creek		
						<b>Sum 3.8/5 = 0.8%</b>		

<sup>a/</sup> The Nooksack River 'Tribal Total' includes 88 encountered fish released from tangle-net selective Chinook C&S fishery conducted by Lummi fishers with an 18.5% release mortality. Wild catch includes all mortalities including those associated with release mortalities from the tangle-net fishery and one kelt caught in the traditional net Chinook C&S fishery.

<sup>b/</sup> Skagit River: Skagit 'Total Mortality' estimates include Tribal and Recreational impacts as well as impacts from terminal test (2 fish) fisheries.

<sup>c/</sup> Stillaguamish estimate represents only un-expanded index reach survey data. Expanded estimate is 1,736.

<sup>d/</sup> Includes returns from wild broodstock program; broodstock numbers removed.

<sup>e/</sup> The co-managers agreed that commercial and sport winter chum-directed fisheries would likely result in the chum escapement goal not to be met. The Nisqually Tribe and WDFW closed respective fisheries effective November 16, 2016.

<sup>f/</sup> West Hood Canal for 2018 excludes Dosewalips Rv. escapement as high, turbid waters precluded surveys to be conducted.

<sup>g/</sup> Keith Denton, personnel communication, Nov. 29, 2018.

<sup>h/</sup> Harvest rate estimates are subject to rounding error.

Tribal steelhead catch in other rivers was low or zero during the 2017/2018 season winter steelhead management time-frame. A hatchery-origin directed EWS fishery opened in the Nooksack River terminal area from December 15, 2017 to January 15, 2018. Permitted fishers from Lummi Nation were required to report their catch on a weekly basis; a total of six steelhead (four hatchery- and two natural-origin) were reported. The Nooksack tribal fishers harvested 68 winter steelhead (60 hatchery- and 8 natural-origin) during their early-winter steelhead fishery. The Lummi Nation's selective spring Chinook C&S fishery occurred from April 6<sup>th</sup> through June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and encountered and released 88 natural-origin winter steelhead, while retaining four steelhead. Applying an 18.5% mortality rate to the fish released resulted in an estimated 16 mortalities. The Nooksack Tribe incidentally caught two winter steelhead (one was a confirmed kelt) during their traditional net Chinook C&S fishery in May 2018.

#### Marine Waters - Tribal and Recreational Fisheries

Preliminary tribal catch in pre-terminal marine waters during management year 2017/2018 (May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018) was two steelhead of mixed origin harvested in Marine Area 5. This catch area is outside the Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment and the steelhead may have been destined for rivers terminating in Marine Area 5 (i.e. Hoko River, Pysht River, etc.) and potentially non-listed steelhead. The Swinomish Tribal Community fisheries occurs partly in Area 8 (and Area 78C) and the harvest is accounted for in the Skagit River terminal management unit. The Stillaguamish – Snohomish terminal winter (November-May) steelhead fishery occurs in Areas 8A and 8D and this harvest is accounted to those regional terminal management units.

The April 2017 to March 2018 hatchery steelhead catch estimate for marine recreational fisheries was 75, all in Area 9-Admiralty Inlet, based on catch record card (CRC) data (Appendix A). All were identified as marked.

The total marine harvest in tribal and WDFW managed recreational fisheries in pre-terminal marine areas between April 2017 to March 2018 was 77 (2 tribal and 75 hatchery origin steelhead in WDFW managed harvest), less than the 325 allowed by the Biological Opinion incidental take statement for steelhead.

#### **Winter Steelhead Escapement and Runsize Estimates**

Surveys of wild steelhead escapements were conducted in all the Management Units. However some estimates were index estimates or partial system estimates. The 2018 preliminary wild winter steelhead escapement estimates for the Skagit, Snohomish, Green, Puyallup and Nisqually are total system estimates (Table 1). Wild steelhead escapement estimates for 2018 for the Snohomish, Green, Puyallup and Nisqually (mainstem escapement below 2,000 wild steelhead) rivers (management units) were below the escapement goals.

High flow and turbidity influenced survey accuracy and frequency in many systems, so all estimates should be considered minimums. Following are further notes on estimates for other rivers:

- The Lake Washington/Cedar River steelhead escapement estimate for 2018 was 4 fish. Steelhead escapements have dropped precipitously beginning in the early 1990's, with four years of zero escapement in the past 10 years.
- The Skokomish estimate is based on standard surveys of the Mainstem, North Fork, South Fork and tributaries which are thought to comprise most of the suitable steelhead spawning habitat.
- The East Hood Canal estimate is based on surveys in the Big Beef Creek and Dewatto River.
- The West Hood Canal estimate is based on surveys in the Hamma Hamma River, Duckabush River, and Little Quilcene River. Challenging survey conditions and limited resources have precluded robust escapement estimates for the Dosewallips and Big Quilcene rivers.
- The South Hood Canal estimate is based on surveys in the Union and Tahuya rivers.
- The Sequim-Port Townsend estimate comprises the adult count (29) at the Snow Creek weir; no other streams were surveyed.
- The 2018 Elwha River preliminary wild steelhead escapement estimate (NOR) was 732 based on DIDSON multi-beam SONAR data. This is the highest NOR escapement in the post dam removal era.
- Within the Port Angeles Management Unit only McDonald Creek was successfully surveyed throughout the season, producing a spawning escapement estimate of 45 wild steelhead.

Based on preliminary estimates of terminal harvest mortality and escapement, 2017/2018 terminal run-size was lower than forecast for Snohomish and Green River management units (Table 2).

**Table 2. Preliminary accounting of the terminal runsize of wild winter steelhead compared to forecasted levels for five Puget Sound management units, 2017/2018.**

Management Unit	Forecast	Observed
Skagit	5,247	6,200
Snohomish	3,000	1,267
Green	1,621	975 <sup>a/</sup>
Puyallup <sup>b/</sup>	1,033	1,748
Nisqually	616	1,740

a/ Fish taken for broodstock included.

b/ Forecast and Observed are estimated from wild terminal runsize for the Puyallup, Carbon and White rivers. Wild steelhead (broodstock) taken for the White River supplementation program and Blank Wire Tagged fish are not included.

## Harvest Monitoring

For the 2017/2018 season, the harvest of winter-run (and summer-run) steelhead by the sport fishery harvest was estimated from the Catch-Record-Cards. The preliminary harvest of winter (2017/2018) and summer (2017) steelhead can be found in Appendix A. The attached draft estimates show no wild steelhead being harvested in the Puget Sound DPS. Phone surveys of anglers have shown that close to 100% of all unmarked fish recorded onto Catch-Record-Cards by respective anglers are released by recreational anglers. Phone surveys also indicated that some anglers were confused about the statewide “Wild Steelhead Release” rule, particularly on the Columbia River (Eric Kraig, WDFW personnel communication).

### Recreational Chinook and Sockeye Creel Surveys

A Chinook salmon recreational creel survey was conducted from September 1 to October 31, 2018 on the Green/Duwamish River. All areas downstream of the Auburn-Black Diamond Bridge were surveyed. During the creel survey time period, there was a report of one wild steelhead (a 12-inch juvenile steelhead) that was caught and released by an angler fishing for salmon.

Based on a creel survey conducted during the Skagit/Sauk river catch and release fishery, anglers encountered and released 568 wild steelhead and retained 3 hatchery steelhead. Assuming a 10% release mortality rate, the number of wild steelhead mortalities associated with this fishery was 57. Evaluation of the creel methods used and calculation of the error with the catch estimates are in progress. WDFW is committed to improvements in creel methods where improvements can be attained for future fisheries.

Steelhead were also encountered incidentally in the spring Chinook, sockeye, and general gamefish fisheries that were open during the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 wild steelhead management season. No creel survey has been conducted during the Skagit River spring Chinook sport fishery since 2012, so wild steelhead encounters during the 2018 fishery, which occurred from June 1-July 15<sup>th</sup>, were based on the average encounter rate during the 2010, 2011, and 2012 fisheries from which creel data is available. Based on this encounter rate, an estimated 89 wild steelhead were encountered incidentally and released during the 2018 fishery. Assuming 80% (71) of those were kelts and applying the 8.78% kelt adjustment to those, the total kelt adjusted encounters was 24 including the un-adjusted pre-spawn fish. Applying a 10% release mortality rate to the total kelt-adjusted encounters gives an estimate of 2.4 kelt-adjusted wild steelhead mortalities for these fisheries.

Creel surveys conducted during the 2017 (open 6/11-7/21) and 2018 (open 6/16-7/15) Skagit River sockeye fisheries estimated 0 wild steelhead encountered incidentally during the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 time frame of the 2017-2018 wild steelhead management season. Four hatchery steelhead were estimated retained.

An estimated 16 wild steelhead release mortalities (163 encounters) were also estimated to occur during the basin-wide gamefish season that was open from June 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>. Because no

creel surveys occurred during this fishery, the estimate was based on the average encounter rate during years in which wild steelhead retention was most recently allowed (the 1992-1993 through 1999-2000 management seasons).

The total estimated wild steelhead mortalities over all sport fisheries was 76 kelt-adjusted wild steelhead.

#### Tribal Fisheries

Commercially retained tribal steelhead harvest is accounted on commercial sales receipts (fish tickets) and recorded in the TOCAS database. The majority of catch taken during the 2017/2018 season terminal fisheries was sampled to determine the hatchery-wild composition. Scales are collected from wild catch, when feasible, to quantify age composition, and this information is utilized in forecasting.

In addition to winter steelhead catch accounted in Table 1, steelhead were also caught in 2017 outside of the winter accounting period in a small number of terminal areas primarily associated with hatchery summer-run steelhead programs. The Green River (n=223 from July through October) and Tulalip Bay (n=20, June) accounted for the majority of the hatchery-origin summer steelhead catch. Three steelhead were also incidentally harvested during the summer period in 10F – Lake Washington Ship Canal, one in each of June, July, and September. However, sampling of these catches indicated they were all hatchery origin fish (adipose clipped) and based on their timing are believed to be summer-run hatchery steelhead and not part of the DPS. One ad-clipped steelhead was incidentally harvested in Dungeness Bay (MCA 6D) in late September.

#### Research Fisheries

Harvest oriented research activities in Marine Catch Area 5 (Smith-Belliveau, et al. 2018) as well as in Lake Washington had no incidental steelhead encounters during the 2017/2018 season.

### **Literature Cited**

Smith-Belliveau, E., P. Van Will, J. Candy, C. McConnell, L. Kearey, and B. Patton. 2018. Joint US and CA Juan de Fuca Chum Sampling Program 2017: Report to Southern Endowment Fund. 49 pgs.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribe, and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. 2018. 2017-2018 Wild Skagit Steelhead Management Season Post-season Report. November 29, 2018.

Appendix A. Recreational harvest of marked hatchery-origin steelhead in the Puget Sound region during 2017-2018 season. - PRELIMINARY estimates, Eric Kraig, WDFW; 12/19/2018 9:51 AM.

System	Area	Race	2017										2018			Total		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar				
Marine Water *	Area 9: Admiralty Inlet	S				10				5							15	
		W	5									22	22		11		60	
Dungeness R. System *	Dungeness R.	W								22		5					27	
Green-Duwamish R. System *	Green (Duwamish R.) (King Co.)	S			46	42	34	77	38								237	
		W								43	71						114	
	Soos Creek	S				4											4	
	Green-Duwamish R. Sys Totals	S			46	46	34	77	38									241
		W									43	71						114
Hoko R. *	Hoko R.	W									104	22	11	44			181	
Morse Cr. *	Morse Creek (Clallam Co.)	W									5						5	
Nooksack R. System *	Nooksack R., Mid. Fork	W										11	11				22	
	Nooksack R., No. Fork	W									5	104	5				114	
	Nooksack R., below North Fork	W										27	11				38	
	Nooksack R. System Total	W										43	126	5			174	
Skagit R. System *	Cascade R.	W											5				5	
	Skagit R.	W										11	5				16	
	Skagit R. System Totals	W										11	10				21	
Snohomish R. System *	Skykomish R.	S			771	530	67	92	113								1,573	
		W								116	1,021	672	54				1,863	
	Skykomish R., No. Fork	S			8		4											12
		W										9	4					13
	Skykomish R., So. Fork	S			8		4	4										16
		W									4	27	18					49
	Snohomish R.	S			46	4		13										63
		W										49	72					121
	Snoqualmie R.	S			17					4								21
		W										166	49					215
	Tokul Creek	W										161	220	9				390
	Tolt R.	W										4	4					8
	Wallace R.	S							4	46								50
		W									27	206	121	4				358
Snohomish R. System Totals	S			850	534	75	113	163									1,735	
	W									147	1,643	1,160	67				3,017	
Stillaguamish R. System *	Pilchuck Creek (Stillaguamish System)	S			5												5	
	Stillaguamish R., No. Fork	W								5	22	16					43	
	Stillaguamish R. System Totals	S			5												5	
Puget Sound Region totals	S			901	590	109	190	206			5	22	16				1,996	
	W	5								217	1,921	1,361	83	55			3,642	

Appendix B. Recreational emergency regulations issued affecting steelhead in the Puget Sound region during the 2017/18 season (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018).

The Puget Sound emergency sport fishing rules affecting freshwater/winter steelhead for the 2017/2018 season can be found at the following WDFW webpages. The rules are presented in order of date, oldest to most recent:

- Opened Skagit/Sauk catch and release fishery for all gamefish April 14-15, 18-22, and 25-29 (2017). This fishery was opened as the Skagit River Steelhead Fishery Resource Management Plan received formal Federal approval allowing for the fishery.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2110>
- South Fork Nooksack River, from the mouth to Skookum Creek, closed to all fishing. This rule was implemented to protect Chinook and was in accordance to rules adopted through the North of Falcon process. As an "all species" closure, any steelhead fishing was closed in this area June 9 through September 30, 2017:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=1988>
- WDFW rescinded selective gear rules on the Skagit River from June 11-15, 2017, during the sockeye fishery, allowing the use of bait during these dates. This was done to provide consistency in gear rules for the duration of the sockeye fishery (permanent rules allow use of bait for the season, beginning June 16).  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=1990>
- Amends fishing closure dates for Skagit River, from Highway 536 at Mt. Vernon to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. The closure change was for all species, and was in place June 29 and 30 (2017) to avoid gear conflicts with tribal fishers.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=1999>
- WDFW amends fishing closure areas on the Skagit River June 29 and 30, and July 6, 7, and 11 (2017). The closure was for all species, and from the mouth to the highway 530 bridge in Rockport. (This rule was promulgated to list the entire closure area that should have been in place with the previous rule change.)  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2002>
- WDFW amends fishing open/closure dates on the Skagit River. This regulation closed the fishery (all species) July 5, and opened the fisheries (all species) July 6 and 7 (2017). This was done to avoid a gear conflict with the tribal fishery.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2005>
- Skagit River sockeye fishery extended after added two-day river-wide closure (opens additional dates for all species). This rule extended the fishing season for all species, July 21 (2017) on the Skagit River from Hwy 536 at Mt Vernon to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. This section of the river was previously scheduled to close July 16 for the season. The rule also closed the Skagit River from the mouth to the Hwy 530 Bridge in Rockport to all fishing July 12 and 13 (previously scheduled to be open). This rule was made as sufficient numbers of sockeye had returned, allowing fish managers to extend the fishing season through July 21.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2010>
- Wallace River to close to fishing from the mouth to Wallace Falls, for all species, September 16 through November 30, 2017. The Wallace River was experiencing very low flows and salmon were not moving upstream to the hatchery.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2039>
- Wallace River to reopen to fishing for coho, gamefish. This rule reopened the Wallace River to fishing from the mouth to 200 feet upstream of the water intake for the salmon hatchery. This was enacted as the Chinook broodstock goals had been met at the Wallace Hatchery.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2043>
- WDFW to close the lower Samish River to all fishing October 10 (2017) until further notice. The return of fall Chinook to the Samish Hatchery was projected to be below the number needed to achieve egg-take goals. Closing the fisheries increased the potential for meeting these goals.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2048>
- Nisqually River to open to sport fishing December 19 (2017) through January 31 (2018), from the mouth to military tank crossing bridge. Recent surveys indicated that the spawning goal for chum had been met, allowing both WDFW and Nisqually Tribe to open their respective fisheries for chum salmon. (Anglers must release steelhead.)  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2079>
- Tokul Creek to open early for hatchery steelhead and other gamefish from the Fish Hatchery Road Bridge to the posted boundary marker downstream of the diversion dam fish ladder, December 23, 2017, through February 15, 2018. The Tokul Creek Hatchery met their egg take goals for winter steelhead, allowing for expanded fishing opportunity in Tokul Creek.  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2080>

- All fishing, including catch and release, to close on a section of the mainstem Stillaguamish River from Marine Drive to the forks, from June 1 through June 30, 2018. This closure was put in place due to concern over impacts to critically low numbers of Chinook.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2134>

- Release all steelhead in the Green (Duwamish) River beginning the first Saturday in June until further notice. Low numbers of hatchery summer steelhead were expected to return to the Green River in 2018 due to poor survival of the 2016 hatchery steelhead smolts at Soos Creek Hatchery.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2137>

- A portion of the Skagit River to close four days to all fishing, from the mouth to the Hwy 530 Bridge in Rockport. The closures were to avoid gear conflicts with tribal fishers scheduled on the same dates (June 28 and 29, and July 2 and 3, 2018).

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2157>