

## ODFW preseason 2026 mainstem Columbia River summer/fall salmon and steelhead recreational fishery regulations

Regulations are subject to in-season modification. Current regulations may be found at: [www.myodfw.com](http://www.myodfw.com)

### **Summer Season (June 16 – July 31)**

#### **Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Oregon/Washington border (upstream of McNary Dam)**

- Retention of hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook<sup>a</sup> allowed.
  - Continuing to angle for jack salmon is prohibited after taking the combined daily adult bag limit of salmon or steelhead.
- Retention of adult Chinook prohibited.
- Retention of sockeye allowed June 23 – July 5.
  - All sockeye are considered adults in the daily limit and must be recorded as adults on the combined angling tag.
- When open to sockeye retention, the daily adult bag limit is two salmon/steelhead, but only one may be a hatchery steelhead.
- When sockeye retention is closed, the daily adult bag limit is one hatchery steelhead.
- Angling is prohibited from June 16 – July 15 between markers 150 feet above and 450 feet below the mouth of Tanner Creek out to the center of the Columbia River and in Tanner Creek from the mouth upstream to the mainline railroad bridge.

### **Fall Season (August 1 – December 31)**

For all mainstem fall-season salmon/steelhead fisheries between Buoy 10 and the Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA), each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to use angling gear until the daily adult salmon/steelhead bag limit for all legal anglers aboard has been achieved. However, no individual angler may exceed any personal daily bag limit. Anglers are reminded that it is unlawful to fish in an area while in possession of fish that are not legal for that area.

#### **Buoy 10 upstream to west Puget Island**

**Area definition:** From the Buoy 10 line upstream to a line at the west end of Puget Island extending from green navigation marker #39 on the Washington shore to green navigation marker #41, then to red navigation marker #42, and terminating at red navigation marker #44A on the Oregon shore.

#### **General regulations during fall season:**

- The Tongue Point/Rocky Point line is defined as: a line projected from Rocky Point on the Washington shore through red navigation buoy #44 to the navigation marker at Tongue Point on the Oregon shore.
- Between Buoy 10 and the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line, from August 1 – September 30, the adult coho minimum size is 16-inches.
- Between Buoy 10 and the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line, retention of jack salmon is prohibited through September 30. Permanent regulations regarding adult and jack length definitions are in effect, with the exception of the adult coho minimum size as referenced above for this section of the Buoy 10 fishing area.

- Wild coho must be released.
- All steelhead must be released August 1 – October 31.

**Additional regulations by date period:**

- **August 1–9:** Retention of Chinook and hatchery coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **August 10–24:** Retention of hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **August 25 – September 2:** Retention of Chinook and hatchery coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **September 3 – October 31:** Retention of hatchery coho allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two hatchery coho.
- **November 1 – December 31:** Retention of hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two hatchery salmon/steelhead (coho and steelhead only).



**West Puget Island upstream to Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island**

**Area definition:** From a line at the west end of Puget Island extending from green navigation marker #39 on the Washington shore to green navigation marker #41, then to red navigation marker #42, and terminating at red navigation marker #44A on the Oregon shore upstream to a line projected from the Warrior Rock lighthouse on the Oregon shore to the marker atop the piling dolphin located at the downstream end of Bachelor Island on the Washington shore. **Note:** the definition of the Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island line changed beginning in 2025.

**General regulations during fall season:**

- All steelhead must be released August 1 – October 31.

**Additional regulations by date period:**

- **August 1 – September 2:** Retention of Chinook and hatchery coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **September 3–30:** Salmon/steelhead angling prohibited.
- **October 1–15:** Retention of coho allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two coho.
- **October 16–31:** Retention of hatchery coho allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two hatchery coho.
- **November 1 – December 31:** Retention of hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two hatchery salmon/steelhead (coho and steelhead only).



**Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island upstream to Bonneville Dam**

**Area definition:** From a line projected from the Warrior Rock lighthouse on the Oregon shore to the marker atop the piling dolphin located at the downstream end of Bachelor Island on the Washington shore upstream to Bonneville Dam. **Note:** the definition of the Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island line changed beginning in 2025.

**General regulations during fall season:**

- All steelhead must be released August 1 – October 31.

**Additional regulations by date period:**

- **August 1 – September 11:** Retention of Chinook and hatchery coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **September 12–15:** Retention of Chinook and coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **September 16–30:** Salmon/steelhead angling prohibited.
- **October 1–15:** Retention of coho allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two coho.
- **October 16–31:** Retention of hatchery coho allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two hatchery coho.
- **November 1 – December 31:** Retention of hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two hatchery salmon/steelhead (coho and steelhead only).

**Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam<sup>b</sup>**

**General regulations during fall season:**

- All steelhead must be released August 1 – October 31.
- Wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge from August 1 – September 11 and October 16 – December 31 must be released.

**Additional regulations by date period:**

- **August 1 – September 15:** Retention of Chinook and coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **September 16–30:** Salmon/steelhead angling prohibited.
- **October 1–31:** The retention of coho is allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two coho.
- **November 1 – December 31:** Retention coho and hatchery steelhead allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon/steelhead (coho and steelhead only).

**The Dalles Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border (upstream of McNary Dam)<sup>b</sup>**

**General regulations during fall season:**

- All steelhead must be released September 1 – December 31.

**Additional regulations by date period:**

- **August 1–31:** Retention of Chinook, coho, and hatchery steelhead allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon/steelhead, but only one may be a Chinook and only one may be a hatchery steelhead.
- **September 1–15:** Retention of Chinook and coho allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, but only one may be a Chinook.
- **September 16–30:** Salmon/steelhead angling prohibited.
- **October 1 – December 31:** The retention of coho is allowed; all Chinook must be released. The daily adult bag limit is two coho.

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<sup>a</sup> The daily bag limit for jack salmon in Oregon is five fish per permanent regulation.

<sup>b</sup> Temporary rules for Thermal Angling Sanctuaries associated with Eagle Creek, Herman Creek, and the Deschutes River are described on pages 5-7.

## ODFW preseason 2026 summer/fall salmon and steelhead regulations for Columbia River Thermal Angling Sanctuaries (Eagle Creek, Herman Creek, Deschutes River) and the lower John Day River

Permanent regulations and/or new temporary rules apply for other sections of these tributaries.

Regulations are subject to in-season modification. Current regulations may be found at: [www.myodfw.com](http://www.myodfw.com)

### Eagle Creek (Central Zone)

**Area definition:** From the angling deadline in Eagle Creek (200 feet downstream of hatchery fishway entrance) downstream to the mouth at the mainline railroad bridge.

- **June 16 – July 14:** Permanent rules apply except only one hatchery steelhead allowed in the daily adult salmon/steelhead bag limit.
- **July 15 – September 15:** Closed to angling.
- **September 16 – November 30:** Closed to salmon and steelhead angling/retention.
- **December 1–31:** Permanent rules apply.

### Eagle Creek Mouth (Columbia River Zone)

**Area definition:** The mainstem Columbia River adjacent to the mouth of Eagle Creek from the mainline railroad bridge northwest to a line projecting from a marker on the Oregon shore approximately 200 feet downstream of Eagle Creek, through red navigation buoy #4, and terminating at a marker on the Oregon shore approximately 325 feet upstream of Eagle Creek.

- **June 16 – July 14:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam.
- **July 15 – September 15:** Closed to angling.
- **September 16 – December 31:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam.



### Herman Creek (Columbia River Zone)

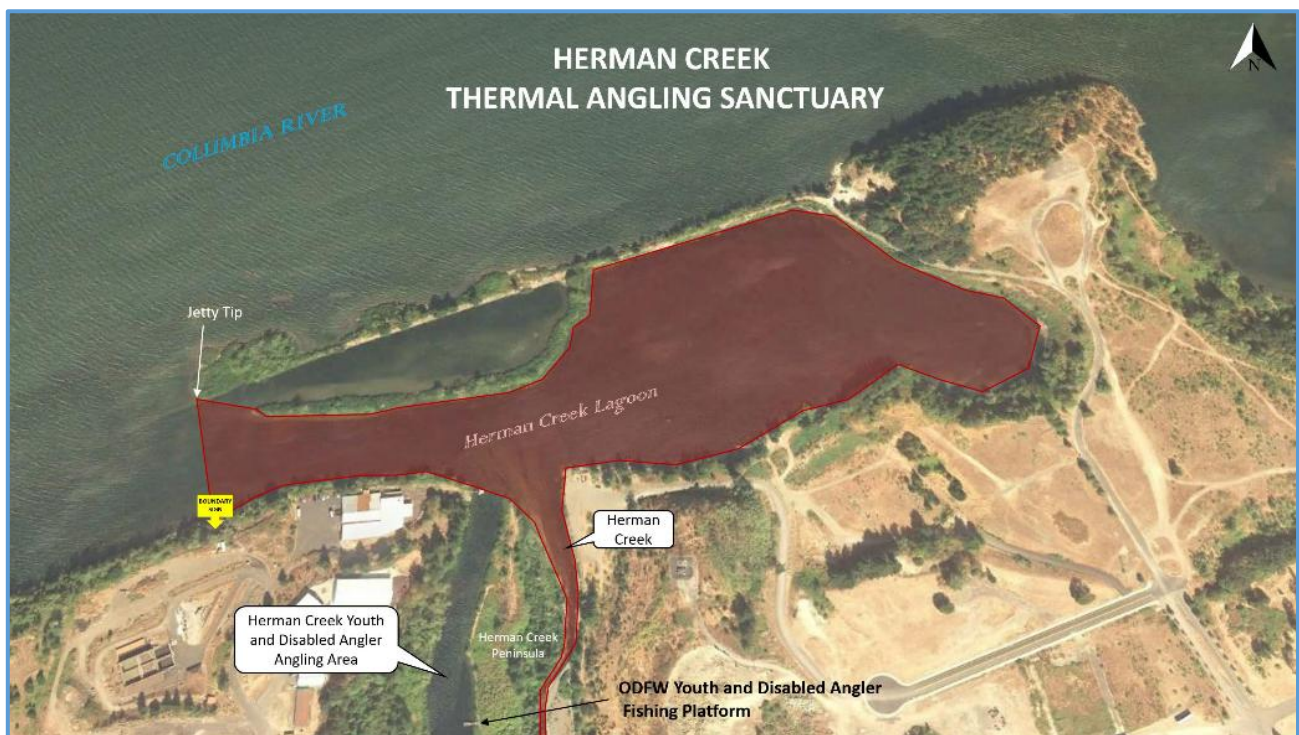
**Area definition:** East of the peninsula, from the mainline railroad bridge downstream to markers at mouth. **Note:** the Youth and Disabled Angling Area west of the peninsula is not covered here; see permanent regulations for this area.

- **June 16 – July 14:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam.
- **July 15 – September 15:** Closed to angling.
- **September 16 – November 30:** Closed to salmon and steelhead angling/retention.
- **December 1–31:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam.

### Herman Creek Lagoon (Columbia River Zone)

**Area definition:** Herman Creek Lagoon/Cove east of a line from the northwest tip of the jetty, south to a marker on the Oregon shore.

- **June 16 – July 14:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam.
- **July 15 – September 15:** Closed to angling.
- **September 16 – December 31:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam.



### Deschutes River (Central Zone)

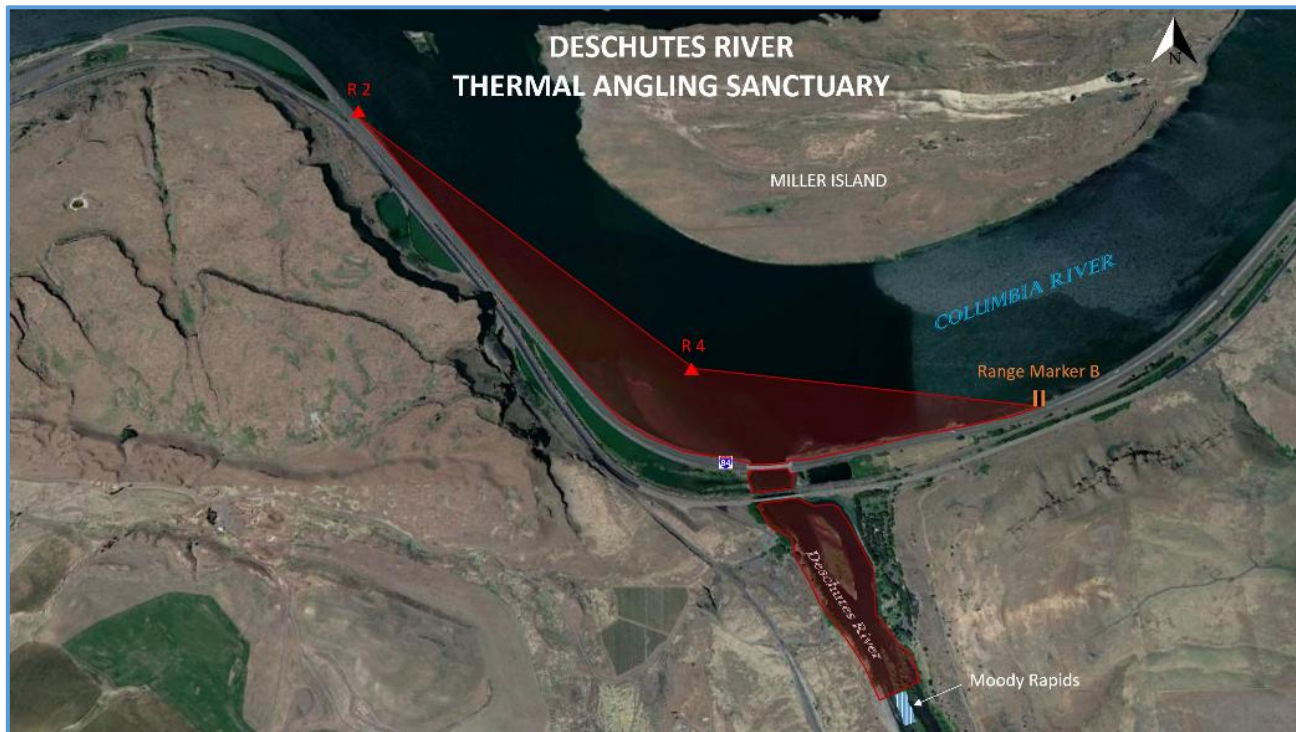
**Area definition:** From markers at lower end of Moody Rapids downstream to the mouth at the Interstate 84 Bridge (west bound).

- **June 16 – July 14:** One hatchery steelhead allowed in the daily adult salmon/steelhead bag limit.
- **July 15 – September 15:** Closed to angling.
- **September 16 – December 31:** Permanent rules apply.

**Deschutes River Mouth (Columbia River Zone)**

**Area definition:** The mainstem Columbia River adjacent to the mouth of the Deschutes River from the Interstate 84 Bridge (west bound) north to a line projecting from the flashing red navigation marker #2 located approximately 1.5 miles downstream of the Deschutes River mouth on the Oregon shore, upstream to the red navigation marker #4, then to the lower South Channel Range “B” marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 0.7 mile upstream of the Deschutes River mouth.

- **June 16 – July 14:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: The Dalles Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border (upstream of McNary Dam).
- **July 15 – September 15:** Closed to angling.
- **September 16 – December 31:** See rules for Columbia River mainstem: The Dalles Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border (upstream of McNary Dam).



**Lower John Day River (Northeast Zone)**

**Area definition:** From the mainline railroad bridge at the mouth, upstream to a marker ¼ mile downstream of Tumwater Falls.

- **June 16 – August 31:** One hatchery steelhead allowed in the daily adult salmon/steelhead bag limit.
- **September 1 – December 31:** Closed to angling for salmon/steelhead.

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