FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
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THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

P.O. Box 498 Suquamish, Washington 98392

2025- 2026 Suquamish Marine Bottom Fish Regulations

Tribal Regulation 25-14F
Effective April 1, 2025

Introduction

The following regulations pertain to the commercial and subsistence fishing for marine bottom fish species by Suquamish tribal members. Any areas not specifically identified by these regulations shall remain closed. All gear types not specifically mentioned in these regulations shall be considered unlawful for the purpose of taking bottom fish in those areas covered by these regulations. In addition it shall be unlawful to harvest species of fish or shellfish not specifically included in this or other properly adopted Tribal regulations authorizing such harvest.

Section I. **Open Areas**

The following Marine Fish-Shellfish Management Areas encompass the usual and accustomed fishing grounds of the Suquamish Tribe and shall be available to Suquamish fishers subject to specific restrictions as identified in following Sections:
20A, 20B, 21A, 22A (Bellingham Bay is closed north of a line from Point Francis to Post Point. Hale Pass is closed northwest of a line from Point Francis to the red and green buoy southeast of Point Francis, then to the northernmost tip of Eliza Island, then along the eastern shore of the island to its southernmost tip, and then north of a line from the southernmost tip of Eliza Island to Carter Point.; Chuckanut Bay remains closed), 22B (Closed to fishing in Padilla Bay east of a line drawn from the western tip of Samish Island to the westernmost point on Hat Island and southeast to the shore on the main land just to the east of Indian Slough), 23A, 23B, 25A (fishing will remain closed from a line projecting from the northern tip of Protection Island, northwest to Trial Island in B.C. Canada), 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E, 26A, 24B (fishing is closed north of a line from Camano Head to Mission Point), 26B, 26C, 27A-C (waters south of the Hood Canal bridge remain closed).

Section II. **General Season**

Unless otherwise restricted, all areas identified in Section I shall remain open from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

Section III. **Legal Species**

Pacific cod, walleye pollock, pacific tomcod, whiting, flounders, dabs and soles, greenlings (including lingcod), ratfish, sablefish, Cabazon, spiny dogfish, all species of sharks, all species of rockfish, all surf perches.

A) Lingcod
   1) Commercial harvest: Commercial harvest of Lingcod is limited to 500 lbs per day in all areas.
   2) Subsistence harvest: Four (4) lingcod of any size may be retained per day per person for subsistence purposes.

B) Salmon (including Steelhead) and Pacific Halibut may not be sold under this regulation. Halibut fisheries are covered under separate regulations

C) Brown, Copper, Yellow Eye, Bocaccio, Canary, and Quillback Rockfish: The condition of rockfish stocks in Puget Sound are depressed and requires limited harvest activity. All brown, Yellow Eye, Bocaccio, Canary, and Quillback must be released, in good condition, whenever possible. Brown, Copper, Yellow Eye, Bocaccio, Canary, and Quillback Rockfish may not be sold.

Section IV. **Legal Gear**

A) Commercial (additional restrictions may exist in section VII.)

1) Set Lines; minimum hook size of 7/0 (kirby style), or size 8 for (tuna circle style). Single strand monofilament ganions are unlawful. Set lines must be marked at the surface by a 24 inch or greater diameter buoy ball. Maximum of 1,000 hooks per vessel.

2) Bottomfish pots; at least one wall must be constructed with cotton fiber in a manner such that the pot will allow escapement of fish should the cotton rot through.

3) Troll Lines; maximum 2 lines/boat; maximum 4 spreaders/line provided the top spread is not greater than 24 ft. from the weight at the end of the line.

4) Beach Seine; maximum length of 350 ft., minimum stretch mesh of 1/2 inch.

5) Commercial jig gear.

6) Setnets; for dogfish, a maximum of 4 nets per fisher, minimum stretch mesh of 5 inches, maximum length of 1000 ft., depth not to exceed 25 meshes.

7) Otter trawl, beam trawl; Unless otherwise provided, minimum mesh size of 4 1/2 inches between knots(BK) in the codend.

8) Chafing Gear; For bottom trawls, a) chafing gear must have a minimum mesh size of 15 inches unless only the bottom half of the codend is covered. b) For roller and pelagic trawls chafing gear covering the upper half of the codend must have a minimum mesh size of 6 inches.

9) Roller Trawl; The use of rollers, bobbins, or cookie discs are restricted to maximum diameter of 14 inches.

B) Subsistence

1) Hand lines, hand spear

2) Bottomfish jigs (max. 2 hooks/line, 2 lines/fisher)

Section V. **Subsistence Fisheries**

Harvest of bottomfish for subsistence purposes shall be subject to the following restrictions and daily bag limits;

1) Lingcod, all open areas - Open year-round, 4 lingcod per fisher per day.

2) Rockfishes, all open areas - Open year round, 4 fish daily bag limit

3) Areas 26B, 26C closed to the harvest of pacific cod.

4) Flounders, dabs and sole, all open areas - 6 fish daily bag limit

5) The following areas are closed due to human health concerns associated with the consumption of resident fishes:

a) That portion of area 26C west of a line projected from the cable crossing sign at point Herron 90 degrees SW to the cable crossing sign at landfall near Waterman

b) That portion of 26B west of a line projected from Wing point to the entrance light at Eagle Harbor.

c) That portion of Area 26B east of a line projected from Duwamish head to pier 91 (Elliott Bay).

Section VI. **Commercial Fisheries - General Species Provisions**

1) It shall be unlawful to retain any English sole less than 12 inches in length.

2) It shall be unlawful to retain any Starry flounder less than 14 inches in length.

3) All anadromous fish (salmon, steelhead, trout, and sturgeon) caught incidental to bottomfishing must be released.

Section VII. **Special Area/Season/Gear Restrictions**:

A) All Commercial Bottomfish Gear

1) Port Madison - Agate Pass; that portion of Area 26B and 26C westerly of a line projected from the entrance to Miller Bay to Pt. Monroe and southerly to a line from Pt. Bolin south to Arrow Pt. on Bainbridge Island shall remain closed.

2) Areas listed under section V. 5. are closed due to human health risks associated with the consumption of resident fishes:

3) Incidental harvest of rockfishes shall not exceed more than **20** lbs. per day.

4) Incidental harvest of Pacific Cod shall not exceed more than **100** lbs. per day.

B) Bottom Trawl; Beam or Otter trawl gear

1) The following areas are closed year round;
a) Sequim Bay, waters southerly of a line projected from Kiapot Pt. to Gibson Spit.
2) Area 20A is closed April 15 through June 30.
3) Bottom trawl gear is prohibited in all waters less than 10 fathoms.

C) Pelagic Trawl;
1) All areas are closed to Pelagic Trawl.

D) Set Net - Pacific Cod
1) All areas are closed to the commercial harvest of Pacific Cod with set net gear.

D) Set Nets - Dogfish
1) The following areas are closed year round; 21B, 22A, 22B, 23A, 23B, 25D, 25E and that portion of 25C east of a line from Twin Spits to the Port Gamble Mill stack, 26A southerly and westerly of a line from the Mukilteo ferry dock to the Clinton ferry dock, 26B east of a line from Meadow Pt. to Pt Wells.

2) The following areas are regulated as described below;
20A and 20B closed June 16 through October 31
21A open March 1 through June 15
26C open April 1 through July 15

3) All areas - a maximum of 4 dogfish nets per fisher may be used at any one time. Minimum mesh of 5 inches, maximum length of 1,200 ft. per net. All nets must be properly buoyed and identified with the fishers name and Tribal identification number.

E) Set Line
The following areas are closed year round;

26C north of a line from Battle Pt. due west to landfall.

F) Commercial Jig
All areas are closed for commercial jig gear, with the exception of the following areas: 26A and 26B open January 15 through November 30.

G) Troll Lines
All areas are closed to Troll line gear.

H) Beach Seine: All areas are closed from May 1 through August 31.

I) Bottomfish Pots
All areas are closed with the exception of the following;
20A, 21A, 21B, 23A, 23B, 25A, 25B, 25C, 26A and 26B open January 15 through November 30.

Section VIII. **Harvest Logbooks/Records**:
All operators of Bottom, Otter, or Pelagic Trawl gear, Commercial Jig, or troll line gear must obtain and maintain the appropriate harvest logbook from the Fisheries Department. All commercial logbooks must be submitted to the Fisheries Department on a monthly basis, to be received no later than 10 days after the months end. The harvest of any species provided for by these regulations must be reported on Treaty Indian Fish Receiving Tickets no later than 3 days following the harvest.

Section IX. **Expected Effort**
Anticipated effort for respective gear types is listed below;

GEAR	# of vessels
Otter Trawl	1
Bottom Trawl	1
Pelagic Trawl	0
Set line	1
Commercial jig	1
Troll lines	0
Beach Seine	0
Bottomfish Pots	1
Setnets	0

Section X. **Emergency Regulation**
Modification to the regulations promulgated herein shall be developed by emergency amendment at least 24 hours prior to effectiveness.

SIGNED, JONATHAN OLEYAR, FISHERIES BIOLOGIST, SUQUAMISH TRIBE