



# SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

## 2026 ANNUAL COMMERCIAL NET FISHING REGULATIONS OF THE SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

### WITH 2026 FALL CHINOOK NET FISHING REGULATIONS

#### ANNUAL REGULATION NO. 26-01

#### PREFACE

The regulation governing the treaty fishing activities of the Squaxin Island Tribe, herein referred to as the Tribe, in all usual accustomed fishing grounds and stations, is issued pursuant to the Fishing Ordinance of the Squaxin Island Tribe.

All usual and accustomed fishing grounds are hereby closed unless specifically opened by Tribal regulations. No member of the Squaxin Island Tribe may lawfully fish in any usual and accustomed waters unless those areas are opened by Tribal emergency regulations.

This regulation supersedes all previous anadromous regulations issued by the Tribe and is promulgated solely for regulation of the **2026 Annual Commercial Net Fishery** with specifics on the **2026 Fall Chinook Net Fishery, Squaxin Island Tribe Subsistence Marine Water/Freshwater Finfish Hook & Line Fishing, and Tribal Regulation of Governing Incidental Take of Marine Mammals in Treaty Fisheries** regulations.

Whereas, this annual regulation hereby authorizes all usual and accustomed fishing grounds for Squaxin Island Tribe open for Subsistence Marine Water and Freshwater FinFish hook line fishing (See Section II. B & C for dates, species bag limits, gear restrictions and other restrictions).

Whereas, this annual regulation hereby authorizes Squaxin Island Tribal Regulation of Governing Incidental Take of Marine Mammals in Squaxin Island Tribe Treaty Fisheries (See Section III, K for specific details.)

A supplement of these Annual Regulations will be issued for regulation of the **2026/2027 Coho and Chum Salmon Commercial Net Fishery (AR-26-02)**

## **SECTION I: Emergency Regulations**

The Tribe reserves the right to modify the Annual Regulations by issuance of Emergency Regulations, whenever biological evidence supports the need for such modifications.

Emergency Regulations become effective 24 hours after filing with the U.S. District Court approved Western Union TWX System (Currently using Co-manager approved electronic mail (email) for filing) and acknowledged receipt by Washington Department of Fisheries.

The **OFFICAL EMERGENCY REGULATIONS** will be posted at the Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department. These posted official Emergency Regulations will contain all modifications from the Annual Regulations that will occur in the described fishery opening. Any detail (such as a specific open or closed area) not reported in the official Emergency Regulations will fall under the jurisdiction described and be within the Annual Regulations.

A **SUMMARY** of Emergency Regulations will be provided on a twenty-four (24) hour “Hotline” by calling **360-432-3899** and available on the Squaxin Island Tribe website at: [www.squaxinland.org](http://www.squaxinland.org) . This summary of Emergency Regulations provided on the “Hotline” and/or the website is designed as a convenience to the fishers and will therefore not always contain the entire text of the official Emergency Regulation.

**AT NO TIME** will the “Hotline” or “Website” summary of Emergency Regulations, supersede the official posted Emergency Regulations or the Annual Regulations. **It is the fishers’ responsibility to be informed of the official Emergency Regulations content, which is posted at the Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department.** Tribal Fisheries Manager assumes no responsibility for infractions incurred by fishers relying solely upon the “Hotline” or “Website” summary of Emergency Regulations for fishing during the season.

## **SECTION II: U.S. vs. Washington, Tribal Responsibilities**

Section II: provides the information necessary to meet the Tribal requirements of U.S. vs. Washington as outlined in Paragraph 17 of the Injunction and Paragraph 7 of the Interim Plan and Stay Order.

### **A. Ceremonial/Subsistence Fishery**

1. Ceremonial/Subsistence fisheries are permitted upon any species of anadromous fish at any time during the **OPEN** commercial season for said species. When fishing for such a purpose, Tribal fishers must report the catch area and the number of fish taken for Ceremonial/Subsistence purposes.
2. If fish are sold on a Treaty Indian Fish Receiving Ticket and a portion of the catch is retained for Ceremonial/Subsistence purposes, **the retained catch must also be logged on the fish ticket.** If all the catch is retained for Ceremonial/Subsistence purposes, the catch must be called in on the next working day. This information shall be forwarded to data-monitoring agencies upon their request. Members who do not have valid licenses may fish for Ceremonial/Subsistence purposes after receiving written authorization from the Tribal Council.
3. Ceremonial/Subsistence fisheries occurring outside the normal fishing season or during closed periods can be authorized through the written approval of the Tribal Council.

## B. Squaxin Island Tribe Subsistence Marine Water Finfish Hook & Line Fishing

1. **Seasons:** Open year around from July 15, 2026, to July 14, 2027; unless otherwise stated.
2. **Opened Fishing Areas:** All marine waters of the Puget Sound within the Squaxin Island Tribe Usual and Accustomed fishing area southernly of Tacoma Narrows Bridge (Marine Areas 13,13A, 13C, &13D-K).
3. **Subsistence Marine Restriction/Closed Areas:**

It shall be unlawful to fish for Hook & Line Subsistence in the following areas:

- a. **Upper Carr Inlet:** Those waters of Carr Inlet northerly of a line from Allen Point (N 47°20'33.25", W 122°40'11.25") to the southernmost point of land on the eastern shore of Glen Cove (N 47°20'16.90", W 122°43'13.81") are closed to all salmon fishing from April 15-September 30.
  - i. Closure of this area during these dates is necessary to protect White River spring Chinook returning to Minter Creek.
- b. **Budd Inlet:** Those waters of Budd Inlet at Olympia south of the Fourth Ave. Bridge are Closed to fishing year-round; July 16-Oct. 31: all contiguous waters between the Fourth Ave. Bridge and a line from the northwest corner of the Thriftway Market building to a point 100 yards north of the railroad trestle located on the western side of the inlet is Closed to fishing for salmon and bottomfish.

July 16-Oct. 31: Night closure and anti-snagging rule in effect in waters of Budd Inlet south of a line projected true west from the KGY Radio Station Tower to the western shore of the inlet and north of a line from the northwest corner of the Thriftway Market building to a point 100 yards north of the railroad trestle located on the western side of the inlet.
- c. **Toliva Shoal Closure:** June 16-Apr. 30: closed to fishing for fin fish in waters within 500 yards of the buoy on Toliva Shoal.
- d. **Titlow Beach Marine Preserve:** All waters due west from the southern end of the Tacoma Outboard Association building near the boat launch ramp to the outer harbor line, then south following the outer harbor line to a line due west from the old ferry landing dock at the 6th Ave. Extension, then following the line to the high water line, then to the point of origin, CLOSED to the harvesting of FISH, SHELLFISH, and WILDLIFE, except SALMON fishing, is permitted from shore or non-motorized craft.
- e. **Saltar's Point Conservation Area:** Tidelands owned by the town of Steilacoom at Saltar's Point Beach located between Montgomery Street and Martin Street, and the water column above these tidelands, CLOSED to all harvest.
- f. **Z's Reef Marine Preserve:** Waters and bedlands beginning at the extreme low water line on the northeast side of Fox Island at 47°14.56'N, 122°35.98'W, then 0.5 nautical mile northwesterly along the extreme low water line to 47°14.96'N, 122°36.37'W, then northeast to the 85' contour line, southeast along 85' contour, then southeast along the 85' depth contour to a point on a due northeast-southwest line through the point of origin, then southwest to the point of origin, CLOSED to all harvest, except for fly fishing for SALMON allowed.

4. **Legal Gear:** Up to two (2) Hand-held rods, hook and line per Tribal member. Barbed or barbless hooks maybe used and a hook maybe single, double or treble.

5. **Daily Bag Limits:**

**Salmon (Chinook, Coho, Chum, Pink) and hatchery Steelhead:**

Eight (8) salmon per fisher per day or Two (2) hatchery steelhead and Six (6) other salmon.  
**{Release all cutthroat, wild (natural origin) Chinook, wild (natural origin) steelhead, and wild (natural origin) coho}**

**Mackerel:** No daily limit

**Herring, Smelt, Anchovy, Sardine, and Sand Lance:** Daily limit 10 lbs. All species combined. Dip nets and jigs may be used for harvest.

**Bottomfish:** Pacific Cod, Walleye Pollock, Pacific Tomcod, Pacific Whiting, All species of Dabs, Sole and Flounders (Except Pacific halibut), Ratfish, Sablefish, Greenling, Buffalo sculpin, Great sculpin, Red Irish Lord, Brown Irish Lord, Pacific Staghorn sculpin, Giant Wrymouth, Plainfin Midshipman, Spiny Dogfish, all species of shark, skate, rattail, and Surf perches.

**Daily limit is a total of 15 Bottomfish** (see definition above for legal species) regardless of species (excluding Shiner Perch). Fishing for Bottomfish is prohibited in waters deeper than 120 feet.

**Cabezon:**

Open: May 1-Nov. 30. Daily limit Two (2). Min. size: 18”

**Lingcod:** Open: May 1-June 15. Daily limit Two (2). Minimum size: 22” Max. size 40”

**Rockfish:** Daily limit Two (2)

**Surf perch:** Daily limit 10

**Shiner Perch:** No Limit

**Pacific Halibut, Pollock, Hake, Wolf-eel, Sixgill Shark:**

**CLOSED**

**Other Food Fish:** These are species, which occur in our waters irregularly, usually in coastal areas and include barracuda, white sea bass, bonito, and pomfret. Daily limit is 2 of each species.

6. **Release all cutthroat, natural origin Chinook, natural origin steelhead, and natural origin coho. All C&S hook and line Salmon catches must be reported to Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department within 48 hours of catch at (360) 432-3813 or via email at [jepeters@squaxin.us](mailto:jepeters@squaxin.us). Your catch report should include date of landings, catch area, species and total number of each species retained.**
7. **IT IS UNLAWFUL TO SELL ANY FISH CAUGHT FOR CEREMONIAL AND SUBSISTENCE HARVEST.**
8. **License:** All fishers 16 years and older must have a Squaxin Island Tribal Fishing Identification Card. Minors (Under 16 years of age) do not require tribal fishing identification card but must be accompanied by an adult with tribal fishing identification card.

### C. Squaxin Island Tribe Subsistence Finfish Freshwater Hook and Line Fishing

1. **Seasons:** Open year around from July 15, 2026, to July 14, 2027; unless otherwise stated.
2. **Opened Fishing Areas:** All freshwater rivers, streams, lakes and ponds of the Squaxin Island Tribe Usual and Accustomed fishing areas of 13D-K. Specific areas listed below in Finfish Freshwater Bag Limit section.
  - A. **Legal Gear:** Up to two (2) Hand-held rods, hook and line per Tribal member. Barbed or barbless hooks maybe used and a hook maybe single, double or treble. Unless fishing area is specified as “selective gear.”
    - **Selective gear:** Only unscented artificial flies or lures with on single-point, barbless hook is allowed. For selective gear, use of bait is prohibited.
3. **13D-K Finfish Freshwater Rivers, Streams, Lakes, and Ponds & Bag Limits:**  
*(Squaxin min. size/daily limits for Other Game Fish listed section 4.B. on page 7)*

#### **Woodard Creek, Woodland Creek, Percival Creek:**

Trout: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Selective gear rules.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31. Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

#### **Black Lake Ditch** from the confluence with Percival Creek upstream to Black Lake:

Trout: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Min. size 14" Daily, limit 2.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

#### **Deschutes River** from the Old Hwy. 99 Bridge on Capitol Blvd. in Tumwater upstream to the Henderson Blvd. Bridge near Pioneer Park:

Salmon: July 1-Oct. 15 - Min. size 12" Daily limit 6. Up to 2 adults may be retained. Release Coho.

Trout: Year-round- Catch-and-release

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

#### **Deschutes River** from the Henderson Blvd. Bridge near Pioneer Park upstream:

Salmon: July 1-Oct. 15 - Two adults may be retained. Release Coho.

Trout: Year-round- Catch-and-release

Other Game Fish: Year-round- Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

#### **McLane Creek** downstream of a line 100' upstream of and parallel to the south bridge on Hwy.101: Marine Area Subsistence Rules apply.

#### **McLane Creek** from mouth (a line 100' upstream of and parallel to the south bridge on Hwy. 101) upstream:

All Species: Aug. 1- Oct. 31night closure.

Trout: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Min. Size 14". Daily limit 2. Selective gear rules.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

#### **Perry Creek** from mouth to falls. **Schneider Creek** from mouth to falls:

Trout: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Min. Size 14". Daily limit 2. Selective gear.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

**Kennedy Creek** from mouth (500 yards east of the northbound HWY 101 bridge) to northbound HWY 101 bridge:

All Species: Aug. 1- Oct. 31 night closure and no snagging.

Trout: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Min. size 14” Daily limit 2.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

Salmon: Oct. 1-Nov. 30 - Min. size 12”. Daily limit 6. Up to 2 adults may be retained. Release wild coho.

**Kennedy Creek** from HWY 101 bridge upstream to 400’ below Kennedy Creek Falls (river mile 2.3):

All Species: Oct. 1- Dec. 31 night closure and no snagging. First Sat. in June-Sept. 30 and Jan. 1-last day in Feb: Selective gear.

Trout: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Min. size 14” Daily limit 2.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Kennedy Creek** from falls upstream and all tributaries:

All Game Fish: Saturday before Memorial Day- October 31. Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear on mainstem only.

**Skookum Creek**:

Trout: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Catch-and-Release. Selective gear rules.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

**Mill Creek**:

Trout: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Min. size 14” Daily limit 2. Selective gear.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

**Shelton, Goldsborough, Johns, Cranberry, Deer, Malaney, Uncle John, Campbell, Sherwood, Coulter, and Rocky Creeks**:

Trout: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Catch-and-Release. Selective gear rules.

Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31- Squaxin min. size/daily limit. Selective gear.

**Benson Lake, McIntosh Lake, Phillips Lake**:

Trout: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. No min. size. Daily limit 5. Up to 2 over 14”.

Other Game Fish: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Black Lake**:

Crappie: Year-round. Min. size 9”. Daily limit 10.

Trout: Year-round. Daily limit 5. Up to 2 over 14”.

Other Game Fish: Year-round. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Capitol Lake**:

**CLOSED**

**Isabella Lake, Island Lake, Lake Lawrence, Long Lake, Spencer Lake**:

Trout: Year-round. Daily limit 5. Up to 2 over 14”.

Other Game Fish: Year-round. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Kennedy Creek Pond, Lake Limerick, McLane Creek Ponds:**

Trout: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. No. Min. size. Daily limit 5.

Other Game Fish: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Lost Lake:**

Trout: Year-round. Daily limit 5. Up to 2 over 14” except no size restriction for Kokanee.

Other Game Fish: Year-round. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Sherwood Creek Mill Pond:**

Trout: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. Min. size 14” Daily Limit 2

Other Game Fish: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Summit Lake:**

Trout: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. Daily limit 5. Up to 2 over 14” except no size restriction for Kokanee.

Other Game Fish: Fourth Sat. in April-Oct. 31. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

**Offut Lake, Mason Lake:**

Trout: Year round. No. Min. size. Daily limit 5.

Other Game Fish: Year-round. Squaxin min. size/daily limit.

4. **Special Squaxin Island Tribe Subsistence Finfish Freshwater Hook and Line Rules:**

A. **RELEASE ALL CUTTHROAT, NATURAL ORIGIN CHINOOK, NATURAL ORIGIN STEELHEAD, & NATURAL ORIGIN COHO.**

B. **Squaxin min. size and daily limits:**

**Game Fish Species:**

- **Largemouth Bass**- No min. size. Only Largemouth Bass less than 12” may be retained, except 1 over 17” may be retained. Daily limit 5.
- **Smallmouth Bass**- No min. size. Only 1 Smallmouth Bass over 14” may be retained. Daily limit 10.
- **Tiger Muskie**- Min. size 50” Daily limit 1.
- **Walleye**- Min. size 16”. Daily limit 5. Only 1 over 22” may be retained.
- **Whitefish**- No min. size. Daily limit 15.
- **Burbot (Freshwater Ling)**- No min. size. Daily limit 5.
- **Channel Catfish**- No min. size. Daily limit 5.
- **Crappie, Northern Pikeminnow, Peamouth Chub, Perch, Suckers, Sunfish, Catfish(except Channel), Bullfrogs, Rock Bass, Striped Bass**- No min. size. No Daily Limit.
- **TROUT** are defined as: Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout , Golden Trout, Tiger Trout, Cutthroat, Lake Trout, Kokanee, Landlocked: *Atlantic, Chinook, Coho Salmon*. Combined daily limit for rivers, streams, lakes,& ponds on the same day is 5 trout.

5. **License:** All fishers 16 years and older must have a Squaxin Island Tribal Fishing Identification Card. Minors (Under 16 years of age) do not require tribal fishing identification card, but must be accompanied by an adult with tribal fishing identification card
6. **All Freshwater C&S hook and line Salmon catches must be reported to Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department within 48 hours of catch at (360) 432-3813 or via email at [jepeters@squaxin.us](mailto:jepeters@squaxin.us). Your catch report should include catch area, species and total number of each species retained.**

#### D. Test Fisheries

1. As per U.S. vs. Washington “Order on Certain Questions Regarding Fisheries Management” “Any fish taken in test fisheries are not to be sold for personal profit.” However, the Tribe reserves the right to pay the fishers according to a schedule established by Tribal Resolution for their efforts while conducting the test fishers. Further, the fishers shall:
  - a. Sell the fish and return all proceeds to the Tribe.
  - b. Indicate clearly on the fish ticket that it was a test fishery.
2. Test fisheries will be programmed in advance of the season; however, the Tribe reserves the right to conduct test fisheries not previously programmed when deemed necessary. The following procedure for all test fisheries will be adhered to:
  - a. Eight (8) hours prior to conducting test fisheries, the Washington Department of Fisheries and/or the Washington Department of Wildlife shall be notified of:
    1. Intent - Purpose with regard to “Order on Certain Questions.”
    2. Names of participants.
    3. Number of boats and gear.
    4. Area fished.
    5. Results upon completion.
3. A contract to perform test fisheries is non-assignable.

### **SECTION III: Responsibilities of Tribal Fishers**

Before any enrolled member of the Squaxin Island Tribe shall be authorized to participate in a treaty fishery, the requirements stated herein must be met. Any fishers failing to meet the requirements and responsibilities outlined in this section shall be considered in violation of the regulation and subject to citation pursuant to the Squaxin Island Fishing Ordinance.

#### A. Licensing Fee

Prior to participating in any fishery, Tribal members desiring to fish must pay the annual licensing fee of \$100.00 to the Squaxin Island Tribe. A license shall not be issued to any person who owes any loans, taxes over thirty (30) days due, fees or fines to the Squaxin Island Tribe or Tribal Court. You must be 16 years of age to become a Tribal fisher.

**TRIBAL SENIORS (AS DEFINED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL) ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS LICENSE FEE. This card is non-transferable.**

## B. Squaxin Island Tribe Hunting and Fishing Identification

Prior to participating in any fishery, Tribal fishers must obtain a Squaxin Island Tribe fishing identification card and yearly validation sticker. This card must be carried by a fisher any time he is fishing under Squaxin Island regulations and presented upon request to any authorized enforcement officer. This card must be presented to buyers, so that all information on the card can be imprinted on the fish tickets. Only the Tribal member whose picture appears on the card is authorized to sell fish with that card.

**ANY MEMBER LOSING THEIR CARD** will be responsible for its use until the loss is reported. The report must be made in person, or by phone, or in writing to the Fish and Wildlife Manager, Administrative Assistant, or Law Enforcement **IMMEDIATELY**. No fishing is permitted without a fishing license card on person.

## C. Family Assistants

A tribal member may be assisted in the fishery by a family member aged sixteen (16) or older who is not an enrolled Squaxin Island Tribal member.

1. **License Fee and identification:** A Tribal fishing identification card will be issued to a family assistant only upon payment of a **\$50** licensing fee. The amount of such fee shall be determined on an annual basis by the Tribal Council. A family assistant must have a valid Tribal fishing identification card in their possession at all times when assisting in the fishery.
2. **Tribal Member Responsibility:** Tribal fishers will be responsible for the actions of their family assistants taken pursuant to this section including harvesting without a properly issued identification card and/or permit and fishing without being accompanied by the authorized Tribal fisher.
3. **Judicial Loss of Privileges:** In the event that a family assistant is cited and found guilty or fails to appear in Tribal Court for a violation of this Act, that individual will immediately lose all fishing privileges.
4. **The Tribal member receiving assistance must be present at all times while being assisted in the fishery.**
5. Family member for purposes of this Section means a **spouse, forebear, sibling, child, or grandchild of the Tribal member**. The Tribal Enrollment Office must certify the assistant's status as a family member before an identification card is issued and may issue such forms and procedures as may be necessary to receive the information necessary to issue certifications.
  - a) The spouse identification card will be issued to the spouse of a Tribal member who has been legally married for a minimum of one (1) full year and permanently resides in the household of the Tribal member. Senior spouses of seniors are exempt from license fee.
6. **Family members under the age of sixteen (16) may accompany the Tribal member without obtaining a fishing identification card.**

#### D. Fish Tax

Tribal Council has determined that the four percent (4%) landing tax will no longer be imposed upon all fish sold. **A fishing license will not be issued until all back taxes are paid.**

#### E. Fish Tickets

All commercially caught salmon species must be recorded on a fish ticket. This includes all Chinook, Coho and Chum that are stripped of roe for roe sales.

- It is the responsibility of each fisher to ensure that every **FISH TICKET** is filled out and that the buyer completely and accurately fills out their fish tickets. The proper catch area, gear type, number of nets, number of fish, and signature shall be recorded in the proper spaces.
- **All fishers are required to use the embossed Tribal Fishing Identification Card and sign the Tribal copy of the treaty fish ticket for all sales of fish.**
- All Take Home Fish must also be recorded on a fish ticket and/or reported to the Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department.
- Any salmon not sold to a commercial buyer or sold to the public and used for personal use or consumption is regarded as Take Home. **All over the bank sales of salmon must be recorded on fish tickets.**
- Egged salmon may be recorded as take-home fish if not already documented on a salmon roe fish ticket.

#### F. Site Reservations

Site reservations will be honored providing that the site has **NOT BEEN VACATED FOR A PERIOD IN EXCESS OF TWO (2) FISHING DAYS** (including only opened fishing days). Any person fishing in a site fished by another within the previous two fishing days must vacate the site to the individual having a valid site claim. **SITE RESERVATION GUIDELINES DO NOT APPLY TO BEACH SEINES FISHERIES.**

#### G. Legal Gear

1. **Set gillnets-** A net of single –web construction bound at the top by a cork line and at the bottom by a weight line (lead line), which is weighted or anchored into a “set” position. One end of the net must be attached /anchored to the shoreline and the channel side anchored or both sides of the net must be anchored. Set gillnet gear does not drift freely.
2. **Drift gillnets-** A net of single-web construction bound at the top by a cork line and at the bottom by a weight line (lead line), of which is not anchored into a “set” position, but drifts freely with the current.
3. **Beach seine nets-** A net rectangular in shape, consisting of a lead line, cork line and heavy mesh net webbing, of which one end is anchored/tied to the shore; using a boat, the opposite end is deployed in a semicircle away from the anchored/tied end; which then the boat end is landed up/down current back to shore. The beach seine then must be hand pulled to shore. This fishing gear can be an effective selective fishing technique, as long as the net is not pulled out of the water, non- target species can be released unharmed, including natural origin coho.
  - a. With the exception of deploying the beach seine by boat, no mechanical/motorized devices may be used to pull the net to shore. Beach Seines must be hand pulled to shore.

**Length and mesh restrictions for gillnets and beach seines are outlined in SECTION VI.**

## H. **Illegal Gear-The following fishing gear is prohibited:**

1. **Purse seines-** a net that encircles fish, defined as a large wall of netting, bound at the top by a cork line and the bottom by a rope that passes through a number of attached rings and when this rope is pulled, it draws the rings close to one another of which the bottom of the netting closes (like a drawstring purse), trapping the fish inside.
2. **Trammel gillnets-** a net made of three walls of web material with the middle wall of finer mesh.
3. **Sinker nets** - defined as any subsurface net.
4. **Camouflaged nets** - Any net set in a manner or colored in such a way to avoid detection by other persons particularly Enforcement officials.

## I. **Gear Marking - Lighting Requirements**

1. **Net Marking** - All gear must be marked with a floating buoy, approximately twenty (20) inches in diameter. Said buoy must have clearly marked Owner's Name, Tribe, and Tribal Fishing ID number.
2. **Net Lighting** - All nets shall be marked with one light at each end of the net; provided, however, that when one end is anchored to shore, a light shall be required on the channelward side only. All lights must be clearly visible from any marine angle of approach.

## J. **Respect Personal Property**

Fishers are to respect personal property encountered while exercising treaty fishing rights. Any Tribal member failing to respect said property while exercising treaty fishing rights will be subject to citation by Tribal Law Enforcement officers.

## K. **No Littering**

The disposing of litter into the water or onto a beach while fishing is illegal. This act will result in a citation by Law Enforcement.

## L. **Tribal Regulation of Governing Incidental Take of Marine Mammals in Treaty Fisheries.**

- Affected Species: **Harbor Seals, California Sea Lions, Stellar Sea Lions, porpoises and other marine mammals**
- Effective Dates: **July 15, 2026-July 14, 2027**
- Management Areas: **Marine Areas 13, 13A, 13C, 13D-13K**
- Affected Salmon Fisheries: **Squaxin Island Tribe Treaty Chinook, coho and chum fisheries**

### 1. **Purpose.**

This regulation enacted by the Squaxin Island Tribe ("Tribe") is intended to implement the Tribe's right of taking fish under the Treaty of Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854, which includes the right to defend fishing gear and catch from interference by marine mammals. Consistent with Congress's determination that nothing in the 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act ("MMPA") "alters or is intended to alter any treaty between the United States and one or more Indian tribes," Pub. L. No. 103-238, § 14, 108 Stat. 532, 558 (1994), this regulation describes those circumstances identified by the Tribe under which the incidental take of marine mammals by tribal members exercising treaty reserved fishing rights and certain identified tribal fisheries enforcement and management professionals is authorized.

This regulation also establishes a framework for government-to-government coordination between the Tribe and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) regarding the incidental take of marine mammals in treaty fishing operations. The Tribe and NOAA will share information intended to improve science-based management of marine mammals and facilitate Tribal enforcement of this regulation and NOAA enforcement of the MMPA and its implementing regulations.

## **2. Definitions.**

- (a) “Take” means to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill a marine mammal.
- (b) “Incidental take” means the taking of a marine mammal in the course of treaty fishing operations (i) because it is directly interfering with fishing operations, (ii) as a consequence of the steps used to secure the fish in connection with fishing operations or (iii) as a measure of self-defense to ensure the safety of the crew or vessel.
- (c) “Marine mammal” means any marine mammal that is not depleted (as defined in the MMPA) or listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- (d) “Serious injury” means any injury that will likely result in mortality. Examples of serious injuries are listed in an appendix to this regulation.
- (e) “Tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional” means a person authorized by the Tribe to enforce or manage the Tribe’s treaty right to take fish.
- (f) “Tribal treaty fisher” means a person authorized by the Tribe to exercise the Tribe’s treaty fishing rights.

## **3. Prohibitions.**

It is prohibited to take a marine mammal except as otherwise provided by this regulation.

## **4. Incidental Take Authorized.**

A tribal treaty fisher and tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional may incidentally take a marine mammal, under the circumstances specified below, when exercising, enforcing or managing the Tribe’s treaty right to fish.

## **5. Incidental Take of a Marine Mammal Interfering with Treaty-Reserved Fishing - Preventing Interference.**

- (a) Preventing Interference – Non-Lethal Acts.

A tribal treaty fisher or tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional may incidentally take a marine mammal by deterring it from damaging catch or deployed fishing gear, so long as such acts of deterrence are not intended to result in the death of or serious injury to the marine mammal. Potential non-lethal deterrence methods will include those set forth in the most recent NOAA Fisheries Guidance (updated November 2015) attached hereto, or such other measures as may be added to this provision after consultation with NOAA.

(b) Preventing Interference – Lethal Acts.

A tribal treaty fisher or tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional, after attempting non-lethal steps to deter a California sea lion, Steller sea lion, or harbor seal from damaging catch or deployed fishing gear, **may incidentally take the California sea lion, Steller sea lion, or harbor seal by lethal means consistent with Section 5(c) below.**

(c) Public Safety.

Tribal treaty fishers and tribal fisheries enforcement and management professionals shall ensure that any methods used to prevent a marine mammal from interfering with their fishing operations will not create an imminent risk to public safety.

**6. Incidental Take of a Marine Mammal as a Consequence of Steps Used to Secure Fish.**

A tribal treaty fisher may incidentally take a marine mammal as a consequence of the steps used to secure fish in connection with treaty fishing operations. Such incidental take includes but is not limited to entanglement of a marine mammal in fishing gear.

**7. Self-Defense.**

A tribal treaty fisher or a tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional may incidentally take by non-lethal or lethal means a marine mammal if such take is imminently necessary in self-defense or a life-threatening situation.

**8. Information Sharing.**

- (a) For purposes of information sharing under this section only, “marine mammal” means any seal, sea lion, whale, dolphin, porpoise or sea otter.
- (b) A tribal treaty fisher or tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional shall report any incidental take resulting in mortality or serious injury of a marine mammal to the Tribe’s Fisheries Department within 48 hours of landing, or as soon as reasonably possible.
- (c) The Tribe’s Fisheries Department shall provide on an annual basis by January 15 a summary report to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (“NWIFC”), regarding aggregate incidental takes resulting in mortality or serious injury of marine mammals by tribal treaty fishers or tribal fisheries enforcement and management professionals, including number of marine mammals taken, approximate date, species, location (*e.g.* catch area), fishery gear type and target species (*e.g.* salmon troll, salmon drift gillnet, groundfish trawl), and disposition (mortality or serious injury). The NWIFC shall aggregate the information received into a single report and provide it to NOAA Fisheries. Individual tribe, fisher, and vessel anonymity shall be maintained. In lieu of the process above, any tribe can report directly to NOAA Fisheries.
- (d) To facilitate Tribal enforcement of this regulation and NOAA enforcement of the MMPA and its implementing regulations, the Tribe shall coordinate with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and share information relevant to such enforcement, including Tribal fishing regulations establishing open seasons and areas, this marine mammal regulation and contact information for the Tribe’s Fisheries Department and Fisheries Enforcement Office. Upon

request, the Tribe shall share with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement relevant information it has obtained from any reports submitted pursuant to Section 8(b) above regarding the incidental take of a marine mammal by a tribal treaty fisher or tribal fisheries enforcement and management professional. The Tribe shall also share information regarding and the disposition of any incident involving incidental take referred to the Tribe for investigation, including the outcome of any prosecution arising from the incident.

- (e) Marine mammal report form is available below on page 15 for fishermen to document take of marine mammal. Please send within 48 hours of landing, or as soon as reasonably possible. Please feel free to mail form to Squaxin Island Tribe Natural Resources Department, email form or call in takes ([jcpeters@squaxin.us](mailto:jcpeters@squaxin.us) or 360-432-3813.) Squaxin Island Tribes 2026 Annual Marine Mammal Take Report will be filed with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission by Mid-January 2027, where a Final 2026 NWIFC Tribes Marine Mammal Take Report will be compiled and sent to NOAA.



## **9. Disposition of Carcass.**

The carcass of any marine mammal incidentally taken and killed under this regulation may be returned to the sea. If the carcass is retained, it must be made available to the Tribe's Fisheries Department for biological sampling, after which it shall be provided for ceremonial and subsistence use within the tribal community consistent with Tribal law and custom.

## **10. Penalties.**

Failure to observe and comply with any provision of this regulation shall be punishable by civil and/or criminal penalties as follows or as specified in Squaxin Island Tribe's Fishing Ordinance.

## **11. Reservation of Rights.**

By adopting this regulation as Tribal law, the Tribe is not waiving any right, claim, defense or other legal entitlement regarding the Tribe's treaty fishing right or other rights held by the Tribe, nor is it intending to define or interpret the scope of its treaty right to take marine mammals.

### **L. Shellfish Interactions**

Fishers are required to return all oysters caught during fishing activities to the oyster growing grounds (-1.5 feet to +2 feet) where they were located.

### **M. Derelict Fishing Gear**

Squaxin Fishers are required to report derelict/abandoned/lost fishing gear. Derelict fishing gear includes nets, lines, and any other commercial harvest equipment that has been lost or abandoned in the marine environment. Derelict fishing gear is long-lasting marine debris that poses many problems to people and to marine animals, including: Entangling divers and swimmers; Trapping and wounding or killing fish, shellfish, birds and marine mammals; Degrading marine ecosystems and sensitive habitats; Damaging propellers and rudders of recreational boats, commercial and military vessels.

**Squaxin Island Fishers need to report all derelict gear within 24 hours via reporting online or call in reports via:**

- *Northwest Straits Initiative*

Online Report: <http://www.derelictgeardb.org/reportgear.aspx>

Call In Report: **360-733-1725**

- *Washington Fish and Wildlife Derelict Gear Reporting Hotline*

Call In Report: **1-855-542-3935**

### **N. No Wastage of Natural Resources**

Wastage of natural resources by a tribal harvester by means of destruction or neglect to the point of spoilage of a natural resource is an illegal activity and is subject to citation by Law Enforcement.

## **SECTION IV: Marine Fishing Areas of Squaxin Island Tribe (see attached maps)**

**13A Carr Inlet:** All marine waters north of a line projected from Green Point (N 47°16'55.2", W 122°41'41.8") on the east shoreline of Carr Inlet to Penrose Point (Signal Tower No. 4) (N 47°15'53.6", W 122°44'11.5") on the Longbranch Peninsula and south of the state highway 302 bridge and causeway, excluding the waters of Minter Bay, described below.

**Upper Carr Inlet-** those waters of Carr Inlet, north of a line from Allen Point (N 47°20'33.25", W 122°40'15.25") to the southernmost point of land on the eastern shore of Glenn Cove (N 47°20'16.90", W 122°43'39.81").

**Middle/Lower Carr Inlet-** those waters of Carr Inlet, south of a line from Allen Point (N 47°20'33.25", W 122°40'15.25") to the southernmost point of land on the eastern shore of Glenn Cove (N 47°20'16.90", W 122°43'39.81"). Middle and Lower Carr Inlet are separated by a line running westerly 273° (degrees) true from the northernmost point of land on the south side of the entrance to Horsehead Bay (N 47°17'56.86, W 122°41'12.85") to a marker on the Longbranch Peninsula (N 47°17'56.86", W 122°44'46.32").

**Burley Lagoon-** those marine waters north of a line extending due east from the state highway 302 bridge and causeway to the opposite shore are closed to all fishing gear unless specifically opened by regulation.

**Minter Bay-** those marine waters within a 1000' radius of the mouth of Minter Creek, (may be marked by the 6 red buoys set by the Medicine Creek Tribes), and outside (easterly) of the road bridge at the upper end of the bay. No net may extend more than one half of the way across the boat channel of Minter Bay to allow efficient movement of oyster boat traffic in and out of Minter Bay. No nets shall be tied off to the poles of the oyster stakes.

**Glen Cove -** During the normal chum management period, all waters within a 100 yard radius of the mouth of Glen Cove (N 47°20'16.90", W 122°43'39.81") and all waters west of a line projecting north from the Thompson Spit (N 47°19'59.22", W 122°43'42.98") to the opposite shore are closed to all fishing to protect naturally spawning chum salmon.

**Lay Inlet-** All waters east of the access bridge (between the mainland and Raft Island) on the south side of Raft Island, and east of a line on the north side of Raft Island running from the westerly-most large dock (N 47°20'00.41", W 122°39'57.10") on Raft Island (below the large white house with the multi-terraced yard) northerly to the multi-platform stairway at the east end of the rock bulkhead (N 47°20'23.16", W 122°40'02.04"), are closed to all fishing.

**13C Chambers Bay:** All marine waters easterly of a line 100' of the railroad trestle at the mouth of Chambers Bay to within 400 feet of the dam and causeway.

**13D Mixed stock area (Peale, Pickering, Dana, and Southern Case Inlet:** All marine waters of Peale, Pickering, Dana and Southern Case Inlet as an aggregate, legally described in the four following sections:

**13D-3 Peale Passage:** All marine waters south of a line projecting due east from Salmon Point (N 47°13'34.02", W 122°55'38.10") on the northern tip of Squaxin Island, to the bulkhead (N 47°13'34.02", W 122°55'13.61") on Hartstene Island, approximately due east of Salmon Point, and all waters north of a line connecting Brisco Point light (N 47°09'46.24", W 122°52'45.58") on Hartstene Island with Unsal Point (N 47°10'04.80", W 122°53'32.66") of Squaxin Island.

**13D-2 Pickering Passage:** All marine waters south of a line projecting north from Dougall Point (N 47°18'05.43", W 122°51'00.08") on Hartstene Island to the southernmost tip of Stretch Island (N 47°18'53.96", W 122°49'58.90"), south of the Stretch Island Bridge (Pirates Cove), and north of a line projected northwest from Unsal Point (N 47°10'04.80", W 122°53'32.66") on Squaxin Island to the Hunter Point light (N 47°10'25.74", W 122°55'10.08") on the mainland. Pickering Passage is bounded on the west by lines projected across the mouths of Hammersley and Totten Inlets.

**13D-1 Dana Passage:** All marine waters west of a line projecting northwest from Johnson Point (N 47°10'40.92", W 122°48'53.69") to Wilson Point (N 47°12'22.60", W 122°50'29.26") on Hartstene Island; the northern, western and southern boundaries are delineated by the previous lines across the mouths of Henderson Inlet, Budd Inlet, Eld Inlet, Pickering Passage, and Peale Passage.

**13D-4 Southern Case Inlet:** All marine waters north of a line projecting southwest from Treble Point (Anderson Island) (N 47°09'09.60", W 122°44'31.30") through the navigation marker (N 47°07'15.00", W 122°45'00.10") (southwest of Treble Point) to the mainland (N 47°06'40.70", W 122°45'08.80") and all waters south of a line between Devils Head (N 47°09'58.901", W 122°45'53.30") and Treble Point (N 47°09'09.60", W 122°44'31.30"). Southern Case Inlet is closed to the west by the previously described lines across Dana and Pickering Passages, and north of a line projected southeast from the southern tip of Stretch Island (N 47°18'53.96", W 122°49'58.90") to the southernmost point of land on the west side of the mouth of Dutcher cove (N 47°18'25.17", W 122°47'23.85") on Longbranch Peninsula and north of the Stretch Island Bridge.

**13E Henderson Inlet:** All Marine waters south of a line projected northeast from Dickenson Point (N 47°09'54.40", W 122°51'06.40") to Johnson Point (N 47°10'40.92", W 122°48'53.69")

**13F Budd Inlet:** All waters south of a line from the tip of Cooper Point (N 47°08'44.20", W 122°55'33.40") to the Dofflemyer light (N 47° 08'25.80", W 122°54'26.20").

**Outer Budd Inlet:** All marine waters north of a line running east to west from **Squaxin Point** (formerly known as Priest Point) (N 47°04'14.65", W 122°54'05.96") through the #4 buoy (N 47°04'24.12", W 122°55'03.00") to the opposite shore and south of a line projected from Cooper Point (N 47°08'44.20", W 122°55'33.40") to the light at Dofflemyer Point (N 47° 08'25.80", W 122°54'26.20") near Boston Harbor.

**Inner Budd Inlet:** All marine waters north from the 5th Avenue Bridge to the east west line from **Squaxin Point** (formerly known as Priest Point) (N 47°04'14.65", W 122°54'05.96") through #4 buoy (N 47°04'24.12" W 122°55'03.00") to the opposite shore.

**13G Eld Inlet:** All marine waters southwest of a line projected from Cooper Point (N 47°08'44.20", W 122°55'13.40") to the southeastern shore of Sanderson Harbor (N 47°08'55.90", W 122°56'18.10").

**13H Totten Inlet:** All marine waters southwest of a line projected south from Glen Parkers dock, marked with a light and reflective marker to the northern tip of Steamboat Island (N 47°09'08.30", W 122°01'07.50"), not including the waters of Skookum Inlet (defined below).

**13I Skookum Inlet:** All marine waters west of a line extending from the Tillicum rock (on the Arcadia side) (N 47°09'16.64", W 123°00'33.41") to the large rock on Kamilche Point (N 47°09'06.76", W 122°01'05.27").

**13J Hammersley Inlet:** All marine waters westerly of a line projected south from the red light on Hungerford Point (N 47°12'18.80", W 122°56'11.50") to the Arcadia Point light (N 47°11'54.28", W 122°56'11.85").

**13K Northern Case Inlet:** All marine waters north of a line projected southeast from the southern tip of Stretch Island (N 47°18'53.96", W 122°49'58.90") to the southernmost point of land on the west side of the mouth of Dutcher Cove (N 47°18'25.17", W 122°47'23.85") on the Longbranch Peninsula and north of the Stretch Island Bridge.

**13 Nisqually Reach:** All marine waters north of a line from Treble Point (N 47°09'09.60", W 122°44'31.30") (Anderson Island through the navigation marker-southwest of Treble Point(N 47°07'15.00", W 122°45'00.10")) to the mainland, and south of a line running due east from Anderson Island (N 47°10'02.251" W 122°40'130.25") to the northern tip of Ketron Island (N 47°10'02.25", W 122°37'53.11") and south and west of a line projecting from the southern tip of Ketron Island (N 47°08'49.69", W 122°38'19.37") to the buoy at the mouth of Nisqually River and hence eastward to the jetty (N 47°06'31.30", W 122°40'28.24") approximately ½ mile south of Sequelitchew Creek.

**Marine Pass:** All marine waters north of a line from Devils Head (N 47°09'58.901", W 122°45'153.30") to Treble Point (N 47°09'09.60", W 122°44'31.30") , south of a line running east-west through Pitt Island (N 47°13'23.48", W 122°42'57.80"), north of a line running due east from Anderson Island (N 47°10'02.251", W 122°40'130.25") across the northern tip of Ketron Island (N 47°10'02.25", W 122°37'53.11") to the mainland, east of a continuous line from Hyde Point (N 47°12'00.86", W 122°38'36.39" McNeil Island) to Gibson Point (N 47°13'06.00", W 122°36'14.99" Fox Island) to Point Fosdick (N 47°15'17.00", W 122°35'13.99") on the mainland, and south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

**Fox Island:** All marine waters of Hale Passage and Wollochet Bay inside and northerly of a line drawn from the old ferry dock to point on the opposite shore at the southern and easterly entrance to Wollochet Bay (N 47°15'50.93", W 122°35'56.33") and south of the Fox Island Bridge.

**Sequalitchew:** All marine waters bounded on the west by a line projecting from the southern tip of Ketron Island (N 47°08'49.69", W 122°38'19.37") to the buoy at the mouth of the Nisqually River, bounded on the south by a line projecting eastward from the Nisqually River buoy to the jetty approximately ½ mile south of Sequelitchew Creek (N 47°06'31.30", W 122°40'28.24"). This includes Cormorant Passage, the northern boundary of which is a line from the northern tip of Ketron Island (N 47°10'02.25", W 122°37'53.11") to Gordon Point.

**11 East/West Passage:** All marine waters north of the Narrows Bridge and south of a line from Point Southworth to Point Vashon on Vashon Island, then to Brace Point on the mainland, with the exception of that water defined as Area 11A.

**11A Commencement Bay:** All marine waters of Puget Sound southerly of a line projected 240° true from the Browns Point light to the point on the opposite shoreline with the KCPQ TV tower in Tacoma.

**10 Seattle:** Shall include those marine waters of Puget Sound southerly of a line projected from the Apple Cove Point light to Edwards Point, westerly of a line projected 70° true from flashing light number 33 (serial number 2470) located on Point Webster near the mouth of the Lake Washington Ship Canal to a point of the opposite shore, westerly of a line projected 7° true from a point on Duwamish Head through Duwamish Head light to Pier 91, northerly of a true east-west line passing through the Point Vashon light, easterly of a line projected from Orchard Point to Beans Point on Bainbridge Island, and northerly and easterly of a line projected true west from Agate Point on Bainbridge Island to the mainland.

**10A Elliott Bay:** Shall include those marine waters of Puget Sound easterly of a line project 7° true from a point on Duwamish Head through the Duwamish Head light to Pier 91.

## **SECTION V: 2026 Fall Chinook Fishing Regulations**

### **A. General Information**

1. Daily fishing hours, unless otherwise stated, shall be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. daily (daylight- saving time).
2. No gillnet shall extend more than one-third (1/3) of the way across any boat channel, inlet cove, or creek mouth.
3. Set nets must be checked and fish removed every eight (8) hours. Failure to do so will result in gear confiscation.
4. Cove - Definition: Any saltwater embayment that has a freshwater source.
5. Tribal fishers shall not operate, nor be responsible for more than one gillnet during any fishing period.
6. Fishing day - Definition: Any day that includes an open fishing period.
7. Legal gear will be defined by emergency regulations.

### **B. Closed Areas for Commercial Gillnet Fishing:**

1. **Hartstene Island: Areas H1, H2, and H3:** These areas are closed for set gillnets. Refer to attached zone map identifying above areas.

### **C. Deschutes River/Capital Lake/Squaxin Net Pen Origin Chinook Moratorium (Dana Passage, Southern Case Inlet, Budd Inlet, Eld Inlet, Peale Passage, Pickering Passage)**

The Tribal Council has determined that the maximum number of fishers allowed to fish on Chinook originating from the Deschutes/Capital Lake run shall be 70 fishers. However, the Budd Inlet moratorium is being suspended for **2026** to improve effort. Licenses will be issued to fishers who meet all other qualifications to participate in the Deschutes/Capital Lake fishery. Should the moratorium be imposed in **2027**, fishers who are eligible for the Deschutes/Capital Lake fishery must show at least three legal commercial landings in **2027** to remain eligible for the **2028** fishery. Should you fail to make three landings, you may lose your eligibility and be replaced by lottery selection (this would not prohibit participation in the **2028** lottery).

**SECTION VI: Area, Species, Season and Weekly Opening Descriptions**

**A. BUDD INLET (13F)**

**A. Outer Budd Inlet**

1. Species..... Chinook
2. Season.....6 p.m. 8/1 to 9 a.m. 9/23
3. Daily fishing hours.....will be set by emergency regulations
4. Open fishing periods....will be set by emergency regulations
  - a. Set Nets (north of the Priest Point line)
    1. Maximum length - 600 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches
    3. Set net fishing in Budd Inlet with 600 foot gear is permitted in those waters north of a line running east to west from **Squaxin Point** (N 47°04'14.65", W 122°54'05.96" formerly known as Priest Point) through the #4 buoy (N 47°04'24.12", W 122°55'03.00") to the opposite shore, and south of Dana Passage Boundary, set nets have priority south of the Gull Harbor line: a line running east/west from the first piling north of Gull Harbor to the opposite shore (See accompanying map).
  - b. Drift Nets (south of Gull Harbor)
    1. Maximum length - 600 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches
    3. Drift net fishing in Budd Inlet is permitted in those waters north of a line running east to west from **Squaxin Point** (N 47°04'14.65", W 122°54'05.96" formerly known as Priest Point) through the #4 buoy (N 47°04'24.12", W 122°55'03.00") to the opposite shore, and south of the Gull Harbor line, however, set nets have priority.
  - a. Drift Nets (north of Gull Harbor)
    1. Maximum length - 900 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches
    3. Drift nets fishing with 900 foot gear are permitted north of the Gull Harbor line to Budd Inlet, Dana Passage boundary. Set nets are not allowed in this area until drifts are established.
  - b. Beach Seines
    1. Maximum length- 600 feet
    2. Allowable stretch -3 inch minimum--4 inch maximum
5. **Comments:** Budd Inlet is subject to earlier opening date (7/15) dependent on in-season management needs. Fishing after September 9<sup>th</sup> is dependent on in season Fall Chinook escapement needs at Tumwater Falls Hatchery.

**B. Inner Budd Inlet**

1. Species..... Chinook
2. Season.....6p.m. 8/1 to 9a.m. 9/23
3. Daily fishing hours.....will be set by emergency regulations
4. Open fishing periods....will be set by emergency regulations
  - a. Set Nets
    1. Maximum length-300 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches
    3. Nets must be 150 feet apart. No nets may be tied together. No nets may be attached to the Yacht Club facility. A channel must be maintained to all moorage docks located in Budd Inlet.

5. **Comments:** Budd Inlet is subject to earlier opening date (7/15) dependent on in-season management needs. Fishing after September 9th is dependent on inseason Fall Chinook escapement needs at Tumwater Falls Hatchery

**ELIGIBILITY TO FISH IS SUBJECT TO MORATORIUM (SEE SECTION V NOTE C)**

**B. DANA PASSAGE (13D1 Dana) and Portion of ELD INLET (13G)**

1. Species..... Chinook
2. Season..... 6 p.m. 8/1 to 9 a.m. 9/9
3. Daily fishing hours....will be set by emergency regulations
4. Open fishing periods...will be set by emergency regulations
  - a. Set Nets - Unauthorized in this area until drifts are established.
    1. Maximum length - 600 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches.
  - b. Drift Nets
    1. Maximum length - 900 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches
  - c. Beach Seines
    1. Maximum length - 600 feet
    2. Allowable stretch - 3 inch minimum-----4 inch maximum

5. **Comments:**

- a. Subject to earlier opening date (7/15) dependent on in-season management needs.
- b. Eld Inlet: Includes all waters north and east of a line projected due east from Flapjack Point (N 47°06'28.40", W 122°57'21.17") to the opposite shore (N 47°05'58.07", W 122°56'57.03"), to the northern 13G boundary see Budd Inlet map). This portion of Eld Inlet is open to allow harvest of Budd Inlet Chinook milling at the mouth of Eld Inlet.

**ELIGIBILITY TO FISH IS SUBJECT TO MORATORIUM (SEE SECTION V NOTE C)**

**C. On-Reservation Peale (13D3) and Pickering Passage(13D2), Southern Case Inlet(13D-4)**

1. Species.....Chinook
2. Season.....6 p.m. 8/1 to 9 a.m. 9/9
3. Daily fishing hours..... will be set by emergency regulations
4. Open fishing season..... will be set by emergency regulations
  - a. Set Nets
    1. Maximum length - 300 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches
  - b. Drift Nets
    1. Maximum length - 600 feet
    2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches

5. **Comments:**

- a. No drift nets may be deployed near (within 150' of the net-pens) and no set nets may be attached to any part of the Tribal net-pen complexes situated in Peale Passage. This restriction includes any floats, barges and anchor lines associated with the Tribal delayed release coho and aquaculture programs.

- b. All set nets within 300' of the shore in Peale and Pickering Passages have priority over drift nets. Drift nets have priority over set nets in waters greater than 300' from shore in these areas. (SEE SECTION V NOTE C).
- c. All waters of 13D south and east of a line extending from Johnson Point light (N 47°10'40.92" W 122°48'53.69") to Devils head light (N 47°09'58.901", W 122°45'53.30") will be closed unless otherwise stated. (SEE SECTION V NOTE C).

**Totten Inlet (13H), Carr Inlet (13A), Northern Case Inlet (13K), and Skookum Inlet (13I), are not subject to the moratorium and may be fished by any licensed fishers when open.**

**D. Northern Case Inlet**

- 1. Species.....Chinook
- 2. Season.....6 p.m. 8/1 to 9 a.m. 9/9
- 3. Daily fishing hours..... will be set by emergency regulations
- 4. Open fishing periods..... will be set by emergency regulations

a. Set Nets, Drift Nets

- 1. Maximum length - 600 feet
- 2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches.

5. **Comments:**

- a. Subject to earlier opening date (7/15) dependent on in-season management needs.
- b. All waters west of a line running north to south from the northernmost portion of the concrete bulkhead fronting the Allyn Inn to the big rock on the easternmost shoreline on the point of land directly east of the Sherwood Creek mouth are closed to all fishing.
- c. All waters north of the transmission tower line are closed to all fishing.
- d. All waters of Case Inlet east of a line drawn southeast from Rocky Point (N 47°21'28.42", W 122°48'24.38") to the southernmost base of the spit in front of Vaughn Bay (N 47°20'53.70", W 122°47'47.92") are closed (Rocky Bay-Vaughn Bay closure).

**E. Totten Inlet (13H)**

- 1. Species.....Chinook
- 2. Season .....6 p.m. 8/1 to 9 a.m. 9/9
- 3. Daily fishing hours....will be set by emergency regulations
- 4. Open fishing periods...will be set by emergency regulations.

a. Set Nets, Drift Nets

- 1. Maximum length - 900 feet
- 2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches

**F. Skookum Inlet (13J)**

- 1. Species.....Chinook
- 2. Season.....6 p.m. 8/1 to 9 a.m. 9/9
- 3. Daily fishing hours....will be set by emergency regulations
- 4. Open fishing periods...will be set by emergency regulations.

a. Set Nets, Drift Nets

- 1. Maximum length - 100 feet
- 2. Minimum stretch mesh - 6 inches

- G. Nisqually Reach -13-1, 13-2, Sequalitchew, Marine Pass, 11, 11A ,& Areas 10, 10A,
  - 1. Species.....Chinook
  - 2. Season.....CLOSED
  - 3. Comments: **At this time the Squaxin Island Tribe anticipates no commercial fisheries in Marine Areas of the Nisqually Reach 13-1, 13-2, Sequalitchew, Marine Pass & 10, 10A, 11 or 11A. However, if interceptory fisheries occur in these areas beyond those agreed upon informally or in allocation agreements, the Squaxin Island Tribe is prepared to open fisheries in these areas.**

**SECTION VII: 2026 Medicine Creek Treaty In-Common Fishing Area Chinook Regulations**

The waters of Carr Inlet (13A), Chambers Bay (13C), and Fox Island (13) are co-managed under joint Medicine Creek Treaty Council regulations and are thus dependent upon agreement by the Squaxin, Nisqually and Puyallup Tribes. Below are a summary of the preseason final draft regulations for Chinook season, but may be subject to change. All involved Tribes; Squaxin, Nisqually and Puyallup Tribes must ratify any fisheries or modifications of the fisheries in these in-common areas. **Medicine Creek in-common area fisheries will be open by in season emergency regulation.**

**CARR INLET(Carr Inlet, Area 13A):**

Spring Chinook                      CLOSED for Conservation Purposes  
 Summer/Fall Chinook            **Aug. 1 - Sept. 19, 2026**

**Carr Inlet Weekly fishing schedule:**

**Spring Chinook**

CLOSED for Conservation Purposes

**Summer/Fall Chinook**

**Beginning:** 12:00 noon, *Saturday, August 01, 2026.*

All gears: **OPEN 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.**

**Ending:** 12:00 noon *Saturday, September 19, 2026.*

Minter Bay and the waters within a 1000' radius of the mouth of Minter Creek, marked off by the 6 red buoys set by the Medicine Creek Tribes, **will be closed to all fishing, until Tuesday, August 25, 2026, to conserve hatchery spring Chinook. Beginning Management Week 35, Minter Bay will be open to beach seines, dip nets, cast nets, and hook-and-line gear types during daylight hours only, 3 days per week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.**

Fishers are encouraged to release any unmarked Coho encountered in Minter Bay. The Lay Inlet and Burley Lagoon closures will be in effect throughout summer/fall Chinook management period. Harvest will be regulated with escapement needs prevailing.

**Gear types:**

Marine drift gill nets - 1,800' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Each drift gill net shall be buoyed at the outer end with a buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and Tribe name. No drift gill net shall be left unattended.

Marine set gill nets - 900' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size.

Marine set nets shall be tended not less than once every 24 hours. Each end not attached to shore must be marked with a floating buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and Tribe name. All set nets must be attached to the shore or anchored. No set net may extend more than 100' directly offshore (east) of the outermost oyster stakes at the mouth of Minter Bay.

Beach seines - 900' maximum length, with 3" minimum and 4" maximum mesh size.

Dip nets

Cast nets

Hook-and-line

Any gear not listed above is illegal.

**FOX ISLAND PENS FISHING AREA (Fox Island, Area 13):**

Spring Chinook                      CLOSED for Conservation Purposes

Summer/Fall Chinook              **August 1- September 15, 2026**

Fox Island Weekly fishing schedule:

**Spring Chinook**

CLOSED for conservation purposes

**Summer/Fall Chinook**

**All gears: OPEN 7 days/week, 24 hrs/day, beginning at noon, Saturday, August 01, 2026.**

**CLOSED as of 12:00 noon, Tuesday, September 15, 2026.**

**Gear types:**

Marine drift gill nets - 1,800' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Each drift gill net shall be buoyed at the outer end with a buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and tribal name. No drift gill net shall be left unattended.

Marine set gill nets - 900' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Marine set nets shall be tended not less than once every 24 hours. Each end not attached to shore must be marked with a floating buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and tribal name. All set nets must be attached to the shore or anchored.

Beach seines - 900' maximum length, with a 3" minimum and a 4" maximum mesh size.

**NOTE: The agreed to Fox Island Chinook fishing schedules have been made consistent with those in the Carr Inlet Fishing Area for management, enforcement and catch sampling reasons.**

**CHAMBER'S BAY FISHING AREA (Chamber's Bay, Area 13C):**

Summer/Fall Chinook              **July 26– October 10, 2026**

Chamber's Bay Weekly fishing schedule:

**Summer/fall chinook**

**Beginning: Sunday, July 26, 2026:**

Beach seines: **OPEN 2 days per week, from Sunday 12:00 Noon to Tuesday 12:00 Noon.**

Set nets: **OPEN 2 days per week, from Wednesday 12:00 Noon to Friday 12:00 Noon.**

**Ending: Saturday, October 10, 2026.**

The preseason forecast will be used to determine the harvestable number. In September, the managers will discuss the status of the escapement to determine whether modification of the fishing schedule and/or the harvestable number is warranted. If no revision to the fishing schedule is made, the area will close when the harvestable number has been reached and will re-open when escapement needs have been satisfied, or when the Chinook management period has ended.

**Gear types:**

Marine set gill nets - 100' maximum length, minimum 5" mesh size. Marine set nets shall be tended not less than once every 24 hours. Each end not attached to shore must be marked with a floating buoy not less than 20" in diameter; each buoy must be lit and marked in letters no less than 1" in height with owner's full name and Tribe name. All set nets must be attached to the shore or anchored.

Beach seines - 600' maximum length, with a 3" minimum and a 4" maximum mesh size.

These rules must be followed, or enforcement will be called:

1. Be considerate of others waiting for an opportunity
2. Please limit hang time on the pocket to 15 minutes
3. Complete pull and allow others to have a turn
4. If no one is waiting, hang times can exceed 15 minutes until another fishermen is waiting

**Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes Fishing violations:**

The following actions may be subject to penalties and/or fines, in accordance with tribal fishing ordinances adopted by the Medicine Creek Treaty tribes:

- Any gear not listed in the above Medicine Creek Regulations is illegal
- Wantonly wasting or destroying food fish
- Disposing of litter into the water or onto the shore while participating in the in-common fisheries of the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes.

**Medicine Creek General Information**

Unless otherwise agreed by all parties, the following procedure for opening and closing fisheries for all species will be implemented during the fishing season.

- In-common fisheries will close automatically when conservation concerns arise. The fishery biologists for the Medicine Creek Tribes (Nisqually, Squaxin Island, and Puyallup) will be responsible for monitoring the fisheries and making technical recommendations to the tribal representatives who will then vote on those recommendations.
- When the end of the management period for one species is reached, the fishery will close for that species and automatically reopen for the species whose management period immediately follows. No policy approval is needed under this situation.
- Substantive changes in regulations, i.e. changes in gear type, fishing time, etc., must be approved by the policy representatives and fish committees of all three Medicine Creek Tribes.

***IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SQUAXIN ISLAND FISHING ORDINANCE,  
THIS REGULATION IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL***



**Squaxin Island Tribe**  
*People of the Water*

*Kris Peters*

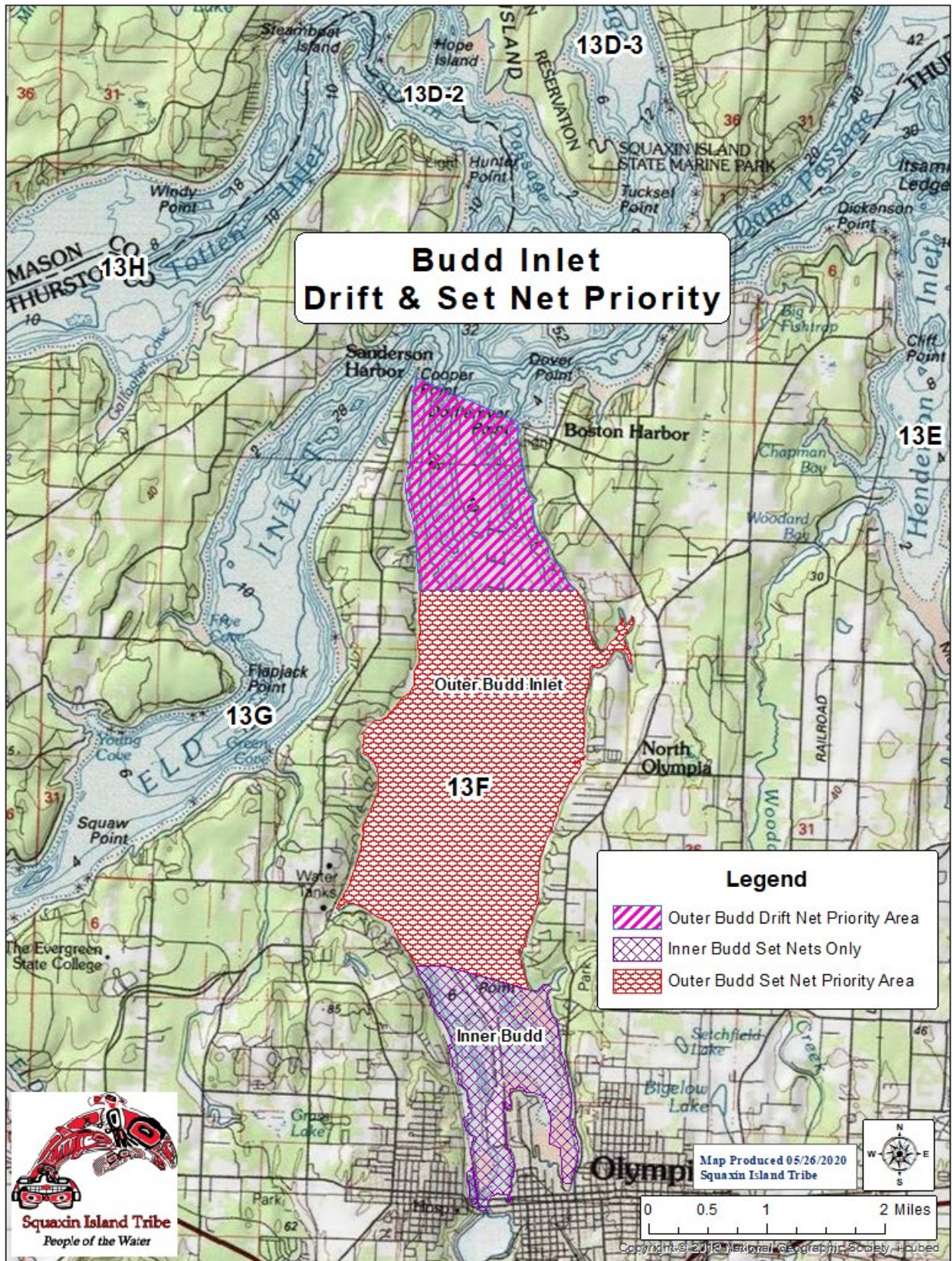
[Kris Peters \(Jun 25, 2026 17:12:38 PDT\)](#)

**Squaxin Island Tribal Council Member      Date**

*Andy Whitener*

[Andy Whitener \(Jun 25, 2026 15:24:54 PDT\)](#)

**Squaxin Island Natural Resource Director      Date**





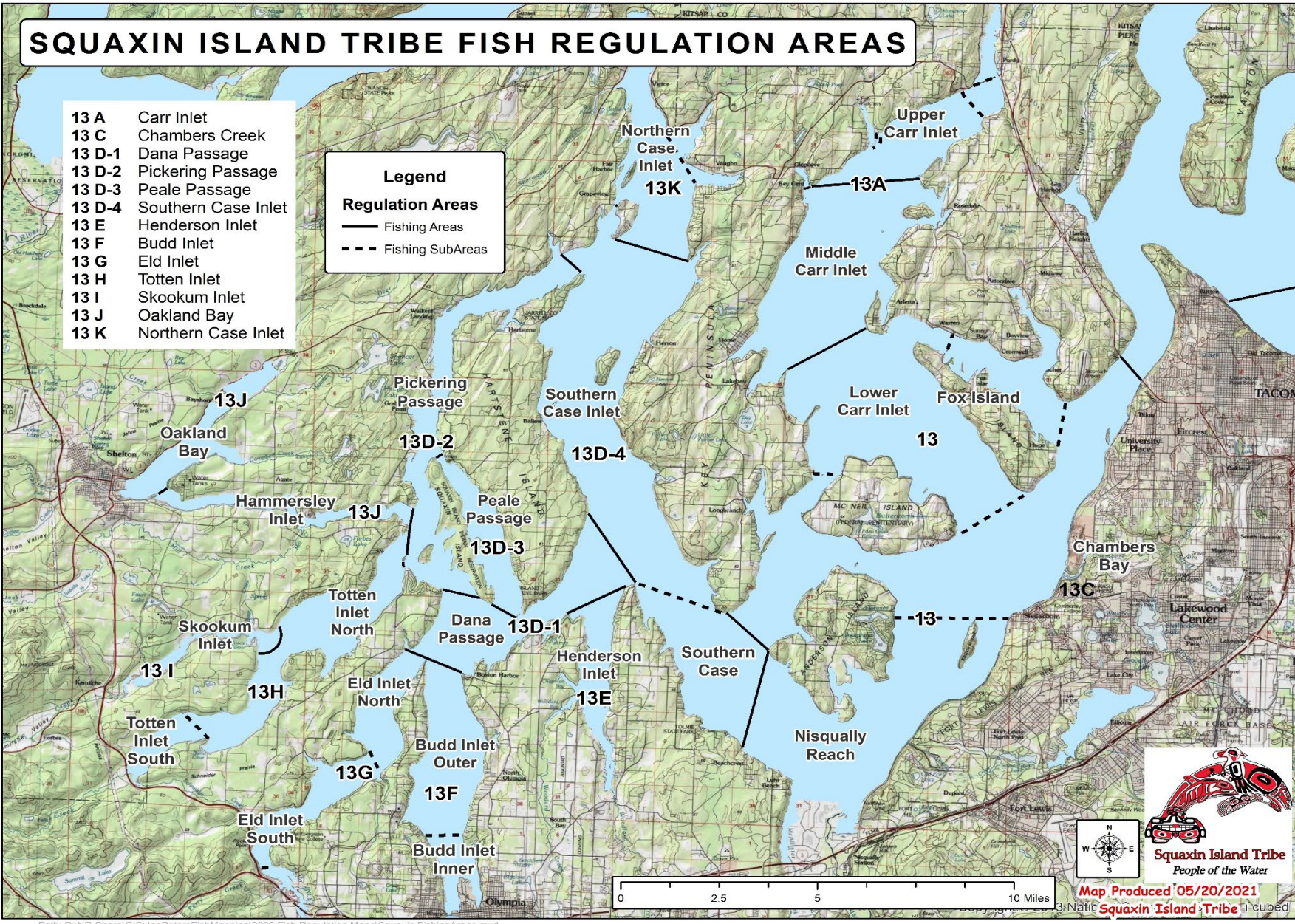
# SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE FISH REGULATION AREAS

- 13 A Carr Inlet
- 13 C Chambers Creek
- 13 D-1 Dana Passage
- 13 D-2 Pickering Passage
- 13 D-3 Peale Passage
- 13 D-4 Southern Case Inlet
- 13 E Henderson Inlet
- 13 F Budd Inlet
- 13 G Eld Inlet
- 13 H Totten Inlet
- 13 I Skookum Inlet
- 13 J Oakland Bay
- 13 K Northern Case Inlet

**Legend**

**Regulation Areas**

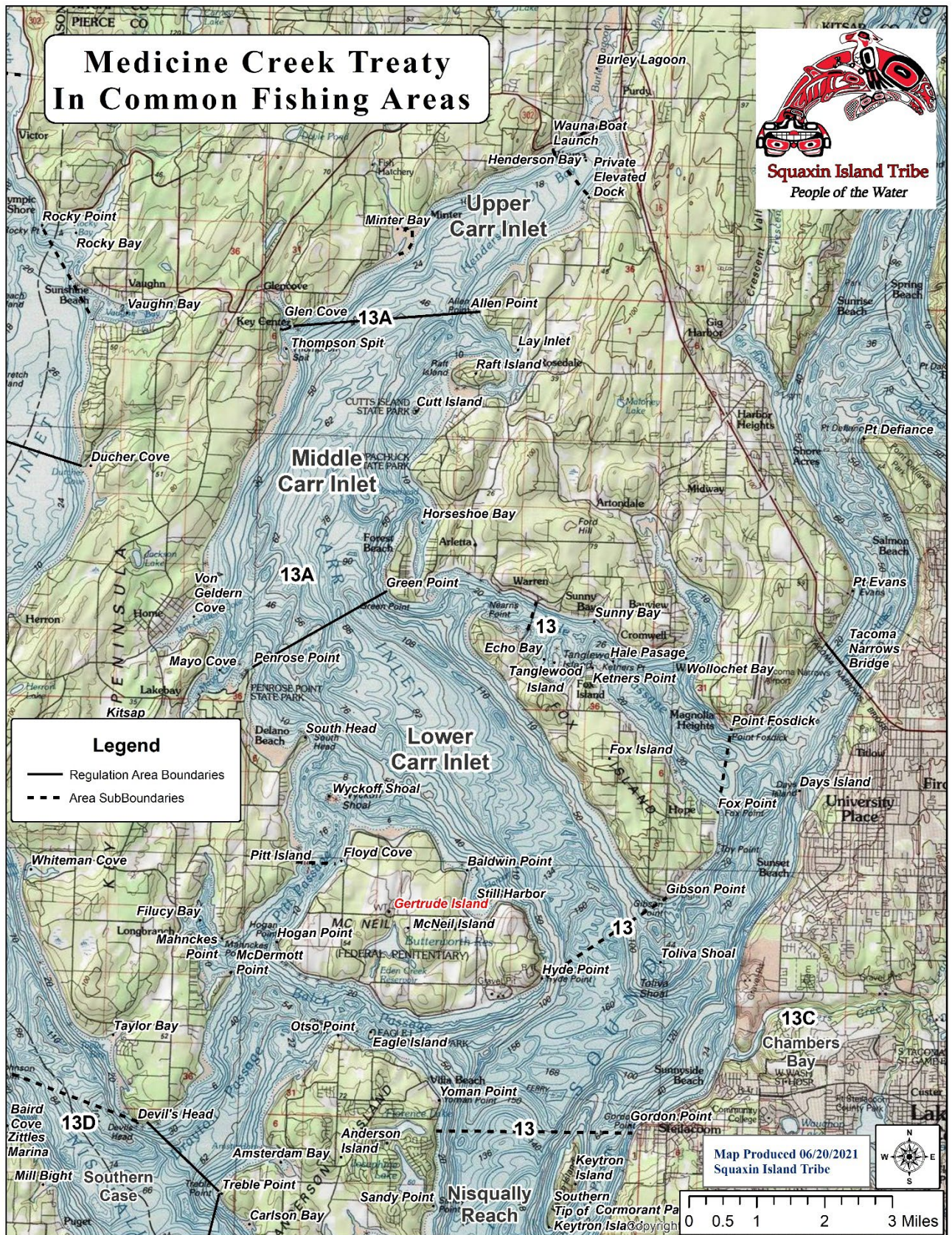
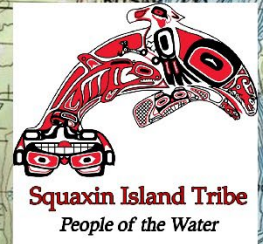
- Fishing Areas
- - - Fishing SubAreas



Map Produced 05/20/2021  
 Squaxin Island Tribe

Path: P:\NR-Share\GIS\JoePetersFishMapping\2020\_Fish Regulation Maps\Squaxin FishingAreas.mxd





# Medicine Creek Treaty In Common Fishing Areas

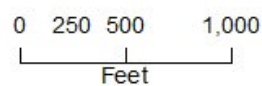




### Minter Creek Mouth Closure Zone - Bouy Coordinates

**Legend**

-  Bouy Locations (installed 7/24/2013)
-  Coastline
-  Mouth of Minter Creek
-  1000' from mouth & outside of oyster stakes Closure Line



map produced 06/01/2020  
Squaxin Island Tribe  
Natural Resources Dept









# Annual Chinook Regs2020

Final Audit Report

2026-06-26

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By:	Melissa Puhn (mpuhn@squaxin.us)
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Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAFWIMpKcR_k0F19W4LcDMkJowerbuoeJm

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