



NOOTKA MARINE ADVENTURES

MOUTCHA BAY
RESORT

NEWTON COVE
RESORT

NOOTKA SOUND
RESORT

Re: DFO Announcement on 4.16.2019

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Area 25/26 will continue to provide exciting fishing for Chinook, Coho, Halibut and Lingcod throughout the 2019 season. Please see below for details and links to important DFO regulations.

CHINOOK SALMON

1. Area 25/26 to remain open to Chinook retention in 2019

With all the work that has been done, in part by our local hatcheries and the Nootka Sound Watershed Society, we will again be experiencing excellent returns for this coming season. West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) has been showing some positive trends for 2019. While we continue to see improvements on Wild Salmon returns in the Northwestern regions of Vancouver Island, hatchery stocks that migrate past our doorstep at our resorts in Nootka Sound and Esperanza remain very strong. Over 195,000 Canadian Hatchery Chinook Salmon are anticipated to return to the WCVI area this summer.

In Nootka Sound and Esperanza, we are anticipating exceptional salmon fishing for this season. With the Northern Troll Fishery closed until August 1, there will be an abundance of migrating salmon traditionally intercepted by this fishery. The department of Fisheries and Oceans have taken special measures for the early season to allow as many of the early migrating Fraser River Chinook to pass through Canadian Coastal waters as possible, opening retention of 2 Chinook per day, July 15 to December 31. This change should provide the necessary support for sustainability of this salmon species.

2. Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet

Inshore Fishery: Area 25-26 Excellent fishing is forecast again for this season with all of the hot spots in this inshore fishery: Beano, Bajo Reef [July 15], Burdwood Pt. Wash Rocks, Maquinna, Escalante, Ferrer, White Rock, Catella, etc. Retention remains status quo at 2 Chinook/day, 4 in possession. *Please refer to updated DFO regulations for all location, size and species.*

Offshore Fishery: Area 125-126 Coho, Halibut and Lingcod will be our main focus for the early part of the season, until Chinook retention becomes status quo with 2/day on July 15th. Our excellent offshore fishery will continue to deliver exciting experiences for our guests which will continue through the day with a Chinook inshore fishery.

The overall 2019 limits of Chinook Salmon in Nootka Sound and Esperanza remain unchanged from 2018: 2 per day/4 in possession, with the only change being the location of where there is Chinook retention.

- [Areas 25/125 Regulations](#)
- [Areas 26/126 Regulations](#)

COHO SALMON

Coho for West Coast Vancouver Island are anticipated to be exceptional and abundant again this season. All predictions indicate that the Coho returns will exceed 2018 numbers.

With over 1,000,000 marked Columbia River fish expected migrating through our waters this season combined with our West Coast Coho returns we should experience a banner Coho season this year.

2019 Limits of Coho remain the same as 2018 - 2 per day/4 possession. Inshore can be wild or hatchery. Offshore can be hatchery only. With the healthy local returns, DFO increased Coho retention in some inshore areas. Refer to regulations before you fish.

HALIBUT

With careful harvesting and management of Halibut we should continue to experience a healthy and exciting fishery for our guests.

An innovative twist to the Halibut regulation system is being activated in Canada's public fishery this year. As an angler you now have the choice; 2 Chickens or 1 Turkey during your multi-day fishing trip.

The 2019 limit is 1 per day. The possession limit depends on the size of the fish; 1 per day and 2 in possession up to 90CM (about 20 pounds) or only 1 per trip if your fish is over 90 cm (20 pounds) but up to 126cm (about 60 pounds).

LINGCOD

The 2019 limit is 2/day and 4 in possession.

ROCKFISH

Rockfish may be abundant with some species however it is important to recognize the delicate life cycle of these fish. Overfishing of some species has created the need for preservation and protection. Please consider using descending devices when returning all rockfish species to the ocean. It will take lifetimes to rebuild this fishery, take every precaution when targeting rockfish.

- [***Fishing for and Protecting Rockfish***](#)

Yellow Eye Rockfish are one of the slowest growing of the rockfish and this year DFO has taken some changes to preserve them. New regulations for this year:

- All Yellow Eye Rockfish must be released.
- All Yellow Eye Rockfish releases MUST BE accomplished with a live release descending device.

Rockfish retention is 3/day and 6 in possession. No Yelloweye or Boccacliao.

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