Skokomish Indian Tribe

Fisheries Department (360) 877-5213

N. 541 Tribal Center Road **Fax (360) 877-5148** **Skokomish Nation, WA 98584**

SKOKOMISH TRIBE'S 2016 ANNUAL BOTTOMFISH REGULATIONS F#16-02

1. Introduction and Species

These regulations shall apply to all commercial fisheries for members of the Skokomish Indian Tribe. The species covered by this regulation shall include walleye pollock, Pacific cod and tomcod, whiting, flounders, dabs, soles (excluding Pacific halibut), greenlings (including lingcod), ratfish, sablefish, cabezon, spiny dogfish, smelt, surf perches, and all species of shark and rockfish. No other species may be fished unless authorize by a Tribal regulation.

2. Management Periods and Areas

These regulations shall be in effect from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017. All fisheries are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, unless specified in this or in an emergency regulation. Marine Fish and Shellfish Areas 27C, 27B, 27A and 25C (except Port Gamble Bay) are open for fishing.

3. Lawful Commercial Gear

a. Set lines: Maximum of 500 hooks per skate with a vessel maximum of 3,000 hooks total.
b. Bottomfish troll: Maximum of two lines per boat and a maximum of four spreads per line. The topspread must be less than 24 feet from the end of the line.
c. Bottomfish set/drift gillnets: Maximum length of 165 fathoms with a minimum mesh of five inches. Thread size must be no smaller than #12.
d. Bottomfish pots: One side of the pot must be made of cotton fiber or a vertical wall must be attached with cotton hangings.
e. Handlines and bottomfish jigs.
f. Hand held dipnets: Three foot maximum diameter.
g. Ringnet: Six foot maximum diameter.
h. Rake.
i. Beach seines: Maximum length of 165 fathoms with a minimum mesh of 5 inches. Thread size must be no smaller than #12. Only multifilament thread is allowed.

4. Lawful Subsistence Gear

a. Hand lines.
b. Bottomfish jigs: Maximum of two hooks per line and two lines per fisher.
c. Baitfish jigs: Maximum of three treble hooks or 9 single hooks.
d. Hand held dipnets: Maximum of three foot diameter.
e. Rake.

5. Special Restrictions on Gear

a. Beach seines may not be used between May 1 and August 31.
b. Beach seines may not be used for surf perch capture between May 1 and September 30.
c. Set nets to capture dogfish may not exceed four nets used at one time.
d. Set nets may not be used in 25C west of a line from Twin Spits to the Pope and Talbot stack.
e. Jig gear and bottomfish pots may be used from December 1 through April 30.

6. Special Restriction on Species Commercially Harvested

a. All halibut, salmon, pacific cod, sturgeon and trout captured incidentally while fishing for any species listed in Section 1 must be released unharmed unless their retention is authorized by a Tribal regulation.
b. All starry flounder measuring less than 14 inches and all English sole measuring less than 12 inches must be released unharmed.
c. Smelt fishing prohibited in Area 27B from May 1 to September 30.
d. Lingcod may not be commercially harvested at any time in Areas 25C, 27A and 27B and incidental caught lingcod must be released unharmed.
e. Lingcod measuring less than 24 inches or greater than 40 inches must be released unharmed.

7. Subsistence Fisheries

All subsistence fishers must have a subsistence card with them while fishing. All cards must be returned to the Skokomish Tribe Department of Natural Resources by the expiration date and must be returned before a new card will be distributed.

The following restrictions on subsistence fishers are subject to the following daily limits.

a. 15 fish per day with no more than 5 rockfish and/or 1 lingcod, 2 cabezon, and/or 10 surf perches, pacific cod or walleye Pollock included. Lingcod can only be harvested May 1 to September 30.
b. Lingcod may not be retained if less than 24" or greater than 40".
c. Smelt, sardines, and anchovies have a bag limit of 20 lbs. combined.

8. Authority

These regulations are promulgated by the Skokomish Fish Committee and adopted by the Skokomish Tribal Council under authority of the Skokomish On-Reservation Treaty Fishing Ordinance section 7.02.025. Emergency regulations may at any time modify the regulations promulgated herein.

Cynthia Gray
Finfish Program Manager

"I certify that copies of this document were mailed pre-paid on 3-22-16 to all persons required by the Federal District Court's Order of March 1 1976.
Signed Elena R Miller
Title Admin. Asst.

N. 541 Tribal Center Road Skokomish Nation, WA 98584 FAX (360)877-5148