



Skokomish Indian Tribe
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SKOKOMISH TRIBE
2024 ANNUAL INTERTIDAL CLAM AND OYSTER REGULATION
S#24-02

The following Regulations are promulgated by the Skokomish Indian Tribe and shall govern the conduct of commercial and subsistence fisheries for clams, oysters and mussels in the Skokomish Tribe's usual and accustomed marine fishing areas by members of the Skokomish Indian Tribe from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025. Ceremonial clam and oyster fisheries shall be conducted under the provisions of the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance. All areas not specifically opened by these Regulations shall remain closed to the harvest of clams, oysters and mussels. Only gear and methods specifically authorized by these Regulations may be legally used. Tribal members must be in possession of a valid Tribal Fishing Identification Card any time a fisher exercises shellfishing rights.

1. SPECIES

- A. Clams: native littleneck (*Leukoma staminea*), Manila (*Venerupis philippinarum*), butter (*Saxidomus giganteus*), horse (*Tresus spp.*), cockle (*Clinocardium nuttallii*), intertidal geoduck (*Panopea abrupta*), softshell (*Mya arenaria*), macoma (*Macoma spp.*), varnish (*Nuttallia obscurata*) and piddocks.
- B. Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) and native Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*)
- C. Mussels (*Mytilus spp.*)

2. AREAS

Shellfish Catch recording areas 27A, 27B, 27C, and 25C including both public and private tidelands.

3. MANAGEMENT PERIOD

February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025

4. LEGAL GEAR

Clams: Hand held fork, rake, and shovel
Oysters: Hand held prying tool

5. FISHERIES OPENINGS

A. Commercial Openings

Commercial clam and oyster harvest shall be managed for specific beach openings by emergency regulations. Tribal shellfish harvesters are responsible for knowing the current applicable regulations. Information on specific openings and closures shall be

available at the Skokomish Natural Resources office bulletin board and on the Tribe's web site.

B. Subsistence Openings

Subsistence clam, oyster, and mussel fisheries shall be closed on all private tidelands unless opened by emergency regulation. Subsistence clam, oyster and mussel fisheries shall be open on all public tidelands beginning February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

6. OTHER RESTRICTIONS

A. Emergency Health Closures

All beaches are subject to emergency closure for clam, oyster, and mussel harvest because of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) risk, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vibrio) and high levels of fecal coliform. Before harvesting any clams, oysters or mussels from any beach, fishers shall determine whether any closures are in effect due to high levels of PSP, *Vibrio* or from high levels of fecal coliform by contacting the Natural Resources office or the Washington Department of Health. Information about beach closures is also available at the Washington Department of Health Website: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/maps/biotoxin/biotoxin.html>

B. Bag Limits

Subsistence fishery daily bag limits per fisher:

- 1) Littleneck, Manila, butter, and softshell: 40 pounds combined with no more than 25 pounds of manila and littleneck clams combined.
 - 2) Horse clams: 10 clams
 - 3) Intertidal geoduck: 6 clams
 - 4) Cockles: 20 pounds
 - 5) Mussels: 20 pounds
 - 6) Oysters: 120 oysters
 - 7) Varnish: No limit - invasive
- Subsistence beaches are subject to closure due to the quota-based management system of intertidal shellfish. A current list of closed beaches will be maintained and posted at the Natural Resources building.
 - Olympia oysters must be listed separately from Pacific oysters on subsistence cards.

C. Clam Harvest Restrictions

- 1) No clams smaller than 1 ½ (38mm) inches shall be harvested in either commercial or subsistence fisheries on public tidelands. No clams smaller than 20mm shall be harvested on private tidelands.
- 2) Backfilling: all holes made during clam digging must be backfilled prior to digging at another location.
- 3) Clams may not be piled on the ground during harvest and must be placed directly into a container (e.g., a bucket) during harvest.

D. Oyster Harvest Restrictions

- 1) Only single oysters equal to or greater than 3 inches (76mm) in length may be harvested in commercial oyster fisheries south of Ayock Point on public tidelands with a 80-dozen limit and no long-lining. This size restriction shall not apply to commercial cluster oyster fisheries. Only single oysters equal to or greater than 2 ½ inches may be harvested on private tidelands.
- 2) Oysters harvested from beaches north of Ayock Point must be equal to or greater than 2 ½ inches (63mm) in length with and no long-lining.
- 3) Oyster harvesters south of Ayock Point must leave commercial harvest beaches when their limit has been reached; they may not remain on beach.
- 4) Oyster harvesters must pick their own limit and may not assist other harvesters.
- 5) During the months of *Vibrio* (i.e., May, June, July, August, and September), all active harvesters must have passed the current year's *Vibrio* harvester exam provided at the Skokomish Natural Resources office, and have the appropriate sticker on the back of their Tribal identification card. Failure to comply with any of the stipulated protocols will result in the loss of commercial oyster harvesting privileges during the listed months of concern as follows:
 - a) The first citation will result in an official warning from the Department of Natural Resources.
 - b) The second citation will result in the loss of harvesting privileges during the next full tidal series.
 - c) The third citation will result in the loss of commercial harvesting privileges for the remainder of the listed months of concern (through September 30th) or until Fish Committee rules otherwise.

E. Labeling

A label must be affixed to each bag of commercially harvested clams or oysters prior to leaving the beach (harvester number). Labels are available at the Skokomish Natural Resources office. In the event that multiple beaches are opened congruently product cannot be comingled and must be labeled individually. The labels will be issued only in person to currently licensed Skokomish Tribal fishers. Each label shall include the following information:

Skokomish Tribe

Tag sequence number

Skokomish Tribe Certification Number WA-0577-HA(**)

Harvester name and Tribal identification number

Harvest date or retrieval date

Department of Health shellfish growing area

BIDN or private tideland parcel number and name

Shellfish type

Quantity

Must state "Product of USA: all shellfish from certified harvest sites located within US boundaries and grown in US waters."

****This certification number is valid only for the harvest and transport of clams and oysters by Skokomish Tribal members participating in commercial fisheries governed by emergency regulations.**

In the event the shellfish will be immediately sold and possession transferred to a licensed Shellstock Shipper at the harvest site the harvester may use the purchasing Shellstock Shipper's labels provided that:

1. Shellfish labels meet the requirements found in the National Shellfish Sanitation Model Ordinance, Section .05, Shellstock Identification
2. Shellfish labels contain the Skokomish Tribe's certification number (WA-0577-HA) as the original harvester
3. Shellfish labels contain the original harvester's identification number

****Product retrieved from a long-line must be re-labeled with a tag that lists the retrieval date as the harvest date. The original tag from the date of harvest must not be removed from the bag.**

7. COMMERCIAL CATCH REPORTING

All commercial catches must be reported on Treaty Indian Fish Receiving Tickets as specified in The Skokomish Tribe On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance. The beach region and beach identification number (BIDN) must be recorded on the Treaty Indian Fish Receiving Ticket at the time of sale. Product harvested during congruent beach openers must be itemized separately on fish tickets. Commercial catch must also be reported to the harvest monitor before leaving the beach. In the event the Natural Resources number is non-operational and a staff member cannot be reached, catch may be reported to the administrative assistant via phone at (360) 877-5213. Failure to report harvest will result in a \$25 fine issued by the Department of Natural Resources. Harvesters may not group or sell commercial catch on one fish ticket. Each harvester must sell their own product independently with the exception of minors and non-Skokomish tribal spouses, who must sell under their spouses' or parent/guardian's name.

8. SUBSISTENCE CATCH REPORTING

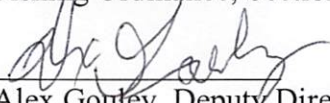
All subsistence catches must be recorded on shellfish subsistence cards prior to transport of shellfish from the beach. Tribal subsistence harvest reporting cards shall be issued by the Skokomish Natural Resources Office and must be returned to the office before another card will be issued. Subsistence cards are due the Monday following issuance of the card.

9. EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

The above regulations may be amended at any time by emergency regulations. Prior to harvest, each fisher shall check with the Skokomish Natural Resources office for emergency regulation changes.

10. AUTHORITY

These regulations are promulgated by the Skokomish Fish Committee and adopted by the Skokomish Tribal Council under authority of the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance, Section 7.02.025.

 1/30/24

Alex Goufey, Deputy Director
Skokomish DNR