

YAKAMA NATION SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES
Fishing Regulations for 2026
T- 056-026

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Unless otherwise specified, the following provisions shall apply to all waters running through or bordering the Yakama Reservation and at the usual and accustomed fishing areas described in Part II of these regulations.
- B. These provisions apply only to the harvesting of salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon for traditional, non-commercial subsistence use. However, the Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize commercial fishing periods. Commercial fishing regulations will be issued before each commercial fishing period.
- C. It shall be unlawful to:
1. Fish on Sundays.
 2. Engage in treaty fishing when fishing rights have been suspended by the Yakama Nation Tribal Court.
 3. Engage in treaty fishing without having a valid Yakama Nation Enrollment Card in possession.
 4. Place fishing platforms, or take, injure, molest, or fish for salmon or steelhead within 25 feet of the entrance or exit of any fish ladder, fishway, fish bypass pipes, or fish screens.
 5. Construct a fishing platform or actively fish within 25 feet of an existing platform unless the owner of such platform has agreed otherwise.
 6. Fish from boats or other floating devices at any place other than the waters of the Columbia River, except by permit from the Fish and Wildlife Committee.
 7. Fish for salmon, steelhead, or sturgeon with any fishing gear other than dip nets, hoop nets, setbag nets, or rod and reel with bait or lures. Any other method, **such as snagging fish**, is expressly prohibited.
 8. Fish with more than two fishing gears at the same time, unless specifically authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Committee.
 9. Fail to attend to fishing gear or care for the catch in a reasonable manner to avoid spoilage of fish caught.
 10. Engage in subsistence fishing except during such seasons as prescribed below, provided the Fish and Wildlife Committee has given 48-hour notice of any emergency closure or modification of such seasons.

D. Special provisions for the Columbia River:

1. It shall be unlawful to fish in waters of the Columbia River closed to subsistence fishing under the Revised Law and Order Code of 2017, Section 32.16.03, except as may be modified by the Fish and Wildlife Committee.
2. It shall be unlawful to fish with hoops exceeding 26 feet in circumference.
3. It shall be unlawful to set in position more than three nets on any one platform at any one time.
4. It shall be unlawful to place Fishing Pole Holders closer than 10 feet except with permission, and ALL Pole Holders must be removed daily with NO Spot Saving for H&L Gear.
5. It shall be unlawful to retain sturgeon less than 38 inches or greater than 54 inches in fork length in Bonneville Pool, and less than 43 inches or greater than 54 inches in fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools.
6. Fishing with hoop nets suspended from buoys, commonly referred to as “buoy sets” on the Columbia River, will be allowed for up to 3 hoop nets per buoy set in the Columbia River outside of standard gillnet sanctuaries at river mouths and standard platform sanctuaries at Dams.
7. It shall be unlawful to fish buoy sets within 50 feet of existing hoopnet or setbag net gear or within 400 feet of gillnets without permission.
8. It shall be unlawful to fish buoy sets outside of the Columbia River.

II. SPECIFIC ANNUAL PROVISIONS

A. Yakima River

1. Fishing is allowed from the **BNRR Bridge 500 feet below Roza Dam** downstream to **one mile below Horn Rapids Dam**. **Fishing is CLOSED from the Yakima Ave, Terrace Heights Bridge upstream to a marker 400 feet.**
2. Subsistence fishing will be allowed according to the following schedule:
 - a. Fishing is allowed from **noon Tuesday to 6 pm Saturday** each week from **April 07 to June 27**.
 - b. **AND** fishing is allowed from **6 am Tuesday to 6 pm Saturday** each week from **September 2 to November 28**.

3. At times of the year other than the spring and fall seasons, Subsistence fishing in the Yakama River, where it borders the Yakama Reservation, using dipnets, setbag nets, and hook and line, will be allowed year-round, **except for Sunday closures**.
4. Satus Creek and its tributaries, Toppenish Creek and its tributaries, and Ahtanum Creek and its tributaries are closed for salmon and steelhead fishing. However, fishing for trout is allowed above known barrier falls (Satus Falls, Dry Creek Falls, and Logy Falls), and additionally, fishing for trout between 9 inches and 20 inches is allowed from June 1 to November 30. Fishing for bull trout is not allowed at any time.
5. Fishing for sockeye is not allowed at any time.
6. The Fish and Wildlife Committee will explore options to allow fishing from boats or other floating devices on the Yakama River.

B. Klickitat River

1. Fishing in the Klickitat River is allowed from the confluence of the Big Muddy Creek with the Klickitat River downstream to the river mouth, except that fishing is not allowed inside the posted signs for the Klickitat Hatchery.
2. Subsistence fishing in the Klickitat River fishing area will be allowed according to the following schedule:
 - a. Fishing is allowed from **noon on Wednesday to 6 pm Saturday** each week from **April 1 to May 30**.
 - b. Subsistence fishing will resume on a weekly schedule of **Noon Tuesday to 6 pm Saturday**, not later than **July 1** or sooner if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, the spring Chinook escapement to Klickitat Hatchery is assured. Subsistence fishing will continue on the same weekly schedule through **December 26**.
 - c. The Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead taken in the Klickitat River.
3. Sturgeon between 38 inches and 54 inches in fork length may be retained for subsistence.
4. The Klickitat Falls Fishing Area will be closed annually on the last Saturday of December to all fishing activity. All personal property must be removed no later than January 31. Failure to remove personal property will result in its removal and disposal after February 15.

C. Icicle River

1. Fishing in the Icicle River is allowed where it borders the property of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Fish Hatchery at Leavenworth.

2. Due to inconsistent returns to Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, subsistence fishing, both hook and line and dipnet, will not be set for 2026.
 - a. Subsistence fishing opportunity will be assessed throughout the season, and a fishery may be scheduled if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, there are Spring Chinook surplus to production needs.
 - b. Additionally, fishing may be allowed in late September to early December, if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, there are enough Coho surplus to production needs.
3. Special Gear Restriction for the Icicle River: Legal fishing gears for salmon and steelhead are dipnets, setbag nets, or rod and reel with bait or lures having single hooks only. **Double or treble hooks are prohibited. Any other fishing methods, such as snagging of fish, are unlawful.**
4. The Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead taken in the Icicle River.

D. Wind River

1. Fishing in the Lower Wind River Area is allowed from the bubble area at the river mouth to a marker 100 feet downstream of Shipperd Falls. Fishing in the Upper Wind River Area is allowed from 200 feet above Shipperd Falls upstream to a marker **25** feet below the outlet stream for Carson National Fish Hatchery.
2. Subsistence fishing with dipnets, setbag nets, or hook and line will be allowed according to the following schedule:
 - a. Fishing in the Lower Wind River Area below Shipperd Falls is allowed from **noon Tuesdays through 6 pm Saturdays** weekly from **March 10 to June 27**.
 - b. Fishing in the Upper Wind River Area above Shipperd Falls is allowed from **noon Wednesdays through 6 pm Saturday** weekly from **April 8 to June 27**.
 - c. The Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead taken in the Wind River.
3. Sturgeon between 38 inches and 54 inches in fork length may be retained for subsistence.

E. Ringold Ponds

Currently, there is no spring chinook production at Ringold Fish Hatchery. Therefore, season regulations are not adopted at this time. However, consideration is being given to restarting the spring chinook program at this site, and fishing opportunities may be available in the future.

F. Little White Salmon River (Drano Lake)

Due to uncertain returns to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery and the Carson National Fish Hatchery, subsistence fishing will not be set for 2026.

1. Subsistence fishing opportunity will be assessed throughout the season, and a fishery may be scheduled if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, there are Spring Chinook surplus to production needs. If a fishery is set, fishing will occur by **Permit Only** from **9 pm Tuesdays to 9 am Wednesdays**.
2. Additionally, fishing may be allowed in October if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, there are enough fall chinook surplus to production needs. If a fishery is set, fishing will occur by Permit only from **7 pm Tuesdays to 9 am Wednesdays**, and a notice will be posted to contact the Tribal Council Office to put your name in for lottery drawings. Eligible entries for the Lottery will be limited to Yakama Nation Enrolled Members at least 18 years of age who have not had their fishing rights suspended by the Yakama Nation Tribal Court.
3. The Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead taken in the Little White Salmon River.
4. Subsistence fishing with dipnets, setbag nets, or hook and line in Drano Lake **will be closed Until Further Notice in 2026**. Fishing using these gears may be authorized if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, enough surplus fish are available.
5. A Yakama Nation Parking Pass is required to be displayed during treaty fishing in Drano Lake.
6. Sturgeon between 38 inches and 54 inches in fork length may be retained for subsistence.

G. White Salmon River

Due to the removal of Condit Dam and the resulting changes and instability in sediment movement, and the unknown short-term effects on fish populations, season regulations are not adopted at this time.

H. Willamette River

The Fish and Wildlife Committee will evaluate fishing opportunities at usual and accustomed fishing places on the Willamette River, and season regulations may be adopted as the season progresses.

1. Fishing for Lamprey will be allowed by **Permit Only** from 5 am Fridays through 6 pm Mondays during June and July 2026.
2. Subsistence fishing for lamprey in the Willamette River may be conducted in the vicinity of Willamette Falls east of a boundary marker near the apex of the falls horseshoe. The apex and west side of the Falls, including fishway ladder entrances, are specifically closed to protect the *passage of salmon and steelhead*.

3. Lamprey may be collected using traditional methods, including hand, small-mesh dipnets, and gaffing hooks. All such gear must be attended to at all times. Any other methods are prohibited.

I. Wenatchee River

1. Fishing is allowed in the waters of the Wenatchee River within one mile of Dryden Dam, except that fishing is not allowed within 25 feet of the entrance of any fishway.
2. Subsistence fishing in the Wenatchee River fishing area is allowed from **6 am Tuesday to 6 pm Saturday, weekly from July 1 to August 29.**
3. Special Gear Restriction for the Wenatchee River: Legal fishing gears for salmon and steelhead are dipnets, setbag nets, or rod and reel with bait or lures having single hooks only. **Double or treble hooks are prohibited. Any other fishing methods, such as snagging of fish, are unlawful.**
4. The Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead taken in the Wenatchee River.

J. Cowlitz River

1. Fishing for Smelt (Eulachon) is allowed by **Permit Only** on the Cowlitz River. Permits may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Committee.
2. Subsistence fishing in the Cowlitz River is allowed daily except for Sunday closures during February and March 2026.
3. Smelt may be collected using handheld, small-mesh dipnets fished from shore. Gear must be attended to at all times. Any other methods are prohibited.

K. Columbia River

1. Subsistence fishing is allowed year-round, **except for Sunday closures**, in the waters of the Columbia River. However, the Fish and Wildlife Committee may, from time to time, authorize the commercial sale of fish taken with the subsistence gears in Part I, sections C and D of the Columbia River.
2. It shall be lawful to fish with up to six (6) fishing rods until June 15, 2026. On June 16, the standard subsistence limit of two (2) rods per person takes effect.
3. Due to possible high catch rates, **fishing will be closed through June 15** in the Yakama Nation fishery from the banks of the Columbia River in the area bounded by a deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse No. 1) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island, to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock up the river to a point 600 feet

below the Bonneville dam, but excluding the following four areas: (1) between markers located 150 feet upstream and 450 feet downstream from the mouth of Tanner Creek out to the center of the Columbia River, during the period August 16 to October 15; (2) Inside the south navigation lock at the Bonneville Dam from a marker on the western-most point of Robins Island to a marker on the Oregon mainland shore; (3) From Bradford Island below Bonneville Dam from the south shore between the dam and a line perpendicular to the shoreline marker at west end of riprap and from north shore between fishway entrance and a line perpendicular to the shoreline marker 850 feet downstream; and (4) From Robins Island below Bonneville Dam downstream to a line perpendicular to the shoreline marker on mooring cell.

4. In the geographical area specified in K.3., fishing opportunities will be reevaluated and may open before June 16, if, in the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Committee, enough fish are available.
5. Additionally, in the geographical area specified in K.3., which does not include Hamilton Creek, fishing with dip nets or setbag nets from Platforms and **ONE** (1) rod per person is allowed from 5 am to 10 pm daily from June 16 through October 31, except Sunday closures remain in effect.