



THE CHINOOK ARE COMING, THE CHINOOK ARE COMING!!

This informational flyer is intended to alert users of the Port of Bremerton facilities of the anticipated Chinook salmon return to our Port Orchard/Sinclair Inlet waters. Fisheries Managers are expecting a return of 18,000 harvestable Chinook in 2020. The recreational Sport fishery opens to the public on July 1st (Remember to consult the current Sport Fishing Rules 2020/2021 pamphlet for the most current rules and regulations).

The Suquamish Tribe, in cooperation with the Port of Bremerton, wishes to inform all marina residents, visitors and waterway users to anticipate commercial net fishers exercising their reserved right to fish in and around the waters of Pt Orchard & Sinclair Inlet. Treaty commercial fishing will begin on Sunday, July 19th and could continue through September, with the most active period occurring during the month of August. Nets are most often fished during the night-time hours and so boaters should be alert for nets strung along the surface of the water with small white corks and flanked by larger, often orange to red-colored floating buoys. Please exercise caution when navigating our local area waters during these months.

Between 5 and 20 boats are expected to participate in daily fishing activities, although there may be additional set-nets anchored in-water. The majority of Tribal fishing activities will be concentrated between Port Orchard and the Bremerton ferry dock. At night, a red over white light signifies an active commercial fishing vessel. To avoid nets, it is recommended you steer towards the fishing vessel who will assist in directing you around any nets. Spotting the small floating white corks of a net can be difficult even in good visibility; SLOW DOWN is also good advice. Net replacement can be expensive and boaters may be “on the hook” for any damage caused to an actively fishing tribal net or boat.

The Suquamish Tribe appreciates your understanding and assistance with helping to make our shared waterways as safe and friendly as possible.

Also, for those who are interested, freshly caught salmon may be for sale at the Pt Orchard public boat launch daily (times may vary). Prices and quality depend on the individual fisher and availability depends on Mother Nature.

If you would like more information regarding Sinclair salmon fishing, please call the Suquamish Fisheries office @ (360) 394-8445.

Happy fishing and boating to all!

