

2026 ANGLER BROODSTOCK COLLECTION LIVE CAPTURE EVENT – RULES

PARTICIPATION: All participants **MUST** have a CCA membership valid through at least the end of this year and must complete and submit a CCA hold harmless form.

- ***Boat registrations MUST be completed by noon, Oct. 16th!*** (<https://Seattle2026.givesmart.com>)
- ***Boat Captains MUST sign and carry a WDFW participant permit at all times during participation***
- ***There is no limit on the number of participants for each boat***
- ***Unless otherwise stated in these rules, all WDFW rules are in effect***

DATES/TIME: The Angler Broodstock Collection (ABC) event will take place on October 23 - 24. Fish collection trucks will be available at designated locations by 7:00 a.m. each day. To minimize fish holding time, **we recommend that you do not start fishing before 6:45am.**

Launch Locations

Vernita and Wahluke (White Bluffs) boat launches.

Collection Stations & Times

	10/23	10/24
↖ Vernita	7:00am-4pm	7:00am-4pm
↖ Wahluke (White Bluffs)	7:00am-4pm	7:00am-4pm
↖ Punch Bowl	7:00am-3:30pm	7:00am-3:30pm
↖ Shuttle Boats	7:15am-3:30pm	7:15am-3:30pm

No fish will be accepted before or after the collection time each day.

*Additional collection site may be established. If so, Participants will be notified of any additional fish collection locations.

*DAILY CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

All **boats** are required to keep a tally of incidental catch (fish not eligible for broodstock collection) and report to a WDFW representative if asked. There are no other check-in/check-out requirements.

BOUNDARIES: Boundaries are the Columbia River from Old Hanford Townsite Powerline crossing upstream to the bottom of Vernita Bar below Priest Rapids Dam. Any fish taken outside event boundaries, from private impoundments or other waters not legally accessible to the public, will not be eligible for entry. A mid-river buoy will be in place at the bottom of Vernita Bar to help participants identify the upper boundary. A map showing approximate upriver and downriver boundaries (red lines) is provided here:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/embed?mid=1v0vjNN0w_6E6lvrEjCxVxTdUN60&ll=46.66467691019227%2C-119.62741435051424&z=11

FISH AND FISHING METHOD: Participants must comply with all applicable laws, regulations and sport fishing rules governing the recreational catch of salmon within the specified boundaries, except as amended in these ABC event rules.

FISH HANDLING: Prior to landing a fish, be sure to fill your live well / ice chest with fresh river water. Ice chests with recirculating aerators should be emptied and refilled every two hours or after each live fish transport. If using an aerator in your ice chest, be sure the flow nozzle is **ABOVE** the water line so that air bubbles are created when it is running. Live wells with an automatic water refresh feature should be turned on when a fish is hooked and only switched to recirculation when motoring to the collection location. Take care in handling the fish and keep them in the water to the greatest extent possible. After landing a fish, place the fish into the live well / ice chest. It is ok to use a standard landing net to get the fish aboard the boat, but they should be immediately transferred to your live well / ice chest. The recommended method for hand carrying a fish is to firmly wrap one hand around the fish just in front of the tail while cradling the fish with your other hand just behind the pectoral fins and gently lifting the fish up.

2025 ANGLER BROODSTOCK COLLECTION EVENT – RULES

Never put your fingers in or near the fish's gills or gill plate. At shore collection sites, a WDFW staff or volunteer will come to your boat with a handling net. Do not attempt to remove fish from your live well / ice chest until instructed to do so. In the event there is a delay in transfer, keep the fish healthy by adding fresh water to the live well / ice chest. For shuttle boat transfers, the shuttle boat will offer their net, or if your fish is already in your net, you may use it to transfer the fish to the shuttle holding tank.

If fishing between Coyote Rapids and Vernita Bar, a shuttle boat may assist with the transport of your fish to the collection site. When the shuttle boat approaches, signal with the flag provided in your captain's bag. If a shuttle has not arrived within 15 to 20 minutes of landing a fish, or you have three (3) fish on board, you should proceed to the nearest collection site. Shuttles should have fenders deployed. It is your responsibility to protect your own boat and equipment when transferring fish with a shuttle. Deploy fenders and stow gear as needed to safely interact with the shuttle boats. GCPUD, WDFW, and private vessels are not responsible for any and all damages incurred as the result of using the shuttle service.

Vernita Shuttles – Shuttles will typically run upstream from Vernita launch to Vernita Bar and collect fish on the downstream return to the Vernita launch. Signal the shuttle boat with your flag. The shuttle will slow and point upstream. Point your boat upstream and wait for the shuttle boat to match your speed and location.

Punchbowl & White Bluffs Shuttles – Unless otherwise notified, no shuttle boats will be assisting anglers at White Bluffs and the Punch Bowl. If shuttle boats/crew are available, the information will be posted at the launch site.

TRANSPORTING FISH: All boats participating in the ABC event must carry a signed WDFW Collection Permit. A means of transporting the live salmon is required for participation. (Portable pumps suitable for connection to a participant-provided 12 Volt power source will be provided upon request.) No fish may be retained (harvested) and fish not intended for live capture must be immediately released. Anglers must have a live well or ice chest capable of transporting live adult Chinook. Ice chest / live well should be a minimum of 36" in length by 12" in width and 15" in depth (120qt). Recommended minimum is 40"x15"x17".

ELIGIBLE FISH: Only live pre-spawned adult Chinook over 24" in good condition with an intact adipose fin are eligible for collection. Non-qualified fish (hatchery, post spawn, or Jack) are not eligible and must be released.

IMPORTANT – Because the goal of the ABC event is to provide live healthy fish to the hatchery program, participants observed by WDFW staff or volunteers who repeatedly present dead or unresponsive fish to shuttles or collection points may have their collection permits revoked.

DISCLAIMER: The entire responsibility for valid member status and correctness of their ABC event entry rests solely on the entrant. The ABC event committee reserves the right to change rules.

QUESTIONS: If you have any rules questions prior to the start of the ABC event, please contact Don McBride (CCA) at 509-554-9202

2026 ANGLER BROODSTOCK COLLECTION EVENT – WHAT TO EXPECT

Thank you for your help to collect healthy, wild brood stock in a partnership between CCA, WDFW, and Grant PUD! The goal of this event is to collect wild, healthy, and viable brood stock for Grant PUD hatchery production to improve the fitness of our Hanford Reach salmon stocks following principles, standards, and recommendations of fisheries managers. The event rules and structure have been tailored to maximize healthy brood stock collection and minimize mortality of fish that would otherwise be utilized in the hatchery or spawn in the Reach. Without angler participation this event could not happen. Thank you again! Have fun. Stay Safe. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact us.

Pre-registration

- All boat captains **MUST** pre-register by October 16th with the CCA. Entry is limited to 60 boats
- There is no limit on the number of participants per boat for the duration of the event.
- After registration with CCA, boat captains will receive an email confirming registration
 - You will be given instructions and links to complete CCA documentation
 - Boat captains will receive a fish transport permit which must be signed and kept on board at all times while fishing in the event
- Please review the rules and note with emphasis on fish handling
- All participants must sign a CCA “Release, Hold Harmless, and Agreement Not to Sue” and participants under 18 years old require guardian signature.

Daily Protocol

- All **boats** are required to keep a tally of incidental catch (fish not eligible for broodstock collection) and report to a WDFW representative if asked. There are no other check-in/check-out requirements.
- Loaner aerator pumps will be available each day if needed. You will need a 12V battery or power supply to power the aerator. The aerators use clamp connections. You may pick up an aerator during a CCA meeting, or at the Vernita or White Bluffs launch. Please return the pump when you have completed fishing the event.
- To minimize fish holding time, we recommend that participants **do not fish earlier than 6:45 am**. Fish collection on shore begins at 7:00 am each day with shuttle boats collecting by 7:15 am.

Boat captains will receive:

- Set of official rules, definitions of qualifying fish, and guidelines for handling fish
- Shuttle boat signaling flag

Facilities

- Primitive camping is currently available at Vernita, Jackson Creek Fish Camp, and Ringold Springs Fish Hatchery Access area
 - **Camping is not allowed at White Bluffs**
- Port-a-potties are available at Vernita and White Bluffs launch locations
- Rest-stop at MP-43 on Highway 24 with water, rest rooms, and RV dump station
- Unless otherwise amended by regulation at the time of the event, propane fire pits are allowed
- **No wood fires are allowed on WDFW lands and access areas including Vernita and Ringold Springs. Violators are subject to criminal fines!**

Questions - Should you have questions regarding event participation or volunteering, feel free to contact CCA Tri-Cities ABC Committee:

- On-Line - <https://www.facebook.com/share/1H8iGDHoSk/>
- Phone or Text - 509-554-9402
- E-mail – don.mcbride@live.com