

Fishing Guide Advisory Group Draft Charter September 2019

Introduction

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) formed the Fishing Guide Advisory Group in 2019 to engage guides from throughout Washington State, increase communication and transparency in management, and get feedback on critical fisheries management decisions that have impacts on the industry. One of the group's first tasks will be to help advise the agency on the new guide logbook system in order to make it as simple and user-friendly as possible while preserving the Fish and Wildlife Commission's goals of gathering critical data on where and how guide businesses operate in Washington. This charter establishes the mission statement, organizational structure and method of operation for the Fishing Guide Advisory Group effective as of October 2019.

Mission Statement

The Fishing Guide Advisory Group will provide recommendations to the department with the objective of:

- Increasing communication and quality of information shared between WDFW and the guide industry, and
- Providing local expertise and advice to the department in order to support sound management decisions and sustainable fishing opportunities.

Ground Rules

In an effort to establish a positive working relationship and maximize our discussions, WDFW and Guide Advisory Group members agree to these guidelines:

- **Listen** actively, avoid side conversations and interruptions
- **Communicate** positively, productively and proactively
- **Respect** each other and our diverse opinions
- **Assume the best** of one another
- **Build trust** by speaking the truth, to the best of our knowledge
- **Build each other up**, not tear each other down
- **Respect each other's time** by honoring the agenda

Organizational structure

The Fishing Guide Advisory Group will represent the guide industry throughout Washington state by including membership from guides who operate in each of the major watersheds: coastal rivers, the Olympic Peninsula, Southwest Washington, the Yakima/Mid-Columbia and Southeast Washington. The group will include representation

from both full-time and part-time guides, both gear and fly fishing guides, small individual operators and large guide businesses.

Membership

- The Fishing Guide Advisory Group is comprised of up to 12-14 members.
- Members are appointed by WDFW for two-year terms.
- Members may be reappointed or removed at WDFW's discretion.
- Members are responsible for their own travel and meal expenses.
- Alternates will not be allowed when a member is unable to attend a meeting.
- WDFW welcomes the participation of persons with disabilities in all of its programs and related outdoor activities, including membership in advisory groups.

Method of Operation

The Fishing Guide Advisory Group operates under the guidelines of the WDFW Advisory Group Handbook, available on the WDFW website (https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/advisory_group_handbook_2017.pdf), as further defined here:

Meetings

- The Fishing Guide Advisory Group does not have a chairperson.
- WDFW staff will plan and lead/facilitate meetings, including developing agendas with input from Fishing Guide Advisory Group members.
- Meetings will occur monthly to start and quarterly after the guide logbook implementation plan is developed.
- Additional meetings will be scheduled as necessary.
- Meetings will be open to the public in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).
 - WDFW will notify the public of proposed meetings, and will allow interested persons to attend.
 - The Open Meetings Act does not guarantee the public a right to speak or actively participate in the meeting; however, the FGAG will strive to provide a public comment period (~5 to 10 minutes) at each meeting that has public attendance.
- Public Records Act (RCW 42.56) – Fishing Guide Advisory Group meeting records are public, and therefore subject to disclosure.