

Nominations sought for Columbia River Recreational Fishing Advisory Group

The Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife are seeking nominations for membership on the Columbia River Recreational Fishing Advisory Group. The nomination period is open through November 15, 2014.

Purpose

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to advise both Departments on issues affecting recreational salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon fisheries in the Columbia River. These issues include creation of stable and viable fishing opportunity through development of management plans and refinement of fishing techniques, and development of strategies for maintaining diverse recreational fishing opportunities and for minimizing recreational/commercial gear conflicts.

Composition of Advisory Group

Up to 16 individuals will serve as advisors for a three-year term (January 2014-December 2017). Current advisors can reapply and may be re-appointed. Advisors will be selected to represent recreational fishing interests throughout the mainstem Columbia and Snake rivers in both states, and to reflect participation in all segments of the recreational sector, including private anglers, charters/guides, local and large-scale retailers, ports, and manufacturers.

Meetings

It is anticipated that the advisors will meet as a group three or four times per year, including public meetings held as part of the North of Falcon season planning process. The Advisory Group will also be expected to provide guidance to the Columbia River Compact and Joint State Sport Hearings through attendance and testimony. In addition, other meetings and conference calls with selected advisors may be required to address narrower-focus issues. Advisors will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

Expectations of Advisory Group Members

Expectations for an advisor include attendance at most of the Advisory Group meetings, and participation in the North of Falcon and Columbia River Compact processes. Participation in these meetings will require advisors to remain informed on the issues pertinent to their areas of concern. The Departments also expect the advisors to provide objective assessments, based on experience and first hand knowledge, about the nature and conduct of fisheries and of the associated businesses. With the aid of staff biologists from both Departments, advisors will be called upon to recommend how fisheries can be shaped to optimally meet conservation needs of various stocks and harvest objectives and market plans. In addition, advisors shall act as communication links between the two Departments and the recreational fishing interests in their areas, transmitting key information to fishers, retailers, and others. For example, the Departments expect advisors to communicate regularly with local constituents about the context and reasons for various policy and fishery decisions.

Interactions with Other Advisory Groups

Intermittently, interaction among this group and other advisory groups may be appropriate to address regional or statewide issues across species. For instance, the Departments may schedule periodic meetings of commercial and recreational fishery and industry representatives in the different fishing sectors.

Submitting Nominations

Any group or individual may submit nominations. Advisors will be selected based on their experience in the fisheries, willingness to engage in the management process, and their ability to communicate with fishery managers and other recreational and commercial fishers or organizations. Nominees do not need to be affiliated with an organized group. **Nominations must be accompanied by a résumé of the nominee, including the following information:**

1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if applicable) of nominee.
2. Experience (specify the amount and kind of experience including species and areas of interest); reason(s) for interest in being an advisor.
3. Name, address, and telephone number of individual or organization submitting nomination.

All nominations can be submitted to WDFW by mail at 2108 Grand Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98661, by FAX at (360) 906-6776, or by email to TeamVancouver@dfw.wa.gov. **Nominations must be received no later than November 14, 2014**. The Directors of ODFW and WDFW will appoint the advisory group members from the list of nominations, based on their qualifications and ability to represent the recreational sectors described above. For more information, please contact either Ron Roler at (360) 906-6737 or John North at (971) 673-6029.