

Sportfishing Regulations

2012-2013

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Fish Program

Presentation Outline

- Process Timeline
- Communication Plan
- Regulation Proposals

Timeline

- Aug. & Oct. Met with Fish Committee
- October Met with advisory groups
Notified public (email, press release, website)
Regional public meetings (4)
- Dec. 2-3 **Brief Commission**
- Jan. 2012 Public Hearing
- Feb. 2012 Adopt rules
- May 1 2012 Pamphlet—rules take effect

Rule Making Approach

- Limit scope
 - Budget and staff reductions
 - Executive order 10-06, suspends non-critical rule adoption and development
 - Did not solicit proposals from public
- Criteria
 - Critical conservation need
 - Make emergency rules permanent
 - Recreational opportunity that generates revenue
- Result= 18 proposals

Northern Pike Classification

- Remove game fish designation
- High potential for negative environmental impacts
- Currently listed as game fish and prohibited species
- Require that fish removed from riparian area be dead
- Retain regulations of no daily limit and no minimum length

Pend Oreille Two-Pole Fishery

- Allow for two-pole endorsement in Pend Oreille River (Box Canyon and Boundary reservoirs)
- Increase Northern Pike harvest
- Provide additional recreation for game fish
- Increase revenue

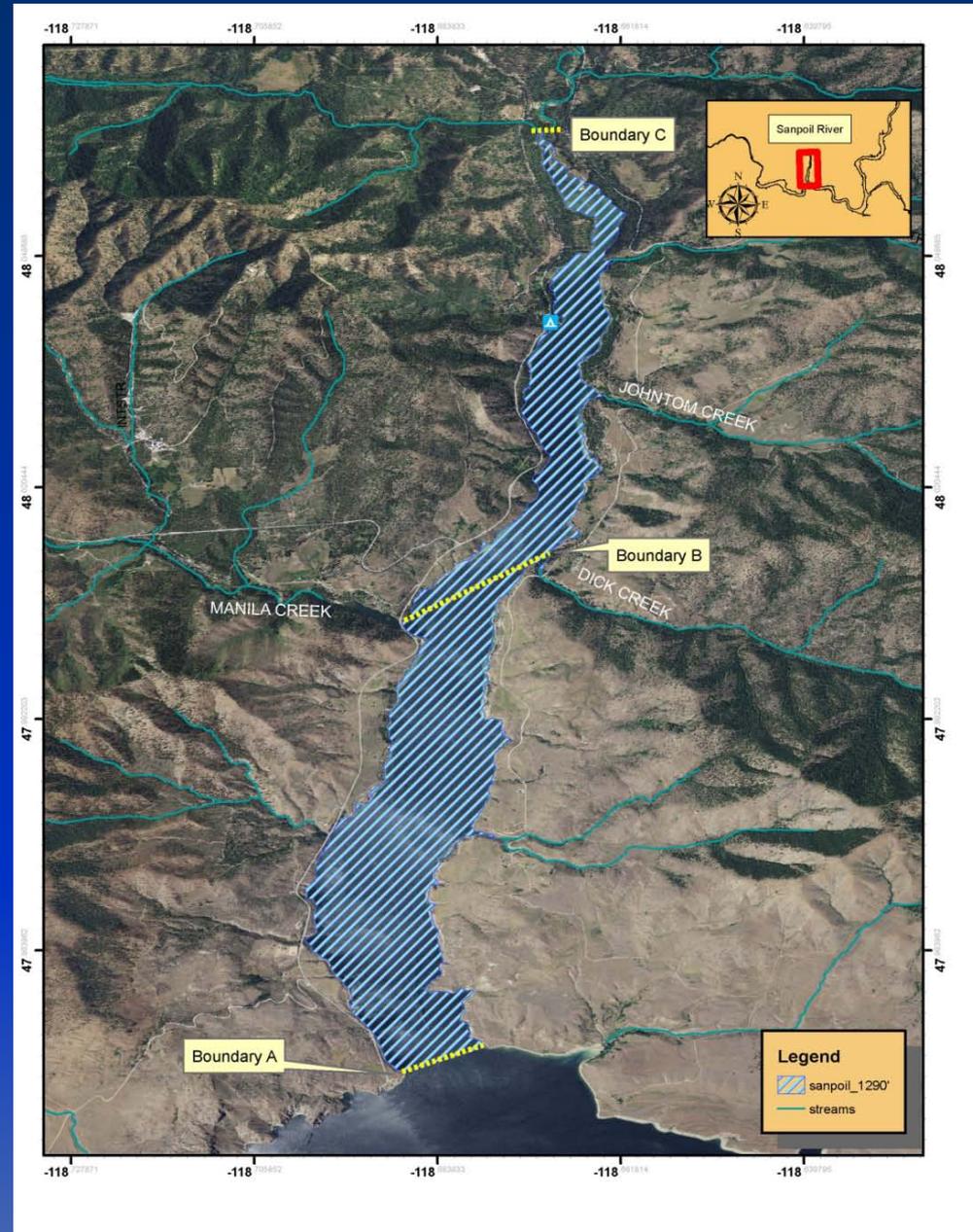
Roosevelt Lake Walleye

- Increase the daily limit from 8 to 16 per day
 - Reduce predation on fish community and reduce numbers of small walleye in population
 - Staff analysis indicates harvest of 75,000 to 100,000 walleye per year is needed to meet management objectives
 - Currently, harvest is just under 40,000 fish
 - Stimulate increased angler participation and harvest

San Poil Management:

Lower section -- mouth to outlet of French Johns Lake

Middle section – outlet of French Johns Lake upstream to buoy markers at 1310 elevation



San Poil Management

- From year-round season to April 1 – January 30 season, to protect spawning redband rainbow trout
- Lower section
 - Reduce daily limit of kokanee from 6 to 2, reduce fishing mortality of wild kokanee
 - Increase daily limit of walleye from 8 to 16 to reduce predation of native salmonids
- Middle section
 - Closed to fishing for trout and kokanee to protect wild rainbow trout and kokanee
 - Increase daily limit of walleye to 16

Lower Spokane River – Mouth to Little Falls Dam

- Allow two-pole endorsement
- Increase daily limit of kokanee to 6, no more than 2 with adipose fin
- Increase walleye daily limit to 16 fish no more than 1 over 22 inches

Lower Crab & Red Rock Creeks (Grant County)

Crab Creek from mouth to Highway 26

Red Rock Creek from mouth to Red Rock
Reservoir

- Change open time from year-round to April 1 through September 30
- Increase protection for Chinook salmon
 - Genetically unique stock

South Fork Toutle River

- Close section two weeks early, on March 15
 - Consistent with statewide steelhead management plan and strategy for neighboring streams
 - Protect spawning wild winter steelhead

Salmon Creek (Lewis County)

- Close above 72nd Ave NE Bridge
 - Habitat restoration efforts underway
 - Protect ESA listed wild steelhead and coho salmon spawning areas

Swift Reservoir (Lewis County)

- Remove landlocked salmon fishing rules and two-pole endorsement
 - Reintroduction of Chinook and coho salmon in upper Lewis River watershed in 2012

Puget Sound Wild Steelhead Protection

- Closing Jan. 16 and earlier -- No hatchery steelhead present
 - Samish
 - Puyallup
- Closing Feb. 1 -- Hatchery steelhead available for harvest
Most hatchery steelhead have returned
 - Nooksack
 - Skagit
 - Snohomish
 - Stillaguamish
 - Strait of Juan de Fuca
- Closing Feb. 16 -- Areas near hatcheries
Maximize harvest of hatchery steelhead
 - Nooksack
 - Skykomish
 - Wallace
 - Snoqualmie
 - Tokul
 - Stillaguamish
 - Skagit
 - Cascade

Puget Sound Sturgeon

- Close marine waters and tributaries to retention and allow catch-and-release fishing
 - Columbia and Fraser River populations harvested
 - Abundance has declined over the last decade
 - Columbia River catch guidelines decreased
 - Fraser River sturgeon listed under Canadian SARA
 - No retention of Fraser River Sturgeon in Canada
 - Puget Sound harvest has increased since 1997

Coastal Stream Strategy

- Close rivers, streams, and beaver ponds to fishing, except as listed in pamphlet
- Modify regulations to meet conservation need
- Present fishing opportunity that is available
- Tables & maps on website

Lowland Lake Season

- Open the season on fourth Saturday in April
- Currently opens on last Saturday in April
- Provide more opportunity for years where there are 5 Saturdays in the month of April

Kettle River Fishery Additions

- From Canadian border to Highway 21 Bridge at Curlew, remove selective gear rules and allow fishing with bait
- Currently selective gear rules above Barstow bridge approximately 64 miles (WA and Canada)
- Removes selective gear rules in approximately 9 miles
- Balance opportunity with conservation

Puget Sound Trout Opportunity

- Open fishing above anadromous barriers or in areas where there are not concerns about anadromous fish:
 - Skagit County
 - Snohomish County
 - Pierce County
- Map on website

Wind River increased open area

- Open additional 2 mile area for catch-and-release fishing September 16 to November 30.
- 800 yards below hatchery upstream to Moore Bridge
- Wild steelhead are meeting escapement goals in last 10 years
- Catch-and-release fishery has occurred since 2006 in upper river

Wynoochee River Steelhead

- Currently fishing from boat prohibited
 - Bank access is limited
 - Open 10.5 mile section of river to fishing from a boat
 - Increase harvest of surplus hatchery steelhead

Lingcod Spearfishing

- Remove minimum size limit
- Unintended constraint of length requirement
- CPUE and harvest dropped
- This regulation change will not have significant impact on population

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Questions