

Petition to Open Bottom Fishing in Northern Hood Canal

Petition summary and background	<p>In 2002 bottom fishing was closed in Hood Canal, because of an extensive fish die-off in areas in the lower sections of Hood Canal. It was apparently thought that this die-off was caused by pollution and other actions based on human activities. Research has shown that there is no evident connection between human activity and the fish die-off in Hood Canal. Furthermore research has shown that the fish die-offs have been happening in this area for hundreds of years. One of the reasons given for closing fishing for bottom fish is the thought that fish populations in the Northern Hood Canal would repopulate the areas affected by the fish die-offs. There is no research that shows this to be true after more than 10 years have passed.</p> <p>Closing fishing in the North Hood Canal areas adversely effects the recreation and economy of that area. The North Hood Canal Area has little economic activity and as such opening up fishing would greatly assist present businesses in surviving economically from year to year.</p>
Action petitioned for	<p>We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our Washington State Fish and Game Commission to act now to open up fishing for bottom fish in the Northern Hood Canal region and Dabob Bay. It is very evident without extensive research that fish populations in this requested area are better than other Puget Sound areas. Thus there should be no reasons not to open fishing for these fish to at least the levels allowed in other Puget Sound areas.</p>

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date