



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

August 26, 2005

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is a package of proposed changes to the rules governing recreational fisheries for game fish, food fish, and shellfish. This notice is being sent to our sportfishing rule development mailing list and e-mail list. These lists include regulatory agencies, tribal biologists, clubs, and advisory groups in addition to members of the public who have taken an interest in the sportfish rule change process in the past or who have asked to be included. We look forward to receiving your comments or ideas concerning the proposed changes that are enclosed with this notice. This notice and the information is also available on our website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.

This regulation cycle is a “major cycle” so there are a large number of proposals in the package. Some of the proposals originated from department staff, while others came from the public or from other entities. There are two parts to the mailout. The first portion, printed on white paper, lists all of the proposals that received initial approval from WDFW. Each proposal has a description and an explanation. The second part of the mailout, printed on colored paper and in table form, contains the public proposals that were not supported by staff. Each of these proposals is described briefly, and a reason for the lack of support is noted.

The public hearing for these proposed rules will be held during the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on November 18 and 19, 2005 at the Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Drive, Vancouver, Washington. Verbal testimony on the proposals may be presented at the hearing. Written testimony may be sent to Evan Jacoby, WDFW Rules Coordinator at 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091. All written testimony must be received by Mr. Jacoby prior to the November 18 meeting. If you plan on attending, you may also submit written testimony at the hearing.

Both written and oral testimony will be carefully considered. At the adoption hearing, these proposals: (a) may be adopted as proposed; (b) may be modified; or (c) may not be adopted. Final decisions on these proposals will be determined at the public adoption hearing to be held in February 2006. Check the WDFW website for the time and date of this meeting. The effective date of any changes will be May 1, 2006, unless otherwise noted in specific proposals that are adopted. Permanent rules remain in effect until formally changed.

If you are a person with a disability and require accommodation for attendance, please contact Evan Jacoby at (360) 902-2930. This publication is available in alternate formats upon advance request. Please contact (360) 902-2200 or TDD (360) 902-2207, and allow seven working days to process your request.

The Pre-Season Salmon Management Process

Another process that shapes recreational fisheries in Washington waters is the North of Falcon process. The final product from this process is a management plan that coordinates recreational, commercial, treaty, and non-treaty salmon fisheries north of Cape Falcon which includes both marine and freshwater areas in Washington State. Except where modified by a specific proposal, any salmon seasons listed in this document are the 2004-2005 seasons, and may be modified during the meetings described below.

A series of public meeting are scheduled in March and April in conjunction with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's ocean season setting process. These meetings are attended by federal, state, and tribal managers, special interest groups and concerned citizenry. You are welcomed and encouraged to attend any of these meetings. Please contact Customer Service at (360) 902-2700 for details. **The recreational rules resulting from the North of Falcon process will be included in the 2006-2007 sportfishing pamphlet.**

Pacific Halibut


The Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the International Pacific Halibut Commission have the primary responsibility for regulating this fishery. Rules for the 2006 recreational fishery for halibut have not been established. Final decision on these rules will be made in early 2006. WDFW will be hosting a public workshop on the proposed regulations. For more information on this process, please contact (360) 902-2825.

Columbia River Sturgeon

Sturgeon in the lower Columbia River and tributaries downstream from Bonneville Dam are managed under 3-year sturgeon management agreements between Washington and Oregon. Sturgeon population status, fishing seasons, and regulations are reviewed each year. Columbia River Joint State Hearings are held at the end of each year to set seasons and regulations to keep sturgeon harvest within annual guidelines. These rules also maintain concurrent regulations between Washington and Oregon. There will be public hearings scheduled this fall as part of this process. For more information contact our Vancouver office at: (360) 696-6211

Thank you for your interest in Washington's fisheries resources. If you no longer want to be part of the sportfishing rule change process, you can write to us at the above address c/o Fish Program and ask to be taken off the Sportfish Rule Development Mailing List. We have also set up a special mailbox at Sportfishing@dfw.wa.gov that you can use to update your address or to add or delete yourself from our mailing list. If you are currently receiving your information by mail and would be willing to do it by e-mail instead, it will save the Department quite a bit in mailing costs. Please send an e-mail to the Sportfishing box, listing your regular mailing address and the e-mail address we can use instead. Also, please reserve the use of this mailbox only for sportfish mailing list business.

Sincerely,



Lew Atkins
Assistant Director
Fish Program

Enclosure

SPORTFISHING RULE PROPOSALS

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Statewide Rules

#1. Selective Gear Rules – 2 Changes Proposed

Current definition of Selective Gear Rules: *"Selective gear rules" means terminal fishing gear is limited to artificial flies with barbless single hooks or lures with barbless single hooks, bait is prohibited, and fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is prohibited unless otherwise provided. Up to three hooks may be used. In waters under selective gear rules, fish may be released until the daily limit is retained.*

Proposal 1: Allow fishing from a boat equipped with an electric motor in waters with selective gear rules.

Explanation: This proposal was made by the Advisory Committee to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities. They point out that persons with disabilities may not be able to row a floating device in these waters, but would be able to participate in the fishery if allowed to use electric motors. Changing the rule to allow all anglers to use electric motors would make enforcement much easier, while still allowing a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

Proposal 2: Add a requirement that anglers use knotless nets in waters with selective gear rules.

Explanation: Most waters with this rule are targeted catch-and-release opportunities. Reducing handling mortality maximizes fish populations and enhances catch rates. Using knotless nets will reduce skin abrasion and scale loss, which should increase the survival of released fish.

#2. Barbless Hook Rule – Housekeeping

Proposal: This proposal is a housekeeping item to make an existing rule clearer and more enforceable. It strengthens the language in the rule that requires anglers to use 1) single barbless hooks for salmon in Marine Areas 1-4 (except Westport and Ocean Shores boat basins) and 2) barbless hooks in Marine Areas 5-13 (except on forage fish jigger gear).

Explanation: A county prosecutor has raised the question of whether the barbless hook requirement in Puget Sound for fish other than forage fish is enforceable under the current rule language. This proposal clarifies the intent of the rule. There is currently an emergency rule in place to allow enforcement of this regulation.

#3. Drop Setlines as a Legal Gear for Burbot

Proposal: Currently, setlines with up to 5 hooks are allowed in some areas for harvest of burbot. This proposal would do away with this rule, so burbot anglers would need to comply with the statewide rule of one line with up to three hooks (unless other more restrictive rules are in effect for a particular water).

Explanation: Burbot are a native game fish found in only 11 waters in Washington. The last stock status monitoring was done in 1997, when one stock was rated as healthy, one as critical, and one as unknown. Although setlines are a gear that has been traditionally used for burbot, setlines are really commercial gear that should not be allowed for game fish, especially a native species with limited distribution and no current monitoring of the population. Given the high potential of overharvest with setlines, burbot should be managed conservatively with the same gear rules as all other game fish.

#4. Definition of a Hatchery Steelhead or Cutthroat Trout

Proposal: The current definition of a hatchery steelhead or trout is a fish missing an adipose fin or a ventral fin with a healed scar at the location of the missing fin. This proposal would make the definition a steelhead or cutthroat with a clipped adipose or ventral fin, and a healed scar at the location of the fin.

Explanation: This proposal is intended to address the problem anglers face when they encounter a fish with a partially clipped fin. Under the current definition (missing fin), it is not legal for anglers to retain these fish, even though they really are hatchery fish intended for harvest. This change, which has already been adopted for salmon through the North of Falcon process, should make the rule clearer and also make more hatchery fish available to anglers.

#5. Make Grass Pickerel a Game Fish

Proposal: Add grass pickerel to the list of fish classified as game fish.

Explanation: Grass pickerel are a non-native species that is expanding its range to parts of Washington. Grass pickerel feed primarily on other fish and have been known to take juvenile salmonids. We encourage anglers to harvest these fish, but in developing this fishery, we want to make sure there is not a loophole for anglers to fish waters closed to other species while claiming to fish for grass pickerel. Classifying them as game fish automatically applies statewide gear, season, and area rules to any fisheries for grass pickerel.

#6. Fishing Tournaments – 3 Proposed Changes

Proposal 1: The fishing contest rule limits the number of boats per contest day for bass and walleye tournaments, based on the size of the body of water.

Currently, tournaments on waters from 3001 to 6000 acres are limited to 50 boats per day, and those on waters between 6001 and 10,000 acres are limited to 100 boats. This proposal would change the limit to 75 boats on waters from 3001 to 6000 acres, and to 150 boats on waters between 6001 and 10,000 acres.

Explanation 1: This proposal will allow more boats on some of the middle-to-large size lakes, where interest in fishing contests is on the increase.

Proposal 2: The contest rule also limits the total value of prizes that may be awarded for fishing contests targeting trout, steelhead, char, whitefish, grayling, or kokanee, or when bass and walleye are targeted as non catch-and-release. The current limit is \$1000. This proposal would raise that limit to \$5000.

Explanation 2: The cost of prizes (i.e., bicycles and fishing equipment) has increased. This increase in the monetary limit for prizes will allow tournament planners to offer nicer prizes, and increase interest in their tournaments.

Proposal 3: Currently, the contest rule lists specific requirements for the dimensions and water capacity of livewells that anglers must use during walleye tournaments. This proposal would eliminate those requirements.

Explanation 3: Tournament directors are responsible for ensuring the survival of tournament-caught walleye. They have the knowledge of what will or will not work, and what types and sizes of livewells are currently available to anglers. Allowing tournament directors to set the requirements for livewells also gives them the flexibility to have different rules for different water conditions.

#7. Fork Length Measurement for Sturgeon

Proposal: Currently, the slot limit for sturgeon harvest is based on a measurement of the total length of the fish (including the tail). This proposal would allow managers to use fork length rather than total length when they set the retention size for sturgeon.

Explanation: Sturgeon have a cyclic tail with the top lobe being longer than the bottom. Measuring total length requires that the tail is lying in a “normal position”. It is often difficult for the angler to keep the fish in a “normal position” long enough to measure the top of the tail. This is particularly a problem with fish that are near the upper and lower ends of the slot limit. The result is an increase in handling time (waiting until the fish quits flopping around the boat). Many anglers even hold the fish vertically by the tail and measure from the floor of the boat to the top of the tail. All of this increases the handling stress and impacts survival of released fish. This can be a significant problem since large numbers of sturgeon are caught and released. In addition, there are instances of people cutting off the top lobe of the tail and releasing the fish, presumably to make an oversized fish legal if caught again.

Converting to fork length will reduce handling time since the angler will not have to get the top of the tail in a “normal position”. It is much easier to measure fork length, so fish not within the slot limit can be released more quickly. It will also take away the incentive to cut off the top of the tail. Fork length is less ambiguous, making enforcement more clear-cut and the rule easier for anglers to comply with.

Our sturgeon technical staff has the information to correlate total length for sturgeon to fork length, so the actual size of sturgeon anglers may retain will not change. Implementing this rule will be contingent on adoption by ODFW because of the joint boundary waters on the Columbia River. We will work with ODFW

staff this fall on the potential for implementing this rule as part of our joint sturgeon management plan.

Freshwater General Rules

#8. Removing Salmon, Steelhead, and Dolly Varden from the Water

Proposal: The current rule states that it is unlawful to totally remove from the water any salmon, steelhead, or Dolly Varden/bull trout required to be released. This proposal would eliminate the word “required” from this rule.

Explanation: This change would mean that anglers may not remove from the water any salmon, steelhead, or Dolly Varden/bull trout that they intend to release, whether it is legal to keep the fish or not. This should help anglers remember to treat fish they intend to release gently, and eliminate the practice of dragging fish up onto the beach, bringing them into a boat, or holding them out of the water for a photo before releasing them.

#9. Drop the Annual Limit for Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Currently there is an annual limit of 30 steelhead; no more than one of these may be a wild fish. This proposal would do away with the annual limit of 30 steelhead, while retaining the limit of one wild fish per angler per license year.

Explanation: The yearly one-fish limit for wild steelhead is meant to address conservation concerns for wild fish. Hatchery fish do not need an annual limit for conservation reasons. Hatchery fish are stocked to provide harvest and WDFW’s intent is to maximize their use. If a situation arises where broodstock needs are in jeopardy, emergency regulations are used on a case-by-case basis to close fisheries. Doing away with the annual limit for these fish will help to reduce surpluses at hatcheries and allow anglers to harvest more hatchery fish. This proposal will also help in accounting for total harvest, since many anglers who catch more than 30 steelhead per year do not currently record them.

Region 1

#10. Upper Spokane River Catch-and-Release Fishery

Proposal: Currently there is a catch-and-release fishery for game fish in the upper Spokane River (from the Upriver Dam to the Idaho state line) from June 1 - Oct 31. This proposal would extend the end date of this fishery to March 15. The fishery would continue to have selective gear rules, and fishing from a boat equipped with a motor would still be allowed.

Explanation: This proposal expands the catch-and-release fishery through the winter to March 15, allowing more opportunity for anglers, while still leaving the upper river closed from March 16 – May 31 to protect spawning trout.

#11. Spokane River Fishing Boundary Modification

Proposal: Modify the lower section boundaries of the river to become (bold type shows changes):

- 1) From mouth to **the upstream boundary of the Plese Flats Day Use Area (Riverside State Park)**, except Long Lake, formed by Long Lake Dam (see also Long Lake (Spokane Co.),
- 2) **From the upstream boundary of the Plese Flats Day Use Area (Riverside State Park)** to Monroe Street Dam

Explanation: Nine Mile Reservoir extends to Plese Flats about 1 mile upriver from the Seven Mile Bridge (SR 25 Bridge), – a current regulation boundary on the Spokane River. Selective gear rules in the current boundary area from Seven Mile Bridge to Monroe Street Dam prevent anglers from using motorized boats on the entire length of the 9-Mile reservoir. This section of the river has limited bank access, so allowing boats with motors to access this stretch of the river would increase use. The change in the rule would make WDFW fishing regulation boundaries consistent with Spokane County boat motor regulations on the river. Spokane County Municipal Code 6.03.090 reads, “No motorized watercraft above Plese Flats Day Use Area.”

#12. Apply Snake River Rules for Game Fish to Palouse River

Proposal: Change the daily limit and minimum size rules for game fish on the Palouse River to match those of the Snake River.

Explanation: The Snake River rules for trout, bass, channel catfish, walleye, and sturgeon differ from the statewide rules for these fish. In most cases Snake River rules are more liberal. That means that an angler who has retained a daily limit of one of these species from the Snake River may not fish in the Palouse with the fish in their possession. Making the limits the same would clear up confusion for anglers who wish to use Palouse River boat launches and park facilities and would like to fish in the Palouse River after retaining fish from the Snake.

#13. Daily Limit for Eastern Brook Trout in Pend Oreille Watershed Streams

Proposal: Expand the daily limit for Eastern brook trout in streams in the Pend Oreille watershed from 5 fish to 10 fish (no more than 2 trout of other species may be retained). Once an angler has retained 2 trout other than brook trout, the entire trout daily limit has been taken. Streams affected would include: Le Clerc

Creek and tributaries, Sullivan Creek and tributaries, Mill Creek and tributaries, Indian Creek and tributaries, Cedar Creek and tributaries, Tacoma Creek and tributaries, Calispell Creek and tributaries, Ruby Creek and tributaries, and Slate Creek and tributaries.

Explanation: The Pend Oreille River is in the Northeast Washington Bull Trout Recovery Unit as identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan. It is also within the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Pend Oreille Lead Entity area of concern for native salmonid recovery. Most of the above named drainages are listed as critical habitat in the Draft Recovery Plan and as high and medium priority watersheds for exotic fish species removal in the Lead Entity Strategy. This change will further the efforts to recover bull trout as well as help to gain public support for bull trout recovery. Chemical treatment of brook trout populations was presented as an option at two public meetings in 2004. This option was not well accepted, but other removal methods, such as angling, were.

#14. Bass Rules on Touchet River Forks

Proposal: Currently, the Touchet River North Fork, South Fork, and Wolf Fork have special rules for bass (daily limit 5, no more than 3 over 15" may be retained). This proposal would change the bass rules to the statewide standard (no minimum size, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained, daily limit 5, no more than one over 17").

Explanation: These areas do not support bass populations, so no special rules for that species are needed. This also removes the bass listing in the pamphlet for these river sections. Leaving it in may lead anglers to surmise that there are bass available for harvest in these areas when there really are not.

#15. Coffeepot Lake Rules – Three Proposals

Proposal 1: Currently, the season on Coffeepot Lake (Lincoln County) closes September 15. This proposal would extend the season to close on September 30.

Explanation 1: This will allow anglers an additional 15 days at the end of the season, when water temperatures typically decrease, creating good fishing conditions.

Proposal 2: Currently the daily limit for trout is 2 trout, no minimum size. This proposal would change it to 1 trout, minimum size 18", and maintain selective gear rules (except motors allowed).

Explanation 2: Coffeepot Lake is managed as a trophy trout fishery. The proposed rule is intended to reduce harvest, which will increase catch rates, but still allow anglers to harvest one large trout.

Proposal 3: Currently, the daily limit for bass on Coffeepot Lake is "no minimum size, maximum size 14", daily limit 2". This proposal would change it to the

statewide rule of “no minimum size, only bass less than 12” or greater than 17” may be retained, daily limit 5, no more than one over 17.

Explanation 3: Coffeepot Lake is also managed as a trophy fishery for bass. The proposed rule is intended to grow larger bass and make the bass rule consistent with other lakes statewide.

#16. Horseshoe Lake Kokanee Bonus Limit

Proposal: Currently, Horseshoe Lake (Pend Oreille County) has a daily limit of 5 other trout, plus a bonus limit of 5 kokanee. This proposal would change the kokanee bonus limit to 10 fish.

Explanation: Currently, kokanee in this lake are small compared to national standards, which may indicate a lack of food. Spawning habitat for kokanee was limited in the past to a few hundred feet of Buck Creek at the north end of the lake because upstream habitat was blocked by an impassable road culvert. This culvert is being replaced with a bridge this year, opening up another kilometer of spawning habitat. This should significantly increase the kokanee population. Allowing anglers to take a larger number of these fish will help control the population size and maintain desirable-sized fish for the fishery.

#17. Sullivan Lake Kokanee Bonus Limit

Proposal: Currently, Sullivan Lake (Pend Oreille County) has the standard daily limit of 5 trout, all species combined. This proposal would allow anglers to take 2 trout of other species, plus a bonus limit of up to 10 kokanee.

Explanation: The kokanee population in this lake was monitored from 2002-2004 by spawning run trapping, with a hydroacoustic survey performed in 2003. Results indicate that the population is increasing dramatically (from 3,498 in 2002 to 14,125 in 2004), which may soon result in smaller, less desirable fish in the fishery. High numbers of fish also often affect the number of eggs each female carries, reducing the utility of this population as an egg source. Allowing anglers to keep up to 10 kokanee may help stabilize the population at a lower number, producing fewer, higher-quality fish. The decrease in the limit for other trout protects the native westslope cutthroat population in the lake, while focusing most of the angling effort on kokanee.

#18. Roosevelt Lake Rules – 4 Proposals

Proposal 1: Currently, statewide rules allow common carp to be taken with a spear or a bow and arrow. This proposal would not allow this practice in Roosevelt Lake.

Explanation 1: As part of the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, pursuing carp with a bow and arrow in the lake is not permitted by federal law. This proposal will bring state rules into alignment with federal rules for this lake.

Proposal 2: Currently, chumming for game fish is allowed on Roosevelt Lake. This proposal would eliminate this allowance.

Explanation 2: Prior to 2003 chumming was not allowed on Lake Roosevelt. During the last major sportfishing regulation change cycle a citizen proposed allowing chumming on Banks Lake and Rufus Woods Lake, or elimination of chumming statewide. Through internal agency review and the extended public proposal process this chumming proposal was inadvertently extended to include allowance for chumming on Lake Roosevelt. A regulation to allow this action was subsequently approved by the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission. An allowance of chumming within a national recreation area is not permitted. This proposed regulation change would align state and federal regulations on Lake Roosevelt.

Proposal 3: Roosevelt Lake currently has the statewide rule for bass (no minimum size, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained, daily limit 5, no more than one over 17"). This proposal would change the daily limit to 10 bass, with no minimum size, and only one of which may be greater than 14".

Explanation 3: Long-term studies and annual surveys indicate that the population of smallmouth bass is large and may be increasing. The proposal will allow an increased harvest of abundant smallmouth bass, reducing the population, and increasing the size of individual fish, providing a more desirable fishery. Studies indicate that predation by bass may be limiting the recruitment of forage fish species in the lake.

Proposal 4: Currently, the rule for walleye in Lake Roosevelt is "daily limit 5, no more than 1 over 18" may be retained. This proposal would change the limit to "daily limit 8, no more than 1 over 22" may be retained."

Explanation 4: Long-term studies and annual surveys indicate a substantial population of walleye and decreasing populations of forage fish species. Current regulations preclude the harvest of adequate numbers of available walleye. Studies indicate that predation from this species could be limiting recruitment of forage fish species and stocked salmonids in the reservoir.

#19. Trout Rules for Selected Southeastern WA Lakes

Proposal: Change the trout rules in several lakes in SE Washington from the statewide standard (5 fish, no minimum size) to 5 fish, no more than 2 over 13". Lakes affected would be Curl Lake (Columbia Co.), Watson Lake (Columbia Co.), Deer Lake (Columbia Co.), Blue Lake (Columbia Co.), Rainbow Lake (Columbia Co.), Spring Lake (Columbia Co.), Dayton Pond (Columbia Co.), West Evans Pond (Asotin Co.), Golf Course Pond (Asotin Co.), Bennington Lake (Walla Walla Co.), Lions Park Pond (Walla Walla Co.), Fish Hook Park Pond (Walla Walla Co.), Quarry Pond (Walla Walla Co.), and Jefferson Park Pond (Walla Walla Co.).

Explanation: These lakes are all stocked with a few hundred jumbo trout each year. Many anglers high-grade their fish to keep 5 large "jumbo" trout for their daily limit. Changing the regulation as proposed would reduce the number of

dead (released) fish floating on the ponds and improve distribution of “jumbo” trout to more anglers, as well as keep large fish in the pond longer during the season.

Region 2

#20. Chewuch River Catch-and-Release Fishery

Proposal: Currently, the Chewuch River (Okanogan County) from the mouth to Eight Mile Creek is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish June 1 – September 30, with selective gear rules. This proposal would change the ending date of this fishery to August 15. *Note: December 1 – March 31 whitefish fishery remains unchanged.*

Explanation: The earlier closing of this fishery is necessary to protect a critical spawning area for an endangered chinook stock. It has been requested by NOAA Fisheries as part of WDFW’s permit to allow fishing in this area.

#21. Methow River Catch-and-Release Fishery

Proposal: This proposal would expand the area of the catch-and-release fishery on the Methow River. Proposed areas and dates would be:

Mouth to County Road 1535 (Burma Road) bridge – December 1 – March 31; whitefish only (whitefish gear rules).

County Road 1535 (Burma Road) bridge to Foghorn Dam – June 1 – September 30, All Game Fish - catch-and-release and selective gear rules. December 1 – March 31; whitefish only (whitefish gear rules).

Foghorn Dam to Weeman Bridge- June 1 – August 15, All Game Fish - catch-and-release and selective gear rules. December 1 – March 31; whitefish only (whitefish gear rules).

Weeman Bridge to falls above Brush Creek- December 1 – March 31; whitefish only (whitefish gear rules).

Explanation: The upper river closure to everything but the winter whitefish fishery is necessary to protect a critical spawning area for an endangered chinook stock. It has been requested by NOAA Fisheries that we retain this closure as part of WDFW’s permit to allow fishing in this area.

The lower river was originally closed to protect steelhead and chinook. In applying to NOAA for a new permit for this fishery, we were able to negotiate an expansion of the area for the catch-and-release fishery to allow anglers more access to a population of large resident trout.

#22. Twisp River Catch-and-Release Fishery

Proposal: Currently, the Twisp River (Okanogan County) from the mouth to War Creek is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish June 1 – September 30. This proposal would change the ending date of this fishery to August 15.

Note: The area from War Creek to the South Fork Twisp remains closed waters.

Explanation: The earlier closing of this fishery is necessary to protect a critical spawning area for an endangered chinook stock. It has been requested by NOAA Fisheries as part of WDFW's permit to allow fishing in this area.

#23. Crab Creek Daily and Possession Limits

Proposal: Currently, Crab Creek (Grant/Lincoln Counties) including tributaries except Columbia Basin Hatchery Creek has a year-round season (except from Hwy 26 to Morgan Lake Road which has a March 1 – Sept 30 season and a closed waters area from Morgan Lake Road to O'Sullilvan Dam. Two areas –1) From Grant Co Rd 7 downstream to the fountain buoy and shoreline markers or 150' downstream of the Alder St Fill, and 2) from Moses Lake outlets (spillways) downstream to the confluence of the outlet streams require anglers to use only one single point hook $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less measured point to shank from March 1-May 31. The rest of the creek is under statewide rules for daily and possession limits of game fish. This proposal would retain the special gear rules in the areas described above, and apply the daily and possession limits from Potholes Reservoir to the area from Moses Lake outlets (spillways) downstream to the confluence of the outlet streams, and the daily and possession limits from Moses lake to the area from Grant Co Rd 7 downstream to the fountain buoy and shoreline markers or 150' downstream of the Alder St Fill.

Explanation: New regulation changes in the minimum sizes and daily limits are proposed for game fish species in Moses Lake and Potholes Reservoir (see proposals #29 and #30), and the rules are different from each other, and different from the statewide rules as well. The areas described above with the hook restriction cross the boundary between the lakes and the creek. This rule will make it clear which daily and size limits are intended for each area. Other areas of the creek will maintain statewide rules for gamefish size and daily limits.

#24. Entiat River Eastern Brook Trout Bonus Limit

Proposal: Currently daily limit for trout in the Entiat River (Chelan Co) above Entiat Falls is the statewide standard of 2 trout with an 8" minimum size, except no size limit for brook trout, up to 5 brook trout may be kept. However, only 5 fish in total may be kept, and no more than two can be other than brook trout. This proposal would change the daily limit for trout in the Entiat River above Entiat Falls to: trout daily limit 5, only 1 may be greater than 12". Eastern brook trout are not included in the trout daily limit. Bonus limit of 10 Eastern brook trout. Once the 5 trout other than Eastern brook trout have been retained, the daily limit has been taken. Selective gear rules for all species.

Explanation: For reasons unknown at this time, bull trout do not inhabit the Entiat River above Entiat Falls. Because of this, anglers fishing for Eastern brook trout will not mistakenly catch and keep a bull trout. Problems occur when Eastern brook trout move downriver over Entiat Falls into the lower section, which is inhabited by bull trout. We are concerned about negative interactions between the two species. Most trout in the river above Entiat Falls are small; no more than 9 inches. Possible reasons are: 1) Year-round water temperatures above Entiat Falls may be cold enough that trout do not grow large; 2) Trout are very abundant in the upper river; it is possible that an inadequate food supply limits trout growth and 3) Our regulation “two over 8 inches” encourages the removal of larger trout from the population.

The proposed regulation change will: 1) remove excessive Eastern brook trout from this area; 2) reduce densities of all trout, thus providing more forage for the remaining fish and increasing growth; and 3) allow more of the larger fish to remain in the river.

#25. Old Mill Stream – Closed Waters

Proposal: Currently, Old Mill Stream (Chelan Co) is open to fishing under the statewide stream season of June 1- October 31. This proposal would close Old Mill Stream to fishing.

Explanation: Old Mill Stream is a small spring fed 0.1 mile-long tributary of Lake Chelan located on private ground. During the last five years WDFW has, with permission from the landowner, constructed many instream and riparian habitat improvements designed to provide a nursery for cutthroat trout. Twin Lakes cutthroat fry and eyed eggs are stocked annually into the stream, where they rear for about two years. The fish then move to Lake Chelan, where they become available to sport anglers. This proposal would prevent anglers from harvesting cutthroat trout from Old Mill Stream prior to that migration into the lake fishery. The greatest benefit to the resource and anglers comes from using the stream as a rearing area only.

#26. Lake Chelan Kokanee Rules

Proposal: This proposal would increase the bonus limit for kokanee in Lake Chelan from 5 fish to 10 fish.

Explanation: Lake Chelan’s kokanee spawning escapement and population size have increased substantially in the last 6 years. Because the kokanee abundance has increased beyond optimum numbers, fish growth has slowed, and the fish are becoming smaller. The proposed rule change will allow anglers to harvest kokanee in surplus of spawning escapement needs, which should help to reduce population size, and allow for increased fish growth.

#27. Rufus Woods Lake Kokanee Rules

Proposal: Currently the daily limit for all trout (including kokanee) in Rufus Woods Lake is 2. This proposal would add a bonus limit of 2 kokanee to the trout daily limit, so anglers could keep up to 2 kokanee, plus two trout of other species.

Explanation: Kokanee are moving into Rufus Woods Lake from Lake Roosevelt. This proposal would allow anglers additional harvest opportunity for these fish, along with trout of other species.

#28. Banks Lake Bass Rules

Proposal: The current rules for bass in Banks Lake (Grant Co) are the statewide rules (no minimum size, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained, daily limit 5, no more than one over 17"). This proposal would keep the statewide rule for largemouth bass, and create a new rule for smallmouth bass of daily limit 10, no minimum size, no more than one over 14".

Explanation: The current regulation works well for largemouth bass, but precludes the harvest of adequate numbers of smallmouth bass. Large numbers of smallmouth are found up to 14"; however, smallmouth over 17" are still relatively rare. Long-term studies and annual surveys indicate large and possibly increasing populations of smallmouth bass, especially smaller fish, while largemouth bass continue to exist at relatively low numbers. This regulation will encourage increased harvest of abundant smallmouth bass from this water, reducing their density.

#29. Moses Lake Rules for Bass, Crappie, Walleye, and Yellow Perch

Proposal: This proposal would change the size and daily limits for several game fish species in Moses Lake. Proposed changes are:

- 1) Bass – Current rule is no minimum size, daily limit 5, no more than 3 over 15" may be retained. Proposed rule is to return to the normal statewide limit for largemouth bass (no minimum size, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained, daily limit 5, no more than one over 17"). Smallmouth bass would have a separate limit of 10 fish with no minimum size, and no more than 1 over 14" may be retained.
- 2) Crappie – Current rule is daily limit 5, minimum size 10". Proposed rule is daily limit 10, minimum size 9".
- 3) Walleye – Current rule is daily limit 5, minimum size 18", no more than 1 over 24". Proposed rule is daily limit 8, minimum size 12", no more than 1 over 22".
- 4) Yellow Perch – Current rule is no minimum size or daily limit. Proposed rule is daily limit 25, no minimum size.

Explanation:

- 1) The statewide bass rule will provide protection for the sizes and ages of largemouth bass most vulnerable to fishers and will standardize their limits with those of near-by Potholes Reservoir, and other lakes statewide. However, the statewide rule does not allow sufficient harvest of smallmouth bass, which continue to increase in number. The new smallmouth rule will increase the harvest of smallmouth bass, particularly the smaller fish.
- 2) Crappie numbers are on the rise; however, many are lost due to natural mortality before the current 10" minimum size is attained. Reducing the minimum size slightly will allow increased harvest of crappie that are now lost to natural mortality.
- 3) This proposal will allow increased harvest of walleye and reduce walleye density in general. Long-term studies and annual surveys indicate large and possibly increasing populations of walleye. Current exploitation is only a fraction of natural mortality in all age classes. Large numbers of walleye in these waters have been identified as a major deterrent to recruitment of other game fish species.
- 4) Yellow perch recruitment has been sporadic in the face of natural (fish and avian) predation, and harvest should be curtailed to promote recruitment and protect the remaining broodstock.

#30. Potholes Reservoir Rules for Bass and Walleye

Proposal: Currently Potholes Reservoir (Grant Co) has statewide rules for bass (no minimum size, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained, daily limit 5, no more than one over 17") and walleye (minimum size 16", daily limit 5 – no more than one over 22" may be retained). This proposal would retain the statewide rule for largemouth bass and change the rule for small mouth bass to: no minimum size, daily limit 10 - no more than 1 over 14". It would also change the rule for walleye to: minimum size 12", daily limit 8 - no more than one over 22".

Explanation: Long-term studies and annual surveys indicate large populations of walleye. Current exploitation is only a fraction of natural mortality in all age classes. Since adult walleye eat other fish, large numbers of walleye in these waters have been identified as a major deterrent to recruitment of other game fish species. Smallmouth bass continue to increase, especially smaller fish, while the largemouth bass population appears stable under statewide rules. The statewide rule affords good protection for largemouth, but does not allow sufficient harvest of smallmouth bass. This proposal will allow increased harvest of walleye and smallmouth bass, and reduce walleye density in general and smallmouth density of smaller fish. It will also standardize most other species with near-by Moses Lake, to reduce confusion among anglers.

#31. Spectacle Lake Season

Proposal: The current season on Spectacle Lake (Okanogan Co) is March 1 – July 31. This proposal would change the season to April 1 – September 30.

Explanation: Spectacle Lake is often still partially frozen in March, which limits access to the lake (ice is too thin to walk, but too thick for bank fishing). Adjusting the season to later in the year should allow anglers more fishing time on this lake.

#32. Sprague Lake Walleye Rules

Proposal: The current daily limit for walleye in Sprague Lake (Adams/Lincoln Co) is 5 fish, minimum size 16", no more than one over 24". This proposal would change the daily limit to 8 fish, minimum size 12", no more than one over 22".

Explanation: Long-term studies and annual surveys indicate a large and possibly increasing population of walleye. Current exploitation is only a fraction of natural mortality in all age classes. Since adult walleye primarily eat other fish, large numbers of walleye have been identified as a major deterrent to recruitment of other game fish species.

Region 3

#33. Yakima River Bass Rule

Proposal: The current rule for bass in the Yakima River from the mouth (Highway 240 Bridge) to Granger (Highway 223 Bridge) is no daily limit, no minimum size, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained, no more than one over 17". This proposal would change the rule to: no daily limit, no minimum size, only three bass over 15" may be retained.

Explanation: Fall chinook salmon populations are declining in the Yakima River. Predation by bass on rearing and out-migrating juvenile fall chinook is a major contributor to their decline. Recent changes in fall chinook spawning distribution and smallmouth bass population structure are making the predation problems worse. The proposed rule should increase harvest on the extremely dense smallmouth bass population by allowing more smaller fish to be kept. It also standardizes the rule for bass over 15" in length with the Columbia River.

#34. Yakima River Closed Waters Rule - Housekeeping

Proposal: Clarify the rules to state that the area from Prosser Dam to 400' downstream is closed waters.

Explanation: Statewide general rules state that fishing is not allowed within 400' downstream of a man-made dam. However, the freshwater exceptions to statewide rules for the Yakima River list fishing rules in the section "from the mouth to Prosser Dam". This proposal will change that rule listing to "from the mouth to 400' below Prosser Dam" to clear up the conflict between the two rules.

Region 4

#35. Canyon Creek Closed Waters

Proposal: Currently Canyon Creek, a tributary to the NF Nooksack River, is open June 1- October 31, with statewide rules. This proposal would close to fishing the portion of Canyon Creek from its mouth to the Canyon Creek Road Bridge at RM 5.5.

Explanation: This proposed closure is intended to protect ESA-listed spring chinook and native char during their spawning periods. Low water flows in the lower section of Canyon Creek impair fish passage upstream, leaving the fish vulnerable to disturbance by anglers and poachers. Canyon Creek provides essential spawning habitat for spring chinook and native char.

#36. Cedar River Fishery

Proposal: Currently, the Cedar River (King County) from the mouth to Landsburg Road Bridge is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish from June 1- August 31 with a night closure and selective gear rules. This proposal would split this area into 2 sections, allowing anglers to retain two trout per day between 10 and 16 inches in the lower section from the mouth to the State Highway 18 Bridge, and continuing the catch-and-release fishery in the upper section from the State Highway Bridge to the Landsburg Road Bridge. Selective gear rules and a night closure would still apply to each section, and the season would remain June 1- August 31. Upstream of the Landsburg Road Bridge would remain closed waters.

Explanation: The Cedar River trout population is very healthy, estimated to have a standing population over 10,000 exceeding eight inches. In 2004 a rule was adopted to provide a catch and release fishery only, following a ten-year closure of the river.

#37. Harrison Slough Open Season

Proposal: Currently, Harrison Slough (Skagit County) is closed to fishing. This proposal would open it to fishing for game fish for the standard stream season of June 1 – October 31, with statewide rules.

Explanation: The original intent of the closure was to protect steelhead adults and parr at the Barnaby Slough Steelhead Rearing Facility. We no longer use Harrison Slough for juvenile rearing, so the closure is no longer needed for protection of these facilities.

#38. Lucas Slough Open Season

Proposal: Currently, Lucas Slough (Skagit County) is closed to fishing. This proposal would open it to fishing for game fish for the standard stream season of June 1 – October 31, with statewide rules.

Explanation: The original intent of the closure was to protect steelhead adults and parr at the Lucas Slough Steelhead Rearing Facility. We no longer use a trap for adult brood stocking and juvenile rearing facilities with in Lucas Slough, so the closure is no longer needed for protection of these facilities.

#39. Lake Washington Tributaries (Except Cedar River) Juvenile Fishery

Proposal: Currently, several tributaries to Lake Washington (Big Bear Creek, Coal Creek, Issaquah Creek, Kelsey Creek, and May Creek, and North Creek, a tributary to the Sammamish River), are closed to fishing. The Cedar River has a special catch-and-release fishery. Other tributaries not listed in the rules have standard stream seasons (June 1 – October 31, trout minimum size 8", daily limit 2). This proposal would make the rule for all these streams except the Cedar River: Open June 1 – August 31, trout minimum size 8", daily limit 2, juveniles only.

Explanation: This proposal will allow an opportunity for kids to fish for cutthroat trout in the summer in these urban streams.

#40. Skagit River Fishery Boundaries

Proposal: This proposal would change the fishing area boundaries on the Skagit River in an attempt to consolidate and simplify the rules. Specifically, the river would be broken up into 4 regions for game fish rules:

(Note: Salmon fisheries are not listed in this proposal. Additional sections may appear in the fishing pamphlet because boundaries for salmon fisheries (adopted through the North of Falcon process) cannot always be matched to those for game fish).

A. From Mouth to Hwy 536 at Mt Vernon: No Change to current rules.

B. From Hwy 536 to Gilligan Creek, Gilligan Cr. To Dalles Bridge: Combine sections with following rules:

All Species- Night Closure and non-buoyant lure restriction July 1-Nov 30.

Trout June 1- March 15 Min. Size 14" Daily Limit 2

Dolly Varden/bull trout June 1- March 15 Min. Size 20" Daily Limit 2 as part of trout limit

Other game fish June 1- March 15 Statewide min size/daily limit

C. From the Dalles Bridge to Cascade River: No change to current rules.

D. From Cascade River to Bacon Creek, Bacon Creek to Gorge Dam: Combine sections with following rules:

All Species- Night Closure and non-buoyant lure restriction July 1-Nov 30.

Trout June 1- March 15 Min. Size 14" Daily Limit 2

Dolly Varden/bull trout June 1- March 15 Min. Size 20" Daily Limit 2 as part of trout limit

Other game fish June 1- March 15 Statewide min size/daily limit

Explanation:

Section B. The lower half of this section is currently open until March 30, and is not subject to the night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction in place on the upper section. The proposed change would result in a common open and close date for sections B-D and common night and non-buoyant lure restriction for sections B-D. A loss of 16 days of opportunity would occur for trout fisherman in the lower section of B, but added protection for wild steelhead will be provided.

Section D. The upper half of this section is currently closed on February 28, and is not subject to the night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction in place on the lower section. The proposed change would result in a common open and close date for sections B-D and common night and non-buoyant lure restriction for sections B-D. An extra 16 days of fishing would occur for trout fisherman in the upper section of D, offsetting the loss in section B. The steelhead catch-and-release season would be eliminated. Steelhead are doing poorly above the mouth of the Cascade River and this regulation change would add needed protection. Currently, very little catch-and-release fishing is occurring in this reach of river, due to the lack of steelhead to catch.

The proposed regulation change would make the general trout regulations for the Skagit River the same from Mt Vernon to Newhalem, eliminating confusion. Salmon seasons would still be variable year to year.

#41. Skykomish River Catch-and-Release Fishery

Proposal: Currently, in addition to a June 1- February 28 season, the Skykomish River from the mouth to the mouth of the Sultan River is open for a catch-and-release fishery for game fish from March 1- April 30, with selective gear rules. This proposal would close the March 1- April 30 fishery.

Explanation: The March-April season is a catch-and-release fishery targeting wild winter steelhead. However, if the pre-season forecast shows that these fish will not meet minimum spawner escapement requirements the fishery is closed by emergency regulation. This has been the case for a number of years. This confuses recreational anglers since the season is listed as open in the fishing pamphlet. On March 1st, many anglers not intending to break the law head to the Skykomish River to go fishing without knowing that the river is closed, and our Enforcement officers each year cite anglers for fishing in closed waters. In addition, current abundance trends indicate that the Skykomish River catch-and-release fishery may not open for another 2-4 years. Adopting the closure as the permanent rule will place it in the fishing pamphlet for anglers to reference. If this situation changes, the fishery will be opened by emergency rule. Ordinarily, news of emergency openings spreads through the recreational fishing community much more quickly than does an emergency closure.

#42. NF Stillaguamish Catch-and-Release Season

Proposal: Currently, the NF Stillaguamish River from the mouth to Swede Heaven Bridge is open year-round. From March 1 – November the rules are catch-and-release (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) and fly fishing only. From December 1 – February 28, the minimum size for trout is 14” and the daily limit is 2. Statewide rules apply for other gamefish. This proposal would close the fishery for game fish from March 1 – May 31, making that fishery open from June 1 – November 30. The December – February season and all other rules would remain unchanged.

Explanation: The catch-and-release fishery from March 1st through May 31st is targeted at catch-and-release opportunity for wild winter steelhead. However, if the pre-season forecast shows that these fish will not meet minimum spawner escapement requirements, the fishery is closed by emergency regulation. This has been the case for a number of years. This confuses recreational anglers since the season is listed as open in the fishing pamphlet. On March 1st, many anglers not intending to break the law head to the North Fork Stillaguamish River to go fishing without knowing that the river is closed, and our Enforcement officers each year cite anglers for fishing in closed waters. In addition, current abundance trends indicate that the North Fork Stillaguamish River catch-and-release fishery may not open in the spring for another 2-4 years. Adopting the closure as the permanent rule will place it in the fishing pamphlet for anglers to reference. If this situation changes, the fishery will be opened by emergency rule. Ordinarily, news of emergency openings spreads through the recreational fishing community much more quickly than does an emergency closure.

#43. Tokul Creek Fishing Area Boundaries and Seasons

Proposal: This proposal would split Tokul Creek (King Co) from the mouth to the railroad trestle into two sections as follows:

From mouth to Fish Hatchery Road bridge:

ALL SPECIES- non-buoyant lure restriction Dec 1-Feb 28. Closed daily from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.

TROUT, Dec. 1-Feb. 28, Min. size 14". Daily limit 2.

Other Game Fish, Dec. 1-Feb. 28, Statewide min. size/daily limit.

From Fish Hatchery Road bridge to railroad trestle (RM 1.1)

CLOSED WATERS-from posted cable boundary marker (400' downstream of hatchery intake) to railroad trestle (RM 1.1)

ALL SPECIES- non-buoyant lure restriction Jan.15-Feb. 28. Closed daily from 5:00p.m.-7:00a.m.

TROUT, Jan. 15-Feb. 28, Min size 14". Daily limit 2.

Other Game Fish, Jan 15-Feb. 28, Statewide min. size/daily limit

Explanation: Along the southern shoreline of Tokul Creek, across from the hatchery, is a large slide that became active in the early 1990s, creating liability issues for WDFW. In 1991 the section of Tokul Creek along the slide (i.e., posted cable marker to the railroad trestle described in the sport fishing regulation pamphlet) was closed to fishing. In 2004, State and County transportation departments stabilized the slide area. With the slide stabilized and any liability issues resolved, recreational anglers can now be allowed the opportunity to catch hatchery winter steelhead that hold in the pools above the current fishery boundary marker on Tokul Creek.

The purpose of the stream breakout and different seasons is related to winter steelhead brood stock collection efforts at Tokul Creek Hatchery. For the past 5-6 years brood stock collection efforts have been difficult. One of the problems is anglers who fish right at the mouth of the stream where the trap is located and the pools immediately nearby, catching and harassing staging hatchery winter steelhead. The area described above is located just upstream of the Fish Hatchery Road bridge. By January 15th, brood stock collection is mostly completed (80%) and angling effort above the Fish Hatchery Road bridge is no longer a concern.

Finally, this regulation proposal opens up a large portion of Tokul Creek to hatchery steelhead retention that anglers haven't been able to access since the early 1990's.

#44. Blackman Lake Trout Limit

Proposal: Blackman Lake (Snohomish County) currently has the statewide daily limit of 5 trout with no minimum size. This proposal would change the daily limit to 3 trout.

Explanation: This Lake is planted with triploid trout, creating a very popular fishery. Unfortunately, some anglers kill large numbers of small trout in their quest of large trout. Reducing the daily limit will help with this problem. It should also spread the catch of large fish among more anglers.

#45. Hancock Lake Season

Proposal: Currently, Hancock Lake (King County) is open June 1 – October 31. This proposal would open Hancock Lake the last Saturday in April.

Explanation: The cutthroat population in this lake has greatly increased, with many small fish and few larger fish. The likely explanation is that the population has grown too large and the fish are becoming stunted. The delayed opening (June 1 instead of traditional last Saturday in April) was put in place to protect cutthroat from harvest in the spring until they had a chance to spawn. Apparently, that has worked too well, and some of these fish need to be harvested to provide a healthy population with a normal size structure.

#46. Mountain Lake Trout Daily Limit

Proposal: Currently, Mountain Lake (San Juan Co) has the statewide daily limit for trout of 5 fish, no minimum size. This proposal would change the trout daily limit to 5 fish, no more than 2 over 18”.

Explanation: We have recently begun stocking large triploid rainbow trout in Mountain Lake, and we expect this to increase angling pressure. In addition to the stocked fish, there are large wild cutthroat available in this lake. With both of these types of large fish available, there is the potential to create a quality fishery. Limiting the catch of these larger fish to two per day should spread the harvest among anglers, and perhaps even allow some rainbow to carry over to the next years’ fishery. It also slows the harvest rate on the wild fish. Since there are a number of nearby opportunities for anglers to catch limits of smaller trout without size restrictions, this rule should provide a more diverse opportunity for anglers in San Juan County.

Region 5

#47. NF Cispus River Selective Gear Rules

Proposal: Currently the NF Cispus River (Lewis County) is open to fishing for trout June 1 – October 31, minimum size 8”, daily limit 2, no more than 1 over 12’, and cutthroat must be released. This proposal would add selective gear rules to this fishery.

Explanation: This proposal would protect wild trout by making it easier for anglers to release fish, increasing their survival rate. It also would provide consistent regulations, with regard to the application of selective gear rules, throughout the upper Cowlitz basin.

#48. Cowlitz River Clear Fork and Muddy Fork Selective Gear Rules

Proposal: Currently, the Clear and Muddy Forks of the Cowlitz River (Lewis Co) are open June 1 – October 31 under statewide rules, except that anglers are required to release cutthroat trout. This proposal would add selective gear rules to these fisheries.

Explanation: This proposal would protect wild trout by making it easier for anglers to release fish, increasing their survival rate. It also would provide consistent regulations, with regard to the application of selective gear rules, throughout the upper Cowlitz basin.

#49. Coweeman River Steelhead Season

Proposal: Currently, the Coweeman River from the mouth to Mulholland Creek is open from June 1 – March 15 for game fish, catch-and-release, except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained. This proposal would extend this fishery until April 15, adding selective gear rules for the additional month.

Explanation: Recently, wild winter steelhead escapement has improved in the Coweeman River. This proposal extends the season by one month to provide additional catch-and-release fishing opportunity on wild winter steelhead. Selective gear rules have been added to protect listed species in late March and April.

#50. Elochoman River Salmon Fishery

Proposal: Currently the Elochoman River (Wahkiakum Co.) from the mouth to Elochoman Salmon Hatchery is opened in the spring for salmon fishing by emergency rule. This proposal would create a permanent rule opening this area for salmon fishing from May 16 – July 31 with a minimum size of 12', daily limit of 6, no more than 2 adults, and release wild chinook.

Explanation: This proposal would provide sport fishing opportunity for hatchery spring Chinook not harvested by select area commercial fisheries. Retention of only adipose fin-clipped fish focuses fishery on surplus hatchery spring chinook.

#51. Elochoman River Steelhead Fishery

Proposal: Currently the Elochoman River (Wahkiakum County) from mouth to West Fork is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) June 1-Mar. 15. This proposal would add another catch-and-release fishery (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) with selective gear rules from the mouth to the Elochoman Hatchery Bridge from March 16 – April 16.

Explanation: Recently, wild winter steelhead escapement has improved in the Elochoman River and is near the escapement goal. This proposal extends the season by one month to provide additional fishing opportunity.

#52. Gobar Creek Catch-and-Release Fishery

Proposal: Gobar Creek (Cowlitz County tributary to the Kalama River) is currently open June 1 – Mar. 15. For trout, the minimum size is 14” and the daily limit is 2. Anglers are required to release wild cutthroat and all steelhead. Other game fish may be harvested under statewide minimum sizes/daily limits. This proposal would change this fishery to June 1 – March 31, with catch-and-release and selective gear rules for all species.

Explanation: The current regulation implies there are harvestable numbers of resident trout between 14” and 20” in Gobar Creek. This is not the case. Most trout produced in the creek are juvenile steelhead and are currently part of a long-term research project on-going in the upper Kalama basin. In addition, a substantial fraction (up to 12%) of the adult winter steelhead return as jacks that are less than 20” in length. This regulation change protects these two components of the ESA-listed steelhead in the Kalama from directed harvest.

#53. Grays River Hatchery Spring Chinook Salmon Fishery

Proposal: Currently the Grays River (Wahkiakum Co) from the mouth to the Highway 4 bridge is opened in the spring for salmon fishing by emergency rule. This proposal would create a permanent rule opening this area for salmon fishing from May 16 – July 31 with a minimum size of 12”, daily limit of 6, no more than 2 adults, and release wild chinook.

Explanation: This proposal would provide sport fishing opportunity for hatchery spring chinook not harvested by select area commercial fisheries. Retention of only adipose fin-clipped fish focuses fishery on surplus hatchery spring chinook.

#54. Grays River Steelhead Fishery

Proposal: Currently, the Grays River (Wahkiakum County) from mouth to the Highway 4 Bridge, is open to a hatchery steelhead fishery (daily limit 2 - hatchery steelhead only) September 1 – October 15, and November 15-March 15. The area from the Highway 4 Bridge to mouth of South Fork is open for hatchery steelhead (daily limit 2) from September 1 – October 15, and December 15-March 15. This proposal would extend the closing dates for the later fisheries in both these areas from March 15 to April 15, and add selective gear rules from March 16 – April 15.

Explanation: Recently, wild winter steelhead escapement has improved in the Grays River and is near the escapement goal. This proposal extends the season by one month to provide additional opportunity, and adds selective gear rules to protect listed species in late March and April.

#55. Green River – Three Proposals

Proposal 1: Currently the Green River (Cowlitz Co) from the mouth to 400' below the water intake at the upper end of the hatchery is open for a fishery on hatchery spring chinook from April 1- May 31, and from the mouth to the 2800 bridge from June 1 – November 30. This proposal would close both of these fisheries.

Explanation 1: The spring chinook program at the North Toutle Hatchery has ended, so spring Chinook will no longer be released.

Proposal 2: Currently, the Green River is open for a hatchery steelhead only fishery from the mouth to the 2800 bridge from April 1 – November 30. This proposal would change the start date of this fishery to June 1.

Explanation 2: June 1 is the normal opening date for streams, and for other summer steelhead fisheries in the lower Columbia River. With the closure of the salmon fishery during this time period (see proposal 1, above), this proposal would provide consistency and would increase protection for late wild winter steelhead.

Proposal 3: Currently, the Green River from the mouth to the 2800 Bridge is open to fishing for game fish April 1 – November 30. This fishery is catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained. Proposal 2 would change the opening date of this fishery, making it June 1 – November 30. This proposal would create an additional catch-and-release fishery (except anglers may keep up to 2 hatchery steelhead) in the smaller area from the mouth to the 1000 Bridge from December 1 – April 15, with selective gear rules.

Explanation 3: Wild winter steelhead escapements have improved on the Green River. This proposal creates a catch-and-release fishery on these fish, also giving anglers the option to keep up to 2 hatchery steelhead. The selective gear rule restriction gives protection to released fish during this winter fishery.

#56. Kalama River Catch-and-Release Fisheries

Proposal: Currently, the Kalama River (Cowlitz County) from 1000' above the fishway at the upper hatchery to Summers Creek is open to fishing for game fish year round with selective gear rules and fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is prohibited. The area from Summers Creek upstream to Kalama Falls is open to fishing for game fish June 1 – March 31, with fly fishing only and fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is prohibited. For both fisheries, the trout minimum size is 14", and the daily limit is 2. Anglers are required to release wild cutthroat and all steelhead in the mainstem and tributaries. Other game fish may be harvested under the statewide minimum size/daily limits. This proposal would make both of these fisheries totally catch and release, retaining prohibition about fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor, and the selective gear rules in the lower section, and fly fishing only in the upper section.

Explanation: The current regulation implies there are harvestable numbers of resident trout between 14" and 20" in these sections of the upper river. This is not the case. Most trout produced in this area are juvenile steelhead and are currently part of an on-going study to compare the reproductive success of wild-broodstock hatchery steelhead to that of their wild-reared counterparts, when both spawn naturally in the upper Kalama River and its tributaries. In addition, a substantial fraction (up to 12%) of the adult winter steelhead return as jacks that are less than 20" in length. This regulation change protects these two components of the ESA-listed steelhead in the Kalama from directed harvest. Hatchery steelhead can still be harvested in the lower river.

#57. EF Lewis River Hatchery Steelhead Fishery

Proposal: On the EF Lewis River (Clark/Skamania Co) from the mouth to the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park, change the starting date for the steelhead only fishery from April 16 to March 16 (making the fishery in this stretch year-round). All other rules remain the same (daily limit 2 hatchery steelhead only, selective gear rules).

Explanation: Recently, wild winter steelhead escapement has improved in the EF Lewis River, and is close to meeting the escapement goal. This proposal extends the season by one month to provide additional fishing opportunity.

#58. Skate Creek Adipose-Clipped Rainbow

Proposal: The current trout rules for Skate Creek (Lewis County, tributary to the Cowlitz River) are: minimum size 8", daily limit 5, no more than 1 over 12", release cutthroat. This proposal would add the provision that only adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout may be retained.

Explanation: Catchable rainbow trout planted in Skate Creek are now adipose fin-clipped. This change will allow anglers to identify stocked trout and in avoiding the retention of anadromous salmonid smolts and wild trout. This change is needed to allow the stocked trout fishery to continue in coordination with the anadromous fish reintroduction program.

#59. Tilton River Adipose-Clipped Rainbow

Proposal: The current trout rules for the Tilton River (Lewis County) from the mouth to the West Fork are: minimum size 8", daily limit 5, no more than 1 over 12", release cutthroat. This proposal would add the provision that only adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout may be retained.

Explanation: Catchable rainbow trout planted in the Tilton River are now adipose fin-clipped. This rule will assist anglers in identifying stocked trout and in avoiding the retention of anadromous salmonid smolts and wild trout. This change is needed to allow the stocked trout fishery to continue in coordination with the anadromous fish reintroduction program.

#60. Wind River Steelhead Fishery

Proposal: The Wind River (Skamania County) from 100' feet above Shipherd Falls upstream is currently open for salmon and steelhead, May 1 to June 30, The minimum size is 12" for salmon, 20" for steelhead. The daily limit is a total of 2 salmon or 2 hatchery steelhead, or 1 of each. This proposal would add a catch-and-release fishery in this area from September 1- November 30, with selective gear rules.

Explanation: Fishing for wild summer steelhead in the Wind River was closed in the late 1990s due to very low returns. Recent run sizes have improved enough to allow for a catch-and-release opportunity on wild summer steelhead.

#61. Washougal River – 2 Proposals

Proposal 1: Currently, the Washougal River (Clark County) from the mouth to Mt. Norway Bridge at Vernon Rd, is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish, (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) from June 1 – March 15, and from April 16 - May 31. The April/May fishery has selective gear rules. This proposal would open this second fishery a month earlier (March 16 – May 31), with selective gear rules.

Explanation 1: Recently, wild winter steelhead escapement has improved in the Washougal River and is exceeding the escapement goal. This proposal extends the season by one month to provide additional fishing opportunity.

Proposal 2: Currently, the rule for the Washougal River from the mouth to Mt. Norway Bridge at Vernon Rd. contains a night closure and non-buoyant lure

restriction and a stationary gear restriction (line and weight and lure or bait must be moving - not stationary) Sept. 1-Oct. 31. When non-buoyant lure restriction is in effect, only fish hooked in the inside of the mouth may be retained. This proposal would extend the night closure to be in effect year-round. The non-buoyant lure restriction and stationary gear restriction would be in effect July 1-October 31, and when non-buoyant lure restriction is in effect, only fish hooked in the inside of the mouth may be retained.

Explanation 2: The extension of the non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure will promote a more orderly fishery and help to reduce snagging on wild and hatchery steelhead that are stacking up in the lower river due to very low water conditions. Steelhead stack up by the hundreds in the few deep water pools in the area and are subject to snagging and harassment starting about July 1 through the rest of the year until significant fall rains help them move upstream.

#62. Columbia River Sturgeon Retention Fisheries - 2 Proposals

Proposal 1: Specific dates for sturgeon retention, usually beginning in May and ending in July, are contingent upon annual resource inventory updates in the fall and negotiations with the state of Oregon. Final season dates and regulation changes, once agreed to at the Joint State Hearing, will be inserted into the permanent rule proposal.

Explanation 1: Sturgeon in the lower Columbia River and tributaries downstream from Bonneville Dam are managed under the 3-year sturgeon management agreements between Washington and Oregon. Sturgeon population status, fishing seasons, and regulations are reviewed each year. Columbia River Joint State Hearings are held at the end of each year to set seasons and regulations to keep sturgeon harvest within annual guidelines. These rules also maintain concurrent regulations between Washington and Oregon.

Proposal 2: This proposal is intended to allow for increased protection of spawning white sturgeon between Bonneville and McNary dams through measures such as restricting fishing for sturgeon in areas immediately downstream of dams during the spawning period. The need for and extent of specific restrictions will be identified through the U.S. v Oregon joint management process involving Oregon and the Columbia River Treaty Tribes.

Explanation 2: Broodstock that congregate on spawning grounds just downstream of dams are susceptible to increased reproductive failure and mortality resulting from injury and stress if handled excessively in sport fisheries. Impounded white sturgeon populations exhibit poor natural production due to impacts from the hydropower system and broodstock protection is an important component in efforts to rebuild populations in this section of the Columbia River.

Note: There will be public hearings scheduled this fall as part of the process for developing both of these regulations. For more information contact our

Vancouver office at: (360) 696-6211. Final recommendations for permanent rules will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in February 2006.

#63. Apply Columbia River Sturgeon Rules to Vancouver Lake

Proposal : Currently, different rules exist in Vancouver Lake and the adjacent Columbia River with regard to sturgeon fishing. This proposal would make the rules for sturgeon fishing in Vancouver Lake, Vancouver Lake flushing channel, and all other waters west of the Burlington-Northern Railroad from the Columbia River drawbridge near Vancouver downstream to the Lewis River identical to those in the Columbia River from the I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam.

Explanation: Region 5 Enforcement staff identified the need for this rule in order to address a discrepancy in sturgeon retention regulations between these two adjacent waters. The current regulation allowing sturgeon retention 7-days a week in Vancouver Lake confounds enforcement of the 3-day a week retention fishery in the adjacent mainstem Columbia River.

#64. Mayfield Lake Trout Rules

Proposal: Currently, Mayfield Lake (Reservoir) (Lewis County) from Mayfield Dam to Mossyrock Dam is open to fishing for trout year-round. The minimum size is 8", daily limit 5. All cutthroat must be released. This proposal would add the provision that only adipose-clipped rainbow trout may be retained.

Explanation: Catchable rainbow trout planted in Mayfield Lake are now adipose fin-clipped. This change will allow anglers to identify stocked trout and avoid the retention of anadromous salmonid smolts and wild trout. This change is needed to allow the stocked trout fishery to continue in coordination with the anadromous fish reintroduction program.

#65. Scanewa Lake Trout Rules

Proposal: Currently, Scanewa Lake (Lewis County) (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir), is open to fishing for trout June 1-Feb. 28. The minimum size is 8", daily limit 5. All cutthroat must be released. This proposal would add the provision that only adipose-clipped rainbow trout may be retained.

Explanation: Catchable rainbow trout planted in Scanewa Lake are now adipose fin-clipped. This change will allow anglers to identify stocked trout and avoid the retention of anadromous salmonid smolts and wild trout. This change is needed to allow the stocked trout fishery to continue in coordination with the anadromous fish reintroduction program.

#66. Silver Lake Crappie Rules

Proposal: Silver Lake (Cowlitz County) currently has no daily or size limits for crappie. This proposal would place a 10-fish daily limit and a 9' minimum size on crappie from this lake.

Explanation: All crappie in Silver Lake congregate in a small, very accessible area in late fall and winter. The crappie population is heavily over-exploited.

Region 6

#67. Chambers Creek Season and Restrictions

Proposal: Currently Chambers Creek Estuary downstream from markers 400' below the Boise Cascade Dam to the Burlington Northern Railroad bridge is open to fishing for salmon and game fish from July 1 – November 15. The minimum size for trout is 14". Anglers may keep 6 salmon, no more than 2 of which may be adults, and wild coho must be released. The creek itself, above the dam, has the standard stream season (June 1- October 31). It is not open for salmon, and has standard size and daily limits for game fish. This proposal would apply the July 1 – November 15 season to the entire creek. It would also add a night closure and a non-buoyant lure restriction to the entire fishery.

Explanation: This proposal would standardize the season and night closure rules for trout and salmon in the entire creek, eliminating confusion. Delaying the upper fishery until July 1 will provide protection to yearling chinook that are released into the creek in early spring and pool behind the dam. The night closure should help deter anglers who attempt to snag salmon in shallow creek waters after dark.

#68. Nisqually and Puyallup Watershed Steelhead and Char Protection

Proposal: The following changes to the rules for game fish are proposed for streams in the Nisqually and Puyallup watersheds: *Note: other existing rules (such as closed waters, night closures, non-buoyant lure restrictions, salmon seasons) would not be affected by this proposal.*

Nisqually River: July 1 – October 31 season, 14" minimum size for trout, selective gear rules above the military tank crossing bridge.

Mashel River: July 1 – October 31 season, 14" minimum size for trout, selective gear rules.

Puyallup River to Electron Power Plant outlet: July 1 – last day in February season, 14" minimum size for trout.

Puyallup River above Electron Power Plant outlet: July 1 – October 31 season, catch-and-release only, and selective gear rules.

Carbon River mouth to Voight Creek: July 1 – last day in February season.

Carbon River Voight Ck to Highway 162 bridge: July 1 – August 15 and December 1 – last day in February season, (no selective gear rules because of salmon and hatchery steelhead fisheries - trout minimum size of 14" is already in place. Summer closure is for protection of chinook and pink salmon).

White River mouth to Weyerhaeuser 6000 Bridge: no changes.

White River above Weyerhaeuser 6000 Bridge: July 1 – October 31 season, 14" minimum size for trout, selective gear rules. November 1 – January 31 whitefish only season with whitefish gear rules.

Greenwater River: July 1 – October 31 season, 14" minimum size for trout, selective gear rules.

Clearwater River: July 1 – October 31 season, 14" minimum size for trout, selective gear rules.

Explanation: Populations of wild steelhead and native char are severely depressed, listed (char), or likely to be listed (steelhead) in the two watersheds. Further, ongoing research suggests that "resident" rainbow trout may, in fact, be a critical component of a steelhead population. Research shows that salmonids released in bait-fisheries suffer higher mortality. The proposal provides a high level of protection to the depressed stocks while allowing opportunity for catch-and-release fishing on all species, plus harvest opportunity on hatchery origin steelhead where they occur. The addition of selective gear rules provides protection to juvenile salmon rearing in the same streams (chinook and coho). This is especially critical in the White River where recovery efforts for the listed chinook stock are underway. A consistent opening date of July 1 instead of the usual June 1 provides additional protection to any smolts or adult spawners that may be late in leaving the streams.

#69. Dosewallips River Seasons

Proposal: Currently, the Dosewallips River (Jefferson County) from the mouth to the Mason County PUD No 1 overhead electrical distribution line is open to a catch-and-release (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) fishery for game fish from June 1 – August 31 and from November 1 – last day of February. From the distribution line to Olympic National Park, the season is June 1- the last day of February. This proposal would close all game fish fisheries on August 31. The fishery in all areas would be from June 1 – August 31; catch-and-release for all game fish with selective gear rules. *Note: salmon fisheries are not affected by this proposal.*

Explanation: Stocking of hatchery winter steelhead smolts was discontinued in 2003 and no hatchery steelhead adults are expected to return beginning with the 2006-07 season. This regulation will provide additional protection to wild winter steelhead in the Dosewallips River (rated as Depressed under ESA).

#70. Duckabush River Seasons

Proposal: Currently, the Duckabush River (Jefferson County) from the mouth to the Mason County PUD No 1 overhead electrical distribution line is open to a catch-and-release (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) fishery for game fish from June 1 – August 31 and from November 1 – last day of February. From the distribution line to Olympic National Park, the season is June 1- the last day of February. This proposal would close all game fish fisheries on August 31. The fishery in both areas would be from June 1 – August 31; catch-and-release for all game fish with selective gear rules. *Note: salmon fisheries are not affected by this proposal.*

Explanation: Stocking of hatchery winter steelhead smolts was discontinued in 2003 and no hatchery steelhead adults are expected to return beginning with the 2006-07 season. This regulation will provide additional protection to wild winter steelhead in the Duckabush River (rated as Depressed under ESA).

#71. Hamma Hamma River Season

Proposal: Currently the Hamma Hamma River (Jefferson Co) from the mouth to 400' below the falls is open to a catch-and-release (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) fishery for game fish from June 1 – August 31 and from November 1 – last day of February. Both fisheries have selective gear rules. This proposal would close the November – February season. The fishery from June 1 – August 31 would be simply catch-and-release for all species.

Explanation: The Hamma Hamma wild winter steelhead are not meeting their escapement goal and there are no hatchery steelhead released in the Hamma. In addition, there is a research study funded by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group in place to recover the wild steelhead population (with National Marine Fisheries Service as lead and WDFW, local Tribes, Long Live the Kings, and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group as collaborators) that could be jeopardized if fishing is allowed.

#72. Increased Daily Limit for Hatchery Steelhead in Coastal Rivers

Proposal: Increase the daily limit for hatchery steelhead, allowing anglers to retain up to three steelhead per day in the following areas and time periods (*Note: annual/daily limit for wild steelhead would not change*): 1) Hoh River downstream of the Oxbow campground Nov 1- Feb 15; 2) Quillayute River November 1 – last day in February; 3) Bogachiel River mouth to Hwy 101 Bridge November 1 through the last day in February; 4) Calawah River mouth to Hwy 101 Bridge November 1 through the last day in February; 5) Sol Duc River mouth

to concrete pump station at Sol Duc Hatchery November 1 through last day in February.

Explanation: This proposal is directed at runs of hatchery steelhead that have harvestable surpluses. Hatchery fish are primarily stocked to provide harvest, and WDFW's intent is to maximize their use. Only a relatively small number of returning hatchery steelhead are needed for hatchery production/broodstock each year, and there are no conservation concerns. Other areas may be added to this list by emergency rule if necessary to reduce hatchery surpluses.

#73. Upper Dickey River Steelhead Protection

Proposal: Currently, the Dickey River (Clallam County) upstream of the confluence with the EF Dickey is open to fishing for game fish from June 1 – April 30, with a 14" minimum size for trout. This proposal would change the season to June 1- March 15 on the West Fork Dickey River upstream of the confluence with the East Fork Dickey, and the East Fork Dickey River upstream of its intersection with the D5200 Road (all forks). *Note: lower river fishery, including the retention of 1 wild steelhead, would remain unchanged.*

Explanation: The Dickey River steelhead population is relatively small, (20 year mean esc. = 492, range = 143 – 871) and the water above the confluence of the East and West Forks is small; when spawning wild steelhead are present they are easily harassed. Spawning in the Dickey begins in mid-March and continues through April. The majority of the spawning occurs in the East Fork Dickey. The D5200 road intersects the East Fork at a washed out bridge just above its confluence with the West Fork and provides a convenient upper access point and boundary. The Dickey below the confluence of the forks would remain open through April 30 with the opportunity to keep one wild steelhead per season. The proposed change is consistent with how we manage other tributaries.

#74. Harvest of Stray Hatchery Steelhead in Bear, Middle and South Fork Nemah, and Palix Rivers

Proposal: The following streams all have catch-and-release fisheries for game fish. This proposal would allow anglers to retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead during these fisheries. Streams affected would be:

Bear River to Lime Quarry Road – catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Bear River upstream of Lime Quarry Rd - selective gear rules and catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Middle Fork Nemah mouth to DNR Bridge - catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Middle Fork Nemah upstream of the DNR bridge - selective gear rules and catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

South Fork Nemah - mouth to confluence with Middle Fork catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

South Fork Nemah above confluence with Middle Fork- selective gear rules and catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Palix River from Highway 101 Bridge to confluence of South and Middle Forks - catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Palix River upstream of the confluence of South and Middle Forks- catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Explanation: The purpose of these changes is to allow anglers the chance to harvest stray hatchery steelhead that may enter these streams. The catch-and-release fisheries, intended to protect native cutthroat and steelhead stocks, remain, and selective gear rules remain in place where salmon fisheries do not occur.

#75. Williams Creek Harvest of Stray Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Currently, Williams Creek (Pacific County tributary to N Nemah) is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish from June – last day of February, with selective gear rules. This proposal would allow anglers to retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead during this fishery.

Explanation: Williams Creek is a tributary to the North Nemah River. The North Nemah is planted with hatchery winter steelhead. If these fish find their way into Williams Creek, anglers should have the opportunity to harvest them during the catch-and-release fishery for other game fish.

#76. Naselle River – 3 Proposals

Proposal 1: Currently, there is a Closed Water area in the Naselle River from 200' upstream of the Naselle Salmon Hatchery water supply intake barrier to 400' downstream of the adult attraction channel from July 16 through October 15. This proposal would change the closed area to: from the North Valley Road (Big Hill Bridge) downstream to Highway 4 for the same time period.

Explanation 1: This closure is necessary to provide protection for chinook returning to the hatchery. Our enforcement officers have expressed concerns with anglers snagging fish in this area.

Proposal 2: Currently, the fishery in the Naselle River (Pacific Co) from the Highway 101 Bridge to the Highway 4 bridge requires selective gear rules from March 1 – April 15. This proposal would drop the selective gear requirement from the mouth to the confluence with the South Fork. There is also a requirement that anglers must keep their line and bait or lure and weight moving at all times. This proposal would also drop that requirement from the mouth to the confluence with the South Fork.

Explanation 2: Selective gear rules (which include no bait) are currently in place in the lower river from Mar. 1-Apr. 15 because there is little or no target catch-and-release fishery in this area for wild winter steelhead. However, a popular sturgeon fishery is open in this area year-round and anglers must use bait to fish

for them, creating a conflict. The moving gear requirement is not necessary in this area, and also in conflict with the sturgeon fishery.

Proposal 3: Currently, the Naselle River, from the North Fork upstream is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish, with selective gear rules. This proposal would allow anglers to retain up to two hatchery steelhead during this fishery.

Explanation 3: Even though no summer steelhead are planted in the system and most winter run fish have cleared, there still is the possibility of hooking a stray hatchery steelhead or one planted in the Naselle and we would prefer that if a hatchery steelhead is caught, it is removed from the spawning grounds.

#77. SF Naselle River Harvest of Stray Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Currently, the SF Naselle River (Pacific/Wahkiakum Counties) is open from June 1 – last day of February for game fish and open year-round for sturgeon. For game fish, the entire fishery is catch-and-release, and there is a non-buoyant lure restriction, a night closure, and selective gear rules from August 16 –November 30. This proposal would allow anglers to keep up to 2 hatchery steelhead during the catch-and-release fishery, and drop the selective gear rules requirement. All other rules would remain unchanged.

Explanation: this proposal would allow anglers to harvest any stray hatchery steelhead they may hook during the catch-and-release fishery. Removing the requirement for selective gear rules fixes a conflict in the rules, since selective gear rules do not allow bait, and anglers must use bait to fish for sturgeon.

#78. Salmon Creek Harvest of Stray Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Currently, Salmon Creek (Pacific County, tributary to the Naselle River) is open to fishing for game fish June 1 through the last day of February. The fishery is catch-and-release, with selective gear rules. This proposal would allow anglers to retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead during the catch-and-release fishery.

Explanation: this proposal would allow anglers to harvest any stray hatchery steelhead they may hook during the catch-and-release fishery.

#79. North River Harvest of Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Currently the North River (Grays Harbor/Pacific Counties) is open to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish June 1- October 31 with selective gear rules. This proposal would allow anglers to keep up to two hatchery steelhead during this fishery.

Explanation: Steelhead are currently planted in the lower North River. They are intended for harvest, so if they move into the upper area, anglers should be allowed to harvest them during the catch-and-release fishery for game fish.

#80. Willapa River Chinook Protection

Proposal: Currently, the Willapa River (Pacific County) from the Highway 6 Bridge to Fork Creek is open to fishing for game fish from June 1- March 31, and to fishing for sturgeon year-round. This proposal would make this area Closed Waters from July 16 – October 15. From October 16 – November 30, single point barbless hooks would be required, there would be a night closure, and the line and weight and lure or bait must be moving (not stationary). Fishing from a floating device would still be prohibited from the bridge on Willapa Road (Camp One Bridge) to Fork Creek from November 1 – March 31.

Explanation: This proposal is intended to provide protection for adult chinook in the vicinity of the Hatchery. Our enforcement officers have expressed concerns with anglers snagging fish in this area. This area typically has very low flows throughout the summer until the initial fall rains begin, making the upriver bound Chinook very vulnerable to snagging while holding in pools and running shallows between pools.

#81. Upper Willapa River Harvest of Stray Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Currently, the Willapa River (Pacific County) from Fork Creek upstream is open August 16 – October 31 for a catch-and-release fishery for game fish, with selective gear rules, a non-buoyant lure restriction, and a night closure. This proposal would allow anglers to keep up to two hatchery steelhead during this fishery.

Explanation: this proposal would allow anglers to harvest any stray hatchery steelhead they may hook during the catch-and-release fishery.

#82. SF Willapa River

Proposal: Currently, the SF Willapa River has a June 1 – last day of February catch-and-release season for game fish (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) with a non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure August 16 – November 30. This proposal would add selective gear rules to the fishery from June 1 – October 31.

Explanation: This is a fairly small stream throughout much of its length above tidewater. In waters of this size, gradient and channel type, lures (bobber/jigs, spinners and spoons, unscented rubber worms, etc.) are very productive angling methods. This proposed selective gear rule would continue to allow retention of hatchery produced steelhead strays hooked during the current catch-and-release

fishery, while increasing protection of naturally produced steelhead and cutthroat trout. The restriction of bait use to protect naturally produced steelhead and cutthroat trout is consistent with intent current regulations in Willapa Bay drainages (see Williams Creek proposal #74).

#83. Cedar River

Proposal: Currently, the Cedar River (Pacific County) is open under statewide rules. This proposal would make this fishery catch-and release for all game fish except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained, and require selective gear rules.

Explanation: Cutthroat trout in this small stream should be protected until their population can be adequately assessed. This proposed rule would allow retention of hatchery steelhead strays hooked during the proposed trout catch-and-release fishery. Additional protection of cutthroat trout would be provided by selective gear rules (no bait allowed)

#84. Chehalis River Wild Steelhead Retention

Proposal: Currently the Chehalis River is not open to the harvest of wild steelhead. This proposal would allow anglers to retain wild steelhead from the mouth (Highway 101 Bridge in Aberdeen) to Fuller Bridge from March 25 – March 31. The annual limit of one wild steelhead per angler per license year, statewide, would still apply.

Explanation: Wild steelhead runsizes in the Chehalis system in the past 6 years (1998/99-2003/04) have averaged 12,256 with wild escapements averaging 11,148. The wild steelhead escapement goal for the system is 8,600 and the preliminary escapement estimate for 2005 is 9,121. This change would allow anglers the opportunity to keep one wild steelhead per person per year if harvestable wild steelhead are forecasted. The fishery will be monitored by creel census staff. In 2005, it was estimated by WDFW that up to 940 wild steelhead could be caught in a 7-day fishery in late March in the Wynoochee, Satsop and Chehalis mainstem combined. This calculation was based on a forecasted wild steelhead runsize of 13,148 in the Chehalis system in 2005. This estimate is considered a maximum because a very high catch rate, measured in the Quillayute system, was applied to a very high estimate of potential fishing effort in the 3 rivers in the Chehalis basin. A similar calculation would be made in 2006 using the 2005/06 wild runsize forecast, but would not include the Satsop.

#85. Humptulips River Wild Steelhead Retention

Proposal: Currently the Humptulips River is not open to the harvest of wild steelhead. This proposal would allow anglers to retain wild steelhead from the mouth (Jessie Slough) to the Highway 101 Bridge from March 29 – March 31.

The annual limit of one wild steelhead per angler per license year, statewide, would still apply.

Explanation: The Humptulips River has met escapement goals for the last 3 years, averaging 3,021 per year. The preliminary escapement estimate for 2005, is 2,060 (goal is 1,600). This proposal would allow anglers the opportunity to keep one wild steelhead per person per year if harvestable wild steelhead are forecasted. The fishery will be monitored by creel census staff. In 2005, it was estimated by WDFW that up to 183 wild steelhead could be caught in a 3-day fishery in late March. This calculation was based on a forecasted wild steelhead runsize of 3,249 in the Humptulips system in 2005. This estimate is considered a maximum because a very high catch rate, measured in the Quillayute system, was applied to a very high estimate of potential fishing effort in the Humptulips. A similar calculation would be made in 2006 using the 2005/06 wild runsize forecast.

#86. Wynoochee River Wild Steelhead Retention

Proposal: Currently the Wynoochee River is not open to the harvest of wild steelhead. This proposal would allow anglers to retain wild steelhead from the mouth to White Bridge WDFW boat launch from March 25 – March 31. The annual limit of one wild steelhead per angler per license year, statewide, would still apply.

Explanation: The Wynoochee River has met wild steelhead escapement goals for the last 11 years, averaging 2,214. The preliminary wild steelhead escapement estimate for 2005, is 1,812 (goal is 1,260). This proposal would allow anglers the opportunity to keep one wild steelhead per person per year if harvestable wild steelhead are forecasted. The fishery will be monitored by creel census staff. In 2005, it was estimated by WDFW that up to 940 wild steelhead could be caught in a 7-day fishery in late March in the Wynoochee, Satsop and Chehalis mainstem combined. About a third of these fish would be expected to be caught in the Wynoochee. This calculation was based on a forecasted wild steelhead runsize of 13,148 in the Chehalis system in 2005. This estimate is considered a maximum because a very high catch rate, measured in the Quillayute system, was applied to a very high estimate of potential fishing effort in the 3 rivers in the Chehalis basin. A similar calculation would be made in 2006 using the 2005/06 wild runsize forecast, but would not include the Satsop.

#87. Wynoochee River Selective Gear Rules

Proposal: Currently the Wynoochee River from the 7400 Line Bridge above the mouth of Schafer Creek upstream is open to fishing for game fish June 1 – October 31 with selective gear rules and a 14" minimum size for trout. This proposal would drop the selective gear rule requirement for this fishery. (*Note: December-March season remains unchanged*)

Explanation: Removing the selective gear requirement in the summer season will allow anglers increased opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery summer steelhead, by allowing anglers to fish from a floating device, and to fish with bait.

#88. Wishkah River Salmon Season

Proposal: Currently, the Wishkah River (Grays Harbor County) is open to salmon fishing from the mouth to the West Fork from October 1 – November 30. This proposal would make the salmon season October 1 – December 31 from the mouth to 200 feet below the weir at the Long Live the Kings/Mayr Brothers facility.

Explanation: This proposal is intended to help anglers remove surplus coho that are currently straying upriver to the old Mayr Brothers facility (Long Live The Kings) from the existing net pen project in the lower river. Additionally, we are now releasing coho directly from this facility. The extra fishing opportunity provided by this proposal will also help anglers harvest the anticipated increased number of coho returning to the hatchery.

#89. Anderson Lake

Proposal: Currently, Anderson Lake (Jefferson County) is open to fishing for game fish from the last Saturday in April - August 31 (fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is prohibited) and to a catch-and-release fishery for game fish from September 1 – October 31, with selective gear rules. This proposal would allow anglers to retain game fish other than trout during the September 1 – October 31 fishery.

Explanation: Allowing anglers to keep other game fish in September and October will increase harvest of bass. Management of Anderson Lake is focused on trout and depends on good fingerling survival for a successful fishery. This regulation is intended to reduce the largemouth bass population.

#90. Spanaway Lake Bass Rule- Housekeeping

Proposal: Spanaway Lake (Pierce County) is listed in the pamphlet as having statewide rules for gamefish, including bass, which is our intent. However, the actual rule language repeats the statewide rule again in the section for Spanaway Lake, which is not necessary. This housekeeping proposal would do away with this redundancy.

Explanation: This is strictly a housekeeping proposal to delete extraneous language from the rules; it does not change the rule or the way it would be enforced.

Marine Area Rules

#91. Catch Record Card Required for Halibut in All Marine Areas

Proposal: This proposal would require anglers to record on their catch record card all Pacific halibut retained from Marine Areas 1-13, beginning April 1, 2006.

Rationale: Currently, anglers are required to record on their catch record cards any Pacific halibut caught in Marine Areas 5-13. The Department is considering several proposed changes to the recreational halibut regulations for next year through the Pacific Fishery Management Council process that takes place in the fall. One of the proposed changes being considered through the Pacific Council process is an annual limit for halibut of five fish per angler. This limit would apply statewide to halibut caught in U.S. waters. Because the Department's catch record card would be used as a catch monitoring system and enforcement tool for this annual limit, the requirement to record Pacific halibut on catch record cards would need to be expanded to all Marine Areas. This change necessitates an amendment to the WDFW rule for the catch record card usage (if the annual limit proposal is adopted by the Council) and requires approval by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

#92. Clarification of Rule for Bringing Canadian-Caught Fish into the US

Proposal: Current law says you may not fish while in possession of fish that would be illegal if taken from the area where you are fishing. The possession rule applies anywhere except at a permanent residence. This proposal would amend the rule by adding, adding "It is unlawful for a person to fish for or possess bottomfish while in possession in the field of more than two Canadian halibut, but is lawful to fish for salmon" and "It is unlawful for a person to fish for food fish while in possession in the field of Canadian salmon that do not meet the possession requirements for the area being fished unless the salmon are possessed at a shoreside facility." This proposal would also make it unlawful to land Canadian-caught yelloweye or canary rockfish into a Washington port.

Explanation: If a person goes to Canada and catches the legal halibut possession limit (3 fish), those fish would be illegal if taken in Washington (2 fish possession limit). A strict reading of the rule means the person may not fish for any food fish or shellfish unless the three Canadian halibut are returned to the person's primary residence. Similarly, Canada has different size limits for salmon, and possession limits for salmon. A person with a wild chinook, legal in Canada, could not fish for bottomfish in a selective fishery area of Washington until the chinook is back at the residence. A person who catches a legal Canadian chinook (18.25 inches) would be in violation in all Puget Sound waters

if they fished while in possession of this fish (Washington minimum 22 inches), even if the person has cleared Canadian custom. This proposal would allow these people to fish in Washington waters after taking their Canadian catch to a shoreside facility, rather than requiring them to take them all the way to their residence.

The provision against landing canary or yelloweye rockfish discourages the increasing practice of Washington-based fishers making bottom-fishing trips to Canadian waters and landing such species into Washington ports – a practice that is in conflict with our recovery efforts for these two species.

#93. Forage Fish Dip Net Mesh

Proposal: The current rule states that the mesh size for forage fish dip nets may not exceed ½". This proposal would change the maximum size to 5/8".

Explanation: The current mesh size has caused difficulty as it is not readily available. The change would authorize the use of mesh that is currently in use but illegal. There is not an anticipated impact to bycatch of other species.

#94. Agate Pass Fishery

Proposal: Currently, for protection of the true cod population in Agate Pass, there is a closure to fishing in the waters west of a line from Point Monroe to Indianola and east of a line from Point Bolin to Battle Point from January 1 – March 31. This proposal would allow anglers to fish during the closure, with fly fishing only rules, and catch-and-release for all species. Additionally, use of lead-core line would not be allowed.

Explanation: This proposal would allow anglers to fly fish (catch-and-release) for sea-run cutthroat and coho salmon in this area during the otherwise closed period. Restricting anglers to fly fishing gear (and no lead-core lines) will continue to protect the true cod population.

Shellfish Rules

#95. Shrimp Harvest by Divers in Marine Area 8-2

Proposal: Marine Area 8-2 is currently open for recreational shrimp fishing on the first Saturday in May from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and on additional Saturdays and Wednesdays (same hours) until May 31 or when the quota has been taken. This proposal would allow divers to harvest shrimp in Marine Area 8-2 from 7:00 p.m. until midnight, any open day in May.

Explanation: Traditionally, there has been a small night-time dive fishery for spot shrimp in the Mukilteo area. However, the adoption in 2005 of the new shrimp-

fishing hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. has precluded this fishery. This is because spot shrimp move into deep water during the day, where they cannot be reached by recreational divers. After dark, the shrimp move shoreward, where they can be accessed by divers. The estimated harvest in 2005 (fishery opened by emergency rule) was 147 pounds (pot fishery harvest was about 10,000 pounds), and it is expected to remain relatively low in the future.

#96. Clarification of Shrimp Pot Mesh Rules

Proposal: The current rule states that during the month of May in Area 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line and in Marine Areas 5 – 13, the minimum mesh size for shrimp pots is a mesh where a 7/8” square peg will pass through each opening. This proposal would add “except for flexible (web) mesh pots where the opening must be a minimum of 1 3/4” stretch measure. Stretch measure is defined as the distance between the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of one mesh when the mesh is stretched vertically.”

In addition, June 1- October 15 in Marine Areas 5 – 13, it is unlawful to use mesh for shrimp pots of less than 1/2” except in entrance tunnels. This proposal would add “except for flexible (web) mesh pots where the opening must be a minimum of 1 1/8” stretch measure. Stretch measure is defined as the distance between the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of one mesh when the mesh is stretched vertically.”

Explanation: This is a housekeeping measure to help clarify the current shrimp pot mesh size restrictions. Under the current rule, many flexible (web) pots in use are technically illegal, because although a peg of the proper size will pass through most of the meshes, it will not pass through some of the meshes around the frame, etc. The stretch measure is more appropriate for these types of pots, as the intent is to allow these pots to be used if the overall mesh size is large enough.

#97. Maximum Size for Crab Pots

Proposal: Currently, there is a maximum size for ocean commercial crab pots, but no maximum for sport pots. This proposal would apply the ocean commercial crab pot size limit (which is thirteen cubic feet) to recreational pots.

Explanation: There is a relationship between the size of the pot and it's effectiveness at catching crabs. As other restraints on the recreational fishery are instituted to slow down the fishery, crabbers will look to ways to improve their personal fishing performance and an obvious move would be to increase the size of the trap. This would forestall any escalation in recreational effectiveness before the creation of a problem. This proposal is also being considered for Puget Sound commercial crab pots.

#98. Daily Limit for Squid

Proposal: The current daily limit for squid is 10 pounds or 5 quarts. This proposal would make the daily limit 10 pounds or 5 quarts, plus up to 5 Humboldt squid.

Explanation: In 2004 large number of Humboldt squid appeared in our waters. There was recreational fishery interest in catching these animals but one Humboldt squid can easily weight more than 10 pounds. An emergency rule was enacted which allowed for their retention. The squid are here in the late summer, apparently as a result of warm waters and their presence may become more regular. Allowing five of these squid to be retained per day would not pose a conservation problem.

#99. Belfair State Park Clam and Oyster Harvest

Proposal: This proposal adds Belfair State Park to the list of beaches with specific seasons for sport clam and oyster harvest. The season would be closed at first, until Washington Department of Health approves the beach for sport harvest, and approval is obtained from Washington Parks & Recreation Commission. Once approved, WDFW would set annual sport clam seasons there as on other public beaches.

Explanation: Belfair State Park has been closed since 1987 to all clam and oyster harvest by Washington State Parks, due to pollution. Water quality is expected to improve dramatically with a new sewer system, however, and Washington Department of Health is likely to approve the public beach for harvest. If this happens and with approval by Washington Parks & Recreation Commission, our agency will need to establish a sport clam season. This change adds Belfair State Park to the list of beaches with seasons, allowing that to happen.

#100. Eagle Creek Oyster Season

Proposal: Eagle Creek (on Hood Canal) is currently open year-round to the harvest of oysters. This proposal would set a specific season for the harvest of oysters from this beach.

Explanation: Eagle Creek currently has an oyster population adequate for a year-round sport fishery, in part due to enhancement by WDFW. The oyster population is declining, however, and if this trend continues we will need to establish a shorter sport oyster season there. This change would allow flexibility in assigning a sport oyster to Eagle Creek in the future.

#101. Fort Flagler State Park, Oak Bay County Park Oyster Seasons

Proposal: Currently, these two beaches are open year-round for the harvest of oysters, although they do have specific seasons for the harvest of clams. This proposal would make the oyster season coincide with the clam season on each of these beaches.

Explanation: Fort Flagler State Park and Oak Bay County Park have little natural production of oysters, but extensive clam populations, but they do have a year-round oyster season. This presents a loophole making it easy for clam harvesters to claim they are picking oysters, and consequently an enforcement problem. This change would permit annual sport oyster seasons to be set on these two beaches, which would coincide with the sport clam seasons. This change is consistent with the regulatory approach on many other beaches with little or no natural production of oysters.

#102. Potlatch DNR Tidelands

Proposal: Currently, harvest of Unclassified Marine Invertebrates (UMIs) such as moon snails and shore crabs is allowed at Potlatch DNR Tidelands. This proposal would prohibit UMI harvest from this beach.

Explanation: The taking of Unclassified Marine Invertebrates (UMIs) is permitted in most Washington state public tidelands, except for State Park tidelands, where the taking of UMIs is specifically prohibited. Potlatch DNR Tidelands is situated directly between two State Park tidelands (Potlatch State Park and Potlatch East State Park), making it almost impossible to effectively enforce the prohibition on UMI harvest in the Park tidelands. Harvesters simply claim they took UMIs on the DNR tidelands. This change prohibits harvest of UMIs on Potlatch DNR Tidelands, making for a single, consistent regulation at all three adjacent beaches. This will allow effective enforcement, and end confusion on the part of harvesters.

2006-07 Public Sportfishing Proposals not Supported by WDFW Staff

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Policy/General		
Develop boutique regulations to allow WDFW marketing reps to bargain with developers to increase access in new residential developments.	Robert Crocker	Although we agree that access to fisheries is important, we need to base the fishing regulations on the needs of the resource and to provide consistent fishing opportunity in similar areas.
Revise the sport rules to allow fishing by all types of legal fisher persons; trollers, moochers, drifters, plunkers, fly fishers) whenever an area is open to fish. Areas should not be set aside for favored fisher types/groups.	James Hearn	This would severely limit the areas and times open to fishing, because a population would have to be strong enough to withstand a fishery with any type of gear before a fishery could be opened. We also strive to provide a diversity of opportunity for our anglers – this would not allow us to continue to do that.
Licenses/Fees		
Commercial harvest should be taken by sportfishers with special licenses, allowing them to sell their catch.	Robert Crocker	Changes in the license structure would require legislation. This proposal crosses the line between commercial and sport licenses.
Add a \$5 region specific panfish only license on non-trout rivers and lakes to attract lower income and geographically limited participants.	Robert Crocker	Changes in the license structure would require legislation.
Make WDFW access sticker valid for day use of State Parks.	Robert Crocker	This change would require legislative approval, but would have an economic impact to either WDFW or Parks.
Double the fees on all licenses and offer 50% discount for anyone between the ages of 16 and 65.	Robert Crocker	Changes in the license structure would require legislation, but for our licenses and for those in other agencies, the general rule has been to charge seniors less.
Allow a fisherman to use two poles in fresh water. Allow the fisherman the option to purchase a license for a single use or double.	Nick Naccarato	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
Allow purchase of a permit (\$10) to allow the use of two rods for non-anadromous species in all waters except contiguous waters of the Columbia.	Charles Dunning/ endorsed by Walleyes Unlimited NW/approved by IFPAG	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
Give people the option to buy a second license to use a second pole (just one daily limit) statewide. People who do not have to buy a license would be allowed only one pole.	Paul Hudson	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
A second line may be used statewide with the purchase of an annual \$5 stamp.	Lidwik Chobot Sr.	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Anglers may use two rods with the purchase of a \$10 two rod stamp.	Richard Miller	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
A second line may be used in all areas with the purchase of an annual second rod stamp.	Mark Igo	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
Anglers may purchase a permit allowing the use of 2 lines while fishing for salmon in MA 5-13.	Dick Franklin	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
2 lines per person with up to 2 hooks per line in all lakes ponds reservoirs and salt water, excluding all rivers and streams. For an extra fee of \$5-\$10.	David Nierman	We do not have the authority to charge this type of fee, but will recommend to the Commission that we ask for such authority during the next legislative session. Our proposal would be to allow anglers to pay an additional fee to use two poles in freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.
Other Issues		
Place a hunting season on seals and sea lions similar to deer and elk seasons.	Cecil Coverdale	This is prohibited by the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act.
No Changes - good job	Preston Brock	No rule change proposed.
Problem is the modern ways of fishing, all waters are over-fished, and not enough rules and regulations.	Jack Burkhalter	Not a specific proposal here, but most people feel like we have too many rules, rather than not enough.
Require license vendors to physically hand out the rule pamphlet when issuing fishing licenses.	Jody Kennedy/ San Juan County Marine Resources Center	This is, of course, encouraged. However, making it a requirement to hand out pamphlets would not ensure that anglers would read the rules.
Boats with passengers carrying a saltwater license are required to have the rule pamphlet on board.	Jody Kennedy/ San Juan County Marine Resources Center	This is not something we can control. We do try to have our pamphlets available in a wide variety of places.
We should not have sea-run cutthroat on the endangered species list. Have fished them for 40 years, and they are not endangered, there are more now than I have ever seen. The biggest threat to our fisheries (salmon, trout, crab) is the seal and sea lion. We need WA, OR and CA to take a stand against the federal government.	Norris Petit	Not a specific proposal for a rule change. Sea-run cutthroat are not on the Endangered Species list.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Statewide definitions, gear rules		
CRC changes		
Persons who do not return their catch record cards should not be allowed to purchase a punch card the following year until their punch cards are returned.	Joe Durham/ Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force	This is an idea that sounds reasonable in concept, but can't be put into practice because of overlapping seasons, processing costs, and the volume of cards issued each year (over 800,000).
All fishing punch cards and hunting reports should be mailed when season ends or no new card is issued.	Noris Petit	This is an idea that sounds reasonable in concept, but can't be put into practice because of overlapping seasons, processing costs, and the volume of cards issued each year (over 800,000).
Definitions		
Add to definition of selective gear rules: ... fish may be released, with a hook remover (dehooker) or a "catch and release" net made of cotton or rubber mesh only". Also add to "how to release fish" in the pamphlet.	Dick Odell	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: anglers are required to use a knotless net in waters with selective gear rules. See proposal #1.</i>
2 Rods		
You may fish with a maximum of two lines. If worried about salmon, you could limit it to lakes.	Michael Gallinat	We do not support this liberalization without a fee attached. Authority to charge the fee would need to come from the Legislature.
Marine Areas 1-13, allow two lines for one angler per boat and one line for each additional angler for all species.	Terence Kenning /Boeing Employees Rod and Reel Club	We do not support this liberalization without a fee attached. Authority to charge the fee would need to come from the Legislature.
Other rules		
Barbless hooks statewide, old-style nets for tribes, \$100 fee for downriggers used with depth finders.	George Wells	Barbless hooks are already required in many areas. A statewide rule is not necessary. Tribal net types are not under the control of the state. Authority to charge the fee for downriggers would need to come from the Legislature.
One barbless hook on all salmon lures, except fresh or frozen bait.	Richard Colman	Barbless hooks are already required in many areas. Requiring a different kind or different number of hooks on lures than for bait would be confusing. Most of the science we have suggests that bait causes more mortality on released fish than lures do.
Make it illegal to clip a fin off a wild steelhead or salmon smolt without approval from the state or federal authorities.	James Grieve	It is already unlawful to mutilate or clip fins and return to the water any live fish.
All nets are to be of cotton webbing.	Richard Colman	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: anglers are required to use a knotless net in waters with selective gear rules. See proposal #1.</i>
Change the possession limit for salmon and steelhead from 4 to 6.	Paul Hudson	Possession limit for game fish (steelhead) is 2 daily limits – in cases where the daily limit is 3, this is already the case. For salmon, the possession limit is 2 daily limits, plus up to 40 pounds in frozen or processed form. We do not support increasing the possession limits above these limits.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Allow anglers to continue to fish for salmon and SH statewide after the daily limit has been retained.	Edward Conroy	Steelhead may be caught and released until the daily limit is retained. In fresh water, anglers may catch-and-release salmon until the adult portion of the daily limit has been retained. Allowing anglers to continue to fish for salmon and steelhead beyond these points would encourage hi-grading and cause more hooking mortality as more fish are caught and released, affecting the length of seasons.
Closed waters within 150 feet of all net pens to protect from overharvest.	Jody Kennedy/ San Juan County Marine Resources Center	There is no evidence of overharvest in these situations. If anglers are trespassing on the net pens, that is already unlawful.
1)use lead-free fishing tackle 2)promote the use of non-lead, zinc or tin fishing weights and tackle and the proper disposal of lead tackle 3) develop lead sinker exchange sites 4)develop brochures to encourage fishermen to learn about lead toxicity 5) wear plastic gloves when handling lead fishing tackle	Ginger Gum/Loon Lake Loon Ass'n	Banning the use of lead in all fishing gear would have a huge impact on anglers. WDFW anticipates doing a comprehensive review of this issue and reporting the results to the fish and Wildlife Commission for a recommendation on how to proceed.
Tournament WAC		
Change the boat limits per contest day for waters greater than 6000 and less than 10000 acres to 125 boats for 6001-8000 acres and 150 for 8001-10000 acres.	Ron Sawyer	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: keep the water categories the same, but allow more boats – specifically: waters 3001 – 6000 change the limit to 75 boats, 6001-10,000 change the limit to 150 boats. See proposal #6.</i>
Bass and Warmwater Fish		
Bass rule one over 12"	Robert Johansen	The current slot limit is a more effective way of producing healthy balanced populations of bass.
In any trout-managed lake that contains undesirable species, remove the limit so anglers can reduce the undesired fish population.	Ernie Buchanan	This proposal would probably encourage illegal stocking of bass in more lakes. The current slot limit is our best tool in mixed-species waters. If it needs to be adjusted in a particular water, it should be on a case-by-case basis.
Sturgeon		
Columbia River John Day to McNary pool - reduce sturgeon minimum size to 42" (lower river rule).	Richard Sharp	The current slot limit in this area (concurrent with Oregon's rules) is achieving the management needs of the fishery and maximizing the fishing season.
Freshwater General Rules		
No jigging for salmon in fresh water	Bruce Gradisher	Jigging is a popular, legitimate fishing method. (Snagging is already unlawful).
Allow retention of sea-run cutthroat between 11-13" in most estuaries and streams.	Robert Crocker	The 14' minimum size limit in sea-run cutthroat streams allows most females to spawn once before harvest, and is necessary to provide fish for future years. In marine waters, weak and strong stocks are mixed; this is the reason for the catch-and-release only rule, which has produced a very popular fishery.
No female salmon may be kept in rivers, or at most, one female per punch card, except in the lower Columbia, tide affected.	Richard Headley	Hatchery salmon (male and female) are intended for harvest as long as there are fish in excess of the need for broodstock. Until the fish are mature, it is often difficult to ascertain the sex of the fish.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Steelhead		
No wild retention		
Release all wild steelhead statewide.	James Grieve	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Stop the kill fishery on wild steelhead in Washington.	Mark Olson	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Catch and release, statewide, year round for wild steelhead	John Huard	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
No harvest of wild steelhead.	Dean Simms	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Catch and release only on wild steelhead. Maybe some of the lottery money can be directed toward fisheries, hunting and enforcement.	Jim Teeny	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
No harvest of wild steelhead	Clark-Skamania Flyfishers	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Wild steelhead release statewide with no exceptions.	Jeff Johnson	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Wild steelhead release at all times in all rivers.	Jack Berrywood	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Permanent statewide catch and release on all wild steelhead.	David Carlson	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Catch and release only on wild steelhead.	R.W. Maurer	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Annual or daily limit for wild, hatchery SH		
Change wild steelhead annual limit to 5 - consider all streams in Boldt case area for wild harvest, determined by the yearly state/tribal SH management agreements.	John Kelly	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Allow anglers to retain 5 wild steelhead in the Chehalis river system.	Larry Anderson	The annual limit was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes to the annual limit at this time. We are, however, proposing to allow anglers to retain their one wild steelhead on the Chehalis March 25-31. See proposal # 83.
Change wild steelhead annual limit to 5 in all rivers meeting escapement goals annually.	Thomas Wallace	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Steelhead annual limit 30, of which no more than 5 may be wild steelhead.	Dan Leinan/ City of Forks	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Raise annual limit to 5 SH from the Bogachiel, Calawah, Clearwater, Dickey, Green/Duwamish, Hoh, Hoko, Pysht, Quillayute, Quinault, Sol Duc rivers.	John Sharf	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Return to previous rule of retaining 5 wild steelhead annually in rivers meeting or exceeding escapement goals.	James Hearn	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Change annual limit for wild steelhead to 5.	George McLeod	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Change annual limit for wild steelhead to 5.	Hal Boynton	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Increase wild steelhead annual limit to 5 on all applicable Boldt case rivers meeting MSH criteria with regard to wild winter steelhead.	Russ Simonson/ SH Trout Club of WA	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Change annual limit for wild steelhead from 1 to 10.	Edward Conroy	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Exclude the Green/Duwamish River from the one fish annual limit for steelhead from July 1- November 30.	Hal Boynton	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Exclude the Green/Duwamish River from the one fish annual limit for steelhead from July 1- November 30.	Joseph Madrano	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
Exclude the Green/Duwamish River from the one fish annual limit for steelhead from July 1- November 30.	Rob Larsen	This issue was addressed by the Commission very recently. We do not support changes at this time.
No change in SH harvest limits until the WDFW Steelhead Science Paper and Management plan are completed.	Dick Burge/ Wild SH Coalition	No changes are being proposed that are in conflict with the Fish and Wildlife Commission's actions on steelhead last year.
Spawning areas, fishery timing, other policy		
Eliminate all fishing in the major wild steelhead spawning areas for the Boldt case area.	John Kelly	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where necessary. A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.
Close upper reaches of Bogachiel, Calawah, Dickey and Sol Duc rivers Feb 28 - May 31.	Dan Leinan/ City of Forks	Support a closure in the Dickey (see proposal #72)– Calawah is already closed at the end of February. Bogachiel is open with selective gear rules; this provides sufficient protection. Escapements are documented annually and adjustments will be made when necessary.
Close fishing on steelhead spawning grounds March 1 through May 31.	John Sharf	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where it is necessary. A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.
Close all fishing on wild steelhead spawning grounds March 1 - May 31. (Humptulips River, Chehalis system, coastal rivers, Puget Sound rivers)	George Bearwood	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where it is necessary. A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.
Close fishing on SH spawning grounds March 1 - May 31 in Puget Sound rivers, coastal waters, Chehalis and Humptulips systems.	John Hibbert	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where it is necessary. A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.
Close all fishing in SH spawning areas of upper rivers (PS, Olympic Penn, Chehalis and Humptulips systems) March 1 - May 31.	George McLeod	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where it is necessary A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.
Close all fishing on SH spawning grounds March 1 - May 31.	Russ Simonson/ SH Trout Club of WA	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where it is necessary. A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.
Fishing for wild steelhead in December and January limited to wild fish release only.	Dick Burge/Wild SH Coalition	This occurs on a case-by-case basis where it is necessary A blanket rule would unnecessarily eliminate a large amount of fishing opportunity.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Rainbow trout fisheries on anadromous SH rivers in western WA limited to wild fish release, selective gear only. Special exceptions may be made where RBT populations are not a component of the SH spawning population or are harmful to the production of SH (excessive predation or competition with juvenile SH by large trout pop)	Wild SH Coalition	Current rules (most of these areas are already restricted to 2 fish, minimum size 14") are providing adequate protection. More restrictive measures are used on a case-by-case basis.
Catch and release only allowed in areas open to catch and keep, and should be restricted to areas that are meeting or exceeding escapement goals.	James Hearn	We strive to provide a diversity of opportunity. This would severely limit the areas and times fishing is allowed.
All steelhead landed should be recorded on punch card, whether kept or released, and count toward the daily and season limit.	James Hearn	We do not want to limit anglers' ability to keep hatchery fish – this would fill up their catch record card very quickly. Catch record card data is already difficult to translate; this would make it harder.
Region 1		
Spokane River		
Spokane River from Upriver Dam to Idaho state line - make the season for game fish and salmon year-round with selective gear rules.	Rod Ebelt	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: extend the catch and release season to be June 1- March 15, selective gear rules except motors allowed. See proposal #10.</i>
Spokane River from upriver dam to Idaho state line - open all year, single barbless hooks, no bait, catch and release for all game fish.	Dean Oakes	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: extend the catch and release season to be June 1- March 15, selective gear rules except motors allowed. See proposal #10.</i>
Spokane River upriver dam to Idaho state line, catch and release single barbless hooks, no bait year-round.	Henry Pirkkala	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: extend the catch and release season to be June 1- March 15, selective gear rules except motors allowed. See proposal #10.</i>
Spokane River -upriver dam to Idaho boundary - open to catch and release fishing with selective gear rules year-round for trout.	Sean Visintainer	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: extend the catch and release season to be June 1- March 15, selective gear rules except motors allowed. See proposal #10.</i>
Snake River		
Snake River within 1000 ft of the mouth of the Grande Ronde River and Grande Ronde River within 1000 ft of its mouth - Oct 1 - Jan 1 - no fishing for steelhead from boats.	Randall Shaber	We have no data that tells us that fishing pressure is causing a passage issue. This would eliminate fishing from a boat in some of the most productive waters.
Snake River - separate salmon season from that in the Columbia (Snake should be later)	Verna Foley/ Darver Tackle	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Snake River - separate salmon season from that in the Columbia (Snake should be later)	Darcy Linklater/ Darver Tackle	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Snake River - open a fall chinook fishery in September and October.	Verna Foley/ Darver Tackle	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Snake River - open a fall chinook fishery in September and October.	Darcy Linklater/ Darver Tackle	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Lakes		
Add a fly fishing only (no gas motors) catch-and-release season to 4th of July Lake (Adams/Lincoln Co) Nov 17-Nov 30.	Reed Kaldor	This lake, along with a few others, is managed as a winter fishery. Additional seasons would detract from the winter fishing opportunity.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Region 2		
Rivers		
Go back to the old rules for walleye on Crab Creek (no single hook 3/4" requirement).	Emmett Soden	The current regulation has been effective in deterring snagging and poaching. We do support a proposal to increase the daily limit and decrease the maximum size for walleye.
Make one river catch and release only for fly fishing (Wenatchee, Skykomish, Sol Duc?) Could be seen as an experiment to see if runs increase.	Jack Conway	Our most recent angler preference survey shows that we currently have a good balance of normal production waters, and quality waters, such as selective gear rules, or fly fishing only.
Rufus Woods Lake		
Lake Rufus Woods - change daily limit for trout to 5 fish, with a slot of no more that 2 over 18".	Bob Hildebrand	The 2-trout limit is intended to maintain a sustainable high-quality fishery by reducing the number of fish harvested. See proposal #27 to add a bonus limit of 2 kokanee.
Lake Rufus Woods - apply normal lake trout daily limit of 5.	Charles Williams	The 2-trout limit is intended to maintain a sustainable high-quality fishery by reducing the number of fish harvested. See proposal#27 to add a bonus limit of 2 kokanee.
Rufus Woods Lake walleye - daily limit 3, illegal to keep spawning females (late winter and spring)	Henry Gualtney	Rufus Woods Lake walleye recruit from Lake Roosevelt. This population is doing well enough that we have proposed liberalizing the daily limit for walleye. See proposal #18.
Moses Lake		
Moses Lake or statewide, for yellow perch minimum size 7", daily limit 25.	Gary Main	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: no minimum size for yellow perch. See proposal #29.</i>
Moses Lake - walleye daily limit 7 - 5 fish under 18" and 2 fish over 18".	Gary Main	We agree that the walleye population can support additional harvest – see proposal #29 to raise the daily limit to 8, no more than 1 over 22".
Other Lakes		
McMannaman, Morgan, Halfmoon, Hutchison, Shiner Lakes and Bobcat and Coyote Ponds (Adams Co) - convert into bass/panfish lakes with C&R rules for bass like Stan Coffin Lake. Trout in these lakes have a bad flavor.	Robert Crocker	The bass catch-and-release rule at Stan Coffin Lake is still under evaluation, and Hutchinson et al are monitored periodically. Thus far, all these fisheries are doing well under current regulations, and no changes are advised for this cycle. While we have had some difficulty with producing trout fisheries in Halfmoon, Morgan and McMannaman lakes, poor tasting trout is not one of the reasons. McMannaman does just fine when free of competing species (currently sunfish are the culprit).
Perch Lake (Grant Co) - extend the open period through November 30, with catch-and-release and selective gear rules June 1 - November 30.	Virgil Redwine	Most years, Perch Lake has very low carryover rates, indicating that most fish are harvested, probably by June. This would leave very few or no fish for the proposed catch-and-release fishery.
Hammond, Big Bow, Putters and Hideaway Lakes (Douglas Co) internal combustion engines prohibited.	Tom Baskin/ Disabled Sportsmen Ass'n	Proponent has been advised to take this issue up with Douglas County, since WDFW can only restrict fishing from a boat with a motor, while the county has the ability to totally restrict motors on the lake.
Region 3		
No power boats above I-82 bridge on the Yakima River.	Jim Roberts	We only have the authority to control fishing from boats with motors – cannot limit their use for other purposes. The rule is not necessary to protect the smallmouth bass population, and would unnecessarily restrict angler access.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Region 4		
Green/Duwamish River - 277th bridge to Auburn-Black Diamond Br - trout season June 1- August 31. Or allow angling for trout only above the 8th St Bridge to Auburn/Black Diamond Rd after August 1.	Hal Boynton	This proposal would put the trout season in conflict with the salmon fishery, which is closed in August. Would need discussion with the Muckleshoot Tribe and should go through the North of Falcon process.
Green/Duwamish River - 277th bridge to Auburn-Black Diamond Br - trout season June 1- August 31. Or allow angling for trout only above the 8th St Bridge to Auburn/Black Diamond Rd after August 1.	Joseph Madrano	This proposal would put the trout season in conflict with the salmon fishery, which is closed in August. Would need discussion with the Muckleshoot Tribe; the proposal has been referred to the North of Falcon process.
Green/Duwamish River - 277th bridge to Auburn-Black Diamond Br - trout season June 1- August 31. Or allow angling for trout only above the 8th St Bridge to Auburn/Black Diamond Rd after August 1.	Rob Larsen	This proposal would put the trout season in conflict with the salmon fishery, which is closed in August. Would need discussion with the Muckleshoot Tribe; the proposal has been referred to the North of Falcon process.
Cedar River from mouth to Landsburg Rd Br open June 1 - Aug 31, trout daily limit 1, minimum size 8." No further fishing once the daily limit has been retained.	Frank Urabeck	This proposal has been modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: – daily limit 2 trout between 10 and 16 inches in length. Area open to retention is mouth to Highway 18 Bridge. See Proposal 36.</i>
NF Stillaguamish - open Mar 1- May 31, selective gear, hatchery fish only.	H.C. Smith	Current stock status does not support an extension of the season. Closed during this period of time to protect spawners.
Make one river catch and release only for fly fishing (Wenatchee, Skykomish, Sol Duc?) Could be seen as an experiment to see if runs increase.	Jack Conway	Our most recent angler preference survey shows that we currently have a good balance of normal trout-production waters, and quality waters, such as selective gear rules, or fly fishing only.
Skykomish River - no fishing from a boat while under power above the Lewis Street Bridge.	Jeff Johnson	Needlessly restricts fishing from a boat in this area.
Add selective gear rules to the NF Skykomish from June - August.	Jeff Johnson	The NF is stocked with hatchery summer steelhead. Allowing fisheries with bait maximizes the harvest of hatchery fish.
Skykomish River - stipulate that all drift bobbers need to be above the hook.	Jeff Johnson	Needlessly restricts terminal gear.
Skykomish River - anglers may only use a single barbless hook, artificial only, June-August.	Jeff Johnson	Need to allow anglers to maximize their catch of hatchery summer steelhead.
Skykomish River open Mar 1 - May 31 selective gear, non-retention of wild fish.	H.C. Smith	Current stock status does not support an extension of the season. Closed during this period of time to protect spawners.
Extend the selective fishery in the Skagit above Bacon Creek downstream to the SR 530 Br at Rockport. Daily limit one DV/BT and a slot limit of 12-15". Also recommend Snohomish system DV/BT studies be extended to that Skagit system.	Dennis Dickson	Population is healthy and current regulations provide adequate protection.
Skagit River above Burlington - delete language "but not while under power."	Bryan Cullup	The current regulation is an exception to the selective gear rules, allowing the use of motors. Prohibiting fishing while under power maintains the quality aspects of this fishery.
Skagit River from I-5 bridge in Mt Vernon to R 9 bridge in Sedro Wooley June 16 - July 15, selective gear rules, allow sockeye retention, release all game fish.	Bryan Cullup	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Skagit River - Bacon Creek to Sauk - no bait or barbed hooks during salmon fishery.	H.C. Smith	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
NF Nooksack open June 1 - March 30 for C&R for steelhead.	Terry McEwen	There is no data to support an extension of the fishery here. Spawning escapement numbers for this stock are hard to get, but population numbers are probably paralleling the downward trend in the Skagit/Snohomish and do not justify catch-and-release fishing.
Peterson/Griffin Lake (King Co) - catch and release and selective gear rules for trout, salmon, and bass	Ingrid Lundin/ King Co DNR& Parks	Proposal withdrawn by proponent. King County is not ready to move forward on this issue now – may bring it back in the future.
Make Lake Ballinger (King/Snohomish Co) catch and release, fly fishing only.	Robert Crocker	Our most recent angler preference survey shows that we currently have a good balance of normal trout-production waters, and quality waters, such as selective gear rules, or fly fishing only.
If Lake WA sockeye return is less than 350,000 but greater than 100,000 the fishery will be open Saturdays in July to at least one fish.	Charles Wischman	Escapement goal for this fishery is set by co-managers. Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Lake Padden (Whatcom Co) add selective gear rules, trout daily limit 2.	Terry McEwen	Lake Padden is managed as an opening day lake, and the fishery is a popular one. Our most recent angler preference survey shows that we currently have a good balance of normal trout-production waters, and quality waters, such as selective gear rules, and reduced daily limits.
Lost Lake - change to a split season like Echo Lake.	Dave DeBois/ Lost Lake Residents	Although Echo Lake had a “split season” in the past, the Commission did away with it several years ago, and does not support this as a way of dealing with the situation.
Shadow Lake (Snohomish Co - in Bob Heirman Wildlife Park) season - Last Sat in April through September because it is a popular roosting place for trumpeter swans. Also supported by Pilchuck Audubon Society.	Snohomish Sportsmen's Ass'n	We do not actively manage Shadow Lake (i.e., fish stocking, fish population monitoring, etc.); giving it an opening-day season would lead anglers to think that we do. Our wildlife management staff report that swan abundance is increasing substantially in the region, and specifically, that the swans at Shadow Lake have increased in abundance while in the presence of people/anglers that walk past the lake to access the Snohomish River. The swans roost in the evening hours at shadow lake, but feed all/most of the day in farm fields, and are not shy or affected by humans observing them. We have noted very little angling pressure in the lake.
Marine		
Designate potential area 7A in commercial regs as a "Special Recreational Sport Fishing Area". Feb 1 - Oct 31 salmon daily limit 2, release all wild coho, no more than one chinook, minimum size of 24."	Frank Lucci	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Region 5		
EF Lewis River above Sunset Falls open to fishing for trout - permit fly-fishing only, barbless single hooks, catch and release, regular stream season.	Don Gaines	Production in this area is primarily juvenile summer steelhead, not rainbow trout, and the current rule is put in place to protect them.
Turn Toutle River (including Green) up to Spirit Lake into a C&R trophy wild steelhead and wild rainbow trout zone.	Robert Crocker	This proposal would close a large and very popular fishery for hatchery summer steelhead. No reason not to allow anglers to retain these fish.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Washougal River below Mt. Norway Bridge - open steelhead season year-round with bait ban in effect Mar 15 - June 1.	Harry Barber	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. . <i>Modification: selective gear rules instead of bait ban. See proposal #60.</i>
Columbia River		
Open shad fishing on the Columbia River year-round	Robert Crocker	This would create an enforcement "loophole" where anglers could claim to be fishing for shad when fisheries for other species are closed.
Columbia River above Bonneville Dam - areas at tributary mouths and inside the tribal fishing boundaries Aug 1 - Oct 31 - no vertical jigging for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon.	Ken Schleicher	Jigging is a legitimate and popular fishing method. (Snagging is already unlawful).
Region 6		
Nisqually and Mashel Rivers		
Nisqually and Mashel Rivers - change to catch and release.	Nisqually Indian Tribe	A delay in the opening date and a 14" minimum size for trout was put forward as part of the Nisqually and Puyallup Watershed Steelhead and Char Protection proposal. See proposal #67.
Nisqually and Mashel Rivers - open June 16 instead of June 1 and close Oct 15 instead of Oct 31.	Nisqually Indian Tribe	A delay in the opening dates of these two rivers was put forward as part of the Nisqually and Puyallup Watershed Steelhead and Char Protection proposal. See proposal #67.
Mashel River - min size for trout 14" daily limit 2.	Nisqually Indian Tribe	This proposal was put forward as part of the Nisqually and Puyallup Watershed Steelhead and Char Protection proposal. See proposal #67.
Grays Harbor tributaries		
Humptulips River below 101 bridge- open October 1, increase hatchery coho limit to 4 in October and November.	Donald Bykonen	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Open Humptulips River mouth to Hwy 101 to salmon fishing Sept 1.	Steve Boerner	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Chehalis River above Hwy 101 bridge to Montesano- open September 16 for coho and chinook (if available)	Mike Burton	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Chehalis River from 101 bridge to mouth of Wynoochee- open salmon fishery September 16-November 30 for coho, possibly chinook (i.e. open concurrent with Area 2-2)..	Herb Tegelberg	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Satsop R and EF from mouth to MF - open to salmon fishing Oct 1-31.	Joe Durham/ Chehalis Basin Task Force	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Satsop River and EF Satsop - from Shafer Park to the Bingham Creek Hatchery - open an additional season for trout Jan 1- Mar 31 (daily limit 2). Or make the trout season June 1 - Mar 31. Open salmon in same area Oct 15 - Jan 31 for hatchery coho or open an area below Bingham Creek for 500 yards for hatchery coho, daily limit 2.	Hal Boynton	The area above Schafer Bridge on the East Fork Satsop River is considered prime spawning habitat for most species of salmon and steelhead and has been closed to protect those spawners for many years. The only open period is from June 1-Oct.31 for trout and other gamefish. We do not support opening that area for salmon or steelhead primarily for that reason. Also, it should be noted that there was not a large surplus of hatchery steelhead returning to this area in 2005. The proposal to open a coho fishery near Bingham Creek would result in anglers trampling on chinook redds and probably create a disorderly fishery (enforcement problem).

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Satsop River and EF Satsop - from Shafer Park to the Bingham Creek Hatchery - make the trout season June 1 - Mar 31, daily limit 2. Open salmon in same area Oct 15 - Jan 31 for hatchery coho or open an area below Bingham Creek for 500 yards for hatchery coho, daily limit 2.	Joseph Madrano	The area above Schafer Bridge on the East Fork Satsop River is considered prime spawning habitat for most species of salmon and steelhead and has been closed to protect those spawners for many years. The only open period is from June 1-Oct.31 for trout and other gamefish. We do not support opening that area for salmon or steelhead primarily for that reason. Also, it should be noted that there was not a large surplus of hatchery steelhead returning to this area in 2005. The proposal to open a coho fishery near Bingham Creek would result in anglers trampling on chinook redds and probably create a disorderly fishery (enforcement problem).
Satsop River and EF Satsop - from Shafer Park to the Bingham Creek Hatchery - make the trout season June 1 - Mar 31, daily limit 2. Open salmon in same area Oct 15 - Jan 31 for hatchery coho or open an area below Bingham Creek for 500 yards for hatchery coho, daily limit 2.	Rob Larsen	The area above Schafer Bridge on the East Fork Satsop River is considered prime spawning habitat for most species of salmon and steelhead and has been closed to protect those spawners for many years. The only open period is from June 1-Oct.31 for trout and other gamefish. We do not support opening that area for salmon or steelhead primarily for that reason. Also, it should be noted that there was not a large surplus of hatchery steelhead returning to this area in 2005. The proposal to open a coho fishery near Bingham Creek would result in anglers trampling on chinook redds and probably create a disorderly fishery (enforcement problem).
Jefferson Co		
Quilcene River, Rogers St to Hwy 101 Bridge, eliminate SGR for salmon only	Elliott Cook	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
Clallam Co		
Elwha River - mouth to marker at WDFW rearing channel - open June 1 - Feb 28	Frank Habenicht	This area needs to remain on a standard stream season to protect ESA-listed chinook. No hatchery summer steelhead are available, and very few cutthroat, so there would be little for anglers to fish for during this time period.
Make one river catch and release only for fly fishing (Wenatchee, Skykomish, <u>Sol Duc?</u>) Could be seen as an experiment to see if runs increase.	Jack Conway	There is already a fly fishing area on the upper Hoko and lots of selective gear areas nearby. Our most recent angler preference survey shows that we currently have a good balance of normal trout-production waters, and quality waters, such as selective gear rules, or fly fishing only.
Queets River - allow use of bait during March/April steelhead catch and release fishery.	Randy Emerson	Olympic National Park sets the fishing rules for the Queets - we have consistently recommended to them bait and harvest fisheries in the Queets, when harvestable surpluses of wild steelhead are forecasted, as we have allowed on the Clearwater River.
Big River - Clallam Co - remove selective gear rules and change opening to May 1.	Ed Bowen	June 1 opening is put in place to protect outmigrating smolts. Selective gear rules are also used on this river to protect juvenile salmonids.
Big River - Clallam Co - provide specific rule for coho fishery similar to Dickey River system.	Ed Bowen	We do not have a good estimate of coho runsize. We also have concerns about targeting coho and incidentally hooking sockeye, which have begun showing up in good numbers the last couple of years.
Hoh River - extend steelhead season to April 30.	H.C. Smith	Current wild winter steelhead abundance can only support a fishery through April 15.
No bait 1 March to 30 November in Olympic Peninsula rivers.	H.C. Smith	There are lots of hatchery steelhead available for harvest during this time period. Anglers should be allowed to fish for them with bait whenever possible.
Boats may be used for transport only on the upper Hoh and Calawah Rivers.	H.C. Smith	No reason to restrict access to healthy runs – fishing from a boat has not been identified as a problem in these areas.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Expand selective fishery on 1)Bogachiel upstream to the hatchery 2)Sol Duc downstream to lowest 101 bridge 3) Calawah - whole river	H.C. Smith	This restriction is not necessary for protection of wild fish, and would limit anglers' ability to harvest hatchery fish in these areas. A diversity of catch-and-release and harvest opportunity is already available on the Quillayute River system.
Lakes		
Make Ohop, Tanwax, Rapjohn, Whitman and Clear lake (Pierce Co) year-round instead of seasonal.	Larry Six	The overwhelming majority of Pierce County lakes (including Whitman) are open year-round. To provide diversity of opportunity, we offer opening day fisheries on selected waters, including the other 4 lakes.
Change all Pierce Co lakes to year-round.	Richard Six Sr.	The overwhelming majority of Pierce County lakes are open year-round. To provide diversity of opportunity, we offer opening day fisheries on selected waters.
Open Pattison Lake (Thurston Co) year-round. Cormorant population is out of control.	Bob Faulk	We currently have a good mix of seasonal and year-round lakes in the area. We will work to find solutions to the problem of bird predation, but recent surveys have shown a good population of rainbows.
Open Pattison Lake year-round.	Jon Thietje	We currently have a good mix of seasonal and year-round lakes in the area.
Ward Lake, Hick (Thurston Co) season March 1 - July 1 and September 1 - November 30 to address problems with swimming and partying at the access.	David Field	Fish and Wildlife Commission has not supported the idea of a split season in the past. Local biologists will work with local landowners to find another way to address the illegal use of access for swimming and partying.
Region 6 Marine		
In years when chinook returns to the GH system are or below escapement, season should not open prior to Oct 1.	Joe Durham/ Chehalis Basin Task Force	Forwarded to the North of Falcon Process for consideration.
MA 13, allow anglers to retain a daily limit of sea-run cutthroat, minimum size 12".	William Bearse	Marine Area 13 contains a mixture of strong and weak sea-run cutthroat stocks. The current catch-and-release fishery offers protection to the less healthy stocks and is very popular with most anglers.
During Agate Pass closure (Jan 1 - Mar 31) allow fly fishing.	Keith Robbins	This proposal was modified and moved forward for comment. <i>Modification: catch and release only for all species – anglers may not fish with lead-core line. See proposal #93.</i>
Prohibit scuba diving year round in the Waketickeh Marine Conservation Area.	Bryan Guame	Area is already closed to harvest by divers as well as other fishers. WDFW is not authorized to ban the act of SCUBA diving.
General Marine		
Gear, area, possession limits		
Special rules for salmon fishing in the urban environment (within city limits of towns over 20,000) - one fish per day, C&R with single barbless hooks - bait anglers must keep the first salmon caught regardless. No boats within 350 ft of piers, breakwaters or shorelines.	Robert Crocker	Proposal does not address differing needs of salmon runs in different areas. Also, requiring one set of rules for salmon fishing and another for other species would cause enforcement problems.
Salmon limit 4 but all salmon caught must be retained regardless of size.	Robert Crocker	Cannot allow all salmon to be retained in areas where certain species, runs, need protection. Current size limits are put in place to prevent anglers from targeting shakers. A change of this type would also have to be agreed to during the North of Falcon process.
Split Marine Area 9 at Foulweather Bluff to Double Bluff to protect mid Hood Canal stocks.	Keith Robbins	This change would compromise a long-term database using the existing catch areas.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
No treble hooks in marine waters	Keith Robbins	This rule change has been before the commission several times recently. Without some new data or studies that support the change, we do not recommend putting it forward again at this time.
Allow divers to spearfish one salmon daily, wild or hatchery, in all saltwater areas.	William Dillman	Proposal does not address differing needs of salmon runs in different areas, or the need to harvest hatchery fish, not wild fish in some fisheries. It is not possible to “catch-and-release” in a spear fishery.
Canadian-caught fish		
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Angie Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Becky Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Tim Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Evelyn Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.

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In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Vic Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Deb Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	Ernie Holt	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
In Marine Areas 4,5,6,7, and 8 allow landing of legally caught Canadian salmon in a WA port when fisher has a Canadian license and Canadian regs are adhered to. Day fishing without clearing Canadian customs will be allowed.	William Turner	Washington and Canadian salmon rules have significant differences (seasons, size of legal fish, daily limits, etc.). Without proof of fishing in Canada, fish managers will have to assume impacts on Washington fish stocks, and make season and catch ratio adjustments based on these assumptions. This will cause reductions in fishing opportunity for mid- and south Puget Sound fisheries. Unless salmon anglers are willing to forego angling in the Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma saltwater areas, unrestricted day trips into Canada cannot be accommodated.
Marine Fish		
Halibut		
Allow barbed hooks for halibut in MA 5-13 from April 14 - June 15.	Henry Altenburg	We need consistent use of barbless hooks for enforcement purposes. There are salmon present during this time period that could be impacted by the barbed hooks.
Halibut season in MA 6-13 changed to March 14 - May 20, barbed hooks okayed for this fishery only.	Ron Garner	Open season is set by the Halibut Commission. We need consistent use of barbless hooks for enforcement purposes. There are salmon present during this time period that could be impacted by the barbed hooks.
Open halibut season as early as March 1 in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.	Mark Abetz	Open season is set by the Halibut Commission.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Ling Cod		
Ling cod - have the same size restrictions for divers as for other fishers.	Keith Robbins	Lingcod harvest by divers is controlled with a shorter season length than for hook and line fishers. Lingcod can't be accurately measured in a spear fishery until it is too late.
Divers have the same size restrictions for ling cod as hook and line anglers.	Mark Nihart	Lingcod harvest by divers is controlled with a shorter season length than for hook and line fishers. Lingcod can't be accurately measured in a spear fishery until it is too late.
Lingcod season for divers the same as for hook and line fishers.	Mark Nihart	Lingcod harvest by divers is controlled with a shorter season length than for hook and line fishers, because divers do not have the size restrictions that hook and line anglers have.
Require a lingcod punchcard - limit 10 for adults, 5 for juveniles.	Mark Nihart	Currently, the lingcod fishery is stable. We do not think another catch record card is advisable at this time.
Create an area in MA 10 with no lingcod harvest with health advisories for bottomfish. C&R only, no spearfishing for lingcod. May - June for lingcod would be replaced by a C&R season open whenever other fishing is allowed or if possible year-round.	Brian Kraemer	There is essentially a 46-week catch-and-release fishery now. The 6-week retention fishery is working well stock-wise. Only a small part of Marine Area 10 has a health advisory.
Shellfish		
Crab		
Open Marine Area 7 year-round to crabbing with rings and star traps.	Mr. & Mrs. Otto Nelson	Crab seasons were recently adjusted and adopted by the Commission. We do not recommend changes without information on how the current rules are working.
Crab season in Marine Areas 8, 8-2, 9, 10 and 11 should be April 15-Dec 1.	Val Storrs	Crab seasons were recently adjusted and adopted by the Commission. We do not recommend further changes without information on how the current rules are working.
Open Marine Areas 8-2 and 9 and any other applicable areas during April and May to harvesting crabs by wading.	Chris Paulson	Wading opportunity is provided in the fall and winter fisheries.
Hood Canal - one crab pot per person, daily limit 4. Season open 1st 2 weeks of month, alternate months, year-round.	Robert Thompson	Daily limit was recently lowered from 6 Dungeness crab to 5, and seasons have been adjusted. We do not recommend further changes without information on how the current rules are working.
Red rock crab season in all Puget Sound year round for wading.	Gary Hulseay	Not enough enforcement to see what is being harvested in off season.
Crab phone survey has got to go. Do not issue a catch record card until the old one is turned in. No emergency closures and tickets.	Richard Horak	Requiring anglers to return their catch record cards before a new one is issued is an idea that sounds reasonable in concept, but can't be put into practice because of overlapping seasons, processing costs, and the volume of cards issued each year (over 800,000). We try to minimize our use of emergency rules when we can, but in highly volatile fisheries it is always best to check the sportfishing hotline before you go fishing.

Proposal Description	Submitter	Rationale
Shrimp		
Open Hood Canal shrimp season at 6 or 7am instead of 9am - water is better in the morning.	Bob Faulk	The 9am to 1pm hours came from the public through a series of public meetings that took place in 1995 or 1996. Starting the fishery earlier and keeping it 4 hours will cause hardships for the fishers that travel to the canal to fish. Starting earlier and continuing the fishery until 1pm (expanding the hours) will exacerbate the multiple trip limit problem we have now and would create problems with our boat counts via airplane. The current 4-hour fishery puts all the fishing boats on the water at the same time so we get an accurate count from the plane.
Clams, Oysters, Squid		
Should be able to take oysters off the beach while in the shell.	Frank Wokojance	Shells need to be left on the beach as a place for young oyster larvae to "set".
Allow a designated harvester to harvest clams without being in direct line of sight of the licenseholder.	Jeanette Royce	This rule is in place for razor clams (must still be within ¼ mile). For other species, though, not requiring the licenseholder to be present is really just a way to harvest 2 limits of clams.
Razor clams or other shellfish, specify beach descriptions for the northern coast.	Ed Bowen	WDFW does not control monitoring by the Department of Health, and can only react to the information they give us. Both agencies think it is better to err on the side of caution in a situation where lives could be lost.