

Public Comments Presented At The WDFW Meeting March 19th 2015

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- Started this effort as a Brinnon Parks and Rec Commissioner but passed away on September 29, 2014.
- The petition was started in June of 2014 to open North Hood Canal to bottom fishing.
- An example of the petition was sent to WDFG in Sept to determine the process to bring the signed petition forward to WDFG Commissioner.
- In October the WDFG Commissioners turned down example petition because it did not contain signatures without contacting us for further information.
- Then the Commissioner directed Staff to look at only Quilcene and Dabob Bays for potential bottom fishing.

Brinnon Parks and Rec collected over 1000 signatures on 141 petitions to open North Hood Canal to Bottom Fishing between July and September of 2014.

Brinnon Parks and Rec does not endorse or support the study to open Quilcene and Dabob Bays to only flatfish because:

- The potential demand for flatfish is limited.
- Opening this fishery most likely not generate additional license sales.
- Would be a waste of WDFW resources.

Brinnon Parks and Rec recommends:

- That the Commissioners redirect the staff to look at all of North Hood Canal for potential of opening this are for all bottom fishing as it was prior to 2004.
- That the WDFW staff contact local dive businesses and dive clubs to gain an understanding of the true population of bottom fish in north Hood Canal along with what areas should be reserved for recreational diving.
- That the WDFW also contact local Recreational Fishing Organizations to determine the true interest in what bottom fish are truly of value to local fisherman.
- Target for potential openings in July of 2016.
- And lastly the future meeting scheduled by WDFW concerning fishing in Hood Canal be held in communities on Hood Canal, not Port Townsend.