



KLICKITAT COUNTY

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife,

Klickitat County supports Option 1 of the 2013-2014 WDFW sport fishing proposed rule change #9, *remove size and daily limits for bass and walleye and daily limits for channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River and their tributaries*, as listed.

Although not currently included within the areas proposed for the removal of size and daily limits for bass and walleye from sport fishing regulations, Klickitat County advocates for the inclusion of the Columbia River and its tributaries below McNary Dam. This change might need to be coordinated with the State of Oregon, but could be highly beneficial in reducing negative interactions between Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed anadromous fish and non-native, predatory warm water fish in these reaches as well. The impact of warm water predatory fish on ESA listed anadromous species below McNary Dam is not entirely known, but is likely substantial.¹ Given that the middle Columbia River and its tributaries support ESA listed salmonids and is also a migratory corridor for out migrating smolts from the Upper Columbia, Yakima, and Snake River Basins, it would be beneficial to include these specific reaches in the proposed rule change.

Additionally, we strongly recommend the specific inclusion of the White Salmon River, Klickitat River and Rock Creek in the proposed rule change (which might be done without consulting Oregon) – at least to the extent they are backwatered from the Bonneville and John Day pools if not the entire anadromous portions. This section of the Columbia River and the backwatered portion of its tributaries are conducive to warm water fish propagation – addressing current management options by removing the size and daily limits for non-native warm water fish would likely be beneficial to ESA listed anadromous fish and align with existing recovery efforts.²

In summary:

- We support Option 1 of the 2013-2013 WDFW sport fish proposed rule change #9.
- We advocate for the additional inclusion of the Columbia River and its tributaries below McNary Dam in the proposed rule change.
- We strongly encourage removing the size and daily limits for bass and walleye and daily limits for channel catfish in the White Salmon River, Klickitat River and Rock Creek.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule change.

A blue ink signature of Dave McClure, written in a cursive style, is positioned above the typed name and title.

Dave McClure, Director
Natural Resource Department
Klickitat County

¹Sanderson, B.L., K.A. Barnas, and A.M.W. Rub. 2009. Nonindigenous Species of the Pacific Northwest: An Overlooked Risk to Endangered Salmon? *BioScience* 59(3):246-256.

²Carey, M.P., B.L. Sanderson, T.A. Friesen, K.A. Barnas, and J.D. Olden. 2011. Smallmouth Bass in the Pacific Northwest: A Threat to Native Species, a Benefit for Anglers. *Reviews in Fisheries Science* 19(3):305-315.