

Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW)

From: Burley, Craig C (DFW)
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 12:04 PM
To: Lininger, Tami L (DFW); Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW)
Subject: FW: Shark fishing catch and release

Hi Tami and Charmane

Below is additional public comment on the sport fishing proposal.

Thanks

Craig

From: Reed, Heather J (DFW)
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Thomas, Christopher M
Cc: Director (DFW); Burley, Craig C (DFW); Culver, Michele K (DFW); Lowry, Dayv C (DFW)
Subject: RE: Shark fishing catch and release

Good morning Mr. Thomas-

Thank-you again for providing your thoughts and ideas on recreational shark fishing in Washington. I will forward your revised proposal and suggestions so that they are available to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as they evaluate the sport rule proposals. ~Heather

Heather Reed
WDFW
Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator
360-249-1202

From: Thomas, Christopher M [<mailto:Christopher.Thomas4@va.gov>]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Reed, Heather J (DFW)
Cc: Director (DFW); Burley, Craig C (DFW); Culver, Michele K (DFW); Lowry, Dayv C (DFW)
Subject: RE: Shark fishing catch and release

Ms. Reed,

Thank you very much for writing back. I appreciate all of you at the WDFW for your hard work protecting our state's resources. I agree with your scientific assessment about the sex of these sharks and that the estuaries are birthing areas for these sharks. I did not take that into consideration.

If I may make a counter proposal,

Would it be possible to close fishing for these sharks in all river openings and estuaries?

One example would be to close marine areas 8-1-Skagit Bay, 8-2,-mouth of the Snohomish river in Everett, 10-Elliot Bay, , 13- Nisqually Delta, Willapa Bay, and Grays harbor (of course other areas would apply). This would reduce risk to only catching pregnant females in there birthing spots.

Second, a season for catch and release could be set. For example, January to April no deeper than 120 feet, in Puget Sound and June to September ½ mile off shore on the coast.

Third, the cost... yes tagging can be expensive and our states legislators keep cutting into your budgets. So I propose a special \$15 to \$20 endorsement (heck make it \$30) added to the saltwater license to fish for sharks. Added only to those anglers who would want to fish for the large species of shark.

Finally make it catch and release, barbless circle hooks only.

Again thank you for taking time to respond to my email and educating me on some of the facts that I over looked.

Best,

Chris Thomas

Shoreline WA

From: Reed, Heather J (DFW) [<mailto:Heather.Reed@dfw.wa.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 4:08 PM

To: Thomas, Christopher M

Cc: Director (DFW); Burley, Craig C (DFW); Culver, Michele K (DFW); Lowry, Dayv C (DFW)

Subject: Shark fishing catch and release

Hi Mr. Thomas-

Thank-you for sending your comments regarding the rule proposal to prohibit fishing for sharks in Washington, my name is Heather Reed, I manage the coastal recreational bottom fish fishery and have been asked to respond to your email. Sixgill, sevengill and thresher sharks are classified as bottom fish according to Washington regulations and so they fall under fisheries that I manage, I'd like to share a little bit about the rationale behind this rule proposal.

We don't know a lot about the status of the population for these species in our coastal areas and estuaries but we do know that their life history characteristics make them very vulnerable to overfishing. These shark species are slow growing and mature late in life, which makes it difficult to rebuild their populations to healthy levels if they become overfished. In addition, sixgill and sevengill sharks are known to use our coastal estuaries (Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor) as nursery grounds during the spring and summer. Often, the larger sharks that are targeted by recreational anglers during the summer are females carrying pups. Even a non-retention fishery that allows catch and release could put stress on these fish, and we are uncertain how significant that stress might be. We don't have a limit on the number of fishermen that can participate in a catch and release fishery and wide spread interest could exacerbate the problem.

A well designed tagging program would require significant financial funding and, even with the help of volunteers, would be reliant on a number of staff needed to develop and oversee the program that are just not available at this time. There has been some research conducted on sharks in our coastal estuaries and Puget Sound to help us better understand their life history and the importance of these areas to the overall health of the population. Even with a closure to recreational fishing important research can continue with a scientific collection permit issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

We greatly appreciate that you took the time to provide your input and ideas. I will forward your message and proposal so that it is available to the Fish and Wildlife Commission during their consideration of all of the sport rule proposals. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions or input. Thank-you ~Heather

Heather Reed

WDFW

Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator

360-249-1202

From: Thomas, Christopher M [<mailto:Christopher.Thomas4@va.gov>]

Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 11:53 AM

To: Director (DFW)

Subject: Shark fishing catch and release

Director Anderson,

I would like to propose for your consideration, that the WDFW should allow for catch and release tagging programs for 6 and 7 gill sharks as well as other large shark species in all Washington waters. This would allow for more opportunities

for sport fisherman to catch big game fish and promote tagging for the species for future study . Also with a large species of fish available for sport, the state could generate more revenue through licensing, and increase tackle sales for such large fish. Additionally catching 6 and 7 gill sharks or other large shark species for catch and release will take pressure off of species like sturgeon and to some degree halibut. This is something that takes place with big game fisheries in other states and would have little impact on the species since the sharks would be released unharmed back into the water.

As an angler who has moved from the gulf coast state of Alabama and living in the northwest, I have missed catching large species of sharks (makos, hammerheads) and other big game (marlin , sailfish). Sturgeon are the only fish species that comes close to big game fishing in these parts. In the gulf coast states we are allowed to keep some big game, but are also encouraged to tag and release big game species, especially sharks, for study and to perpetuate the species. It would take little effort for a tagging program to be implemented by the state. Professional guides and anglers could be taught the basics of tagging and handling for safe release of sharks.

I hope this is something that your biologist and you will consider for 2013/2014 rule changes. More opportunities more revenue.

Thank you for your time,
Chris Thomas
Shoreline Washington