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Fish and Wildlife
Enforcement Program

I am writing to voice my disapproval of the proposal to require mandatory retention of hatchery steelhead. Firstly I feel I should have the right to release or retain hatchery steelhead based upon their physical condition. Why should I be required to retain 2 spawned out fish & be required to stop fishing for the remainder of the day? This scenario would be the norm (if required) on many days for myself especially during the late winter season. If you do see fit to pass this requirement then why not raise the S/H limit to FOUR fish — if in fact you so badly want these fish removed from the river systems?

In my mind, why not institute a proposal and legislate for charging a fee for our Salmon S/H catch record cards. Look to our neighbors in Oregon to see to what extent they value their fisheries Resource. Currently, as opposed to our FREE Card, theirs is $27. THEIR CURRENT PROPOSAL is to increase that fee to $55 in 2016, $66 in 2018 and $79. in 2020! How do we justify No Fee in Washington. According to Jim Scott, head of WDFW, Coho and S/H releases are going to be

drastically cut in S.W. Washington due to our federal Mitchell Act money being reduced by $500,000. Seems to me that amount of money would be quite easily generated from catch record card revenue.

I recently saw a TV show detailing how the Gov. of Michigan took active steps to bring in much needed revenue from their highly prized fishing opportunities. Michigan Gov. Snyder realized the importance of their truly ~~highly~~ world class resource and has been able to generate 4.4 Billion dollars in economic activity. I plan to pass this along to WA. Gov. Jay Inslee to take notice as no doubt the State of WA. offers world class fishing opportunities as well.

Sincerely,

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P.S. Why do all the Smelt enthusiasts pay 0 dollars for their quest?