

Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW)

From: Fishing Regulations (DFW)
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 10:40 AM
To: Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW)
Subject: FW: Steelhead Sportfishing Rule Changes for 2016/17

Categories: Sport Rules

For you!

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Brian Morrison [mailto:brian_bpm@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 8:34 AM
To: Fishing Regulations (DFW)
Subject: Steelhead Sportfishing Rule Changes for 2016/17

To Whom it may concern,

I am unable to submit my comments via the sportfishing rule change website, as I am not a US citizen. I am a Canadian angler, who visits the targeted watersheds, which these rules would affect.

46. Adopt "no fishing from floating device" rules on select streams:

Implement "no fishing from a floating device" rules on select OP rivers to reduce angling effectiveness on adult steelhead and salmon, and resident fish. Similar rules have proven to be successful at reducing catch and release angler induced mortality while also preserving quality fishing opportunity on popular rivers such as Oregon's Deschutes, and in British Columbia.

47. Adopt selective gear rules in North Coast Steelhead streams:

Bait does tend to have higher mortality rates for steelhead than gear or fly, as evidenced by the great review by Bob Hooton (BC Biologist) in 2001. Similarly, Bruesewitz (1995) examined hooking location for steelhead in several Washington streams in three consecutive years and found that single-hook-and-bait combinations resulted in 2.3 times higher incidence of hooking in critical locations than did single hooks and artificial lures.

Prohibiting bait would have two results. First, fewer fish are likely to be hooked and, thus, we reduce the chances for mortalities--particularly for kelts. Second, rather than having one user group catch the vast majority of the fish, the resource is spread amongst a broader and less-effective user group. This is important because anglers are happier when they catch fish, and more anglers will catch fish if the most effective method is eliminated.

Implement selective gear rules such as single barbless hooks and no bait during on select OP rivers in order to protect juvenile and adult steelhead, salmon, and trout.

48. Prohibit wild Steelhead harvest:

Prohibit the harvest of all wild (non-fin clipped) steelhead and Rainbow Trout on select OP rivers such as the

Hoh, Bogachiel, and Sol Duc.

As a non-resident angler in Washington, I would be much more likely to continue to participate and support the fisheries on Washington, if a pro wild fish regulatory framework were established, and, these measures would reduce the competitive atmosphere of the existing fishery, facilitate a quality angling experience for all participants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Brian Morrison