



Forks Chamber of Commerce  
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FISH AND  
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

October 29, 2015

Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Attn: Miranda Wecker, Chairwoman  
600 Capitol Way N.  
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: North Coast Steelhead Advisors Group's Recommendations

Dear Chairwoman Wecker,

The Forks Chamber of Commerce is very concerned about the WDFW Sportfishing Rule Changes for 2016-2017. These changes could have a very dramatic impact on our economy, our local guides, and the majority of our visiting anglers.

Some of our concerns are that there is a push to prohibit keeping the current allowed limit of wild steelhead (Rule 48). Many of the anglers release the wild fish already but a mandate to release all fish caught is not appropriate or warranted. The Forks Chamber of Commerce does not endorse a total ban on the retention of wild steelhead.

Regarding Rule 47, we don't believe it is necessary to implement a selective gear rule during the wild winter steelhead fishery. We would like to see the continuation of the rules that allow for all user groups to fish our rivers and streams. This could be a major economic impact on our area if this rule goes into effect.

The "No fishing from a floating device" rule 46, proposed as an "experiment" on our rivers could have a devastating outcome. If there is a ban, even on an experimental basis, on fishing from a floating device many of our guides could suffer and in turn our economy could suffer. If this "experiment" turns into something else, we could only imagine the devastating outcome this could have on our way of life. While this ban seems to favor bank fisherman, we don't agree with any one user group benefiting or being condemned exclusively. We believe that all anglers should have equal access to the rivers and streams in this area without prejudice.

And lastly, regarding limiting fishing guides on the rivers. We don't believe this could be done without legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

  
Lissy Andros  
Executive Director

cc:  
Forks Forum  
Forks City Council  
Quileute Tribal Council  
Clallam County Commissioner Bill Peach  
Bob Kratzer/North Coast Steelhead Advisory Group

***Businesses working together for a better community***