

Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW)

From: Bob Cormier <rcormier15@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 8:15 PM
To: Commission (DFW)
Cc: Doug Schaad; Dennis; 'John Reich'
Subject: Steelhead - Olympic Peninsula

To Whom It May Concern,

I have enjoyed fishing the lower peninsula rivers for about 25 years primarily with non-Indian guides. My favorite rivers include the Hoh, Queets, Clearwater, Quinault and the Humptulips. In the early days I was a catch and kill fisherman but eventually evolved into a C&R fisherman for all natives about 15-20 years ago. The fact that I have an opportunity to catch these elusive and spectacular fish in my home state is an honor. I never tire of catching them and take great joy in releasing them properly to continue on their spawning journey. I am also a bait fisherman but based on what I have been reading lately I think it is time for me to give that up. Over the years I have fished with Indian guides on occasion but was disappointed in the way they advocated catch and kill on all fish. One of the guides I fished with was drunk when I met him in the morning and drank until we were off the river. Not a positive experience so I never went back. I would hope there are some that practice C&R but I have not had the pleasure of meeting them.

It has irritated me greatly over the years that many of the no-Indian guides continue to practice catch and kill, exercising the one fish a year option with their clients. These professional fisherman know how to target fish with bait but many should know better that they are squandering this resource by continuing to practice catch and kill. They need to have more respect for these fish that provide them with their livelihood and if they do not it will not be long before they are out of work. We are sadly moving that way very quickly.

Since the fishery is in such a terrible state of decline it is time for all fisherman to move towards 100% C&R. It is the only way for us to hopefully convince the Indian guides to re-think their current practices on many of the critical rivers that these fish pass through their reservations. Even if it is only the non-Indian fisherman who step up now and move exclusively to C&R it would only help the wild fish rebuild and more importantly send a message to the Indian guides that things have got to change. The time is at hand for all Steelhead fisherman to band together and do the right thing for the fishery. I also think we are at a point that we must move to a no bait restriction on all Olympic Peninsula rivers. I have such respect for these magnificent creatures that I would advocate for this change.

Best regards, Bob

Robert P. Cormier
2212 192nd Ave SE
Sammamish, WA 98075
425.890.1484