

**Concise Explanatory
Statement Regarding
2003-2004
Sportfishing Rule
Proposals**

February 2003



*Washington
Department of*
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

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Conservation Regulations

#1. Freshwater Bivalves

Proposal: Place an aggregate daily limit of 10 on all freshwater bivalves (clams, mussels, etc.). No license is required. May be collected by hand only (no tools) Each harvester must have a separate container for his/her catch.

Explanation: Until recently, public interest in freshwater clams and mussels has been almost non-existent. However, over the past two years we have been receiving reports of a significant amount of harvest by a few individuals, and have heard some concerns over population sizes of one species of freshwater mussel. Currently there is no daily or possession limit for these animals. This rule would offer some level of protection until we get a better idea of their status. Collection by hand will lessen any possible damage to streambeds.

Testimony:

Tulalip Tribe is recommending no harvest of the freshwater mussel *Marigitifera falcata*, based on conservation concerns for this species. Have proposed that it be listed on the State's Species of Concern list (proposal attached). There has been up to a 90% decline in populations through its range. The WDFW proposed rule implements a bag limit which implies there is a fishery being conducted and that WDFW has determined a harvestable amount to sustain the mussel population in every stream, and that it would be monitored. State would need to follow section 4.5 of the Shellfish Implementation Order to open a fishery. There are also serious health concerns over eating freshwater mussels. There is also a public health concern because of high fecal counts in freshwater mussels. Species is culturally important to many Native American Tribes. No harvest of freshwater mussels should be allowed.

Department of Health Food Safety and Shellfish Program Director has concerns with the proposal. They have no comprehensive monitoring program for bivalves in freshwater the way they do for saltwater areas. They do not anticipate that all FW bivalves would meet public health standards because freshwater is almost always subject to more pollution than is saltwater. Biotoxins are a particular concern, especially from blue-green algae. Chemical contamination is another concern - there are DOH advisories for several freshwater areas already. Recommendation is to allow no harvest of freshwater bivalves because of reasons listed above. Establishing a daily and possession limit implies that these species are safe for public consumption.

Proposal could wait until the next full regulation review when you would have more data. If problem of damage is arising from harvest there are laws in effect to deal with it.

Modification: After considering the testimony and recognizing that: 1) some species population status are thought to be depressed; 2) no field monitoring occurs on harvest or population status; and, 3) unlike marine species, there is no feed back to the agency from other government entities or individual observations, **modify proposal to allow no harvest of freshwater bivalves.**

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified.

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#2. Canary and Yelloweye Rockfish Protection

Proposal: Make the daily limit for canary and yelloweye rockfish 0 in Marine Areas 5-13. In Marine Areas 1-4, allow anglers to retain one canary rockfish and no yelloweye rockfish.

Explanation: Canary and yelloweye rockfish are two species of rockfish which are orange in color. Both are commonly called “red snapper” by anglers, and are long-lived species and may reach ages in excess of fifty years. While never common in Puget Sound, both species have virtually disappeared from the harvest by sport anglers throughout Puget Sound. The department has no estimates of the abundance of these two species in Puget Sound. However, anecdotal evidence indicates that both canary and yelloweye rockfish have declined in abundance. Both species have declined in Washington coastal areas and these declines have resulted in severe restrictions on fishing along the coast. This proposal provides protection for these two species by applying similar restrictions to inland waters, and adding additional protection for canary rockfish in ocean areas.

Testimony:

Supported by the Westport Charterboat Association.

Puget Sound Action Team supports proposal to make the canary rockfish limit 0 in MA 5-13. It is important to tell people these fish should not be targeted for harvest.

Modification: Add to the proposal: **It is unlawful to land yelloweye rockfish taken for personal use into any port in Catch Record Card Areas 1-13. It is unlawful to land canary rockfish taken for personal use into any port in Catch Record Card Areas 1-13 unless the adjacent waters are open to retention of canary rockfish, and a landing may not exceed the allowable catch from the adjacent waters.** This adds further protection to these fish by not allowing anglers to land rockfish caught elsewhere (or that they claim to have caught elsewhere) unless they comply with the rules in effect in the area where the fish are landed.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified.

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#3. Yelloweye Rockfish Protection Zone

Proposal: Close an L-shaped area in Marine Areas 2 and 3 to fishing for halibut and bottomfish. Coordinates for this area are 48°00'00" 124°59'00", 48°00'00" 125°18'00", 48°04'00" 124°59'00", 48°04'00" 125°18'00", 48°04'00" 125°11'00", 48°04'00" 125°18'00", 48°18'00" 125°11'00", and 48°18'00" 125°18'00".

Explanation: Anglers would be able to fish for salmon in this area, but would not be allowed to fish for halibut or bottomfish, and would not be able to fish for salmon if they had a halibut or bottomfish on board. In the past, part of the area was closed to fishing for halibut. It has been the site of a popular halibut fishery with a high bycatch of yelloweye.

Testimony:

Overdue - We have overfished this species for years.

Westport Charterboat Association notes that the closed area is in Areas 3 and 4, not 2 and 3.

Modification: modify the closed area to match that adopted by The Pacific Fishery Management Council . The closed area is an eastward facing “C” beginning at **48°18'N latitude, 125°18'W longitude and continuing to**

48°18'N latitude, 124°59'W longitude, then to
48°11'N latitude, 124°59'W longitude, then to
48°11'N latitude, 125°11'W longitude, then to
48°04'N latitude, 125°11'W longitude, then to
48°04'N latitude, 124°59'W longitude, then to
48°00'N latitude, 124°59'W longitude, then to
48°00'N latitude, 125°18'W longitude, and back to the point of origin.

The area surrounded by this “C” shaped closure, which has been closed to fishing for halibut in the past, would be open for halibut. As noted by the Westport Charterboat Association, the closed area is in Marine Areas 3 and 4, not 2, and 3.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified.

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#4. Aggregate Daily Limit for Bottomfish in Marine Areas 1-4

Proposal: Create an aggregate daily limit of 15 bottomfish in Marine Areas 1-4. This includes the sublimits of no more than 10 rockfish (no more than one canary rockfish, and no yelloweye rockfish allowed) and no more than 2 lingcod.

Explanation: Currently, there is no daily limit for most species of bottomfish in coastal waters. The only species of bottomfish with daily limits are lingcod, surfperch and rockfish. The Pacific Fishery Management Council has adopted an aggregate daily limit for other species of bottomfish in 2003 in coastal waters further than three miles from shore. These other species include species such as greenling, cabezon and flounder. This proposal is in support of the Council’s proposal and would extend the limits to coastal waters less than three miles from shore.

Testimony:
Way overdue.

Supported by the Westport Charterboat Association.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

Lingcod Seasons

Proposal: Open season for lingcod in marine Areas 1-3 would be March 16 -October 15. In Marine Area 4, season would be April 16 through October 15.

Explanation: These seasons were put in place last year by emergency rule, and match those adopted by PFMC, except for Area 4, which is more conservative (opens 1 mo later).

Staff recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#5. Shrimp Seasons and Districts

Proposal: Create a Shrimp District in Port Townsend Bay. This District and Marine Area 10 will only be open for shrimping on Thursdays and Saturdays each week. The second part of this proposal is a housekeeping change where the Discovery Bay and Port Angeles Harbor Shrimp Districts and the spot shrimp season in a large portion of Puget Sound will be managed by emergency rule.

Explanation: The shrimp season in Port Townsend Bay (part of Marine Area 9) and Marine Area 10 has become extremely short over the past few years, due to a rapid increase in the number of fishers participating. The recreational quotas have been reached more quickly each year. This year, the quotas in these areas were taken so fast under the current four open days-per-week rule that our ability to manage within the quotas was compromised. A change to two days-per-week will help rectify the situation. This change should also help lengthen the season due to the reduced number of fishing days each week. Because Port Townsend Bay is part of Marine Area 9, but the number of open days per week and the non-spot season length is different in Port Townsend Bay than the remainder of Marine Area 9, classifying Port Townsend Bay as a Shrimp District will simplify the WAC's and the Pamphlet language.

As for the housekeeping proposal, currently, quotas for spot and nonspot shrimp are established for each area of Puget Sound, and fisheries close by emergency rule when these quotas have been reached. This proposal just recognizes the situation and puts it into rule. This should make both the rules and the pamphlet easier to understand.

Testimony:

Why not coincide with Wed/Sat schedule for Hood Canal shrimp? It would take some of the pressure off.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed. Staggering the seasons allows our limited staff to monitor each fishery as it occurs.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#6. Mayfield Lake Salmon Rules

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MAYFIELD LAKE (RESERVOIR) (Lewis Co.) from Mayfield Dam to Mossyrock Dam	Trout	Year-round	8"	5	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide Rules		
	SALMON	Sept. 1 - Dec 31	8"	6	No more than 2 adults - wild COHO release.

Explanation: Landlocked salmon rules are no longer appropriate in Mayfield Lake because coho are no longer planted with the intent of providing them for a resident trout fishery. Coho and fall chinook are part of a reintroduction program into the upper watershed and wild coho will be provided an additional level of protection over the marked hatchery fish. This regulation change does not affect the existing fishery for trout and other game fish and allows a salmon season when adults and jacks are available.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#7. Lake Scanewa Salmon Rules

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SCANEWA LAKE (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) (Lewis Co.)	Trout	June 1 - Feb. 28	8"	5	CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb. 28	Statewide Rules		
	SALMON	June 1 - Feb 28	8"	6	No more than 2 adults - wild COHO release. Release wild chinook June 1 - July 31.
The upstream boundary of the reservoir in the Cowlitz are the posted Lewis County PUD sign on Peters Road. The upstream boundary of the reservoir in the Cispus arm is the posted markers at the Lewis County PUD kayak launch, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Cowlitz and Cispus arms.					

Explanation: Landlocked salmon rules are no longer appropriate in Lake Scanewa because coho are not planted with the intent of providing them for a resident trout fishery. Coho and fall chinook are part of a reintroduction program into the upper watershed and wild spring chinook and coho will be provided an additional level of protection over the marked hatchery fish. This regulation change does not affect the existing fishery for trout and other game fish and allows a salmon season when adults and jacks are available.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#8. Cowlitz River - Clear and Muddy Fork Trout Rules

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COWLITZ RIVER Clear Fork and Muddy Fork (Lewis Co.)	Trout	June 1 - Oct 31	8"	2	CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide Rules		

Explanation: This proposal reduces the daily limit for trout to 2, the statewide standard for streams, and removes the restriction that no more than one trout may be over 12" in length. The daily limit of 5 trout, with no more than one over 12" was in effect when catchable size and large (one pound) trout were being planted. Hatchery trout are no longer planted into the Clear and Muddy Forks, so they should revert back to the normal stream rules.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#9. Hamilton Creek Season

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HAMILTON CREEK (Skamania Co.)	Trout	June 1 - Oct 31	12"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - all tributaries downstream of the Hwy. 14 Bridge.					

Explanation: This proposal gives Hamilton Creek a normal stream season. The extended season (Nov 1 - Mar 15) is no longer appropriate since the stream is no longer planted with hatchery winter steelhead, and there are chum salmon present that need protection later in the year.

Testimony:

Support proposal but you should know there are no trout over 12" in this creek - they are juvenile winter steelhead. Hope you will consider providing sanctuary or genetic reserve status for these small but important streams.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

Housekeeping Regulations

#10. Clam and Oyster Beaches - Names and Seasons

Proposal:

Clam Beaches

- 1) Ala Spit (Ben Ure Spit) - becomes *Ala Spit*.
- 2) Dungeness Spit - should reference *Dungeness Spit and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge Tidelands*.
- 3) Fort Flagler State Park - should reference *Fort Flagler State Park including that portion of the spit west of the Park Boundary (Rat Island)*.
- 4) North Sequim Bay State Park - becomes part of Sequim Bay State Park.
- 5) Port Townsend Ship Canal - should reference *Port Townsend Ship Canal/Portage Canal*.
- 6) Quilcene Bay - should reference *Quilcene Bay Tidelands* - all state-owned tidelands in Quilcene Bay north of a line drawn from the Quilcene Boat Haven to Fisherman's Point are closed to the harvest of clams the entire year, except those *state-owned* tidelands on the west side of the bay *north of the Quilcene Boat Haven* are open April 1 through December 31.
- 7) Shine Tidelands - should reference *Shine Tidelands State Park*.
- 8) Triton Cove Oyster Farm - should reference *Triton Cove Tidelands*.

Oyster Beaches

- 1) Brown Point - should reference *Brown Point (DNR 57-B)*.
- 2) Mystery Bay - should reference *Mystery Bay State Park*.
- 3) Quilcene Bay - should reference *Quilcene Bay Tidelands* - all state-owned tidelands in Quilcene Bay north of a line drawn from the Quilcene Boat Haven to Fisherman's Point are closed to the harvest of oysters the entire year, except those *state-owned* tidelands on the west side of the bay *north of the Quilcene Boat Haven* are open April 1 through December 31.
- 4) Triton Cove Oyster Farm - should reference *Triton Cove Tidelands*.

Explanation: Name changes are proposed for several clam and oyster beaches. These changes will make enforcement and public use easier by making the names correspond with beach signs, names on maps, and local usage. Reference to "North Sequim Bay State Park" is deleted because no such Park exists (there is only a Sequim Bay State Park, and both the northern and southern "halves" have the same shellfish season). The only change which is not strictly confined to beach names and descriptions is the proposal to no longer close Quilcene Bay Tidelands at night (currently, this is the only beach statewide with such a restriction, and there is no rationale for the closure; since it is open April through December, a prohibition of night harvest would prevent most winter harvest).

Testimony:

Landowner is concerned over the rule to allow night harvest on Quilcene tidelands, because of the possibility of trespassing on his property. Wants to make sure WDFW provides signage and enforcement.

Was a member of the Quilcene Advisory group. Appears the time and effort were wasted. People from this group should be on the mailing list. Mailout says there is no rationale for the night closure. The advisory group found enforcement problems, parking problems, safety concerns. Thought a MOU would be developed, but it was not done. This is a breach of trust. This is a mitigation site for trumpeter swans. Beach use at night would disturb them. They roost and feed here during the winter. Should contact the public before changing the rules.

Quilcene Advisory Group (QAG) established in 1995. There were many agreements reached pertaining to the Quilcene tidelands. One was for day use only. Now the proposal to open at night with no word to the group. Why did the state have no information as to the history of this group? Documentation provided from the QAG - notification of public meeting to begin the group, invitation to join the group, notification of the 1st QAG meeting, report to the community on the first few QAG meetings, questions and answers, letter to Sara LaBorde concerning issues with the early goose hunt, letter about a sign posted to tell the public about hunting around the clam beds.

Quilcene Advisory Group worked very hard over a period of years to hammer out compromises and agreements on issues that resulted from the state's purchase of the Coast Oyster Tidelands. It is distressing to learn that, with turnover at WDFW, none of the information about this process has been passed on. Per agreement, the clam beds have been "day use only" since they opened. The signs posted have worked well. Now an arbitrary proposal would change the agreement. We discovered this by accident, and learned that neither Point Whitney nor the Region 6 Director had any background information about the state's work with the QAG. What happened? The area should be day use only because: 1) There is potential for trespass and abuse because of the mosaic of public and private lands and tidelands. The various boundaries are confusing during the day 2) The terrain is dangerous - nearly all public access to the shellfish beds is a sea of mud and muck that is dangerous to cross. 3) This is an important wintering habitat for trumpeter swans - they feed and roost here - night use would disrupt them. This rule is not confusing. The signs have worked well. Night use of the clam beds is not an optimum choice. If more harvest is needed, increase the daily limit or open the season in March and leave it open in November. State needs to be a good neighbor - clam beds and parking lot are the state's responsibility.

Were told the two reasons for opening Quilcene tidelands during the night were to simplify rules, and to equalize catch between tribal and non-tribal harvesters. Quilcene Bay is a unique area and should have unique rules. There is private and public property, no lighting, path to the beach is muddy and dangerous. Night-time harvest will disturb the fragile night environment. Night-time harvest will not equalize catches as both groups would just use it at night. For these reasons we oppose opening at night. If you do allow harvest at night, light up the markers defining boundaries, the parking lot information sign, and the restrooms. The new restroom is unsatisfactory, unsafe and unsanitary because of lack of maintenance. It should be put out of commission until it can be taken care of. How bad would this be if it were open at night too?

Oppose night-time harvesting of shellfish in Quilcene Bay. Manage 50 acres of commercial shellfish beds some of which adjoin the public tidelands. People trespass and vandalize in this area regularly. Overlimits and potholes are common. Private security and law enforcement usually respond too late. This will get worse if the area is open at night. Notice of this change of regulations was not given to property owners. Request that you extend the comment period to 20 days from meeting date.

Served on QAB in the mid 90s. Worked hard to create a plan that was forwarded to WDFW. Area proposed to open at night is surrounded by private land, most of which are in commercial production. Regs are clear as written. Harvest quota can be addressed by increasing open time or daily limit. Proposal drops WDFW credibility another notch.

Own a home on Quilcene Bay. Served on committee to establish rules for clam digging in the bay. Disturbed to hear that WDFW decided, without consulting local citizens, to open Quilcene tidelands at night. This is dangerous and foolhardy. State property is small and poorly marked, diggers could easily get lost. Enforcement is very limited. Rumor is the Commission wants a uniform pamphlet. If someone is injured digging at night the state might be open to legal action. Increase limits if you need to but do not open at night.

Longtime resident of Quilcene Bay - the area is unlit and the path to the clam beds is difficult in daylight. Tidelands are a foot deep in muck. This is an unsafe situation - should not be allowed out there in the dark. Have been stuck in the mud myself and know of at least one drowning on the mudflats. Would be irresponsible to remove the daylight only stipulation.

State tidelands border my clam and oyster beds on 3 sides. Since opening the beach in daylight we have had a real problem with trespassers. In 1996 process started to swap 25 feet of our south boundary to the state to give access to the beach. Opening the beach at night will make it very difficult to control trespassing on southern boundary of clam and oyster beds. Daylight has worked well. Please do not open at night.

Petition enclosed "We the undersigned, oppose the opening of the state's Quilcene clam beds at night, and wish to continue the current "Day Use Only" restriction. We have no opposition to the implementation of the following alternatives in order to expand public harvest opportunities: 1) increasing individual daily bag limits and/or 2) extending the harvest season on the bay from March 1 through October 31 to take full advantage of the daytime low tides. Based on WDFW's stated belief that there will be only minimal use of the clam beds during the winter nights, it would seem that these two options are more reasonable than that of night use. (162 signatures)

Modification: *Modified seasons are now available for many beaches - changes include:*

CLAM SEASON CHANGES

Ala Spit

Current Regulation: May 1-May 31

Proposed Regulation: Closed All Year

Closes beach completely. The current clam population is too small support any harvest. May take up to three years to have an effect. Clam habitat at this beach is extremely limited.

Brown Point (DNR 57-B)

Current Regulation: January 1 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through April 15.

A shortened season is necessary to compensate for overharvest of the non-Indian clam share in 2002.

Camano Island State Park

Current Regulation: June 1-June 30

Proposed Regulation: Closed All Year

Closes beach completely. The current clam population is too small support any harvest. This beach lies in the area where a significant clam die-off was observed. Conservation of the remaining clams may increase the speed with which this beach recovers.

Cutts Island State Park

Current Regulation: January 1 through June 15.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through December 31, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

Clam surveys show that an extended season is possible on this beach with a resource "trade" of the unused tribal share.

Dosewallips State Park

Current Regulation: March 1 through September 15.

Proposed Regulation: March 1 through May 30, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

A major "winter kill" of Manila clams was noted on this beach last spring, and surveys indicated a 32% reduction in legal clam biomass from the previous year; the remaining resource will only support a shortened season.

Dungeness Spit and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge Tidelands

Current Regulation: May 15 through September 30.

Proposed Regulation: May 15 through September 30, but depends on collaborative season-setting with NWR staff.

Clam surveys indicate that the existing season can be continued, but federal Refuge staff may want to modify the season based on nesting bird concerns.

Eagle Creek

Current Regulation: January 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: June 1 through June 30, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

A "winter kill" of clams was noted on this beach last spring, and surveys indicated a 65% reduction in legal clam biomass from the previous year; the remaining resource will only support a shortened season. Shifting the season to the peak summer months will allow for better regional harvest opportunities.

Fort Flagler State Park

Current Regulation: April 1 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: April 1 through April 30, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

A shortened season is necessary to compensate for overharvest of the non-Indian clam share in 2002.

Frye Cove

Current Regulation: January 1 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through May 31.

Surveys indicate a decrease in legal clam biomass from the previous year, requiring a one-month reduction in last year's season.

Kitsap Memorial State Park

Current Regulation: May 15 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED.

Although surveys indicated a substantial increase in clam biomass this year compared to last, a shortened season is necessary to compensate for overharvest of the non-Indian clam share in 2002.

Kopachuck State Park

Current Regulation: June 1 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: June 1 through July 31, but depends on ongoing negotiation with State Parks.

The primary clam resource at this Park is a large bed of enhanced geoducks which can support an extended fishery; Park staff is being consulted to determine if there are problems with an extended season.

Oak Bay County Park

Current Regulation: July 1 through July 15.

Proposed Regulation: June 1 through June 15.

The proposed season length is the same as last year (1/2 month), but is shifted earlier to provide a better string of harvest seasons in local area beaches.

Point Whitney Tidelands

Current Regulation: April 1 through April 30.

Proposed Regulation: April 1 through April 30, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

A major "winter kill" of Manila clams was noted on this beach last spring, and surveys indicated a 40% reduction in legal clam biomass from the previous year; the same season as last year will depend on tribes formally agreeing to a trade of their share off this beach, which normally occurs.

Point Whitney Lagoon

Current Regulation: May 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: May 1 through May 31, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations. A major "winter kill" of Manila clams was noted on this beach last spring, and surveys indicated a 55% reduction in legal clam biomass from the previous year; the same season as last year will depend on tribes formally agreeing to a trade of their share off this beach.

Port Townsend Ship Canal/Portage Canal

Current Regulation: January 1 through March 31.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through April 30.

Surveys indicate a substantial increase in native littleneck biomass on this beach, supporting an extended season.

Potlatch DNR Tidelands

Current Regulation: April 1 through July 15.

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED.

Closure of this beach is necessary to prevent major enforcement problems with the adjacent beach closure of Potlatch State Park (see below).

Potlatch East

Current Regulation: April 1 through July 15.

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

Tribal clam surveys, upon which a season is dependent, have not yet been analyzed.

Potlatch State Park

Current Regulation: April 1 through July 15

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED.

A closure is necessary to compensate for a serious overharvest of the non-Indian clam share in 2002 due to unexpected record number of harvesters and to surveys showing a 18% decrease in legal clam biomass. The remaining resource will not support a recreational fishery this season.

Rendsland Creek

Current Regulation: January 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through May 31, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

The five-month sport clamming season on this beach annually depends on resource trades with the Skokomish Tribe which are presently being negotiated.

South Indian Island County Park

Current Regulation: May 1 through August 15.

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED.

This beach experiences high levels of poaching. In 2002, aerial surveys indicated that roughly 20% of the season-long clam harvest was taken during the closed season, resulting in a substantial overharvest of the non-Indian share. The resource remaining after "pay back" will not support a sport season this year.

Triton Cove Tidelands

Current Regulation: CLOSED.

Proposed Regulation: August 1 - September 15.

Clam surveys indicate a substantial increase in legal clam biomass which can support a sport season following last year's closure.

West Dewatto (DNR 44-A)

Current Regulation: January 1 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

A closure may be necessary to compensate for overharvest of the non-Indian clam share in 2002. However, a shortened season may be possible following negotiations with the Skokomish Tribe for their share on this beach.

OYSTER SEASON CHANGES

Dosewallips State Park

Current Regulation: March 1 through September 15.

Proposed Regulation: March 1 through December 31, but depends on ongoing negotiation with State Parks.

Surveys indicate a substantial increase in the number of legal oysters on this beach compared to last year, which would allow for an extended season. Park staff is being consulted to determine if there are logistic problems with an extended season.

Illahee State Park

Current Regulation: May 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: May 1 through June 30, but depends on ongoing negotiation with State Parks.

Surveys indicate a substantial increase in the number of legal oysters on this beach compared to last year, which would allow for an extended season.

Park staff is being consulted to determine if there are logistic problems with an extended season.

Kitsap Memorial State Park

Current Regulation: May 15 through August 31.

Proposed Regulation: May 15 through June 30, but depends on ongoing tribal negotiations.

Surveys indicated a decrease in the number of legal oysters on this beach compared to last year, but a negotiated resource trade with Tribes could extend the season.

Kopachuck State Park

Current Regulation: March 1 through June 30.

Proposed Regulation: March 1 through July 31, but depends on ongoing negotiation with State Parks.

The oyster resource at this Park is entirely dependent on WDFW enhancement, and can easily support a one-month extension of the season. Park staff is being consulted to determine if there are logistic problems with an extended season.

Point Whitney Tidelands

Current Regulation: April 1 through December 31.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through December 31.

Surveys indicate a substantial increase in the number of legal oysters on this beach, warranting an extended year-round season.

Potlatch State Park

Current Regulation: April 1 through September 30.

Proposed Regulation: April 1 through June 30.

A reduced season for oysters on this beach is proposed because of the recommended clam closure, which is expected to shift effort to oysters, expanding the harvest beyond historic levels.

Scenic Beach State Park

Current Regulation: April 16 through September 30.

Proposed Regulation: April 16 through July 30.

Surveys indicated a reduction in the number of legal oysters on this beach, supporting a reduced season.

Triton Cove Tidelands

Current Regulation: May 1 through September 30.

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through December 31.

Surveys indicate a substantial increase in the number of legal oysters on this beach, warranting an extended year-round season.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified, including name changes, opening Quilcene Bay Tidelands at night, and clam and oyster beach season changes.

Commission Action: Proposal was adopted as proposed except ***Quilcene Tidelands will continue to be closed at night to the harvest of both clams and oysters.***

#11. Crab Pot Escape Rings

Proposal: This proposal would set the minimum size for escape rings on crab pots used in the Columbia River at 4".

Explanation: Because of the smaller minimum size for Dungeness crab in the Columbia River (5 3/4" vs 6 1/4" elsewhere) the minimum size for escape rings on these pots needs to be made smaller to allow legal-sized crabs to be retained.

Testimony:

Assume this matches Oregon. If not, it should.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed. Oregon does not require escape rings.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#12. Forage Fish Dip Nets Mesh Size

Proposal: Make the maximum mesh size for forage fish dip nets 1/2".

Explanation: Last year, a rule was adopted describing a forage fish dip net as "a section of netting distended by a rigid frame and directly attached to a rigid handle." This was in response to the practice of some anglers who were using the gear like a gill net, and was intended to stop this practice.

Unfortunately, this is still occurring to some extent. Limiting the gear to this small mesh size should take care of the problem.

Testimony: None

Modification: for clarification, modify the proposal to say that the maximum mesh size is 1/2" stretched mesh.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified.

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#13. Spot Shrimp Daily Limit and Head Retention

Proposal: This proposal would remove the permanent rule that requires anglers to retain spot shrimp heads in Hood Canal. In Discovery Bay Shrimp District anglers would be allowed to retain a maximum of 80 spot shrimp as part of the 10 pound daily limit of shrimp.

Explanation: Since there is no size limit for spot shrimp in Hood Canal, anglers do not need to retain the heads. This rule is usually removed each year in the emergency rule opening the Hood Canal shrimp fishery. The change in the daily limit of spot shrimp for Discovery Bay Shrimp District makes the rules more consistent by making it the same as the rest of Puget Sound (with the exception of Hood Canal).

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Although staff supports this proposal, the proper WAC section was not opened in the CR-102, so we are unable to recommend adoption at this time. We will continue to manage by emergency rule this season, and bring the proposal into the major rule change cycle next spring.

Commission Action: No action taken.

#14. Mill Creek

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MILL CREEK (Walla Walla Co.) from mouth to Roosevelt St Bridge within city limits of Walla Walla	All Game Fish STEELHEAD	June 1 - Aug 31 Sept 1 - April 15	Statewide rules 20"	2	Hatchery STEELHEAD only. Barbless hooks required.
CLOSED WATERS - from concrete channel at 9 th Ave Bridge to Roosevelt St. Bridge, within city limits of Walla Walla.					
from Roosevelt St. Bridge upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD.
CLOSED WATERS - all tributaries, including Blue Creek.					

Explanation: Due to a typographical error, the closed waters description in the upper creek was listed incorrectly last year in both the pamphlet and the rules. This proposal makes the reference correct.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#15. Dry Falls Lake Season

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DRY FALLS LAKE (Grant Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Apr. 1- Nov 30 Apr. 1 - Nov 30	None Statewide rules	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

Explanation: Through an agreement with WA State Parks, we are able to open the season on Dry Falls Lake April 1 instead of the last Saturday in April, providing almost a month of additional fishing opportunity.

Testimony:

Support the proposal. Can definitely provide quality selective gear fishing through April as do Lenice, Merry and Nunnally lakes (all open March 1).

Columbia Basin Fly Casters endorse the proposal.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses this proposal.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#16. Cashmere and Nason Creek Ponds

Proposal: Drop the “juvenile only” designation for these waters.

Explanation: Cashmere and Nason Creek Ponds are both listed as “juvenile only” waters. In actuality, neither of these ponds exist, having been washed out by floods. This change will remove them from the pamphlet, so anglers are not misled to think that a kid’s fishing opportunity exists.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#17. Kiwanis Pond

Proposal: Correct the spelling of Kiwanis Pond.

Explanation: This water has been listed incorrectly in the rule as Kiwanas Pond (listed correctly in the pamphlet).

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#18. Tucquala Lake

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TUCQUALA LAKE (Kittitas Co.)	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	

Explanation: Tucquala Lake is not currently listed in the fishing pamphlet. It is located in a stretch of the Cle Elum River where selective gear rules were put in place last year. Because Tucquala Lake is a lake, the river rules do not apply to it. There are currently no special rules listed for Tucquala Lake. However, managers would like the lake to have the same season as

the adjoining sections of the Cle Elum River (June 1 - October 31). This does require a special rule, because without it the lake would be open year-round.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#19. Skagit River

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SKAGIT RIVER (Skagit/Whatcom Co.) From mouth to Memorial Hwy Bridge (Hwy 536 at Mt. Vernon)	TROUT Dolly Varden/Bull Trout Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round Year-round	14" 20" Statewide rules	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Mar 1 - May 31 except motors allowed. DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT may be retained as part of TROUT daily limit.
	SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	2	SALMON - release all CHINOOK.
The mouth is defined by a line projected from terminus of the jetty with McGlinn Island to white monument on east end of Ika Island, then to white monument on east end of Craft Island, then to white monument near corner of levee on west side of Dry Slough, then to white monument on east side of Tom Moore Slough.					

Explanation: this proposal allows anglers to fish from a boat with a motor during the selective gear fishery near the river mouth (March 1 - May 31). Normally, under selective gear rules, fishing from a boat with a motor is prohibited, but because of the size of the river this is not practical. Rules for the rest of the river remain unchanged.

Testimony:

Rule makes perfect sense. The river is big and impractical to fish without a motor.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club opposes proposal because it will increase the take of both wild steelhead and the incidental mortality of migratory smolts.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#20. Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SKYKOMISH RIVER Wallace River to forks	TROUT Dolly Varden/Bull Trout Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb 28 June 1 - Feb 28 June 1 - Feb 28	14" 20" Statewide rules	2	

SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	2	SALMON - release all CHINOOK.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug 1- Nov 30. CLOSED WATERS - area 1500' upstream to 1000' downstream of Reiter Ponds outlet June 1 to 8:00 a.m. August 1. Fishing from a floating device prohibited 8:00 a.m. Aug 1 to Feb 28.				

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SNOQUALMIE RIVER (King Co.) From mouth to Snoqualmie Falls	TROUT	June 1 - Feb 28	14"	2	SALMON - release all CHINOOK and PINK SALMON.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb 28	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	2	
ALL SPECIES- night closure Sept 1 - Nov 30. Selective gear rules except motors allowed June 1 - Nov 30. Fishing from any floating device prohibited Nov 1 - Feb 28 from boat ramp at Plumb access to mouth of Tokul Creek (about 1/4 mile). CLOSED WATERS - within Puget Power tunnel at falls and within 50' of any point on Puget Power's lower Plant #2 building (north bank).					

Explanation: This proposal applies the prohibition for fishing from a floating device to all species instead of just game fish in a portion of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers. All other rules remain the same. This makes the floating device prohibition more enforceable, since as it stands, anglers could claim to be fishing for salmon and the prohibition (currently only for game fish) would not apply. (Note - on the Skykomish River, the end date for the fishing from a floating device prohibition was changed from Mar 31 to February 28 to mirror the end date of the fishery.)

Testimony:

About time! At Reiter Ponds we should never allow fishing from a floating device.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses this proposal as to benefitting both enforcement officers and conservation concerns of both rivers.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#21. Duwamish Waterway Gear Rules

Proposal: Between a line projected east along the path of SW Hanford Street on Harbor Island and a line projected east from the southern tip of Harbor Island - night closure and terminal gear limited to bait suspended below a float. Forage fish gear prohibited. These rules apply when Elliott Bay is open for salmon within the months of July-October.

Explanation: This corrects an inadvertent error in the permanent regulations that were adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission last year. It was corrected by emergency rule in 2002.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#22. Definition of Mayfield Lake, Riffe Lake, Cispus River Mouth

Proposal: Define Mayfield Lake as between Mayfield Dam and Mossyrock Dam. Define Riffe Lake as between Mossyrock Dam and Cowlitz Falls Dam. Define the mouth of the Cispus River as posted markers at the Lewis Co PUD kayak launch, located about 1.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Cowlitz and Cispus arms of Lake Scanewa.

Explanation: Under statewide rules, the mouth of a river is described as a line projected between the outermost uplands (those lands not covered during ordinary high water). This proposal gives anglers a clear definition of the reservoirs (which have different fishing rules than the river). It also makes the definition of the mouth of the Cispus River the same as the upper boundary of Lake Scanewa.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#23. Cowlitz River Sections

Proposal: Change the WAC listing a section of the Cowlitz River from Mayfield Dam to the mouth of the Muddy Fork to “from posted Lewis Co PUD sign on Peters Road upstream to the mouth of the Ohanepecosh and Muddy Rivers. All other rules remain unchanged.

Explanation: This proposal does not affect the fisheries in the Cowlitz, just cleans up the language in the WAC. The previous proposal defined Mayfield and Riffe lakes. Lake Scanewa is already defined. So the area between Mayfield Dam and the end of the Cowlitz arm of Lake Scanewa (posted Lewis Co PUD sign on Peters Road upstream to the mouth of the Ohanepecosh and Muddy Rivers) consists of only the three lakes (Mayfield, Riffe and Scanewa) and should not be mentioned in the Cowlitz River rule.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#24. SF Chehalis Bridge Reference

Proposal: Change the bridge reference in the SF Chehalis River from the Highway Bridge at Boistfort to the Highway Bridge at Boistfort School.

Explanation: There are several bridges in this area, causing some confusion as to what section of the river is referred to in this rule. This new rule should make it clear which bridge is the boundary marker.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

Hoh River Selective Gear Rules

Proposal: From Willoughby Creek to Morgan's Crossing boat launch – Selective gear rules apply June 1 – Oct 15 and December 1 – April 15. From Morgan's Crossing boat Launch upstream and South Fork Hoh - selective gear rules apply June 1 – April 15.

Explanation: These rules were agreed to at the North of Falcon meetings last spring, and were shown correctly in the fishing pamphlet. However, the dates when selective gear rules should apply are listed incorrectly in the WAC.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

Additional Housekeeping Proposals

During the process of updating the WACs to reflect the proposals in this package, the need for several other housekeeping changes in WAC 232-28-619 was noticed. They do not affect fishing opportunity, and are for clarification of the WAC text only. Changes are:

Klaus Lake - "closed waters" text standardized to match format used in other areas.

NF Lewis River - non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure end date changed from October 31 to September 30 to match the closure of the fishery on September 30.

Naselle River -Additional language was added to make it clear that sturgeon fishing is open year-round in the mainstem from the mouth to the Highway 4 bridge and in the South Fork Naselle.

Yakima River - language added to make it clearer that Eastern brook trout may only be retained from Lake Easton to Keechelus Dam; from Roza Dam to 400 feet below Easton Dam the rule is catch and release for all trout species.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

Significant Recreational Opportunities

#25. Hanford area Steelhead and Ringold Area Bank Fishery

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COLUMBIA RIVER from Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco to Old Hanford townsite wooden powerline towers	STEELHEAD	Oct 1 - Mar 31	20"	2	STEELHEAD only. Only STEELHEAD with <u>both</u> an adipose fin clip and a ventral fin clip may be retained.
	BASS	Year-round	None	5	BASS-No more than 3 over 15".
	CHANNEL CATFISH	Year-round	None	No	
	OTHER GAME FISH	Year-round	limit		
	SALMON	Aug 16-Dec 31	Statewide Rules	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults
	STURGEON	Year-round	12" 48"	1	STURGEON - maximum size 60"
CLOSED WATERS - within a 400' radius of the Columbia Irrigation District (CID) fish barrier at the mouth of the CID wasteway at Columbia Park.					
Ringold Area Bank Fishery - Waters of Columbia River adjacent to Ringold Hatchery from WDFW					

markers 1/4 mile downstream for the Ringold wasteway outlet to WDFW markers 1/2 mile upstream of Spring Creek. Only the hatchery side is open. Bank fishing only.

STEELHEAD

Apr 1 - Apr 15

20"

2

STEELHEAD only. Only STEELHEAD with both an adipose fin clip and a ventral fin clip may be retained.

Explanation: This proposal creates a permanent rule for the steelhead fishery in the Columbia River from the Hwy 395 Bridge in Pasco to the Old Hanford townsite wooden powerline towers and the Ringold Area Bank Fishery that can go into the fishing pamphlet, giving anglers advance notice of the open time period and restrictions. The Ringold Area Bank Fishery extends an additional 2 weeks beyond the fishery in the entire river section. The additional rule to retain only steelhead with both an adipose fin clip and a ventral fin clip allows fish bound for waters above Priest Rapids Dam to be released, maximizing escapement to this area.

Testimony: None

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#26. No Annual Limit for Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Remove the annual limit for hatchery steelhead.

Explanation: Currently there is a limit of thirty steelhead per angler per license year. Of these, up to 5 may be wild steelhead. This proposal would retain the yearly limit of 5 wild fish, but remove the limit of 30 steelhead (wild and hatchery fish combined). This would allow anglers to harvest more hatchery fish, help alleviate surplus returns to hatcheries, reduce the number of hatchery fish spawning with wild fish, and would probably improve our catch accounting for steelhead. Anglers with more than one catch record card who intend to harvest wild steelhead would need to carry all their cards to show enforcement officers how many wild fish they kept throughout the license year.

Testimony:

OK because it allows a greater retention of hatchery steelhead. However, WDFW should also consider making the daily limit 1. This would cut down on the number of unscrupulous people who keep more than 5 wild fish per year. People kill 3 or more fish per day on the Skagit and Sol Duc.

No limit on steelhead? Sounds like a bad idea.

Please - 100% release of all wild steelhead.

Do not support proposal. Thirty fish is plenty to catch and keep.

Do not adopt. Benefits of removing the annual limit for hatchery steelhead are not proven. Will just concentrate the catch in fewer anglers. This may result in fewer anglers and less revenue to the Department.

Don't disagree with the proposal, but do disagree with keeping 5 wild steelhead. Should be trying to preserve these fish. Can't keep wild summer runs, so should not be able to keep wild

winter run fish. Wild fish are more aggressive and fight better. Can have a fiberglass mount made from a photo and a few measurements.

Action by the Commission should be canceled on this proposal. The impact of adoption has not been adequately studied. Public review period has not been followed - not an emergency action. Hatchery salmon have not been evaluated as part of the proposal. No limit is not applicable on all rivers or hatchery stocks. Few steelheaders fill out a catch record card. More suitable ways of using surplus hatchery fish are stocking local lakes or tributaries not currently producing steelhead or donating fish to charity. When hatchery fish are not sufficient to meet production, emergency closures would be required. If you adopt, you should also add a daily limit, personal use clause, no waste policy and a list of streams that are not applicable (do not have surplus hatchery fish).

Columbia Basin Fly Casters oppose the proposal. Idea of more than one CRC is problematic.

Enforcement officers could not know if an angler had more than one card, so could not keep track of wild fish. An alternative would be to increase entries on the CRC and allow only one card. This big decision should be addressed during a major rule cycle.

Who needs 30 steelhead? Those who can catch 30 are looking for places to give them away. And why harvest any wild steelhead? In BC the limit is 10 fish, hatchery only, most people take pride in not filling up their card.

Do not support because it would benefit a very few and impact many. Only ones catching 30 now are hard core fishers or guides who impact the average fishermen's ability to effectively participate. They are aggressive, taking the better fishing spots. They fish more than average. Normal people catch only a few fish per year. More people would fish if you maintained the 30 fish annual limit and got the aggressive people off the water. Cut back hatchery production if there are too any fish.

South King County Chapter of Trout Unlimited concurs with this proposal. The Wild Salmonid Policy encourages removal of hatchery fish prior to spawning to avoid crossing with wild fish. Recycling and trapping has not prevented this. Large hatchery returns on the lower Columbia and Snake in recent years have increased the problem; even with the increased daily limit some are straying and spawning in the rivers.

Would harm wild steelhead in two ways: more fishing and greater hooking mortality for released wild fish. It also builds support for hatchery programs that devastate wild steelhead.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses the proposal. However, hatchery steelhead production should not increase due to increased demand for daily or annual limits, fisheries on mixed stocks should require wild steelhead release, and the department should strive toward optimization of wild fish escapement. Also believe that current rules regarding multiple catch record cards and a 5-fish annual limit for wild fish will lead to continued poaching of wild fish. For clarity and simplicity, should be simply wild steelhead release statewide. Should increase the penalty for "unrecorded" fish, especially wild fish - the guilty party should reimburse the state for the estimated true value of the fish.

Not in favor of proposal unless the yearly limit of 5 wild fish is abolished. Proposal as stated appears to assume that the state has some enforcement of its rules and regulations - has not been my experience. Increasing the limit automatically increases the kill of wild fish. WDFW

continues to relax selective gear regulations (proposal #27) Every mortality study shows that the use of bait will kill fish. Do you really believe that the mortality with bait is the same as with a fly or spinner. WRONG - the mortality increases. The result of this proposal will be to kill more wild fish.

Steelhead Trout Club of Washington supports department's position on all proposals except this one. Convened a special meeting to go over proposals. This proposal does not qualify as an "emergency." It is certainly not housekeeping and it is not of sufficient major importance to the steelhead resource to require immediate action by the Commission at the December meeting. This proposal is a major reversal, if not revolutionary change in the 40+ year standing policy of using harvest limitation as the most effective tool in anadromous fish management. (ALL of Alaska's anadromous fish are managed solely on the basis of limiting harvest). Our club was a major factor some 40+ years ago in establishing the 30 fish annual limit. We have been supportive since then of the WDFW notion that limiting harvest is an excellent management tool and an effective way of ensuring maximum benefits to users. This proposal goes from a 30 fish annual limit to a potential of 730 fish annually (2 per day). Steelhead anglers are mobile, and there is fishing open somewhere every day. It is strongly believed that the surpluses on the Columbia/Snake/Cowlitz are not sufficient reason to adopt a no limit policy statewide. The co-mingling percentages are not totally supportable by hard data and are subject to revision. Thus, the danger is that the co-mingling concept is too highly rated and not sufficient to remove the annual limit. Our club, by majority vote, opposes this proposal. As a compromise, raise the annual limit to 40 or 50 on a trial basis (we favor 40 to permit data gathering). Another idea is to issue another punchcard for only streams where a surplus exists. Not a science issue- an ideological issue. This proposal sends the message to take all you want. It is a James Bond unrestricted license to kill steelhead.

Wild Steelhead club representative supports proposal. If you ask what to do with the fish - he took 10 to a church barbecue - good PR for fishermen. We are mobile and can catch steelhead any time of the year. Thirty a year is less than 3 per month. WDFW needs to make decision from sound biological need to look good before the legislature. There is an annual limit for wild fish, but hatchery fish are there to be caught.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports the proposal. Helps protect wild steelhead at the level set by the Commission when the wild fish limit was set at 5. Catch and removal of additional hatchery fish will help reduce their spawning in the river and preserve the genetic health and productivity of wild runs. Change should not be used by WDFW to increase hatchery production, however production on some rivers should be reduced commensurate with river and ocean carrying capacity. WDFW should establish a catch evaluation program to assure the increased annual limit does not increase the catch of wild fish above the reduced level established by the Commission for the summer/winter 2002 fishery.

Even though it is a minor cycle, WDFW should consider an important factor in the rules for steelhead sportfishing, particularly this proposal. This is mortality of juvenile steelhead and salmon using bait and a barbed hook. Barbless hooks would reduce the mortality.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Proposal was not adopted. Yearly limit remains at 30, up to 5 of which may be wild.

#27. Upper Grande Ronde Steelhead

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GRANDE RONDE RIVER (Asotin Co) mouth to County Rd Bridge (about 2-1/2 miles upstream from County Rd Bridge to Oregon state line and all tributaries	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	10" Statewide rules	2	TROUT: Release all steelhead. ALL SPECIES: selective gear rules Sept 1 - May 31.
	All Game Fish All Game Fish	June 1 - Aug 31 Sept 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. Barbless hooks required.
	STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH	Nov 1 - April 15	20" None	2 15	Hatchery STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required. Tributaries CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH.

Explanation: This proposal shortens the selective gear restriction in the upper river to June 1 - August 31, allowing anglers to use bait beginning on September 1 (but still requiring barbless hooks). The selective gear rule is intended to protect wild salmonids in the mainstem and tributaries. Allowing anglers to use bait beginning September 1 will make it easier to catch hatchery steelhead.

Testimony:

Why change it? Good fishermen will still catch fish with artificial lures. This change will benefit guides who take out folks with little skill by allowing the guide to drop the baited hook overboard and backtroll down the river. Why not make it December 1 instead of November 1 if you have to make the change? This would cut down on overcrowding on this little river because winter steelheading will be going on in the Seattle and Vancouver areas.

Support the proposal. On November 1 this year the river was full of ice and unfishable. October is the prime time to use bait and fish for steelhead.

This is one of the few rivers in Washington ideally suited to steelhead flyfishing because: these fish readily take a dry fly (winter steelhead in many other areas will not take a dry fly); the remote location is coveted by anglers; the fish are harvested by gear and bait fishing as they come up the Columbia and Snake; flyfishing only discriminates against no one and is not as efficient as other methods, allowing higher escapement; fly fishing organizations will all support this regulation.

Have been informed that you are thinking of making the Grande Ronde a selective gear river. This is a bad idea. Most of the people using the river use bait and this would cut them off. You have no idea of the effects of your decision. Come down in December and see for yourself. Don't make this mistake.

Columbia Basin Fly Casters are adamantly opposed. If bait makes it easier to catch hatchery steelhead, it will also make it easier to catch wild fish. Unconscionable to propose such a rule given your mandate to protect wild fish. Recommend extending selective gear rules to January 1 to allow wild fish to reach their spawning streams. Further, if this rule was established during a major cycle, how is it appropriate to modify it during a minor cycle? This erodes public confidence in the Department. Any change should be part of a major rule cycle.

Opposed to proposal because it will: increase hooking mortality, negatively impact the smallmouth bass population and degrade the appeal of the river as a premier fly-fishing area. Hatchery steelhead are easy to catch with current regulations.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club finds this proposal to be without merit. Will increase morbidity and mortality of wild steelhead in a mixed-stock fishery.

Dead set against shortening the gear restriction on the upper river. Have you considered the impact on wild steelhead? Fish hooked with bait take the hook deeper and have higher mortality than those with a fly or spinner - more mortality on wild fish!

Average size of fish is up and there are more wild fish lately. Don't screw it up with bad harvest practices. Selective gear rules are intended to protect the wild salmon in the mainstem and tribs - bait will make it easier to catch wild and hatchery steelhead, causing more mortality on wild fish. Wild adults enter in September and October.

Oppose allowing bait on the Grande Ronde River after September 1. Selective gear regs should remain in place.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Proposal was not adopted. Rules on the Grande Ronde remain unchanged.

Rules from Other Forums and Major Issues WDFW Made a Commitment to Address

#28. North Silver Lake

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NORTH SILVER LAKE (Spokane Co)	Trout	March 1 - Sept 30	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT - release TROUT with clipped adipose fin.
	Other Game Fish	March 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		
	All game fish	Nov 1 - Dec 31			Catch and release only. Selective gear rules.

Explanation: Commission request to allow harvest and create a more diverse fishing opportunity, particularly for juvenile anglers.

Testimony:

Columbia Basin Fly Casters comments that "Commission Request" is an inadequate explanation for the proposed rule. Can't evaluate if we don't know why. Action should be postponed until better explained.

Not in favor as written. In favor of more restrictive regulations on this water. Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club does all the work to get this fishery back "on line" - providing funding, labor and help in negotiations. After all this, the best WDFW can do is a "selective gear" fishery. Should

be fly fishing only, catch and release, barbless hooks. Once in place, the Commission will never vote to strengthen the rules - it will be seen as taking something away. Vote for fly fishing only now and try on fly fishing only water in the area.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#29. Crab Creek and Tributaries Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CRAB CREEK and tributaries (Grant/Lincoln Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - Night closure and only one single hook measuring 3/4" or less from point to shank may be used from State Hwy 17 upstream to Grant Co Rd 7 Mar 1 - May 31.					

Explanation: The current rule, which closes the area from State Hwy 17 upstream to Grant Co Rd 7 Mar 1 - May 31, was contested by landowners in the affected area. Due to an increased level of Enforcement personnel in the Region and improved landowner relations in the affected area, WDFW's enforcement capability has improved. The proposed regulation is a compromise that will substantially reduce the illegal activities (snagging) that anglers have complained about to WDFW without closing the area entirely.

Testimony:

Year-round fishing is not a good idea. How would regulations be enforced? A small number of regulars visiting the stream would have a major and very adverse impact on the fishery. Small tributaries should not be open year-round. Lake fishing has gone downhill since most lakes are open year-round. Wish the department would focus more on quality than quantity in future determinations.

Very disgruntled with the recent proposal. Fishing only during the day with one hook in the fast moving water is ridiculous. Parents are landowners - they are being robbed of their basic freedom to fish. At the public meeting the WDFW Commissioner told more than 100 landowners that the problem would be fixed. This proposal makes the situation even worse. Better to close it than to open it with no hope of catching a fish. This injustice should be stopped. The new proposal needs serious investigating.

Once again WDFW is playing games and good honest people are being hurt. They do not want to undo a wrong they made when they passed a law without any proof. They are determined to make us pay and I cannot figure out why. We were told by the Chairman that they would make it right. The night closure and single hook rule is not acceptable. What happened to the Stream Watch? I will pay to have an attorney investigate the evidence that was never brought forward in this matter. We have been lied to and stolen from. They say fishing is not a right, I disagree. If we let them get away with this, next they will try to take away our guns. Please help us make these Commissioners leave us alone. We have not done anything wrong. I am mad as hell - please get mad with me.

Alternative proposal from the Inland Fish Policy Advisory Group - supported unanimously by all in attendance at the November 2, 2002 meeting:

Only one single hook measuring 3/4" or less from point to shank may be used from March 1 to May 31 in the following areas:

Crab Creek from Grant County Road 7 downstream to and including the Alder Creek Fill at Moses Lake

The Crab Creek Outlet from Moses Lake downstream 400 feet to a point designated by a WDFW marker

Primary enforcement issue is snagging with treble hooks, so the single hook requirement will minimize this problem. Moses Lake Outlet and Alder Fill are added because of severe snagging problems in these areas. Night closure is not necessary and deprives anglers (particularly those without boats) of a lot of opportunity.

Columbia Basin Fly Casters applauds WDFW's efforts to work with landowners to resolve issues.

WDFW is double-dealing and back-pedaling over the walleye controversy in Crab Creek. They wanted to close fishing on Crab for 3 months in the spring so walleye could spawn and because of reports of poaching and other illegal activity. The claims of illegal fishing and dwindling numbers of walleye were contrived by a walleye club. Game biologists say numbers are up. The citations were never proved, but the damage has been done. WDFW acted without proof and now are back-pedaling. The new proposal has a night closure and hook restriction and is an insult because it cuts out the best time and gear for fishing walleye - might just as well close it. WDFW does not have the backbone to investigate this problem in public based on the true facts - instead they make their decisions secretly with advice from special interest groups. Enforcement officers claim they don't have access to patrol the area - maybe it's because of distrust between the public and their government. If I had land in the closed area I'd turn the dogs loose on a game warden. Fish are for everyone. If you close one area you should close the whole lake. If you can't prove the case for closing Crab Creek, open it and leave it open.

Opposed to proposal - do not concur with staff comments that enforcement capability has improved. My experience is just the opposite. WDFW enforcement is woeful. How does lengthening the season reduce illegal activity? Doesn't this provide more time for illegal activity (snagging)? Doesn't closing the area make enforcement easier? If you truly want to reduce illegal activities then do not extend the season and enforce the rules that are currently in place.

Property owner is opposed to current closure. Columbia Basin Walleye Club and WDFW went together on this. I am petitioning a State Senator to open the closed area. Asked WDFW to open when there were 2 weeks remaining in this year's season and was denied. Walleye club had concerns with overfishing. There are walleye tournaments in Banks Lake and O'Sullivan Lake in early May. Closures should be used for declining or endangered species. You were told enforcement is the problem. Poaching information is only hearsay (anonymous phone calls). Don't discriminate - close statewide if there is a problem. Easy to spot walleye fishers at night because they use a light. Fish spawn throughout the system, not just in Crab Creek. Gear restriction is discrimination if it is only applied in Crab Creek.

Sent by the Crab Creek Coalition to speak to the Commission. This is "Pearl Harbor Day." Had been able to fish in her own back yard until last February when the closure changed her way of life. Creek is dry 8 months of the year, leaving only 4 for fishing. The closure used up most of that time. When it opened in June no fishing was possible. The proposal divides people. WDFW motives are suspect. Agreed to join Streamwatch in the spirit of cooperation. There is no reason for the closure. Area should go back to standard statewide rules. State

should manage resources on public lands but not private. Crab Creek people have not been treated fairly - they are not the problem. Should address snagging with equipment management, not a closure. Could go with one month of a single hook restriction. Should revert back to statewide rules with no gear restriction.

Think Crab Creek should be left open for fishing all the time because there is no proof to close it other than hearsay and lies. If it ever gets to a court the smooth talking WDFW will have to come up with a whopper of a story because there are over 600 names on paper to keep it open. The Commission believed Region 2 and did not give people a chance to talk. Before you try to steal rights from someone you should see if there is enough evidence and then talk it over with people.

Concerned that if we allow you to take rights away without reason and facts we will be allowing you to do just about anything including taking our gun rights, a direct violation of the constitution. In America we are supposed to be innocent until proven guilty. Let the innocent people enjoy our legal right to fish and hunt. If it is important for these fish to spawn then why isn't the rest of WA state included in the proposal? Give us back our freedom without restriction and without prejudice toward us citizens on Crab Creek and Moses Lake.

Live on Crab Creek and think it is a shame when the game department can take my fishing away without notice or a chance to face people that are accusing us of being bad people. You don't even know us. There are more walleye in Moses Lake than any other fish. They don't bite out of hunger in the Creek, but out of anger. So if you make us fish with a single hook you are taking away the enjoyment of the few fish we do catch. Leave us alone or close fishing statewide - it's the fair thing to do.

Live near Crab Creek and fish there. Have been checked at least once a year while fishing Crab Creek. WDFW is not getting the true input on the fishery. The reason Moses Lake has such good fisheries is because of all the private land because it limits access so the fish are mostly allowed to spawn. If it were up to me I would leave the landowners alone or they will decide to open it up to the public to fish and that would really hurt the fisheries.

It has come to my attention that some of the local merchants had a secret meeting with one of the Commissioners about Crab Creek. I would like to know why this is happening. This is the 2nd time the Commission has been involved in a secret meeting about Crab Creek. What do we have to do to get a fair shake? We have done nothing wrong. The Commission did not do their job properly - they should have asked for proof before stealing our rights. Give us back our fishing 24 hours a day without any restrictions just like it was before.

Important to hear my concerns before your meeting so my constituents know you understand their position. Disappointed that I was unable to get together with you one more time regarding Crab Creek. If you decide to make a decision that abridges the property rights of my constituents, I want to see the evidence you used to make the decision. I represent the landowners and need help explaining to them why they would lose rights enjoyed by other WA citizens with similar property. Did you have ironclad statistical proof of an illegal catch? Senator Harold Hochstatter

Own property on Crab Creek between Hwy 17 and Road 7. Should not close this area again next year. Limited on where I can go fishing because of age. Have fished the same area for 50 years and have yet to catch a walleye. Pose no threat to that species. Last year I paid my property taxes, then found out the creek was closed without input from myself or other property

owners along the creek. This was not right. Then at the meetings WDFW had flimsy excuses. We were told too many walleye were being taken - not long ago you considered poisoning the lake to get rid of the walleye. Then we were told it was too difficult to patrol the creek - I know of 8-9 places where you can drive to the waters edge. If this were the real reason, WDFW would have been given permission to access the creek. Then I was told there were phone calls about truckloads of fish being hauled out of the creek. If that were true, send in the game wardens and have them drive down the road the fishermen are using to haul out fish. I believe the real issue is a feud between my neighbors - the one belonging to the Walleye club calls WDFW and exaggerates that the other one is catching all the fish. Then Mr Meseberg of Mar Don Resort gets involved and as a result we who own property along the creek have to pay taxes and are criminals if we fish on our own land. It's curious that the Walleye Club had their tournament the week after fishing reopened. You can see the benefit to Mr Meseberg. If the fish population is the real issue then close down Mar Don and disband the Walleye Club.

Staff Recommendation: adopt the proposal from the Inland Advisory group with the following modification to the area where it applies:

Only one single hook measuring 3/4" or less from point to shank may be used from March 1 to May 31 in the following areas:

Crab Creek from Grant County Road 7 to the fountain buoy and shoreline markers or 150 feet downstream of the Alder Street Fill, and outlets (spillways) from Moses Lake downstream to their point of confluence

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#30. Naches River Trout Catch and Release Fishery

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NACHES RIVER (Yakima Co) mouth to confluence with Tieton River	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	12" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only one single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size #14) may be used.
from confluence with Tieton River to Rattlesnake Creek	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules		TROUT - catch and release only. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only one single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size #14) may be used.
from Rattlesnake Creek upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	12" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only one single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size #14) may be used.

Explanation: This proposal is a Commission request to change the rules on the section of the Naches River from its confluence with the Tieton River to Rattlesnake Creek to catch and release for trout. A five-year study to determine impacts on the trout population (abundance, population size structure, etc) and angler effort, etc. is being conducted to document any changes.

Testimony:

Good step in the right direction. Yakima is a world-class river and a real economic engine for Ellensburg. Methow has improved dramatically due to careful management and Snoqualmie forks are becoming a nice fishery. But these are the only quality trout rivers. New management of the Naches might provide another one. There are some large cutthroat in the Naches, but few in number. They should benefit from the catch and release proposal. The length of river to be studied may be too short since fish move up and down, but this will be a good start.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses proposal. Would like the entire river to go to catch and release.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#31. EF Lewis River Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER, EAST FORK (Clark/Skamania Co)	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	20"	2	TROUT - catch and release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from posted markers at the lower end of Big Eddy to 100' upstream of Lucia Falls, from 400' downstream to 400' upstream of Moulton Falls, from 400' downstream of Horseshoe Falls upstream, including all tributaries.					

Explanation: Commission request to address cutthroat conservation and concerns related to wild steelhead smolt and spawner protection. Also increases harvest of hatchery steelhead and allows other game fish such as bass and catfish to be harvested.

Testimony:

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Board of Directors opposes proposals 31,32, and 33 for several reasons. It is disconcerting to have people harvest the very animals we are working to restore through many of our salmon restoration projects. We don't want to provide habitat for hatchery strays that escape harvest, we are trying to increase habitat for native salmon and steelhead to use. Until locally adapted steelhead are used as broodstocks in these watersheds or hatchery programs are closed completely, there is no way to segregate these fish short of harvest. Closing these rivers in April and May may save a few wild smolts or adult steelhead, but it will also significantly increase the number of hatchery summer steelhead that escape into the upper watershed to spawn and compete with wild fish. There is no public access to the upper river, nor can you float during June due to low water. There is no local support for the current

proposal. We and other local conservation/angling groups collaborated on a proposal last year that was submitted to WDFW but was not supported by staff. This proposal would have added greater protection to wild stocks without reducing angling opportunity. We still recommend it in place of the current proposal. Proposal:

Washougal - bait ban upstream of the Vernon Rd (Mt Norway) Bridge year-round except Nov 1 - Mar 15. Bait legal year-round below this point. Artificial lures only in all other fisheries during legal seasons. Tributaries closed unless listed otherwise.

EF Lewis - bait ban upstream of Lewisville Park year round except Nov 1 - Mar 15. Bait allowed year round below this point. Artificial lures only in all other fisheries during legal seasons. Tributaries closed unless listed otherwise.

Current proposal shies away from restricted gear rules and closes the river in the spring to protect wild spawners and smolts. This decreases the value of the resource. Have seen evidence that the rule which only allows keeping hatchery steelhead is protecting smolts. Have not seen anyone fishing for "trout" in the spring because they are no longer legal to keep. Spring steelhead are the finest and preserving them is important but the river does not need to be closed from March 15 to June 1 to keep people from killing fish. Canada manages effectively with single barbless hooks and no bait and reduced commercial harvest. Propose that the EF Lewis remain open in the spring with restricted gear rules.

Support proposal. Until WDFW develops a reasonable recovery strategy for wild steelhead on these river systems, closing during spawning and smolt outmigration can only benefit wild stocks. Will also help early returning wild summer run steelhead reach sanctuary sections of the river.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses this proposal.

Support opening in April and May, with selective gear rules, open for steelhead only. Spreads angling opportunity over a prime fishing time on these rivers. We should not allow hatchery fish upstream to spawn. Water is cool during this time period and there is less hooking mortality for fish caught and released. Winter fish are already upstream in sanctuary area. Endorse comments in Craig Lynch's letter of November 18.

River should be open under selective gear regulations April 16 through May 31 with wild steelhead release and hatchery steelhead harvest.

Modification:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER, EAST FORK (Clark/Skamania Co) mouth to top boat ramp at Lewisville Park	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15 June 1 - Mar 15	20" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - catch and release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

	STEELHEAD	April 16 - May 31	20" 2	Hatchery STEELHEAD only. Selective gear rules.
From the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15 June 1 - Mar 15	20" Statewide rules	2 TROUT - catch and release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
CLOSED WATERS - from posted markers at the lower end of Big Eddy to 100' upstream of Lucia Falls, from 400' downstream to 400' upstream of Moulton Falls, from 400' downstream of Horseshoe Falls upstream, including all tributaries.				

This modification reinstates the hatchery steelhead only fishery in the lower river from April 16 through May 31 (but adds selective gear rules during this time period), and leaves the lower river closed from March 16 - April 15, and the upper river closed from March 16 - May 31. Escapements over the last few years have been at or above goal (with one exception). Staff will closely monitor future escapements to determine the need for any further actions.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified.

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#32. WF Washougal River Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WASHOUGAL RIVER, WEST FORK (Clark/Skamania Co)	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15 June 1 - Mar 15	20" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - catch and release only except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
CLOSED WATERS - from mouth to water intake at WDFW Hatchery.					

Explanation: This proposal closes the trout harvest fishery except for hatchery steelhead. This is a Commission request to address cutthroat conservation and concerns related to wild steelhead smolt and spawner protection.

Testimony:

Don't understand why the fishery should change April 15 to June 1. The steelhead fishery would be wiped out by the proposal. Spring and summer run fish enter in April and by June 1 the water is low and the fish are in deeper holes and not biting. Does not have a dam to control flow like some rivers. We went through this about 10 years ago when the proposal was to close the river until June 1, and it was settled to keep the lower part open from Mt Norway Bridge to the mouth April 16 after the month long closure. What went wrong to cause changes? If this is because of the false information on catch record cards, it is wrong to penalize everyone. Lots of people mark their cards correctly and rely on fish for food. Also, not having enough enforcement is not the fishermen's fault. If there is a problem with returning steelhead numbers that needs to be looked at in the hatcheries, however, the returns have been good lately. If there is a snagging issue then we need more enforcement. If the proposals are due to a lack of money, then something needs to be done for that. The money issue should not affect fishermen. Completely oppose this change - please re-think it - it could be a major loss of funds for the department. Comments apply to both Washougal River proposals - #32 and #33).

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses this proposal.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.

Commission Action: Adopted as proposed.

#33. Washougal River Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WASHOUGAL RIVER (Clark Co)	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	20"	2	TROUT - catch and release only except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Aug 1 - Mar 15	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Upstream of Little Washougal River release all CHINOOK Oct 1 - Dec 31.

The mouth is defined as a straight line projected from the James River pumphouse southeasterly across the Washougal River to the east end of the Hwy 14 bridge at the upper end of Lady Island.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non buoyant lure restriction Sept 1 - Oct 31. CLOSED WATERS - from bridge at Salmon Falls upstream including all tributaries.

Explanation: This proposal closes the trout harvest fishery except for hatchery steelhead. This is a Commission request to address cutthroat conservation and concerns related to wild steelhead smolt and spawner protection.

Testimony:

Vote of no on this proposal. Many retirees fish in April and May. Please keep the fishery as it is.

Live near the river and fish steelhead. April and May is the best time. I use sand shrimp with large hooks and have never hooked a smolt on this or on a fly. What source of information are you using for making this proposal? This is a needless rule.

Every year there are more closures. Please help us return to the 2001-2002 rules which allow fishing below Mount Norway between April 15 and June 1. (4 letters)

Against the proposal closing the river in April and May. Most enjoyable fishing for springers occurs then. Also summer runs. Don't have catch and release for "trout" - close it to them - it works in other rivers. Seems you think smolts are caught at that time by steelheaders. Have 10 years as a biology teacher and a wildlife biology degree and 40 years of fishing experience. Cannot remember ever catching a smolt. Friends can remember one or two in 40 years. Fire the person who told you that we catch smolts. Should consult with "real fishermen" before you change the rules.

Please reconsider and do not close this fishery. Smolts are not endangered by steelhead fishing, especially when using single hook setups with bait or jigs.

Proposal would cut off the prime period for spring/summer steelhead. After June water becomes low and unfishable from a boat. By April 15 many of the native fish are already above Mt Norway

Bridge, which is closed anyhow. Natives that are hooked can be easily released. Smolts can be avoided by terminal tackle selection. Please do not adopt this rule.

Have reviewed my catch records, and the majority of catch comes in late April or May. When the river is low there is lots of activity and it's hard to fish. Need the higher water in April to use a drift boat. There is also a lot of poaching when the water is low. As a police officer, have assisted on several arrests. So please leave the river open when the water is high and the fish are plentiful.

Concerned over proposal. Fish steelhead on the Washougal. Like everything about the proposal except that it doesn't include any consideration for the best part of the summer steelhead fishery. Please leave the river open April 15 - June 1 for steelhead. This is the best time with the best quality fishing and fish. During June the holes are filled with swimmers, especially in the lower river. Restricting steelhead fishing will not do anything to help cutthroat or steelhead smolts or spawners like the explanation claims. I seldom catch cutthroat and never catch steelhead smolts. Small amount of cutthroat caught can't compare with the number of "redskins" and squawfish caught in the lower river in June and July. Spawners should be upstream in the area already closed. Most fish can be released unharmed. This proposal is more an attempt to standardize the Washougal than conserve it.

The logic behind this proposal is seriously flawed. Have lived and fished on the river for 25 years. Smolt predation during April-June is non-existent. Flyfish and baitfish and cannot remember catching a smolt. Merganser ducks are the smolt predators. According to my journal, 25% of my fish have been landed in April. All were in the lower river below Mt. Norway. Access is extremely limited above the Mt Norway Bridge. River is typically too low to drift after mid-May. Come see for yourself the ramifications of this proposal. It would mean the end of summer-run steelhead fishing on the Washougal.

Totally against this proposal. Have fished the river 46 years for winter and summer steelhead only, not smolt or trout. Lots of summer fish come up the river in April and May - would not be wise to close then. Have not seen many smolt caught during this time period. Majority of fishing pressure is in the lower tidewater part of the river. In high water spring runoff we don't get to fish the lower river. Washougal is small compared to the Lewis or Kalama. By July 4 the river is warm - lots of swimmers and fish quality is down. River is too low to drift after June 1. A few years ago we had a very good compromise - a one month total closure, and fishing only downstream of Mt Norway Bridge. Why is this necessary now? Standardizing is nice, but you should manage each river individually. Included an article about people fishing on recycled summer steelhead. This proposal would make this problem worse. We are not affecting smolts or native steelhead and are restricted to downstream of Mt Norway Bridge to tidewater, which comes all the way to the sandy swimming hole. There is also a lot of private property so you need a boat, but after June 1, the water is too low for the boats.

My wife and I have fished steelhead for over 30 years in the northwest. Lived near the Washougal for 11 years. Enjoy drift boat fishing, particularly in April and May when the water is high and fishing pressure is light. Have never caught a smolt at this time even though we frequently use bait. Can't recall catching a wild winter steelhead either. May rarely catch a hatchery winter steelhead, but they are easy to tell and are released. So it is hard to understand how the closure protects these fish. Encourage you to reconsider this proposal. (Comments for proposals 31 and 33).

By delaying the opening from April 15 to June 1 you would eliminate an important and fine fishery. After June 1 the river is too low to float. Bank access is limited. Fish are in prime

shape in the early season and are excellent eating. Any detrimental effects of this fishery are undocumented. Winter fish are absent by April 15, so they are already protected. Cannot recall catching a smolt in 50 years of fishing steelhead gear. Could use gear restrictions to protect smolt or by a catch and release rule for smaller fish. Urge you to reject proposals 31, 32 and 33.

Please modify proposals 31 and 33 to allow these rivers to be open from April 16 through May 31 with selective gear. The rivers are in excellent condition during this time period and are normally high enough to float. About 25% of the returning hatchery fish come in then and are available for harvest. They should not be allowed upstream to mix with our recovering wild fish.

About June 1 the rivers drop and can't be floated. Particularly on the Washougal, there is little bank access. Catch and release mortality in the cold water should be low. Closing these rivers will put more pressure on other rivers that are already crowded.

Have fished the Washougal for 35 years. Am opposed to this proposal, but have a sincere interest in the long-term health of the Washougal fishery. About 5 years ago WDFW closed the entire Washougal from March 15 to April 16 and closed above Mt Norway from March 15 to June 1. These rules were not well communicated and came as a complete surprise to local fishers. Do not think that was warranted, as I do not think this new proposal is warranted. There is a consistent healthy return of native winter-run steelhead. About 25% of the winter fish I land are wild. The requirement to release them has kept the run healthy. Very few are kept illegally. It is not necessary to provide additional protection for these fish. Have hooked very few cutthroat in 35 years of fishing between March 15 and June 1. This happens in the summer or fall. The cutthroat run has always been small and inconsistent, so the restriction against keeping them is reasonable, but complete closure is not needed for protection of cutthroat. There is only a slight incidental catch of smolts during this time period, and fishers understand it is important to release them unharmed. The problem, if it exists, can be addressed by better enforcement. Complete closure is unnecessary and unwarranted. Why single out these rivers when the problem is no different than that on so many rivers. This fishery is very important to local anglers. It is the best fishery of the year. Additional restrictions should be based on a clearly demonstrated need and supported by facts, not by political pressure from a small minority. If needed, other restrictions, such as no bait, barbless hooks and better education and enforcement would be better alternatives. Total closure should be a last option.

This proposal should not be imposed. Spring steelhead that enter during April and May are the most aggressive and rewarding of the sport catches in the area. Fish quality is excellent and water levels are high enough for boats. Have fished the Washougal for 30 years and catch of smolts is extremely low. Have caught 2 sea-run cutthroat in the winter time while fishing for winter steelhead. Recycling fish may seem like a good idea, but the quality of these fish is low, especially as water temperatures rise. Then snagging becomes a problem when the water level lowers. Would support a minimum hook size to protect smolt and a closure of the "trout" fishing season (really targeted on juvenile steelhead and salmon) on the river. Sickened by yet another curtailment of angling opportunity. Take a closer look at creel surveys and provide increased enforcement to protect native cutthroat while maintaining a vital angling opportunity.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses this proposal.

Support opening in April and May, with selective gear rules, open for steelhead only. Spreads angling opportunity over a prime fishing time on these rivers. We should not allow hatchery fish upstream to spawn. Water is cool during this time period and there is less hooking mortality for fish caught and released. Winter fish are already upstream in sanctuary area. Endorse comments in Craig Lynch's letter of November 18.

Live on the Washougal. 1st week in April is the best time to fish. Propose to close to protect smolts and spawners - data from WDFW shows (1995 - 98) 23% of the summer steelhead catch between April 16 and May 31. From 1982-1991 it was 34% in April and May. Closure would make these fish unavailable. Nearby rivers are all open in April and May - why target these rivers? Have talked to kids who were targeting smolts or called enforcement if that does not work. Support C&R fishery for trout. Trap data on the Washougal showed up to 271 fish in May. Late winter stocks are protected - in April 85% are summer fish below Mt. Norway Bridge. In May 98%. Of fish caught in the river (1986-1993) 22% were natives, from 1999-2001 39% were natives. Escapement has increased. Nearby rivers are open in April and May. Why target these streams?

River should be open under selective gear regulations April 16 through May 31 with wild steelhead release and hatchery steelhead harvest.

Fished the river since 1975. Worked on rivers (hydrology, geology, etc). There are lots of differences between rivers that affect fish. Washougal headwaters are at a low elevation and snow melt is complete by May. Lots of private property. Summer run steelhead come in in April. Need a boat for access, but by June river is too low to float. In April and May fish are healthy and bright. Fish with sand shrimp and large flies - no smolt are harmed. Have to quit fishing in June unless there is a freshet. Rule change would mean no fishery - rule is not necessary.

Fished river over the past 33 years and drifted over 400 times. Kept detailed logs. Standardizing the rules is not a good reason to change. Steelhead runs in Washougal, EF Lewis, Kalama, WF Lewis and Cowlitz are different from northern WA rivers or Olympic Peninsula streams. Summer steelhead show up beginning in March, and lots are present in April and May. (Department statistics attached showing harvest of steelhead from the Washougal between April 1 and May 31 1982-92). 34% of the summer-run catch occurred then. For 1995 - 1999, it was 23%. Proposal would make most of these fish unavailable for harvest. Tables attached showing number of summer steelhead returning to the Washougal hatchery in April, May and June 1999-2002. Lots of fish in the trap in May. Closure would result in more fish returning to the hatchery and being unavailable for harvest. Spawner protection - attachment showing summer and winter steelhead catch by month 1979-1993. 85% of April catch were summer fish 98% of May catch were summer fish. Almost no hooking of native fish below Mt Norway Bridge. Regs adopted in 1993 for an April 15 - May 31 steelhead season from Mt Norway Bridge to the mouth (attached letter from Dean Sutherland to Lee Van Tussenbrook supporting the opening). From 1986 - 1993 22% of the catch was native fish. From 1999-2001 39%. The 1993 regs are working. Steelhead fishers have little impact on smolts. Support the proposal for TROUT - catch and release only. Proposal to open June 1 would create a fantastic fishery for a few landowners who are the only ones able to access the area at this time. Many other rivers nearby are open in the spring, both in Oregon and Washington. Washougal escapement data from 1991-2002 attached - escapement is increasing, escapement goal was surpassed in 2000, but the stock is still depressed. Recommend you retain trout C&R to protect smolts, but continue the April 15 - May 31 opening on EF Lewis and Washougal.

Modification:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WASHOUGAL RIVER (Clark Co) from mouth to Mt. Norway Bridge	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15 June 1 - Mar 15	20" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - catch and release only except up to 2 hatchery steelhead

	STEELHEAD	April 16 - May 31	20" 2		may be retained. Hatchery STEELHEAD only. Selective gear rules.
	SALMON	Aug 1 - Mar 15	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Upstream of Little Washougal River release all CHINOOK Oct 1 - Dec 31.
The mouth is defined as a straight line projected from the James River pumphouse southeasterly across the Washougal River to the east end of the Hwy 14 bridge at the upper end of Lady Island. ALL SPECIES - night closure and non buoyant lure restriction Sept 1 - Oct 31.					
From Mt. Norway Bridge upstream	TROUT Other game fish	June 1 - Mar 15 June 1 - Mar 15	20" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - catch and release only except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	SALMON	Aug 1 - Mar 15	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Release all CHINOOK Oct 1 - Dec 31.
CLOSED WATERS - from bridge at Salmon Falls upstream including all tributaries. ALL SPECIES - night closure and non buoyant lure restriction Sept 1 - Oct 31					

This modification reinstates the hatchery steelhead only fishery in the lower river from April 16 through May 31 (but adds selective gear rules during this time period), and leaves the lower river closed from March 16 - April 15, and the upper river closed from March 16 - May 31.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt as modified.

Commission Action: Adopted as modified.

#34. Standard Stream and Lake Seasons

Proposal: Change the standard stream season from June 1 - Oct 31 to June 1 - Nov 30. In addition, all non-standard season streams that now close October 31 would close November 30 under this proposal. Extend seasons for lakes that now close October 31 to November 30. This would include many opening day lakes and some lakes with early openers, etc.

Explanation: Commission request to provide more fishing opportunity during the fall. (Note: if adopted, this proposal would create season changes in some of the lakes and streams listed in earlier proposals in this mailout. To reduce confusion over what is changed by each proposal, the proposed extended seasons are not shown.)

Testimony:

Its about time.

This would be a great idea and would allow more fishing outings with my boys. It would not have any significant impact on the resource. Few people fish in September and October now. Strongly support proposal. Have seen large increase in fishing activity in October.

This proposal would cause considerable harm in several streams:

Most Strait streams have very weak coho and chum stocks

Many of these streams are bar bound which makes the stocks enter late (November is a major month)

In 65 years of observation, have noted most people cannot resist harassing visible fish. Some carefully selected streams and lakes could be open longer - not a blanket rule. This rule should be addressed on a major cycle year.

Columbia Basin Fly Casters endorses proposal if it will not lead to overharvest and depletion of stocks.

PacifiCorp opposes including Swift Reservoir in the group of lakes identified for an extended season. This is based on the fact that it may give anglers an expectation that boat access to the reservoir is available after September each year, and also the fact that additional reservoir fishing opportunities are not needed in the Lewis River basin during November. The boat launch provided by PacifiCorp at Swift Forest Camp is often out of the water by the end of September. Swift Forest Camp is not staffed after the end of September, so if the water level is adequate to allow use of the boat launch, no staff are present to clean the ramp of woody debris, a constant problem in this area. The low number of anglers that might fish during November at Swift Reservoir does not warrant the proposed longer season. Creel surveys show very little angler use in Swift Reservoir in October, and in Merwin Lake (currently open year round) there is little fishing in November. However, PacifiCorp provides year round access to Merwin and Yale reservoirs.

Glad to see you are going to extend the season for Swift Reservoir. Why close the season before the bank fishing gets good if the fish are not overwintering well? Why not go one step further and leave it open all winter?

This proposed rule would harm wild salmonid stocks as well as other threatened and listed species. (For example Strait coho and chum runs). This rule targets those stocks because November is their major period of entry. Bull trout move up the Elwha to spawn in November. This shotgun proposal supports only fishermen who do not care about stewardship. Also enforcement is already spread too thin to add more open times to so many waters.

Fall, winter and early spring has been the best time for quality fishing for many of us. "Opening Day" lakes do not provide this. There is no scientific basis for an opening day season - the cool fall weather affects many opening day fishermen and stops most of the fishing opportunity on those waters. Many people relish the time on the water without the roar of ski-doo's and water skiers. Please return to year-round fishing on these waters so that everyone can enjoy them, not just the 1/3 or less that like to fish opening day lakes.

Olympic National Park has significant concerns for this proposal for streams bordering the Park, primarily over negative impacts to spawning salmonids. We believe the proposed extension of the season would lead to increased harassment, incidental catch, mortality and wading across redds. November is an important spawning time for chinook and coho salmon, bull trout, and cutthroat. On the Lyre River, *Crescenti*, a unique cutthroat trout found only in Lake Crescent spawn downstream from the Park boundary from late October through November. Olympic Park will not make a comparable change to rules within the interior of the Park of the coastal strip, and we encourage WDFW not to adopt this proposal.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe reminds the Department that there are long-standing reasons why the current regulations limit fishing in standard streams and most tributaries to October 31. One is to remove a source of disturbance to and harassment of spawning salmonids. Co-managers and their cooperators are working hard to restore wild fish throughout the state. Allowing fishing in November in these streams does not support these efforts, it detracts from them.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club endorses this proposal as a mechanism for reducing the complexity of regulations.

Staff Recommendation: Do not adopt. Consider on a case-by-case basis during next year's major rule change cycle.

Commission Action: Proposal was not adopted. Department staff will look at season extensions on a case-by-case basis during the major rule change cycle beginning this May.

Little Pend Oreille River

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LITTLE PEND OREILLE RIVER (Stevens Co) <i>from the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge boundary about 1 mile downstream from the Refuge Headquarters Office to Crystal Falls</i>	Eastern Brook Trout Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	None	5	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. OTHER GAME FISH - catch and release only.

This change was adopted by the Commission in response to a landowner who pointed out that the rule change made last year was intended to add selective gear rules and catch and release to only the waters inside the refuge. It changes the lower boundary of the area with selective gear rules and a catch and release restriction for everything but Eastern brook trout from Buffalo Road to the Wildlife Refuge Boundary. (See testimony below)

Testimony: Request that the boundary change proposed by regional staff on the Pend Oreille River be made during this rule change cycle, rather than waiting for the next year's major rule cycle. It has already been agreed to by the refuge, WDFW and the five affected landowners. Original proposal from regional staff attached, 2 letters attached from John Whalen to Kay Jones (landowner along the river) explaining last year's rule change and the modification proposed this year, map of river, private lands, and refuge. Property owners were not notified before the change last year. Proposes that the selective gear rule restriction ends at the refuge boundary. This can be identified by a large railroad flatcar. Selective gear rules and catch and release should not extend down to Buffalo Road. Access in this area is all private, not public. Refuge biologist told him the fish belong to the state, but he is the state.

Other Issues

Eliminate the use of treated salmon eggs. They kill young fish that eat them.

One think I'd like to see is a section of the Yakima River for fly fishing only (Ringer to Lmuna?) - keep the inner tubers out of this section.

Proposed rule change for bass - remove the slot limit on lakes without a boat launch or public access. It is too restrictive. This allows a casual fisherman to have fun and even take home a fish for dinner.

Strongly opposed to king salmon fishery along the Straits or areas without an estuary. Opening Neah Bay and Sekiu for kings last year and closing fishing on the inside is stupid and will cause the Feds to take over.

Regs in WA are too complicated. Other states have simple rules that are easy to understand. Shouldn't have to check the internet on the day you plan to leave on a fishing trip. Crazy to be able to keep one species and not another. Treaties need to be revisited. Tribes use up-to-date gear and catch half of the entire catch.

Like to see sturgeon fishing season at Hanford open with the regular season and make it catch and release year-round.

Change WAC 220-56-215 to read hooked in the mouth. Add definition of a foul hooked fish to rules (any fish not hooked in the mouth).

Would like to allow 2 rods per licensed individual.

Proposed change for the Wenatchee River trout fishery; in Montana you can catch and release trout using flies almost anywhere, year round. It is painful to not be able to fly fish any of the rivers in the Wenatchee Valley even one day of the year. Fly fishers take care of the fish they catch and fish responsibly. Not aware of any barriers to opening such a fishery and want to know how to make it happen.

Barbless hook rule for halibut is a joke. With 400 feet of line and an 80 pound fish you may lose it at the surface as you try to gaff it. Then the fish is wounded and will die anyway. Barbed hooks give you a chance to get it in the boat. Also there should be an Area 10 east and an Area 10 west. The western area should be open year-round for blackmouth because of the hatchery fish sportsmen raise at Miller Bay and Gorst.

Green River (King Co) has too many opening dates on different sections. If the objective is escapement, handle it another way. Skykomish River at Lewis St Bridge has an old rule about no fishing from a floating device - river has changed - not many bank fishermen now. Area closed to boats should be eliminated or reduced. Skykomish at the Sultan ramp - boats line up here and compete with bank fishermen - bank fishermen would appreciate less competition. Tired of looking at garbage along the river. Need containers at Reiter Ponds. Continue to allow bait but prohibit the use of styrofoam or cardboard. Fishers do not need beer on the river either.

Concerned about ling cod fishing at Possession Bar. Use of live bait will wipe out these fish. It should be stopped. Some boats are specifically targeting the area. Jigs are not as effective, but can do good also.

The rules proposed are minor and the only complaint I hear is that when a new rule is adopted, instead of making things better it becomes more complicated in the rules section. I would like to see more simplicity in the rules.

As a fishing guide (salmon and sturgeon) would like to see a 1 fish adult spring chinook limit during April. To maximize opportunity. Sturgeon are under heavy pressure - need to protect our brood stock. Targeting oversized fish should be eliminated.

Columbia Basin Fly Casters notices that WDFW Commission has not met in the tri-cities area as long as they can remember and invites them to hold a meeting in the area.

Saw over 150 silver salmon snagged on the Klickitat last weekend (late November). River was so clogged you could not troll or access some areas. Some fish were spewing eggs as they were released or had been hooked in the belly. Many had gashes. Some jiggers were using treble hooks, and some fishers were taking both Oregon and Washington limits. Jigging for salmon should be banned. It is destroying the runs and it is not sport fishing. Please contact me - I took pictures and was threatened by some of these people. Same people were jigging on the Yakima earlier this year with single point jigging lures. Legal hook-ups with a jig are less than 5%, and 50% of the people keep the fish they snag. Enforcement is spread very thin - just make jigging illegal. At least the fish have a chance when people troll with spinners and plugs - 95% of the fish getting snagged have no chance at all.

Once again ask you to put a non-buoyant lure restriction on the Klickitat after November 1. Those fish will spawn in the river and can do nothing but help the coho fishery.

Would like to see the department shift its focus toward stewardship. For example, a program to restore the devastated chum runs of the Strait streams.

When will the state open the Skagit to king salmon? Have seen an increase in kings for the last 5 years. Are we keeping all the fish for the Indians? Want to know why we cannot fish for them.

Need to have our kokanee limits liberalized. Two staff have said this is a good idea. Five kokanee is not enough. Minimum of 10 a day would be best on American, Summit and others. Why are meetings held where only commercials have an easy commute?

Request reconsideration of the daily bass limit of 5 less than 12." There is no worth in keeping small bass under 14" - not enough meat. Keeping one over 17" makes no sense since one is hardly worth taking home for dinner. Consider a limit that allows taking bass over 15", but leaves the smaller bass alone.

There should not be a catch and release fishery in salt water for salmon. Just gives poachers a reason to be there. Most people cannot release fish properly. Need more enforcement to give tickets to get money to keep hatcheries open. Would like to see an Area 10 east and an Area 10 west. The western area should be open year-round for blackmouth because of the hatchery fish sportsmen raise at Miller Bay and Gorst.

Concerned about coho fishing opportunities on the Olympic Peninsula being closed - has lack of enforcement caused this lack of opportunity? suggests giving biologists enforcement powers.

Conservation Committee of Washington Fly Fishing Club wants to include a proposal for statewide release of wild steelhead in the next major rules cycle.

Would like to see a 2nd rod stamp available - money to support hatcheries.

Proposals that Did Not Meet 2003

Minor Year Criteria

In minor rule cycle year, proposals are only accepted from WDFW staff, and one or more of the following criteria must be met:

- 1) Conservation need
- 2) Housekeeping issue
- 3) Significant recreational opportunity is addressed
- 4) Commission request, rule from another forum

The following table lists proposals that were received this year that did not move forward for review because they did not meet these criteria. The Department is not seeking comments on these proposals this year. They are provided only for informational purposes.

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
Mike Ramsdell (public)	King Crab harvest in Areas 4&5. 6 1/4" minimum size, daily limit 1, either sex. Possession limit 3.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Delete term "smelt rakes" from 220-56-265	no	not needed - dropped
WDFW Staff	Greenling daily limit of 3 within the aggregate limit of 15 in Areas 5-13	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Rockfish season in Areas 5-13 only open with salmon	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Rockfish daily limit 0 in Areas 10, 11, 13	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Rockfish daily limit 0 in Areas 5-13 except 3 black rockfish allowed in Area 5 west of Sekiu	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Pamphlet page 57 trout info move line up	no	no rule, pamphlet issue

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
WDFW Staff	Define freshwater clams and mussels as unclassified invertebrates	no	use freshwater shellfish proposal
WDFW Staff	Fishing contests text in pamphlet should reflect rule	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Snake River trout pamphlet listing - move "release steelhead" up with trout	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Bobcat Creek and Ponds - change opening date to April 1	no	not needed, WAC is correct, pamphlet is wrong
WDFW Staff	Touchet River - move "all game fish" up one line	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Tucannon River pamphlet listing - change display of area in the pamphlet	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Little Pend Oreille River fishery boundary - change to western fence boundary of the LPO Wildlife Refuge instead of Buffalo Road.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Lucky Duck Pond juveniles only	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Columbia Basin Hatchery Creek season - delay opening to April 1 because of availability of fish	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Snake River walleye daily limit 10, no more than 5 over 18", no more than 1 over 24".	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Columbia River walleye daily limit 10, no more than 5 over 18", no more than 1 over 24".	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Yakima basin no daily limit, size or gear restrictions on warmwater fish	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Leech Lake trout limit no more than 1 over 12".	no	wait for major cycle

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
WDFW Staff	Selective gear rules wording in pamphlet	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Hooking salmon in the mouth in freshwater areas	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Fort Borst Pond - change to juveniles only	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Klickitat River - chinook jack fishery daily limit 6, min size 12"	no	North of Falcon issue
WDFW Staff	Cowlitz River - adjust closed waters near dams	no	wait for next year - modify proposal
WDFW Staff	Tilton River trout fishery - drop 1 fish over 12" requirement, steelhead season extended to May 31.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Cispus River trout fishery - drop 1 fish over 12" requirement.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Bonneville Pool night closure to start Aug 1	no	North of Falcon issue
WDFW Staff	Filleting rule - retain proof of compliance while in field	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Drano Lake daily limit 2 salmonids	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Columbia R Bonneville to I-5 bridge - no C&R fishery for sturgeon	no	talk with Oregon
	Columbia & Snake Rivers - no daily limit, size or gear restrictions for warmwater fish	no	wait for major cycle
William Aker (public)	soft-shell crab info in the fishing pamphlet	no	pamphlet issue
William Aker (public)	Move the boundary line for salmon fishing closer to the Triton Cove boat launch	no	North of Falcon issue
Jim Tuggle (WA			assessed yearly

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
council of TU)	Upper Quinault River - extend the steelhead season through April 15	no	based on run size - wait for major cycle
Jim Tuggle (WA council of TU)	Sea-run cutthroat release required in streams where the adjacent saltwater season/rules require wild cutthroat release	no	wait for major cycle
	Satsop and Wynoochee River boat ban - held over from last year - no proposal yet from Grays Harbor City Commissioners		