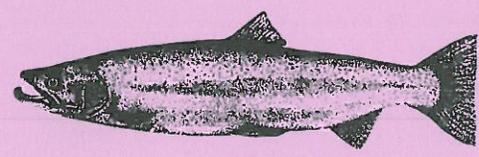
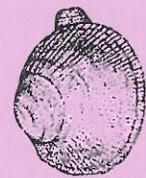
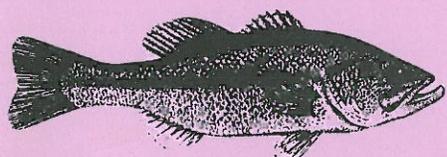
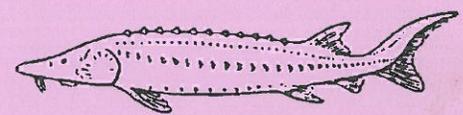
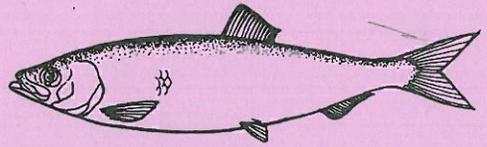
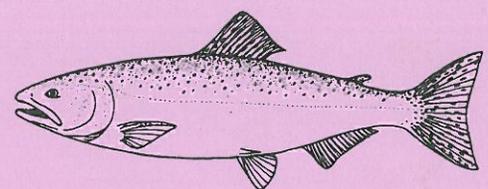
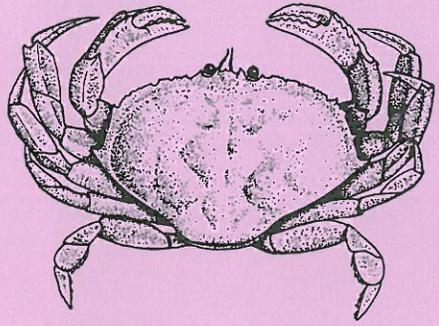


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2002-2003 Sportfishing Rules Concise Explanatory Statement



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

February 2002

**2002-2003
SPORTFISHING RULES
CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

February 2002

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DEFINITIONS

#1 FLY FISHING ONLY

PROPOSAL: Currently, the definition of the gear that must be used in "Fly Fishing Only" waters states "an angler may use the following tackle: a fly with a single barbless single hook which measures ½" or smaller from the point to the shank" It also states that anglers may not use monofilament leader longer than 15' or with a breaking strength of more than 12 pounds. This proposal would allow anglers to use up to two flies, each with a single barbless hook which measures ½" or smaller from point to shank, and monofilament leaders of any length or breaking strength in "Fly Fishing Only" waters. All other requirements would remain the same.

EXPLANATION: The use of a "dropper fly" is a common fly fishing technique that is not allowed under the current definition. This is also true of using a long monofilament leader. Keeping the other requirements for "Fly Fishing Only" waters serves to separate them from "selective gear" waters.

TESTIMONY: *Change allowing a "dropper fly" is a good one. Strike indicators and "micro-shot" are part of a fly-fisher's tackle and micro-shot is restricted in fly fishing only areas but not under selective gear rules. Should delete "weight attached to the leader" in the fly fishing definition and allow weight unless specific snagging problems exist. In the interest of standardization it is suggested that the number of flies allowed for fly fishing only and selective gear waters be standardized at either 2 or 3.*

Do not support the use of a "dropper fly." It is a common technique used by guides east of the Rockies - allows even a beginner to catch fish. We have ample waters where this technique can be used without diluting our "fly fishing only" waters with this commercial expedient. Oregon requires one single barbless hook for fly fishers on the N Umpqua.

Support the changes. (9)

I am a fly fisher - one fly is enough - why degrade the sport?

Support - fly fishing public is increasing. (2)

Support but would like to add : in fly fishing only waters, anglers may use floating strike indicators up to 3/4" in diameter and 3/4" in length, but no larger. Strike indicators may be attached either to the line or the leader. Increasing numbers of individuals have been observed using cylindrical floats up to 5" in length on the NF Stillaguamish. This is clearly not fly fishing. Limiting the size of the floating strike indicator would permit fishermen to cast in the conventional manner and use suspended nymphs or chironomid patterns in fly fishing only waters, but would prevent the use of bait-fishing tactics for steelhead during the fly fishing only season on the NF Stillaguamish.

Opposed. No fly fisher needs leader stronger than 12 lb test nor longer than 15'. Could result in someone trolling 5' of fly line, 80' of monofilament leader and a 5" "fly." This would not be fly fishing. Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) opposed dropping leader restriction- should be no longer than 25' with a breaking strength of no more than 12 pounds to stay true to the essence of the fly fishing only designation.

Good rule change - use of the "dropper fly" is well known.

Two flies is fine, but not more than 2. No need to allow heavier leaders people can snag with. Removing the leader length restriction is good.

Dropper flies can be very effective - also very harmful. If the fish takes the dry fly rather than the 2nd fly (nymph) it is likely to be hooked by the 2nd fly. There is no need to allow this. Anglers can still catch fish with a single fly. Suggest 20' length maximum for leader, no restriction on breaking strength. Minimum length of fly line (25') should be at least 20'.

South Sound Fly Fishers support proposal.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support. The elimination of the 12 lb test requirement for the leader is important.

Support. Have often fished with long leaders and 2 files.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

#2 SELECTIVE GEAR RULES

PROPOSAL: The current definition of selective gear rules states that anglers must use "...unscented artificial flies or lures with one barbless single hook....." This proposal would change the wording to "...unscented artificial flies or lures with one barbless single hook are allowed; up to three flies or lures may be used.....". All other portions of the definition remain unchanged.

EXPLANATION: The current wording for selective gear rules does not clearly portray the department's intent that up to three single barbless hooks may be used in selective gear waters. The new wording will make this clear.

TESTIMONY: *Change allowing a "dropper fly" is a good one. Strike indicators and "micro-shot" are part of a fly-fisher's tackle and micro-shot is restricted in fly fishing only areas but not under selective gear rules. Should delete "weight attached to the leader" in the fly fishing definition and allow weight unless specific snagging problems exist. In the interest of standardization it is suggested that the number of flies allowed for fly fishing only and selective gear waters be standardized at either 2 or 3.*

Do not support the use of a "dropper fly." It is a common technique used by guides east of the Rockies - allows even a beginner to catch fish. We have ample waters where this technique can be used without diluting our "fly fishing only" waters with this commercial expedient. Oregon requires one single barbless hooks for fly fishers on the N Umpqua.

Support the changes. (9)

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Support - fly fishing public is increasing. (2)

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South Sound Fly Fishers support proposal.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support. The elimination of the 12 lb test requirement for the leader is important.

Support. Have often fished with long leaders and 2 flies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

MARINE FISH RULES

#3 AND #4 HOOK RULES FOR MARINE WATERS (2 PROPOSALS)

PROPOSAL 3: Current rules allow anglers to use up to three hooks in Marine Areas 1-13 for all species except bottomfish, where only two hooks are allowed. Up to nine hooks may be used on forage fish jigger gear. This proposal would standardize the maximum number of hooks at 2 (except for forage fish jigger gear) in all waters where a saltwater fishing license is valid (all Marine Areas including Areas 2-1 and 2-2 and the Columbia River between a line from Rock Pt on the Washington shore to Tongue Pt on the Oregon shore and the Buoy 10 line).

EXPLANATION 3: Currently, a maximum of two hooks are allowed when fishing for bottomfish at the same times and in the same areas where up to three hooks are allowed if you are fishing for salmon. This proposal is an attempt to simplify the rule by standardizing hook number at 2 (except for forage fish jigger gear), making it easier for anglers to understand and for our officers to enforce.

PROPOSAL 4: Current rules allow barbed hooks in Marine Areas 1-13 for all species except salmon and sturgeon. This proposal would require anglers to use barbless hooks (except on forage fish jigger gear) in all waters where a saltwater fishing license is valid (all Marine Areas including Areas 2-1 and 2-2 and the Columbia River between a line from Rock Pt on the Washington shore to Tongue Pt on the Oregon shore and the Buoy 10 line).

EXPLANATION 4: Currently, barbed hooks are allowed for many species in the same areas and at the same times that barbless hooks are required for salmon and sturgeon. This proposal reflects an attempt to simplify the rule by allowing only barbless hooks, making it easier for anglers to understand and for our officers to enforce.

TESTIMONY: *Agree.*(5)

Rule is not understandable - would it allow treble hooks? They cause more damage to trout than single hooks in my experience. Also, snagging is easier with trebles.

In the interest of standardization it is suggested that the number of flies allowed for fly fishing only and selective gear waters be standardized at either 2 or 3. Should not have any significant impact on harvest but would facilitate enforcement.

If the use of selective gear rules is to limit fish kill/harvest why would the use of additional hooks seem appropriate? Do not support proposal. Manager's intent still unclear.

Modify to 2 hooks. This is in keeping with common fly fishing practice and will help standardize the rules.(2)

Support but where did the idea of 3 flies or lures come from? Appears 2 would be adequate based upon the rationale given.

No more than 1 single barbless hook should be used in these areas. There is a significant increase in injury and mortality when more hooks are used.

Do not support. Makes no sense. Allowing up to three hooks is outrageous. No need for this. It will harm fish. Propose the following "Only one unscented artificial fly or lure with one barbless hook is allowed; bait is prohibited; fish may be released until the....."

South Sound Fly Fishers support proposal.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support - both logical and reasonable.

I would like to propose a one-hook limit for salmon on all artificial lures. In the process of unhooking one hook, many fish are hooked on the trailing hook in the eye, gill, or other vital area. With one hook I notice a substantial reduction in the mortality of fish released.

A standard of 2 hooks is fine and barbless is OK.

The change to barbless hooks for all marine waters appears to be a good "convenience" measure for enforcement officers. It is an imposition for anglers to modify their hooks for bottom fish. These are usually larger hooks that are not available as barbless. This is not necessary for conservation. Few salmon anglers cheat. Few salmon are caught while bottom fishing and this does not warrant a change.

Agree with both proposals.(2)

Standardization of the number of hooks is a plus.

Support.

Barbless hooks for salmon only.

Two hooks proposal will only cause more confusion - should be left as is. Barbless proposal doesn't have a valid purpose and would lessen the thoroughness of WDFW spot checks and would not help with proper management practices. Generally anglers are not fishing for bottom fish in the areas they fish for salmon.

Barbless hook proposal does not make sense. Current rule is pretty simple to understand. Barbless hooks will result in lost halibut and rockfish - change is only for enforcers.

We fish halibut out of Neah Bay in May and June. The salmon fishery is not open. Using barbless hooks definitely gives the advantage to the fish. We have never seen any enforcement officers to enforce this type of rule. It is not difficult to determine what a person is fishing for.

Opposed this in 1997 because of the devastating and unnecessary impact on our state's coastal ports.

Must work together on a strategy that works in good and bad economic times and recognize local issues. Olympic Peninsula has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. This could be a final blow to the coastal fishing industry. State Representative Lynn Kessler.

Opposed to the barbless hook proposal. Barbless hooks will not work for live bait fisheries, as the live bait will not stay on the hook. This bait is used for black rockfish and albacore tuna. These two species are critical to the long-term survival of recreational fishing off the SW Washington coast. This rule was proposed and turned down in 1997. (Senator Sid Snyder, Representative Brian Hatfield, Representative Mark Doumit)

Strongly support both proposals. Properly prepared, barbless hooks offer superior hook sets. Absence of barbs reduces foul hook snags and mortality in undersized or bycatch fishes. This is sport fishing, not sport catching.

As a charter owner/operator, I oppose the proposal that would require anglers to use barbless hooks. As salmon stocks have declined, bottom fishing for black rockfish has become essential to the survival of the recreational fishing industry in Westport. Albacore tuna is another important species. Nearly 1/2 our income comes from these two species. All the charters that fish these species use live anchovies for bait. Everyone knows a live anchovy will not stay on a barbless hook. This proposal was considered and rejected 4 years ago. If adopted, it will devastate the coastal recreational fishery. Most of us support barbless hooks for salmon. We make every effort possible to avoid targeting threatened and endangered

rockfish species that would require releasing. There is no reason for a blanket rule for barbless hooks.(2)

Often fish for bottomfish and the barb on the hook is helpful for landing fish. Present rule is not hard to understand. Because of the bait used and fishing locations for bottomfish, enforcement should not be a problem. I do not know of any agreement for Indians to use barbless hooks. To better protect salmon, require that undersize fish be released without injury. Cutting the leader helps as the hooks just rust out. President of Westport Charter Assn - opposes barbless hook proposal. Bottomfish and tuna trips now are a mainstay of the business. Need the barbs to keep live anchovy on the hooks. Proposal would render a death blow to albacore trips. Went through this proposal 4 years ago - urge you to turn it down again. Charters don't impact endangered species.

Couldn't bring halibut up from 500-600 feet on a barbless hook. Rockfish mortality would occur when they disconnect after the fish are decompressed. No ESA issue. Barbless hooks don't work with live bait. Enforcement has expressed no significant concern for the Coast. Public don't realize that simplification means loss of opportunity. WDFW Anadromous and Marine Resources Sport Fishing Advisory Group did not participate in rule making. Will create more problems that it solves (Westport Charter Assn) President of Ilwaco Charter Assn - disappointed to see barbless hook proposal on the agenda. Thought it was put to rest 4 years ago. Would make the rules different in the Buoy 10 fishery for Washington vs Oregon anglers because Oregon allows barbs. Have worked hard to make these rules the same. Please do not adopt.

NW Marine Trade Association supports proposal 1, opposes proposal 2; barbless hooks are not effective for some bottomfish, like halibut. Has proposed a ban on treble hooks in marine waters and were disappointed that this proposal did not get into the public review document.

Disagree with barbless proposal. Not necessary - current rules are easy to understand. Fish mortality is not decreased by using barbless hooks (Canadian study).

Support the proposal for 2 hooks, but not for barbless hooks.

Charter operator opposes barbless hooks. When live bait is used it won't stay on the hook - or else the bait stays on and the fish fall off. Rockfish and ling cod are hard mouthed fish and the barbless hook has no holding power. (2) Leads to greater mortality and unintentional discard - many with ruptured air bladders. Fought this battle 4 years ago - nothing has changed - not encountering endangered species. Do not cut off his income for the sake of simplicity.

All hooks should be barbless.

Agree with simplification - think we should address whether single, double or treble hooks can be used - should limit it to single barbless hooks.

Opposed to barbless hooks - would have a severe economic impact on 35 family-owned charter businesses in Westport. Need live anchovies for bait for black rockfish - they will not stay on a barbless hook.

No biological justification for barbless hooks for halibut since there are no restrictions for size, weight, or sex except the 32' minimum in Area 1. Opposed to new management philosophy based on making it easier for officers to enforce.

South Sound Fly Fishers support both proposals.

King County Outdoor Sports Council opposes proposal. Making things more simple is not an acceptable reason for a change.

Suggest an exemption for barbless hooks while beach fishing for winter steelhead in Puget Sound. Few if any salmon hooked during this fishery. No barb restrictions in freshwater except selective gear rules. Barbless hooks don't work for halibut fishing - it is unique. Not enough enforcement in Marine Areas 1-4.

Do not support either change.

Native Fish Society supports both proposals.

Recreational Fishing Alliance thinks barbless hooks should not be required when fishing for halibut.

Would result in many fish lost.

Opposed to barbless hook requirement. Would make it impossible to harvest bottomfish. Halibut are fished at several hundred feet.

Westport Charter Assn - opposes barbless hooks - also Neah Bay, La Push opposed. Willing to experiment with gear and help fund studies. Nothing has changed since you rejected this proposal in 1997.

Barbless hooks will cause mortality as fish fall off as they are brought up from the depths.

MODIFICATION FOR PROPOSAL 3: Change the area where this rule applies to Marine Areas 1-13. This does not include the Buoy 10 area, which was part of the original proposal. Rules for this area will be negotiated with Oregon.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified

MODIFICATION FOR PROPOSAL 4: In response to public testimony, change the area where this rule applies to Marine Areas 5-13. This will allow the fisheries which require live bait (albacore tuna and black rockfish) and deepwater halibut fisheries in the ocean areas (Areas 1-4) to use barbed hooks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified

#5 ROCKFISH OPTIONS

PROPOSAL: Three different options are being considered for rockfish harvest in Marine Areas 1-4.

Option 1 would be a year-round season with a daily limit of 10 rockfish (all species combined). Of these 10, there may be no more than one canary rockfish and one yelloweye rockfish.

Option 2 would be a year-round season with a daily limit of 10 rockfish (all species combined). Of these 10, there may be no more than 1 canary or yelloweye rockfish.

Option 3 would combine either Option 1 or Option 2 with a prohibition for retaining yelloweye rockfish if Pacific halibut have been retained on the trip.

EXPLANATION: Under all options, WDFW will monitor the fishery and track the catch. If the catch of yelloweye rockfish is too high, WDFW will take further action to reduce the catch.

TESTIMONY: *I recommend the current rule of two canary and yelloweye in total. Further restriction is unwarranted. The primary cause of depletion is commercial gear. Restrict them. These species cannot*

be released live after being pulled from the depths. Catch one of either species and the regulation would cause the angler to quit fishing or be guilty of unwarranted wastage if the fish is released. I think the daily limit of 10 is too high. Yelloweye limits are OK. Daily limit for all rockfish should be a total of 5.

Support option 3.

Options 1 and 2 OK.(2)

Oppose option 3. Most yelloweye are caught while halibut fishing. Should be a small limit so that certain mortalities associated with deep water are not wasted. Do not ban fishing deeper than 25 fathoms - would devastate the halibut fishery. Could also affect the salmon fishery. Look at reducing the rockfish limit to 5. Would still allow harvest while managing conservatively. Canadian limit is 5.

Support option 1 oppose option 3. Rockfish are not alive when brought up from 300'.

Current rules are good - keep them. Option 3 is totally out of the question since rockfish are incidental catches when fishing halibut, considering that their eyes and innards explode when brought to the surface from the depths where I fish for halibut.

Proposal to prohibit fishing in waters deeper than 25 fathoms if the yelloweye rockfish catch is too high makes no sense. Have caught many yelloweye in less than 25 fathoms. Limiting fishing to waters that shallow will basically close halibut fishing. If that happens, what will happen to fishing out of Neah Bay and La Push?

Restrict the taking of yelloweye and bring the stock back.

Like option 3 with WDFW monitoring.

Proposals do not go far enough to protect canary, yelloweye and other rockfish. Daily limit should be reduced. Need a proactive approach.

Recreational Fishing Alliance supports option 1. Best approach for fish and angler. Adamantly opposed to option 3.

MODIFICATION: Modify proposal to a year-round season with a daily limit of 10 rockfish (all species combined). Of these 10, there may be no more than two canary rockfish and no yelloweye rockfish.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#6 WOLF EELS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would make it illegal for anglers to harvest wolf eels in Marine Areas 4,5, and 6. Harvest is already closed in Areas 7-13.

EXPLANATION: Agency research shows wolf eels are sensitive to harvest because they tend to stay at the same sites and are easily found by divers. Many have become accustomed to divers and are very tame. Surveys in Area 6 have shown a lack of wolf eels in areas they normally frequent.

TESTIMONY: As a diver, have seen a decline in the last decade - support this proposal.
Good.(3)

*Support - several have names and are pets at favorite dive sites.
Support. Wolf eels are a major attraction at dive sites.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#7 HERRING RAKES

PROPOSAL: This proposal would ban the use of herring rakes.

EXPLANATION: Herring rakes (sometimes also called smelt rakes) consist of a long handled board with sharp pointed nails on the lower section. Fish are impaled on these nails as it is pushed through the water. This gear is non-selective and can hurt or kill non-target species, such as juvenile salmon, as well as wasting fish that are injured and then drop off the points. Forage fish can be easily harvested by dip net, so it is not necessary to use this destructive gear.

TESTIMONY: *I have never seen this type of gear. Smelt rakes are baskets with handles with no sharp projections to kill fish. This type of gear should be allowed.*

Support. (6)

South Sound Fly Fishers support proposal.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#8 DIP NETS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would change the definition of a dip net to: "A section of netting distended by a rigid frame and directly attached to a rigid handle". The gear would need to be fished by holding on to the handle at all times that the netting is in the water. Anglers would not be allowed to use the gear from a vessel under power.

EXPLANATION: The current definition is sufficiently vague to allow some anglers to use gear which technically meets the definition, but is actually used like a gill net. The new definition will fix this problem.

TESTIMONY: *Didn't find a definition of a dip net in the pamphlet but was struck with the notion that a salmon landing net is a dip net and that salmon are often netted along side vessels under power. Perhaps the definition needs modification.*

As a smelt fisherman, have observed many people use underwater gill nets. This is a clear violation of WAC 220-49-017. The definition of dip net that allows the use of this gear is not in WAC 220-49-017. The definition needs clear verbiage but those who fish in this manner are in clear violation. Current violators must be stopped now, not waiting for rules to be in effect next May.

Support. (4)

Don't make landing nets illegal.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support but not the part about using from a boat under power - need to do this for dip netting herring balls.

MODIFICATION: Modify the gear name to a "forage fish dip net" and to limit anglers to one unit of this gear. Anglers would not be allowed to use this gear for forage fish from a vessel while under power. This makes it clear that the rule does not prohibit the use of landing nets for other species.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#9 DUWAMISH WATERWAY

PROPOSAL: This proposal would apply only during open salmon fisheries from July through October in the East Duwamish Waterway (waters between a line extended east along the path of SW Hanford St on Harbor Island to a line extended east from the southern end of Harbor Island). Terminal fishing gear for salmon during these fisheries would be limited to bait suspended below a float.

EXPLANATION: This area has long been the scene of a salmon snag fishery. Limiting terminal gear to bait and floats in this section of the waterway should discourage the hard core snaggers and make this readily-accessible area a desirable site for legitimate anglers and their families.

TESTIMONY: *OK.*

Recommend allowing the use of unweighted flies.

NW Marine Trade Association supports - however should be monitored to see if anglers can effectively catch salmon with this gear.

Good idea if you patrol.

Sound proposal if it allows people a legitimate chance of harvesting fish using the technique described.

Otherwise need more enforcement.

Oppose - if snagging is a problem, use enforcement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

SHELLFISH RULES

#10 STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA CLAM BEACHES

PROPOSAL: This proposal would open clam beaches along the Strait of Juan de Fuca west of the tip of Dungeness Spit to clamming year-round.

EXPLANATION: Currently, these beaches are closed from April 1 through October 31 each year. In the past, these beaches were closed at the request of the Department of Health because of concerns over seasonally occurring toxins which they did not have the capacity to monitor. However, the DOH is now monitoring these beaches. They will open and close the beaches on the basis of this monitoring. These closures may be at different times than the historic seasonal closure.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (4)*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#11 CLAM AND OYSTER BEACH SEASONS

(Beaches with names in bold have seasons that have been modified or amended from those handed out at the December Commission meeting.)

Clam Beaches

Ala Spit

Current Regulation Jan 1 through May 31
Proposed Regulation May 1 through May 31

Brown Point (DNR 57-B)

Current Regulation January 1 through July 31
Proposed Regulation January 1 through June 30

Dosewallips State Park

Current Regulation July 1 through September 15
Proposed Regulation March 1 through September 15

Duckabush Tidelands

Current Regulation: Closed
Proposed Regulation: March 1 through December 31

Freeland County Park

Current Regulation Open year-round
Proposed Regulation no change

Frye Cove

Current Regulation January 1 through May 31
Proposed Regulation January 1 through June 30

Kayak Point County Park

Current Regulation May 1-15, August 1-15
Proposed Regulation no change

Kitsap Memorial State Park

Current Regulation June 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation May 15 through June 30

Kopachuck State Park

Current Regulation Closed
Proposed Regulation June 1 through June 30

Oakland Bay Recreation Area (Oakland Bay North and West—oyster reserve)

Current Regulation March 1 through September 30
Proposed Regulation Open year-round

Penrose Point State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through May 15
Proposed Regulation April 1 through April 30

Pillar Point County Park

Current Regulation November 1 through April 30
Proposed Regulation Open year-round

Point Whitney Lagoon

Current Regulation June 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation May 1 through May 31

Point Whitney Tidelands

Current Regulation May 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation April 1 through April 30

Port Townsend Ship Canal

Current Regulation April 1 through June 15
Proposed Regulation January 1 through March 31

Potlatch DNR

Current Regulation March 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation no change

Potlatch State Park

Current Regulation March 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation no change

Potlatch East

Current Regulation March 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation no change

Quilcene Bay Tidelands

Current Regulation April 1 through September 30
Proposed Regulation April 1 through December 31

Rendsland Creek Tidelands

Current Regulation: January 1 through April 30
Proposed Regulation: January 1 through May 31

Sequim Bay State Park (North and South sections)

Current Regulation May 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation May 1 through June 15

South Indian Island County Park

Current Regulation May 1 through August 31
Proposed Regulation May 1 through August 15

Spencer Spit State Park

Current Regulation April 1 through July 31
Proposed Regulation no change

West Dewatto (DNR 44A)

Current Regulation January 1 through May 31
Proposed Regulation January 1 through June 30

Oyster Beaches

Dosewallips State Park

Current Regulation July 1 through September 15
Proposed Regulation March 1 through September 15

Duckabush Tidelands

Current Regulation Closed
Proposed Regulation March 1 through December 31

Eagle Creek

Current Regulation January 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation January 1 through December 31

Illahee State Park

Current Regulation Closed
Proposed Regulation May 1 through May 31

Kitsap Memorial State Park

Current Regulation June 1 through August 31
Proposed Regulation May 15 through August 31

Kopachuck State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through May 31
Proposed Regulation March 1 through June 30

Oakland Bay Recreation Area (Oakland Bay North and West—oyster reserve)

Current Regulation March 1 through September 30
Proposed Regulation January 1 through December 31

Penrose Point State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through June 30
Proposed Regulation April 1 through April 30

Point Whitney Tidelands

Current Regulation April 1 through August 31
Proposed Regulation April 1 through December 31

Potlatch East

Current Regulation April 1 through July 15
Proposed Regulation April 1 through September 30

Potlatch State Park

Current Regulation April 1 through July 15
Proposed Regulation April 1 through September 30

Quilcene Bay Tidelands

Current Regulation April 1 through September 30
Proposed Regulation April 1 through December 31

Scenic Beach State Park

Current Regulation April 16 through July 15
Proposed Regulation April 16 through September 30

South Indian Island County Park

Current Regulation May 1 through August 31
Proposed Regulation Open year-round

West Dewatto (DNR 44A)

Current Regulation January 1 through September 30
Proposed Regulation January 1 through December 31

Wolfe Property State Park

Current Regulation January 1 through June 15
Proposed Regulation January 1 through May 15

TESTIMONY: *Again this year there was no opportunity to adequately review and comment on these seasons. Most beaches close by early fall and creel censuses should be complete. If the delay is because of individual beach sampling, then a separate public hearing should be held for this rule.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#12 FILLING IN HOLES WHILE DIGGING FOR CLAMS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would require persons to fill in clam holes when digging for all clams other than razor clams.

EXPLANATION: Currently, this practice is only required of persons digging for hardshell clams. This proposal would expand the requirement to all clams except razor clams. The piles of sediment created when clams are dug have a tendency to smother small beach creatures underneath and the holes create a hazard to other diggers. On razor clam beaches, the high surf action will fill in the holes quickly, but this is not true on many other beaches.

TESTIMONY: *Will anyone enforce this? This has been a rule for hardshell clams for years but I have never seen an enforcement officer writing citations for it. Why add more rules that won't be enforced? Support - makes sense from a conservation and safety standpoint.*

Support (4)

OK for resource protection.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#13 OYSTERS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would standardize the rules for oyster harvest in Puget Sound. The rule would be a daily limit of 18 oysters with a minimum size of 2.5" across the longest dimension of the shell. All oysters must be shucked (removed from the shell and shell left on the beach) before leaving the beach.

EXPLANATION: The current rule requires a minimum size of 2.5 inches in areas other than Hood Canal and requires oysters to be shucked on the beach only in Hood Canal. The minimum size was intended to protect Olympia oysters, which seldom grow beyond 2.5 inches in shell length. Recent surveys have found viable populations of Olympia oysters in Hood Canal, so extending the size limit to this area would offer them protection. Shucking oysters on the beach provides habitat for young oysters to settle on and avoids the possibility of transferring shellfish predators or diseases from one place to another. Surveys have also noted more oysters spawning outside of Hood Canal than previously noted, so leaving the shells at the beach will provide them with a good substrate on which to settle, as well as cutting down on the transfer of pests or predators from one place to another.

TESTIMONY: *A 2.5" minimum size and a rule to shuck all oysters in the field seems to be mutually exclusive. Should modify the rule to be geographic specific where oysters could benefit from having shells on the beach for the spat to set. I prefer to cook oysters in the shell and serve them on the half shell.*

Support.(4)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#14 OCTOPUS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would change the daily limit for octopus from 2 to 1 in Marine Areas 4-13.

EXPLANATION: This proposal is prompted by concerns over the status of octopus in Puget Sound. Data is limited, but input suggests that a daily limit of 2 octopus is excessive.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (3)*

As a diver, have seen a decline in the last decade - support this proposal.

Doesn't go far enough. Possibly a yearly limit with a punch card like halibut, steelhead, etc. Should monitor more closely.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support - survey by Roland Anderson of the Seattle Aquarium indicates population is down.

Support - would like to see a total ban.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#15 USE OF CHEMICAL IRRITANTS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would make it illegal to use any type of chemical irritant to harvest fish or shellfish, unless a special exception has been made by the director.

EXPLANATION: It is currently illegal to use chemical irritants while harvesting octopus. This proposal would expand the rule to apply to all harvest. Enforcement officers have noted that some people are pouring bleach on mussel clusters on pilings in an effort to force pile worms out so they can be harvested and used as bait. This destructive practice kills the mussels and many small organisms present in the surrounding area.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (4)*

Isn't this already illegal? It's a poison isn't it?

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support - should be a full ban of use of any chemicals in the water.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Continued to the March 25 meeting. This proposal is contained in a WAC that needs to be left open because it also contains language affecting Marine Preserves.

#16 LIMIT OF 4 SHRIMP POTS PER BOAT

PROPOSAL: This proposal would limit the number of shrimp pots that may be fished per boat to a maximum of 4 in Marine Areas 4-13.

EXPLANATION: This provision currently applies only during the Hood Canal fishery. Extending it to Marine areas 4-13 should result in longer shrimp seasons in many areas. Many anglers have expressed the desire for longer seasons in public meetings.

TESTIMONY: *Appropriate.(2)*

No problem with this rule except I believe the charter boats should be allowed one pot per passenger. Have repeatedly testified against this for Hood Canal. It is discriminatory against families, senior citizens and the disabled community.

Who is WDFW trying to fool? This means more boats in the water. With limited boat ramps it makes confusion and more pollution in the water. Makes it hard for families, aged, and disabled fishers.

Do not support - our boat can carry six or more passengers. As an alternative, we could support a proposal that allows at least one pot per person if the boat has more than four licensed anglers aboard.

Do not believe it will lengthen the season - will increase the number of boats.

Support. Necessary to conserve the resource and limit harvest.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Unfair to sell a license to fish with 2 pots, then restrict.

Recreational Fishing Alliance cannot support a rule that does not allow a person to fish his or her own gear.

Important in some areas, but what about San Juan Islands? Rougher water, longer runs, doesn't make sense here.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#17 SPOT SHRIMP RULES

PROPOSAL: This proposal adds a maximum limit of 80 spot shrimp (within the total of 10 lbs) to Puget Sound areas outside of designated shrimp districts. Housekeeping changes to the WAC include: 1) changing shrimp districts to names instead of numbers; and 2) removing a conflict over where the size limit applies.

EXPLANATION: The general rule for spot shrimp becomes 80 shrimp (minimum 1 3/16" carapace size) as part of the shrimp daily limit of 10 lbs. Exceptions would be: 1) Discovery Bay Shrimp District - limit is 50 spot shrimp; 2) Port Angeles Shrimp District - no minimum size (shrimp do not get big enough here); and 3) Hood Canal - no minimum size (not necessary because of minimum mesh size required on pots).

TESTIMONY: *Support (3)*

Reducing the limit to 80 shrimp is ridiculous. The tribes continue to harvest yet you want to penalize sport fishers.

Must be planning to eliminate the recreational shrimp fishery by putting out so many rules that it's not worth the effort.

Do not support.

Reducing to 80 is excessive in conjunction with rule above and other changes proposed. Under the current 10 pound limit, we can keep 130-140 shrimp. A more reasonable number would be 100 and would not discourage participation.

80 prawns is unfair in the San Juans. Sport commercial allotment also unfair. Can harvest 10 lbs year round across the Canadian border.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#18 CRAB RULES - COLUMBIA RIVER MOUTH

PROPOSAL: This proposal would allow anglers to use up to three units of gear (a star trap, ring net, or shellfish pot is one unit of gear) for shellfish in the Columbia River (upstream of the Buoy 10 line).

EXPLANATION: This proposal matches Oregon's rule for the number of shellfish pots allowed in this area. The minimum size would remain 5 ¾" for Dungeness and 5" for red rock crab, and the daily limit would be 12 males for Dungeness and 6 of either sex for red rock crabs. Pot season would remain open December 1 - September 15 each year.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (4)*

Southwest Washington Anglers strongly in favor. Should also match other rules to Oregon (pots year-round and buoy requirements) Cannibalism is not a problem in the winter and Washington requires escape rings anyway. Buoy rule is not needed and inconsistent. Pot closure is unenforceable. Buoy 10 line is a poor dividing line - should be moved to the tip of the jetties. (2)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#19 DAILY LIMIT FOR DUNGENESS CRAB

PROPOSAL: This proposal would make the daily limit for Dungeness Crab in Puget Sound (Marine Areas 4-13) 4 male crabs.

EXPLANATION: The daily limit of 6 crabs would remain in the Pacific Ocean areas and the daily limit of 12 crabs would remain in the Columbia River. The lower limit in Puget Sound will help extend the open season for this very popular shellfish.

TESTIMONY: *Crab catch limits in Hood Canal should be a daily limit of 4, 6¼" minimum size. Four larger crab will provide a comparable amount of meat to six minimum sized crab. In my crab harvest log I find 70% of my catch is 6¼" and over. The size limit should be the same for the commercial fishery, though.*

Is this necessary? Sport fishers are getting the short end of the stick. Recommend this not be adopted until at least 2 years of catch data has been acquired and analyzed to see if it is necessary.

Sounds good - 4 is plenty to eat.

Opposed. Makes it a pretty expensive pastime. Tribes ignore closures. Fishery is too concentrated in a small area.

Support proposal (6)

4 is enough, but commercial should have a shorter season or they will catch more and defeat the purpose.

Strongly oppose this proposal. It is clear that there is sufficient abundance of this particular species to make this proposal unnecessary. This proposal will cause a decrease in the recreational harvest share, and an increase in the tribal and commercial harvest. Dungeness crab populations are not depleted, but are doing quite well. It makes more sense to leave the daily limit at 6 and adjust the season as needed. Never keep more than 3 crab as that's all we eat before they go bad. But - until the tribes are under control then let the sport crabbers take 6.

Leave the limit alone and shorten the season if needed. Six crab is a very small number anyway. Support - sound management.

Wasn't it just last year that I testified that sport crabbers didn't want the rules changed to 4 crab pots per person? What has changed in the last year to go from allowing double the amount of pots to cutting the limit? Are these rules imposed on commercial and tribal fishers?

Now we have those nice catch record cards for crab and we are to get a daily limit of four - are the commercials getting a 1/3 reduction in their crab catch also? Wasn't it last year you were recommending 4 crab pots per person? Did the catch record cards make that much difference? Who contributes the most money for licenses, commercial or sport?

Do not support. There are many areas in Puget Sound where recreational fishers are not catching their share.

Object to proposal. Sport harvest is not hurting the population. Fish from Everett to Des Moines and have no trouble getting a limit. If necessary, reduce the catch in some areas, but leave the daily limit the same.

Change is not needed. There probably is a problem with overharvest in the north sound (Area 8), but there is no problem in areas 10, 11, and 13. Lets not use a sledge hammer for the sake of uniformity. All the other fishing regulations vary from area to area as area needs are different. Keep area 10 at a daily limit of 6 crabs.

Maybe you should re-think this. Areas in question should be addressed, not a rubber stamp approach. Area 10 does not need it. Why not reduce the tribal fishery?

Seattle Poggie Club supports maintaining the current daily limit to avoid further discrimination against sportfishers.

Opposed. Proposal is unnecessary. Puget Sound populations are not depleted, but are doing quite well. This year the season was re-opened in several areas to allow additional recreational opportunities. Most participation is in July and August anyway, so a longer season is no big deal. Proposal would cause a reduction in recreational harvest and an increase in tribal and commercial catch. WDFW credibility suffers with such proposals.

I proposed reducing the daily limit to 5 in Hood Canal. Recommend a cautious approach until evaluation occurs.

Support - best if caught and eaten the same day.

If adopted, should only apply where seasons are already highly restricted on a regular basis as in Hood Canal. In other areas, would just allocate sport share to commercials.

No sound science to support proposal in all areas of Puget Sound. Possibly in some areas. Should give CRC reports a chance to provide data and adjust in-season.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Do not Adopt. Crab harvest data from the catch record cards are now providing estimates of harvest and the results indicate a lower harvest rate than generated from previous methods.

ACTION TAKEN: Proposal was not adopted.

#20 MINIMUM SIZE FOR DUNGENESS CRAB IN HOOD CANAL

PROPOSAL: This proposal would make the minimum size for Dungeness crab harvested in Hood Canal 6¼".

EXPLANATION: This rule would standardize the minimum size for Dungeness crab in all Puget Sound areas at 6¼". This closes a loophole for people who would keep 6" crab in other areas, then claim that they were harvested in Hood Canal.

TESTIMONY: *Crab catch limits in Hood Canal should be a daily limit of 4, 6¼" minimum size. Four larger crab will provide a comparable amount of meat to six minimum sized crab. In my crab harvest log I find 70% of my catch is 6¼" and over. The size limit should be the same for the commercial fishery, though.*

Is the right thing to do. It is better to standardize and bigger crabs have more meat.

Appropriate. (6)

Oppose unless it can be shown abundance is down.

Strongly opposed. Proposal is not based on science. Legal loophole argument is irresponsible and inconsistent with administrative and Commission policy since the Columbia River has a different size limit than the adjacent Pacific Ocean. There is not adequate field sampling in Hood Canal for crab. If the size is increased in Hood Canal we should be assured that the tribal fisheries and commercial fisheries will be in compliance.

Support.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

If standardization is the issue, why not standardize statewide? If the loophole argument is true, this is an illegal activity. Sport harvesters should not have to pay the price. Illegal activity will take place no matter what the minimum size. Hood Canal crabs grow slower. The increase in minimum size will hurt the recreational fishery. 6" minimum size has been in effect since 1971 and has withstood the test of time. In 1992 WDFW bios collected data on crab size in Hood Canal and found that crabs of all age classes are significantly smaller than N Puget Sound. Review of crab log data for pot fisheries over a 10-year period through 1984 shows that crabs smaller than 6 1/4" make up 44% in Hood Canal, as opposed to just 26% in N Puget Sound. Waders show a larger disparity. Takes 14 successive molts to reach a legal minimum size. When growth is slow, takes more time between molts. When forage is plentiful, this takes about 4 years. May slow if good food is not available. Waiting for crabs now taken at 6" to reach the new minimum size may permanently remove them from the harvest because some simply stop molting before they reach 6 1/4". Hood Canal's mainstem is unique and largely isolated from the rest of Puget Sound. Prime Dungeness habitat is scarce, mostly river deltas. Leaving more large males on the grounds for an additional period of time will increase competition for a good spot. Populations have been stable with current rules. Test fishing in 1991-1992 shows crab larger just south of the HC bridge than in HC mainstem. This will benefit the tribes more because about 85% of the sport catch occurs in the mainstem, while the tribal catch occurs further north.

Do not support.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#21 INFRACTIONS AND MISDEMEANORS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would make several different acts infractions (punishable by a fine) rather than misdemeanors (punishable by a fine or jail time). These acts include: 1) failing to fill in a hole while digging for clams; 2) retaining only the siphon of a geoduck or thrusting an implement through a geoduck's siphon; 3) possession of Manila, native littleneck, cockle or butter clams less than 1 ½" across the longest dimension of the shell; 4) returning eastern softshells, horse clams, or geoducks to the beach or water regardless of size or condition; and 5) retaining softshell crab.

EXPLANATION: These acts would still be illegal, it is just a case of making the punishment fit the crime.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (6)*

Most will not break the law if they understand it. Proposal does not address habitual lawbreakers - perhaps loss of their license for a period of time?

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

CONSERVATION AREAS/MARINE PRESERVES

The proposals below fall in the category of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which are marine areas with certain fishing restrictions in place, intended to protect or enhance all of the resources at the site and in adjacent areas. This management tool also can be used to emphasize certain uses of areas (e.g., diving vs fishing) where conflicts have occurred. The restrictions can range from complete closure of all fishing activities (conservation areas) to closure of some fishing activities (marine preserves). The compatibility of current uses with resource management needs can shape the choices for proposed application of this tool.

The Department's primary objective for considering MPAs in Puget Sound is to provide additional protection for many depleted lingcod and rockfish populations that inhabit rocky reef habitat. Fish biologists and managers have learned that rockfish generally are very slow growing, long-lived species that can only sustain low fishing rates. Many rockfish species in Puget Sound are believed to be at levels of 10% or less of their historic abundance. Adults also tend to stay close to home near specific sites. These factors make rockfish and lingcod more vulnerable to harvest than a number of other fish species. Although managers have implemented strict harvest regulations in response to population declines, the rebuilding process is very slow and even relatively small incidental harvest in non-target fisheries can still be a limiting factor. Therefore, the Department has viewed MPAs as a complementary management tool to more general fishery restrictions. Because these species associate so closely with rocky reef habitat, special fishing restrictions in some of these critical habitats may allow them to serve as "natural hatcheries," and thereby enhance the rebuilding of these species. Although the Department has designated a small number of areas as MPAs, and is proposing several additional ones here for consideration, use of this tool is still very much under development. In order for managers to have a full understanding of their effectiveness, evaluation of new and existing MPAs will need to be a very high priority. This is one reason that the Department is proposing to approach the implementation of MPAs in small, thoughtful steps.

Furthermore, state and tribal co-managers are just beginning to develop comprehensive, joint management goals, principles and strategies to ensure long-term conservation of Puget Sound groundfish. The specific uses and potential site selection for MPAs have not yet been jointly established among the co-managers. As a result, in the short-term, the specific proposals for establishing new conservation areas or marine preserves below are only recommendations for restriction of non-Indian fishing activities. To the extent that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts recreational fishing closures for these areas, the Department will be proposing similar measures for non-Indian commercial fisheries. Prior to the final Commission consideration of the proposals in February 2002, the Department will continue to work closely with tribal co-managers on the longer-term objectives for MPAs and discuss the compatibility of these new proposals with treaty Indian fishing rights and objectives. It is very much the Department's desire to have a joint state-tribal approach for the use of MPAs. The current proposals are not

intended to diminish this objective, but rather provide consideration of some limited opportunities in the short-term that could be very important in helping to meet conservation needs of depleted species inhabiting rocky reef habitat in Puget Sound. At least one of the proposals also addresses a current use conflict.

The Department also hopes to provide recreational and commercial fishing constituents more information on the intent of these MPA proposals and gather broader public input by holding one or more regional meetings. These would be scheduled before the Fish and Wildlife Commission's public hearing in December 2001. Information on MPAs also can be found in the Department's online science magazine at the following internet address:
http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/science/current/marine_sanctuary.html

The Department intends to modify the proposals below, as appropriate, based on discussions with tribal co-managers and the input received from the public prior to the Commission's adoption meeting next spring. These modifications could include recommendations to not adopt MPAs at one or more of the proposed sites or to change the nature of proposed fishing restrictions.

TESTIMONY: *The success of the established areas is great. I approve of the new sites, however the non-Indian only exclusion will breed further resentment by non-treaty fishers. Is it better that the areas be voluntary for all fishers, like the San Juan rockfish recovery areas?*

SCUBA divers have been active in supporting MPAs and the rule change to limit the ling cod spearfishing season to three weeks felt like a slap in the face. To single out a small minority of users like SCUBA divers or tribal fishers will defeat the greater goal of encouraging a conservation mindset. I urge you to consider voluntary areas.

I understand and support the establishment of these areas as stated for rockfish and lingcod. But there are many shallow water areas within the preserves that have good populations of sculpins, greenling, cabezon, etc. that could be harvested. If we have concerns for these fish, then establish size limits. Rockfish and lingcod can be released in shallow water unharmed. Establish the preserves but target specific species.

The areas need to be marked with buoys. Are the headings magnetic or true? How can you measure 400 yards NE? Lots of problems of this type.

Conservation Areas are just great. It is our best chance to help fish recover. But it must be for everyone, not just non-Indians. If you don't restrict everyone, don't bother to make Conservation Areas. (2)

The marine preserve idea has been long overdue - hopefully tribal powers will respect the need for a sanctuary. Hopefully they will be expanded over the next 10-20 years and more artificial reefs will be added.

If this is the case, are you still allowing commercial harvest of these resources?

I am appalled to see rules that pertain to license purchasing sportsmen and do not apply to tribal fishers.

I work for the Tulalip tribe and know that they do not need crab, fish or big game to survive.

MPAs are a good idea but should be closed to all - why not more artificial reefs?

Disagree with the proposed underwater protected areas. It seems to make more sense to close the areas to the type of fish that are in decline. What is good for one is good for all - have agreement with the tribes before you close it to non-Indians. Greatly oppose the underwater protected areas.

Adamantly opposed. Government agencies are denying access to too many areas in order to curry favor with environmental extremists. Bottom trawling is not allowed in any of these areas, overfishing is not an issue, they do not need protection. Lands and waters were set aside for citizens to use.

Conservation areas, if established, must be restricted equally for all participants or it is not a conservation area. As proposed, it makes a wonderful place for Indians to catch fish without supervision. Excellent proposal. This may be the best way of assisting slow-growing groundfish stocks. (2)

Don't restrict all fishing - just fishing for bottomfish.

Strongly support creating underwater protected areas. As a diver, have seen the difference they make. (Edmonds Underwater Park as an example) (3)

Support only if tribal co-managers agree to forgo fishing in the MPAs.

Do not support marine preserves.

Family fishes the area you propose to eliminate, and other surrounding areas. Have caught nice true cod, pollock and other bottom fish (not even pollock now). Fishing was good until Booth Gardner let the commercial draggers clean out all the bottomfish and salmon. No on your proposal.

Great - data from MPAs around the world shows that they work. Tribes need to be part of the program to work to its fullest.

Strongly support any effort to protect rockfish and their habitat. Make the harvest rules stricter and take drastic measures to protect rockfish.

None of these proposals should be considered until state and tribal co-managers agree on a course of action. Will do no good without everyone involved. With rockfish at 10% of their historic abundance, more drastic measures are called for. Statewide closure in order. Look at striped bass in the east coast. Without tribal cooperation tribes could fish at Ft Casey preserve, putting divers in danger because they are not expecting fishers to be there. Or at Scatchet Head a boat is sighted in the marine preserve and reported to WDFW - turns out to be a tribal fisher - waste of state resources for a false alarm.

Kelp Crawlers Dive Club supports MPAs at Fort Casey, Admiralty Head, Rosario Head, Scatchet Head, and Zees Reef.

People for Puget Sound support creation of marine preserves - they are a positive, but not comprehensive approach to aiding species in decline. Requires more focused resources. Tribes need to be engaged, as well as lots of other local groups and residents - more public involvement at the local level, in particular the NW Straits counties. NW Straits Commission and the Marine Resource Committees can be active partners and help educate residents and develop a sense of local stewardship. Washington Scuba Alliance supports all the marine preserves. A robust assemblage of rocky reef habitat must be protected - urge the Commission to make sure MPAs are buffered 300 yards on a side to prevent unintentional fishing due to poor navigation.

Support all proposed areas, but the list is too short. Western WA is urban and not applying urban planning is shortsighted.

NW Straits Commission supports marine preserves but has concerns about the manner in which the current areas have been chosen. Wants to understand underlying strategy and criteria. NW Straits Commission has principles under which they believe an integrated system of MPAs should be established. 1) MPAs should be created to meet a variety of needs, including fisheries management, habitat protection, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and public access goals. 2) Stakeholder involvement is vital 3) Weaving individual site goals into a system-wide set of goals is vital 4) MPAs are insufficient protection in the absence of other management activities 5) Systems or networks are more effective than individual sites 6) Size of a preserve must be sufficient to protect the home range of vulnerable adult organisms as well as juveniles 7) Individual sites must be based on knowledge of physical and biological resources of site 8) Systems of preserves should account for a representative amount of each major habitat type.

Support MPAs.

Decline in rockfish is caused by so-called dogfish nets, not sport fisheries. Then the draggers wiped out stocks.

Black cod, true cod, hake and pollock are gone for good. When do you plan their recovery? Preserves will just build up rockfish populations so some renegade Indian can wipe them out.

Support all MPAs. (2)

Recreational Fishing Alliance has concerns with MPA's as a management tool. MPAs have not been used effectively for long-term protection and sustainable use of commercial and recreational fisheries. No comprehensive approach - limited resources for monitoring. Support will come on a case-by-case basis. Request new MPAs be based on a comprehensive approach to designating, evaluating and monitoring, adequate funding and a defined goal. Should attempt to allow any type of fishery possible except on the species the MPA is designed to protect. Should not exclude one particular type of angler or another. Wording of proposals is repetitive and vague. Does not indicate species of concern, probability of rebuilding or goal. Do not consider if data does not exist.

Island County Marine Resources Committee feels that they can assist with MPA effort. Their efforts have been totally disregarded by the WDFW process. Fear the response generated to proposals may negate their efforts to inform local policymakers and stakeholders the value of science-based locally supported sites.

Group of scientists express support for proposed MPAs. Decline of marine fish species is well documented, WDFW has listed 13 rockfish species as candidates for threatened or endangered status. This is a local problem needing a local solution. MPAs are an integral part of WDFW's overall recovery strategy for groundfish. Marine reserves have been used successfully around the world and can have multiple benefits to both managed species and stocks and to the marine ecosystems that support them. First formal Marine Reserves were established more than 2 decades ago. Recent analysis has shown they usually result in long lasting and often rapid increases in the abundance, diversity and productivity of marine organisms. Full protection is critical to achieve a full range of benefits. There is also a spillover effect to nearby areas and even to regional populations through larval export. Networks of biogeographically linked reserves have exceptional benefits and can protect against environmental variability and catastrophic events. Successful Marine Reserves will require focused scientific resources - more than WDFW alone can provide. Please recognize the resources needed by WDFW staff to "do the job right." WDFW also needs to seek out resources from academic, federal, tribal and non-governmental research centers and scientists at other state and local resource agencies. Reserves also need to be managed cooperatively with other agencies, landowners and tribes - need administrative resources to do this. Recommend a robust public outreach program too. Applaud the work done so far and urge adoption of the new areas.

GENERAL STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Take testimony from Commercial fishers at the February Commission meeting. Table the decision until after the North of Falcon meetings and then adopt by phone conference call after discussion of all public input.

ACTION TAKEN: Decisions on all the Conservation Areas and Marine Preserves were continued until the March 25 Commission Meeting. This will allow more public input from commercial fishers and also allow the proposals to be discussed at the March 20 North of Falcon meeting.

#22 CONSERVATION AREA AT FORT CASEY STATE PARK

PROPOSAL: This proposal would create a conservation area (closed to all non-Indian fishery harvest) in marine waters on the west side of Whidbey Island near Fort Casey State Park. This would include the waters from the rock jetty at Keystone south to the line of pilings extending from the shoreline, including the intertidal zone and extending 100 yards west from the shoreline.

EXPLANATION: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has asked that WDFW create a no-harvest zone at Fort Casey State Park. Reasons for this request include both habitat protection and visitor safety issues. Park managers cite conflicts between divers and shore-based fishers who fish with large weighted lures from the jetty in the area where divers concentrate. Divers are also concerned that visibility is so poor in the area that divers are endangering each other by using spearguns to harvest fish. The underwater park was created with divers in mind, and the Parks Commission envisioned a place where they could enjoy sea life in an area without harvest.

TESTIMONY: *Support the proposal. This is a favorite spot for divers. There have been conflicts between divers and fishing gear.*

Support. (10)

Don't like as proposed. Would eliminate a shore-based fishing opportunity - modify to allow fishing from the beach. Not allowing spear fishing from the jetty is OK.

SCUBA diver supports the creation of Conservation Area at Ft Casey State Park. (33)

Have been saddened in the past to see harvest of octopus from this area - population is now in recovery and it would be good to see them protected.

Have seen fish caught on fishing lines that are entangled in the rocks struggling to free themselves.

Area contains lots of ling cod, as well as harder-to-find species such as grunt sculpin, painted greenlings, and moss warbonnets. Lingcod disappeared this summer - were they fished out?

Great place for an underwater park - will bring tourists.

Wonderful idea - great place for new divers.

Diver has been hooked twice by fishermen - happy to see the proposal.

Entire area from the South jetty to the Keystone ponds is regularly used for salmon and steelhead beach fishing, particularly in the late summer and fall for pink and coho salmon. Fishing from the jetty itself is not a good idea. South boundary should be near the south boundary of the boat launch parking lot, not the pilings. Recommend you adopt with this change.

Support - this site has easy dive access (diver with arthritis)

Former state representative and SCUBA diver supports proposal.

Excellent diving site and the greater good would be served by making it an underwater park. Will boost the local economy.

Great disparity in the availability of breeding stocks of bottomfish, crab, abalone and other species can be seen between diving Neah Bay and diving Keystone. Creation of a Conservation Area will help stocks rebuild at Keystone. Area from Deception Island through Deception Pass to Ben Ure Island, through Strawberry Island then over to Fidalgo Island should be afforded the same action to create a Conservation Area.

Support.

Island County Marine Resources Committee supports proposal.

MODIFICATION: Based on conversations with the State Park and analysis of maps, staff has proposed a more detailed description of the area. It would define Fort Casey Conservation Area as all bedlands and tidelands and the waters over these starting at the extreme high water line on the east side of the jetty at Fort Casey State Park then easterly along the extreme high water line to 122°40'07"W, 48°09'30"N (on the beach at the terminus of Engle Road) then along a line perpendicular to the shore southeasterly for 600 feet then southwest parallel to the shoreline to a point due south of the southern tip of the jetty, then north to the extreme high water line on the southern tip of the jetty, then along the extreme high water line on the east side of the jetty to the point of origin.

#23 CONSERVATION AREA AT ROSARIO

PROPOSAL: This proposal would create a conservation area (closed to all non-Indian fishery harvest) in marine waters near Rosario Head. This would include tidelands, bedlands, and waters adjacent to Fidalgo Island within a line beginning at the high tide mark at the south tip of Rosario Head, then due east to the 10 fathom contour, then northwesterly to the southwest end of Northwest Island, then from the northwest end of Northwest Island due north to the intersection with the high tide line on Fidalgo Island, then following the high tide line southerly to the point of origin.

EXPLANATION: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has asked that WDFW create a no-harvest zone near Rosario Head. WDFW is supportive of this because many rockfish and other bottomfish populations have significantly declined in Puget Sound. The Department believes that marine protected areas can be an effective tool to help rebuild population abundance and natural biological characteristics when combined with other, more generally applied harvest restrictions. This proposed conservation area is a natural rocky reef habitat and potentially could contribute to a broader system of no-harvest areas throughout Puget Sound if developed in the future as a more comprehensive management strategy.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (3)*
Diver supports proposal.

MODIFICATION: One direction was incorrect in the original proposal. Definition should read: This would include tidelands, bedlands, and waters adjacent to Fidalgo Island within a line beginning at the high tide mark at the south tip of Rosario Head, then due **west** to the 10 fathom contour, then northwesterly to the southwest end of Northwest Island, then from the northwest end of Northwest Island due north to the intersection with the high tide line on Fidalgo Island, then following the high tide line southerly to the point of origin.

#24 ZEE'S REEF MARINE PRESERVE

PROPOSAL: This proposal would create a marine preserve (closed to all non-Indian fishery harvest except fly fishing for salmon would be allowed during open salmon seasons) near Fox Island. The specific description would be as follows: Starting at Extreme Low Water (EL) on the northeast side of Fox Island, north of Fox Point at 47 14.56' N, 122 35.98' W, then extending 0.5 nautical miles along the EL to 47 14.96' N, 122 36.37' W, then 400 yards offshore northeasterly to 47 15.10' N, 122 36.16' W, then extending southeasterly parallel to the EL shoreline to 47 14.70' N, 122 35.76' W, then southwesterly back to EL starting point.

EXPLANATION: Many rockfish and other bottomfish populations have significantly declined in Puget Sound. The Department believes that marine protected areas can be an effective tool to help rebuild population abundance and natural biological characteristics when combined with other, more generally applied harvest restrictions. This proposed marine preserve is a natural rocky reef habitat and potentially could contribute to a broader system of no-harvest areas throughout Puget Sound if developed in the future as a more comprehensive management strategy. Since this is a popular area for salmon fly fishing, the proposal would allow salmon fishing using the rules described for fly fishing only waters. This will ensure that fishing gear does not drop to the bottom and attract bottomfish such as rockfish.

TESTIMONY: *I applaud efforts to reverse the decline in bottom fish. Zee's Reef, however, should allow trolling for salmon. To my knowledge, this does not impact bottom fish.*

I agree with your concept of creating protected areas for our fish. I find difficult to understand the concept of allowing certain classes of anglers to use the area, while denying it to others. Non-Indian sportfishers who troll for salmon are not any more detrimental to bottom fish than fly fishermen or Indian gill nets. I have never caught a rockfish while trolling for salmon. I recommend the proposal be amended to include trolling for salmon.

Both fly fishing and trolling should be allowed while outlawing mooching and jigging.

This is a very popular area for sport trolling for salmon. It is in marine Area 13, one of the few places that is open year-round for salmon. Trolling for salmon using a downrigger has no effect on rockfish and other bottomfish populations. I have caught 0 salmon in 30 years using this gear. Outlawing trolling while allowing fly fishing makes no sense. Both should be allowed, while outlawing mooching and jigging, two types of salmon fishing that do catch bottomfish.

I would like to have an amendment to all sport trolling for salmon during the open salmon season. Many of us troll and do not normally catch bottom fish of any kind.

Support. (3)

Would like to modify proposal to allow downrigger trolling for salmon during open seasons. This is a popular trolling area. I have caught very few bottomfish with this gear mainly because of the speed of the lure and most of the time it is not close enough to the bottom to attract the bottomfish.

Modify to allow trolling for salmon. Bottomfish are seldom caught and are not targeted. Allowing fly fishing but not trolling would not be right and would cause animosity between some fishermen. Would also like to change the daily limit for salmon during the Feb 16 - April 10 season to 2 (only 1 chinook) instead of 1 to encourage sport fishers to pursue resident silvers.

Urge you to reconsider closing this area to all salmon fishing except fly fishing. Very good winter blackmouth area and can produce in the late spring and early summer. We troll with downriggers and

spoons and have never hooked rockfish or other bottomfish. Support marine preserves, including this one, but it should have the same rules as Sunrise Beach. This type of fishery will not jeopardize the recovery of bottomfish in the area.

Salmon charter captain likes marine preserve idea, but requests that rules like those at Sunrise beach be adopted, to allow trolling in a very popular area and not pit fly fishers against other fishers by allowing only fly fishing in the area.

If you want to really bring back the bottomfish stop all bottom draggers in the sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca. All members of the Gig Harbor chapter of PSA release all bottomfish they catch. Fish this area at least twice a month and would not like to see it become a preserve - have never hooked a bottomfish since the draggers of the 70s and 80s.

Concern over bottomfish is good, but Zee's Reef is a step in the wrong direction. Many members of the Fox Island Yacht Club and Gig Harbor Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers troll for salmon in the area that would be closed. No one fly fishes and no one fishes for bottom fish. Trolling for salmon will have no effect on bottomfish and should be allowed.

Purpose is supportable and needed. However, this is a popular salmon trolling area using downriggers. No one catches rockfish on this gear - they are caught on jigs or mooching gear. Banning trolling will have no effect on rockfish. Even the rule in other marine areas in the past (2oz weights to allow taking coho but protect chinook) would make some sense. Or maybe just prohibit mooching altogether. Enjoy fly fishing for coho in the winter.

Aware of the decline of rockfish population in south Puget Sound. Support any efforts to restore them. Ask you to consider allowing troll fishing for salmon in addition to fly fishing. Troll fishing, especially with barbless hooks, would have zero impact. Important to keep anglers fishing while we develop plans to restore fisheries. Please keep the big picture in view.

South Sound Fly Fishers suggests it should be "except fly fishing for salmon and cutthroat trout." Fly fishing for cutthroat would not harm rockfish populations.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support proposal but should be allowed to troll for salmon. Have fished here many years and never hooked any bottom fish. All bottom fishing should be stopped for 5 years minimum in Puget Sound, then check for a population increase.

#25 SCATCHET HEAD MARINE PRESERVE

PROPOSAL: This proposal would create a marine preserve (closed to all non-Indian fishery harvest except crabbing) near Scatchet Head on Whidbey Island. The specific description would be as follows: waters south of Scatchet Head on Whidbey Island within the eastern half (true east) of a circle with a 1.0 nautical mile radius centered on the green flashing #1 navigation marker (6 second) exclusive of areas shallower than extreme low water.

EXPLANATION: Many rockfish and other bottomfish populations have significantly declined in Puget Sound. The Department believes that marine protected areas can be an effective tool to help rebuild population abundance and natural biological characteristics when combined with other, more generally applied harvest restrictions. This proposed marine preserve is a natural rocky reef habitat and potentially could contribute to a broader system of no-harvest areas throughout Puget Sound if developed in the future as a more comprehensive management strategy. This area is an important Dungeness crab fishing location for both treaty Indian and

non-Indian fishers. This proposal would allow continuation of crabbing in this area during open crab seasons in the region.

TESTIMONY: *This has been a great area for our family to fish for salmon - have never fished bottom fish there. At least leave this and/or all the areas open to what limited salmon fishing we have left.*

Support. (3)

Support - hope WDFW will design this area to enhance the rockfish population which inhabits the 1/2 mile long north-south rift located about 1/4 mile east of the channel buoy. Also that the nearby scallop beds will not be withdrawn from harvest. Reef system includes an inshore escarpment which runs east-west parallel with shore and a pair of ridges about 1/2 mile to the east which the rockfish use as a nursery. This area should be included within the preserve.

Opposed. There is no need to close fishing in this spot. It is only 20 to 60 feet deep and if you want to protect bottom fish, just close it. Then you can release them without harm. This is the only area you can find ling cod in the Edmonds area. Divers say there are incredible numbers. The program is working the way it is. This is one of the best king fishing spots in Area 9. You could fish no shallower than 130 feet and if you caught a fish and took the boat out of gear, the tide would push you into the closed area - bad idea.

Oppose - would eliminate bucktailing for coho in late July - October. Should be re-defined to allow this fishery in the shallow waters SW of Whidbey Island, west of Scatchet Head to Indian Point and beyond.

Opposed - need area for winter blackmouth fishery. (2)

My family have fished here for 4 generations. Closing would be a great loss - probably would stop fishing saltwater. Unfair that the tribes would still be able to fish.

Site has a few rocks, but is mostly sand bars. That is why it is a great place to fish for flounder and sole. Never was a high quality rockfish area. High quality salmon troll area - shutting this down for marginal rockfish habitat is not a good idea. Defining as a radius around a buoy makes it very difficult for fishers to determine the boundary. Recommend you do not adopt.

Another problem with the definition of the areas - the 1 nautical mile radius of the Scatchet Head buoy will be difficult to police without exact markers. Because of the fast current on ebb tides, divers who fish legally outside the preserve may drift into it while making decompression stops on the way up.

Do not support - an extremely important salmon and ling cod fishing area. If rockfish need protection, make it illegal to keep them. The water is shallow enough to release them and have them survive.

Seattle Poggie Club asks how the area would be marked. Should allow salmon fishing during open seasons. Needs re-writing. Should not be open to tribal harvest.

Do not support. Family homesteaded on Whidbey Island in early 1900s and always salmon fished where the preserve is proposed. Only chinook available in north sound are winter blackmouth - closing would be a great injustice. Please modify to allow salmon fishing along with crabbing.

Oppose - one of most productive salmon areas accessible to small boat anglers.

The area around Scatchet Head is one of the best salmon fishing places around. This is not an honest attempt to save anything.

Island County Marine Resources Committee questions whether restrictions on bycatch would accomplish the same result. Dislike boilerplate descriptions of why sites were chosen. Need more info on what was considered.

#26 ADMIRALTY HEAD CONSERVATION AREA

PROPOSAL: This proposal would create a conservation area (closed to all non-Indian fishery harvest) near Admiralty Head. The specific description would be: Waters North and West of Admiralty Head enclosed by a line which starts at Extreme Low Water (EL) at 48 09.40 N then northerly along the EL line for 0.6 nautical miles then due west 400 yards then south parallel to the shore to 48 09.40, 122 41.14W and thence 400 yards due east.

EXPLANATION: Many rockfish and other bottomfish populations have significantly declined in Puget Sound. The Department believes that marine protected areas can be an effective tool to help rebuild population abundance and natural biological characteristics when combined with other, more generally applied harvest restrictions. This proposed conservation area is a natural rocky reef habitat and potentially could contribute to a broader system of no-harvest areas throughout Puget Sound if developed in the future as a more comprehensive management strategy.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (3)*

Some rockfish habitat here - not high quality. Prime salmon and steelhead beach fishery and salmon boat fishery. A salmon fisherman hooking a rockfish is extremely unlikely. From shore, maybe a kelp greenling, but even that is unlikely. Recommend that there is no MPA needed here - close to retention of rockfish, and maybe ling cod.

Island County Marine Resources Committee questions whether restrictions on bycatch would accomplish the same result. Dislike boilerplate descriptions of why sites were chosen. Need more info on what was considered.

#27 SUND ROCK

PROPOSAL: This proposal would clear up an ambiguity in the rules that exists for the Sund Rock Marine Preserve. Language in the rule still mentions net pens that no longer exist as part of the boundary description.

EXPLANATION: This is strictly a "housekeeping measure" and is not intended to change the description of the preserve. Note: the fishing pamphlet incorrectly states that harvest of salmon, trout, shrimp and seaweed is allowed at Sund Rock. This is incorrect, and will be fixed in the next pamphlet. Salmon harvest is the only non-Indian harvest allowed in the preserve (except by tideland owners and their families).

TESTIMONY: *No one should harvest if a marine preserve.*

Support.

Kelp Crawlers Dive Club and Washington Scuba Alliance support the preserve at Sund Rock, but would like to see all forms of salmon fishing prohibited. This is counter to the reasons for maintaining the preserve. It was originally allowed because of the nearly net pens and the chinook salmon returning to them. The pens have been discontinued. Recreational chum fishery was excessive and detrimental to the nature of the preserve. Often there were over 20 boats mooching or jigging in the area. (High count 41) Most fishing was located directly above the rocky reef habitat and adjoining eelgrass, key habitat for

rockfish and ling cod. Boat anchors have plowed furrows in the eelgrass and an underwater stump structure used by small rockfish was dragged into deeper water. Dive boats use the moorage buoys provided. Jigs and lures were fished near the bottom, increasing the likelihood of catching rockfish or ling cod. Preserve is working - have seen black rockfish, vermillion, quillback and copper rockfish, greenling, and a torpedo ray. They all need protection. (3)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Would like to see closed to all fishing.(2)

MODIFICATION: With the removal of the net pens, there is also no longer a reason to allow salmon fishing within this area, so staff proposes to make Sund Rock a Conservation Area (closed to all non-Indian harvest).

FRESHWATER RULES

#28 STATEWIDE RULE FOR BASS

PROPOSAL: Change the statewide rule for bass from daily limit 5, no more than 3 over 15" to daily limit 5, only bass less than 12" or greater than 17" may be kept, no more than one over 17". (Livewell provisions remain the same).

EXPLANATION: This regulation is the preferred regulation for waters where bass and salmonids interact. It maintains stable populations of bass and provides better panfish populations through predation of excess panfish production, while increasing angler days for both bass and panfish. In Silver Lake (Cowlitz Co) the prohibition for using water dogs or salamanders would be dropped, and the lake would go to the new statewide rule for bass. Exceptions to this statewide rule would occur in the Columbia River below Priest Rapids Dam, and the Snake River, and Moses, and Coffeepot Lakes. Bass rules for these areas would remain unchanged. Stan Coffin Lake will have a catch and release only fishery for bass. The Yakima River would also have rules that differ from the new statewide standard (see proposal under Region 3).

TESTIMONY: *Agree. (2)*

No to statewide rule- exceptions are OK.

Oppose - Bass populations are fine, except where excessive over-fishing is occurring - more enforcement is needed.

No minimum size? Otherwise OK.

Borderline Bassin Contenders not in favor of slot limits. Each lake is different and without substantial enforcement, these rules will do more harm than good.

Opposed to a slot limit for recreational anglers when different rules apply during tournaments. The 100% live release provision does not account for the impact of handling and being transported from one part of the water to another before being released.

Do not agree with slot limit. Idaho and Oregon regulate very differently. Bass clubs like the slot limit since they will be exempt in tournaments. There is still mortality. 10% allowed is too much. Exemption should be eliminated. In choppy water fish are not safe in a livewell. Should not apply the slot limit statewide.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#29 STATEWIDE RULE FOR CHANNEL CATFISH

PROPOSAL: Change the statewide rule for channel catfish from daily limit 5, minimum size 12", no more than 1 over 24" (applies only in lakes, ponds, and reservoirs) to daily limit 5, no minimum size (applies statewide).

EXPLANATION: Currently, the channel catfish we stock are between 10 and 12" in length. Most fish harvested are well over 12" in length. Current angling pressure is not preventing adequate recruitment of larger catfish into the harvest. This statewide rule standardizes the rules in lakes and rivers and makes them easy for anglers to understand. An exception to the statewide rule would occur in the Yakima and Snake Rivers, and the Columbia below Priest Rapids, which would continue to have no minimum size or daily limit.

TESTIMONY: Support.(4)

Borderline Bassin Contenders support but it should except bodies of water 300 acres or less where there is a lot of pressure (Gissburg Ponds, Fazon Lake, any lake just starting catfish management).

MODIFICATION: Gissburg Ponds (Snohomish County) and Fazon Lake (Whatcom County) would be exceptions to the new rule, retaining their current daily limit of 2 channel catfish.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#30 STATEWIDE RULE FOR WALLEYE

PROPOSAL: Change the statewide rule for walleye from daily limit 5, minimum size 18", no more than 1 over 24" to **daily limit 5, minimum size 16", no more than one over 22"**. (Livewell provisions remain the same).

EXPLANATION: Better understanding of the harvest, production, predator/prey relationships, and the impacts of regulations on our state's walleye populations allows us to reduce the minimum size, increase harvest, and reduce the number of walleye lost to natural mortality. I-82 Ponds 1 and 2, which have been closed to walleye fishing in the past, will be open under the new statewide rules. Exceptions to this statewide rule would occur in the Spokane River from the SR 25 Bridge to the Seven Mile Bridge, (except Long Lake) and Lake Roosevelt. The walleye rules for these waters would be a daily limit of 5, no more than 1 over 18" (plus livewell provisions). These special rules are designed to increase the harvest of the size ranges preying on juvenile kokanee and native minnow species. Moses Lake would retain old statewide rule for walleye. The Columbia River below the Hwy 395 bridge and the Snake River will keep the old rules in order to continue to match Oregon's rules.

TESTIMONY: *I support lowering the minimum and maximum limits in most waters of the state. Many of the lakes are suffering from an overpopulation of smaller fish, which limits their ability to produce large fish. The lower Columbia is a different situation. There are few fish per hectare, which creates a situation allowing for the production of trophy fish. The population is subject to significant increases or declines, depending on flows (spawning success higher in low water years). Small fish are common after a good spawn. ODFW increased the daily limit to 10 with 5 over 18" last year in response to perceived predation on salmon smolts. While I agree that smaller walleye feed on smolts, the vast majority of the*

walleye migration occurs in April and May, which coincides with a period of cold water and post-spawn activity for sand rollers, sculpins and suckers, which are walleye's primary prey. Smolts are just too fast for them in colder water. Smallmouth bass and northern pikeminnow are the primary threats to smolts. I recommend that WDFW amends the Columbia River walleye rule below Highway 395 to mirror Oregon's new rules. Otherwise, there will be mass confusion because of the rule conflict.

OK for statewide rule but not the exceptions - should all be standardized.

Daily limit 2 over 20" - don't keep all the little ones.

Support. (4)

Borderline Bassin Contenders favor reducing the minimum size to 16" and no more than one over 22".

Walleye prey on bass and bass are showing a decline in Potholes, Moses and Banks Lakes.

Limits should be the same throughout the state. Should not have to be an attorney to interpret the rules.

South Sound Fly Fishers support proposal.

Why not make a statewide length of 16"? Would like to see one walleye over 20" instead of 18" and season closed November to March.

Concerned over retaining large females in the spring - however, would still like to see a C&R season rather than a total closure. Females over 20" should be released. Upper Columbia near Wells Dam needs a C&R season to protect walleye.

Agree with proposed change but O'Sullivan Reservoir should retain the same size limits as Moses Lake.

Fisheries are very similar. Should eliminate walleye fishing in Moses Lake above the Alder Street fill where Crab Creek flows into the lake during the spawning season.

MODIFICATION: Additional areas that would have the same rules for walleye as proposed for Lake Roosevelt should include the Collville River from the mouth to the bridge at the town of Valley and the Spokane River from the mouth to Seven Mile Bridge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#31 FRESHWATER STURGEON, SHAD, AND SMELT SEASONS

PROPOSAL: Currently, fisheries for sturgeon, shad, and smelt in fresh water are open year-round, unless listed otherwise in the special rules. This proposed rule would limit fishing for these three species in fresh water to open game fish or salmon seasons, unless specifically noted in the special rules.

EXPLANATION: Different rules for game fish and food fish can create conflicts when a stream or lake is open to fishing for food fish (sturgeon, shad, smelt), but closed to fishing for game fish. A similar rule was recently adopted for carp. Exceptions to this statewide rule would be made in the Snohomish River from the mouth to the Hwy 2 Bridge, the Chehalis River from the mouth to the high bridge, on the Willapa River from the mouth to the Hwy 6 bridge, on the North River from the Hwy 5 bridge to Salmon Creek, on Smith Creek from the mouth to the Hwy 101 bridge, on the Palix River from the Hwy 101 bridge to the confluence of the South and Middle forks, on the Naselle River from the Hwy 101 bridge to the Hwy 4 bridge, and on the SF Naselle from the mouth to Bean Creek. All of these areas would be open to fishing for sturgeon year-round (as

they are currently). These and other exceptions where sturgeon fishing is closed while other fisheries are open would all be listed under "additional rules" in the pamphlet.

TESTIMONY: *Support.* (3)

Have long thought that sturgeon catch and keep opportunities should not be open so early in the year (January 1). However, the shad run from mid May to the end of June and should not be affected.

Not needed - do not support.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#32 STANDARDIZED GEAR FOR EASTSIDE WHITEFISH FISHERIES

PROPOSAL: Currently, whitefish fisheries on the eastern side of the state have several different gear rules. This proposal would standardize the gear for whitefish fisheries to 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14). A barbless hook would not be required, and bait would be allowed.

EXPLANATION: This proposal provides consistent rules for streams on the eastside with whitefish fisheries and minimizes the impact of these fisheries on non-target species. Streams where these rules would apply include the Bumping, Chewuch, Cle Elum, Entiat, Kettle, Klickitat, Little Spokane, Methow, Naches, Similkameen, Tieton, Wenatchee and Yakima Rivers, and Sinlahekin Creek. They would not apply in areas such as the Grand Ronde or Tucannon where steelhead fisheries are open concurrent with the whitefish fishery.

TESTIMONY: *Oppose the size restriction for the hook. Should standardize the rule as "bait allowed - one single hook only." If there has to be a hook restriction, it should be in line with the current one for fly fishing only areas (1/2" or smaller, point to shank).*

Support. (4)

Would like the Okanogan River added to these rules. Don't know why you are protecting them. State took away our rights on the Okanogan - used to be open year-round and still should be. Rules are confusing - why can't the Okanogan be treated like the rest of the state?

Do not approve - why not barbless size 10 or 12 with bait loop?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#33 FISHING CONTEST RULES

PROPOSAL AND EXPLANATION: The current rule limits a contest permittee to seven contests per year. This was established in 1990 by a panel consisting of biologists, Commissioners, and tournament anglers. This restriction has worked well to allocate fishing opportunity between

tournament and non-tournament anglers as well as provide an equal opportunity for large or small tournament organizations to hold contests on prime waters.

A definition of permittee is not included in the current rule, allowing the present seven contest limitations to be circumvented by a few tournament organizations. The recommended rule change is directed to strengthen the definition of permittee and provide better enforcement of the current rule. We are not proposing to change the number of "contests per permittee" rule. A fishing contest would now be defined as 10 (old rule was 6) or more licensed anglers competing for a prize. This change allows a few friends to compete among themselves without a permit. The licensing requirement means that these rules no longer apply to juveniles (see below). Rules regarding penalties for non-compliance were also added. Some additional minor changes regarding "contest per day" and "boats per contest day" for a water body were made. The prize limit for non-exempt tournaments was increased from \$400 to \$1000 to more accurately reflect today's tournaments' prize levels.

Juvenile fishing events historically have been included under the Fishing Contest rules. This was mainly for coordination with WDFW for better allocation of state hatchery trout plants. We are proposing to separate his activity from the Fishing Contest requirements. We propose that sponsors of juvenile events would no longer be required to pay \$24 for a permit, and may hold more than 7 events. They would, however, be required to apply for WDFW hatchery fish (if required) by February 1 each year, to allow for better allocation of the hatchery fish resource.

TESTIMONY: OK.

Support and thanks for amending the contest rules for juveniles from the staff at the USFS, Pomeroy Ranger District.

Please clarify that the contest rules still apply only to game fish, not food fish such as salmon. Asotin County Sportsmen's Association supports proposal to waive the \$24 fee for juvenile fishing events.

No change in the current rules is necessary. There should be a permit fee for all contests. Borderline Bassin Contenders is in favor of exempting juvenile contests. Not in favor of changing 6 or more licensed anglers because then people won't adhere to the livewell requirements, etc. In favor of clearly defined permittee and to provide better enforcement of rules, in favor of penalties for non-compliance and in favor of the present 7 tournament maximum per year.

Washington State Bass Federation believes the proposed change is necessary to protect warm water fisheries in Washington. Past 3 years several organizations have used a loophole in the rules to take more permits than their fair share. They would like to see the permit system abolished completely for the sake of a few money-making groups. Please pass as written.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Modified to define a fishing contest as 6 or more licensed anglers competing for a prize (proposal would have changed that number to 10), then adopted.

#34 TWO POLES

PROPOSAL: This proposal would allow anglers who already have either a freshwater, combination or 2-day license to purchase a second freshwater fishing license. This second license would allow the angler to fish with two poles in areas where a freshwater license is valid. Anglers fishing with two poles would still need to follow all other rules concerning areas and seasons, gear types, daily limits, yearly limits, etc. For example, in most lakes, an angler would still be allowed to catch a daily limit of 5 fish, regardless of whether or not they had the license to fish with an extra pole.

EXPLANATION: Several requests were received for a rule that would allow anglers to fish with more than one pole. Staff believe that the most appropriate place to allow this practice would be in fresh water. Freshwater licenses cost \$21.90 for resident adults, \$43.80 for non-residents, \$6.57 for a 2-day license (must be for the same time period as the first license to qualify for two poles) and \$5.48 for resident seniors, disabled fishers, and youth. This option would not be available to children under 15, who are not required to have a license.

TESTIMONY: *Adopt this proposal as law. Will we be able to fish with two poles in the Columbia? I would like to speak in favor of this.*

Fish First does not support proposal. Guide boats with several persons would be like a troller. There is not enough enforcement now - just a ploy to sell more licenses.

If you were to venture a guess, do you think that two poles if you buy two licenses will pass for freshwater?

Native Fish Society opposes - listed fish could be hooked two at a time.

OK but shouldn't have to buy 2 licenses.

I feel that a person can only properly control one pole at a time and feel that enforcing this rule would be hard for enforcement. I feel you will tangle and injure more fish trying to do this. Highly against this proposal.

I support the proposal but don't understand why it can not be applied to salt water. What difference does it make as long as we stop fishing when we catch our limit?

Two pole fishing should be legal. If a person has a license and doesn't go above the limit, it shouldn't be an issue.

In favor. (4)

Would be kinder to charge on ly \$6-10, like other states. Will only marginally increase fish take. Many other states allow two rods for no additional cost.

This makes a lot of sense. It provides more revenue so WDFW can protect what needs to be protected.

Do not support - sends wrong message, esp to kids. Fish wasted, gear lost.

Most states allow fishermen to use more than 1 rod with their license. Fish are protected by seasons, bag limits, size limits, etc. Wisconsin allows 3 rods. More than 1 rod allows anglers to try a variety of lures to see which is effective. Washington should automatically allow more than 1 rod with the purchase of a license. If you need more revenue, increase the cost of a license or break the license apart into sections (trout/salmon stamp, saltwater license, sturgeon stamp, freshwater license, freshwater gamefish stamp, shellfish license).

Two poles should be allowed anywhere as long as only 1 limit is kept. Two licenses should only be required for two limits.

I'm not happy about this but in the present budget climate WDFW would probably be a low budget priority and facing a lot of cuts. I only ask that you make it so you only have to carry on piece of paper that says you have 2 licenses.

A very creative idea and I think I agree.

I am against this regulation. It would be too difficult to enforce and doesn't increase opportunity. Only method that would be pulling plugs or bait divers which have a very high mortality rate.

Pleased with the proposal in a general sense because daily limits control harvest.

Appreciate the need to generate money, but this is not the way. Proposal is improper, but doubt it would generate funds to offset the enforcement impact. Would rather see license fees raised in the interest of making fishing more fun by allowing two lines.

Since the agency has now conceptually said it is OK to fish with multiple rods it follows that the notion should be standardized statewide to include marine areas.

No.

Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) doesn't think this rule has any place in any system containing a species of concern. It would be good in lakes and ponds that are stocked with a put and take fishery.

Against proposal, even with the payment of an additional fee. Fishing is more than just catching, and two poles will not promote the experience. Fishing pressure is increasing. Standing shoulder to shoulder, how can you maintain two poles and have a good fishing experience? How will you enforce the rule with the current level of enforcement?

This is a classic to say the least. Has the earmark of the legislature in dealing with budget shortfalls.

This money would be placed in the general fund and used as our politicians see fit. The only outcome is further destruction of our fisheries. Picture a boat of three anglers on a river near Forks. They each have two poles out and choke up all the water in the best hole on the river. There is limited good access as it is. Also - who controls the extra lines? If you have 2 fish on at once and another angler (who already has 2 poles out) grabs one, he is illegal. Just where does it end? What if they are both wild fish and he may keep only one? Until we have two pairs of arms we do not need two poles.

Makes no sense considering the limited public access to most lakes - would only crowd bank fishing.

Hard to enforce and confusing.

Support. (2)

Pleased to see the proposal, but cost should be reasonable - \$10 or so. In Michigan and Montana, there is no extra charge. Idaho charges 10-12 bucks. The same benefits to the sportsman and revenue gain to the department would apply in salt water. There has been a successful program in the Great Lakes which compares to our coastal fishery.

Several western states allow 2 rods for ice fishing.

Should allow two poles for ice fishing because of the limited area that can be fished from a hole in the ice. Should limit the hole to a 6" diameter for safety.

If they can't catch fish with one pole, how will they with 2? Just a way to sell licenses.

Rule doesn't state if it would apply for still fishing or trolling - should apply only when trolling. Hope the NOF meetings apply this rule to salmon fishing to allow you to explore more different depths and find the salmon.

Washington has needed this for some time. Idaho raises a lot of money with it. Better yet, allow two poles in Puget Sound to raise a lot of money. Of course, this would depend on the strength of the runs, but with all the silvers available this year it should be encouraged.

Have never understood why anyone cares how many poles you use as long as the limits are followed.

Should make the rule for saltwater also, but don't particularly concur with having to buy a second license.

Disagree with the proposal on the grounds that it is unsportsmanlike, confuses the non-angling public, and will create tension and hostility with Oregon anglers if adopted on the Columbia River. Additionally, it gives the impression that anglers with more money can buy more fish.(2)

This is a renewed effort to resurrect a proposal that was soundly defeated in 1997. Fishing is supposed to be a sport, not a contest to see how fast a limit can be caught. Do not adopt this proposal.

Not a good idea for anadromous fish. Since we are phasing out hatcheries, wild fish will be targeted.

One or two plunkers could dominate a hole. Confine to "put and take" lakes.

Disagree with the idea of allowing 2 poles. This opens up the opportunity for those who only obey the rules when an officer is watching to flaunt the rules. Suggest increasing license fees to fund more enforcement. Considering the cost of sporting events and the fact that these tickets are only good for one day's entertainment, licenses are a bargain.

Support - won't affect the resource, due to only a single limit. Will increase license revenue.

Excellent proposal. Would be happy to purchase a 2nd license.

This proposal, combined with the proposed change in selective gear rules, poses a potential conflict with management goals for selective fisheries. It would allow up to three flies or lures on each of two poles - up to six lures at a time. This seems in conflict with the intent of selective fisheries management, which is to provide a limited harvest of trophy-sized fish. Would support only if it is amended to prohibit use of two poles in selective fishing waters - otherwise oppose.

Against the proposal in any water with either a selective gear rule or fly fishing only rules. The pressure on these waters is already too high, and more poles would make it worse.

Unalterably opposed to proposal. It is a blatant and transparent strategy for revenue enhancement and nothing less. Rule has been rejected several times in the past even though other states have allowed it for years; makes the department's motives suspect. Article attached from Centralia/Chehalis Chronicle - "To suggest that the purchase of a second license will somehow miraculously solve these problems is a prime example of bureaucratic nincompoopery at its finest!"

No way!! It's against the law to sell steelhead and I can't eat what I catch with one pole.

Like many fathers I know I think this is a great idea. Now I can spend more time teaching my children how to cast without worrying about getting a ticket for fishing with 2 rods.

Most everyone fishes with 2 poles anyway but won't pay for 2 licenses. More money would be generated if you just charged an extra \$5 for a sticker to use an extra pole like Idaho does.

Would like to fish with more than 1 pole, but unless you hire more enforcement you should not change the law.

Opposed - is simply a way for WDFW to increase revenues at the expense of the fish and sportsman-like conduct. Would rather transfer funds from non hunting and fishing activities that are currently supported by the sportsman's dollar.

We should already be able to fish with 2 poles for the price we pay for a license.

Would like to fish with two rods but know that a second rod for trout would allow more trout to swallow the bait and be injured.

NW Marine Trade Association opposes. Would send the wrong message at the wrong time in terms of sportfishing image. Need to improve public support, and this could hurt. Difficult to enforce and could create conflict.

Support if it means only one daily limit.

Don't understand the reason for the proposal. There is more than enough pressure on fish now. We don't need fishermen with two poles.

Approve - major benefit for downrigger or bank fishing.

No. A second pole, left unattended, will mortally hook more undersized fish. Bait causes mortality, but it is really the inattention of the average bait fisherman. Trolling is a different matter.

Bad idea - should be 1 fisherman, 1 daily limit, 1 license, 1 pole. Proposal is not needed and promotes the idea that " I bought a license so I'm going to kill all the fish I want to kill."

With two poles, can you have 2 limits? I say yes.

Do not support. Creates potential for major problems. Less attention to gear means more mortality, especially with bait. What if you're on a river with a daily limit of 1 fish and you get a fish on each pole? What about endangered species? Should not allow in any area with anadromous fish or that has a catch and release requirement. Won't substantially increase revenue.

Borderline Bassin Contenders is in favor of proposal.

Seattle Poggie Club does not support because it does not include salt water and does not propose a percentage of the full license fee for this privilege - full price is too much.

Only 1 rod per person. Subsistence fishing is no longer possible with so many people.

Allow 2 rods while trolling in saltwater for salmon, however not more than 4 rods per boat (similar to Canada)

Should be able to use two poles with 1 license. This proposal discriminates against lower income anglers. Two poles is better for the environment because anglers might not use as much fuel to catch their limit.

Opposed because it does not include saltwater and it does include an additional fee.

Do not support. No biological reason for rule - just gives guides and fish hogs support for what they do on a daily basis. Enforcement will be a nightmare. Many people sort their catch of kokanee and rainbow - with two poles many will die. Why is this proposal only for freshwater? If you want fish to survive, bring the no barb rule over to include freshwater lakes and outlaw the use of bait.

Opposed - would be unenforceable. Poaching is already rampant.

Opposed - unsporting. Too crowded anyway.

STAFF ANALYSIS: This is not a biological issue, but rather a social one. The use of two poles should have very little effect on the total catch. The main effect we see is that anglers may finish fishing sooner, freeing up popular spots on fishing piers or crowded fishing holes to give other anglers a chance. This proposal came in from the public (actually several proposals came in this year, and several have come every year recently). As shown in the testimony (above) there is both public support and public opposition to the proposal.

ACTION TAKEN: Proposal not adopted.

#35 HOUSEKEEPING FOR NORTHERN PIKEMINNOW

PROPOSAL: Remove the word "squawfish" from the rules and replace with "northern pikeminnow."

EXPLANATION: This is strictly a housekeeping measure to fix an oversight. The proper name for fish that were termed squawfish in the past is now northern pikeminnow.

TESTIMONY: *A "Squawfish" by any other name is still a squawfish.*

OK.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

WILD STEELHEAD PROPOSALS

#36 AND #37 WILD STEELHEAD HARVEST

BACKGROUND: There has been considerable interest from the public to reduce or eliminate sport harvest of wild steelhead. Currently, the statewide rule is wild steelhead release. Exceptions are only allowed on known healthy runs that are above their escapement requirement. There were 16 exceptions on the coast and Puget Sound during the 2000-2001 season (Dickey, Quillayute, Sol Duc, Bogachiel, Calawah, Hoh, Hoko, Upper Quinault, Clearwater, Pysht, Green Rivers, Goodman Creek and 4 minor coastal streams). There are no exceptions in the Columbia or Snake River basins.

On the coast, wild fish limits vary considerable from 1 per day and 2 per year on the Hoh to 1 per day and 10 per year on the Quillayute River System and 1 per day and 30 per year on Goodman Creek. On Puget Sound streams, up to 2 wild fish per day and 30 per year may be kept when legal to harvest wild fish.

Run sizes are estimated annually in conjunction with coastal and Puget Sound treaty tribes to determine if there will be a harvestable surplus. The harvestable surplus must be shared equally with the tribes. The department then provides harvest and catch-and-release opportunities, appropriate to the predicted run size, taking into account any uncertainty related to recent trends, etc.

The department strives to provide a balance of harvest and catch-and-release seasons based on stock abundance and angler desires. Angler preference surveys indicate that there has been a shift in preference toward catch-and-release seasons for wild fish. In 1986 approximately 14% of anglers preferred this type of opportunity. This increased to 42% in the 1996 survey and to 61% in the latest survey (2001).

Though the majority of anglers surveyed in 2001 preferred catch-and-release, a significant number, 34%, (5% had no opinion or preferred closure) still preferred having the option to harvest wild fish when run sizes allow. It is important to note that in the past when catch-and-release was not the most preferred opportunity the department provided a number of areas targeted on catch-and-release of wild fish. Thus, under current guidelines, both harvest and catch-and-release opportunities would be provided, but with more emphasis on catch-and-release.

If harvest is allowed, anglers in the 2001 survey preferred a 1 wild fish per day limit by a slight margin over 2 fish per day (40% vs. 33%). The most preferred range for a wild fish annual limit was 6 to 10 (33%).

Another important subject related to this issue is that by federal court order the State and Treaty Tribes on the coast and in Puget Sound may claim "foregone opportunity" if the other party does not have the opportunity to take its share. In other words, if one side can not catch its share, the other party can harvest it. There have been some claims filed by the Tribes for foregone opportunity related to sport fishing for steelhead and salmon. So far the courts have not allowed the Tribes to take the sport share, but these cases have all involved sport harvest fisheries, not catch-and-release fisheries. The Tribes to date have not challenged any of our established catch-and-release seasons. However, the potential for a tribal challenge exists and adopting a "no harvest rule" for wild fish may give a higher profile to this issue.

TESTIMONY (General): *It is apparent that the primary thrust of the rule proposals for steelhead is to establish that wild fish will be a "catch and release" only fishery. Please consider: is catch and release i.e. torture and recycling ad infinitum of a beautiful fish a practice we wish to promote in our society? Is it the type of action for which your Commission wishes to be remembered? There are far better and much more humane ways to solve our steelhead fishing problems.*

You have the power to keep these wonderful and exciting fish alive in our rivers in respectable numbers. I am surprised the sports groups have not yet used the initiative process to protect these fish. It is coming. Please take the time to think beyond the box on these issues. I have little faith these remarks will be read and taken into consideration so I am sending them to a friend who may use them in his testimony.

Please put into effect the two new wild steelhead proposals.

Don't bend over for special interests - either leave the fishery open to all fishermen or close it altogether (no catch and release) for the purists (fly fishermen). I would vote to leave it as it is!

Would like to see a hatchery selective breeding program (Quinault Tribe) of late return wild winter steelhead to provide late harvest of larger fish.

Catch and release for any species of coldwater fish is simply a license to kill. Hooking mortality places stocks at risk in a bad place. Rule should read "Steelhead may be caught and released until no more than 2 wild steelhead are released, at that point the fisherman shall cease fishing for the day." Hooking mortality is 15% - what is the mortality due to landing, playing the fish out, netting and handling? (WA State Council of TU and Grays Harbor Chapter of TU)

Catch and release should be regulated on a river by river basis, not statewide. All hatchery fish are not fin-clipped. The law that gives certain rivers a yearly limit for wild fish is a good law. Only problem is that guides can take too many fish. If we go catch and release statewide could we have a one fish catch record card where anglers could perhaps keep a trophy fish? It could cost \$10 to \$20 a year - could be one fish a year or one a lifetime.(2)

If a run is threatened then close to everyone, nets don't discriminate between wild and hatchery fish.

Have a problem with steelhead guides. This is a commercialization of a sport fishing resource. Phase it out. Rather close steelhead fishing completely than go catch and release. Mismanagement - WDFW has no credibility.

Wouldn't go to Forks from February to April if there was mandatory release of all wild steelhead. If these fish are threatened, have a fish license lottery or open only from the 10th to the 20th each month. Catch and release is wasteful if a fish is gill hooked. Some cheat and keep fish.

Wild steelhead are a valuable resource, need to be husbanded carefully. Consider no retention of wild steelhead for five years. Then re-evaluate each river and consider a limited kill fishery with a slot size restriction. Require selective gear in all rivers when and where wild steelhead, including juvenile fish, are present. This should remain in place even if a limited kill is established. The option to close the kill fishery is always available based on the run strength of a particular river. Open rivers to year round steelhead fishing - remove the May closure on the Skykomish and Sauk rivers.

WDFW is slow to recognize that, regardless of run size, wild steelhead need protection, and that the majority of anglers prefer catch and release. Tribes have not been allowed to harvest through foregone opportunity to date. If it arises, should be taken to the highest court. WDFW slow to offer C&R and fly fishing only opportunities, allowing harvest of wild fish through MSY until a river system requires a complete closure. Curious you can keep 30 wild fish a year on Goodman Creek, when the annual limit on the Hoh (much larger river) is 2. Does not make sense. In the 2002-2003 rules proposals pamphlet, the percentages that WDFW presents in the angler surveys are biased towards maintaining a harvest.

Majority want a change.

Mayor of Forks asks that we consult with the City of Forks before any changes are made (including closing the Sol Duc hatchery).

Hope you are by now aware of the 9/13 US District Court decision in Oregon about the term "wild." Decision has triggered at least 5 de-listing petitions. "Wild" steelhead are not genetically different from hatchery steelhead. Therefore, WDFW should try to protect all steelhead. Would support any attempt to do this, but anglers must be allowed to keep, if we choose, any steelhead within the daily limit.

Olympic National park strongly supports the statewide wild steelhead release proposal in areas not subject to foregone opportunity. Have this rule in Olympic National Park and have received strong support from anglers. Especially important to adopt in small creeks of the Olympic Peninsula such as Kalaloch, Cedar and Mosquito. Coastal tribes do not target steelhead in those streams. Considering wild release in park portion of Goodman Creek, request WDFW does it as well. In areas subject to foregone opportunity, urge the department to reexamine the existing MSH based escapement goals. They do not take into consideration many variables and we have too little data. Small stocks leave little room for error. Should explore tribal harvest and recreational fishing opportunities under ecosystem-based escapement goals.

Please consider 1) Leaving the rules the same 2) A reduction in the limit of fish kept 3) A ban instead of a permanent closure for a trial period. Tribes and their nets are a big threat.

Quota should be set for all fishermen on the taking of wild steelhead.

All anadromous fish runs should be managed on an improved MSH methodology. Need more data, more money put toward management so decisions can be based on science. Sanctuaries should be closed. Opposed to wild release. Preference survey clearly indicates that anglers believe harvest should be allowed. Only 21% wanted 0 harvest. Most wanted the chance to harvest about 10 wild fish a year. Questions on the survey were not clear - insufficient background given. Should have been done in another format, such as mail, with lots of background info. \$25,000 is not enough to fund such a study. Creel census provides good data. Shows a significant interest in harvest of wild fish. No agreements with the tribes that they will not claim foregone opportunity and Queets continues to be overfished by tribes. Terry Wright has stated that tribes may choose to harvest the unharvested surplus if sport anglers fail to. Moving to wild steelhead release will lower the bar for depressed stocks. There is a lower standard for when C&R fisheries are allowed. There is no biological need for the proposal. Would support 1 wild fish a day and 10 a year as a compromise, although not convinced it is needed.

Please reconsider. Liberalize the daily limit but limit the total number per week or per season if there are concerns.

Catch and release should be left to personal choice - not mandated by an agency. If you have data that a river is in trouble, then shut it down. Do not be swayed by a vocal minority of guides and fishermen to go with mandatory catch and release. They think a person will pay \$300 a day to go fishing and have his picture taken by digital camera before they release their fish. This actually leaves dead and dying fish in the river. Causes unnecessary handling and stress for the fish. In BC you may not remove the fish from the water. Support making the rule 1 wild fish per day, 5 per year, where stocks are healthy.

Opposed to proposals. However most important is what is good for the fish. Extended C&R seasons in Mar-May must be terminated. They are just harassment of spawners. Retention is fine during the normal season. Form letter is opinion, not fact, please disregard.

Would like to keep the catch and release season of 2002 for steelhead open. Tribes harvest more than their 50% so sport anglers should be morally responsible and not take our 50%. Maybe the tribes will learn from our example.

Form letter being circulated is the effort of one guide. He and his supporters are using a website to generate the form letter and perpetuate their narrow views of wild steelhead release. This is opinion without scientific fact. The reason behind the supposed swell of support behind wild steelhead release is just greed. They want longer seasons. I oppose this. The issue should be - what is good for the fish? I would ask that on rivers where there is data that there are healthy stocks, to allow wild fish retention. Other rivers should be closed to retention. But late season (March/April/May) C&R seasons must be terminated. These seasons are just harassment of the wild spawners.

Nationwide position of the Recreational Fishing Alliance is that C&R should be the ethical and moral prerogative of the angler in most cases. Only a modest majority prefers C&R only. Does the angler survey conclusively represent the will of the anglers? Should talk to licensed guides and two-day license holders. Will this management result in desired conservation? Legal ramifications with tribes. Majority of Recreational Fishing Alliance anglers have no problem with C&R, except as a blanket, mandatory rule.

Angler survey is flawed and should not be used to decide this question. Question 34 says 62.7% favor no taking of wild fish, even in the best circumstances. Questions 39 and 40 state 79% and 77% favor the taking of some wild fish. This is a problem with telephone surveys. Too much depends on how questions are worded, ordered, etc.

PA Chamber of Commerce urges no action that would cause sportfishing opportunities to be diminished.

PROPOSALS: The department is considering the following two proposals on this issue:

1. No exceptions to the current statewide wild steelhead release rule. The non-tribal share of any harvestable surplus will be allocated to targeted catch-and-release fisheries. This option would drop wild fish harvest on the existing 16 exceptions and allow no exceptions in the future. **(Proposal #36 for WAC adoption purposes)**

TESTIMONY (Proposal 1): *Strongly urge to adopt proposal #1- astonished that there are so many exception rivers on the Olympic Peninsula.*

We must embrace a policy of catch-and-release on all wild steelhead.

Make wild steelhead a catch-and-release sport fishery. (35)

Adopt proposal #1(79)

Also should be restricted to fishing on foot, catch and release, and fly fishing only.

Opposed-tribes will always try for more harvest.

Will increase tourist trade dramatically like in Montana, Colorado, Wyoming. It makes good economic sense.

Against because it will eliminate fishing opportunity for a large segment of anglers, reduce the opportunity to keep any steelhead to a small time bubble and area around hatcheries, open the door to tribes to take more fish, and create a cut and dried approach to management. It also promotes taking fish from marginal fisheries that would be opened to catch and release.

MSY contains invalid assumptions about steelhead ecology, economics, data quality, and the accuracy of predictions.

Too valuable to harvest. Nature, given a chance will allow them to thrive. Hatchery fish are for harvest.

Other states and provinces have successful C&R steelhead fisheries.

Unnecessary to kill wild fish. Many rules are not based on biology. Early component is gone - rest not healthy.

BC had wild steelhead release from 1980-84 and angling effort increased. Right now pressure is too concentrated on specific streams. Idaho had good angler response to wild release.

Wild fish have greater reproductive success than hatchery fish and are more readily hooked.

Native Fish Society supports proposal 1.

Wild fish are too valuable to harvest. Use hatchery fish for harvest. C&R makes streams open longer, better for surrounding communities. 61% of those surveyed want wild steelhead release. Need more enforcement.

President of Wild Steelhead Coalition supports C&R - distributed "Biological and Economic Benefits of Wild Steelhead Release" booklet. Runs are declining, down to 16 streams where you can keep wild fish.

Harvest is for hatchery fish. MSY does not take enough factors into account.

Support proposal. Who do we advocate killing wild fish when all our neighboring states and provinces protect them and runs are declining?

C&R is critical to the survival of fish and fishermen.

Best proposal. Management of anadromous fish is a daunting and difficult task. Pressure to harvest and habitat degradation has led to stock decline. This is not an ideal world - should take a precautionary approach.

Adopt. Will have no effect on guides because it is very easy to get a reproduction of your released trophy fish.

No. (5)

Strongly support. (8)

Support this proposal. Hopefully, some day we will be able to retain wild fish, but that day isn't here.

Should be no harvest of wild steelhead - hatchery fish are for harvest. (3)

Would like to see all wild steelhead released from state waters (6)

This proposal is supported by FFF, TU, WSC and CSF - policy throughout the state should be wild steelhead release.

Urge you to eliminate all exceptions to wild steelhead release. (4)

Support this proposal - it simplifies the rules and is aligned with the angler survey results.

It is a shame that wild steelhead are harvested in Washington. Escapement goals are arbitrary. WDFW has missed the boat on this issue. Prefer to catch and release wild fish because they are stronger, bigger, healthier, prettier and more aggressive.

Supreme support.

Support - 61% want more conservative management. N Puget Sound streams recently closed, management questioned. Move from maximum harvest to maximum escapement (or maximum

recreation). Data is questionable. Early run hanging by a thread. If you allow harvest, adopt WSR June 1 - Jan 31 with no exceptions.

Support this proposal. Have seen a precipitous decline in steelhead in the past decade on the Olympic Peninsula. The decline is not based on a single cause, so recovery will require addressing all the causes. Sport fishers should release wild fish to spawn. Killing them is not a right. The sport is in the catching. Hatchery steelhead are available for kill fisheries. Please focus on the health of all steelhead runs.

Support this proposal. However, several rivers are stocked with Quinault Indian hatchery fish. In the past, these fish were not adipose clipped, yet a cursory examination of the dorsal fin proved that they were hatchery fish. If they are still not being clipped, something needs to be done in regards to their retention, specifically on the Salmon River, which has the unique characteristic of being on State, Federal, and Quinault Reservation property.

Strongly support. Wild steelhead populations continue to decline. A large number of sport anglers desire wild release. Goodman Creek cannot support a 30 fish per year limit. (2)

Fishin' Folks (membership over 300) supports proposal. Would increase tourism greatly.

Support - simplifies rules, supports angler survey, supports major sport angling groups, supports ESA, provides proof that sport fishers are not the cause of high utility bills and strict controls on construction and logging.

Strongly support - see only a decline in wild steelhead over 6 decades - accelerating in the last 20 years. This alone will not save steelhead, but we must do it.

Adamantly in favor. Life history traits of anadromous steelhead demand catch and release as a management tool for perpetuation of the species. Higher population will put more pressure on these fish. We need healthy wild stocks to help us rebuild. Will also help the economy.

Support. A wild steelhead is more valuable in the stream than on a plate. As a guide my business and others will only prosper from catch and release rules.

Strongly support - there is no such thing as a "biological surplus" of wild steelhead. The idea that a wild steelhead run can be "healthy" enough to permit harvest is absolute fiction. Hatchery fish are for harvest. Most anglers favor catch and release. The so-called foregone opportunity issue has so far proven to be a paper tiger advanced by those interested in killing wild steelhead.

Opposed to this proposal in the strongest possible terms. According to the department's best science, as long as there are healthy runs, there is no need to implement a non-take of wild steelhead. To apply a broad brush and close everything is not good management, but management by non-involvement. This proposal is not consistent with WDFW's mission statement or the intent of the Legislature when both have indicated that it is their responsibility to manage the resource to maximize the opportunity of the state's citizens. A healthy resource should be utilized. Anglers should be allowed to catch and keep or catch and release. If the wild fish are in trouble, close the water to all fishing. This proposal will increase the likelihood that the tribes will take a significant share of the sport share of wild steelhead surplus to the escapement goal, and would feel justified in doing this. This will create another layer of animosity between sport anglers and the tribes. These restrictions would cause economic harm to the communities that rely on sport angler dollars. Rank and file fishermen will not make the effort or spend the money for only a catch and release fishery.

Wild steelhead should not be part of a kill fishery. I understand that the tribes may harvest the non-Indian share but am willing to take that risk. Tribes in Oregon have not done this -it would be poor public relations.

Support proposal. With the trend toward smaller returns, mandatory release will come eventually anyway. Would rather catch and release several wild fish than kill one or see someone else kill one. Enforcement is easier if it is all catch and release. Would be less intentional poaching of wild fish if there was a statewide ban and anglers understood the reasons for the ban.

When you consider the proposal to eliminate all harvest of wild steelhead please don't forget how most of us fishermen feel. We are losing all of our rights to the Indians and now you are considering taking away another of our rights. Looking to fish and hunt in some other state.

This proposal is the most objectionable - would favor the existing rules over either proposal.

Wild steelhead are a valuable resource and I cringe when I hear of or see someone keeping them. There are hatchery fish for harvest. Why not play it safe with these fish?

Support eliminating the exceptions - concerned for the health of wild steelhead in the face of increasing angling pressure.

Strongly against this proposal. Olympic Peninsula rivers have proven to fish managers that they can support harvest. After January, there are virtually no hatchery fish in these rivers. Mortality rate for releasing wild fish is high. People don't know how to release fish so they can live. I release most wild fish, but want the opportunity to keep a trophy fish if I choose. At least give us a choice to keep one special fish if we buy an extra tag, etc. but don't take that choice away!! Proposal will cause a war between tribal and non-tribal fishers.

Would be a very positive step forward in protecting wild steelhead. Have seen the reduction in wild steelhead. Since Olympic Peninsula rivers are the only ones open, they get too much pressure. Proposal is a more balanced overall approach.

Support - must build up the runs in all rivers. East to understand and enforce.

Disagree with this proposal. Wild fish should not be harvested. There are only a few selective organizations supporting this - most are from Seattle. The decline of these fish is sad. I say no to the continued needless slaughter of these wild indigenous creatures.

Support - will promote ethical fishing practices and continue to support guide services and dependant businesses. Cannot support closing fisheries unless "catch and kill" is allowed. Commend state for recent decisions to close Stilly and Snohomish for catch and release and allowing catch and release on the Skagit.

Highly recommend adopting a strict catch and release policy for wild steelhead.

Support proposal. All steelhead runs in Washington have declined to a point where they cannot be considered "healthy". The threatened us of "foregone opportunity" may or may not materialize.

Strongly oppose proposal. Sport fishers were given, by the Boldt Decision, a share of the wild steelhead and salmon. If a conservation action is taken, all groups must sacrifice.

Adamantly opposed to this proposal. There is no need. Only minimal gains would result from the proposal, according to WDFW figures. Many small businesses would suffer losses.

Support proposal - statewide C&R is the only management tool that will allow future steelhead angling opportunities.

Overlake Fly Fishing Club - 51 signatures on letter endorsing the release of all wild steelhead.

Opposed. Rivers vary - needs of wild steelhead vary. If limited harvest is possible, allow it. Multiple catch and release kills lots of fish. One answer does not fit all.

Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) is mostly endorsing catch and release. However, consequence would be that those who desire to harvest steelhead would be totally dependant on hatchery fish. This would increase demand for hatchery fish. We are concerned with the effect they have on the natural environment. It's an illusion that C&R is non-consumptive. Some studies show 75% mortality. If we

voluntarily give up our sport allocation and stocks rebound, will we ever get it back?

President of Forks Chamber of Commerce (on their behalf) voices support for this proposal. Would ensure health of stocks and associated fisheries that are vital to economy. (See more from the COC under proposal 2)

In full support. Because of the 16 exceptions, there has been a huge increase in fishing pressure on those systems. This will distribute it more evenly and simplify the rules. It comes into line with Canadian practices and satisfies the majority of anglers. All 16 should not be open anyway. WDFW should collect data on released fish on the catch record cards.

Seattle Poggie Club is against this proposal - would encourage fishers to catch and release fish in good condition or bad.

Support. Nearly 2/3 of anglers desire C&R for wild steelhead. Harvest opportunities exist for hatchery fish. Communities near rivers that are no longer open for any form of wild steelhead fishing have negative economic impacts. This will also decrease poaching.

All wild steelhead should be released alive; no exceptions.

Support proposal. Change is long overdue. C&R of wild steelhead is the highest quality of angling which your department can provide.

Support proposal 1. Hatchery fish are for harvest. According to WDFW, about 60% of anglers prefer C&R for wild steelhead. Harvest affects run genetics by taking the earlier returning fish. Repeat spawners are less likely to be successful and more likely to get caught. Harvest is centered in the lower stretches of the rivers. If runs crash and fisheries are totally closed, surrounding communities suffer, and poachers move in.

South Sound Fly Fishers support proposal.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal. Preservation of wild steelhead is in the best interest of the citizens of Washington.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal. The wording "no exceptions in the future" may be misleading.

Adamantly opposed. There is no need. Businesses will lose money.

King County Outdoor Sports Council opposes proposal. No conservation reason for statewide rule. Only slight improvement would result. Tribes could exercise foregone opportunity. Nisqually, Duckabush, Dosewallips, Union, Tahuya, Cedar and southwest WA streams are examples where we have closed or required wild release and populations have not gotten better. Coastal streams are healthy. Steelhead preference survey shows serious contradictions in results. Daily and yearly catch limits show only 20% favor no harvest. Question 34 means different things to different anglers - survey is flawed. Major loss in steelhead licenses has occurred since the mid-1990s. Restricting wild steelhead harvest will only make it worse.

Committed to wild steelhead catch and release program. Spend a lot of time and money fishing.

Currently there are more hatchery fish than wild fish - urge you to reverse this. Should not renew bag limits before wild stocks are reestablished.

Oppose proposal. Harvest should be based on the size of the run and escapement needs for each season. Blanket rules don't work. Other factors are usually more important than sport harvest. Don't think you should allow any fishery on a run that is not going to meet escapement goals. Catch and release seasons put too much additional strain on the fish. Will reconsider when it is supported by valid scientific information and the run has met goals for at least 5 years. (2)

Support proposal. Is a decade overdue. Harvest can be focused on hatchery fish. Will simplify enforcement.

Support. This is the rule even in New Zealand. Hatchery fish are for harvest.

Support. MSY as a management tool has failed to protect and enhance wild fish runs.

Support catch and release. Would also like to see closure of any river or part of a river to fishing when an angler might encounter a high probability of catching a wild fish. All spawning areas should be closed to fishing and any form of river travel that might be injurious to the fish during the time from the laying of eggs to the time alevins leave the gravel. Hatchery fish are put there to catch. 90% of the catch

is hatchery fish, so the above rules would only cover 10% of the total population of steelhead in our rivers.

I am writing to you in order to voice my support for the proposed implementation of a regulation that would not allow exceptions to the state's wild steelhead release rules.

Following are important reasons for implementing a no-harvest policy for all wild steelhead stocks: Nearly two-thirds of the state's anglers desire catch-and-release regulations for wild steelhead stocks. Up from 14% in 1986. Harvest opportunity on hatchery fish exists in nearly every stream that has been exempted from wild steelhead release. Current wild steelhead fisheries negatively impact the genetics of the populations:

- Early returning wild fish stocks have seen steep declines
- Larger members of the steelhead population are selectively targeted for harvest
- Repeat spawners have a high likelihood of being harvested
- Steelhead that spawn in lower stretches of rivers and streams are harvested a higher rate than their upstream counterparts

Communities near rivers no longer open for any wild steelhead fisheries suffer negative economic impacts. Fisheries are critical to many of these communities' economic well-being, especially in the winter and spring months. By decreasing poaching, C&R rules would help in self-policing of fisheries. Important to implement a more cautious approach to management because of declines in many stocks. Implementation of these regulations best fulfills the Department's own mission statement of maximizing angler opportunity while maintaining healthy and diverse populations. (418 copies of e-mail from a website) Website administrator states 492 persons have sent in.

Opposed - was proposed by a few special interest groups, not based on wild fish returns. Consider a rule that allows you to keep a few wild fish each season so you can keep trophy fish or injured fish.

Support - work in fishing industry that contributes to Dingell Johnson/Wallop Breaux excise tax program for support of statewide conservation programs.

Port Angeles chapter of TU supports TU whitepaper - wild steelhead release for at least 8 years.

Greywolf Fly Club voted unanimously to support proposal 1.

Wild steelhead are sacred. Adopt this proposal. Angler preference should not influence management decisions. Should be based on science. Wild release is necessary to assure the long-term survival of the Olympic Peninsula steelhead. Concerns about foregone opportunity are not real.

Support. Tribes take more than their 50% of the share so we have to be responsible and use catch and release.(2)

Harvest of wild fish makes no biological sense. Need to have wild fish. Hatchery steelhead are mundane. Act now to protect wild stocks. Vast majority support C&R. Hatchery fish are for harvest. Other factors contribute to decline, but we can control this one.

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club supports catch and release.

Support C&R. Parking lots are always full at C&R lakes, and for C&R seasons on the Skagit and Sauk. TU Wild Steelhead Conservation Policy - current escapement estimates have not protected most stocks. Additional research is needed. MSY should be used only if it takes into account watershed ecology, improved freshwater carrying capacity estimates, oceanic and freshwater conditions, and the impact of hatcheries on wild fish survival. Harvest goals should be based on a conservation ethic that protects wild fish first. Move toward a Maximum Carrying Capacity approach. Recommend an 8-year moratorium on wild fish harvest while we work on all of the above. Interested in working with the Legislature to secure funding to improve wild steelhead management and enforcement of rules to protect them.

Support wild release. In the mid 1980s we went to wild summer release on the Skagit and the population doubled. Deer Creek rebounded despite pressures from a growing human population. Similar results

from Alaska to Oregon. Tribes may or may not use foregone opportunity - each tribe is different. We already use the quality fishery concept in many areas - maximum recreation, minimum kill. Local businesses win if more steelhead return. True enforcement of rules comes from other fishers on the river so a catch and release fishery is better than a closure. Statewide wild release will help attract anglers who have respect for the resource.

Support wild release. Plotted and examined recruit data, regression for most populations is down. For 17 rivers where wild winter steelhead are harvested 80% had disastrous drops recently. Even healthy rivers have a high probability of getting in trouble.

MSY is an outdated, inconsistent method. Steelhead are game fish not food fish. Should use Optimum Sustained Yield model. Support total C&R.

No killing of wild steelhead, should not use barbed hooks. Nature knows best how to manage resources and never wastes. Harvestable surplus and MSY is a mindset that should not be applied to steelhead.

Do not support - pretty soon no keeping of any species.

Willapa Anglers (40+ active members) support option #1 unanimously

Opposed to any changes that would allow catch and release only fishing. Many fish die from the stress of catch and release. Keep the existing rules.

Support. Atlantic coastal fisheries enhanced by C&R - simplify the rules.

Our unborn children would want us to release all wild steelhead.

Support. Consider science - conflict between wild and hatchery fish as smolts go out. Terns eat hatchery fish in disproportionate amounts. Catch rate higher for wild fish. Fishing in Yakima R has soared since C&R rules in place.

Support proposal 1 - science should dictate - state will profit.

Support - don't allow decline to continue. Price of extinction is 32¢ a pound. Education is the key.

Orchestrated attempt to establish a C&R only fishery for wild steelhead. This is a mistake. Nothing noble or ethical about torturing fish. They do not enjoy being caught and released. We do not know the effect on spawning ability, or of wading through spawning beds. We do not know the effect of multiple C&R.

Support proposal. Reasons given by Steelhead Trout Club of Washington to oppose the proposals are misleading and inaccurate. Majority of rivers allowing harvest are in the Olympic Peninsula. The steelhead club is not concerned over small businesses in Forks, or the survival of wild steelhead. They just want to be able to kill every fish they land, and they don't want the Indians to get them.

Opposed to the proposal. Does not consider healthy runs. If concern is great, then close to all fishers. What is the goal of his proposal? Concerned that the commercial food market for native caught steelhead will continue to be so depressed that native fishers won't make any money - only big business will profit from such a market. We spend lots of money on gear, etc - local economy will suffer.

Federation of Fly Fishers (11,000 members) supports proposal. MSY is no good as a management strategy. It is highly dependent on the availability of accurate yearly data on spawning and adult numbers at the tributary level as well as for the watershed as a whole. Need accurate pre-season forecasts. Assumes constant conditions. Places the emphasis on maximizing harvest and flies in the face of the Wild Salmonid Policy. Escapement goals are underestimated. Need to protect the repeat spawners with total wild release.

Should be allowed to continue to retain fish from healthy runs. If you want to catch and release, you can. Should have it for salmon too. Bank anglers don't catch many native fish.

Support proposal. Steelhead are in precarious condition because of the use of the MSY model. BC, Oregon and California have gone to catch and release. Hatchery fish are for harvest.

Support - more wild fish will spawn. Will still allow fishing opportunity.

Need more spawners to return to retain genetic diversity. WDFW selectively harvests the early fish - contrary to the Wild Salmonid Policy. Hoko is underescaped. Support total release of wild fish.

Support proposal. Allows angler concentration to be spread out over many areas instead of focusing on the Olympic Peninsula. Stops overcrowding and stream degradation. Repeat spawners are important in the population - have more eggs and are better equipped to deal with natural variations. This proposal allows them to survive.

Support proposal - should be proactive to downward trend in stocks. Will be easier to enforce and provide the best blend of opportunity and conservation.

Opposed to proposal. Area relies on tourist dollars. In the winter that means steelhead fishing. Runs are healthy and the opportunity to catch big fish exists.

Support proposal. Hooking mortality studies in BC show that the rate is very low. Has very little effect on post-spawn mortality.

Petition with 592 signatures supporting wild steelhead release - want wild fish for the future.

Boldt decision says opportunity to harvest is what is required, not actual harvest. Foregone opportunity may not even come into it. C&R fisheries have an associated mortality. Wise use rule - can't tell the other side how to best use its share. Steelhead are not commercial fish. Support proposal 1.

Opposed to proposal. No biological need. Not consistent with WDFW's mission statement. Current rule provides a diversity of opportunity. Tribes will increase their share. Will cause economic harm.

Opposed unless the wild population needs a C&R fishery in order to survive. (2)

Support. Long past due. Don't have the data to manage any other way. Deer Creek on the NF Stillaguamish is a good example of what can be accomplished. Allowed stocks to rebuild after habitat degradation. Wild fish harvest cannot be precisely calculated. Small stocks can be destroyed quickly. TU's Steelhead Policy.

Speak for the fish - adopt C&R - no exceptions. This is the lowest risk. Scores of stocks are extinct - all except 16 depressed, No kill allowed in Russia since 1982 - also Alaska.

Support. Department may still consider an unharvested fish as going to waste Clark-Skamania Flyfishers know that WDFW staff are not always acting in the best interest of the resource when making decisions. Asked for wild steelhead release for a decade before we got it. We are sport anglers, not commercial fishers and we do not need to harvest our resource. Disappointed our proposals were not supported by staff.

Support. Wild steelhead are the backbone of all good fisheries. Data from Deschutes (Oregon) shows wild fish are represented in fisheries at a higher rate than mixed stocks. C&R is the best way to conserve wild stocks. For pink salmon, much of a brood's production is from a small number of family groups and favored genotypes can vary dramatically between generations. If applicable to steelhead, maximizing spawner escapement is crucial to long term productivity.

Support proposal but not any extended March-May C&R seasons. Would like to see a restriction on the number of fish you can catch and release in a year.

Good old days are gone forever. Need wild steelhead release to rebuild fishery. Not necessary to kill - photos, new trophy techniques. In Florida a \$50 tag is required to kill a tarpon. "Surplus" fish are not really surplus.

Should stop netting too if you stop sport harvest.

Support C&R preferably with increased opportunities for C&R fisheries. MSY is ridiculous. All our neighbors require catch and release.

Support proposal. Wording in mailout was very misleading. Some people might think the tribes are poised to harvest all the fish we would not be killing, as if it were a warning. Many possibilities exist. Habitat is too clean. Need to kill less and protect more. Hatcheries are a big part of the problem. A license is not a license to kill.

Mt Si Fish and Game Club (48 members) voted to oppose change. Please keep the rule at 10 native fish per season.

Support - organization (Wild Steelhead Coalition) will work with legislature to increase funding for WDFW to provide more law enforcement, research into hatcheries studies and reform, and to keep hatcheries funded.

Support. Stocks in decline. Most rivers now close Feb 28 to protect wild fish. Harvest concentrated on just 16 rivers in March and April.

OR

2. In areas where exceptions are allowed, standardize the bag limit for wild fish to 1 per day and no more than 10 per year. The 10 per year is the total that could be taken from all rivers combined. The combined annual limit for wild and hatchery would remain 30 fish. **(Proposal #37 for WAC adoption purposes)**

TESTIMONY (Proposal 2): *Wild steelhead should always be released unless specific rivers can support a harvest.*

Favor proposal 2. Wild fish harvest should be allowed where escapement goals are being met - WDFW can identify and implement those situations.

Leadership of South King Co Chapter of TU is in favor of this proposal. Total wild fish release is not necessary on rivers with healthy runs. Quillayute has both the highest harvest and the highest escapement. Other rivers being considered for limited harvest are meeting or exceeding their escapement goals. Total wild release has been in effect for over 10 years on the lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Nisqually, Cedar, Kalama and other rivers with no improvement to returns. Evidence shows that total wild release will not build up runs (example SF Skykomish - closed for 17 years - excellent habitat - has stabilized at only moderate levels). (2) WDFW data attached for Quillayute, other coastal rivers, lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Nisqually, Cedar, and SF Skykomish.

Opposed to proposal. If WDFW determines the population is healthy it is incumbent upon the state to provide maximum opportunity. If the population is in jeopardy, close the fishery to all types of fishing, including tribes under the Boldt decision.

Also opposed to this proposal (in addition to proposal #1). Reasons: 1) There is no biological necessity 2) loss of fishing opportunity 3) potential economic harm to fishing dependant businesses and communities. Preferred outcome would be to continue the existing regulations. However, if that doesn't happen, would prefer option 2 to a total closure. (Form letter - 16)

Native Fish Society opposes proposal 2.

Support proposal. (3)

Opposed to proposal. If WDFW determines the population is healthy it is incumbent upon the state to provide maximum opportunity. If the population is in jeopardy, close the fishery to all types of fishing, including tribes under the Boldt decision.

Should be able to keep at least 10 wild steelhead per year. Many smaller streams are not planted with hatchery fish. Hatchery fish spawn just like natives and their descendants don't come back with clipped fins. They are basically the same fish now. I have to release a lot more than I retain. Allowing wild steelhead retention is a benefit for all.

Prefer this proposal. Have concerns over ramifications of foregone opportunity on the wild fish stocks along with the recent court rulings that have stated wild fish are genetically the same as hatchery fish. The proposed change to catch and release only seasons limits the state's ability to manage runs.

Systems that have been determined to be able to sustain a catch and retain fishery should continue to be open to the retention of wild steelhead. Catch and release fisheries are not zero impact fisheries, and

should be considered a kill fishery, only to a lesser extent. Personal choice is important and needs to be preserved. Should take steps toward increasing the escapement goals without the complete closure to retention. Have concerns for local businessmen.

NW Marine Trade Association could support this proposal if #1 is not adopted. However, should consider a 30 fish annual bag limit or requiring a 2nd catch record card when the total steelhead catch reaches 15 fish. Then modify CRC to show whether marked or unmarked salmon were harvested. This proposal was submitted this cycle but was not acted on - WDFW said they would reconsider later. Support this option. Total wild release is not necessary in rivers with healthy runs. Quillayute has highest harvest and highest escapement. Other rivers being considered for limited harvest are meeting or exceeding their escapement goals. Total wild release has been in effect for over 10 years on the lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Nisqually, Cedar, Kalama and other rivers with no improvement to returns. Evidence shows that total wild release will not build up runs (example SF Skykomish - closed for 17 years - excellent habitat - has stabilized at only moderate levels).(2) Please avoid irreversible strategies based on emotions and fantasies.

Forks C of Commerce unanimously supports proposal 2. Steelhead fishing is an important part of the local economy. Any restrictions will harm it greatly. Harvesting the recreational share is our right, our heritage and our hope for the future.

This proposal makes more sense than proposal 1.

Approve proposal 2. Do not approve of tribes harvesting wild fish. Wild fish should be added to hatchery stock on a yearly basis. Rivers should be managed on an individual basis.

Should be at least one wild fish per day and 10 per year.

Support - cannot imagine you would not allow us to harvest even one wild fish per day. Is not fair when the Indians use them for halibut bait and sell for as little as \$0.50 a pound. What ever happened to the 50%? Allow the sportsmen a few wild fish.

Support proposal 2 - fishery is healthy. If people choose to release wild fish, that would be their choice. Salmon runs are rebounding, having a positive effect on steelhead. Discriminatory to sportsmen to not allow them any harvest of wild fish. Tribes will increase their gillnetting days. (4)

President of Forks Chamber of Commerce states they voted unanimously for proposal 2. Any restrictions to this industry would harm the area greatly. Harvesting the recreational portion of steelhead available on local rivers is our right, heritage, and hope for the future.

Do not support. Time to quit using MSY. Majority want C&R. Complete closures like the Skagit are inevitable if WDFW does not change management .

Seattle Poggie Club favors this proposal - in the long run, it would favor wild fish.

Elma Game Club supports maintaining wild steelhead harvest on rivers that exceed their escapement goals. Support proposal 2. Want the opportunity to keep wild fish.

Any river with good returns and meeting escapement goal should go with one fish per day and ten per year. Rivers with bad returns should be closed after the hatchery run is over. All rivers should be monitored. Should not be across the board wild fish release. Angler preference survey supports this. Should be aware of the silent majority or 80% or more who do not write letters and are the backbone of your support. They enjoy fishing and most enjoy also eating an occasional steelhead. Don't get trapped into a road of no return. Allow 10 fish a year from different rivers (1 per day wild) in all the rivers as long as the ocean provides the food as it does now.

West End Business and Professional Association voted unanimously to support proposal 2. No need for total catch and release. This would allow us to harvest for trophy purposes as well as fish that are injured or bleeding. Proposal 1 would have a negative economic impact. City of Forks and Forks Chamber of Commerce join us in this position.

Daily limit 1 and 10 per year is fine as it is. To save wild fish, close to everyone.

Angler and taxidermist supports proposal. Total wild release would harm his business. Vast majority (90%) want a skin mount, not a fiberglass reproduction. This rule or no change would be good - no harvest is the wrong answer.

Taxidermist does not support - would ruin his business. Steelhead mounts comprise 80% of his business. If the runs needed protection, could support, but this is not the case. Can support 1 wild fish and 10 a year as a compromise.

Understand and support season limits, but do not agree with daily limit of 1 fish. Only manage to fish a few times a year, and want to take fish home. Tribes harvest too many with nets. Wherever they net, sport harvest should be allowed. Many will stop buying licenses if harvest is not allowed.

This proposal makes more sense for the Forks area.

Support this proposal. Strongly against total catch and release. Won't have an effect on stock status anyway. - no biological reason for it.

If you do not adopt proposal one, adopt this one - some increase in wild escapement is better than none at all.

Support proposal. If not healthy, stop all netting. Should enact the median income clause in the Boldt decision. C&R should only be an option.

Support as a reasonable compromise on a very divisive issue.

Could live with this if you do not want to keep the existing rules.

Also opposed to this proposal (in addition to proposal 1). There is no biological necessity 2) loss of fishing opportunity 3) potential economic harm to fishing dependant businesses and communities.

Support option 2 - however, if that is not the outcome, would prefer the existing rules to a total harvest closure. (Form letter - 5)

S King Co TU did not vote unanimously for WSR - favor proposal 2. Highest harvest and highest escapement in the Quillayute.

TESTIMONY (NO CHANGE): *Please don't change to catch-and-release of all native steelhead.*

Emergency closures are fine but it seems that the sport fishers continue to get the shaft. This kind of regulation just leaves more fish for the commercials and native Americans to net. All the native fish I've been releasing are caught in one day of netting.

Do not support a state-wide shutdown on wild steelhead harvest in rivers that remain healthy. Please give seniors the opportunity to harvest these fish. If they are not healthy, then shut down the fishery to all.

Catch and release and harvest as noted.(2)

Leave rules as they are.(4)

Proposals are absurd and extreme. Keep current rules.

Must continue a river-by-river approach. Tribes must share in conservation 50/50.

Please leave the rule as it is - for retaining a small number of wild steelhead. I would still like to have the option of keeping a wild fish, although I would release most of them. Most of my fishing buddies feel the same.

Support the WDFW stand of keeping the existing rules for steelhead. Badly need the economic help it brings our community. Why renew the animosity between sportsmen and tribes?

Urge you to maintain all the exceptions to the wild release steelhead rule. Anglers should have the right to retain their limit if they choose.

Should continue to have certain rivers open for wild steelhead - important to have that option available. At least when I have a chance at a nice steelhead in Feb/Mar/April I would spend the time and money to do so. Lets try to meet the needs of everyone and maintain the option to keep wild fish.

Rules should remain at least the same. Many of us like to eat our catch too and do not fish just for sport. Local economy is depressed - needs the income. Please do not change the regulations.

Forks is a depressed area (economically) because of the decline of the timber industry. Tourism helps keep it going. Taking away the harvest of wild fish is like taking away dessert from Thanksgiving dinner - you don't need it, you don't necessarily want it, but if it isn't offered, it detracts from the whole experience. Even if people would not normally keep a native fish, they may not come to the area because the potential is taken away. It is also unfair to let Native Americans continue to net fish when non-Indians may not keep them. This is discrimination.

Concerned over Quillayute - answer is not to release wild fish, but to control tribe. Tribe is surely taking more than their 50%. Fish on river daily. Until the tribes are controlled - I support no changes. No justification to eliminate or reduce wild steelhead harvest while tribes are netting fish. This proposal is wrong, discriminatory, and has no biological justification. No one on the Peninsula knew anything about this proposal.

In favor of limited harvest of wild steelhead on select coastal rivers. One day of tribal netting will exceed the total sport harvest for a year. Please allow us to keep one or two fish a year.

If restrictions are necessary, should apply to tribes too, otherwise opposed to any reductions. (2)

Opposed to proposals - if there are harvestable fish, we should have a chance to harvest them. Otherwise will not continue to fish in the state (family of 5)

Opposed to change. If escapement cannot be met, close completely

Would like to see wild steelhead harvest opportunities continue in a manner that is compatible with the long-term health of the stock. (38 letters)

Current rule is sufficient to protect runs that have not met, or are just meeting, escapement goals. Many rivers have unmarked hatchery fish, most on the Olympic Peninsula, such as Clearwater. Have watched many rivers for years with wild steelhead release, yet they seem to decline. Wild fish release is not the tool needed to rebuild runs. Use the WA Council of TU's white paper as a tool to rebuild steelhead statewide. Should allow harvest if the system can support it. Rivers like the Satsop and Wynoochee will have more pressure if all rivers are closed to wild steelhead retention. Rule as written should be upheld. (3)(WA St Council of TU and Grays Harbor Chapter of TU)

Support proposal 2. Fish runs on the north coast are healthy due to improved habitat and environmental rules, tribal and non tribal cooperation and WDFW's excellent management. Current rules or proposal 2 provide maximum fishing opportunity as stated in WDFW mission statement. Proposal 1 will upset balance between tribes and non-tribal fishers. Forks area has been struggling financially - proposal 1 will hurt. To be fair, should hold a hearing in Forks area before deciding.

Guide does not like proposals. Persons pay good money to hire him and want to be able to decide whether or not they keep fish. Tribes are still able to net fish.

Wild steelhead release alone does not work - should always review science and act accordingly if a river can support wild retention. Rule as written should be upheld. (Grays Harbor Chapter of TU)

Support the current rules - they are fair. Do not support either proposal. If you have some proof steelhead are in danger, support proposal #2.

There is nothing wrong with harvesting wild steelhead when it is evident that a specific run is healthy and escapement requirements are being met. Harvest should be the goal of improving our sport fishery. The "foregone opportunity" clause is not widely known and should be publicized.

Opposed to both proposals - leave the rules as they are - they allow more flexible management. (3)

Maintain all exceptions to the wild steelhead release rules. Sport anglers should have the right to retain their limit should they choose.

Have a problem with having my rights subjugated for political reasons. Decision has nothing to do with the fish themselves. Would refrain from harvest if it was in the best interest of the fish, but if treaty net fishing is to continue (and may even increase) That is not right.

Proposal would just transfer sport harvest to the tribes. They will claim foregone opportunity.

Department lets the tribes get away with illegal geoduck harvest and "chinook" net fisheries that target steelhead, but fine sport fishers for one razor clam over the limit.

Proposal is unfair and stinks. Tribes will get all the fish. Should be able to keep a wild fish if we choose.(2)

Very restrictive regulations currently in place are more than adequate to ensure the sport community is doing its part toward providing sufficient escapement of wild fish. Tribal net fishery takes too many.

There is no justification for closing the sport fishery completely to retention of wild fish. Plans to close hatcheries plus these proposals show that your goal is to eliminate sport fishing entirely.

Opposed to statewide catch and release. If runs are meeting escapement goals, harvest should be allowed in accordance with federal court mandates.

Opposed to proposal 1 because: 1) there is no biological need for this reduction in fishing opportunity 2) not consistent with WDFW's mission statement goal of providing maximum fishing opportunities compatible with healthy, diverse fish and wildlife populations - no evidence it will increase angler participation 3) current rules provide a diverse mix of fishing opportunity - this needs to continue 4) proposal will increase the likelihood of tribal fishers taking a significant portion of the sport angler's share of wild steelhead surplus to the escapement goal - even without a formal claim of foregone opportunity (Queets River) 5) these restrictions will cause economic harm to fishing dependant communities. Opposed to proposal 2 - no biological necessity. Will not increase angler participation - decrease in fishing opportunity inconsistent with department's mission statement to maximize fishing opportunity compatible with healthy diverse fish and wildlife populations. May cause economic harm. Statewide release is most objectionable. Proposal 2 - also opposed. In favor of retaining existing rules over either of these proposals. (form letter -44 copies)

Allowing the tribes to keep wild steelhead while sport fishers cannot is a slap in the face. Temporary closures are needed in quite a few areas, but a blanket closure is not good. Decommercialize steelhead. I would like to keep the existing rules.

Sultan Sportsmen's Club, Monroe Rod and Gun Club, Snohomish Sportsmen's Club Everett Eagles Sportsmen's Club and Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club all voted unanimously to allow the harvest of wild steelhead if the runs in certain streams are deemed healthy. Have never been fans of catch and release - have been pleased to see the spring C&R fishery on the Skykomish River halted for the last 2 years. Spawning steelhead should be left alone.

Shouldn't C&R on spawning beds - fish are low river spawners and when you take them off riffles when they are getting ready it may cause mortality. Cormorants eat all the fry.

Ethical and moral question - should be up to the angler - law is a last resort. Those with 2-day licenses were not included in preference survey - how do they feel?

Make decisions on a river-by-river basis not as a blanket policy.

West End Sportsmen's Club supports the current rules regarding the harvest of wild steelhead.

Wild fish release is an emotional issue and not founded in facts and figures. In many cases, where the habitat is sound, it is not necessary. Would only encourage tribal fishers to claim foregone opportunity.

WDFW does a good job of monitoring escapement. Keep regulations as they are and let WDFW evaluate their effectiveness over time.

If anglers are denied the right to keep an occasional steelhead, less licenses will be sold and funding for fish enhancement will be less than ever. Please think of those who purchase licenses.

Do not try to fix a system that is not broken.

Opposed to proposals. Current rules allow retention on only healthy runs. Rule should be based on biology not politics.(2)

Against both proposals. Expect to be able to harvest fish that are surplus to the escapement goal. People can catch and release under the existing rules. Do not believe standardization of the limits is necessary, but this is better than a harvest closure.

Current daily and yearly limits are working fine. Good ocean survivals - not time to limit harvest now. King County Outdoor Sports Council supports the current rules. However, given a choice of the two proposals, would support proposal 2.

Rules should be left alone. Thought that being a veteran, we were equal without having rules made in favor of the Indians. Look up the word "discrimination" before you make your decision.

Daily limits currently in place are working. No reason to limit steelhead fishing at this time.(2)

Keeping wild steelhead should be allowed whenever runs are strong. Opposed to a statewide ban on retention, but in favor of a ban on retention in rivers where the run is in danger of extinction. Especially not in favor of a ban which would allow tribal fishermen to harvest steelhead which sport fishermen were not allowed to keep. (4)

Owner of Forks Motel does not support. What is the reason for this proposal? Motels will suffer as angler trips decline. Other merchants and guides would also be hurt. Keep the existing rules.

Oppose proposal 1. How are you going to regulate tribal netting? Supposed to be a 50/50 split with the tribes. Will never happen with the ban. WDFW is funded by sportsmen - each year threatens to close hatcheries - if this happens you won't even have hatchery fish to catch. Will hurt motels, etc - hatchery fish run for only a few months. How could you prove you caught a record fish? Please don't take out choice away.

Oppose proposal 1. Will have a barely measurable effect of wild fish.

Oppose - runs are in good shape - if not, close completely.

We should be able to retain wild steelhead. There seem to be plenty in the streams of the Olympic Peninsula. If you cut us off many people won't buy freshwater licenses.

No reason for change. Is this another attempt on the part of the tribes to keep all the fish?

Retain current rules of 10 per year. Fight the uncontrolled Indian netting.

This is another example of WDFW bowing down to a special interest group who's majority doesn't even live near the proposal.

Would like to see steelhead harvest opportunities continue in a manner that is compatible with the long term health of the stock. (3)

Current regulation is great - don't change it! Stocks are healthy on the Olympic Peninsula. A blanket rule is not needed.

Please do not remove or reduce my ability and privilege to catch and harvest wild steelhead. This should not be decided by special interest groups but by biologists. Tribes will continue to fish. Sport harvest has much less impact than commercial.

Port Angeles Steelhead club (20+ members) is opposed to restricting the keeping of wild steelhead.

Prefer to keep the existing rules.

Current rules are sufficient for protection. Business in Quillayute neighborhood will suffer. People think hard about whether or not to keep a wild fish, but should have that option.

Snohomish Co Sportsman's Assn Trailblazers voted to allow harvest of wild fish if run is healthy.

Totally against proposal to implement statewide catch and release. It is a mistake to "broad brush" the entire state with such a rule. Maintain the existing rules.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Proposal 2

ACTION TAKEN: Proposal 2 was modified to:

In areas where exceptions are allowed, standardize the bag limit for wild fish to 1 per day and no more than 5 per year. The 5 per year is the total that could be taken from all rivers combined. The combined annual limit for wild and hatchery steelhead would remain 30 fish.

Modified proposal was adopted.

#38 SPLIT SEASON LAKES

BACKGROUND: Several years ago, in an effort to consolidate and standardize lake seasons, the “split season” (where a lake is closed for a period of time in the summer - usually July and August) was done away with. Since then, the public has come forth each year with proposals to return some lakes to the “split season.” During the last major rules cycle (two years ago) Echo, Serene, and Stickney Lakes (Snohomish Co) were all changed from year-round seasons to being open the last Saturday in April (opening day) through June 30, closed during the months of July and August, and open again September 1 - October 31.

PROPOSALS: During this regulation cycle we have received proposals to return Echo Lake, Snohomish County to a year-round season, and to make Serene Lake, Snohomish County an “opening day lake” (last Saturday in April through Oct 31 season). These proposals are supported by agency staff. Proposals were also received to create split seasons on Clear Lake, Pierce County (closed from July 4 to Labor Day) and Lost Lake, Snohomish County (open last Saturday in April through Oct 31 except closed July 4). These proposals were not supported by staff.

TESTIMONY: *Support returning Echo Lake to a year-round season and Serene Lake to an “opening day” season.*

Support restoration of rules. Also propose a split season for Shady Lake (King Co) for 2 reasons. It discourages inappropriate use of state owned public fishing access to the lake, making the state a better neighbor, and it reduces fishing pressure on the lake, permitting the fish that survived the first month to grow during the next two months, enhancing the quality of the fishery. Residents of Shady Lake are currently funding a fishery enhancement program through the Cooperative Trout Enhancement Program. The restoration of the split season would assist this program in maintaining its funding, which is primarily from residents of Shady Lake. (Shady Lake Community Council)

Opposed to returning Echo Lake to a year-round lake. Favor split season. Would be cheaper for WDFW to not have the access open year-round during this time of budget crisis. Reasons for the request for a split season in 1998 still stand (turned into a public swimming and party beach - fishermen run out - vandalism of private docks - police response time is too long to help - fires set at access - fear retribution of they call authorities).

Good.

Echo Lake resident wants to retain current split season. It has been very successful the past 2 years. Residents are interested in working with WDFW on screening the lake and maintaining the outflow. Opening year round would exacerbate existing problems with declining budget, etc.

Residents of Echo Lake reiterate their concerns from last cycle (when split season was created). Would like to retain split season - even fishing was better. Willing to replace outlet screen, work together on rehab for the lake, and whatever else is necessary. Not in favor of a total closure. (Letters and petition from 1999 rules cycle attached).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Do not adopt proposals for additional "split seasons." For lakes that currently have split seasons (Echo, Serene and Stickney) restore normal "Opening Day" seasons (Last Saturday in April - October 31).

ACTION TAKEN: New proposals for spit seasons on Clear and Lost lakes were not adopted. "Opening Day" seasons - (Last day in ~~February~~ through October 31) were adopted for Echo, Stickney and Serene lakes. *Saturday in April*

REGION 1

#39 AMBER LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
AMBER LAKE (Spokane Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Sept. 30 Last Sat. in Apr.-Sept. 30	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules, except electric motors allowed. RAINBOW TROUT with missing adipose fin must be released.
	All Game Fish	Mar 1 - Last Fri. in Apr & Oct 1 - Nov 30			Catch-and-release and selective gear rules except electric motors allowed.

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds another catch and release season, with selective gear rules, (except electric motors allowed) before the normal lake opener. The new season would run from March 1 until the regular opener the last Saturday in April, and should allow anglers some additional opportunity to fish Amber Lake.

TESTIMONY: *Agree. November is a more useable month in Eastern Washington than June, July, or August.*

Great idea - hope the concept successfully justifies application elsewhere.

Support. This provides a much-needed early lake close to Spokane.

Support.(3)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#40 BROWN'S LAKE AND BROWN'S CREEK

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BROWNS LAKE (Pend Orielle Co.)	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31		Statewide rules	ALL SPECIES - fly fishing only. Motors prohibited. TROUT - no more than 1 over 11".

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BROWNS CREEK (Pend Orielle Co.)	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	Fly fishing only.

EXPLANATION: This proposal sets a normal statewide stream season for Brown's Creek, inlet stream to Brown's Lake, for the protection of spawning rainbow and cutthroat trout. It also changes the trout limit in Brown's Lake to 5 fish, no more than one over 11". This is necessary because Brown's Lake females may be needed to supplement the cutthroat brood stock normally collected from King's Lake, which is suffering from predation by an expanding cormorant population.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

If the problem is cormorants eating fish from King's Lake that doesn't solve the problem. Limit on Brown's Lake should stay at 5. Game Dept screwed up Brown's Lake when they planted rainbows. Pretty soon all lakes will have this restriction - cormorants are feeding on fish at other lakes, too. If there aren't enough fish for stocking, King's Lake should be opened up for males only and we know the Game Department will never do that. Keep the limit at 5 and stop planting rainbows in cutthroat only lakes. Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#41 COFFEEPOT LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COFFEEPOT LAKE (Lincoln Co.)	TROUT	Mar. 1-Sept 15	None	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules, except motors allowed. BASS - 14" maximum size limit.
	BASS	Mar. 1-Sept 15	None	2	
	CRAPPIE	Mar. 1-Sept 15	None	10	
	Other Game Fish	Mar. 1-Sept 15	Statewide rules		

EXPLANATION: This proposal extends the season on Coffeepot Lake to September 15 (old ending date was August 31), to provide extended fishing opportunity in the fall. The fishery needs to close on September 15 because of conflicts with disturbance to seasonal migrating waterfowl.

TESTIMONY: *Agree - but October 30 would be better. Approve.(2)*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#42 FISHHOOK AND PAMPA POND SEASONS

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
FISHHOOK POND (Walla Walla Co.)	All Game Fish	Mar 1.-Oct 31	Statewide rules		Fishing from any floating device prohibited

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
PAMPA POND (Walla Walla Co.)	All Game Fish	Mar 1.-Sept 30	Statewide rules		Fishing from any floating device prohibited

EXPLANATION: These two small, shallow ponds warm rapidly in the spring and fishing opportunity is limited. This proposal opens the ponds March 1 instead of the usual "opening day" in late April to increase angler opportunity.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*
Approve for Fishhook Pond.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#43 GOOSE CREEK

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GOOSE CREEK (Lincoln Co.) within the city limits of Wilbur	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Juveniles (under 15 years old) and holders of disability licenses only

EXPLANATION: The additional rules for this creek listed juveniles and holders of free licenses. With the restructuring of the licensing system, there are no free licenses - the language needs to reflect this.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#44 GRANDE RONDE RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GRANDE RONDE RIVER (Asotin Co.) from mouth to County Rd. Bridge (about 2-1/2 miles upstream)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	12" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - release all STEELHEAD. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Sept. 1-May 31.
	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules and release all STEELHEAD June 1- Aug 31.
from County Rd. Bridge to Oregon state line and all tributaries	STEELHEAD & WHITEFISH	Nov 1 - Mar 31	20" None	2 15	Hatchery STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required. Tributaries CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH

EXPLANATION: This proposal lengthens the season in the upper river from Aug 31 to Oct 31 and changes the minimum size for trout to the statewide standard of 8". Residual juvenile hatchery steelhead are available in the fall so this longer season will allow their harvest.

TESTIMONY: *Feel like I have been transported back 30 years with this proposal. Really struggle with allowing harvest on juvenile steelhead (even non-migratory). Leave the minimum size at 12" with no mention of residualized steelhead.*

Why do we want to allow the harvest of juvenile hatchery steelhead? It appears better to allow them to go to the ocean and return as adults.

Do not support. Makes little sense. Fish are more valuable as adults.

Washington Fly Fishing Club opposes proposal. Encourages the harvest of juvenile steelhead.

Washington Fly Fishing Club finds proposal confusing - appears to increase harvest of juvenile steelhead - opposed.

Support.

Do not support.

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GRANDE RONDE RIVER (Asotin Co.) from mouth to County Rd. Bridge (about 2- 1/2 miles upstream)	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	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules.
from County Rd. Bridge to Oregon state line and all tributaries	STEELHEAD & WHITEFISH	Nov 1 - Apr 15	20" None	2 15	Hatchery STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required. Tributaries CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH.

The minimum size for trout in the lower river has been changed to 10" to match the Snake River and Oregon rules. In the upper section, the prohibition for retaining steelhead from June 1 - Aug 31 has been dropped - there are hatchery fish available for harvest. The steelhead/whitefish fishery has also been extended by 2 weeks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#45 KETTLE RIVER (AND COLVILLE RIVER) STURGEON CLOSURE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
KETTLE RIVER (Ferry/Stevens Co) from Barstow Bridge upstream	TROUT	Year-round	12"	2	TROUT - selective gear rules. Catch-and-release only Nov 1 - May 31.
	WHITEFISH	Year-round	None	15	WHITEFISH-Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller (size 14) may be used Nov 1 - May 31. Bait allowed.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Catch and release and selective gear rules Nov 1 - May 31.
	STURGEON				CLOSED to fishing for sturgeon.

EXPLANATION: This proposal closes the fishery for sturgeon on the Kettle River because the population is not successfully reproducing. The new statewide gear rule for whitefish is also displayed.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

MODIFICATION: This proposal should also include a closure to sturgeon fishing in the Collville River, from the mouth to the bridge at the town of Valley, for protection of the sturgeon population.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#46 LITTLE PEND ORIELLE RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LITTLE PEND ORIELLE RIVER (Stevens Co) mouth to Buffalo Road	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	
from Buffalo Road to Crystal Falls	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31			Catch and release and selective gear rules.
from Crystal Falls upstream	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	

EXPLANATION: The Little Pend Orielle Wildlife Refuge has requested that the section of the stream inside the refuge become a "quality water" with catch and release and selective gear rules. The rest of the stream would remain under normal stream rules (June 1 - Oct 31 season, statewide daily limits and minimum sizes for game fish).

TESTIMONY: *Great - can never have too much quality water.*

Support - now that grazing is curtailed on the refuge, this stretch of water has some potential to be a decent catch and release fishery.

Support. (2)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LITTLE PEND ORIELLE RIVER (Stevens Co) mouth to Buffalo Road	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	
from Buffalo Road to Crystal Falls	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31			ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules and catch and release only, except up to 5 eastern brook trout may be retained, no minimum size.
from Crystal Falls upstream	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	

Anglers will be able to retain up to 5 eastern brook trout in the middle section. These are non-native fish that are self-reproducing in the stream. We are moving toward native fish management, and would like to have the brook trout removed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#47 LYONS PARK POND (WALLA WALLA) CO.

PROPOSAL: Change spelling to Lions Park Pond (Walla Walla Co - College Place).

EXPLANATION: Pond is operated by Lions Club of College Place.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#48 MILL CREEK (WALLA WALLA CO.)

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	June 1-Aug 31	Statewide Rules		Release all STEELHEAD.
	STEELHEAD	Sept. 1-Apr. 15	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 to Bennington lake flood diversion dam	All Game Fish	June 1 -Oct 31	Statewide rules		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules. Release all STEELHEAD June 1 - Aug 31.
from Bennington lake flood diversion dam upstream	All Game Fish	June 1 -Oct 31	Statewide rules		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules. Closed to fishing for STEELHEAD.
CLOSED WATERS -from Panjab Bridge upstream and all tributaries.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal would change the trout daily limit in the middle river section (from Roosevelt St. Bridge to Bennington Lake flood diversion dam) from 5 to 2, the normal statewide limit. The larger daily limit was put in place when hatchery trout were stocked in this area. Because of ESA concerns, that is not longer the case, so the limit needs to be reduced to the normal daily limit of 2 trout. The proposal also requires anglers to release steelhead until September 1, the beginning of the traditional harvest season for hatchery steelhead.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

MODIFICATION:

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	June 1-Aug 31	Statewide Rules		Hatchery STEELHEAD only. Barbless hooks required.
	STEELHEAD	Sept. 1-Apr. 15	20"	2	
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		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules. Closed to fishing for STEELHEAD.
CLOSED WATERS -from Panjab Bridge upstream and all tributaries.					

In the lower section, anglers would be allowed to retain hatchery steelhead beginning June 1. The two upper sections have been combined and closed to fishing for steelhead because of conservation issues including water temperature and fish passage problems in the upper river.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#49 ROOSEVELT LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ROOSEVELT LAKE (Columbia River from Grand Coulee Dam to U.S.-Canadian border) including Hawk Creek downstream of the falls at the Hawk Creek Campground, San Poil arm, the Spokane arm downstream of SR 25 Bridge and Kettle arm downstream of Barstow Bridge (see also Hawk Creek, Kettle River, San Poil River, Spokane River and Roosevelt Lake tributaries).	TROUT	Year-round	None	5	TROUT - no more than 2 over 20". WALLEYE - no more than 1 over 18".
	WALLEYE	Year-round	None	5	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		KOKANEE not included in TROUT daily limit. Landlocked SALMON rules apply. CLOSED to fishing for STURGEON
	KOKANEE	Year-round	None	2	
	SALMON	Year-round			
STURGEON	Year-round				
San Poil arm upstream from the power line crossing the San Poil River at French John Lake is closed to fishing for GAME FISH Feb. 1-May 31. Kettle Arm upstream to Barstow Bridge is CLOSED to fishing for GAME FISH Apr. 1-May 31.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal gives a better definition of the boundary for the February 1- May 31 closure in the San Poil arm. Using Manila Creek as the boundary has caused confusion. A better definition for the mouth of Hawks Creek is also included. The catch and release fishery for sturgeon would also be closed. Recent survey work by USGS, WDFW, and Canadian

researchers indicates that no successful reproduction is occurring in this population. The fishery needs to be closed to protect the remaining individuals. The walleye rule has been changed to increase harvest of walleye in the size ranges that prey on juvenile kokanee and native minnows.

TESTIMONY: *BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection Fisheries Section Head supports proposal to close catch and release fishery in lake. A common population of white sturgeon migrates within the Columbia River between Lake Roosevelt in Washington and upstream areas in BC. Reproduction in this population has been unsuccessful for 30 years, according to studies by both Canadian and US researchers. Angling is closed in BC. Have begun a hatchery program to try to save this population. BC Fisheries and Oceans R.P. Biologist supports proposal. Recovery initiative for white sturgeon has been undertaken by US and Canadian fisheries management agencies, tribes, industries and other interests. Recovery plan will be developed. Aquaculture program has been set up to provide juvenile sturgeon for study purposes. There is an immediate need to minimize all potential impacts to the health of these stocks - strongly support proposal.*
Support.

MODIFICATION: San Poil Arm closure should be upstream from the outlet of French John Lake.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#50 SPOKANE RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SPOKANE RIVER (Spokane Co) from Upriver Dam to Idaho boundary	All Game Fish and SALMON	June 1 - Oct 31			Catch and release and selective gear rules, except motors allowed.

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds a catch and release requirement to the fishery in the upper Spokane River. Downstream areas would remain unchanged. The harvest fishery for landlocked salmon has also been closed.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#51 TOUCHET RIVER

PROPOSALS:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TOUCHET RIVER (Columbia/Walla Walla Co.) from mouth to the confluence of North and South Forks	All Game Fish STEELHEAD BROWN TROUT	June 1-Oct. 31 Nov. 1-Apr. 15 Nov. 1-Apr. 15	Statewide rules 20" None		Hatchery STEELHEAD and BROWN TROUT only, barbless hooks required. Daily limit two steelhead and brown trout combined.
North Fork mouth to Spangler Creek	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries					
North Fork above Spangler Creek	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Aug 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries					
Wolf Fork mouth to Coates Creek and Robinson Fork	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries to both forks					
Wolf Fork above Coates Creek	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Aug 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries					
South Fork mouth to Griffin Fork	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries					
South Fork above Griffin Fork	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Aug 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries					

EXPLANATION 1: This proposal would change the trout daily limit in the lower river section from 5 to 2, the normal statewide limit. The larger daily limit was put in place when hatchery trout were stocked in this area. Because of ESA concerns, that is no longer the case, so the limit needs to be reduced to the normal daily limit of 2 trout.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(3)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

EXPLANATION 2: This proposal closes fisheries early (Aug 31 instead of October 31) in areas where bull trout spawn. Bull trout in this area are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Although these waters are already closed to retention of these fish, some anglers will target them for catch-and-release fisheries is the waters are open for the retention of other species. This makes it necessary to close the waters completely to protect these fish.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(3)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

**#52 TUCANNON RIVER
 PROPOSALS:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TUCANNON RIVER (Columbia/Garfield Co.) from mouth to Cummins Bridge	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide Rules		Selective gear rules upstream of Turner Rd Bridge at Marengo. Release all steelhead June 1- Aug 31.
	WHITEFISH STEELHEAD	Nov. 1- Mar 31 Nov. 1- Mar 31	None 20"	15 2	Hatchery STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required.
ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules upstream of Turner Rd Bridge (formerly Hwy 126) at Marengo. CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries from mouth to Turner Rd.					
From Cummins Bridge to Cow Camp Bridge	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules. Release all steelhead June 1 - Aug 31.
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries above Cummings Bridge, and mainstem from Cummins Bridge upstream to 500 ft above the Rainbow Lake intake, and from Cow Camp Bridge upstream.					
from Cow Camp Bridge to Panjab Bridge	All Game Fish	June 1 -Aug 31	Statewide rules		ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules
CLOSED WATERS -from Panjab Bridge upstream and all tributaries.					

EXPLANATION 1: This proposal would change definition of the mouth of the Tucannon River from the Highway 261 Bridge to the statewide river mouth definition (a line projected between the outermost uplands at the mouth). The current definition of the mouth places the stretch below the Highway 261 Bridge (1 - 1.5 miles) in the Snake River. This affects the results of catch record card statistics for steelhead as anglers list fish caught in this area as caught in the Snake. Adopting the statewide definition for the mouth of the Tucannon will fix this problem.

EXPLANATION 2: This proposal would change the trout daily limit in the lower river section from 5 to 2, the normal statewide limit. The larger daily limit was put in place when hatchery trout were stocked in this area. Because of ESA concerns, that is no longer the case, so the limit needs to be reduced to the normal daily limit of 2 trout.

EXPLANATION 3: This proposal closes fisheries in areas where bull trout spawn. Bull trout in this area are listed as endangered. Although these waters are already closed to retention of these fish, some anglers will target them for catch-and-release fisheries if the waters are open for the retention of other species. This makes it necessary to close the waters completely to protect these fish.

EXPLANATION 4: This proposal also requires anglers to release steelhead until September 1, the beginning of the traditional harvest season for hatchery steelhead.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (3)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TUCANNON RIVER (Columbia/Garfield Co.) from mouth to Cummins Bridge	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide Rules		Selective gear rules upstream of Turner Rd Bridge at Marengo.
	WHITEFISH STEELHEAD	Nov. 1- Apr 15 Nov. 1- Apr 15	None 20"	15 2	Hatchery STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required.
CLOSED WATERS -all tributaries.					
From Cummins Bridge upstream	STEELHEAD Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules.
CLOSED WATERS -All tributaries and mainstem from Cummins Bridge upstream to 500 ft above the Rainbow Lake intake and from Cow Camp Bridge upstream.					

In the lower section, the prohibition for retaining steelhead from June 1 - Aug 31 has been dropped there are hatchery fish available for harvest. The section from Cummins Bridge to Cow Camp Bridge has been closed to fishing for steelhead, and the river above Cow Camp Bridge has been closed to fishing for added protection to bull trout (previous proposal would have closed the river above Panjab Bridge). The steelhead and whitefish seasons would remain open until April 15.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#53 WENAHA RIVER TRIBUTARIES

PROPOSAL: This proposal would change the season for all Washington tributaries to the Wenaha River (Ore) to June 1 - Aug 31.

EXPLANATION: This proposal closes fisheries early (Aug 31 instead of October 31) in areas where bull trout spawn. Bull trout in this area are listed as threatened.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

REGION 2

#54 SEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO COLUMBIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LAKES

PROPOSAL 54A:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
PILLAR LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SNIPE LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CATTAIL LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GADWALL LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SHOVELER LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEMNA LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
POACHER LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HOURGLASS LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SAGO LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WIDGEON LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30			Statewide rules

EXPLANATION 54A: After an extensive management review, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has requested season changes on these lakes. Currently they all have a split season, with openings March 1-31 and September 1-30. The March 1 opener is no longer an option as the Refuge feels that waterfowl use during early march is significantly greater where public access is not allowed. They have requested April 1- September 30 seasons for these lakes.

TESTIMONY (ALL PROPOSALS): *Agree, but grudgingly so.*

Heartily support the season consistency.

Support. (2)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Wildlife people as Seeps Wildlife area seem to want anglers off the area permanently. April 1 opener serves no purpose for them. Lakes are devoid of weeds and often frozen in March - few if any ducks present. Do they have data to support their request - I think not!

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 54 B:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HAMPTON LAKE, UPPER (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HAMPTON LAKE, LOWER (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COOT LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
PARA-JUVENILE LAKE (Grant/Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		Juveniles only (under 15 years old)

EXPLANATION 54B: After an extensive management review, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has requested season changes on these lakes. Currently they all have a March 1-July 31 season. The March 1 opener is no longer an option as the Refuge feels that waterfowl use during early march is significantly greater where public access is not allowed. They have requested April 1- September 30 seasons for these lakes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 54C:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HEN LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TEAL LAKE, NORTH (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TEAL LAKE, SOUTH (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HERMAN LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LYLE LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
THREAD LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MCMANAMAN LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

EXPLANATION 54C: After an extensive management review, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has requested season changes on Hen, McManaman, and N&S Teal Lakes. WDFW is proposing the same change for three nearby lakes (Herman Lyle and Thread) for consistency. Currently they all have a year-round season. The refuge has requested April 1- September 30 seasons for these lakes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 54D:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SHINER LAKE (Grant Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HUTCHINSON LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COYOTE CREEK & PONDS (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BOBCAT CREEK & PONDS (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HAYS CREEK & PONDS (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DEADMAN LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MORGAN LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HALFMOON LAKE (Adams Co)	All Game Fish	April 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		

EXPLANATION 54D: After an extensive management review, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has requested season changes on these lakes. Currently they all have a March 1-Sept 30 seasons. The March 1 opener is no longer an option as the Refuge feels that waterfowl use during early March is significantly greater where public access is not allowed. They have requested April 1- September 30 seasons for these lakes. Note: several of these lakes had special rules for bass listed under the additional rules section. Under the statewide bass proposal this rule would become the statewide rule for all lakes, unless specifically noted, so would no longer be listed under the additional rules.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 54E: Marie Lake (Hampton Sloughs) (Grant Co), Dollar Lake (Grant Co), Scabrock Lake (Grant Co) - go to statewide lake rules.

EXPLANATION 54E: After an extensive management review, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has asked WDFW to discontinue stocking these lakes and let them revert back to statewide rules, dropping them from the fishing pamphlet. The Refuge feels they would be likely management areas for non-fish species, such as leopard frogs and tiger salamanders. Currently they all have a March 1-Sept 30 seasons.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 54F:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ROYAL LAKE AND SLOUGH (including Marsh Unit 4 impoundments (Adams Co))		CLOSED WATERS			

EXPLANATION 54F: After an extensive management review, the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has decided to close Marsh Unit 4 to public access and has asked WDFW to close Royal Lake and Slough to fishing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#55 BANKS LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
Banks Lake (Grant Co)	YELLOW PERCH Other Game Fish	Year - round Year - round	None	25	Statewide rules

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds a daily limit of 25 yellow perch to Banks Lake to avoid over harvest.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*

Suggest a daily limit of 50 would still not significantly affect the fishery. Difficult to catch a dozen at a time. Hard work to fillet 30 or 40, though.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#56 LAKE CHELAN

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHELAN, LAKE (Chelan Co) north of a line between Purple Point (at Stehekin) and Painted Rocks and within 400' of the mouths of all tributaries.	TROUT	Aug 1- Mar 31	None	5	TROUT - Wild CUTTHROAT release. Kokanee and Lake Trout (mackinaw) are not included in the TROUT daily limit. BURBOT - one set line with up to 5 hooks may be used.
	LAKE TROUT	Year-round	None	No limit	
	KOKANEE	Aug 1- Mar 31	None	5	
	BURBOT	Aug 1- Mar 31	None	5	
South of a line between Purple Point (at Stehekin) and Painted Rocks to Chelan Dam, and 400' outside the mouths of all tributaries.	Other Game Fish	Aug 1- Mar 31	Statewide rules		
	TROUT	Year-round	None	5	TROUT - Wild CUTTHROAT release. Kokanee and Lake Trout (mackinaw) are not included in the TROUT daily limit. BURBOT - one set line with up to 5 hooks may be used
	LAKE TROUT	Year-round	None	No limit	
	KOKANEE	Year-round	None	5	
	BURBOT	Year-round	None	5	
Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules			
SALMON	May 1 - 31	15"	1		

EXPLANATION: Current management goals for Lake Chelan focus on enhancing native cutthroat populations. To enhance cutthroat, the proposed regulation removes the minimum size and increases the daily limit on species that have the greatest negative impact on cutthroat, including wild rainbow and lake trout. The areas around the mouths of all tributaries (and the tributaries themselves - see next proposal) are proposed to open August 1 instead of July 1 to give further protection to spawning cutthroat in these areas. Wild cutthroat (adipose fin present) release is also required. The salmon fishery in the lake north of a line between Purple Point and Painted Rocks has been closed, and the fishery south of this line has been limited to the month of May.

TESTIMONY: *Support, especially to preclude the westslope cutthroat from becoming an endangered species.*

Support.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

Do not support proposal to release wild cutthroat. Mysis shrimp introduction was a bad idea.

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHELAN, LAKE (Chelan Co) south of a line between Purple Point (at Stehekin) and Painted Rocks to Chelan Dam	TROUT	Year-round	None	5	TROUT - Wild CUTTHROAT release. Kokanee and Lake Trout (mackinaw) are not included in the TROUT daily limit. BURBOT - one set line with up to 5 hooks may be used.
	LAKE TROUT	Year-round	None	No limit	
	KOKANEE	Year-round	None	5	
	BURBOT	Year-round	None	5	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	May 1 - 31	15"	1	
CLOSED WATERS: within 400' of the mouths of all tributaries.					
north of a line between Purple Point (at Stehekin) and Painted Rocks	TROUT	Aug 1 - Mar 31	None	5	TROUT - Wild CUTTHROAT release. Kokanee and Lake Trout (mackinaw) are not included in the TROUT daily limit. BURBOT - one set line with up to 5 hooks may be used.
	LAKE TROUT	31	None	No limit	
	KOKANEE	Aug 1 - Mar 31	None	5	
	BURBOT	31	None	5	
	Other Game Fish	Aug 1 - Mar 31	Statewide rules		
		Aug 1 - Mar 31			
		Aug 1 - Mar 31			
		Aug 1 - Mar 31			

The season for the lake trout fishery in the northern area of the lake has been changed to August 1 - March 31 (to match the season for other species in the same area). Areas around the mouths of tributaries have been closed and pamphlet display has been changed to make it easier to understand.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#57 LAKE CHELAN TRIBUTARIES

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHELAN, LAKE TRIBUTARIES (Chelan Co) from mouths upstream 1 mile, except Stehekin River	All Game Fish	Aug 1 - Sept 30	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. Wild CUTTHROAT release.

EXPLANATION: This proposal changes the opening date for Lake Chelan tributaries from July 1 to August 1 and to protect spawning cutthroat. Information collected recently tells us that these fish are present in tributaries from the spring through the month of July. Wild cutthroat (adipose fin present) release is also required.

TESTIMONY: Support, especially to preclude the westslope cutthroat from becoming an endangered species.

Support.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#58 CHELAN RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHELAN RIVER (Chelan Co) from the railroad bridge to the Lake Chelan Dam	TROUT Other game fish	May 1 - Aug 31		Statewide rules	CLOSED to fishing for TROUT.
CLOSED WATERS - FROM Lake Chelan Dam down river to the PUD safety barrier below the power house.					

EXPLANATION: Historically, this area has provided anglers with good fishing for walleye and sometimes bass. ESA listed steelhead and spring chinook have not populated this section of river in the past, so a fishery is possible for game fish other than trout. Summer/fall chinook, however, do spawn in this area and should be protected by the closure from September through April.

TESTIMONY: Support.(2)

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHELAN RIVER (Chelan Co) from the railroad bridge to the Lake Chelan Dam		CLOSED WATERS			

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as modified. Do not adopt the proposed season. Adoption of this proposal would require modification of our NMFS fisheries permit, and there is not enough time to finalize this before May 1. We will continue to work toward possible future openings. The mouth of the river needs to be clearly defined to avoid confusion by anglers fishing in the Columbia River.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#59 CRAB CREEK CLOSURE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CRAB CREEK and tributaries (Grant and Lincoln Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - in Grant Co., from State Hwy 17 upstream to Grant Co Rd 7 - March 1 - May 31					

EXPLANATION: This proposal closes a portion of Crab Creek that is an important spawning area for walleye from Moses Lake during the time period when these fish are most vulnerable.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#60 DAVIS, RAT, AND GREEN LAKES

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DAVIS LAKE (Okanogan Co)	All Game Fish All Game Fish	Sept 1 - Mar. 31 April 1 - Aug 31	Statewide rules		Catch and release and selective gear rules except electric motors allowed. 

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
RAT LAKE (Okanogan Co)	All Game Fish All Game Fish	Dec 1 - Mar. 31 April 1 - Nov 30	Statewide rules		Catch and release and selective gear rules except electric motors allowed. 

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GREEN LAKE (Okanogan Co)	All Game Fish All Game Fish	Dec 1 - Mar. 31 April 1 - Nov 30	Statewide rules		Catch and release and selective gear rules except electric motors allowed. 

EXPLANATION: This proposal would allow anglers to use electric motors (usually not allowed under selective gear rules) while fishing on these large lakes.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#61 LENICE, MERRY, AND NUNNALLY LAKES SEASONS

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LENICE LAKE (Grant Co)	TROUT	Mar 1 - Nov. 30	None	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	Other Game Fish	Mar 1 - Nov. 30	Statewide rules		
WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MERRY LAKE (Grant Co)	TROUT	Mar 1 - Nov. 30	None	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	Other Game Fish	Mar 1 - Nov. 30	Statewide rules		
WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NUNNALLY LAKE (Grant Co)	TROUT	Mar 1 - Nov. 30	None	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	Other Game Fish	Mar 1 - Nov. 30	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - outlet stream of Nunnally Lake					

EXPLANATION: These three lakes are very popular with anglers statewide. WDFW has received many requests over the years to extend their fisheries through November, which can be a very productive month for anglers on these waters. In the past, however, Wildlife management has had a waterfowl reserve in place on Lenice Lake and had requested that fisheries in all three lakes close by the end of October. This reserve was abolished in 2000, allowing us to propose another month of fishing time for anglers.

TESTIMONY: *Agree very strongly.*

Support.(4)

Approve - added month is appreciated.

Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) supports proposal.

Why not extend into November? If they are stocked, what's another month? If not, make it C&R in November.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#62 PIT LAKE - JUVENILES ONLY

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
PIT LAKE (Douglas Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Juveniles only (under 15 years old)

EXPLANATION: This proposal limits fishing in Pit Lake to juveniles only (under 15 years old). There are currently no waters in Douglas County with this designation. Davis, Rat and Green Lakes - Allow Electric Motors.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#63 POTHoles RESERVOIR

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
POTHoles RESERVOIR (Grant Co)	BLUEGILL & CRAPPIE	Year-round	None		No more than 25 BLUEGILL and CRAPPIE combined.
	YELLOW PERCH	Year-round	None	25	
	Other game Fish	Year-round	Statewide Rules		

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds a daily limit of 25 yellow perch and a minimum size of 8" for crappie to prevent over harvest.

TESTIMONY: *Support 8" minimum size for crappie. Oppose 25 fish limit for perch; high harvest rates should minimize stunting.*

Excellent proposal - 25 perch is enough.

What has your study of Moses Lake come up with? I fish under the freeway bridge. In 13 trips this summer we got a good mess of perch each trip but very few crappie over 10". One trip I had to release 30 crappie before I got a keeper (over 10"). We guessed that 25% or less were between 9 and 10 inches. The average size is up from last year. My idea would be to drop the minimum size to 9 1/2" and make the daily limit 15.

Support.

MODIFICATION: Drop the 8" minimum size proposal for crappie. There is a major ongoing research effort on this species, and a rule change during the study could affect its results.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#64 RUFUS WOODS LAKE STURGEON CLOSURE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
RUFUS WOODS LAKE (Douglas/Okanogan Co)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	None	2 Statewide Rules	
	STURGEON				CLOSED to fishing for STURGEON.

EXPLANATION: This proposal closes the catch-and-release fishery for sturgeon in Rufus Woods Lake. Survey work by WDFW researchers indicates that no successful reproduction is occurring in this population. The fishery needs to be closed to protect the remaining individuals.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#65 SILVERNAIL LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SILVERNAIL LAKE (Okanogan Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Juveniles only (under 15 years old)

EXPLANATION: This proposal would limit fishing in Silvernail Lake to juveniles (under 15 years old). Silvernail Lake is a small lake with good access, but is underutilized by general anglers. Hopefully, designating it as a juvenile only water will increase usage. A local sportsman's club is interested in sponsoring a derby for kids.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#66 STEHEKIN RIVER CUTTHROAT RELEASE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
STEHEKIN RIVER (Chelan Co)	All Game Fish	March 1 - June 30			Catch and release and selective gear rules
	TROUT Other Game Fish	July 1 - Oct 31 July 1 - Oct 31	15" Statewide rules	2	CUTTHROAT RELEASE ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules

EXPLANATION: This proposal will protect wild and hatchery-reared cutthroat by requiring their release in the Stehekin River. Because the Stehekin River is a major tributary to Lake Chelan, protection of these fish will aid WDFW fishery managers in an effort to restore the native cutthroat population in the river and the lake.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally. In addition encourages WDFW to discontinue the current policy of hatchery enhancement to native cutthroat populations.

Support - but many anglers don't know the difference between a cutthroat and a rainbow. Also, what about crossbreeds? Should make the river catch and release for all trout from mouth to Agnes Creek.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#67 WENATCHEE LAKE KOKANEE CLOSURE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LAKE WENATCHEE (Chelan Co)	TROUT	Year-round	12"	2	TROUT - CLOSED to fishing for KOKANEE
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
KOKANEE/SOCKEYE under 16" are KOKANEE; those 16" and over are SOCKEYE SALMON and must be released.					

EXPLANATION: WDFW is working to increase the abundance of Lake Wenatchee sockeye returns to the point where annual sport fisheries can occur. This proposal would eliminate the

harvest of "kokanee" (formerly defined as under 16" with a daily limit of 5 and no minimum size), which are, in all probability juvenile sockeye, since the lake has not been stocked with kokanee for many years and no kokanee have been found in fall spawning ground surveys.

TESTIMONY: Support. (2)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Do not support. Sockeye fishery is subject to the black hole of fish return forecasting. There could be up to 4 types of sockeye (like in Redfish Lake). Anglers should be allowed to fish for non-migrant form in the lake.

Lake Wenatchee is bull trout habitat - should be closed except during sockeye season. (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)

Opposed - modify to allow retention of kokanee to allow harvest of residualized sockeye.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

REGION 3

#68 BOX CANYON CREEK

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BOX CANYON CREEK (Kittitas Co)	All Game Fish	June 1- Oct 31	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from Kachess Reservoir upstream approximately 2 miles to the waterfall (20 high, visible from the road)					

EXPLANATION: Box Canyon Creek has been closed since 1990 for the protection of spawning and rearing bull trout. However, we now know that bull trout only have access to the lower 2 miles of stream, due to an impassable waterfall that blocks adult migration. The creek above this point will be open for fishing under statewide rules with adoption of this proposal.

TESTIMONY: *Opens up a nice stream area. It is appreciated when previously closed waters can be re-opened and not endanger any species or depressed stock.*

I think you should make the open stretch catch-and-release only. This small stream parallels a very popular camping area. The fish population will be adversely affected by catch-and-keep fishing. This would be similar to the change proposed for the Cle Elum River and for the same reason.

Please consider making this creek a catch and release stream. The additional section that would be open has easy access and would get a lot of pressure. Trout population will not survive. I have not seen that this creek is stocked. If not, consider catch and release.

Support.(3)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Closure should be maintained to avoid confusion and possible bull trout harvest. (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BOX CANYON CREEK (Kittitas Co) mouth to USFS Road #4930 bridge	All Game Fish	June 1- Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules.
CLOSED WATERS - from mouth (Kachess Reservoir) upstream approximately 2 miles to the waterfall (20 feet high, visible from the road)					
From USFS Road #4930 bridge upstream	All Game Fish	June 1- Oct 31			

Selective gear rules have been added to the section below the #4930 Road Bridge to provide a quality fishing opportunity and prevent overfishing in an area with easy access.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#69 Cle Elum River

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CLE ELUM RIVER (Kittitas Co) from mouth to Cle Elum Dam	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. Lawful to fish to the base of Cle Elum Dam. WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller (size 14) may be used.
	Whitefish	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	
From Cle Elum Lake to Salmon la Sac Campground Bridge	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules.

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds selective gear rules to the fishery above Lake Cle Elum, up to the bridge at the U.S. Forest Service's Salmon la Sac campground. The entire reach is accessible from a paved road and is fished heavily in the summer. Fishing pressure is expected to grow substantially as the year-round and seasonal population continues to grow in the Cle-Elum-

Roslyn-Ronald area. Trout growth is slow and continued use of bait will result in unacceptable levels of hooking mortality of released fish as fishing pressure increases.

TESTIMONY: *Strongly support - gives the river a chance to become a decent fishery*

No.

Support. (2)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support - suggest the selective gear rules be extended to the whole river to protect bull trout redds. (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)

MODIFICATION: Change the upper boundary of the top section to the outlet of Hyas Lake. This provides added protection to native fish in a heavily used area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#70 COLUMBIA PARK FAMILY FISHING POND

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COLUMBIA PARK POND (Benton Co)	All Game Fish	Year - round	None	5	Juveniles (under 15 years old) and holders of disability licenses only. Daily limit is a total of 5 game fish.

EXPLANATION: This proposal changes Columbia Park Family Fishing Pond to make it open only to juveniles and holders of disability licenses. The family fishing designation allowed any number of adults to fish, accompanied by a juvenile who is not required to fish, and was very difficult to enforce. The name has been changed to Columbia Park Pond, and the daily limit for game fish is proposed to be a total of 5 fish to extend the duration of quality fishing opportunity.

TESTIMONY: *Single mother does not support the change. Should be able to fish even when the kids (who have short attention spans) are playing elsewhere. If the current rule is difficult to enforce, how can you enforce the proposed rule? Should make the rule "no more than two adults per child or per family" or change the catch limit.*

Getting adult lines out of the water is overdue. Shame that age does not equate with fair and reasonable actions in human beings.

Support the rule change. Have seen too many adults taking fish with the children not interested or participating. Also support reduced limits and think catch and release fishing and non-bait fishing should be encouraged.

Support (4).

Approve - pond also needs some weed control.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#71 COOPER RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COOPER RIVER (Kittitas Co) from mouth to Cooper Lake	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules.

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds selective gear rules on the Cooper River upstream to the outlet of Cooper Lake. This entire reach is accessible from the Cooper Lake Road and is heavily fished in the summer. Fishing pressure is expected to grow substantially as the year-round and seasonal population continues to grow in the Cle-Elum-Roslyn-Ronald area. Trout growth is slow and continued use of bait will result in unacceptable levels of hooking mortality of released fish as fishing pressure increases.

TESTIMONY: *Support (3).*

Support - river could support a nice trout population

No.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support - suggest the selective gear rules be extended to the whole river to protect bull trout redds.

(Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#72 EASTON LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
EASTON LAKE (Kittitas Co)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Sat before Memorial Day - Oct 31	8" Statewide rules	5	TROUT - no more than 2 may be trout other than eastern brook trout. No minimum size for brook trout.

EXPLANATION: Easton Lake is a seasonal impoundment of the Yakima River created by Easton Diversion Dam. This proposal reduces the daily limit and adds an 8" minimum size for trout (except brook trout). To comply with the Wild Salmonid Policy, catchable rainbow trout plants were discontinued. More conservative regulations are required to protect the adult and juvenile wild salmon, steelhead and resident trout that rear in and/or migrate through the lake. The proposed season conforms with the fill/drain operations at the dam.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#73 INDIAN CREEK

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
INDIAN CREEK (Yakima Co)	Eastern Brook Trout	June 1- Oct 31	None	No limit	
	All other trout	June 1- Oct 31	8"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1- Oct 31	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from Rimrock Reservoir upstream 5.75 miles to the impassable waterfall located about 2.5 miles on trail #1105 from the end of Indian Creek Rd. (USFS RD #1308)					

EXPLANATION: Indian Creek has been closed since 1990 for the protection of spawning and rearing bull trout. However, we now know that bull trout only have access to the lower 5.75 miles of stream, due to an impassable waterfall that blocks adult migration. About 4.5 miles of the upper creek from the waterfall to the outlet of Apple Lake is unnecessarily closed to fishing. Eastern brook trout are present in the upper creek and both Pear Lake and Apple Lake. In 1994, a male brook trout x female bull trout hybrid was captured in lower Indian Cr. and positively identified by genetic testing methods. This suggests that brook trout from upper Indian Creek are moving downstream past the barrier waterfall and are encroaching on the bull trout spawning area and interbreeding. Additional trout fishing opportunity can be provided for back-country hikers by reopening the upper creek. Resuming harvest of eastern brook trout in the upper creek, with no daily limit, may benefit ESA "threatened" bull trout in the lower creek by reducing the potential for interbreeding between the species.

TESTIMONY: *Opens up a nice stream area. It is appreciated when previously closed waters can be re-opened and not endanger any species or depressed stock.*
Support. (2)
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#74 KACHESS RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
KACHESS RIVER (Kittitas Co)	All Game Fish	June 1- Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. Lawful to fish to the base of Kachess Dam.
CLOSED WATERS - from Kachess Reservoir to the impassable 50-60 ft high waterfall about .5 miles upstream of Mineral Creek.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal expands the closed area by about 0.5 mile. In the fall of 2000, 15 bull trout redds were found in this area during stream surveys. The proposal will protect both adult and juvenile bull trout from harvest or hooking mortality in the spawning area.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

*Support - suggest the selective gear rules be extended to the whole river to protect bull trout redds.
(Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#75 KIWANAS POND

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
KIWANAS POND (Kittitas Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Juveniles (under 15 years old) and holders of disability licenses only.

EXPLANATION: Kiwanas Pond, the smallest, most westerly pond in the Hanson Ponds complex at Cle Elum, would be reserved for use by juveniles or disabled anglers, as requested by the owner, the Cle Elum City Council.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Trendwest supports proposal.

*Rosalyn Chamber of Commerce supports proposal.
 Cle Elum-Roslyn School District Board of Directors and Cle Elum Kiwanas Club support proposal-
 name should be Kiwanas Fishing Pond.
 Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#76 MATTOON LAKE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MATTOON LAKE (Kittitas Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited.

EXPLANATION: This proposal would not allow anglers to fish from boats equipped with internal combustion engines at Mattoon Lake.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*

Disagree with any proposal to limit the use of motors while fishing. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, how would you help me (or other disabled anglers) fish in areas that would be restricted? (3)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#77 SPECTACLE LAKE

PROPOSAL: This proposal would return the trout limit on Spectacle Lake(Kittitas Co) to general statewide rule of 5 fish.

EXPLANATION: The current trout limit of 16 was adopted to address the problem of a stunted eastern brook trout population, but is no longer needed because the brook trout are nearly gone. WDFW will be stocking cutthroat, so the normal daily limit will prevent the over-harvest of these fish. Spectacle Lake would continue to be open year-round, but would no longer be listed in the pamphlet because it would be covered totally under the statewide general rules.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#78 TIETON RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TIETON RIVER (Yakima Co)	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide Rules		ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only - only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used.

Lawful to fish up to the base of Tieton (Rimrock) Dam

EXPLANATION: This proposal changes the trout daily limit in the Tieton River to the statewide standard of 2 fish with an eight inch minimum size. The 5 fish daily limit with no minimum size was appropriate when hatchery trout were planted in the river, but this is no longer the case. Conservative harvest and gear restrictions are needed to reduce wild trout mortality now that wild production supports all fishing opportunity. ESA-listed "threatened" bull trout and steelhead (currently closed to fishing) may also benefit by reducing incidental hooking mortality associated with bait fishing for rainbow trout. Gear rules for the winter whitefish fishery have also been changed to the new "eastside" standard.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support - (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#79 YAKIMA RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
YAKIMA RIVER (Yakima Co.) Entire river, including tributaries and drains	TROUT				CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD
Downstream of Hwy. 240 Bridge Columbia River rules apply.					
From mouth (Hwy 240 Br) to Prosser Dam	TROUT	June 1-Mar 31	12"	2	ALL SPECIES - chumming allowed. TROUT - maximum size 20". BASS - no more than 3 over 15".
	BASS	Year-round	None	5	
	CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept 16-Oct 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
ALL SPECIES-Non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure Sept 16 - Oct 31. CLOSED WATERS - from Prosser Dam downstream 400'.					
from Prosser Dam to Hwy 223 Bridge	TROUT	June 1-Mar 31	12"	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". BASS - no more than 3 over 15".
	BASS	Year-round	None	5	
	CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
from Hwy 223 Bridge to 3500 feet below Roza Dam	TROUT	June 1-Mar 31	12"	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". BASS - no more than 3 over 15".
	BASS	Year-round	None	5	
	CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Oct 1 - Nov 15	6	12"	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
ALL SPECIES - Non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure Oct 1 - Nov 15. CLOSED WATERS - from the Yakima Ave.-Terrace Heights Br. in Yakima upstream 400 ft.					
from 3500 feet below Roza Dam to Roza Dam	All Game Fish				CLOSED WATERS - except bait and 1 single barbless hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used for WHITEFISH only Dec 1 - Mar 31.
	CLOSED WATERS - from Roza Dam downstream 400'.				
from Roza Dam to Easton Dam	TROUT	Year-round			TROUT- catch and release. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. Bait and 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used for WHITEFISH only Dec 1 - Feb 28.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from Easton Dam downstream 400'. Fishing form floating devices with motors allowed from the US Bureau of Reclamation restricted area signs at Roza Dam upstream to the boat launch ramp on the Roza Access Area (approximately 1/2 mile).					
from head of Easton Lake to Keechelus Dam	Eastern Brook Trout	Year-round	None	No limit	TROUT (except brook trout)- catch and release. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. Bait and 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used for WHITEFISH only Dec 1 - Feb 28.
	All Other TROUT	Year -round			
	Other Game Fish	Year -round	Statewide rules		
Lawful to fish to the base of Keechelus Dam.					

EXPLANATION: Changes include: 1) Adding a closed area upstream of the Yakima Ave.-Terrace Heights Bridge in Yakima. This is an area where salmon and steelhead congregate in large numbers for long periods of time, being attracted by hydroelectric power tailrace water that enters just above the bridge. This area was the site of a large snag fishery during the coho salmon fishery in the fall of 2000. Since then, steelhead, (listed as threatened under ESA) have been illegally harvested at this location. This area was closed by emergency rule during the spring chinook fishery in April-May 2001; 2) allowing fishing up to the base of Keechelus Dam, which has no fish passage facilities; 3) adding a fall salmon fishery in the lower river targeting primarily hatchery-origin fall chinook and coho salmon. This has been done by emergency rule since 1998. Adopting a permanent rule will allow us to put this fishery in the fishing pamphlet and give anglers better notice of the fishery. Rules for bass and catfish from the mouth to 3500 ft below Roza Dam are proposed to stay the same, not change to the new statewide rules described earlier; 4) adding a “catch and release” (C&R) regulation for trout (except eastern brook trout) from Easton Lake to Keechelus Dam. The C&R regulation, combined with the selective gear rules already in place, will gradually develop into a “quality trout fishery” for resident rainbow and cutthroat with higher catch rates and larger fish. Eastern brook trout are an abundant, non-native species that compete with native rainbow, cutthroat, bull trout and juvenile spring chinook salmon and steelhead for food and habitat. Brook trout are also a genetic threat to the survival of ESA-listed bull trout (from hybridization). Bull trout spawning has recently been documented in the Easton Lake-Keechelus Dam reach. The removal of daily limits on brook trout, where they co-exist with bull trout, is consistent with WDFW’s bull trout management policy adopted in Sept. 2000. WDFW will mount an assertive effort to educate anglers on how to identify and distinguish between brook trout and bull trout using signs in the field; and 5) the proposed new standard rules for whitefish gear are also shown in this proposal. The fishery in the area above Roza Dam is proposed to close February 28 to protect trout from the hooking mortality associated with the use of bait in this fishery.

TESTIMONY: *Why not? This was a regulation just waiting to be enacted.*

To eliminate snagging at the Terrace Heights Bridge, negotiate with the Roza Irrigation District to shut the hydro-electric system down during the salmon runs. The salmon will run past the fresh scent of Yakima water until they get past the Naches and since there are no salmon around that fresh scent and no way to get through the screens, there will be no snag fishery.

Support. (4)

Presence of brook trout is unnecessary and interferes with native fish. Support any effort to remove these fish.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support proposal for C&R fishery and addition of selective gear rules. Concerned with proposal to allow harvest of brook trout because most anglers cannot tell them from bull trout. This is true in Montana and Idaho. (Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest)

C&R fishery from Cle Elum to Rosa Dam. Do these rules acknowledge the impact introduced salmon are having on wild trout? Was an impact study done prior to introduction? Is this an experiment? What is the goal? Can hatcheries release so many fish they eliminate an entire hatch of insects? What happened to the tagged trout program on the Yakima? Possibility of trucking smolts below Rosa Dam. Limit number

of guides. What is WDFW doing to sustain health of trout fishery? Boating permits to limit traffic. More boat access between Cle Elum and Ellensburg.

MODIFICATION:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
YAKIMA RIVER (Yakima Co.) Entire river, including tributaries and drains	TROUT				CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD
Downstream of Hwy. 240 Bridge Columbia River rules apply.					
From mouth (Hwy 240 Br) to Prosser Dam	TROUT	June 1-Mar 31	12"	2	ALL SPECIES - chumming allowed. TROUT - maximum size 20". BASS -only BASS less than 12" or greater than 17" may be kept, no more than 1 over 17".
	BASS	Year-round	None	No limit	
	CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept 16-Oct 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
ALL SPECIES-Non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure Sept 16 - Oct 31. CLOSED WATERS - from Prosser Dam downstream 400'.					
from Prosser Dam to Hwy 223 Bridge	TROUT	June 1-Mar 31	12"	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". BASS - only BASS less than 12" or greater than 17" may be kept, no more than 1 over 17".
	BASS	Year-round	None	No limit	
	CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
from Hwy 223 Bridge to 3500 feet below Roza Dam	TROUT	June 1-Mar 31	12"	2	TROUT - maximum size 20"
	CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from the Yakima Ave.-Terrace Heights Br. in Yakima upstream 400 ft.					
from 3500 feet below Roza Dam to Roza Dam	All Game Fish				CLOSED WATERS - except bait and 1 single barbless hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used for WHITEFISH only Dec 1 - Mar 31.
CLOSED WATERS - from Roza Dam downstream 400'.					
from Roza Dam to Easton Dam	TROUT	Year-round			TROUT- catch and release. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. Bait and 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used for WHITEFISH only Dec 1 - Feb 28.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from Easton Dam downstream 400'. Fishing from floating devices with motors allowed from the US Bureau of Reclamation restricted area signs at Roza Dam upstream to the boat launch ramp on the Roza Access Area (approximately 1/2 mile).					
from head of Easton Lake to Keechelus Dam	Eastern Brook Trout	Year-round	None	No limit	TROUT (except brook trout)- catch and release. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. Bait and 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used for WHITEFISH only Dec 1 - Feb 28.
	All Other TROUT	Year-round			
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
Lawful to fish to the base of Keechelus Dam.					

The daily limit for bass from the mouth to the Hwy 223 Bridge has been changed to the new statewide standard, except that there is no daily limit in this area. Any number of bass under 12" may be retained. Bass between 12" and 17" in length must be released, and only 1 bass over 17" may be retained daily. This exception will last for three years and will be evaluated by WDFW to determine if the population of bass less than 12" can be reduced by fishing pressure and whether or not bass predation on juvenile wild fall chinook salmon can be reduced (since 6-12" bass account for much of this predation). The new standard bass rule will be in effect above the Hwy 223 bridge. The salmon fishery from Hwy 223 Bridge to 3500 feet below Roza Dam has been dropped. There has been low participation in this area because of low catch quality. Costs for monitoring this fishery are high, and the money is better spent on the salmon fishery in the lower area, which has more participation and a better overall fishery.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

COLUMBIA RIVER

#80 COLUMBIA RIVER STURGEON

PROPOSAL 80 - PART 1: This proposal would change the near Bonneville Dam area that is closed to fishing for sturgeon to read: Sturgeon fishing is closed from Bonneville Dam downstream to a line from a boundary marker about 4,000 feet below the fish ladder on the mainland Washington shore, south to the downstream end of Cascade Island, and across to the Oregon angling boundary on Bradford Island (about 850 feet downstream from fish ladder). Fishing from floating devices or using a floating device to set lines is prohibited from Bonneville Dam downstream to a line from Hamilton Island boat ramp on the Washington shore to an Oregon boundary marker on lower Robins Island.

EXPLANATION 80 - PART 1: Before the completion of the juvenile fish bypass system, fishing from boats was restricted from Bonneville Dam downstream to the lowermost powerline crossing. The hand casted sturgeon restriction matched that regulation. After completion of the bypass system, fishing from boats was prohibited further downstream to a line running from the Hamilton Island boat ramp in Washington to a marker on lower Robins Island in Oregon. The new boat restriction matches this proposal and Oregon regulations. It also clarifies the hand casted restriction wording and clearly defines the upper fishing boundary for sturgeon below Bonneville Dam.

TESTIMONY (PARTS 1 AND 2): *Proposals 1 and 2 are needed, makes good sense, and matches Oregon Support.*

*Proposal 1 - seems like a large area of easy access to lose for the ease or marking boundaries. Is there a biological reason not to have it open part of the year? Approve or proposal 2.
Southwest Washington Anglers strongly in favor.
Support.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 80 - PART 2: This proposal would extend by two weeks the timing of the closure to fishing for sturgeon from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam so that it would become May 1 - July 15 each year. This has been done by emergency rule in the past.

EXPLANATION 80 - PART 2: This matches the Oregon regulation for the same area and provides another two weeks of protection for spawning sturgeon.

TESTIMONY: *See above*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#81 COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON

PROPOSAL 81 - PART 1: This proposal would add salmon seasons in the mainstem Columbia prior to the current open seasons. Seasons would be: from the I-5 Bridge to the Highway 395 bridge at Pasco - June 16 - July 31; from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to the I-5 Bridge - May 16 - July 31. Additional rules for both areas would be: daily limit 6 salmon, no more than 2 sockeye. Minimum size 12". Release all chinook greater than 24" in length.

EXPLANATION 81 - PART 1: This season would coincide with the established hatchery summer-run steelhead season. Anglers would be able to keep adult sockeye or jack chinook salmon caught during this time period.

TESTIMONY: *Support (3)*

Great except for 1 thing - "release all chinook greater than 24" in length." At this time of year the spring run is all but over and the fall run hasn't started. Chinook catch will be minimal and won't hurt either run. No restrictions on Drano Lake, Wind River, White Salmon, or Klickitat rivers.

MODIFICATION: Allow retention of up to 6 jack chinook (between 12" and 24") only (drop the proposal to retain sockeye). The sockeye run is not expected to be strong enough to allow the proposed harvest.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

PROPOSAL 81 - PART 2:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COLUMBIA RIVER from Vernita Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam	TROUT	Year-round			CLOSED to fishing for TROUT
	Other Game Fish		Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Aug 16 - Oct 22	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
	STURGEON	Year-round	48"	1	STURGEON - maximum size 60".

CLOSED WATERS - at Jackson (Moran) Creek: all waters of the Priest Rapids Hatchery system to the outlet on the Columbia River, extending to mid-stream Columbia River between boundary markers located 100' upstream and 400' downstream of the mouth. CLOSED WATERS - at Priest Rapids Dam between the upstream line of the dam downstream to the boundary markers 650' below the fish ladders.

EXPLANATION 81 - PART 2: This proposal changes the open salmon season in the section of the Columbia from Vernita Bridge to Priest Rapids dam to August 16 - October 22, closing the jacks only season that occurred from Nov 1 - Dec 31. Anglers often target spawning adult fall chinook during this late season, which reduces their spawning success. There are also few jacks available at this time, and those present are of poor quality.

TESTIMONY: *Oppose - would modify to have an October 31 end to the season, as currently in place for adult salmon, while closing the jack fishery as proposed. What is the justification for early closure?*
Approve.(2)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

PROPOSAL 81 - PART 3: This proposal would allow anglers to keep unmarked (adipose fin present) coho in the Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam.

EXPLANATION 81 - PART 3: Beginning in 2002, only 20% of the hatchery coho destined for areas above Bonneville Dam will be marked. This lower mark rate is expected to continue. Requiring anglers to keep only marked fish would make most of these fish unavailable for harvest.

TESTIMONY: *Support (3)*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

REGION 4

#82 BEARPAW, RIDLEY AND WILLOW LAKES

PROPOSAL: This proposal would return Bearpaw, Ridley, and Willow Lakes (Whatcom Co) to statewide rules (open year-round, daily limit 5 trout, no minimum size, statewide rules for other game fish). They would no longer be listed in the fishing pamphlet.

EXPLANATION: Anglers have expressed concern that the 18" min size brings too much attention to these lakes. Bearpaw Lake, at least does not seem to be producing 18" fish for anglers to keep.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (3)*

Opposed. A minimum size limit on any lake improves the fishing experience. With no minimum size the lake will be fished out in a season. You should lower the minimum size instead.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support proposal for Bearpaw lake.

Snohomish Co Sportsman's Assn Trailblazers support change.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#83 GREEN (DUWAMISH) RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GREEN (DUWAMISH) RIVER (King Co.) from mouth (First Ave. South Bridge) to SW 43rd St./S 180th St. bridge	TROUT	June 1-July 31	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained when open July 1-Nov 30.
		Sept. 15-Feb. 28	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-July 31	Statewide rules		
		Sept. 15-Feb. 28	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept. 15-Dec. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHINOOK. Note: opening may be delayed based on in-season information and State/Tribal agreement.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Sept. 15-Nov. 30. Fishing from any floating device prohibited Nov. 1-Feb. 28.					
from SW 43rd St./S 180th St. bridge to S. 277th bridge in Auburn	TROUT	June 1-July 31	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained when open July 1-Nov 30.
		Sept. 15-Feb. 28	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-July 31	Statewide rules		
		Sept. 15-Feb. 28	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Dec. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHINOOK.

(continued on next page)

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Oct. 1-Nov. 30. Fishing from any floating device prohibited Nov. 1-Mar. 15.				
from S 277 th Bridge to Auburn-Black Diamond Rd Bridge	TROUT	June 1-July 31	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained when open July 1-Nov 30.
	Other Game Fish	Oct 16- Mar 15	14"	2	
		June 1-July 31	Statewide rules	Statewide rules	
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Dec. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHINOOK.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Oct. 16-Nov. 30. Fishing from any floating device prohibited Nov. 1-Mar. 15.				
from the Auburn-Black Diamond Rd Bridge to the Tacoma Headworks Dam	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained July 1-Nov 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules	Statewide rules	
		SALMON	Nov 1 - Dec 31	12"	2
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug 1-Nov. 30. CLOSED WATERS - within 150' of the Palmer Ponds outlet rack and within 150' of the mouth of Keta (Crisp) Creek.				

EXPLANATION: This proposal changes the game fish season in the two lower sections of the river. The seasons would close July 31 instead of August 15. This would reduce harassment, hooking mortality, and poaching of chinook as they return to spawn. It also shortens the time when wild steelhead may be kept. The new season for wild steelhead would end November 30 instead of February 28. If the run size allows, the fishery can be extended by emergency regulation.

TESTIMONY: *Support (2)*

Wild release should be mandatory beginning Jan 31. Population has been steadily on the rise. NW Marine Trade Association supports if tribal fishery will also be selective beginning December 1 with all wild steelhead released after that date, unless extended by e-reg. Closing lower 2 sections July 31 is acceptable as long as tribal fisheries are closed during this time period. Poor history of equitable sharing in these fisheries.

Section from S 277th Bridge to the Auburn-Black Diamond Bridge should be open to boat fishing in the winter. Bank access is limited. Getting out of your boat at high flow is dangerous. No biological reason or conservation imperative requires the current restriction. Oppose the chinook closure. Can only retain marked fish now. Why are we marking them if we aren't allowed to harvest them? Muckleshoots kill hundreds in their "test" fishery.

Opposed to permanent closure to harvest of winter run steelhead. Has made escapement goal recently. Handle by e-reg.(6)

Hard to comment not knowing why it's on the table at this time. You must have proof that a huge decline in wild fish is occurring. Is the river healthy? Should it be closed to all, including tribes? Support the current rules. They are fair.

Support new rule for wild steelhead. River should be open until March 31 for a C&R fishery. Support the rule for prohibiting fishing from a floating device Nov 1 - Mar 15.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Oppose because Green has exceeded its escapement goal 5 of the last 6 years.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#84 NOOKSACK RIVER SEASON

PROPOSAL: This proposal would close the game fish seasons on the Nooksack River, including the mainstem and the North, South and Middle Forks, on February 28 instead of Mar 15.

EXPLANATION: Staff are recommending an earlier closing date for this fishery because the wild run size has been low recently. Both wild and hatchery fish have been experiencing poor survival rates, so the fishery needs to be managed more conservatively.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (6)*

Hard to comment not knowing why it's on the table at this time. You must have proof that a huge decline in wild fish is occurring. Is the river healthy? Should it be closed to all, including tribes? Support the current rules. They are fair.

Opposed - keep it open for catch and release until March 15 or later.

Support current rule as long as there is a wild steelhead catch and release rule in place.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Do not support WDFW proposal - support TU proposal for area below the Everson Bridge to the mouth to close Feb 28, 2003. Upstream of the bridge, including all forks remain the same as current rules, open to C&R of wild steelhead until March 31, 2003. (Petition with 129 signatures)

Support closure on February 28. (2)

Whatcom Chapter of TU is opposed to proposal. March 15 closure is already too early. WDFW should promote recreational fishing. C&R is why we buy licenses. Lots of steelhead anglers are now heading to BC. Regional bios are asking why the season is so short. We are helping count steelhead redds. Would have an economic impact. Hooking mortality is very low. Propose the following. Sectional closure after Feb 28 below the Everson Bridge. Upstream, including forks would remain open to catch and release until March 31. Will help with enforcement issues and allow more fishing opportunity.

Retain existing rules and handle by e-reg.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#85 STILLAGUAMISH BASIN WILD STEELHEAD

PROPOSAL: This proposal would close the wild steelhead retention fisheries in the Stillaguamish basin, including the mainstem Stillaguamish, the North and South Fork Stillaguamish, and Pilchuck and Canyon Creeks.

EXPLANATION: Preliminary information indicates that the 2001 run size for Stillaguamish steelhead was similar to last year's which was only about half of the escapement goal. The goal

was also not met in 1999. Because of what appears to be a declining trend probably caused by declining freshwater habitat and low marine survivals, the proposal is to make this a permanent rule, rather than closing by emergency rule, as has been the case in recent years.

TESTIMONY: *Support.* (4)

Strongly support if the no-exception rule is not adopted. (3)

Support closure at end of Feb.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

Should be closed to all angling targeting wild steelhead. (3)

Should be closed to all fisheries targeting wild steelhead including late season catch and release fisheries. This is best handled by e-reg.

Retain existing rules and handle by e-reg.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#86 SNOHOMISH BASIN WILD STEELHEAD

PROPOSAL: This proposal would close the wild steelhead retention fisheries in the Snohomish basin, including the mainstem Snohomish, the North and south Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sultan, Pilchuck, Tolt, Wallace, and Raging rivers and Tokul Creek. Rivers that have been open in March (Snohomish, Skykomish, Snoqualmie rivers and Tokul Creek) would close to all fishing on the last day of February.

EXPLANATION: Preliminary information indicates that the 2001 run size for the Snohomish Basin will be well below the escapement goal. If this occurs, it would be the fourth consecutive year that the goal has not been met. Because of this declining trend and because marine survivals lately have been poor, the proposal is to make this a permanent rule, rather than closing by emergency rule, as has been the case in recent years.

TESTIMONY: *Support.* (3)

Strongly support if the no-exception rule is not adopted. (3)

Support closure at end of Feb.

Hard to comment not knowing why it's on the table at this time. You must have proof that a huge decline in wild fish is occurring. Is the river healthy? Should it be closed to all, including tribes? Support the current rules. They are fair.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

Support until run is attaining goal. (3) *Should use e-regs.*

Support steelhead closure until escapement goal is attained. But should be handled by e-reg.

Retain existing rules and handle by e-reg.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#87 SKAGIT BASIN WILD STEELHEAD

PROPOSAL: This proposal would close the wild steelhead retention fisheries in the Skagit basin, including the Skagit, Cascade and Sauk Rivers.

EXPLANATION: Preliminary information indicates that the 2001 run size for the Skagit Basin will be well below the escapement goal. Because of the declining trend in escapement, and because marine survivals lately have been poor, the proposal is to make this a permanent rule, rather than closing by emergency rule, as has been the case in recent years.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (4)*

Should be closed to all angling targeting wild steelhead. (2)

Strongly support if the no-exception rule is not adopted. (2)

Support. Assume Mar-April C&R season will remain unchanged.

Support closure at end of Feb. (2)

Should be a no-kill fishery. Needs permanent protection.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

King County Outdoor Sports Council opposes opening the fishery past 2/28. Predicted escapement is only 83% of goal.

Should be closed to all angling targeting wild steelhead. (3)

Should be closed to all fisheries targeting wild steelhead including late season catch and release fisheries. This is best handled by e-reg.

MODIFICATION: Fisher Slough was added to the list of waters where wild steelhead retention is no longer allowed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as Modified.

#88 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	14" 20" Statewide rules	2	ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules March 1 - May 31. DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may be retained as part of TROUT daily limit.
	SALMON	Aug. 15-Dec. 31	12"	4	No more than a total of 2 may be COHO or CHUM. Release all CHINOOK.

(continued on next page)

The mouth is defined by a line projected from terminus of jetty with McGlenn 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, and then to white monument on east side of Tom Moore Slough.					
from Memorial Hwy. Bridge (Hwy. 536 at Mt. Vernon) to mouth of Gilligan Creek	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 31	14"	2	DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may be retained as part of TROUT daily limit.
	Dolly Varden/bull trout	June 1-Mar. 31	20"		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Aug. 15-Dec. 31	12"	4	No more than a total of 2 may be COHO or CHUM. Release all CHINOOK.
from mouth of Gilligan Creek to the Dalles Bridge at Concrete	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 15	14"	2	DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may be retained as part of TROUT daily limit.
	Dolly Varden/bull trout	June 1-Mar. 15	20"		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 15	Statewide rules		
Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction July 1 - November 30.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal changes the season and adds selective gear rules on the lower river (below the Memorial Hwy Bridge) to protect spring chinook, steelhead, and sockeye salmon. It also changes the boundary between the next two river sections, making in Gilligan Creek rather than the pipeline crossing at Sedro Woolley. Gilligan Creek is the lower limit of the spawning grounds for most Skagit River wild salmonids, so using it as the boundary will allow us to better manage the sport fishery in this area. Fisheries upstream of the areas shown would remain unchanged. The wild steelhead retention fishery has also been shown as closed, as proposed earlier.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Support both the boundary changes and the selective gear rules below the Hwy 536 Bridge. Fish that area for sea-runs with a barbless fly and it is no problem to release the fish. Would have much higher mortality with bait.

Support the boundary change because it reflects the reality of the Skagit River. Selective gear rule change removes the possibility of deep hooking by plunkers.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#89 NF TOLT RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TOLT RIVER (King Co.) from mouth to USGS trolley cable near confluence of North and South Forks	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 28 June 1-Feb. 28	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules June 1-Nov. 30.
(continued on next page)	CLOSED WATERS - from USGS trolley cable to the falls in Section 21, Township 26N, Range 8E on North Fork, and to dam on South Fork.				

North Fork above falls in Section 26	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31			ALL SPECIES - catch and release and selective gear rules.
South Fork above dam	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	10"	2 Statewide rules	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

EXPLANATION: The NF Tolt above the falls has been managed as a catch and release fishery in the past, and a substantial population of large rainbow trout developed. With the current rules (anglers may keep 2 fish over 10" in length), these fish are being harvested. This proposal would reinstate the catch and release fishery. The wild steelhead retention fishery has also been shown as closed, as proposed earlier.

TESTIMONY: *Support (2)*

Good regulation - why was it ever changed?

Support - strongly in favor.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Oppose - what's wrong with harvest? Not much pressure on stream.

Support. Nice to have a river close to home where you have a chance to catch a large trout.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#90 WALLACE RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WALLACE RIVER (Snohomish Co.) from mouth to 200' upstream of water intake of salmon hatchery	TROUT	June 1-Feb 28	14"	2	Fishing from any floating device prohibited Nov. 1-Feb 28. Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Feb. 28. DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may TROUT - may be retained as part of TROUT daily limit.
	Dolly Varden/bull trout	June 1-Feb 28	20"		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb 28	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept. 1-Nov. 30	12"	2	COHO only. CLOSED to fishing for SALMON upstream of the Burlington-Northern Railroad bridge immediately below Hwy. 2.
CLOSED WATERS - from first Burlington-Northern Railroad Bridge (below Hwy. 2) to 200' upstream of water intake of salmon hatchery June 1 - November 30.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal would allow anglers to fish for game fish in the lower river during the open salmon season in September and October (formerly the river was closed for game fish in Sept and Oct). There are hatchery steelhead available in the river that could be harvested during that time period. Rules for the upper section of the river would remain unchanged.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (3)*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.
Support. It makes sense.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

REGION 5

#91 ABERNATHY AND GERMANY CREEKS

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ABERNATHY CREEK (Cowlitz Co) from mouth (Hwy. 4 Bridge) to Abernathy Falls	TROUT	June 1 - Aug 31	14"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD June 1- Aug 31.
		Nov 1 - Mar 15	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Aug 31	Statewide rules		
		Nov 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from posted markers 500' below salmon hatchery upstream to Abernathy Falls.					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GERMANY CREEK (Cowlitz Co) from mouth to end of Germany Creek Rd (approx 5 miles)	TROUT	June 1 - Aug 31	14"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD June 1- Aug 31.
		Nov 1 - Mar 15	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Aug 31	Statewide rules		
		Nov 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		

EXPLANATION: This proposal makes the minimum size for trout 14" on both these creeks. This should allow all trout to spawn at least once and make the minimum size consistent in streams in the Longview area.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#92 BLUE CREEK

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BLUE CREEK (Cowlitz Co) mouth to posted sign at cable crossing	TROUT	Dec 1 - Dec 31	12"	5	Wild CUTTHROAT release. No more than 2 over 20". Release all STEELHEAD with missing right ventral fin.
CLOSED WATERS - from posted sign at cable crossing to posted sign above rearing pond outlet.					
From posted sign above rearing pond outlet to posted sign at fence about 40' downstream, including rearing pond outlet	TROUT	Dec 1 - Dec 31	12"	5	Wheelchair-bound anglers only. Wild CUTTHROAT release. No more than 2 over 20". Release all STEELHEAD with missing right ventral fin.
CLOSED WATERS - mouth to Spencer Rd. Jan 1 - Nov 30. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Dec 1 - 31.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal creates a "buffer zone" between the fishery for the general public and the fishery for wheelchair-bound anglers to minimize conflicts between the two groups.

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally. In addition encourages the Commission to develop similar proposals on additional waters.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#93 CUTTHROAT RELEASE IN LAKE SCANEWA, CISPUS AND COWLITZ RIVERS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would require the release of all cutthroat in Lake Scanewa, the Cowlitz River upstream of Cowlitz Falls Dam, the Clear Fork, Muddy Fork, Cispus and NF Cispus Rivers.

EXPLANATION: this proposal closes cutthroat retention in the upper Cowlitz for protection of wild cutthroat in this watershed. Because there are no hatchery fish present, the proposed rule is "release all cutthroat" instead of just "wild cutthroat release."

TESTIMONY: *Support.(2)*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#94 COWLITZ RIVER, DEEP RIVER, GREEN RIVER, KALAMA RIVER, LEWIS RIVER WILD CHINOOK RELEASE

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COWLITZ RIVER (Cowlitz/Lewis Co.) from boundary markers at mouth to barrier dam	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 31	12"	5	TROUT - no more than 2 over 20". CUTTHROAT release. Release STEELHEAD with missing right ventral fin.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	TROUT	Apr. 1-May 31	20"	2	Hatchery STEELHEAD only, except release all STEELHEAD with missing right ventral fin.
	SALMON	Aug. 1-Apr. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 6 hatchery COHO adults may be retained Sept. 1-Dec. 31. Release all CHINOOK through Dec. 31. Wild CHINOOK release Jan 1 - Apr 30. Wild COHO release. Release all CHUM.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			
<p>Additional rules for Mill Creek to Barrier Dam upstream from a line from Mill Creek to a boundary marker on the opposite shore. (1) CLOSED WATERS - from Barrier Dam downstream 400' or the posted deadline. (2) ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Apr. 1-Oct. 31. (3) Fishing from boats prohibited at all times. (4) Fishing from south side of river is prohibited for ALL SPECIES May 1-June 15. (5) Hours of access to this area are 4:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. daily.</p>					
from upstream boundary of Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir Muddy Fork and Ohanapecosh Rivers	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		CUTTHROAT release.
	SALMON	Year-round	8"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 4 adults may be retained Oct. 1-Dec. 31. Wild COHO release. Wild CHINOOK release Jan 1 - July 31.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DEEP RIVER (Wahkiakum Co.) from mouth to town bridge	TROUT	Year-round	14"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Year-round	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 6 adults, but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept. 1-Dec. 31. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Wild CHINOOK release Jan 1 - July 31.
from town bridge upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	14"	2 Statewide rules	

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GREEN RIVER (Cowlitz Co.)	STEELHEAD	June 1-Nov. 30	20"	2	Hatchery STEELHEAD only.
	SALMON	Apr. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except up to 6 adults may be retained Sept. 1-Nov. 30. Open from mouth to 400' below water intake at upper end of hatchery through May 31. Release all CHUM. Release Wild Chinook Apr 1 - July 31. Release all CHINOOK Aug. 1-Nov. 30. Wild COHO release.
<p>ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction from mouth to 400' below salmon hatchery rack Sept. 1-Oct. 31. CLOSED WATERS - all tributaries and from 2800 Bridge upstream; from 400' or posted markers below and above the salmon hatchery rack (when installed in the river), and from 400' below to 400' above the water intake at the upper end of the hatchery from Sept. 1-Nov. 30.</p>					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
KALAMA RIVER (Cowlitz Co.) from boundary markers at the mouth to 1000' above fishway at upper salmon hatchery	TROUT	Year-round	20"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
	SALMON	Year-round	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 6 adults but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept. 1-Dec. 31. Release Wild CHINOOK Jan 1 - July 31. Wild COHO release. Release all CHUM. Upstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing, release all CHINOOK Oct. 1-Dec. 31.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			
<p>ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction from mouth to temporary rack Sept. 1-Oct. 31. Fly fishing only from the natural gas pipeline crossing to the deadline at the intake to the lower salmon hatchery Sept. 1-Oct. 31. CLOSED WATERS - from 1000' below fishway to 1000' above fishway at upper salmon hatchery; from 200' above the temporary rack downstream to a set of markers 1500' below the temporary rack while rack is installed in the river below Modrow Bridge. Fishing from floating devices equipped with motors prohibited upstream of the Modrow Bridge.</p>					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER (Clark Co.) from boundary markers at mouth to mouth of East Fork	TROUT	Year-round	12"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	May 1-July 31	12"	1	SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 6 adults but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept. 1-Dec. 31. Wild CHINOOK release Jan 1 - July 31. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release.
	SALMON	Aug. 1-Apr. 30	12"	6	
	EULACHON	CLOSED			

(Upriver sections remain unchanged)

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER, NORTH FORK (Cowlitz Co.) from mouth to Colvin Creek	TROUT	Year-round	20"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release. SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 6 adults but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept. 1-Dec. 31. Release Wild CHINOOK Jan 1 - July 31. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	May 31-July 31	12"	1	
		Aug 1- Apr 30	12"	6	
EULACHON			CLOSED		
CLOSED WATERS - shoreward of cable buoy and corkline at outlet of Lewis River Salmon Hatchery fish ladder. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Apr. 1-Oct. 31 upstream of Johnson Creek. Fishing from a floating device prohibited from Johnson Creek to Colvin Creek May 1-July 31.					
from Colvin Creek to Merwin Dam	TROUT	June 16-Sept. 30	20"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release. Wild CUTTHROAT release. SALMON - no more than 2 adults, except 6 adults but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept 1-Sept. 30. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Wild CHINOOK release.
	Other Game Fish	June 16-Sept. 30	Statewide rules		
	TROUT	Dec. 16-Apr. 30	20"	2	
	Other Game Fish	Dec. 16-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Aug. 1-Sept. 30	12"	6	
Jan. 1-Apr. 30		12"	6		
EULACHON	CLOSED				
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Apr. 1-Oct. 31. CLOSED WATERS - from overhead powerlines to Merwin Dam.					

(Upriver sections remain unchanged.)

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds wild chinook release to several rivers from January 1 - July 31. All hatchery spring chinook returning to these systems will be marked beginning in 2002. Anglers may retain hatchery chinook, while releasing these marked fish. Recovery efforts for the wild fish are underway in these systems.

TESTIMONY: *Please reconsider this rule.*

Support. (3)

NW Marine Trade Association supports if 100% marking of hatchery spring chinook continues.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal and encourages similar protection for wild fall run chinook.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#95 DRANO LAKE, WIND RIVER, WHITE SALMON RIVER, AND KLICKITAT RIVER COHO RETENTION

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DRANO LAKE (Little White Salmon River) (Skamania Co.) downstream of markers on point of land downstream and across from Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery and upstream of Hwy. 14 Bridge	SALMON & STEELHEAD	May 1-June 30 May 1-June 30	12" 20"		SALMON and STEELHEAD only. Daily limit is a total of 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD. Closed Wednesdays through May 31.
	TROUT Other Game Fish	July 1-Mar. 15 Year-round	12" Statewide rules	2	CUTTHROAT release.
	SALMON	Aug. 1-Dec. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults except 6 adults but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept. 1-Dec. 31.
ALL SPECIES - non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 1-Dec. 31. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction May 1-June 30.					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WIND RIVER (Skamania Co.) from mouth (boundary line/markers) to Burlington-Northern Railroad Bridge	SALMON & STEELHEAD	May 1-June 30 May 1-June 30	12" 20"		SALMON and STEELHEAD only. Daily limit is a total of 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD.
	TROUT Other Game Fish	July 1-Mar. 15 July 1-Mar. 15	14" Statewide rules	2	
	SALMON	Aug. 1-Oct. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction May 1-June 30 and non-buoyant lure restriction only Aug. 1-Oct. 31.					
from Burlington-Northern Railroad Bridge to 100' above Shipherd Falls	SALMON & STEELHEAD	May 1-June 30 May 1-June 30	12" 20"		SALMON and STEELHEAD only. Daily limit is a total of 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD.
	TROUT Other Game Fish	July 1-Mar. 15 July 1-Mar. 15	14" Statewide rules	2	
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction May 1-June 30. CLOSED WATERS - from 400' below to 100' above Shipherd Falls.					
from 100' above Shipherd Falls upstream	SALMON & STEELHEAD	May 1-June 30 May 1-June 30	12" 20"		SALMON and STEELHEAD only. Daily limit is a total of 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction May 1-June 30. CLOSED WATERS - from a boundary marker approximately 800 yards downstream of Carson National Fish Hatchery upstream, including all tributaries and from 400' below.					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WHITE SALMON RIVER (Klickitat/Skamania Co.) from markers on the east and west shores and when buoys are in place southerly to the buoy and east-west between the buoys to the powerhouse	TROUT Other Game Fish	May 1-June 30 May 1-June 30	14"	2 Statewide rules	
	SALMON & STEELHEAD	Apr 1-June 30 Apr 1 June 30	12" 20"		SALMON and STEELHEAD only. Daily limit is a total of 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD.
	SALMON	July. 1-Mar. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHINOOK Oct 1 - Dec 31 from posted markers ½ mile upstream of the Hwy 14 Bridge upstream.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug 1-Dec 31. Bank fishing only downstream from the Hwy 14 Bridge.					
from the powerhouse to Northwestern (Condit) Dam	TROUT Other Game Fish	Nov 16 - Apr 30 Nov 16 - Apr 30	14"	2 Statewide rules	
	SALMON & STEELHEAD	Apr 1-June 15 Apr 1-June 15	12" 20		SALMON and STEELHEAD only. Daily limit is a total of 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD.
	SALMON	Nov 16 - Mar 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all chinook Nov 16 - Dec 31.
CLOSED WATERS - from Northwestern Dam downstream 400'.					
from gas pipeline crossing above Northwestern Lake upstream to Gilmer Creek	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1- Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	None	5 Statewide rules	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
KLICKITAT RIVER (Klickitat Co) from mouth to 400' upstream from #5 fishway	SALMON & STEELHEAD	May 1 - May 30 May 1 - May 30	12" 20"		Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Daily limit 1 SALMON or 1 hatchery STEELHEAD. SALMON - no more than 2 adults except 6 adults but only 2 adult chinook Sept 1 - Jan 31.
	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Nov 30 June 1 - Nov 30	12" Statewide rules	2	
	SALMON	June 1- Jan 31	12"	6	
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction May 1 - May 30. CLOSED WATERS - from Fisher Hill Bridge to 400' upstream from #5 fishway.				
from 400' upstream from #5 fishway to boundary markers above Klickiatat Salmon Hatchery	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Nov 30 June 1 - Nov 30	12" Statewide rules	2	WHITEFISH only - only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used. SALMON - JACKS only. No more than 2 adults except 6 adults but only 2 adult CHINOOK Sept 1 - Nov 30.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	
	SALMON	June 1 - July 31 Aug 1 - Nov 30	12" 12"	6 6	
CLOSED WATERS - from boundary markers below Klickitat Salmon Hatchery to boundary markers above hatchery.					
from boundary markers above Klickitat Salmon Hatchery upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Nov 30 June 1 - Nov 30	12" Statewide rules	2	WHITEFISH only - only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size 14) may be used.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	
	CLOSED WATERS - from the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary upstream, and all tributaries.				

EXPLANATION: This proposal allows anglers to keep unmarked coho during salmon fisheries in these streams. Beginning in 2002, only 20% of the hatchery coho destined for areas above Bonneville Dam will be marked. This lower mark rate is expected to continue. Requiring anglers to keep only marked fish would make most of these fish unavailable for harvest.

TESTIMONY: *Support the retention of non-adipose clipped coho, but opposed to the proposed opener of May 1 for salmon on Drano Lake and the Wind River. Should be April 1. For the White Salmon River, steelhead should be open July 1 through the fall. The July-Aug steelhead fishery in this area is extremely important - no justification provided for omitting it. Also should have the night closure in the spring (April-June) rather than the fall, as listed for Drano Lake and the Wind River. The fall should only have a non-buoyant lure restriction.*

NW Marine Trade Association supports, however 100% of hatchery coho should be marked to allow compliance with ESA recovery programs and consistency with state laws passed in 1995 and 1998 mandating marking of hatchery coho and chinook. Why will only 20% of coho marked in the future? This is going backward.

Approve.

Don't support. Why are only 20% of the hatchery fish marked? Mark them or don't allow their retention. Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal. Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal. What about the closure at the cofferdam about 2 miles above Shiphed falls - marked closed by signs but is not in regulations?

Approve of rule to allow retention of unmarked coho - unfortunate that we have not marked hatchery fish. Proposal will however, play havoc with the current steelhead fishery. White Salmon River - no provision for steelhead fishing after June 30 - no justification for closing steelhead early. No justification for night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction. No snagging problem. (Same applies to Wind and Drano). Combined salmon and steelhead limit - does it apply only April - June? Would support a daily limit that allowed fishing until you limit on one species or the other. Rules are unclear for steelhead/trout.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#96 ELOCHOMAN RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ELOCHOMAN RIVER (Wahkiakum Co.) From mouth to West Fork	TROUT	June 1-Mar 15	14"	2	WILD CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	June 1- Mar 15	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults except 4 adults may be retained Oct 1 - Dec 31. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Upstream of Hwy 4 Bridge all CHINOOK must be released Oct 1 - Dec 31.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			
<p>ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Sept 1 - Oct 31. CLOSED WATERS - from WDFW temporary rack downstream to Foster (Risk) Rd Bridge while rack is installed in river; from a point 50' above to 100' below the outlet pipes from the most downstream Elochoman Hatchery rearing pond and extending 30' out from the south bank of the river; from 100' above the upper hatchery rack and downstream to the Elochoman Hatchery Bridge located 400' below the upper hatchery rack; from West Fork upstream.</p>					

EXPLANATION: This proposal requires anglers to release all chinook upstream of the Highway 4 bridge (instead of the Foster (Risk) Rd Bridge). This will provide more protection for fall chinook stocks and help eliminate snagging.

TESTIMONY: Support.(2)

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#97 WEST FORK GRAYS RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GRAYS RIVER, WEST FORK (Wahkiakum Co.)mouth to hatchery intake/footbridge	All Game Fish STEELHEAD	June 1-Aug. 31 Dec. 15-Mar. 15	Statewide rules 20"	 2	 Hatchery STEELHEAD only.

EXPLANATION: This proposal eliminates the “closed waters” from the hatchery road bridge to the sign at the hatchery outlet to increase the opportunity for anglers to catch hatchery winter steelhead.

TESTIMONY: *Support. (6)*

Support proposal. Why not allow people to fish for hatchery fish in several pools below the hatchery? Aren't hatchery fish there for us to catch?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#98 LEWIS RIVER POWER CANAL

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER POWER CANAL (Cowlitz Co) and old Lewis River streambed between Swift No. 1 powerhouse and Swift No. 2 powerhouse	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.- Oct. 31	Statewide rules		Fishing from a floating device prohibited.

EXPLANATION: The Lewis River Power Canal is actually a reservoir and will be placed in the “Westside Lakes” section of the pamphlet, with statewide “lake” rules for minimum size and daily limits (this includes a 5 trout daily limit, no minimum size). The area is planted with catchable rainbow trout and will function as an “opening day” lake.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#98A EF LEWIS RIVER

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER, EAST FORK (Cowlitz Co.) from mouth to the top boat ramp at LewisvillePark	All Game Fish	Year-round			Catch and release except up to 2 hatchery STEELHEAD may be retained.
from the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park upstream	All Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15			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.

ACTION TAKEN: New Proposal- adopted as shown.

#99 MILL CREEK

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MILL CREEK (Cowlitz Co)	TROUT	June 1 - Aug 31	14"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
		Nov 1 - Mar 15	14"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Aug 31		Statewide rules	
		Nov 1 - Mar 15		Statewide rules	

EXPLANATION: This proposal opens a fishery on Mill Creek, which has been closed to fishing. It will allow anglers to harvest resident trout and possible stray hatchery steelhead and sea-run cutthroat. The closed period between September 1 and October 31 provides protection for spawning fall chinook.

TESTIMONY: *Do not support. There are chinook redds and juvenile chinook that would be impacted by the proposed changes.*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Support(4)

Do not support-wanted lower 1500 feet open Sept and Oct.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#100 SWIFT RESERVOIR, HORSESHOE AND KRESS LAKES LANDLOCKED SALMON RULES

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES	
SWIFT RESERVOIR (Skamania Co.) from dam to markers approximately 3/8 mile below Eagle Cliff Bridge	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		Landlocked SALMON rules apply	
	SALMON	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31				
	from markers approximately 3/8 mile below Eagle Cliff Bridge to bridge	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules except motors allowed.
		SALMON	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31			Landlocked SALMON rules apply

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HORSESHOE LAKE (Clark/Cowlitz Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide Rules		TROUT - no more than 2 over 20".
	SALMON	Year -round			Landlocked SALMON rules apply.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
KRESS Lake (Cowlitz Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide Rules		Landlocked SALMON rules apply
	SALMON	Year -round			

EXPLANATION: This proposal adds landlocked salmon rules to Swift Reservoir. Adult coho and chinook are being released above the reservoir to spawn. This results in thousands of landlocked juvenile salmon that are available for harvest. Landlocked salmon rules are also proposed for Horseshoe Lake and Kress Lake, where surplus hatchery salmon are planted.

TESTIMONY: Please review the possibility of leaving Swift Reservoir open all year from Eagle Cliff Bridge to Swift Dam. Yale and Merwin are open year-round. Power Canal should be open year round too. Agree with rule adopted in 2001 3/8 of a mile downstream of the Eagle Cliff Bridge requiring selective gear rules. However, in 2001 I saw several bull trout taken in the area. Can fish there with an artificial lure as long as it is barbless and no bait. You are actually more likely to catch bull trout with a lure than with bait. Should eliminate all artificial lures except fly fishing. Allow bait on a barbless hook no larger than size 8. Great area to teach kids to fish. Eliminating bait takes this away.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

REGION 6

#101 DEEP CREEK OPEN SEASON

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DEEP CREEK (Clallam Co)	All Game Fish	Dec 1 - Feb 28			ALL SPECIES - Catch and release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

EXPLANATION: This proposal opens a catch and release season (except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained) on Deep Creek. This creek has been closed since 1993, when major slides destroyed prime spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids. The Lower Elwha Tribe has completed some major habitat restoration projects and the US Forest Service has removed much of the side castings from road construction, helping to stabilize the upper watershed. Wild steelhead escapements have remained above the escapement goal for the past 6 years. Most of these fish enter and spawn after the end of February, so the fishery should have only a minor effect on the wild run.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

Should remain closed - there have been a lot of projects on Deep Creek, but it is far from restored. Offers an opportunity to evaluate restoration structures. Coho and chum are still critical. Stream will give us information on the early wild component which has been almost totally wiped out by the wholesale use of Chambers Creek stock.

Would like to see creek opened for marked fish or catch and release (26 letters)

Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) supports proposal.

Landowner in the drainage suggests that we should let the tribe finish their restoration before we evaluate the status of the steelhead and think of opening a fishery. Concerned about vandalism, trespassing, wood theft, garbage dumping, and poaching.

Do not support. E&W Twin Rivers had similar seasons and are now closed. Poaching, hatchery fish mixing with native gene pool, and overfishing are to blame. There is a lack of enforcement. Some years fish spawn before February 28.

Oppose proposal. Lower Elwha Klallam tribe has just finished a \$1million plus restoration project and steelhead runs are in recovery mode. Escapement goals are too low. Creek is part of a remote, heavily poached area including Bear Creek and E&W Twin Rivers. Though it has been closed since 1993 it is littered with tackle and snaked with fishermen's trails, as are the other streams mentioned. There is not enough enforcement to control the poaching. Closure makes it easier to catch poachers because they have no reason to be on the river. The C&R rules would target a wild steelhead run - early runs are already weak - shouldn't target them.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Area was aggressively logged in 1980s. In 1990 a storm triggered debris torrents in the upper drainage. These developed into huge dam break floods, which scoured the upper channel to bedrock. At least 5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat was impacted. Landslides in the lower 2 miles compounded the

problem. The channel became shallow and wide and heated to 70° F in the summer. By the early 1990s it was clear fish runs had been severely impacted and the fishery was closed. Monitoring was done in the watershed to form a watershed restoration plan, which began in 1997. Projects followed in 1999 and 2000. Although there are some promising trends toward recovery, Deep Creek should not be opened to any directed harvest now (or possibly ever). There is no harvestable surplus of steelhead. Deep Creek is not and has not been planted with Chambers Creek fish. It has serious poaching problems even when closed. Restoration is not complete. Recovery is far from complete. Chum population has collapsed and shows little or no sign of recovery. Some watersheds should be left for restoration and assessment with no harvest.

Area supported harvest before the slides.

Proposal should go further, allowing a limited harvest of wild fish through Feb 28. (4) If the run has recovered, a daily harvest of 1 wild fish should be permitted.

Would be nice to see the creek open for catch and release or retention of marked fish.

Opposed to opening.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#102 DESCHUTES RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DESCHUTES RIVER (Thurston Co.) downstream of lowest Tumwater Falls fish ladder					See Capitol Lake.
from the Old Hwy 99 Bridge on Capitol Blvd. in Tumwater upstream to the Henderson Blvd. Bridge near Pioneer Park	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 31	14"	2	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all COHO
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	July 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 1-Nov. 30. CLOSED WATERS - from 400' below lowest Tumwater Falls fish ladder to the Old Hwy. 99 Bridge on Capitol Blvd. in Tumwater.					
from the Henderson Blvd. Bridge near Pioneer Park upstream	All Game Fish	Year-round			Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery STEELHEAD may be retained. Selective gear rules
	SALMON	July 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Selective gear rules. Release all COHO.

EXPLANATION: This proposal gives a year-round season (catch and release and selective gear rules) for game fish in the upper section of the Deschutes upstream of the Henderson Blvd bridge. It will provide two more months of opportunity than the present season.

TESTIMONY: Increase in opportunity is appreciated, as well as regulation consistency.
 Support.(3)
 Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#103 GOLDSBOROUGH, MILL, AND SKOOKUM CREEKS

PROPOSAL: This proposal would make the season on Goldsborough, Mill, and Skookum Creeks (all in Mason Co) the standard stream season of June 1 - October 31.

EXPLANATION: Closing the streams on October 31 provides protection for spawning cutthroat trout. All other rules remain in place.

TESTIMONY: Support (2)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#104 HUMPTULIPS RIVER SEASON

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HUMPTULIPS RIVER (Grays Harbor Co.) from mouth (Jessie Slough) to Hwy 101 bridge	TROUT	June 1-Feb 28	14"	2	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release wild adult COHO, adult CHINOOK, and all CHUM.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb 28	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Aug 16 - Nov 30.					
from Hwy 101 bridge to confluence of east and west forks	TROUT	June 1-Feb 28	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb 28	Statewide rules		
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Aug 16 - Nov 30.				
East Fork, from mouth to concrete bridge on Forest Service Rd. between Humptulips Guard Station and Grisdale	TROUT	June 1-Oct 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 16-Nov. 30.				
West Fork, from mouth to Donkey Creek	TROUT	June 1-Feb 28	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb 28	Statewide rules		
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 16-Nov. 30.				

EXPLANATION: This proposal would change the ending date for the game fish season on the Humptulips River to the last day of February (except on the East Fork).

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

With wild steelhead release, there is no reason to have it open above the Hwy 101 bridge, or at least the confluence of the E&W forks. To open any further allows anglers to take steelhead off spawning beds. Close for conservation purposes, not after the tribal commercial season has concluded. (WA State Council of TU and Grays Harbor Chapter of TU)

Opposed - handle by emergency rule. Wild run is improving. (3)

Hard to comment not knowing why it's on the table at this time. You must have proof that a huge decline in wild fish is occurring. Is the river healthy? Should it be closed to all, including tribes? Support the current rules. They are fair.

Doesn't go far enough to protect wild fish. Selective gear rules should be added - if not effective, a full closure is in order.

Closure should be handled by e-reg, when necessary. Wild run is improving.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#105 JACKSON LAKE OPENING DAY SEASON

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
JACKSON LAKE (Pierce Co)	All Game Fish	Last sat in April - Oct 31	Statewide Rules		

EXPLANATION: This proposal provides an "opening day" season for Jackson Lake. There is very little fishing effort at this lake during the winter, but there is a consistent problem with vandalism at the access site. Closing the access and the lake during the winter months should help alleviate this problem.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#106 SATSOP AND WYNOOCHEE RIVERS

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WYNOOCHEE RIVER (Grays Harbor Co.) from mouth to 7400 Line Bridge above mouth of Schafer Creek	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept. 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. No more than 1 wild adult COHO. No more than 1 adult CHINOOK. Release all CHUM.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			
ALL SPECIES -Motors prohibited upstream of the City of Aberdeen's water intake dam. Single point barbless hooks required Aug. 16-Nov. 30.					
from 7400 Line Bridge above mouth of Schafer Creek upstream	TROUT	June 1-Oct 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Dec 1 - Mar 31			ALL SPECIES - Selective gear rules. Catch and Release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			
ALL SPECIES - motors prohibited. CLOSED WATERS - from Wynoochee Dam downstream 400' and from barrier dam near Gridsale downstream 400'.					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SATSOP RIVER AND EAST FORK (Grays Harbor Co.) from mouth to bridge at Schafer State Park	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. No more than 1 wild adult COHO. No more than 1 adult CHINOOK. Release all CHUM.
ALL SPECIES - Motors prohibited upstream of the mouth of the East Fork. Night closure, non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Aug. 16-Nov. 30.					
from bridge at Schafer State Park upstream	TROUT	June 1-Oct 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - Motors prohibited. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Aug 16 - Oct 31.					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SATSOP RIVER, MIDDLE FORK (Turnow Branch) and WEST FORK (Grays Harbor Co) mouth to Cougar Smith Road	TROUT	June 1 - Feb 28	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb 28	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - Motors prohibited. Night closure, non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Aug. 16-Nov. 30.					
SATSOP RIVER (cont) from cougar Smith Road upstream	TROUT	June 1-Oct 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - Motors prohibited. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Aug 16 - Oct 31.					

EXPLANATION: This proposal makes it unlawful to fish from a floating device equipped with a motor on the Wynoochee River above the City of Aberdeen's water intake dam, and on the Satsop River above the confluence of the East and West Forks. These small rivers are not suitable for fishing from power boats, and can be fished from shore or from drift boats. On the Wynoochee River, a winter fishery has been added to provide the opportunity to catch and release wild steelhead or retain hatchery steelhead. The closure for the month of November will protect spawning chinook and chum salmon.

TESTIMONY: *Before the proposal for a motor ban is a state regulation there need to be state approved boat launch sites constructed. On the Satsop: EF Satsop would need one around Cook Creek and one around the West Fork area. Wynoochee: would need sites in the Shafer Creek area and in the Carter Creek area.*

Power boats should not be allowed above Black Creek on the Wynoochee River. Once a boat came so close to my drift boat that the wake made my boat scratch its side on a log. The Wynoochee is too small for powerboats above this site. I have not fished the Satsop but I have seen the river and it is pretty darn small.

There should be a ban to sleds above the water intake on the Wynoochee River. That part of the river can get real thin, and is not safe for drifters when sledders come around a corner.

Do not support. Why are these rivers more suitable to fishing from a drift boat? No navigational dangers for power boats more than any other river. Am not aware of any accidents. Public access is a bigger problem each year. No conservation issue at stake - just a special interest group.

I would much appreciate the reasons for the proposed limitations. I have fished these rivers with my 14' sled for quite some time. I know the rivers are more crowded but never had a problem until the last few years when the guides hit these rivers with big sleds and lots of horsepower. Why the ban, why the water intake for the cut-off point, etc.

In favor of this proposal. (7)

This kind of regulation is the only rational way to enhance the experience for everyone involved.

Support proposal. Areas targeted are too small for these types of boats. Should also include a portion of the Humptulips.

Support proposal to extend the fishing opportunity to include a C&R fishery with selective gear rules to the Wynoochee above the 7400 Line Bridge.

Proposal addresses several needs that are well justified, especially the power boat restriction.

Strongly opposed. No scientific evidence shows motor boats cause damage to fish or habitat.

Strongly opposed. This is a discriminating, illegal and completely bogus proposal. The Supreme Court ruling "Hartman vs. State" in 1974 underlined the fact that WDFW has no jurisdiction when deciding what kind of boat can or cannot be used to fish from in Washington's waterways. We all pay for licenses and should all be allowed to fish.

For Satsop River - this rule cannot happen too soon. Have had encounters with jet boats while fighting King salmon. Chum run on the Satsop seems robust, especially in 2001 - why eliminate their harvest? Just puts more pressure on other species - should be allowed to take one chum - anglers will follow the rule.

Satsop River is navigable with a power boat. If power boats can damage spawning beds, so can drift boats by dragging their anchors and the bottoms of their boats through the area. If habitat is the concern, the rule should be no boats at all. Brood Stock program is very successful. Is it not the mission of WDFW to manage the fishery for all fishermen? I don't believe it is your decision what type of boat

we use. Would like to see the decision based on what is best for the habitat, not who has money for lobbying WDFW.

Wynoochee River - unimproved boat launch site at Carter Creek closed to public, road to Schafer Creek blocked at bridge, no WDFW boat access sites have been built on the Wynoochee since 1968. Satsop River - Lost WDF launch site on the west side of the river below the highway bridge sometime in the early 70's, lost WDG launch site, WF Satsop in the past 10 years, new site built (not by WDF) east side of river by highway, no WDFW launch site on Satsop at all - was one proposed below the WF on the west side, but was never built. Disagree with the statement that "these small rivers are nor suitable for fishing from power boats. Have used a 14' sled on the Wynoochee from mouth to water intake, and from White Bridge to just above the "crossover bridge", and up to above Carter Creek. Have used sled on Satsop from mouth to just about the Turnow Branch. Never had a problem with the ability to run safely. Always enough room for both drift boats and sled to be able to handle the river safely. Before more restrictions are placed, WDFW needs to provide access on the Wynoochee around Schafer and Carter creeks, with a boat launch and parking, and access on the Satsop around Cook Creek, and somewhere close to the WF, with a boat launch and parking. There is less and less access for the general public. Private property owners and timber companies have closed off many access sites. WDFW enforcement person who lives across from the White Bridge boat launch has tried to limit access by placing logs on the gravel bar. Is this the reason for the proposal?

NW Marine Trade Association opposes - unnecessary restriction. Supports adding winter fishery to Wynoochee.

Wynoochee - C&R fishery would be on the spawning bed of chinook, coho, chum and wild steelhead. Do not support any winter fishery above the 7400 line. Maybe should even be closed for summer steelhead as a refuge until spawning time - but these are an introduced run, generated from Skamania stock.

Maybe should open for summer steelhead. Most damage from power boats takes place below the intake. Do not support motor ban. Would support a boat length - no longer than 15.9 feet and a horsepower restriction of 45 hp or jet pump for upriver of the confluence with the Chehalis. Satsop- do not support ban - would support same restrictions as proposed above for the Wynoochee. From the confluence with the Chehalis, upstream. Only access points are Black Creek and the White Bridge on Wynoochee and Hwy 12 bridge on the Satsop. If the ban is enacted only those with personal contacts with landowners will be able to fish. WDFW has let the fishing public down by not providing access, now you are limiting even more. (WA State Council of TU and Grays Harbor Chapter of TU)

Agree for the Wynoochee. Nooksack is also too small for motorized boats.

Opposed. Have fished these rivers with a 14' boat since 1979 and they are the same size today. There is less and less access, all you see now is "no trespassing." Lots of drift boats and guide boats now and they all want to be first to the hole. Only alternative is to limit the horsepower to 40 or 50 hp.

Support the motor ban. Do not support the catch and release fishery.

Disagree with any proposal to limit the use of motors while fishing. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, how would you help me (or other disabled anglers) fish in areas that would be restricted?(3)

Elma Game Club believes this issue needs to be dealt with using county regulations to limit boat size and horsepower.

Oppose. Will be construed as discrimination against one group. The real issue is one group of fishers trying to eliminate the fishing access/privileges of another group. Part of the issue is guides. Common courtesy is needed. Government regulation is seldom an effective means of controlling human emotions or actions when competition exists for a resource. Has the potential to become a civil rights issue.

King County Outdoor Sports Council is opposed to opening on upper river. Sanctuaries have proven very important. There is no good data to assess the impact on spawning fish.

FAX with 37 signatures - "We the undersigned do not agree with the new proposal of no boats with motors on the Satsop and Wynoochee rivers.

Do not support proposal. Disagree with proposal and explanation. If motors cannot be used on the river at all, would support only when river flows are low, such as April or May through October.

However, not necessary because no one fishes when the water gets too low. Shore access is limited and many holes are not accessible by foot. This does not maximize fishing opportunity (WDFW goal). It is discriminatory against a whole group of fishermen. All user groups have a handful of individuals who will make trouble. Most anglers are courteous to other fishers. If a bank angler gets swamped by a jet boat, it's because he was too stubborn to move back a few steps out of deeper water. Jet boats don't sneak up on you. Motorized boats cause less damage to the gravel than bank fishermen. If it's noise you're worried about, why was the rule not proposed for the entire river? If this rule is passed, what river will be next? If you can use a motor to run up the river and then get out of it to fish, I don't understand the reason for the rule. All this stops is fishing from an anchored boat - I must get out to fish. This is no different than fishing from a drift boat. A modification of the proposed rule might be: a boat restriction of 18 or 18 feet with motors of less than 100 horsepower. Or, restrict motorized boats during specific months of the year. Or restrict motorized boats from going more than a few hundred feet above the middle fork of the Satsop.(2)

Do not support. Concerned where this rule is going - what rivers would be next? Never had a problem while bank fishing. Have there really been accidents? Seems very unfair and discriminatory.

Disagree with proposal. See no need to put additional restrictions on these rivers. Bank fishers cause more harm to the habitat than motorized boats. They leave trash at access points. These are not small rivers in the late fall and winter, only in the summer when no one fishes with a boat.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

Do not support for EF Satsop. Looked up unsuitable in the dictionary and it does not apply. Will we be banned from the whole river next year? Then other rivers? Power boats do not harm the fishery. Special interest group will benefit and disabled anglers will be hurt.

Opposed to opening in upper river for C&R.(6)

Against opening the upper Wynoochee - need as a spawning sanctuary. Hatchery fish are removed by means of a trap at the base of Wynoochee dam. Support proposal to ban boats with motors to eliminate conflicts and ensure safety.

Support proposal to ban motors. Rivers are small - areas are heavily fished.

Strongly against the motor ban. (2)

Opposed to proposal. If motorized boats cause damage close to all. Drift boaters can cause more spawning ground damage. Don't change based on only one vocal group.

Opposed. Access is too limited.

MODIFICATION: The winter fishery proposed in the Wynoochee (December 1 - March 31 above the 7400 Line Bridge) should be limited to no fishing from floating devices. This will allow the additional fishing opportunity, but lessen the impact of the fishery.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Modified.

ACTION TAKEN: Modified proposal for the new winter fishery in the Wynoochee above the 7400 Line Bridge was adopted. At the request of Grays Harbor County, the proposal limiting fishing from boats with motors on the upper Satsop and Wynoochee rivers was not adopted, with the

understanding that a local public process to address boat use in general, not just fishing from boats with motors on these rivers, will occur.

#107 SILENT, TARBOO, AND TEAL LAKES

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SILENT LAKE (Jefferson Co)	All Game Fish	Last sat in April - Oct 31	Statewide Rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TEAL LAKE (Jefferson Co)	All Game Fish	Last sat in April - Oct 31	Statewide Rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TARBOO LAKE (Jefferson Co)	All Game Fish	Last sat in April - Nov 30	Statewide Rules		Internal combustion engines prohibited Landlocked SALMON rules apply.
	SALMON	Last sat in April - Nov 30			

EXPLANATION: This proposal bans the use of internal combustion engines while fishing on these three lakes. They are all small lakes, easily accessed with electric engines or oars, and because of their small size pollution from gas engines can become a problem.

TESTIMONY: Support. (2)

Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) supports proposal.

Disagree with any proposal to limit the use of motors while fishing. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, how would you help me (or other disabled anglers) fish in areas that would be restricted?(3)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#108 SF SKOKOMISH RIVER

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SKOKOMISH RIVER, SOUTH FORK (Mason Co) from mouth to Rule Creek	All Game Fish	June 1 - Feb 28			Catch and release except up to 2 hatchery STEELHEAD may be retained.
CLOSED WATERS: from Church Creek to Rule Creek					
from Rule Creek upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	12"	2	ALL SPECIES: selective gear rules.

EXPLANATION: This proposal closes an area of the river where bull trout spawn. The SF Skokomish bull trout population appears to be at a critical level, so this protection may help it to survive.

TESTIMONY: *Support.*
Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted.

#109 SOL DUC CATCH AND RELEASE SEASON

PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SOL DUC RIVER (Clallam Co.) from mouth to concrete pump station at Sol Duc Hatchery	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	TROUT - 1 wild STEELHEAD per day may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30. SALMON - no more than 2 adults. SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO and wild adult CHINOOK release. SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Mar. 1-June. 30	12"	6	
		July 1-Aug. 31	12"	6	
		Sept. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	
In addition to the above rules, there is a season limit of 10 wild STEELHEAD from the Quillayute River System (Apr. 1, 2001-Mar. 31, 2002). The Quillayute River System means the Bogachiel, Calawah, Dickey, Sol Duc and Quillayute rivers.					
from concrete pump station at Sol Duc Hatchery to Hwy. 101 Bridge downstream of Snider Creek	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30 June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2 Statewide rules	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Nov. 1-Apr. 30. (continued on next page)

from Hwy. 101 Bridge downstream of Snider Creek to Olympic National Park boundary	TROUT	June 1-Oct 31	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - catch and release and selective gear rules. No fishing from floating devices.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Nov 1 - Apr 30			

EXPLANATION: This proposal provides a catch and release season above the Hwy 101 Bridge below Snider Creek from November 1 - April 31. Wild winter steelhead escapements on the Sol Duc have been extremely good. Because of the success of the current management approach, additional catch and release opportunity can be provided without harm to the resource.

TESTIMONY: *Disagree with a rule for any fishing on the Sol Duc above Hwy 101 at Snider Creek. Disagree. This is an excellent spawning sanctuary.(6)*

Support extending the C&R season as long as the rest of the Sol Duc river's areas stay intact. Also support no fishing from a floating device to the salmon hatchery deadline. The season should be shorter (ending April 15) to protect spawning wild steelhead.

Once these fish reach a certain spot in the river they should be left alone to mature and spawn. It is their right granted them by nature. People consistently violate the rules of the selective fishery above the hatchery - there is not enough enforcement. This will just lead to the destruction of more wild fish.

This impacts an area currently protected as a spawning sanctuary. Opposed (2)

Support strongly.

Oppose.

Do not support. Carrying capacity estimate for the Quillayute is obviously in error. Area is solely used for spawning - not a migrating corridor.

Support - lengthening C&R seasons provides opportunity and economic advantages.

Section should remain closed for a refuge and spawning. Sol Duc has the best wild winter stock, but it is still missing the major early component. This is a small clear stream with longest beach and boat access of any Peninsula river - should leave well enough alone.

Opposed. Please keep the closure. This portion of the river provides a sanctuary.(2)

Opposed to opening the upper river to any type of fishing for steelhead. We have healthy runs because this area is a sanctuary.(34)

Opposed - wild fish spawn here.(2)

RCW 77.12.047 says the Commission may adopt, amend, or repeal rules for specifying the times, areas, defining gear and other methods that may be used to take wildlife, food fish or shellfish. It does not provide authority to prohibit motor boats on any river in Washington state. State Supreme Ct decision Hartman vs State Game Commission said the Commission may not make this type of rule.

Opposed. C&R should only be used to protect wild fish when necessary, when necessary to close a river, then it should be closed.

Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers Club (64 members) supports proposal.

In favor or proposal.

Vehemently opposed. Area is a major spawning area for wild anadromous fish. Fishers would target spawning fish. Not enough enforcement - area is remote. WDFW cannot take credit for the healthy run here. Same practices have not been successful of the Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish or other rivers. Give credit to the untouched spawning habitat.

Washington Fly Fishing Club supports proposal unconditionally.

King County Outdoor Sports Council is opposed. Sanctuaries have proven very important. There is no good data to assess the impact on spawning fish.

Oppose fishing in the sanctuary. There is ample room between 101 Bridge and salmon hatchery for anglers to get away from the crowd.

Oppose - no support from those who fish the Sol Duc. If you must, open it, close Jan 31. We need this area as a sanctuary.

Disagree - prime spawning area. Plenty of fishing opportunity below the bridge. Opening will lead to walking on redds and poaching.

Disappointed by misleading wording.

Support proposal. Some of my favorite places to fish are above Snyder Creek. Not suitable for boats, so that would limit the number of fishers.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Do not adopt. Based on public testimony, many anglers would prefer this area to remain a spawning sanctuary. In addition, there are a number of areas on the Quillayute River system that currently offer catch and release opportunity.

ACTION TAKEN: Proposal was not adopted.

COMMENTS ON OTHER SUBJECTS

In favor of all the proposals.

Concerned over wastage from tribal gillnets on the Skokomish River, and geoduck in Hood Canal.

Hoodsport Hatchery chum fishery is very popular. Why not create a run of sockeye for a summer fishery?

Received an information package on crab and was amazed by the section on crab mortality of softshell crab. Pertinent facts should be in the fishing pamphlet.

Current dividing line for salmon fisheries in Hood Canal is Ayock Point, for the protection of wild chinook. Should be moved to Triton Cove because the State Park there is the only public access point to the area. Ayock Point is 8 miles from Triton Cove, a long run for the average Hood Canal fishing boat. The Hamma Hamma river would be the only river affected and they have never had a chinook run.

This is going on the 4th year or longer for no chinook or silver salmon fisheries in the Humptulips River. The Game Department admitted 4 years ago that they allowed the tribal fishery to overfish the river and the recovery time was set at 4 years. This year the chinook return was higher than the year when the fishery was stopped. This fishery should now be like the Satsop but closing chinook on October 20 to allow big native chinook to return. The hatchery fish come in up to the third week in October, then later the native fish return.

I am very optimistic about the general direction of the department's proposals, particularly the freshwater trout proposals.

We must look at our policies for hatchery fish. No, we do not need to remove all hatcheries. They provide a source of steelhead for anglers who must kill fish. What we cannot do is dump huge numbers of smolts into rivers that cannot support them.

I like your effort to make some rules more simple and standardized. Do it.

You allow chinook to be kept from shore as long as it is a pier, such as West Seattle or Edmonds. You should be standard and allow chinook to be kept from shore even if there is no pier.

Be consistent, simple, and standardized.

At Battleground Lake, can't something be done to keep the SCUBA diving classes from using the lake? They should be prohibited from any body of water smaller than 500 acres, or just the ocean - they scare all the fish.

Salmon fishing in rivers - general. Salmon runs are still in dire need of recovery. Saltwater restrictions are, in general fair and adequate. However six salmon, two of which may be adults in streams is excessive. When salmon reach spawning streams, they should be left alone. Many salmon caught in upper reaches are not fit to eat. Please consider the general rule of three salmon, one adult either native or hatchery from July 1 - January 1.

Proposal: convert North Windmill, Virgin, and McManaman lakes (in the Columbia Wildlife Refuge to year-round seasons with selective fishery (limit=1) rules. Lost more participation in Fly Fishing Only and selective gear rules lakes over the last several decades. Currently there is little opportunity of this type in the Potholes area. This proposal would bring more fishing effort to the new selective fisheries.

Proposal: ban the retention of any bass over 12" in lakes managed to balance bluegill and bass populations. These lakes include Hutchinson, Shiner, Coyote Creek Ponds, Bobcat Creek Ponds, and Stan Coffin. These lakes will remain in balance only if there are enough large bass to balance the bluegill population. Promoting retention of smaller fish and release of the larger ones is crucial.

Proposal: Convert Halfmoon, Morgan and Deadman Lakes (seep lakes along McManaman Road west of Othello) to multi species or even bluegill/bass lakes similar to Hutchinson and Shiner (which they flow into via Hayes, Coyote, and Bobcat Creeks). All these lakes have been recently rehabilitated but still have good numbers of stunted bluegill in the shallows.

Would like to see WDFW provide some C&R, selective areas on the lower portions of peninsula rivers.

Proposal: Establish a single (nominal) rate for a replacement license and note in the pamphlet. Seems unfair to have to pay full price now that the WILD system is up and running. Do not mind the existing license fees. For 2001 for freshwater fishing licenses - Idaho charged \$74.50, Montana charged \$50, Blackfeet Indian Reservation charged \$60, Coville Indian Reservation charged \$35, and WDFW charged \$40.

A change is needed in the non-buoyant lure restriction definition. What's a sinking lure? If you fish a sinker and bait below a bobber, is this a sinking or floating lure? Is the bobber part of the lure? If your terminal gear is a sinker with a large corkie, is the lure floating or sinking? What is needed is a clear

understanding of what we're trying to prevent. Can you use two single barbless hooks on the leader? I don't understand the rule so I can't propose a way to fix it.

The closer you get to the state's major population centers (ie King County), the more restrictive the rules for salmon and steelhead fishing become. For Green River Chinook, the river remains closed despite large returns the last three years - why? For Lake Washington sockeye, a large return was counted in 2001, but no fishery resulted. Fishing occurs only about every 6 years when a huge run returns (>300,000). There is no correlation between this large return and subsequent fish run, so requiring that large number makes no sense. For the Lake Sammamish/Issaquah Creek fishery, there have been large returns of chinook since 1999, but still the fishery is closed. What does WDFW do with all these dead and dying fish? I live nearby and want to fish in my own neighborhood.

Jetboat anglers are a growing problem on the Skykomish River. Please make the section of river from the mouth of the Sultan River to the Highbridge river park and boat ramp no power boats and no fishing from a floating craft. This would give wade and bank anglers some good fishing water. This would still give the powerboat anglers over 20 miles of the river to fish. This is a matter of safety.

Not true that only wild fish return late. "Christmas hatchery fish" targeted in the Snohomish system by tribal nets. WDFW allowed C&R on spring spawners. Thank God they closed it. Summer steelheading is outstanding. Most come to small headwaters which are closed to C&R. Molesting spawners is obscene.

Very pleased with the progressive approach many of the proposed rules represent. The development of catch and release fisheries is more important than ever, because they provide immediate, measurable, sustainable improvements to fisheries. We recognize an economic benefit from longer seasons and increased tourism.

Disagree with any changes banning the use of motorized boats. Under the American Disabilities Act I would like to ask you how you would help me fish in these areas that would be restricted? Because of my disabilities I have motors on all of my boats. I can't walk in to a fishing area or stand for a long time. I have a handicapped license plate, and an assisted handicapped hunting and fishing license. I abide by the rules. My boats and trailers are licensed in Washington. I have been under the assumption that I could fish all open waters of Washington. As long as I abide by the rules won't you please strike the changes to the 2002 rules?

Note with approval the proposed rules do not contemplate any change of the existing selective fishery rules at Lone lake. If any changes are proposed, I oppose them.

Member of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers - they submitted a proposal to eliminate "trout" fishery in the E Lewis and Washougal rivers. Anglers are catching residualized steelhead - they should not be subject to a bait fishery. Disappointed that the proposal was not printed for consideration.

Newspaper clipping - AP story stating that the State Supreme Court ruled that the State Game Commission does not have the authority to prohibit fishing from boats equipped with motors.

Born on Willapa River - 3rd generation farmer there. Don't see salmon and steelhead spawning in the lower river like in the 30s and 40s. Native fish are harvested by all users. 95% of commercial fishers are hobby fishers and have other jobs. Have a small tree farm - now can't harvest within 150' of a stream -

new rules say 200' and must build a fence. Commercial fishermen fish in late October and November with large mesh nets and take all the mature fish. Unfair to have harvest restrictions for the trees when commercial fishers take all the native fish. Still allow use of sprays that kill plants and cause erosion and kill native fish. Suggestions: Razor clams - good job - maybe have more days when tides are in daylight or holidays or weekends. Steelhead - close season 1st March until natives are built up. Shellfish - never have a season when they are spawning. Stop all spraying. Makes it impossible for native fish that rear in the streams to survive. Never have a commercial sturgeon season when salmon are in the river. Last year volunteers put over 12,000 carcasses in the Willapa - will do even more this year - for nutrient enhancement of the stream.

Have submitted several proposals and never received a response or listing in the comments - how will I be assured that my comments will be listened to?

Would like to see a provision in the crab rules to allow wading for crabs with a rake or dip net year round or at least during the fall and winter months where crabbing can be done during the night time using lanterns. The last two years allotments have been taken early and the activity has been shut down. Early take should be restricted. Opening on certain days of the week (Friday and Saturday like this year) doesn't always coincide with the low tides needed to get them in this manner in the Hood Canal area.

This year crab season opened too late for waders in areas 7 and 8-1 because July and August are too warm and the crabs go to deeper waters we cannot reach. When it opens along with the pots we don't have a chance. Best times are April, May, and June. Most softshells in July and August. Pot fishers take more than their daily limit - waders don't. Please consider us next year.

Closing the Sol Duc hatchery - area is economically depressed. Closing the hatchery and the fishing will greatly reduce the flow of people and dollars spent in the area. Money spent on the hatchery is small compared to the money generated from the fishery.

Distressed that there was no mention of the boundary change of the Discovery Bay shrimp district that was implemented by emergency rule last year, despite overwhelmingly negative response at the public meetings. Since the change is not included in this process, the Commission doesn't have a chance to hear the issue and the public cannot testify. The Commission and the public have a right to know what is going on.

At the shrimp meeting this spring in Gardner there was 100% opposition to changing the boundary of the Discovery Bay shrimp district. Staff agreed, but when the rule book came out, it had been changed. This did not go through the rule process. Now Commercials can fish up to the mouth of Discovery Bay. Start date was changed to middle of June, now it is back to 1st Saturday. The reason we don't shrimp after the spot season closes is that we still get about 90% spot shrimp in our pots.

Tacoma Water and Seattle PUD asks consideration of a proposal for the Green River. Green and Cedar River watersheds are controlled and closed to general public access to meet DOH regulations for unfiltered water supplies. Although unauthorized persons intruding into these watersheds are subject to trespass violations, these watersheds for the most part are not closed to sportfishing. We believe a sportfishing closure would provide a greater deterrent to illegal entry. Similar closure to hunting in the Green River watershed has greatly reduced trespassing and poaching. Request adoption of a regulation that closed the Green River to fishing from RM 60.4 (USGS stream gauge 12106700) to RM 82.6 at the

BN/SF railroad bridge, along with all lakes and tributary streams within the hydrological boundary of this reach of the Green River.

You can keep 4 coho in the Dungeness hatchery or wild and don't have a place to mark H or W on the catch record card. This is poor management.

Why change the seasons, size and catch limits when runs go up or down? Why? Why not let the runs get larger and stronger each year? Set, and keep, tight limits until we get back on track, then tinker to provide another fish or two for the taking. We have to continue to get the tribes on board with non-tribal regulations. Unless we work together, what good will tribal fishing rights be?

Not enough salmon are dying in our rivers - rivers are too clean in this respect. Hatcheries aren't enough. Need to do more to protect wild fish runs - may already be too late.

Should change the term catch and release to hook and release. Make it mandatory that all fish in a hook and release fishery stay in the water at all times. Limit the use of large weave monofilament nets in these fisheries. Limit gear to a single fly or lure with one single barbless hook.

Should eliminate hatchery steelhead stocking on small streams (wild steelhead escapement of 600 fish or less). Hatchery fish have too much impact to the small populations in these streams.

Standardize the seasons on regions of rivers. This would spread fishing pressure. Current seasons focus everyone to a spot. Seasons could be staggered from year-to-year to protect certain rivers. C&R means well but most people can't tell the difference between species. Eliminate lead weights - too many left in the river each year. Eliminate bait - this is not sport. Haven't seen a game warden all year.

Allow anglers to use floats while fishing in any river for any type of fish. Puget Sound needs more boat ramps. San Juan Islands should be used as a natural hatchery for ling cod and bottom fish.

Enforcement of rules is a joke now. Bait is used on the Sol Duc in the winter. Bait and gear are used on the Hoh in the fly fishing only area. Closures on upper Dungeness and Graywolf are ignored. Guides on the Queets ignore salmon closures.

Washington Fly Fishing Club encourages WDFW to explore the idea of graduated license fees for youth 14-18. Oregon has seen an increase in youth licenses with this system.

"How to release fish" should be moved to a more prominent place in the pamphlet. Many anglers don't know how to release a fish and did not know this was in the pamphlet.

Olympic National Park comments on Lake Cushman chinook. This issue was raised last year, but was not part of this year's proposals. Concerned over the recreational limit of 5 chinook per day. Adult chinook numbers have remained consistently low in the NF Skokomish River from 1993 to 2001. Bull trout counts have also declined. The landlocked chinook are now considered a threatened species under ESA. Carcasses are needed for stream enrichment, and although their genetic origin is undetermined, we need to address this question before harvest occurs. Request that directed fisheries on this stock be terminated until conclusive information regarding their origin is gathered. Propose a meeting of the

Olympic Peninsula Biologist to discuss research and recovery options for chinook. Propose another assessment based on non-lethal DNA analysis and creel surveys.

Have fished Royal Lake for 15 years. Best quality lake. Have caught largemouth bass over 8 lbs, walleye over 10 lbs and trout in the 5 lb range. Washed out road makes it difficult to access. Don't want a lake full of ½ lb bass - Potholes area is full of them.

This year the Umatilla tribe had to close their land to tribal hunting because they had killed a number of big herd bulls along with antlerless ones that got in the way. The herd was devastated. Tribes are not conservationists. I would be arrested if I failed to comply with their rules. WDFW has become a political football. Sportsmen and women are having trouble paying fees and for licenses. Hope to see WDFW move to center where people of the state are more equal.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers submitted proposal to protect wild steelhead in t local rivers, EF Lewis and Washougal, by eliminating the "trout" fishery with a daily limit of 2 fish. Snorkel surveys showed very few fish, probably residualized steelhead. Why was it not printed for consideration?

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest notes the Twisp River is closed year round, mouth to SF. If this is necessary to protect steelhead, spring chinook and bull trout, then the closure should extend to the wilderness boundary and include the lower .5 mile of North Creek, as this section in very important bull trout habitat. Consider reversing the rules for Lake Creek and open mouth to lake outlet with selective gear rules to protect migratory bull trout. Review Lost River rules - suggest closure from Monument to Cougar Lake.

Courts have granted each of us equal rights and privileges. Non-Indian commercial salmon fisheries must be conducted so as to not unreasonably deny equitable sharing opportunities to other citizens. Department cannot deviate from this. Where did we get the right to trade chinook or coho to Canada for sockeye? Can people with financial conflicts be appointed as commissioners? Do you have to agree to fire the director if the governor asks? Why do you define a 2 ½ " square as being 5"? Why are commercial nets allowed in Area 10 before the sport fishery? Tribes do not report their catch so you should allow a sport fishery starting Aug 15 through Nov 30. Also allowed purse seines in this area Oct 15 before the sport fishery started Nov 1. How is this fair? Why is a hearing on Puget Sound sport being held in Vancouver WA? Impossible for most of us to testify. Why is the Federal Management Council dictating rules to me? Have been charged \$34.00 a page for public disclosure when the legal charge is 15¢ a page. I want a \$68.00 refund.

Multiple hook ups, overplaying and tiring of fish and mishandling for photo sessions cause excessive mortality and low spawning rates of those fish that do survive. Wading through spawning beds is another concern. Would like to see upper reaches closed to provide sanctuaries.

Pacific Power seems to think they own access rights to the Lewis River watershed from Eagle Cliff bridge to the mouth. WDFW should help fishermen fight this foreign owned company. Eliminate all boat launch and day use fees on the entire Lewis River watershed. Original contract provided free access. WDFW needs to put forth a legal document to protect water surfaces for hunters and fishermen. Pacific Power should honor our access decal as a free pass to all recreation areas. Do not want Pacific Power to own or operate a boat launch at the west end of Swift Reservoir - should be built on state land and Pacific Power should pay for it. DNR has taken over the lease to the Swift Forest Campground. This is a

legal move by Pacific Power to secure lands surrounding Lewis River watershed to obtain total control. WDFW should help secure free access.

Skagit River Chum salmon - why was season closed Oct 31 above Concrete? Can this section be open to C&R on chum? Why or why not? WDFW offices are very poor about returning phone calls from voice mail messages. Please post these questions and answers on your web site.

No catch and release on Skykomish River springs - spawners should be left alone.