

10/11

# Concise Explanatory Statement

(for the adoption of new sportfishing rules)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Fish Program  
Sportfishing Rules Committee  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98506-1091

March, 2000

# Housekeeping

---

## Marine Area 8-1 Boundary

**PROPOSAL:** Change the reference to Saratoga Pass light #2 to Saratoga Pass light #4.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal is not intended to change the boundary of Area 8-1, just to correct the light number to the one used in the most recent NOAA chart.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Drano Lake Boundary

**PROPOSAL:** Change the description of Drano Lake from “downstream of markers on a point of land downstream and across from the federal salmon hatchery...” to “downstream of markers on point of land downstream and across from Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery....”

**EXPLANATION:** There are two federal salmon hatcheries in this area. This proposal is an attempt to clarify the rules.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Rock Creek Identification

**PROPOSAL:** Change listing from “Rock Creek below Landsburg (King Co) - Closed Waters” to “Rock Creek , Cedar River trib., below Landsburg Dam (King Co) - Closed Waters.”

**EXPLANATION:** This change would allow anglers and enforcement officers easier identification of the correct Rock Creek, since there are three creeks with that name within a few miles of each other in this area.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Daylight Savings Time**

**PROPOSAL:** Define the start of daylight savings time as the First Sunday in April.

**Explanation:** Currently, daylight savings time is erroneously defined by rule as beginning the last Sunday in February.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Bass and Walleye Tournaments**

Several minor changes are proposed for the bass and walleye tournament rules to accommodate the needs of tournament bass and walleye anglers while continuing to protect the valuable warmwater resource. Changes in the daily and size limits for bass and walleye are proposed for many waters across the state in this regulation cycle (see statewide section). Since bass and walleye tournaments strive for 100% live release, contest anglers would be allowed to hold up to 5 of their largest bass or walleye in their livewells during competition, regardless of the daily or size limits for the particular water being fished. However, it should be noted that no more than 6 walleyes may be held in a livewell at a time. Walleye contest anglers would also be required to fish from boats clearly identified as competitors, as is the rule currently for bass tournament anglers.

**TESTIMONY:**

Is there any chance of holding off on bass and walleye tournaments during their spawning season? There are lots of eggs being lost from shock and transporting fish. Also, walleye need more care in handling than bass. Six walleye in a livewell may be too many.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Opposed to different rules for tournament anglers vs other anglers. The 100% live release argument does not compensate for the huge impact to fish being transplanted from their chosen habitat to other sites on a given lake.

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee supports proposal

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

Borderline Bass Contenders approves of the proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Grayling Managed as Trout**

**PROPOSAL:** Add grayling to the list of fish managed as trout. The statewide rule for grayling is currently no minimum size and no daily limit. This proposal would include grayling as part of an angler's trout daily limit.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal is really just a housekeeping measure because Granite Lake, the only lake that currently has a grayling population, requires catch and release of grayling.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

No need for change

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Negro Creek**

**PROPOSAL:** Delete listing as "closed waters" April 1 - June 15 under Sprague Lake.

**EXPLANATION:** This is a housekeeping change to resolve conflicting rules, because Negro Creek is also listed as open year-round in both the rules and the pamphlet. The year-round rule is the proper one. The closure was originally put in place to protect Lahontan cutthroat that entered in large numbers during spawning. These fish are no longer present, so the closure is unnecessary.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

# Statewide

---

## Possession Limit

**Proposal:** Change the possession rules for foodfish to allow anglers to fillet salmon in the field after they have been brought ashore and the angler has stopped fishing for the day.

**Explanation:** The current rule requires anglers to maintain salmon in such a condition that the size and the presence or absence of the adipose fin can be determined while in the field, except when being prepared for immediate consumption. This proposal would remove that requirement, if the angler has brought the fish ashore and stopped fishing for the day ( or when being prepared for immediate consumption). Dolly Varden/bull trout and sturgeon would still need to be kept so that the length could be determined at all times when in the field (not at your permanent residence). Other fish with a species, size, weight, or sex restriction would still need to be maintained so that it can be determined if the restriction has been met until the angler brings the catch ashore and has stopped fishing for the day or when being prepared for immediate consumption.

### TESTIMONY:

Approve (2)

I see no reason to allow filleting of salmon in the field after it is brought ashore. Enforcing this subjective rule will be nearly impossible and it is open to easy abuse. Preparing for immediate consumption as already in the regs is option enough.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion. Hard to tell when the angler has stopped fishing for the day.

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

South King County Trout Unlimited approves

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed - allow salmon and steelhead to be filleted in the field after the angler has brought the fish ashore and stopped fishing for the day - Dolly Varden/bull trout and sturgeon remain as species that may not be filleted in the field.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Sturgeon -Statewide Catch Record Card**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, a catch record card for sturgeon is only required in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and the Columbia River drainage. This proposal would make the requirement statewide.

**EXPLANATION:** Sturgeon harvest is increasing in Washington waters where the sturgeon Catch Record Card is not required. (i.e. Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca tributaries). Voluntary tag returns indicate that these sturgeon are primarily of lower Columbia River origin. Long-term sustainable management of sturgeon in Washington requires full harvest accountability.

### **TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee supports proposal

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports proposal

Support proposal

This puts the responsibility for harvest accountability on the angler, at additional cost. When the sport anglers quota for the lower Columbia is caught the Dept will close their fishery and let the commercials take the rest.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Leaving Oversized Sturgeon in the Water**

**PROPOSAL:** Anglers are not allowed to remove oversized sturgeon from the water.

**EXPLANATION:** In order to have rules in concurrent Columbia River waters the same in Washington as in Oregon, Washington proposes to adopt the rule that Oregon has already adopted, which states "All oversize, undersize, and unwanted legal size sturgeon must be released immediately unharmed into the water. Oversize sturgeon cannot be removed totally or in part from the water."

### **TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee supports proposal

Support proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Sturgeon Annual Limit**

**PROPOSAL:** Anglers would be restricted to a yearly limit of 10 sturgeon from the Columbia River, even if they had both an Oregon and a Washington license.

**EXPLANATION:** Washington proposes to adopt the rule that Oregon has already adopted which states "anglers are restricted to one daily catch limit and one annual catch limit from the Columbia River, even if licensed in Oregon and Washington." Since the Columbia River sturgeon population is one population residing in two states, the two-state yearly limit makes biological sense.

### **TESTIMONY:**

Annual limit of 10 fish seems more than generous. Most recreational anglers would approve a reduction.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports proposal

Columbia Pacific Angler's Association opposes proposal. Was proposed by Oregon - not supported by WDFW staff of WA users. Not effective, unenforceable, violates spirit of forums such as North of Falcon.

Oppose proposal

Agree it is one population, but if I have to buy two licenses, I should be able to have the chance to fill both catch record cards.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Burbot - Set Lines Not Allowed**

**Proposal:** The current rule allows the use of setlines with up to 10 hooks for burbot in specified waters. This proposal would make setlines illegal.

**EXPLANATION:** Setlines are really a commercial gear, and the only hook and line gear that anglers are allowed to fish untended. WDFW has received complaints that the use of setlines for burbot causes wastage because of the possibility of hooking several fish at a time and exceeding the daily limit of five fish.

**TESTIMONY:**

Approve (2)  
Good idea

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Set lines should be allowed. To stop wastage the number of hooks should be the same as the limit. (2)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted with modifications - set lines allowed but only 5 hooks may be used.

## **Daily Limit for Walleye in the Lower Columbia River**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, the statewide rule for walleye is 5 fish per day, with an 18" minimum size and no more than one fish over 24". This proposal would allow anglers to keep 10 fish per day, no more than 5 over 18" and no more than 1 over 24" in the Columbia River downstream from the Highway 395 bridge in Pasco. Oregon has already adopted this rule.

**EXPLANATION:** ODFW requested that WDFW cooperate in a reciprocal regulation modifying the walleye limit on the lower Columbia River to address the problem of walleye predation on salmonids listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. While predation by walleyes on salmonids is relatively low in the Columbia River, most of the predation is by walleye under 18," a size class protected by the current statewide regulation. This proposed rule will allow anglers to harvest walleye under 18" to lessen their predation of salmonid smolts. This regulation has been adopted by Oregon and will go into effect January 1, 2000.

**TESTIMONY:**

Approve (3)

Attempting to reduce the lower Columbia River walleye population by claiming significant walleye predation of salmonids is politics, not science. ODFW's adoption of this policy is not reason for WDFW to follow. Greed has destroyed the Columbia River's salmonid populations, not walleye. The walleye population should be increased by eliminating the pike-minnow. Follow with walleye hatcheries.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee opposed proposal and any proposal that devalues any warmwater sportfish in favor of salmon. Need a 5 fish limit, not more than one over 24."

I interpret this proposal as an attempt to remove walleye from the Columbia River system. I've read that 1.6 million salmonid fry or smolts are taken by bass and walleye, but 30 million are taken by Caspian terns, not to mention seagulls. A focus on only salmonid fish will not work for the Columbia.

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest opposes proposal. No scientific basis for proposal. It devalues walleye as a sport fish. Walleye fishery in lower Columbia is the best trophy walleye fishery in the world and should be protected. Relationship between walleyes and pikeminnows is unclear. Considerable evidence exists that walleyes prey heavily on pikeminnow. Oregon has admitted that this regulation would have no positive effect on salmonid recovery efforts.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports no limit for walleye in the Columbia River from the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco to the mouth.

Support proposal but suggest does not go far enough. Recommend removing all daily limits from deleterious species such as bass and walleye in the lower Columbia.(2)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Carp Seasons**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, fisheries for carp in fresh water are open year-round, unless listed otherwise in the special rules. This proposed rule would limit fishing for carp in fresh water to open gamefish or salmon seasons.

**EXPLANATION:** Different rules for game fish and food fish can create conflicts when a stream or lake is open to fishing for food fish (carp), but closed to fishing for game fish.

### **TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Keep the carp season, hey you still have to buy a license.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Bass Slot Limit**

**PROPOSAL:** In waters where this new bass slot limit applies, the daily limit would be 5 bass less than 12" or greater than 17" in length, with no more that one bass over 17." A list of waters proposed for this rule follows.

**EXPLANATION:** Washington bass populations are characterized by slow growth (3-5 years to reach 12"), low density (1-5 bass less than 12" per surface acre), and increasing angling pressure (the number of warmwater angler trips doubled between 1986 and 1994). As a result, bass populations usually have a difficult time maintaining enough predation pressure on forage fish species such as sunfish, crappie, and perch, causing these species to overpopulate and stunt. This regulation is designed to protect that segment of the bass population that has been shown to be

the most important predators on these forage species. This regulation should improve the quality of both bass and panfish angling by maintaining a better and more consistent predator-prey balance. Most of the waters proposed for management under this regulation are being actively monitored and managed either under the Warmwater Fish Enhancement Program or by regional staff.

## **List of Waters Proposed for the New Bass Slot Limit**

### **Region 1**

Newman Lake (Spokane Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Clear Lake (Spokane Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Liberty Lake (Spokane Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Long Lake (Spokane/Stevens Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot (maintain 5/1-6/31 catch and release)  
Eloika Lake (Spokane Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Jump-off Joe Lake (Stevens Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Silver Lake (Spokane Co) - Current statewide bass limit

### **Region 2**

Sprague Lake (Adams/Lincoln Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Hallin Lake (Adams Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Cow Lake (Adams Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Finnel Lake (Adams Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Whitestone Lake (Okanogan Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Washburn Island Pond (Okanogan Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Palmer Lake (Okanogan Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Ancient Lake (Grant Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Alkali Lake (Grant Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Stan Coffin Lake (Grant Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
"H" Lake (Grant Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Lower Goose Lake (Adams Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Shiner Lake (Adams Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Hutchinson Lake (Adams Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Bobcat Creek Ponds (Adams Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Coyote Creek Ponds (Adams Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Hays Creek Ponds (Adams Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Roses Lake (Chelan Co) - Current statewide bass limit

### **Region 3**

I-82 Ponds 1-7 (Yakima Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Scootenev Reservoir (Franklin Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Kahlotus Lake (Franklin Co) - Current statewide bass limits

#### **Region 4**

Ballinger Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Beaver Lake (King Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Big Lake (Skagit Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Campbell Lake (Skagit Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Cassidy Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Desire Lake (King Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Flowing Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Goodwin Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Ki Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Phantom Lake (King Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Shoecraft Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Sportsman Lake (San Juan Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Spring Lake (King Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Terrell Lake (Whatcom Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Totem Lakes 1 and 2 (Whatcom Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Tradition Lake (King Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Wiser Lake (Whatcom Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Stevens Lake (Snohomish Co) - Current 1>18 inch limit

#### **Region 5**

Kress Lake (Cowlitz Co) - Current 12-18 inch slot  
Swofford Pond (Lewis Co) - Current 2 fish 12-18 inch slot

#### **Region 6**

Harts Lake (Pierce Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Kapowsin Lake (Pierce Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Lawrence Lake (Thurston Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Long Lake (Kitsap Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Ohop Lake (Pierce Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Silver Lake (Pierce Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Rapjohn Lake (Pierce Co) - Current 12-15 in ch slot  
Tanwax Lake (Pierce Co) - Current 12-15 inch slot  
Duck Lake (Grays Harbor Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
American Lake (Pierce Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Bradley Pond (Pierce Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Spanaway Lake (Pierce Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Tapps Lake (Pierce Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Waughop Lake (Pierce Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Whitman Lake (Pierce Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Alder Reservoir (Pierce/Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Leland Lake (Jefferson Co) - Current statewide bass limit

Black Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Chambers Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Little Chambers Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Deep Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Elbow Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Long Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
McIntosh Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Munn Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Offutt Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Pattison Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
St Clair Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Summit Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Ward Lake (Thurston Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Island Lake (Pacific Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Loomis Lake (Pacific Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Wye Lake (Kitsap Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Kitsap Lake (Kitsap Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Wildcat Lake (Kitsap Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Island Lake (Mason Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Mason Lake (Mason Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Nahwatzel Lake (Mason Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Tee Lake (Mason Co) - Current statewide bass limit  
Spencer Lake (Mason Co) - Current statewide bass limit

**TESTIMONY:**

Approve (3)

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

It is obvious that bass have become a substitute for other species whose numbers WDFW cannot or will not maintain.

Opposed to new slot limit. Should be re-worded to be clear about how many can be over 17". Opposed to most lakes in region 6 proposed with a "blanket" slot limit with little or no evidence that sampling has been done to justify such a drastic action.

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee supports proposal

Support proposal, but recommend the daily limit is reduced to 3.

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

Do not support proposal

Yes, by all means, please make the bass regulations as complicated as the regulations for all the fish in your care. Is it possible to add some commercial and native American concerns to our bass fishing experience?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

# Saltwater

---

## Marine Fish

### Aggregate Daily Limit for Bottomfish

**PROPOSAL:** In Marine Areas 5- 13, anglers must stop fishing for bottomfish for the day when the daily limit for any species or species group has been retained.

**EXPLANATION:** A number of Puget Sound marine fish are being considered for ESA listings. This proposal promotes conservative fishing rules to reduce hooking, handling, and decompression mortalities associated with sorting activities when fishing for other species after the daily limit of one species has been retained.

**TESTIMONY:**

The combined effect of these two proposals (aggregate daily limit and daily limit for rockfish) will be that even the most dedicated sport fishing bottom fisherman will stop fishing and not purchase a saltwater license. With both of these proposals in place, a fisher who catches one rockfish is done for the day. This is not even worth the effort or the cost. Alternatively, more rockfish will be released so that anglers don't have to stop fishing. These released fish will not survive. A better idea would be to shorten the seasons for bottomfish and work on enforcing the current regulations for each area. Lure restrictions can work well for rockfish also.

Aggregate limit is grossly unfair. Coupled with the daily limit of one rockfish it would effectively discourage all interest in bottom fishing in Puget Sound. To reduce sport catch limits to near zero while commercial fishing continues in unacceptable.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Agree with proposal. WDFW should promote conservative rules to reduce hooking, handling, and decompression mortalities associated with "sorting" while fishing for other species.(2)

Support proposal (5)

Opposed to this proposal in conjunction to the daily limit of one rockfish. If things are that bad, close marine areas 1-13 to all bottom fish angling including artificial reefs.

Opposed to proposal. Does not stop catch and release which will still kill fish from deep water. Keep the limit at 15 and you must keep the first 15 fish you catch.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Do not adopt. Proposal may not have the intended effect, because anglers who want to continue fishing might just throw back any rockfish that they catch.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Not adopted

## **Rockfish Daily Limit**

**PROPOSAL:** Reduce the daily limit for rockfish to 1 in Marine Areas 5-13.

**EXPLANATION:** Many rockfish stocks in Puget Sound are in a depressed condition and need rebuilding to greater population levels. Some species of rockfish are also under consideration for ESA listings.

**TESTIMONY:**

Rockfish daily limit - could only support if all commercial gear capable of catching even one rockfish was eliminated.

Reducing the daily limit for rockfish to one is ridiculous when commercial fisheries continue.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Some restriction may be necessary but one fish is outrageous. Why not 3-5 with certain times closed? What plans does WDFW have to rebuild stocks?

Support proposal (8)

Opposed to proposal in conjunction with the aggregate daily limit proposal.

Opposed to proposal. As with the previous proposal the unlimited catch and release is the problem. Will kill off all the smaller fish. Just allow the first 15 bottomfish to be kept.

Support proposal and would encourage even more severe limits.(2)

Daily limit should be 0. Needs more enforcement.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited believes the rockfish fishery should be closed except, perhaps in particular areas within areas 5-13.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Spearfishing Season for Lingcod**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, spearfishing for lingcod in Marine Areas 5- 13 is open from May 1 - June 15, daily limit one, no minimum size. This proposal would shorten the spearfishing season to May 21 - June 15.

**EXPLANATION:** Lingcod populations in Puget Sound have depressed levels. WDFW has been working on rebuilding these populations for many years. Part of the rebuilding plan was to provide limited sport harvest opportunity with a season and slot limit to control harvest levels and provide brood stock protection. Although the stock is showing some signs of recovery, it is very slow in rebuilding. The existing regulation for recreational divers has provided a significant source of brood stock mortality.

### **TESTIMONY:**

Approve(7)

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Divers should have a maximum size of 36" with 4" of leeway when checked by fisheries patrol Just shortening the season is insufficient.

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Support the proposal. Assume it applies inside Puget Sound. Would like to see the restriction shared by anglers. Surely anglers take more lingcod than divers. Free-divers (without air tanks) should be allowed the six-week season, since this is much harder to do. Breeding season should be closed. First fish any size is smart for divers. One fish per day should extend to coastal areas as well.

Support proposal. Would also encourage a total ban on ling cod spearfishing.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited suggests a May 27-June 11 fishery with emphasis on enforcement and monitoring.

Why allow spearfishers to take ling cod of any size?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Daily Limit for Pacific Hake (Whiting)**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, in Marine Areas 5- 13, Pacific hake are part of the aggregate daily limit of 15 bottomfish. This proposal would make the daily limit of Pacific hake 2 in areas 5,6, and 7, and 0 in areas 8-13.

**EXPLANATION:** The Puget Sound stock of whiting is in critical condition and is being considered for an ESA listing.

**TESTIMONY:**

Few sport anglers would even recognize a hake, let alone intentionally fish for one. Commercial fishers are responsible for decimating the once abundant schools of hake. This proposal is a non-issue for sport anglers.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Shellfish**

### **No Minimum Size for Spot Shrimp in Port Angeles Shrimp District**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, there is a minimum size for spot shrimp in all waters except Hood Canal. This proposal would remove the minimum size requirement for spot shrimp in the Port Angeles shrimp district.

**EXPLANATION:** There are no large spot shrimp in Port Angeles harbor. The size limit has been dropped by emergency rule for the past two seasons. This would make that rule permanent.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Suggest opening PA Harbor to shrimp fishing 7 days a week for all species of pandalid shrimp. The requirement to release surplus male spot shrimp Monday through Friday causes lots of mortality from rough handling and certain death from predators while being dumped over the side to descend 200 feet to reach the bottom. Otherwise eliminate the fishery completely.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

### **No Tending of Shrimp Pots from a Vessel at Night**

**PROPOSAL:** Currently, it is illegal to tend crab pots at night from a vessel. This proposal would also make it illegal to tend shrimp pots from a vessel at night.

**EXPLANATION:** This would make a consistent rule for both types of pots. The rule for crab was put in place to cut down on the incidence of certain individuals tending the pots of others.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Limit of Four Shrimp Pots per Vessel in Hood Canal**

**PROPOSAL:** During the Hood Canal shrimp fishery, a boat operator may not have on board or fish more than four shrimp pots at any time. A boat is defined as a vessel from which shrimp pots are set and pulled.

**EXPLANATION:** This regulation has been put in place by emergency rule for the last four seasons as a way of providing a more orderly fishery and enabling management staff to monitor harvest with greater precision.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Where is the science? This is a 4-hour fishery. Pot limit discriminates against grandparents and children.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Minimum Size for Dungeness Crab in Hood Canal**

**PROPOSAL:** Make the minimum size for Dungeness crab in Hood Canal 6¼".

**EXPLANATION:** This change is needed to ensure that conservation of the resource is achieved under the higher harvest rates now being applied by the recreational and tribal fisheries in Hood Canal. The larger minimum size will allow additional time for male crab to grow and successfully mate prior to being susceptible to harvest. Recent biological information indicates that a greater proportion than previously shown of male Dungeness crab which are larger than 6" are also larger than 6¼" indicating that this action will still provide substantial numbers of Dungeness crab for harvest. Since 6" male Dungeness crab molt once each year and the increase in size due to the molt is about ½" to ¾" most of the crab not taken at the 6" - 6¼" size will be available for harvest at a larger size in the future. This change will also provide consistency in the minimum size requirement for Dungeness crab in all areas of Puget Sound and consistency between the minimum size of crab retained in a pot and the minimum escape ring size presently required.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Minimum size should remain at 6". Justification for change appears to be based on literature review rather than adequate field sampling. Sampling is inadequate. Have never been checked or seen sampling crews. If the size limit is increased, we should be assured that the tribal subsistence and commercial fisheries will be in 100% compliance.

If all commercial and tribal crab fishermen have this size limit as well then I may go along with it.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Do not adopt. WDFW has not finished analysis of field sampling information nor reached consensus with tribes on this proposal.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Not adopted

## **Razor Clam Sanctuary at Long Beach**

**PROPOSAL:** Define Long Beach razor clam sanctuary as "from a point beginning 2.7 miles north of the Oysterville approach and extending north for one quarter mile (1320 feet)."

**EXPLANATION:** The Long Beach sanctuary in its former location has become biologically compromised. Clams in that area are experiencing unnatural levels of mortality. We speculate that its proximity to local run-off from adjacent development may have been affecting survival, and are proposing to move the sanctuary to an area where clams are thriving. As time and money permit, we plan to look at the current sanctuary location to make sure that whatever is happening there does not have a widespread negative effect on clam populations in surrounding areas.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Definition of Razor Clam Beds**

**PROPOSAL:** Amend the definition of razor clam beds to read "Razor clam beds are defined as that portion of Pacific Ocean beaches westerly of a line 150 feet waterward of the extreme upper limit of the hard sand area." The detached Willapa Bay Spits that are north of Leadbetter Channel, west of Ellen Sands and south of Willapa Ship Channel are also defined as razor clam beds, as are those portions of the mouths of Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay that contain razor clams.

**EXPLANATION:** Major changes have occurred on Pacific Ocean beaches due to erosion and/or accretion of sand. The present definition, which allows driving up to 500 feet seaward of the primary dune or cliff, is no longer valid.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Clam and Oyster Beaches**

Specific proposals were not available for the original proposal package because time was needed for surveys and data analysis. The proposed recreational regulations for Puget Sound clam and oyster beaches are listed below. Beaches not listed are proposed to retain the same season as last year.

**Clam Seasons:**

**Ala Spit**

Current Regulation: January 1 through April 30

Proposed Regulation: January 1 through May 31

**Brown Point (DNR 57-B)**

Current Regulation January 1 through December 31

Proposed Regulation January 1 through June 30

**Camano Island State Park**

Current Regulation: June 1 through June 15

Proposed Regulation: May 16 through June 15

**Dosewallips State Park**

Current Regulation March 1 through May 15

Proposed Regulation March 1 through May 31

**Fort Flagler State Park**

Current Regulation April 1 through April 30

Proposed Regulation April 1 through June 30

**Frye Cove**

Current Regulation January 1 through March 31

Proposed Regulation January 1 through May 31

Hope Island State Park

Current Regulation April 1 through June 15

Proposed Regulation Closed

Illahee State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through May 7

Proposed Regulation May 1 through May 31

Kayak Point County Park

Current Regulation: April 1 through April 15

Proposed Regulation: Closed

Open to the harvest of mussels all year

Kitsap Memorial State Park

Current Regulation June 1 through July 31

Proposed Regulation June 1 through June 15

Kopachuck State Park

Current Regulation Closed

Proposed Regulation May 1 through May 15

North Bay

Current Regulation All state-owned tidelands in North Bay (Case Inlet) north of a line drawn southwest from Rocky Point to the north end of Reach Island thence due west to the mainland are closed to the harvest of clams the entire year except state-owned Oyster Reserves on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission lines.

Proposed Regulation All state-owned tidelands in North Bay (Case Inlet) north of a line drawn southwest from Rocky Point to the north end of Reach Island thence due west to the mainland are closed to the harvest of clams the entire year except state-owned tidelands on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission lines and south of the power transmission lines 1,600 feet.

Oak Bay County Park

Current Regulation May 1 through May 31

Proposed Regulation June 1 through July 15

Oakland Bay North (Oyster reserve)

Current Regulation Closed

Proposed Regulation March 1 through September 30

Oakland Bay West (Oyster reserve)

Current Regulation January 1 through December 31

Proposed Regulation March 1 through September 30

Penrose Point State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through May 15

Proposed Regulation Closed

Pillar Point County Park

Current Regulation November 1 through March 31

Proposed Regulation November 1 through April 30

Point Whitney Tidelands

Current Regulation Closed

Proposed Regulation May 16 through May 31

Point Whitney Lagoon

Current Regulation June 1 through July 31

Proposed Regulation June 1 through June 15

Port Townsend Ship Canal

Current Regulation April 1 through June 30

Proposed Regulation April 1 through June 15

Potlatch State Park

Current Regulation March 1 through March 31

Proposed Regulation March 1 through June 30

Potlatch East

Current Regulation January 1 through December 31

Proposed Regulation March 1 through June 30

Sequim Bay State Park (North and South sections)

Current Regulation May 16 through June 15

Proposed Regulation May 1 through June 30

Shine Tidelands State Park

Current Regulation January 1 through May 31

Proposed Regulation January 1 through April 30

South Indian Island County Park

Current Regulation January 1 through September 30

Proposed Regulation January 1 through April 30

Spencer Spit State Park

Current Regulation: April 1 through June 30

Proposed Regulation: April 1 through July 31

Triton Cove Oyster Farm

Current Regulation None

Proposed Regulation July 1 through August 15

West Dewatto (DNR 44A)

Current Regulation January 1 through March 15

Proposed Regulation January 1 through March 31

Wolfe Property State Park

Current Regulation January 1 through April 30

Proposed Regulation January 1 through June 15

**Oyster Seasons:**

Dosewallips State Park

Current Regulation March 1 through June 30

Proposed Regulation March 1 through July 31

Eagle Creek

Current Regulation January 1 through March 31

Proposed Regulation January 1 through May 31

Illehee State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through May 7

Proposed Regulation May 1 through May 31

Kitsap Memorial State Park

Current Regulation June 1 through September 30

Proposed Regulation June 1 through July 15

North Bay

Current Regulation All state-owned tidelands in North Bay (Case Inlet) north of a line drawn southwest from Rocky Point to the north end of Reach Island thence due west to the mainland are closed to the harvest of oysters the entire year except state-owned Oyster Reserves on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission lines.

Proposed Regulation All state-owned tidelands in North Bay (Case Inlet) north of a line drawn southwest from Rocky Point to the north end of Reach Island thence due west to the mainland are closed to the harvest of oysters the entire year except state-owned tidelands on the east side of North Bay north of the power transmission lines and south of the power transmission lines 1,600 feet.

Penrose Point State Park

Current Regulation May 1 through June 15

Proposed Regulation May 1 through June 30

Point Whitney Tidelands

Current Regulation September 1 through December 31

Proposed Regulation April 1 through July 15

Potlatch State Park

Current Regulation March 1 through April 15

Proposed Regulation March 1 through June 30

Potlatch East

Current Regulation January 1 through December 31

Proposed Regulation March 1 through June 30

Triton Cove Oyster Farm

Current Regulation Closed

Proposed Regulation May 1 through August 30

West Dewatto (DNR 44A)

Current Regulation January 1 through March 15

Proposed Regulation January 1 through August 31

Wolfe Property State Park

Current Regulation January 1 through April 30

Proposed Regulation January 1 through June 15

**TESTIMONY:** none

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

# Marine Conservation Areas and Preserves

## TESTIMONY ON MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS AND PRESERVES IN GENERAL:

Approve (3)

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposals

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

I couldn't find reference to Conservation Areas in the pamphlet. This must be a new designation to further restrict fishing.

Whereas we the undersigned recognize a need to restore resident marine fish and invertebrate populations and their ecosystems in the inland marine waters of Washington and whereas restoration of these populations and ecosystems using conventional forms of fishery management, such as bag limits, has not demonstrated an improvement, but rather a decline in these populations; the signatories of this document petition the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to create the Sunrise Beach Marine Conservation Area in Colvos Passage, the Duncan Rock Conservation Area in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Mikes Beach Conservation area in Hood Canal. We also petition the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to create more Marine Conservation Areas as needed to restore depressed resident marine fish populations and their ecosystems in the inland marine waters of Washington State. Petition signed by 275 people attached.

The Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd., the Reef Ball Foundation, Inc., Reef Innovations, Eternal Reefs, The Reef Ball Coalition, and Correlations strongly support any efforts toward establishing marine protected areas. The Reef Ball Foundation Inc. will provide grants to agencies or organizations that are building artificial reefs wither near or within the marine reserves, and will strongly consider grants for any uses that help to support the concept of marine reserves.

Support proposals. The addition of four conservation areas and one preserve is a continuation of establishing marine life havens in our waters.

Support proposals. The waters of Puget Sound need all the help WDFW can provide.

Anything that can be done to increase fish populations has my vote. It's too bad so many divers are involved in spearfishing.

More MPA's are needed in Puget Sound

Don't believe that the creation of a few relatively small sanctuaries with heavy-handed restrictions to all consumptive use will lead to significant improvement of protection for the target populations. Oppose Waketickeh Creek and Colvos Passage unless there is modification of the use restrictions and consideration of alternative sanctuary sites that would have fewer effects on adjacent landowners. Activities such as crabbing shrimping and salmon angling could go on while still protecting rockfish and slow growing marine fishes. East side of Hood Canal has many undeveloped areas that would be better choices for sanctuaries. Why not just eliminate all fisheries on rockfish, true cod, pollock and ling cod in Puget Sound for a period of time?

Marine Protected Areas are very important - support proposals.(3)

Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task force supports the use of marine protected areas to manage and restore marine populations.

Why can people fish at all in marine sanctuaries? A sanctuary zone should mean that you can't take anything.

Conservation areas are wonderful but they need to make sense. Fishing pier in the middle of Edmonds Sanctuary is insane.

Applaud the marine conservation area proposals. Please adopt in full.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports proposals. Concerned that these areas are only in S Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Suggest next round of proposals for these areas include artificial reef areas.

## **Sund Rock Marine Preserve Description**

**PROPOSAL:** Describe the Sund Rock Marine Preserve as “those waters and bedlands enclosed by a line originating at the shore of Hood Canal, at the mouth of Sund Creek (47° 26' 396N", 123° 07' 070W"), thence due east 350 feet, thence due south to Latitude 47° 26' 382N, thence due west until it intersects the beach, including all of the underwater feature known as Sund Rock.”

**EXPLANATION:** The current description “those waters and bedlands within 200 yards of the salmon net pens located near Sund Rock in Hood Canal” is no longer valid because the pens have been removed and will not be replaced.

### **TESTIMONY:**

Agree with proposal (4)

(Also see testimony above concerning Conservation Areas and Marine Preserves in general)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

## **Orchard Rocks Conservation Area Description**

**PROPOSAL:** Define orchard Rocks Conservation Area as “All waters and bedlands of Rich Passage within 400 yards of Orchard Rocks day marker.”

**EXPLANATION:** Divers have had trouble locating current boundaries during a dive. The new description is simpler, and can be used by both boaters and divers.

### **TESTIMONY:**

Agree with proposal (3)

Support proposal. Will make it easy to recognize.(2)

(Also see testimony above concerning Conservation Areas and Marine Preserves in general)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified - Conservation Area described as waters and bedlands of Rich passage north and west within a 400 yard radius of Orchard Rocks between a line projecting 85° true from Orchard Rocks day marker southwesterly through the R6 flashing red (2.5s) buoy as well as all waters within 50 yards of Orchard Rocks day marker. The area described as all waters and bedlands within 400 yards of the day marker at Orchard Rocks not within the Orchard Rocks Conservation area will have interim status as a Marine Preserve.

## **Colvos Passage Conservation Area**

**PROPOSAL:** In Marine Area 11, create Colvos Passage Conservation Area (closed to all harvest) defined as follows: "Waters and bedlands from the southern boundary of Sunrise Park, then east 200 yards, then south 500 yards, then due west to shore, excluding the area within 100 feet of ordinary high water."

**EXPLANATION:** Populations of lingcod, rockfish, rock scallops, and other exploited bottomfish and marine invertebrates have declined dramatically in this area. Several species of rockfish in Puget Sound have been proposed for ESA listings. Conservation areas can help reverse this trend. There are currently no Marine Protected areas or Conservation Areas in this part of Puget Sound.

### **TESTIMONY:**

(Also see testimony above concerning Conservation Areas and Marine Preserves in general)

Colvos Passage - sport fishermen in this area are primarily after salmon - do not target bottomfish. Closing this area would create animosity between divers and fishermen. I would support no harvest zones in the following areas: The Minesweeper Wreck - in Colvos Passage along the western shore in about 70' of water; The Anna Foss wreck site - on the east side of Colvos Passage in about 30' of water; the Titlow Ferry Landing - should be closed to harvest if it is not already.

Strongly opposed to Colvos Passage. This is an outstanding area for chinook salmon fishing in the summer and fall and produces coho later in the season as well as blackmouth in the winter. Virtually everyone who fishes salmon in this area trolls. It is extremely rare to catch a ling cod or rockfish while trolling. The underlying motivation of this proposal is to reserve the area for divers. They could have a conservation area located across the pass near Vashon Island.

I oppose the Colvos Passage Conservation area. This is a prime fishing area for migratory salmon in the summer and winter and is used by dozens of fishermen when open. The beach is solid with private residences. There are plenty of places on the Vashon side of the passage or north of Point Richmond that are not heavily populated and would serve just as well for a marine sanctuary. I fish this area by trolling, and have never caught a bottom fish while doing so. There is no area exclusively for fishermen - why should there be one exclusively for divers?

Opposed to Colvos Passage Conservation Area. This is a prime area for fishing for migratory salmon in the summer and fall. During the years I have trolled here, I have rarely, if ever, noticed a lingcod or other bottomfish being caught. To my knowledge, the only people who fish for bottomfish in this area are divers who dive out of Sunrise Park. I noticed from the proposal that the area directly in front of the park, where they dive and fish, would not be closed. The proposed area is in front of many private homes, and in an area where salmon fishing is often quite good close to shore. Perhaps restrictions on catch of bottomfish by divers would be a more effective way of increasing their numbers.

Opposed to Colvos Passage Conservation Area. This proposal as written would ban salmon fishing in a very popular sport and commercial fishing area. It is one of the better areas to fish for hatchery chinook and chum salmon. This is conducted by trolling at mid water depths with almost zero impact on bottomfish. It receives very little pressure from anglers fishing for bottomfish. It is, however, a very popular dive fishery, and divers harvest many bottomfish. Puget Sound anglers would like to see the proposal modified to "closed to retention of all bottomfish" instead of "closed to all harvest." Beach would need to be posted. This proposal was made 2 years ago by diving clubs and would create an area that only divers could use for recreation.

The Colvos Passage Conservation area would create a substantial hardship for recreational salmon fishers in the Gig Harbor area. This area is used for trolling for salmon. Many other areas are already off limits to salmon fishers - why not put the sanctuary in one of them?

Opposed to the Colvos passage Conservation Area (4 identical letters)

Opposed to proposal. It closes one of the better salmon fishing areas. If you're concerned about rockfish, restrict the divers.

Opposed to the proposal unless we also ban boats from anchoring in the area because their anchors drag the bottom in the swift waters and ban SCUBA diving because divers depleted the fish in the first place.

Opposed to proposal. Is unfairly aimed toward providing exclusive use of the water by divers. Excluding salmon fishing is extremely unfair. If an area is to be reserved for conservation please restrict the area to directly in front of Sunrise Park.

Agree with proposal. (3)

Opposed to proposal. Unintended consequence would be that it would ban salmon fishing within 200 yards of shore. This is a very popular trolling spot. If rockfish are in decline, why hasn't something been done about spearfishing?

Opposed to proposal. Area is prime salmon fishing (trolling) spot. Scuba divers have overharvested octopus and rockfish from "the wall." Conservation area would further encourage divers and commercial dive boats to use the area.

Opposed to proposal. Divers bring octopus on the beach to die or spray them with chemicals, and brag about feeding sea urchins to wolf eels. Salmon fishermen do not bottomfish and their method of fishing does not affect octopus, sea urchins, etc. Divers drag their anchors over the bottom and destroy habitat.

Opposed to proposal. Divers are the problem. They outnumber fishers 10-1, anchor their boats and disturb the marine ecology. If you feel you must do something, be fair and close the area to divers and fishermen alike.

This is an extreme measure to solve an obvious problem. Scuba divers began decimating the population of bottomfish over 20 years ago. They butchered octopus on the beach and removed scallops and other invertebrates. Hundreds of divers frequent the area year-round. Their boat anchors disturb the bottom. Commercial divers have removed large quantities of urchins. Net fishers have dragged the bottom. This area is a favorite for salmon fishers. To restrict salmon fishers makes no sense. If there is a concern, exclude fishing for bottomfish, dragging commercial gear and divers.

Opposed to proposal. Want to salmon fish in front of my home.

Opposed to proposal. Don't want area closed to salmon fishing. Rarely see any bottom fishing. Divers and fishermen have gotten along for years - why close it?

Opposed to proposal. This should be a last resort. If we have a problem, start with the divers. This area is a prime salmon fishing area.

Support proposal. Sunrise beach is a spectacular place to dive.

Opposed to proposal. Primary activity is salmon fishing, not bottom fishing. Divers have depleted bottom fish.

Major concern is that the reef is not included in the protected zone. Protected zone should read from the north end of the park rather than the south. Boaters fish with downriggers and fish for octopus at night. Divers do not harvest this area at all.

Support but description is difficult to understand.

Best served by limits on harvest, not total closure.

**MODIFICATION:** In response to testimony, this proposal has been changed. The area affected has been reduced substantially. Also, the proposal to allow salmon trolling in the area would change it from a Conservation Area, as proposed (where no harvest of any kind is allowed) to a Marine Preserve, where certain types of harvest may be allowed. The new proposed description follows:

Create Colvos Passage Marine Preserve as an area enclosed by a line starting at extreme low water 300 feet southwest of the southern boundary of Sunrise County Park, Pierce County (latitude 47° 20.9'N), due east 300 feet, then southwesterly paralleling the shore for 500 feet, then due west to the extreme low water line, then northeasterly along the extreme low water line to the point of origin. This preserve is closed to all harvest except salmon, which may be harvested by trolling. Trolling is fishing from a vessel while in forward gear making progress under power.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## **Waketick Creek Conservation Area**

**PROPOSAL:** In Hood Canal create Waketick Creek Conservation Area (closed to all harvest) defined as follows: "Waters and bedlands from Waketick Creek (located 1000 yards northeast of Cummings Point) out perpendicular to shore 500 yards, then parallel to shore northeast 1700 yards, then back to shore along a line perpendicular to shore, excluding the area within 100 feet of ordinary high water."

**EXPLANATION:** Populations of lingcod, rockfish, rock scallops, and other exploited bottomfish and marine invertebrates have declined dramatically in this area. Several species of rockfish in

Puget Sound have been proposed for ESA listings. Conservation areas can help reverse this trend. There are currently no Marine Protected areas or Conservation Areas in this part of Hood Canal.

**TESTIMONY:**

(Also see testimony above concerning Conservation Areas and Marine Preserves in general)

Opposed to proposal. Property owners would not be able to shrimp or crab. Divers impact species more than the residents.

This is a bad idea because an unintended consequence would be to close this area to shrimping and crabbing within 500 yards of the shoreline. There is no problem with these populations. Close the area to harvest by SCUBA divers as a first step to protect fish populations.(2)

Opposed to proposal. Divers have depleted fish and invertebrate resources in the area. They leave trash on private beaches, are rude, and defecate on the beach. This proposal would be a victory for divers and a boon for Mike's Beach Resort.

Opposed to proposal. This is nothing but an attempt by the diving community and private business owners to profit from the creation of a new diving area.

Opposed to proposal.

Opposed to proposal. Would unfairly impact landowners and others who recreate in the area. Creation of the proposed area is backed by a small interest group (divers) who are probably responsible for the decrease in rockfish populations in the area. To close the area to shrimping, crabbing, oystering and clamming is unfair.

Opposed to proposal. It is an attempt by the SCUBA community to take control of this area and it is obvious that Mike's Resort will benefit financially if the proposal is allowed.

Opposed to proposal. There is something offensive about setting apart an area for the special use of some. Crabbing, shrimping and oystering are doing fine - why close them?

Opposed to proposal. Divers have overharvested sea life in this area. A marine conservation area in this zone would only exacerbate the problem.

Is there an attempt to take away our right to harvest crabs, shrimp and oysters on our own property? This proposal was turned down last year, now it comes back with an even bigger area. I also understand that any issues we bring to the table cannot be added to at a later date so they must be complete at this hearing if there is ever a law suit over this issue. It that true? Are you trying to wear us down thinking we'll give up? Are Oregon scuba divers involved in this latest effort?

Agree with proposal (3)

Opposed to proposal because it would destroy nearly all rights of property owners in the water in that area. There are already problems with divers trespassing. How can you do this without proper notice to property owners in the area? First look at poaching done by divers.

Opposed to proposal. Area is very large. The owner of Mike's Beach would like this area protected to his financial benefit. The conservation area designation would attract more divers. I understand the resort owners have created an

artificial reef offshore of the resort property. If so, was this done under guidance of your offices? Was the Army Corps of Engineers consulted? The dumping of material in these waters should be vigorously controlled.

Opposed to proposal. It is aimed only at the scuba community. Divers disregard the fishing rules, use vulgar language, and defecate on private beaches. They would greatly benefit from the designation status of the area as a scuba preserve.

Why were property owners in the area not notified of the proposal? None of them welcome the conservation area. Will take away their harvest rights and deflate the value of their land. Due to the Conservation area at Sund Rock, the dive shop in Rest-a-while Park is booming. Mr. Sund is letting divers traverse his property. Same thing would happen with Waketickeh Creek area.

Opposed to proposal. This new area will only discriminate against residents and visitors that want to enjoy the area. Scuba divers would be singled out for preference by the proposal.

Opposed to proposal. Were opposed to the same proposal 2 years ago. Scuba community has been rude and disrespectful to property owners and ignores harvest rules. Mikes Beach Resort and the divers are the only ones who would benefit from this proposal. Concerned about who would enforce the rules.

Opposed to proposal. Hidden Cove is a very desirable location. Divers want it for their personal use.

Opposed to proposal. Would be a slap in the face of the citizenship in general of the Hidden Cove property owners. (Enclosed map and property tax report)

Opposed to proposal. Divers from Mikes Beach Resort are trying to set up a "dream zone" for divers. Divers wiped out fish populations in this area in the 60s and 70s. Divers now say the bottom is littered with rock fish. No reason to cut out sport fishery.

Opposed to proposal. Department reviewed and declined to accept a much smaller proposal 2 years ago. This is even a worse idea. Divers have wiped out fish populations. Proposal would open the area to increased scuba traffic with its inherent problems of poor behavior, take away local property owner's rights to fish in front of their property, and increase calls to local law enforcement. Is there a way we can keep the proposal from coming up for consideration every couple of years with no notice to local property owners? At the very least department should send letters to property owners when a proposal of this sort is placed before you so they can respond.

Opposed to proposal. Goes beyond what is needed. Would close a large area to shrimping and crabbing. Neither of these activities occur on the reefs which constitute habitat for rockfish and other species this proposal is intended to protect. Should close the immediate reef area to harvest by divers.

Opposed to proposal. Unintended consequence would be to close crabbing and shrimping within 500 yards of the shoreline. The area I shrimp is within 200 yards of the reef and in 400 feet of water. I have no effect on the reefs by shrimping. Should close the reef area to harvest by divers to protect the rockfish populations.

Opposed to proposal. We enjoy shrimping, crabbing and fishing in this area. Divers are responsible for the decrease in rockfish populations. Close area to spearfishing instead.

Opposed to proposal. Unfair to property owners (2).

Opposed to proposal. Scuba community is responsible for the decimation of bottomfish populations. They show a complete lack of respect for property owners, don't use flags for safety, leave garbage, use vulgar language, make threatening remarks, and relieve themselves in plain view. Proposal will benefit a very small group of people.

Opposed to proposal. Does not address stated goals. Proposal was turned down two years ago. Proposal directly benefits Mikes Beach. Proposal says it's OK to spear fish, take wildlife from waters and leave garbage on the beach with out being punished. There are other dive areas along Hood Canal. Brochure does not clearly outline details about swimming, boating and fishing.

Letter to Hidden Cove property owners urging them to oppose the proposal. Scuba community is responsible for the decimation of bottomfish populations. They show a complete lack of respect for property owners, don't use flags for safety, leave garbage, use vulgar language, make threatening remarks, and defecate on the beach. Proposal was put out two years ago and was defeated. Homeowners were not contacted.

Opposed to proposal. Opposed two years ago to similar proposal. Area should be open to everyone, not just divers. They are the worst offenders as far as raping the resources.

Opposed to proposal. Similar proposal turned down two years ago. Vast majority of divers who visit come with commercial dive masters or college classes from Oregon. If they want a conservation area, let them find one in their own state. We are WA taxpayers. Distressed that a special interest group is trying to take away landowners rights.

Opposed to proposal. Limited harvest by property owners does not have a dramatic effect on marine life. Proliferation of divers in the area is a problem. They leave garbage and use vulgar language. This proposal would add to the problem.

Opposed to proposal. Area has many private homes and is used for boating, fishing, swimming and shell collecting. Scuba divers fish and dive along the canal coast wherever they can park and don't use dive flags, creating a hazard.

Opposed to proposal - thought it was put to rest two years ago. Divers have interfered with landowners activities such as water skiing in the past. This will just make it worse. Don't consider it now or ever.

Opposed to proposal. Only blatant violations are from weekend visitors. Residents and divers follow the rules. Proposal would only penalize lawful users.

We are divers but are not in sympathy with the proposal. There is already excess destruction of many marine species.

Opposed to proposal. Divers have been poor stewards. If classification as a marine protected area is warranted, then it should be off limits to divers as well.

Opposed to proposal. We come there to harvest marine life. Shouldn't happen just because a group of divers want a private dive area.

Opposed to proposal. Do not need the state or anyone else to protect my property for me.

Support this and any other proposed marine conservation area.

Opposed to proposal. Should stay a multi-use area. If divers obey rules at "the wall" "the rock" and in front of Mikes Beach Resort, resources will be fine.

Mikes Beach Resort has worked hard to enhance the beach. Most divers who come to this area are from Oregon. Some show lack of respect for safety rules and the rights of others. They do not obey harvest rules. We buy licenses here in Washington and should not be governed by Oregon interests.

Opposed to proposal. Shut down the Marine Conservancy gambit at Hidden Cove permanently. Residents will never support it. Please don't punish people that just happen to have a home near a popular scuba diving spot.

Opposed to proposal. Would cause many unsavory confrontations and events.

Opposed to proposal - it singles out the dive community for benefit. Everyone should use the area.

Opposed to proposal. Want to shrimp, fish, crab. Member of dive club who does not agree with proposal. Area is 1 mile long. Mike's Resort owns about 200 feet of it - owner is opposed. Can't water ski because of divers. Will file petition to lower taxes if adopted. Make a conservation area on artificial reef in public property (Bangor).

Opposed to proposal. It is more about advancing the narrow interests of divers than it is about protecting the environment. Divers are the ones having the impact on resources. If we really mean to build a reserve, it should be off limits to them as well.

Opposed to proposal. Represents 25 property owners. Proposal benefits divers and Mike's Resort. Was proposed 2 years ago and 300 signatures were gathered in opposition. (Written and oral testimony)

Opposed to proposal. Two pilot sites were chosen 2 years ago out of 13 proposed. Not appropriate to propose again until 2 pilot sites have been evaluated. This preserve would encompass a lot of private property, unlike other preserves, which are on public property. In December 1997 we indicated we were willing to work with the department to enhance the biological health of the area, but have heard nothing. Area is huge - rockfish are concentrated in only a few small places. (Written and oral testimony)

**MODIFICATION:** In response to public testimony the area encompassed by the proposed Conservation Area has been reduced. A description of the new proposed area follows:

Create Waketickeh Creek Conservation Area as an area starting at extreme low water on the easternmost point of the west shore of Hood Canal at latitude 47° 33.82' N, then northeasterly along the extreme low waterline to latitude 47° 33.88' N, then due southeast to longitude 123° 00.76' W, then southwesterly to 47° 33.78' N, 123° 00.83' W, then northwesterly in a straight line to the point of origin.

Note: This area is proposed to remain a Conservation Area and would be closed to all harvest.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as Modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as originally proposed (without modification), except that it will have interim status as a marine preserve instead of a conservation area while rules are promulgated to close the area to commercial harvest.

## **Saltar's Point Beach Conservation Area**

**PROPOSAL:** In Marine Area 13, create Saltar's Point Beach Conservation Area (closed to all harvest) defined as follows: "The tidelands owned by the Town of Steilacoom at Saltar's Point Beach located between Montgomery Street and Martin Street, and the water column above those tidelands."

**EXPLANATION:** Saltar's Point Beach is a valuable Steilacoom community resource with abundant marine life. This community park is owned by the Town of Steilacoom and used by residents and visitors for recreational and educational purposes. The community is interested in creating a conservation area in to reduce overharvesting and preserve the plants and animals that live there for future generations.

### **TESTIMONY:**

(Also see testimony above concerning Conservation Areas and Marine Preserves in general)

Supports proposal (2). Great area for public education.

Support proposal. Lots of problems with uninformed visitors. Proposed area is not large, all public land. Creating a marine preserve would allow marine resources to thrive, encourage local schools to use this area as an environmental classroom, provide a site for local colleges to monitor, enable our public safety department to enforce restrictions and ensure a resource for future generations. Supported by beach rangers, elementary school students. (Written and oral testimony)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as proposed except that it will have interim status as a marine preserve instead of a conservation area while rules are promulgated to close the area to commercial harvest.

## **Daily Limits for Unclassified Marine Invertebrates and Fish**

**PROPOSAL:** In Marine areas 1-13 for unclassified marine invertebrates and in Areas 5-13 for unclassified marine fish, the following daily limits are proposed:

- a. Daily limit of two nudibranchs.
- b. Daily limit of five moon snails.
- c. Daily aggregate limit of 10 unclassified marine invertebrates that have no other limits.
- d. Daily limit of 2 unclassified marine fish per species (sculpins not defined as bottomfish count as one species).
- e. Each person possessing unclassified marine invertebrates or unclassified marine fish must retain their catch in separate container.
- f. Possession limit for unclassified marine invertebrates and unclassified marine fish is one daily limit.

**EXPLANATION:** There are concerns that unclassified species are being overharvested. Currently there are no harvest limits on these species. The aggregate daily limit of 10 marine invertebrates matches Oregon's. The limits on other species (nudibranchs and fish) are needed because of potentially very limited populations.

**TESTIMONY:**

Approve(3)

Nudibranchs and moon snails? Is there nothing beyond WDFW's desire to control?

Olympic National Park supports proposal - reminds WDFW that ONP adopted regulations in 1999 prohibiting removal of unclassified organisms from the intertidal zone of the park. Please reflect this change in the next regulation pamphlet.

Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task force supports the proposal.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

# Freshwater

---

## Region 1

### North Silver Lake

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NORTH SILVER LAKE (Spokane Co.)	All Game Fish	Year-round			Catch-and-release and fly fishing only.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would make North Silver Lake a catch and release and fly fishing only lake, to create a quality lake for fly fishing, at the request of local anglers.

**TESTIMONY:**

Support proposal to make North Silver Lake catch and release and fly fishing only.

TU supports proposal to make North Silver Lake catch and release and fly fishing only.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club supports proposal

Oppose proposal. Fly fishers should not have special privileges. Should only restrict fishing for conservation reasons.

Opposed to proposal. WDFW has backed out of poisoning N Silver Lake and Silver Lake because DOE would make them supply water to homeowners who get their drinking water from the lakes. Also haven't gotten permission to screen the culvert under the road from Spokane Co. The fly club who wants this change is from Spokane. Most people of Silver Lake and Medical Lake oppose poisoning. Changing the rules now would prohibit catching and keeping bass and bullhead catfish, which are abundant.

Opposed. No biological reason for proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Chewelah Creek

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHEWELAH CREEK, forks and tributaries (Stevens Co.)	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would remove the selective gear rules from Chewelah Creek. The majority of this creek is on National Forest land with unlimited access. The National Forest personnel are very supportive of this change because they feel the selective gear rules may be limiting fishing opportunity for juveniles.

**TESTIMONY:**

Selective gear rules do not restrict juveniles unreasonably. They can fish this type of gear as well as anyone else.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Bear Lake

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
Bear Lake (Spokane Co.)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		Family fishing (juveniles and licensed adults accompanied by a juvenile) and holders of disability licenses only.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would allow "family fishing" in Bear Lake in addition to fishing by holders of disability licenses. "Family fishing" rules allow juveniles or a licensed adult accompanied by a juvenile to fish.

**TESTIMONY:**

TU supports proposal to change Bear Lake from juveniles only to a family fishing water.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Davis Lake

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
Davis Lake (Pend Oreille Co.)	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31			Statewide rules

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would change the season on Davis Lake to "opening day" (Last Saturday in April through October 31). The year-round season on this lake was set because of the largemouth bass population. However, it put more pressure on the trout population, negatively affecting the kokanee, and requiring a change in rainbow stocking, and didn't increase opportunity for bass, which don't become active until later in the spring.

### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Horseshoe Lake

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HORSESHOE LAKE (Pend Oreille Co.)	TROUT	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	None	5	KOKANEE not included in TROUT daily limit.
	KOKANEE	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	None	5	
	Other Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31			Statewide rules

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would eliminate the rule allowing chumming in Horseshoe Lake and lower the daily limit for kokanee to 5. Habitat issues and the introduction of mackinaw have caused the kokanee population to crash. This rule would help protect the kokanee population.

### TESTIMONY:

Eliminating chumming is a good idea. It is not necessary.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Little Spokane River

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER (Spokane Co.) from mouth to SR 291 Bridge	All Game Fish	Year-round			Statewide rules
from SR 291 Bridge to West Branch	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31			Statewide rules
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only.
upstream of West Branch	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31			Statewide rules Kokanee must be released upstream of the bridge at Frideger Road, including the waters of Chain Lake.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would change the season on part of the Little Spokane River to the last Saturday in April through October 31, to conform with regular lake openings and help with enforcement. It also closes the area upstream from Spokane County Bridge 4901 (approximately 1/10 mile NW of Elk) including the waters of Chain Lake.

**MODIFICATION:** closure on upper river is to kokanee retention only - bridge 4901 has been renamed Frideger Road Bridge.

### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## Rock Creek

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ROCK CREEK (Adams/Whitman Co.) Mouth to Endicott Road	All Game Fish	Year Round			Statewide rules
From Endicott Road to the bridge on George Knott Road at Revere	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31			Catch-and-release and selective gear rules.
Upstream of George Knott Road	All Game Fish	Year Round			Statewide rules

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would change the season for Rock Creek from year-round to June 1 - October 31 and add catch and release and selective gear rules. The majority of this stream is within a tract of land recently purchased by the BLM. While in private ownership, there has been little or no public access to Rock Creek. Populations of brown and rainbow trout in Rock Creek will be subject to heavy angler pressure when access is opened. The shortened season, selective gear rules, and catch and release rule will protect these fish from overharvest, while allowing anglers a quality stream fishing opportunity.

**MODIFICATION:** season change, catch and release and selective gear rules apply only to a portion of the stream - the rest of the stream remains open year round (Palouse River tributaries are open year-round).

**TESTIMONY:**

TU supports proposal for Rock Creek but recommends that selective harvest regulations may be needed for Crab Creek since similar access is now available. Also access points should be posted.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club supports proposal

Opposed to proposal. Only 1/3 of the creek is on BLM land. It has quite a population of sunfish, carp and bass. Some years it dries up because of irrigation withdrawals, stranding fish in small pools. It should be open year-round unrestricted to give the public a chance to catch these fish.

Opposed to proposal. Browns and rainbows in this creek come from Rock Creek. They are planted to be caught and kept. The 2 fish limit is already low enough. To open in the summer to unrestricted catch and release will kill more fish than bait fishers will.

Approve the catch and release proposal, but not the season. Water is very warm in the summer and to concentrate the fishing then would cause a lot of mortality. Year-round season would distribute effort better.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

# Lake Roosevelt Kokanee

## PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ROOSEVELT LAKE (Columbia River from Grand Coulee Dam to U.S.-Canadian border) including San Poil arm, the Spokane arm downstream of SR 25 Bridge and Kettle arm downstream of Barstow Bridge (see also 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 20" and only WALLEYE less than 16" or over 20" may be kept.
	WALLEYE	Year-round	None	8	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	KOKANEE	Year-round	None	2	KOKANEE not included in TROUT daily limit.
	SALMON	Year-round	Landlocked salmon rules apply.		
	STURGEON	Year-round	STURGEON - catch-and-release only.		
San Poil arm upstream from the mouth of Manila Creek 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 would allow anglers to take 5 trout (excluding kokanee), no more than 2 over 20", and 2 kokanee (no minimum size). The current rules requiring wild kokanee release were put in place in an effort to minimize angler mortality of wild kokanee, and although they minimize harvest of these fish, they have resulted in a large amount of hooking mortality. This proposed rule is intended to reduce this source of mortality, while still allowing anglers to harvest kokanee.

## TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Pleased to see current rule rescinded.

Separate daily limits for trout and kokanee concerns me. When a person has a limit of one they can continue to fish for the other. However, every fish of the one species will have to be released, creating a continuation of the problem you are trying to correct.

Limit on kokanee should be 5 with no size limit. Most weekend anglers don't know how to properly release a fish. Do more research and creel surveys. Act as a concerned citizen and not as a regulatory capacity and use common sense.

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## 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	Year-round	12"	2	TROUT - release all STEELHEAD. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Sept. 1-May 31.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
	from County Rd. Bridge to Oregon state line and all tributaries	TROUT	June 1-Aug. 31	12"	2
Other Game Fish		June 1-Aug. 31	Statewide rules		
	STEELHEAD & WHITEFISH	Sept. 1-Apr. 15 Sept. 1-Apr. 15	20" None	2 15	STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required. Tributaries CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH.

**Explanation:** this proposal would add a whitefish fishery on the upper Grande Ronde River from September 1 - April 15.

### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Region 2

### Columbia Basin Hatchery Creek

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COLUMBIA BASIN HATCHERY CREEK (Grant Co.) from the hatchery outflow to its confluence with the mainstem Hatchery Creek	All Game Fish	Year-round			Juveniles (under 15 years old) and holders of disability licenses.
	All Game Fish	Year-round			Family Fishing only - open only to juveniles and licensed adults accompanied by a juvenile.
mainstem Hatchery Creek (excluding the hatchery outflow) upstream of confluence with Rocky Coulee Wasteway	All Game Fish	Year-round			Family Fishing only - open only to juveniles and licensed adults accompanied by a juvenile.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would create an area for juveniles (only anglers under 15 years of age) and holders of disability licenses in the hatchery outflow, and for “family fishing” (juveniles or licensed adults accompanied by a juvenile) in Columbia Basin Hatchery Creek itself from its origin to its confluence with Rocky Coulee Wasteway. During the mid-1990s periodic hatchery releases were established for Hatchery Creek primarily to create a fishery for local juveniles. Later, the creek was made handicapped accessible. The fishery has proved more and more of a success, and participation by adults and non-handicapped anglers has increased. Limiting participation in the outflow to juveniles and disability license holders and in Hatchery Creek to families in conjunction with continued periodic hatchery releases will provide better than average fishing for these groups.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal and encourages creation of additional areas for juveniles and disabled anglers.

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**Chelan Hatchery Creek**

**PROPOSAL:** Make Chelan Hatchery Creek “closed waters.”

**EXPLANATION:** Wild upper Columbia steelhead have been observed spawning in Chelan Hatchery Creek (Chelan Co). These fish have been listed as endangered and need protection.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**Dry Falls Lake**

**PROPOSAL:**

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

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would change the season on Dry Falls Lake to March 1 through November 30 to provide more time at the beginning and end of the season for fishing on this quality lake.

**TESTIMONY:**

In favor of Dry Falls Lake proposal (3)

TU supports season change on Dry Falls Lake - most E Wash quality lakes could be open from Mar 1 - Nov 30.

Support proposal to extend the season on Dry Falls Lake, and to make the daily limit for trout on Aeneas Lake one fish.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Please adopt this change - proposal makes sense

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club supports proposal to begin season Mar 1

**RECOMMENDATION:** Do not adopt. WDFW and State Parks have not yet worked out an agreement to provide additional time of access.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Not adopted

## **Warden Lake and South Warden Lake**

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would change the season on Warden and South Warden Lakes from March 1 through July 31 to the last Saturday in April through September 30.

**EXPLANATION:** The "early opener" for these lakes has not been successful for either anglers or fish in the past because of inclement weather and fluctuating temperatures that often made the fish uncooperative until later in the season. Cold water and ice also hampered stocking efforts. The traditional April opener will also allow planted fish almost 2 full months of extra growth, and should attract more anglers and produce better "opening day" catches.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee opposes proposal to return to "opening day" mentality. No biological justification.

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee supports proposal

Oppose proposal - no biological reason.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Washburn Lake

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would put Washburn Lake (Okanogan Co) on an opening day season (last Saturday in April - October 31) with a daily limit of 2 trout.

**EXPLANATION:** This lake is on BLM property, and they have requested development of quality fishing at Washburn Lake. Holdover trout have reached a length of 16" their second year, but the statewide 5 fish daily limit has proven too liberal to sustain much fishing beyond the spring, and ice fishers have sometimes removed the fish even before the spring. The combination of an opening day season, with the winter closure, and reduced daily limit should provide some larger fish and a longer summer season to anglers.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports the reduction in the daily limit but is opposed to the opening day season, which reduces opportunity.

Since you are changing the season already, why not make it a fly fishing only lake? Need more fly fishing only lakes along the eastern slopes of the cascades.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Aeneas Lake

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
AENEAS LAKE (Okanogan Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct 31 Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct 31	None	1	Fly fishing only. Use of motors prohibited.

**EXPLANATION:** this proposal would reduce the daily limit of trout at Aeneas Lake to 1. This should help extend the productive fishing season beyond the spring, and produce some trophy-sized trout. Most other fly fishing only waters have reduced daily limits.

**TESTIMONY:**

Reducing the daily limit to one trout is a great idea.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee and Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club support proposal

Support the decrease in the daily limit, but think fly fishing only lakes should be catch and release.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Rat Lake, Davis Lake, Green Lake, Lower Green Lake, Campbell Lake, and Little Twin Lakes Year-round Seasons

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
RAT LAKE (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Apr. 1-Nov. 30			

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DAVIS LAKE (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	Sept. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Apr. 1-Aug. 31			

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GREEN LAKE (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Apr. 1-Nov. 30			

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GREEN LAKE, LOWER (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Apr. 1-Nov. 30			

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CAMPBELL LAKE (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	Sept. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Apr. 1-Aug. 31			

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LITTLE TWIN LAKE (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Apr. 1-Nov. 30			

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal creates year-round seasons at the six lakes shown above. Each lake would continue with its current catch and keep season (either December 1 - March 31 or September 1 - March 31). An additional season would be added to each lake to make it open year-round. During the transition period, catch and release and selective gear rules would be required for all game fish to provide equal opportunity and fishing diversity at each lake.

**TESTIMONY:**  
Seasons listed for District 2

Do not adopt season

Washington Fly Fishing

Support proposal

*Closures on 28 streams in Reg 2 for the protection of steelhead, BT, and spring chinook.*

**MODIFICATIONS:**  
Seasons listed for District 2, with the catch and keep season

Seasons should remain September 1 - March 31.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopted as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## Region 2 Stream Seasons

*Note - a number of streams in Region 2 have regulation change proposals that are driven by the need to protect upper Columbia steelhead, Dolly Varden/bull trout, and spring chinook. The general rule here has been to close the anadromous zones of these streams completely, providing protection for these fish. Upper reaches and areas with healthy populations have been left open to fishing for resident fish. Some whitefish fisheries are also proposed in the anadromous zones, with strict hook restrictions that are intended to reduce or eliminate hooking mortality to fish other than whitefish. Specific proposals are listed below. Some have been modified from the original proposals after further analysis and discussions with National Marine Fisheries Service. Testimony was usually directed to the proposals as a package, and is listed after the proposals for individual streams.*

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BUTTERMILK CREEK mouth to East and West Fork split (Okanogan Co.)		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CEDAR CREEK (tributary to Early Winters Creek) (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to Cedar Falls		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHEWUCK RIVER (Chewack River) (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to Eight Mile Creek	All Game Fish	June. 1-Sept. 30			Catch and release and selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31			WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed
From Eight Mile Creek to Pasayten Wilderness Boundary	All Game Fish	April 1 - Nov. 30			CLOSED WATERS
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31			WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed

**MODIFICATION:** Closed water area reduced, catch and release area proposed in lower river.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
EARLY WINTERS CREEK (Okanogan Co.)		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GOAT CREEK (Okanogan Co.)		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** Entire creek closed instead of just lower 3 miles.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GOLD CREEK (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to confluence with North Fork		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LAKE CREEK (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to Black Lake		CLOSED WATERS			
from Black Lake to Three Prong Creek	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide Rules		Selective Gear Rules

**MODIFICATION:** Selective gear rules added from Black Lake to Three Prong Creek.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LOST RIVER (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to Monument Creek		CLOSED WATERS			
from Monument Creek to outlet of Cougar Lake	TROUT	June 1-Oct. 31	14"	2	DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT may be retained as part of the TROUT daily limit. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	Dolly	June 1-Oct. 31	14"		
	Varden/bull trout	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		
	Other Game Fish				

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
METHOW RIVER (Okanogan Co.) from mouth (Hwy. 97 Bridge) to Gold Creek		Apr. 1-Nov. 30			CLOSED WATERS
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed
from Gold Creek to Weeman Bridge (8 miles upstream from Winthrop)	All Game Fish	June 1 - Sept 30			Catch and release and selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed
From Weeman Bridge to the falls above Brush Creek	All Game Fish	Apr 1- Nov 30			CLOSED WATERS
		Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed

**MODIFICATION:** catch and release area created from Gold Creek to Weeman Bridge

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
METHOW RIVER TRIBUTARIES not otherwise provided for (Okanogan Co.)	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide Rules	TROUT- maximum size 20". CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

**EXPLANATION:** the original rule read "Methow River tributaries except the Chewuch, Lost, and Twisp Rivers." This change avoids conflicting WACs for the additional Methow River tributaries which now have specific rules.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SALMON CREEK (Okanogan Co)		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** North Fork and West Fork removed from proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SIMILKAMEEN RIVER (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to Enloe Dam		Apr. 1-Nov. 30			CLOSED WATERS
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed
from Enloe Dam to Canadian border	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TWISP RIVER (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to War Creek	All Game Fish	June 1 - Sept 30			Catch and release and selective gear rules
		CLOSED WATERS			
from War Creek to South Fork Twisp River		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** catch and release area created from mouth to War Creek

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WOLF CREEK (Okanogan Co.) mouth to diversion dam		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** change closed area from mouth to diversion dam to mouth to mouth of South Fork

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHELAN RIVER (Chelan Co.)		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHIKAMIN CREEK (Chelan Co.)		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Do not adopt

**ACTION TAKEN:** Not adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHIWAUKUM CREEK (Chelan Co.) from mouth to Fool Hen Creek		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** remove selective gear rule requirement upstream of Fool Hen Creek

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CHIWAWA RIVER (Chelan Co.) mouth to Buck Creek		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** remove selective gear rule requirement upstream of Buck Creek

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ENTIAT RIVER (Chelan Co.) from mouth (Hwy. 97 Bridge) to Enitiat Falls		Apr. 1-Nov. 30			CLOSED WATERS
	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed
Downstream from Hwy. 97 Columbia River rules apply.					

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
ICICLE RIVER (Creek) (Chelan Co.) from mouth to Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery rack		CLOSED WATERS			
		CLOSED WATERS - from Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery rack downstream 400'. ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction June 1-June 30.			
from Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery rack to Leland Creek	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
INGALLS CREEK (Chelan Co.) mouth to Alpine Lakes wilderness boundary		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** remove selective gear rule requirement upstream of Alpine Lakes wilderness boundary

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LITTLE WENATCHEE RIVER (Chelan Co.) from Lake Wenatchee to the falls below U.S. Forest Service Rd. 6700 Bridge at Riverside Campground		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** remove selective gear rule requirement upstream of falls

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NAPEEQUA RIVER (Chelan Co.) mouth to Twin Lakes Creek		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** remove selective gear rule requirement upstream of Twin Lakes Creek

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NASON CREEK (Chelan Co.) from mouth to Smith Brook		CLOSED WATERS			
from Smith Brook to Stevens Creek	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31		Statewide rules	Selective gear rules.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
PESHASTIN CREEK (Chelan Co.) mouth to Ruby Creek		CLOSED WATERS			

**MODIFICATION:** remove selective gear rule requirement upstream of Ruby Creek

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WENATCHEE, LAKE (Chelan Co.)	TROUT	Year-round	12"	2	KOKANEE not included in TROUT daily limit.
	KOKANEE	Year-round	None	5	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
KOKANEE/SOCKEYE under 16" are KOKANEE; those 16" and over are SOCKEYE SALMON and must be released.					

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WENATCHEE RIVER (Chelan Co.) from mouth to Lake Wenatchee		CLOSED WATERS			
mouth to Hwy. 2 bridge at Leavenworth	WHITEFISH	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only 1 single hook 3/16" or smaller when measured from point to shank (size #14) may be used. Bait allowed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WHITE RIVER (Chelan Co.) from mouth to White River Falls		CLOSED WATERS			

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
OKANOGAN RIVER (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to highway bridge at Mallott	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for TROUT
upstream from highway bridge at Mallott	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Aug 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for TROUT

**RECOMMENDATION:** New proposal - adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**TESTIMONY:**

I approve the Upper Columbia Steelhead Management Plan. (2 responses)

I agree with the steelhead closures on the upper Columbia Rivers, but I do not think that the Methow, Wenatchee, and Entiat need to be closed to fishing year round. They should be open at least part of the season. They should be open in the spring - April through August or September 15 for trout fishing only. Keep the closure to steelhead fishing until the populations are above good numbers, then open them again for future generations. If you close these rivers you will lose money because people will not buy licenses. I do not like the longer season you make for lake fishing but if you take the stream fishing away the lakes in the area will have heavy use and overfishing.

Please allow a catch and release selective gear fishery on the Entiat to allow fishing and protect steelhead at the same time.

I oppose closing the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee Rivers to sport fishing. I support the alternative proposal to restrict them to barbless catch and release fishing. It will better serve all of us. It makes no sense to eliminate sport fishing which has so little impact compared to the Columbia River dams and commercial fishing.

Concerning the Wenatchee River -leave it open to catch and release (single barbless no bait) for trout. Also allow bait fishing for whitefish on the Wenatchee. I have whitefished for 40 years and did not catch any winter trout until last year when I caught 2 small trout ( and 0 whitefish) on a fly with no bait. Whitefish fishermen do no damage and remove a competitor from the river.

The steelhead return in 1999 approximates the 10 year average in the upper Columbia River tributaries. These rivers should be immediately opened to flyfishing only (no bait) with barbless hooks. Release wild fish. One hatchery fish limit per day. Close the same stretches of the rivers as before. It would help the local economy and encourage more people to try fly fishing.

Regarding the FISHING BAN- upper Columbia Rivers in Eastern Washington. We the undersigned are "dam mad" that you would even consider closing our 'home' waters!! Don't do it!! Petition attached with 29 names.

I appreciate WDFW's proposal for a catch and release fishery on the Wenatchee. However, when I read that NMFS rejected it and wants to close the waters to trout fishing, I can't believe it. Do not do this, it is not acceptable. If WDFW agrees to the closure then they should do it right by closing the entire Columbia to all sport fishing during critical periods. And get rid of the whitefish fishery which allows the use of bait when steelhead adults are in the river. Please allow a trout fishery with barbless hooks, no bait and tell NMFS it is acceptable.

The upper Columbia rivers should remain open and every effort should be made to establish a catch and release season for steelhead. The counties of the upper Columbia are economically depressed with some of the highest unemployment in the state, and the closure will have no effect on healthy salmon and steelhead populations because it will remove all the legal fishers from the rivers and leave them open to increased poaching and neglect. The fish will be far better served by efforts to restrict tribal and commercial fishing in the lower river, improving habitat, improving passage at dams, and eliminating predation from Caspian terns and cormorants in the lower river. If the Columbia needs to be closed, then let it be in the lower river where the real damage occurs.

Opposed to closing fishing in the Methow and Twisp rivers. If you really want to help the endangered salmon and steelhead, make the Indians stop netting so many and do away with so many predators and the commercial and sports fishery in the lower Columbia.

I am adamantly opposed to closure of the rivers until a balanced approach to fish conservation throughout their life cycle is in place. We should enhance the survival of fish at sea. It is appropriate to question why anyone is allowed to fish anywhere in the rivers and open sea. What about the "bycatch" issue?

After reading the article in the Wenatchee World about banning fishing for trout on Eastern WA streams we have several questions: What is being done to eliminate the predator birds at Astoria? What are you doing about Indian net fishing? Ceremonial? We thought the state ran state business, not the White house. What scientific basis is being used to make these decisions? There is agreement with a newspaper article indicting removal of certain department heads. Why hold hearings for NE WA rivers in a SW WA town? The lower Columbia has 2 fish per day, 30 per year. If NMFS wants 6500 steelhead in the upper Columbia, it will first have to close the lower Columbia. Is the state going to refund part of our license fees? Lets get NMFS out of our state's rivers and back to tidal waters. We are losing our state's sovereignty by allowing NMFS to dictate policy.

Oppose the proposed closure to the Twisp River - should be fly fishing only and catch and release. Fly fishers are fishers who respect the rules, and leave the fishing area free of garbage. Try this method on several rivers and see the results.

I have been fishing the Methow river system for three years and have never kept a fish that I have caught. To simply close this area is going to do more harm than good. The real problem is a result of what happens downstream with the Indians, sport fishing, and netting of these fish. There is nothing being done to change the real reasons for the problem.

Disagree with the proposed closures on the Methow, Wenatchee, Entiat and Okanogan Rivers because they are influenced by politics when they should be based on biological factors. If you are trying to protect fish, then catch and release is a viable means while permitting continued fishing by the public.

Please reconsider the proposal to shut down fishing on upper Columbia tributaries. A large portion of the fish in these streams are hatchery fish, not wild fish. If the closures are to protect steelhead smolts it should only be closed during the time when the smolts are migrating. Consider year-round catch and release with barbless hooks.

Methow Valley Flyfishers, Winthrop Chamber of Commerce and Town Council propose stream keeper program. (Written and oral testimony) Will keep areas clean and monitored, gather catch data on catch cards. Submitted "A Three Year Win/Win Salmon/Steelhead Recovery Plan for the Methow Valley River System:" Recommendation to make the lower 17 miles of the Methow a sanctuary for outgoing smolts and returning adult salmon and steelhead because of ESA listings. Make spawning and rearing areas above the Waymen Bridge on the Methow, above Falls Creek on the Chewuck and above War Creek on the Twisp. Make the remaining/middle sections catch and release, single barbless hook or fly fishing only. Enlist support of responsible fishers to report violations and educate fishers or hire an adequate number of river police/game wardens to enforce the law. Three year plan includes signage of closed areas, educational printed materials, coordination between state, federal, and local agencies and clubs. Methow Valley Fly Fishers offer to collect data in sanctuaries and other areas, as well as producing and posting signs and producing informational brochures, working on habitat, and returning hatchery spawned salmon carcasses to the watershed for nutrient improvement.

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club supports proposal described above.

Town Council of Winthrop supports proposal described above

Winthrop Chamber of Commerce supports proposal described above

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee believes many of these streams can support a catch and release fishery on resident trout . Hope a compromise can be reached. Not in favor of whitefish fisheries when all trout fisheries are closed.

Encourage you to consider limited openings of these drainages for catch and release. Total closure is unacceptable.

I encourage you to support continued, restricted trout fishing on the Methow. It will have minimum impact and not destroy the areas economy.

The basic idea may be OK but the "shotgun" approach shows a huge lack of on-site knowledge. Waters upstream from Winthrop have probably never seen a Dolly Varden/bull trout or a spring chinook.

Recommend catch and release only for trout, selective gear rules, July 1 - Sept 30 season for the region 2 streams listed. Closed waters for salmon and steelhead.

Why don't you close all fishing on the Columbia too. Propose a net fishing ban. Do something about the poaching. There are no wild rainbow/steelhead in the Methow system. How could there be with a dam near the mouth for 16 years?

I agree with the idea in principle but think the rules go too far by even banning catch and release fly fishing.

Hard to understand the proposal to close the Methow entirely. A rational catch and release and slot limit philosophy has been successful in other states.

Rather than close the Methow and the other three Columbia River tributaries entirely, consider implementing selective gear rules and catch and release. Hook size restrictions could also be implemented and the season reduced. Poaching is a problem and we don't have enough enforcement to make a total closure work. Major factors in the decline of steelhead and salmon stocks have been habitat degradation, dams, and overfishing by commercial and sport fishers.

Reject these proposals outright as they are lacking in merit. There is no data to support the proposals - this merits a study, not a closure. My catches in the Methow exhibited a decline in rainbow trout as a percentage of total fish. The proposed closures are inconsistent with the rules for other streams (Yakima River, Walla Walla). If upper Columbia steelhead are indeed a separate evolutionarily significant unit, then they are not endangered. (Chart showing ladder counts of steelhead passing Wells Dam - annual returns stable except for spikes in years of large hatchery plants). It is easy to distinguish a rainbow trout from a steelhead because by definition steelhead are over 20" in length. There should be data on bycatch of steelhead from commercial fisheries, limitations on tribal gill nets, and protection from marine mammal and bird predators. In 1997 a wild steelhead run was wiped out by tribal nets strung across Herman Creek. Your proposals raise the daily limit for wild steelhead on north coastal streams.

Please keep these rivers open to selective trout fishing at least through August. No reason for a strict hook restriction when a #8 or #10 works great on whitefish and endangered fish don't care about the tiny offerings anyway. When can we get a season for hatchery fish above Rock Island Dam?

Fidalgo Fly Fishers comment: the closing of these rivers to all fishing except whitefish will certainly protect anadromous fish, but it appears that the recreational angler is being severely restricted while the lower Columbia river commercial fisher is retaining access to these fish.

Hope the department can reach some kind of understanding that will allow much, if not all of these watersheds to remain open. They represent some of the best fishing for native trout that the state affords.

Please reconsider closing the Methow. There is no reason to close all trout fishing. Mortality rate of hooked fish is almost uncountable. To really do something worthwhile leave the regulations as they are. I am requesting some information that makes sense about mortality rate statistics.

Will support WDFW with creel surveys on upper Columbia tributaries in hopes this will lead to some flyfishing opportunities on the Wenatchee, Methow, etc. Please help with some kind of fishery.

Please do not stop trout fishing in Chelan and Okanogan county streams as has been proposed. There is very little trout fishing in the lower Entiat. Lack of food is limiting fish, not fishing pressure. Stopping trout fishing will allow more trout to compete with steelhead. Historically, the Entiat was known for trout, not steelhead and was meant by nature to be primarily a trout stream.

Several years ago the Wenatchee Fly Fishers decided to support the listing of Steelhead and Spring Chinook on the Upper Columbia River and tributaries as endangered. We wrote you a letter offering assistance in trying to enhance this fishery. We suggested that you: List the entire Columbia and tributaries as endangered; determine what sustainable level of returning wild and hatchery fish is needed, and once attained, catch and release fisheries should be allowed; institute a "selective fishing fee" for these rivers; work with clubs to restore fish habitat; do something about the Caspian terns. Now you propose to eliminate all fishing (except white fish) on the Wenatchee, Methow, Entiat and Okanogan. Wouldn't this be a great time for catch and release? It's time to formulate a plan to allow us to enjoy our rivers again.

Those of us who live in N Central Washington would like the commissioners to consider a more fair, overall plan for the Columbia River and its tributaries. Lower Columbia sport and commercial fishers are fishing. Terns and cormorants are killing 30% of the smolts. Success of the Lochsa, Selway and St. Joe rivers in Idaho demonstrates the value of catch and release fishing. What about catch and release with a single barbless hook for the whole Columbia River and tributaries?

Proposal hard to believe. There is no scientific data. Fishery is already severely limited by season, gear, daily limit, stream conditions, etc. Even with these restrictions we have not seen an improvement in the numbers of wild steelhead. Have only seen improvement in resident trout populations. Other factors, such as dams, predation, and tribal fisheries have a much greater effect and need to be addressed first. (3 identical letters)

Opposed to proposals for White River and Little River system. The proposal closes areas not frequented by salmon or steelhead because of falls. Have spent 3 seasons surveying spawning areas of the Wenatchee, Methow, Entiat and Okanogan systems. White River: Spawning chinook were found from Sears Ck Bridge to a mile below the falls and foot bridge at the end of the road. Never observed a chinook or redd above the falls. Never observed chinook in Panther Ck or Indian Ck. Sockeye found spawning primarily downstream from the junction of the White River and the Napeequa River. Little Wenatchee: Spring chinook spawn in the lower reaches below the falls near the Stevens Pass road bridge. Sockeye use the same area. Fished Little Wenatchee river system (Rainy Ck, Lake Ck, Fish Ck, Cady Ck and mainstem Little Wenatchee) and never saw a spawner or redd. Falls on Little Wenatchee and White rivers should be considered migration barriers for steelhead. Did see steelhead in Tumwater Canyon. Closure of the Little Wenatchee and White River would serve no purpose.

Opposed to proposals. Many of these fish are hatchery fish, not wild. Closures should be tailored to times when smolts are migrating downstream instead of year-round. Or consider a year-round catch and release fishery with barbless hooks.

Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests question the need for the proposed rule changes. Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout are currently protected by existing regs. Within the upper Columbia, a complete closure won't further the protection of endangered species. Bull trout harvest has been closed and 10 years of data shows improvement in their populations. A similar closure for steelhead is in place but hasn't been allowed the time to work. Natural mortality rate for trout in streams is 30-65% annually. Lowest hooking mortality occurs with flies and lures using barbless hooks (no bait), so selective gear rules should significantly reduce hooking mortality. WDFW says NMFS will not allow a direct fishery on a population that contains >50% endangered species unless appropriate monitoring can be conducted. In a study in the Wenatchee River in 1989 age 0+ and 1+ steelhead accounted for 15-20% of the total salmonid population. Populations of these fish declined in the headwaters from June-September. Current rules protect these in the mainstem rivers, which are closed at the end of August. WDFW is proposing a study in the Methow to find what proportion of the juvenile population are resident and what proportion are of anadromous

descent. Anadromy is not obligatory in rainbow trout. Progeny from anadromous fish can spend their whole lives in fresh water while progeny from resident rainbow trout can migrate to sea. Perceptions that these fish are genetically distinct may be suspect. It is unlikely that a one-time non-replicated study will be statistically valid. Data would only be applicable to the Methow basin. A catch and release fishery with a 4% mortality rate would have to catch 12,000 to 21,000 fish at a 4% mortality rate to kill as many fish as the proposed study (500-850). Question why the winter whitefish fishery is allowed.

Have serious concerns over proposals. More a symbolic gesture than an action that will guarantee results. Should use catch and release fly fishing.

I do not think streams should be closed for threatened species (bull trout and steelhead), only endangered species (chinook salmon) and only if data shows they are in the particular stream at the time.

Opposed to proposals. They don't fix the problem and won't fix it.

Opposed to proposals. They place a disproportionate burden on the recreational fisher. Cannot accept a complete closure when tribal and commercial netting are still allowed. Also, dams, habitat destruction, and irrigators contribute to the problem.

Alarmed by the proposals. Methow is the best trout river in the state. Majority of fish are 12-18", not salmon or steelhead smolts. Would support catch and release and fly fishing only.

Work together to find a way to have some fishing on these rivers.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited is disgusted that the fisheries resources have been degraded to the current status. Since we can't differentiate between resident rainbow and naturally produced steelhead how do we support a fishery which has perhaps a 5% mortality? Suggest a limited catch and release fishery (with single barbless hooks and monitoring) targeting trout, from June 15 - August 31 in all basins within the anadromous zones. This would minimize impacts on smolt and returning adults as well. Do not support proposed whitefish fisheries. Lost River - Why allow endangered bull trout as part of daily limit? Do not support proposal. Icicle River - How will this proposal impact recreational and tribal fisheries for hatchery spring chinook?

Recommend opening a catch and release season or eliminate by-catch in lower river fisheries.

Problem is downstream, not in Okanogan. Repeal the Boldt decision and get the nets out. Kill some seals, build fish ladders and tear down the dams. Make the Canadians friends again and team against the world.

Ten years ago the Commission opened the Yakima to catch and release fishing and created a wonderful fishery. Rather than close fisheries, make them selective-fishery and catch and release. MSH shouldn't be accepted as dogma.

Proposals are an extreme overreaction. Methow and tribals should be catch and release or even fly fishing only.

If closures are the only way I will support them, but no bait, catch and release or fly fishing only will protect smolts and still allow people to fish. Why not close the ocean and the lower Columbia?

Lake Wenatchee should be closed as well if Wenatchee River and Little Wenatchee are closed. Try to establish at least catch and release seasons or keep fisheries for hatchery steelhead.

Proposal to close even catch and release fisheries while leaving whitefish fisheries with bait open cannot pass the straight face test. Strongly consider opening catch and release only regs. Why recommend catch and kill season for Dolly Varden on Lost River, or any state water?

Methow Flyfishers upset about steelhead and trout fisheries and have been trying to help WDFW - have 115 members willing to help.

Upper Columbia rivers need to be reopened to catch and release. Need to work with NMFS to delist Wells Hatchery stock. Lower and middle Columbia rivers need to be closed until an acceptable number of fish have passed over Priest Rapids Dam - then open entire Columbia. Work with clubs for patrolling rivers habitat restoration. A few catch and release fishers do more good than harm on the river by discouraging poachers. Do endangered fish take precedence over birds, etc? Willing to help with streamwatch, education on how to release fish, etc.

Oppose proposals. Suggest catch and release fishery.

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association thinks sport anglers are being asked to do more than their share. Trusts that when we apply regulation changes in the name of salmon recovery they are held to the same rigorous scientific study that other industries enjoy the benefit of. Carefully consider the biological benefits before you "turn the light out" on this fishery. Minutes attached from Technical Team on Hanford Reach Stranding and Entrapment Issues, September 30 meeting.

## Region 3

### Railroad Pond

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
RAILROAD POND (Franklin Co.) near Mesa	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	None Statewide rules	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would add selective gear rules and a daily limit of two trout to the rules for Railroad Pond. This is intended to allow anglers the chance to catch and (and release) larger trout. There are no other lakes in Franklin County managed with a low catch limit and selective gear rules.

#### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Opposed to proposal. Railroad Pond fills the gap in the fall fishing season after other places have been fished out. The pond was created by removal of train-loads of gravel for the construction of the railway. It is ringed with cattails and has less than a dozen good access points. The south side has a steep berm which prevents a good back cast. Most of the shoreline slopes quite steeply to the pond. I have fished it for 15 years, and have seen very few fly fishermen. Two things might help the quality and quantity of fish - post a sign at the entrances stating what size of fingerlings and when they were planted. Close the pond from planting time until October 1.

Opposed to change. Only trout fishing lake in Franklin County. Shore fishing is limited and no bait would cut out a number of people who use this lake regularly.

Support proposal - has a variety of food for larger fish. However, it has been used by locals as a bait fishing lake and shore access is limited.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Yakima River Chumming Rule**

**PROPOSAL:** Allow chumming in the lower Yakima River, from the mouth to Prosser Dam.

**EXPLANATION:** To promote a catfish fishery in this area and target an underutilized resource.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee opposes proposal

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Mud and Myron Lakes**

**PROPOSAL:** Drop the daily limit for trout on Mud and Myron Lakes to one fish. All other rules remain the same.

**EXPLANATION:** To decrease harvest and increase the length of time these lakes provide a quality fishery.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal but encourages WDFW to consider Mud Lake as catch and release only.

A real quality fishery has a daily limit of more than one fish or catch and release.

Support proposal- Mud should be catch and release only.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Region 4

### Whatcom Creek

#### Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
<b>WHATCOM CREEK</b> (Whatcom Co.)					
from mouth to yellow markers below foot bridge below Dupont St. in Bellingham	TROUT	June 1-Feb. 29	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Aug. 1-Dec. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
The mouth is defined by a line from the flashing light at the southwest end of the Port of Bellingham North Terminal to the southernmost point of the dike surrounding the Georgia Pacific treatment pond. ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 1-Dec. 31.					
from footbridge below Dupont St. to stone bridge at Whatcom Falls Park	TROUT	June 1-Feb. 29	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 1-Dec. 31. CLOSED WATERS - from the Woburn St. Bridge to the stone bridge at Whatcom Falls Park.					
from stone bridge at Whatcom Falls Park to Lake Whatcom	TROUT	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	None	2	Juveniles only (under 15 years of age)
	Other Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 1-Oct. 31.					

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would eliminate the wild steelhead retention season in Whatcom Creek, for protection of the naturally spawning steelhead in Whatcom Creek. It would also close fishing from the Woburn Street Bridge to the Stone Bridge at Whatcom Falls Park, the area where a gasoline spill last June caused a significant loss of aquatic life.

#### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

### Cedar River Closed Area

**PROPOSAL:** Change the "closed waters" listing on the Cedar River to "From the mouth to Cedar Falls (RM 34) - closed waters."

**EXPLANATION:** The closure on the Cedar River is necessary for the protection of depressed steelhead, coho and chinook stocks. However, Cedar Falls is a complete anadromous barrier, so the headwaters do not need to be closed.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal but thought the headwaters were already closed to public angling. If they are open, it needs to be publicized.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**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	June 1-Feb. 29	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules June 1-Nov. 30. Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Feb. 29.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from USGS trolley cable to the falls in Section 21, Township 26N, Range 8 E and to the dam on the South Fork.					
North Fork above falls in Section 21 and South Fork above dam	TROUT	June 1-Oct. 31	10"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		

*There are two separate proposals for the Tolt River shown here - explanations for them both appear below.*

**EXPLANATION:** One proposal changes the “closed waters” area on the Tolt River from “USGS trolley cable to mouth of Yellow Creek on the North Fork, and to the dam on the South Fork” to “USGS trolley cable to the falls in Section 21, Township 26N, Range 8E on the North Fork, and to the dam on the South Fork.” Yellow Creek has been used as the boundary of the closed area since 1986 because it provides a clear identifiable boundary which can be found on maps. However, Yellow Creek is about 1.5 river miles above the falls which provide the anadromous barrier and should really be the end of the closed area. This proposal would open that 1.5 mile stretch to fishing. This is a remote, rugged area, and any anglers accessing this area should be knowledgeable enough to locate the 60-80’ falls.

**EXPLANATION:** The second proposal changes the rules in the North Fork to allow anglers to retain 2 trout over 10" and changes the season to the standard season, rather than year-round. This makes the rules in the two forks consistent, and provides additional harvest opportunity on resident trout.

Support removing the ban on fishing from a boat. Disagree with ending wild steelhead retention on January 15. Would rather see an emergency closure if necessary. Should also allow anglers to have a test fishery in Elliot Bay that harvests the same number of fish as the tribal fishery.

Oppose fishing from boats because of increases in guides on the river. Oppose closure in lower river during August and September because sportsmen do not take their share of the harvestable fish and we are meeting our escapement goals. Never sees any poaching of chinook. (written and oral testimony)

Support proposal except for two month closure on lower river. Not fair to close because of the non-compliance of a few. Try public education - worked at Soos Creek.

**MODIFICATION:** wild steelhead retention season change was dropped - season remains July 1 - last day in February. August-September closure in lower section was dropped in response to public testimony, but remains in middle section for chinook protection. Prohibition on fishing from a boat retained during the winter season in the lower river up to the Auburn - Black Diamond Road Br.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## Vogler Lake

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
VOGLER LAKE (Skagit Co)	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31			Catch-and-release and fly fishing only.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal gives Vogler lake an "opening day" season (Last Saturday in April - October 31), and adds fly fishing only and catch and release for all game fish because of an agreement with the adjacent landowner.

### TESTIMONY:

Support proposal to make Vogler Lake catch and release and fly fishing only.(2)

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal to make Vogler Lake fishing only and catch and release, but not the opening day season.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers support catch and release and fly fishing only season. Concerned over lack of enforcement because of the remoteness of lake. Would like to be part of the planning process for planting fish.

Adjacent landowner has worked with WDFW, Skagit Co Sheriff, and Representative Jeff Morris to develop proposal and supports the proposal.

Oppose proposal. Fly fishers should not have special privileges. Should only restrict fishing for conservation reasons.

State Rep Jeff Morris supports proposal. It will help preserve the quality on this beautiful lake. It is a fair and reasonable approach to preservation of this natural resource.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Lake Stevens Kokanee

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
STEVENS, LAKE (Snohomish Co.)	BASS	Year-round	18"	1	Chumming permitted.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		KOKANEE not included in
	KOKANEE	Year-round	None	10	TROUT daily limit.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would allow anglers to retain up to 10 kokanee in addition to the daily limit for other species of trout. The growth rate and size at maturity for kokanee in this lake is exceptional. A 10 fish limit for kokanee would allow anglers to take advantage of these fish.

### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Echo, Serene, and Stickney Lakes Split Season

**PROPOSAL:** Change the season on Echo Lake, near Maltby, and Serene and Stickney lakes, (all in Snohomish County), from year-round to: last Saturday in April - June 30, and September 1 - October 31; retain statewide rules for daily limit and minimum size for all gamefish.

**EXPLANATION:** Mid -summer non-fishing activities, including rowdy behavior, loud music and disrespect for private property near access sites, are a serious problem in a number of lakes in the Seattle/Everett area. A mid-summer access closure eliminates most of these problems, but, of course, penalizes lawful access users. It is, however, preferable to the total loss of access to these waters.

### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee opposes proposal. Don't feel they should lose access to pursue lawful activities because of inappropriate behavior by others.

Agree with this proposal for these small, family oriented lakes

Disapprove of these split seasons because it takes opportunity away from lawful users of the lake access. Poor behavior by a few is a problem for local enforcement. (3 identical letters)

Oppose proposal - misbehavior by non-fishers should not penalize fishers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Lone Lake

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LONE LAKE (Island Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	18" Statewide rules	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules, except motors allowed.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would add selective gear rules to all species (except motors allowed), and a daily limit of 1 and an 18" minimum size for trout, creating a "quality trout lake" where larger trout are available to anglers. Lone Lake is a good candidate for a quality water because trout stocked as either fry or catchables both show unusually high growth rates. Lone Lake is a rarity in Western Washington because it is capable of producing fairly large numbers of trout from 17-22" in length and 3-5 pounds in weight.

### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

South Sound Fly Fishers endorse proposal. Will ease the pressure on nearby Pass Lake.

Very supportive of proposal to make Lone Lake a selective fishery with a daily limit of 1 fish 18" or longer.

Agree with making it a selective fishery - amazing lake with potential to grow trophy sized trout.

Support proposal. Would also like fly fishing only.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers support selective gear rules and the attempt to have a quality lake. However, this lake is fished on a regular basis by young fishers and they would like to have additional rules that would keep the interest and access open to them.

Approve proposal. Demand for a quality trout lake is overwhelming. We need more. (3 identical letters)

Evergreen Fly Fishing Club supports proposal and would also like to prohibit use of motors.

Proposal is confusing - is it all motors allowed or just electric motors? Should allow those 12 and under to use bait and single barbless hooks. What about water skiing hours from 12-4 PM (county).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Spada Lake Trout

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would make the maximum size for trout 12" in Spada Lake.

**EXPLANATION:** Currently, there are very few trout over 12" in Spada Lake. Competition for food with too many other trout, as well as brown bullheads, has produced a large population of small fish. This proposal is intended to allow harvest of these smaller fish, resulting in a smaller population of larger fish.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Lake Whatcom Cutthroat

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WHATCOM, LAKE (Whatcom Co.)	CUTTHROAT Other Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		CLOSED to fishing for CUTTHROAT.
CLOSED WATERS - all tributaries and that portion of Lake Whatcom between Electric Ave. Bridge and outlet dam.					

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal closes Lake Whatcom to the taking of cutthroat trout. Lake Whatcom was the source of our cutthroat broodstock used throughout western Washington to plant beaver ponds and lowland lakes, so it is important that we keep a viable population of these fish. The purpose for the current rule (1 trout over 18") was to minimize harvest of these fish. It has created a specialized fishery employing down-riggers and lures resembling the kokanee that these large trout feed upon. Most of these larger fish are caught at depths of 20-90 feet. Hook and release mortality is high, due to the pressure change when the fish are brought up from these depths, and the combination of harvest and hooking mortality has proven too much for this population to sustain.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Region 5

### Little White Salmon River Closed Area

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would identify the “Closed Waters” area in the Little White Salmon River as “from the orange fishing boundary markers at Drano Lake to the intake near the north boundary of the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery.”

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal closes an additional area from the fishway to the intake, which is steep and inaccessible, and has been posted “No Trespassing.”

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Richland Rod and Gun Club Fishing Committee opposes proposal. If it’s steep and already posted, why close it? This proposal give all the more reason that the Meseberg Hatchery should be given priority by the department. We have lost a year of production through neglect.

Support proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

### East Fork Lewis River Fishery, Closed Area

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would change the boundaries of the fishery in the EF Lewis from “from the posted markers at the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park” to read “from the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park.” This also proposal would change the closed areas on the East Fork Lewis River from “from posted markers 400' downstream to 100' upstream of Lucia Falls” to “from posted markers at the lower end of Big Eddy to 100' above Lucia Falls.”

**EXPLANATION:** Posted markers at the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park really do not exist. Sometimes we use paper signs. This would just make the boundary clear even if the signs were not present. This proposal and the proposal for the area around Lucia Falls were suggested by enforcement officers in an effort to reduce confusion and provide a more enforceable boundary.

**TESTIMONY:**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Agree and also feel the river should be closed above Sunset Falls year round. This was done by emergency rule last year.

Support proposal.(2)

Support proposal but a lot of people don't know where "Big Eddy" is. Should also change the minimum size to 20" for all game fish. Change the closed season below upper Lewisville Park to March 15 - June 1. Permanently close upstream of Sunset Falls.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

### East Fork Lewis River above Sunset Falls

**PROPOSAL:** designate the East Fork Lewis River above Sunset Falls as "CLOSED WATERS."

**EXPLANATION:** Closure of this area would protect ESA listed steelhead population.

**TESTIMONY:**

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers asked for a wild steelhead sanctuary on the EF Lewis above Sunset Falls. The trout anglers are fishing on are really wild steelhead smolts. Even with 14" minimum many smolts are killed by handling.

Recommend a sanctuary for wild steelhead on the East Fork Lewis River above Sunset Falls - closed to all fishing. (3)

**RECOMMENDATION:** New proposal in response to public proposal, testimony- adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

### North Fork Lewis River Trout Minimum Size

**PROPOSAL:**

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.
	Other Game Fish	Year-round			
	SALMON	May 1-July 31	12"	1	Season limit of 5 SALMON from the Lewis River system Apr. 1-July 31, 1999.
		Aug. 1-Apr. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Release all CHINOOK through Dec. 31.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER, NORTH FORK (Cowlitz Co.), cont	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 the lower Cedar Creek concrete boat ramp. Fishing from boats prohibited from Johnston Creek to Colvin Creek May 1-Oct. 15.				
from Colvin Creek to Merwin Dam	TROUT	June 16-Sept. 30	20"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	June 16-Sept. 30	Statewide rules		
	TROUT	Dec. 16-Apr. 30	20"	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	Dec. 16-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
SALMON	Aug. 1-Sept. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM and CHINOOK. Wild COHO release.	
		Jan. 1-Apr. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Apr. 1-Oct. 31. CLOSED WATERS - from overhead powerlines to Merwin Dam.				
from cable crossing to Yale Dam (1300')	CLOSED WATERS				
Lewis River Power Canal and old Lewis River streambed between Swift No. 1 and No. 2 powerhouse	All Game Fish	Last Sat. in Apr.-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		Fishing from any floating device prohibited.
from Eagle Cliff Bridge upstream to lower falls including all tributaries	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Catch-and-release and selective gear rules.		

**EXPLANATION:** Currently, wild steelhead are listed under ESA. This proposal would raise the minimum size for trout to 20" to protect wild steelhead jacks that are currently being harvested because they are larger than the 12" minimum size for trout, but not large enough (20") to be protected by the wild steelhead release rule.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Support proposal

Support proposal - should adopt for most of our salmon and steelhead rivers. (2) Listing trout in the pamphlet makes people think there are trout to be caught.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

## Kalama River Trout Minimum Size

### PROPOSAL:

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	Aug. 1-Apr. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild COHO release. Release all CHUM. Upstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing. CHINOOK over 28" in length must be released Oct. 1-Dec. 31.
	EULACHON	CLOSED			

**EXPLANATION:** Currently, wild steelhead are listed under ESA. This proposal would raise the minimum size for trout to 20" to protect wild steelhead jacks that are currently being harvested because they are larger than the 12" minimum size for trout, but not large enough (20") to be protected by the wild steelhead release rule.

### TESTIMONY :

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Support proposal

Support proposal - should adopt for most of our salmon and steelhead rivers.(2) Listing trout in the pamphlet makes people think there are trout to be caught.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

## Wind River, Drano Lake and White Salmon River Night Closures and Non-Buoyant Lure Rules

**PROPOSAL:** Place a night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction on the Wind River from the mouth to the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge from August 1 - October 31, on the White Salmon River from markers downstream of the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge to the powerhouse from August 1 through December 31, and in Drano Lake from August 1 - December 31.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would reduce the snagging of steelhead and fall chinook salmon in areas of high concentrations of fish coupled with low water conditions. Wild steelhead have received an ESA listing in this area.

**TESTIMONY :**

If a broad based non-buoyant lure restriction is implemented I will have to change from a treble to a single hook, which will decrease my odds of a hook-up upon a fish strike.

I would be in agreeance with the non-buoyant lure restriction if it didn't mean that I couldn't fish with a bluefox spinner. Trolling a bluefox spinner seems harmless enough. I would support a proposal that is not so broad.

A night closure and non-buoyant lure is a good way to go - there are too many wild steelhead taken at midnight.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

I support the rule changes on the Columbia River. I feel night fishing contributes to the problem of illegal fishing. My main concern is "belly ripping" by snaggers.

Opposed to night closure of Drano Lake. We fish for steelhead at night with sand shrimp. You can't catch them in the day time.

Night closure at Drano Lake is not the answer to salmon snagging. Stop the snagging by making the penalty fit the crime. Do not penalize law abiding citizens.

Drano Lake should not be closed to night fishing. The fish are not concentrated enough to cause a problem.

It is about time someone did something about those meat hunters. I am all for banning night fishing at Drano. Bait fishermen never release a fish. In their eyes it is all meat fishing.

Drano Lake should not be closed for night fishing.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers support proposal - could help restoration of Snake River salmonids by closing the mouths of all three waters until stocks approach their escapement goals.

Opposed to night closure on Wind, White Salmon and Drano Lake. If the problem is jigging for salmon, fix this problem, don't penalize those who fish legally at night.

Thermal refuges such as the mouths of the Wind and Big White Salmon and Drano Lake should have night closures and bait bans.

Support proposal(2)

Oppose proposal

Opposed to night closure on Big and Little White Salmon rivers. It would eliminate flatfish fishing and let the bait fishers take over. In support of eliminating jig fishing completely on these 3 rivers. Personally would like to see bait fishing eliminated.

Hard to believe that snagging is a problem in the White Salmon. Have seen no evidence of this. Do not penalize the honest majority who enjoys fishing on warm summer evenings. Same logic applies to the Wind River or Drano Lake.

Do not believe there is a real night-time snagging problem at Wind River or Drano Lake. Wind River is a plug trolling fishery. Piers are fished with live bait. Drano Lake is similar with lots of boat fishing at night using live bait. The snagging potential occurs outside Drano Lake from the railroad/highway bridges downstream to Cooks Indian in-lieu fishing site. This fishery uses heavily weighted spoons and lead lures. The non-buoyant lure restriction should be used on all lures (buoyant and non-buoyant) including live bait during this fishery season (July- October) to facilitate

the release of wild silver salmon. Law enforcement is rare. The department authorized tribal fisheries. Newspaper says enforcement officers will be enforcing a no trespass area at BNSF railroad tracks. They should be working on fishing violations instead.

Agree with proposal. Have witnessed probable snagging/overharvest in the night fishery. Enforcement is difficult at night.

Reluctantly support proposals. Need more enforcement. Many people are snagging with jigs.

Understand concern but proposal penalizes everyone and would eliminate my opportunity to fish. Would support a restriction requiring buoyant lures and no bait fishing after dark.

Do not have a problem with non-buoyant lure rule, but opposed to the night closure. It is either bad management or just being inflexible. (Written and oral testimony) Petition with 163 signatures attached opposing the night closure.

Support proposal. We don't allow fishing for sturgeon at night.

Opposed to night closure. Should be separate issue from non-buoyant lure rule.

Columbia Pacific Anglers oppose night closure on Drano and the White Salmon - no biological reason for it.

Do not close to night fishing. It is fun.. Use more enforcement. Will the commercial and native American fishers lose their night fishing too, and do their nets catch only hatchery fish?

**MODIFICATION:** In response to public testimony, drop the night closure, retain the non-buoyant lure restriction in each area.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## **Washougal River Closed Area**

**PROPOSAL:** The closed water restriction on the Washougal River upstream of Salmon Falls should include all tributaries as well as the mainstem.

**EXPLANATION:** Tributaries provide important spawning and rearing areas and need to be closed to protect wild steelhead smolts.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers support proposal

Support proposal (3)

Support closure of these thermal refuges. May need permanent closure until the Columbia recovers

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Wind River above Shipherd Falls**

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would close the wind River above Shipherd Falls, including all tributaries, to all fishing.

**EXPLANATION:** Hatchery steelhead smolts are no longer released into the Wind River due to the critical status of the wild stock. The last adult hatchery fish will return in 1999. This area was closed by emergency rule in 1997 and 1998.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Wind River should be left open during May and June to provide angler recreation for biting hatchery spring chinook. Summer steelhead enter in July and August.

Leave open May/June to fish the hatchery spring chinook.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers support proposal

Would like to see smolt plants return to the Wild River. Why were they stopped?

Support proposal.(3)

Close night fishing on the Wind River above Shipherd Falls

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Swofford Pond Channel Catfish**

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would remove the special 20" minimum size for channel catfish and return to the statewide rule of 5 fish with a 12" minimum size.

**EXPLANATION:** Research has shown that the 15" channel catfish planted in Swofford pond are taking 2 years to grow to the 20" minimum size. Natural mortality during these years removes too many hatchery-origin fish before they are ready for harvest. The statewide rule of a 12" minimum size would allow more fish to be harvested.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Mill Creek Steelhead Season

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MILL CREEK (Lewis Co.) mouth to hatchery road crossing culvert	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		
	STEELHEAD	Dec. 1-Dec. 31	20"	2	STEELHEAD only. All steelhead with missing ventral fin must be released.
Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Dec 1 - 31					

**EXPLANATION:** The proposed hatchery steelhead only season in December would require single hooks on non-buoyant lures and a night closure would be in effect. Research with radio tags has shown that many hatchery steelhead spend time in Mill Creek in December and would be available for harvest.

### TESTIMONY :

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

**MODIFICATION:** hatchery steelhead with a ventral fin clip must be released. These are Cowlitz River fish that occasionally "dip in" to Mill Creek.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## Blue Creek Steelhead Season

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BLUE CREEK (Lewis Co.) mouth to posted sign at rearing pond outlet	STEELHEAD	Dec. 1-Dec. 31	20"	2	STEELHEAD only. All steelhead with missing ventral fin must be released.
CLOSED WATERS - from mouth to Spencer Rd Jan 1 - Nov 30. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Dec 1- 31.					

**EXPLANATION:** The proposed hatchery steelhead only season in December would require single hooks on non-buoyant lures and a night closure would be in effect. Research with radio tags has shown that many hatchery steelhead spend time in Blue Creek in December and would be available for harvest.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Highly endorse proposal (2)

**MODIFICATION:** hatchery steelhead with a ventral fin clip must be released. These are Cowlitz River fish that occasionally “dip in” to Mill Creek. Closed area is not in effect during steelhead fishery.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## **Fort Borst Park Pond**

**PROPOSAL:** Change the rules for Fort Borst Park Pond to a “family fishing water.” This would allow only juveniles or licensed adults accompanied by a juvenile to fish.

**EXPLANATION:** Many parents are reluctant to allow their kids to go fishing alone. This proposal would allow a parent who brought his child fishing to also fish, perhaps making it more likely that they would come fishing.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal and suggests creation of more family fishing waters.

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Columbia River Salmon Rules**

**PROPOSAL:** This proposal would close the Columbia River from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam to fishing for salmon from November 1 through December 31.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal is intended to protect fall chinook and chum spawning in the area.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Support proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Vancouver Lake Rules**

**PROPOSAL:** Allow chumming in Vancouver Lake.

**EXPLANATION:** This change in the rules would be used to promote a recreational carp fishery in Vancouver Lake.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee has no opinion

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest supports proposal

Good idea but will BPA guarantee flows to protect these fish? Most sportsmen do not fish on spawning fish, those that do need enforcement. Need to keep fishing options open whenever possible or sportsmen will stop buying licenses.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Region 6**

### **Add Landlocked Salmon Rules and Extend Season in Several Region 6 Lakes**

**PROPOSAL:** Add landlocked salmon rules (salmon are treated as trout and are counted as part of the anglers trout daily limit) to Horseshoe Lake (Kitsap Co), Carlisle Lake, (Lewis Co), Maggie Lake (Mason Co), Bradley Pond (Pierce Co), Carney Lake (Pierce Co), DeCoursey Pond (Pierce Co), Waughop Lake (Pierce Co), Lincoln Pond (Clallam Co), Radar Ponds (Pacific Co), Cases Pond (Pacific Co), and Vance Creek Ponds #1 and #2 (Grays Harbor Co). The season in the following lakes is also proposed to be extended by one month, to close November 30: Maggie Lake (Mason Co), Carney Lake (Pierce Co.), DeCoursey Pond (Pierce Co), Cases Pond (Pacific Co), Vance Creek Ponds #1 and #2 (Grays Harbor Co), and Tarboo Lake (Jefferson Co).

**EXPLANATION:** These lakes are all candidates for the release of surplus hatchery coho adults. In the past, the landlocked salmon rules and season extensions have been made by emergency rule.

This proposal would make the changes permanent, to facilitate this process, which provides some exciting and very popular recreational opportunity on these lakes.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## **Opening Day Seasons for Region 6 Lakes**

**PROPOSAL:** Change the season on the following lakes in Region 6 from year- round to opening day (Last Saturday in April - October 31) : Clear Lake (Pierce Co), Tanwax Lake (Pierce Co), Ohop Lake (Pierce Co), Crescent Lake (Pierce Co), Wye Lake (Kitsap Co), Phillips Lake (Mason Co), Limerick Lake (Mason Co), Lost Lake (Mason Co).

**EXPLANATION:** Surveys indicate that almost 1/3 of anglers desire the “opening day” experience. This action would address that desire.

**TESTIMONY :**

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee opposes proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Six lakes in Okanogan County are proposed for year-round fisheries while eight lakes in Region 6 are proposed to have “opening day” seasons. There is opportunity here to standardize lake fishing opportunities and satisfy the desires of those who wish to kill a limit of trout on opening day. For the following lakes: Clear Lake, Tanwax Lake, Ohop Lake, and Crescent Lake (Pierce Co); Wye Lake (Kitsap Co); Phillips Lake, Limerick Lake, and Lost Lake (Mason Co) - make the season Last Saturday in April - October 31 with statewide rules for minimum size and daily limit, and November 1 - last Friday in April, catch and release and selective gear rules.

Closing year-round lakes with the explanation the “Surveys indicate the a almost 1/3 of anglers desire the opening day experience” is both absurd and possibly illegal. Not managing on biological basis but for maximum benefits to the people of WA. Opposed. Just a bid to sell licenses.

Opposed to proposal. If 1/3 want opening day lakes, then 2/3 don't. Should be open year-round.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

# Gibbs Lake

## PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GIBBS LAKE (Jefferson Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round			
			Statewide Rules		TROUT - catch and release only. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would change the management scheme for Gibbs Lake to that of a "quality water," with an opening day season, catch and release and selective gear rules for all game fish, in response to public requests for more quality waters in the Port Angeles area.

## TESTIMONY :

Question the proposal to make Gibbs lake a catch and selective fishery because it is deep and marginally productive and may not be able to support a "quality fishery." Beaver Lake, however, is a good candidate, and I support this proposal.

In favor of making Gibbs Lake catch and release and selective gear rules but opposed to changing the season from year-round.(2)

Quality lake fishing for whom? I am a bait fisherman who enjoys Gibbs Lake. You will be depriving us of the way we have traditionally fished this lake.

Support proposal. Gibbs Lake is a good choice.(2)

Support proposal. Would also like the lake open year round and gas outboards prohibited. (3)

Support proposal for a quality lake but request a year-round season.(9)

Request year-round selective fishery.(2)

Support proposal but would like a year-round fishery and electric motors only.(3)

Support proposal but would like a year-round fishery and electric motors only, selective fishery and fly fishing only.

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum, 5 fish daily limit, electric motors only, and a year-round season.

Should be selective rules, electric motors, 12" maximum size, 5 fish daily limit year round season.

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum, 5 fish daily limit, electric motors only, and a year-round season, or else catch and release would be ideal.

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum size limit.

Support proposal but with year-round season, fly fishing only with barbless hooks, maximum size 12" and 5 fish daily limit. Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Club-will accept responsibility for annual cleanup, etc.

Support proposal but request year-round season, fly fishing only, and catch and release.

Want year-round season, fly fishing only.

Request year-round fishery with catch and release.

Request catch and release.

Want catch and release, no gas engines, year round season.(2)

Support concept of a quality lake with catch and release, single barbless hooks, no limit regulations, and a year-round season.

Why not eliminate the large mouth bass or take the limit off bass to produce a quality water for trout.

Please add to proposal a year round season and electric motors allowed.

Oppose proposal. No biological reason for proposal.

**MODIFICATION:** season changed to year-round in response to public testimony. Catch and release applies only to trout, electric motors allowed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## **Crocker Lake**

**PROPOSAL:** Close Crocker Lake (Jefferson Co) to fishing.

**EXPLANATION:** Crocker Lake is an important coho rearing habitat and is being used as part of WDFW's efforts to rebuild local wild coho stocks. Most of the coho that rear in the lake attain a size susceptible to a fishery by their first fall - some coho will rear for an additional year and grow to a larger size. This proposal would offer protection to these fish while we work to restore wild coho runs.

**TESTIMONY :**

In favor of Crocker Lake proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

# Beaver Lake

## PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BEAVER LAKE (Clallam Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	None Statewide rules	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules except electric motors allowed.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would add selective gear rules (except electric motors allowed) to Beaver Lake, and make the daily limit for trout 1 fish, to create a "quality water" at the request of local anglers.

## TESTIMONY :

In favor of Beaver Lake proposal.(4)

Would support a proposal with electric motors only, maintenance as a quality lake in Clallam County, and a maximum size limit such as 12", 5 fish daily limit.(2)

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum, 5 fish daily limit. (2)

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum, 5 fish daily limit, electric motors only.(3)

In favor of remaining a quality water.

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum, 5 fish daily limit, fly fishing only.

Request a 12" maximum, 5 fish daily limit, fly fishing only, no motorized boats.

Please keep year-round and restricted to electric motors.

Support proposal but with a 14" maximum, 5 fish daily limit, electric motors only.

Request quality fly fishing only lake, maximum size 14", 5 fish daily limit, no motors.

Request a quality lake with size limits, no bait and no gas motors.

Support proposal but would like the daily limit to stay at 5 fish.

Request a selective fishery with electric motors only.

Support proposal but with a 12" maximum, electric motors only, and selective fishery rules.

It would be best for Beaver lake to be restricted to electric motors for quality water and maximum size be 12".

Would like selective gear rules, no gas motors and a large size limit.

Should be selective rules, electric motors, 12" maximum size, 5 fish daily limit.

Support concept of a quality lake with catch and release, single barbless hooks, no limit regulations, and a year-round season

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Carbon River

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CARBON RIVER (Pierce Co.) from mouth to Voight Creek	TROUT	June 1-Mar. 31	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Jan. 31.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules	Statewide rules	
	SALMON	Sept. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 4 adults, but only 2 adult CHINOOK. Release all PINK and CHUM SALMON.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug. 1-Nov. 30.				
from Voight Creek to Hwy. 162 Bridge	TROUT	June 1-Aug. 15	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Aug. 15	Statewide rules	Statewide rules	
	TROUT	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Jan. 31.
	Other Game Fish	Dec. 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules	Statewide rules	

*There are two separate proposals for the Carbon River shown here - explanations for them both appear below.*

**EXPLANATION:** One proposal adds a non-buoyant lure restriction in the lower river from August 1 through November 30 to protect returning salmon from snagging.

**EXPLANATION:** Another proposal closes fishing in the upper river (mouth of Voight Creek to SR 162) from August 16 - November 30. This upper river closure is intended to protect the naturally spawning salmon returning to South Prairie Creek and the upper Carbon River. These fish tend to hold in this area prior to spawning and are very susceptible to the recreational fishery.

### TESTIMONY :

Puyallup Tribe is in concurrence with Carbon River proposal, but the proposed closed area needs to be expanded to include the reach above Hwy 162. It should be from the mouth of Voight Creek to the Fairfax Bridge on Hwy 165 from August 16 - November 30 to protect naturally spawning coho, chinook and chum.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Oppose proposal. No biological reason for proposal.

Support proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

## Cutthroat Rules on the Wynoochee, Wishkah, and Satsop 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	ALL SPECIES - single point barbless hooks required Sept. 16-Nov. 15.	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31	Statewide rules			
	SALMON		Oct. 1-Nov. 15	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release adult CHINOOK. Single point barbless hooks required.
			Nov. 16-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release adult CHINOOK. Wild adult COHO release.
	EULACHON	CLOSED				
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			
	EULACHON	CLOSED				
CLOSED WATERS - from Wynoochee Dam downstream 400' and from barrier dam near Grisdale downstream 400'.						

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WISHKAH RIVER (Grays Harbor Co.) from mouth to West Fork	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31 June 1-Mar. 31	14" Statewide rules	2	
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Nov. 15 Nov. 16-Jan. 31	12" 12"	6 6	No more than 2 adults. Release adult CHINOOK. No more than 2 adults. Release adult CHINOOK. Wild adult COHO release.
ALL SPECIES - single point barbless hooks required Oct. 1-Nov. 15.					
from mouth of W F to 400' below the outlet of Wishkah rearing ponds	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31 June 1-Mar. 31	14" Statewide rules	2	
	CLOSED WATERS - from dam at Wishkah Rearing Ponds (formerly Mayr Bros.) downstream to 400' below outlet channel.				
Mainstem from dam upstream, East Fork and West Fork	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31 June 1-Oct. 31	14" Statewide rules	2	

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SATSOP RIVER AND EAST FORK (Gray Harbor Co.) from mouth to bridge at Schafer State Park	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31 June 1-Mar. 31	14" Statewide rules	2	
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Nov. 15 Nov. 16-Jan. 31	12" 12"	6 6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release adult CHINOOK. SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release adult CHINOOK. Wild adult COHO release.
ALL SPECIES - night closure, non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Sept. 1-Nov. 30.					
from bridge at Schafer State Park upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31 June 1-Oct. 31	14" Statewide rules	2	Single point barbless hooks required Sept. 1-Oct. 31.
ALL SPECIES - night closure, non-buoyant lure restriction and single point barbless hooks required Sept. 1-Nov. 30.					
SATSOP RIVER, MIDDLE FORK (Tumow Branch) and WEST FORK (Grays Harbor Co.) from mouth to Cougar Smith Rd.	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29 June 1-Feb. 29	14" Statewide rules	2	
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Sept. 1-Nov. 30.				
from Cougar Smith Rd. upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31 June 1-Oct. 31	14" Statewide rules	2	
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Sept. 1-Oct. 31.					

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal is a continuation of the standardization of rules for sea-run cutthroat, most of which was done last year. These three streams were planted with hatchery cutthroat historically, so the 12" minimum size for trout with wild cutthroat made sense. Since the plants have been discontinued, the streams should revert to a 14" minimum size (to protect most fish at least long enough to spawn once), with retention of wild cutthroat above that size.

**TESTIMONY :**

Agree with increase to 14" minimum. Should have all wild cutthroat release on these rivers - no more plants so should allow wild fish to rebuild to significant numbers.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

14" minimum for retention does not adequately protect spawners. In Willapa only 18.75% of the 14-15" fish spawned successfully once with 2.8% repeat spawners. WF Hoquiam (Grays Harbor) 36.84% of the 14-15" fish spawned once with 0% repeat spawners. Graphs attached.

Regulations should be changed to catch and release of all coastal cutthroat. Most 14" fish have not spawned once. Data also show fewer cutthroat larger than 14" in the kill fisheries of the Willapa and Hoquiam rivers compared to other areas with catch and release regs. (Graphs attached)

Support proposal

Minimum size should be 14½" or longer (data attached)

**MODIFICATION:** 14" minimum size for trout added to East and West Fork Wishkah.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

# Nemah, Palix and Bear River Seasons

## PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NEMAH RIVER, MIDDLE (Pacific Co.) from mouth upstream to the Dept. of Natural Resources Bridge on Middle Nemah A-Line Rd.	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release, single point barbless hooks required July 1-Jan. 31.
	SALMON	July 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO release. Single point barbless hooks required.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Sept. 1-Nov. 30.				
from Dept. of Natural Resources Bridge on Middle Nemah A-Line Rd. upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release and selective gear rules.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Sept. 1-Nov. 30.				
NEMAH RIVER, NORTH (Pacific Co.) from Hwy. 101 bridge upstream to lower bridge on dead-end lower Nemah Rd.	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained. Single point barbless hooks required Oct. 1-Jan. 31.
	SALMON	Oct. 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO release. Single point barbless hooks required.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Oct. 1-Nov. 30.				
from lower bridge on dead-end lower Nemah Rd. upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release except up to two hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Oct. 1-Nov. 30.				
NEMAH RIVER, SOUTH (Pacific Co.) from mouth to confluence with Middle Nemah	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release. Single point barbless hooks required July 1-Jan. 31.
	SALMON	July 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO release. Single point barbless hooks required.
	ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Oct. 1-Nov. 30.				
from confluence with Middle Nemah upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release and selective gear rules.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
PALIX RIVER (Pacific Co.) from Hwy. 101 Bridge to the confluence of the South and Middle Forks	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release. Single point barbless hooks required July 1-Jan. 31.
	SALMON	July 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO release. Single point barbless hooks required.
Marine Area 2.1 (Willapa Bay) rules apply downstream of Hwy. 101 Bridge.					
from the confluence of South and Middle forks upstream (all forks)	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release and selective gear rules.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BEAR RIVER (Pacific Co.) from mouth (Hwy. 101 Bridge) to Lime Quarry Rd. (approximately 2 river miles)	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release. Single point barbless hooks required July 1-Jan. 31
	SALMON	July 1-Jan. 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO release. Single point barbless hooks required.
from Lime Quarry Rd. upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Mar. 31			Catch-and-release and selective gear rules.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would extend the seasons on the above rivers from the last day of February to March 31, to allow anglers more catch and release opportunity for wild steelhead. Wild steelhead release would still be in effect during the extended opening.

**TESTIMONY :**

Agree with extension to March 31.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee generally endorses the plan of extending fisheries on planted steelhead but is concerned about incidental mortality to wild fish.

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association

Do not understand need for catch and release before Jan 31. Won't some hatchery fish return before this? If so, harvest should be allowed before Jan 31.

Agree with proposal.

Have gotten hatchery fish there prior to Jan 31, so why change?

Proposal does not match wording of explanation. Agree with explanation.

**TESTIMONY:**

To allow catch and kill on the NF would eliminate one of the finest fishing experiences in Puget Sound. If you feel that the 2 forks must have consistent rules, make the SF catch and release too.

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee opposes the proposal to make the NF a catch and kill fishery. Recent Master's thesis shows less than 15% over 26 cm in length. Change SF to catch and release for consistency.

Adopt as proposed(8)

This proposal is a death sentence for one of the few remaining native trout populations in the region. Accessible only through gated private property for a fee. Why not catch and release in the South Fork too if regulations are too confusing?

NF is delightful and fragile. Keep the catch and release rules. If you must change, change the SF to catch and release.

I agree with both proposals. They make common and biological sense.

Strongly opposed to kill fishery on N Tolt.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**South Fork Sauk River**

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SAUK RIVER (Skagit/Snohomish Co.) from mouth to Darrington Bridge	TROUT	June 1-Feb. 29	14"	2	DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may be retained as part of the TROUT daily limit. Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Feb. 29.
	Dolly Varden/bull trout	June 1-Feb. 29	20"		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29	Statewide rules		
	All Game Fish	Mar. 1-Apr. 30			Catch-and-release. Selective gear rules.
from Darrington Bridge to Whitechuck River	TROUT	June 1-Feb. 29	14"	2	DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may be retained as part of the TROUT daily limit. Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Feb. 29.
	Dolly Varden/bull trout	June 1-Feb. 29	20"		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29	Statewide rules		
from Whitechuck River upstream including North Fork and South Fork to Elliott Creek	TROUT	June 1-Oct. 31	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT - may be retained as part of the TROUT daily limit.
	Dolly Varden/bull trout	June 1-Oct. 31	20"		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		
South Fork above Elliott Creek	All Game Fish	June 1-Aug. 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules

**EXPLANATION:** this proposal adds a new section to the South Fork Sauk (above Elliot Creek) with a June 1 - August 31 season. Currently, this section is open under the general stream season of June 1 - October 31. The earlier closure is necessary because this part of the South Fork Sauk is a prime spawning ground for Dolly Varden/bull trout during September. These fish tend to congregate in three pools while they wait for stream temperatures to drop, and are very vulnerable to sport gear at this time.

**TESTIMONY:**  
 Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Fidalgoc, Fly Fishers propose eliminating wild steelhead retention Dec 1 - Feb 29.

Support proposal

**MODIFICATION:** add selective gear rules on South Fork above Elliott Creek

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## North Fork Stillaguamish River

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
STILLAGUAMISH RIVER, NORTH FORK (Snohomish Co.) from mouth to Swede Heaven Bridge	All Game Fish	Mar. 1-Nov. 30			Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery STEELHEAD may be retained. Fly fishing only and use of motors prohibited.
	TROUT Other Game Fish	Dec. 1-Feb. 29 Dec. 1-Feb. 29	14" Statewide rules	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Feb. 29. Use of motors prohibited.
ALL SPECIES- night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug 1 - Nov 30: fishing from any floating device prohibited upstream of Hwy 530 Bridge at mile post 28.8 (Cicero Bridge)					

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would make the ban on fishing from a boat equipped with a motor year-round, rather than just from April 16 - November 30, as it is now.

**TESTIMONY:**  
 Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Agree with no motors change, but no wild steelhead should be retained December 1 - February 29.(2)

Closing to boats ; with motors year-round is great.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers propose eliminating wild steelhead retention Dec 1 - Feb 29.

Approve of proposal but perhaps it should go one step further and ban the use of power boats on this river, as the size of the stream does not warrant their use. (3 identical letters)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as proposed

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

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 the S. 277 <sup>th</sup> St. Bridge in Auburn	TROUT	June 1-Feb. 28	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained July - Feb 28.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 28	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 Aug. 1-Nov. 30. Fishing from a floating device prohibited Nov 1 - Feb 28.				
from S. 277 <sup>th</sup> St. Bridge to the Auburn-Black Diamond Road Bridge	TROUT	June 1-July 31	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained July 1-July 31 and Oct. 16-Feb 28.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-July 31	Statewide rules		
		Oct. 16-Mar. 15	14"	2	
		Oct. 16-Mar. 15	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 a floating device prohibited Nov 1- Mar 15.					
GREEN (DUWAMISH) RIVER (King Co.) (cont.) from the Auburn-Black Diamond Road Bridge to the Tacoma Headworks Dam	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	14"	2	Wild STEELHEAD may be retained July 1-Feb 28.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Nov 1 - Dec 31	12"	2	CHUM SALMON only.
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: There are currently four sections in the rules listed for the Green River, each with different rules for sport fishing. This proposal would reduce the number of sections to three. The boundaries and seasons of these three sections were chosen to protect particular stocks of concern

from overharvest, poaching, and incidental hooking mortality, while providing the maximum opportunity possible. The lower two sections of the river have a closure in August and September to protect adult chinook from poaching and hooking mortality, and a night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction when salmon are very vulnerable. All three sections of the river would close January 15 to the retention of wild steelhead, to avoid having to close by emergency rule, as has been the case in recent years. The lowest section closes 2 weeks earlier than the middle section for other game fish, protecting wild steelhead from excessive hooking mortality. The top section has a continuous season because although chinook are present in significant numbers, they are much more difficult to hook than when they first arrive in the downstream areas. However, there will be a night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction to protect these fish. A separate proposal would remove the ban to fishing from a floating device from the entire river.

#### TESTIMONY:

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee supports proposal

Change endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association but for 277<sup>th</sup> bridge to Auburn Black Diamond Road fall opening should be Oct 1 to be consistent with salmon start date. Winter closing date for game fish should be March 15 above Auburn Black Diamond Rd. Question summer closure when WDFW does not object to tribal fishery on wild chinook. Endorse removing ban on floating devices.

Adopt as proposed (8)

Support removal of boat ban. Oppose August-Sept closure. Never see any poached chinook. Tribal test fishery takes 4000 fish in one night.

Oppose fishing from boats because of increases in guides on the river. Oppose closure in lower river during August and September because sportsmen do not take their share of the harvestable fish and escapement goals are being exceeded.

Support removal of the boat ban. Do not support the August - September closure. Stop tribal netting and no problem.

Don't believe anglers should be able to fish out of boats on this stream.

South King County Trout Unlimited approves reducing four management reaches to 3, but is opposed to closure during August and September without better justification. Approve of removing the ban on fishing from a floating device.

Approve of the proposal if only hatchery fish are targeted. Fishers should only be able to fish from a boat Dec 1 - Jan 15 for winter hatchery steelhead. Not enough enforcement.

Closures in the middle and lower river restrict angling opportunity for steelhead and Atlantic salmon and won't conserve wild chinook. Since access to the middle river is difficult, we should try opening it for boat fishing for a test period.

Support opening to fishing from a boat year-round. Support redrawing the boundaries but not the summer closure.

**MODIFICATION:** on the North Fork Nemah, hatchery steelhead may be retained in entire river.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified

## North Coastal Steelhead Proposals

*Note: Testimony for these proposals was usually directed to one or more issues in the package, and is listed after the proposals for individual streams.*

### Quillayute River System Steelhead

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BOGACHIEL RIVER (Clallam Co.) from mouth to Hwy. 101 Bridge	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	TROUT - Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	July 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
BOGACHIEL RIVER (Clallam Co.) (cont.) from Hwy. 101 Bridge to Olympic National park boundary	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CALAWAH RIVER (Clallam Co.) from mouth to Hwy. 101 Bridge	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	TROUT - wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	July 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
from Hwy. 101 Bridge to forks	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Dec. 1-Apr. 30
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
South Fork, from mouth to Olympic National Park boundary	TROUT	June 1-Feb. 29	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DICKY RIVER (Clallam Co.) and all forks from mouth to East Fork Dickey River including Olympic Nat. Park	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	TROUT - wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	July 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
From East Fork Dickey River upstream (all forks)	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	TROUT - wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		

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 - wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Mar. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.
from concrete pump station at Sol Duc Hatchery to Hwy. 101 Bridge downstream of Snider Creek	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules November 1 - April 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
from Hwy. 101 Bridge downstream of Snider Creek to Olympic National Park boundary	TROUT	June 1-Oct. 31	14"	2	
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	Statewide rules		

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
QUILLAYUTE RIVER (Clallam Co.) from mouth to confluence of Sol Duc and Bogachiel Rivers, including Olympic National Park waters	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 30	14"	2	TROUT - Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 30.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 30	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Mar. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would do away with the yearly limit of 5 wild steelhead taken from the Quillayute River system, and allow anglers to retain up to 2 wild steelhead per day in areas open to wild steelhead harvest.

Wild steelhead spawning escapements in the Quillayute River system, which is comprised of the Dickey, Bogachiel, Calawah and Sol Duc Rivers in addition to the Quillayute itself, have been consistently well above the wild steelhead escapement goal since 1979/80. The only exception

was in 1991/92 when the escapement was 400 fish below the goal of 5,900 fish. The past 10 year average escapement has been 10,249 or 1.74 times the goal. The past 5 year average has been 12,181 or just over 2 times the goal.

The Quillayute system is the healthiest wild steelhead run in the state. There is significant additional harvest opportunity available on wild steelhead. There is no biological need for a daily limit of less than 2 wild steelhead per day in the open harvest areas or for a season limit of 5 wild steelhead per angler. The selective fishing, wild steelhead release zones currently in place will remain. The system will continue to be monitored annually. If a significant downward trend in wild steelhead escapements is detected, more conservative harvest regulations will be proposed.

**TESTIMONY:** See list below Clearwater River proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as proposed

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified - yearly limit for Quillayute River system was raised to 10 wild steelhead. Daily limit for wild steelhead remains one fish.

## Goodman Creek

**PROPOSAL:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GOODMAN CREEK (Jefferson Co.) outside Olympic National Park	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1-Feb. 29 June 1-Feb. 29	14" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - Wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Feb. 29.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would allow anglers to harvest up to 2 wild steelhead per day in Goodman Creek from December 1 through the last day in February.

**TESTIMONY :** see list below Clearwater River proposal

**RECOMMENDATION:** Do not adopt

**ACTION TAKEN:** Not adopted

# Hoh River

## PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES		
HOH RIVER (Jefferson Co.) from mouth to DNR Oxbow Campground boat launch	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 15	14"	2	TROUT - 1 wild STEELHEAD per day may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 15.		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 15	Statewide rules				
	SALMON	June 1-Aug. 31	12"	6			
		Sept. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6			
	from DNR Oxbow Campground boat launch to Morgans Crossing boat launch site	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 15	14"		2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Dec 1 - Apr 15.
		Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 15	Statewide rules			
SALMON		June 1-Oct. 15	12"	6			
		Oct. 16-Nov. 30	12"	6			
from Morgans Crossing boat launch site to South Fork, including Olympic National Park	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 15	14"	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Dec 1 - Apr 15.		
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 15	Statewide rules				
	SALMON	June 1 - Aug 31	12"	6	SALMON - jacks only		

*There are two separate proposals for the Hoh River shown here - explanations for them both appear below.*

**EXPLANATION:** Currently, the Highway 101 bridge is used as the dividing point between the two lower sections of the Hoh River. This proposal would make the DNR Oxbow campground boat launch the dividing line. This would allow anglers launching at this boat launch to begin fishing immediately if the lower section was open, rather than having to row ¼ mile to the Highway bridge first.

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would extend the area open to wild steelhead retention upstream to Morgan's Crossing, remove the selective gear rules requirement from December 1 - April 15, and remove the annual limit of 2 wild steelhead taken from the Hoh River. Very conservative regulations were adopted for sport harvest of wild steelhead on the Hoh River in 1996. During the 1996-7 season, sport harvest was 119 fish, less than 4% of the wild fish available to anglers after tribal harvest. Prior to adoption of these rules (1987/88 - 1995/96 seasons), sport harvest had been about 22% of the available run. In 1997-8 the fishery was restricted to wild release through March 6, and only 10 wild fish were caught. We propose to liberalize sport harvest of wild steelhead on the Hoh River, but cautiously. Even without the yearly limit on wild fish, and with a larger harvest area, the sport harvest should remain well below the 1987/88 - 1995/96 average. We propose to maintain the daily limit of 1 wild steelhead per day, and the 6 miles of river from Morgan's Crossing to the National Park Boundary and the South Fork Hoh will continue to require

wild steelhead release, and selective gear rules. Data from the 1998/9 fishery is not yet available, but will be evaluated before this proposal is adopted.

**TESTIMONY :** see list below Clearwater River proposal

**MODIFICATION:** Wild steelhead retention not allowed above Oxbow Campground.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified. Retain annual limit of two wild steelhead, daily limit of one wild fish. Adopt proposal to change dividing point of two lower sections to DNR Oxbow Campground.

## Clearwater River

### PROPOSAL:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CLEARWATER RIVER (Jefferson Co.) from mouth to Snahapish River	TROUT	June 1-Apr. 15	14"	2	TROUT - 1 wild STEELHEAD may be retained Dec. 1-Apr. 15.
	Other Game Fish	June 1-Apr. 15	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Sept. 1-Nov. 30	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Wild adult COHO release.
ALL SPECIES - single point barbless hooks required Sept. 1-Nov. 30.					
from Snahapish River upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct. 31	14"	2	

*There are two separate proposals for the Clearwater River shown here - explanations for them both appear below.*

**EXPLANATION:** This proposal would remove the annual limit for wild steelhead from the Clearwater River, but the daily limit for wild steelhead would remain 1 fish. This will keep the daily limit consistent with the Olympic National Park rules for the Queets River.

**EXPLANATION:** this proposal would add a catch and release fishery with selective gear rules for all game fish to the Clearwater River from Snahapish Creek upstream. The proposed season would run from November 1 through April 15 and fishing from boats would not be allowed.

**TESTIMONY :**

**MODIFICATION:** proposed catch and release fishery above the mouth of the Snahapish has been dropped.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt as modified

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted as modified - Yearly limit for wild fish was raised to 10. Daily limit for wild fish remains one. Catch and release fishery above the Snahapish was not adopted.

**TESTIMONY (ON ALL N. COASTAL STEELHEAD PROPOSALS):**

Opposed to Quillayute River System steelhead proposal. Wild steelhead on this system should be entirely hook and release. The present limits have only been in place for one cycle - not long enough. A 5900 fish escapement goal is too low.

In favor of extending the fishing area on the Hoh River to the DNR Oxbow Campground boat launch. Opposed to relaxing the limits on steelhead.

Opposed to proposal to remove the annual limit for steelhead on the Clearwater River. In favor of adding a catch and release fishery on the upper Clearwater.

Oppose the proposal to do away with the annual possession limit on the N. Coastal steelhead streams. We should not risk screwing things up, and then move to fix them. If a sudden change in ocean conditions takes a heavy toll on Quillayute steelhead, and it is not discovered soon enough, anglers could harvest too many fish and not leave enough to spawn. No one needs to kill more than 5 wild steelhead per year.

I protest raising the five fish annual limit on the Hoh, Bogachiel, etc. This is short sighted and will concentrate the harvest to a small minority of anglers with time and money. Let the fish have a chance to prove that they can build up a truly abundant run.

I approve the proposed modifications of the rules for N. coast steelhead and recommend adoption of the Morgan Crossing fishing opportunity.

Why is a proposal even being considered to increase the kill numbers on some streams for steelhead? Are the young people going to think - OK there are plenty of fish now so it's no problem if you kill your limit of fish? Logic would dictate that we need to build up our spawning escapement to the level of past years and as a buffer against La Nina winters, poor ocean conditions and rapidly encroaching land development. Please at least don't change the existing catch and release regulations in place. Who is behind this proposal? Are fishing equipment manufacturers of some small group of sportfishers sponsoring the increase the kill idea? The majority of sportfishers and even the river guides are not for increasing the kill numbers but for increasing the number of fish naturally available.

Opposed to all the changes on the N coastal steelhead. Where is the biological data that suggests these runs of steelhead can support such a drastic increase? Certainly the wild stocks have not come back so suddenly as to support these drastic kill-happy regulation changes?

I have read the proposed changes to steelhead regulations. I'm so pleased with the direction now being demonstrated by the Commission. Frankly I never thought I would ever again see common sense and reliance on scientific data drive good decision making regarding this resource. I totally support the overall philosophy of permitting an increased opportunity to harvest wild steelhead stocks, especially since data indicates specific wild stocks have consistently met

or exceeded escapement goals. I am very pleased with the proposed changes on Olympic Peninsula streams, particularly the Bogachiel, Hoh, and Clearwater.

I totally support the overall idea of permitting an increased opportunity to harvest wild steelhead stocks. Particularly, increasing the opportunity to catch wild steelhead in streams where the department's data shows that escapement goals have been met or exceeded is a good idea. The department should be commended for taking this bold step in furthering good management techniques. The recommendations for the Hoh are heartily endorsed.

The Quillayute system and Goodman Creek changes are endorsed. The Clearwater changes are endorsed except the catch and release proposal above the Snahapish - this should be a sanctuary.(4)

I strongly concur with the following proposals and commend the department for its foresight and courage in recommending these changes:

Bogachiel River, Calawah River, Dickey River, Sol Duc River, Quillayute River, Goodman Creek, Hoh River, Clearwater River with the exception of the catch and release proposal above the Snahapish - this should be a sanctuary.(4)

The department has offered liberalized regulations for harvest of wild steelhead based on scientific management for the Hoh, Quillayute, and Queets/Clearwater river systems. I recommend: Quillayute system - remove annual limit, permit 2 wild fish as part of the daily limit Dec 1 - April 30 in the sections open to harvest; Hoh River - remove annual limit, remove selective fishery rules and allow retention of wild steelhead from Hwy 101 to Morgan's Crossing Dec 1 - April 15; Clearwater River - remove annual limit, do not open the river above the mouth of the Snahapish for catch and release; Goodman Creek - allow anglers to harvest 2 wild steelhead per day Dec 1 - Feb 29. (28 identical letters - an additional 13 nearly identical letters - one from the mayor of Forks)

It is good to see the proposed regulation changes that the Department has offered for steelhead fishing on the North Coast. I would support - Quillayute system - remove annual limit, permit 2 wild fish as part of the daily limit Dec 1 - April 30 in the sections open to harvest; Hoh River - remove annual limit, remove selective fishery rules and allow retention of wild steelhead from Hwy 101 to Morgan's Crossing Dec 1 - April 15; Clearwater River - remove annual limit, do not open the river above the mouth of the Snahapish for catch and release; Goodman Creek - allow anglers to harvest 2 wild steelhead per day Dec 1 - Feb 29. (24 identical letters)

I am in favor of the release of all wild steelhead and am opposed to the proposal to allow killing more wild steelhead on the Quillayute River system. Many businesses would benefit in the long term if catch and release were the policy for wild steelhead and salmon.

Dropping the yearly limit on the Quillayute River system is absurd. Allowing 2 wild steelhead per day is a step back in steelhead management. Much of the data on the system is influenced by good runs on the Sol Duc. Same comments for the Hoh River, do not extend area open to wild steelhead retention and do not remove the annual limit.

The department's proposal to allow an increased harvest of wild steelhead on rivers showing a good stock is commendable. Keep the upriver deadlines and if the stocks show a decline close the water to everyone. (Note - fish kept this year - 0)

Concerning the wild steelhead killing regulations, I am asking you to keep the regulation as is. Please look at all the data and history of this area and do not cater to the interest of a few guides.

As a new fly fisher practicing catch and release I think WDFW should be advocating catch and release of all wild steelhead statewide until all Washington rivers have healthy populations.

I agree with the department's philosophy of harvesting more wild steelhead when the stocks are healthy. I believe department personnel should be congratulated on taking this bold step where scientific data shows that the wild stocks meet or exceed escapement goals. I am especially pleased with the Hoh, Quillayute, and Clearwater suggestions but I oppose opening the Clearwater above the Snahapish to catch and release - this area should be permanently closed as a steelhead spawning sanctuary.

Steelhead Trout Club of Washington supports permitting an increased opportunity to harvest wild steelhead when wild stocks are healthy. We are in agreement with proposals for Quillayute system, including Goodman Creek, Hoh River, and Clearwater River, except the proposed catch and release fishery above the Snahapish - this section of the river should be a spawning sanctuary.

I urge you to manage Olympic Peninsula rivers for wild fish escapement, not maximum harvest.

I was very disappointed to learn you are considering allowing the killing of 2 fish a day in the Olympic Peninsula area. I have been dreaming of retiring and steelhead fishing in that area and hope you keep it catch and release.

I strongly urge the rejection of the proposed rule changes for the Quillayute and Hoh systems. Worrying about the possibility that the tribes might want to harvest more than their share is no reason to change the rules. The escapement goals listed in the proposal were established in 1979/80 during an era when it was common practice to use MSY models to set catch quotas. Modern methods use OSY which contains better buffers for variables like El Nino, mudslides, poaching, etc. I would prefer to see an updated escapement goal. Subsistence steelhead harvest can be accomplished using hatchery fish. The current habitat is underutilized. Current conservative regulations are why the runs are healthy.

I am writing you to urge you to leave the steelhead regulations as they are - we have gotten used to them.

I am glad to see the sportfishing rule proposals for the Quillayute, Hoh and Queets/Clearwater river systems. I think sportfishers should be given regulations that afford them a better chance to harvest their share of surplus wild steelhead. The proposals are still significantly more restrictive than the rules were previously and will not threaten wild steelhead escapement goals.

The limit for wild steelhead on the Quillayute River system should be lowered, not raised. This is the last group of healthy wild steelhead runs in the state. I support catch and release rules for all wild steelhead and chinook runs throughout the state. There is not enough enforcement on peninsula rivers. Don't put a hatchery on the Sol Duc.

Wild steelhead should not be harvested on the Olympic Peninsula.(2)

Please support the release of wild steelhead year-round.(2)

Approve of proposals and recommend adoption of the Morgan Crossing fishing opportunity.

The proposals are based on outdated statistical information from the late 1970's and early 1980's. Need more recent information. Proposed changes are shortsighted. Others are working cooperatively on the peninsula to restore and boost its reputation for healthy and plentiful steelhead stocks - the proposed changes work against this goal.

Increasing the daily limit of wild steelhead on the Quillayute system and doing away with the annual limit makes no sense. Manage for MSY not MSH. Allowing retention of steelhead with a dorsal fin less than 2.25" on the Hoh is ridiculous. Catch and release of wild fish will cause lots of mortality as anglers bring fish into their boats to measure the fin. We have faced emergency closures on the Hoh in recent years, why relax the rules? Department should expand opportunity by letting streams stay open longer for catch and release instead of increasing the daily limit of wild fish. We need to release all wild steelhead. They are too valuable to kill. Hatchery fish are for harvest.

It is important that the Fish and Wildlife Commission provides up with fishing regulations that give fishing opportunities to harvest the surplus wild steelhead. I support proposals for the Quillayute, Dickey, Sol Duc, Bogachiel, and Calawah rivers and Goodman Creek. For the Hoh, I favor the Morgan's Crossing boundary with 1 wild steelhead per day. For the Clearwater, 1 wild steelhead per day, opposed to the catch and release proposal. (33 identical letters - one from the Pierce County Sportsmen's Council)

I cannot understand why WDFW would even consider killing wild steelhead on the Quillayute River system. Don't you want the population to increase?

Washington Fly Fishing Club Conservation Committee is opposed to Quillayute River steelhead proposal and Goodman Creek proposal - no need to kill wild fish. Hoh River - opposed to proposal to remove annual limit, split opinion on change of river sections. Clearwater River - opposed to the proposal to remove the annual limit, supports the catch and release fishery above Snahapish Creek.

Quillayute River system steelhead changes strongly endorsed by NW Marine Trade Association. Harvest steelhead are available. Hoh River change endorsed.

Wish to express support and gratitude concerning the department's courage in submitting rule changes for wild steelhead on the river systems showing that wild stock escapement goals are consistently met or exceeded. Opposed to the Clearwater catch and release proposal above the Snahapish River.

Please consider catch and release rules on the Hoh River system.

Update Gibbon's study - it is outdated - catch and release is the only answer.

Allowing additional limits for wild kill on the Quillayute would put undue stress on the Sol Duc, Bogachiel and Dickey Rivers. Nisqually River was overfished when northern rivers went to catch and release. BC has great success on the Skeena River system with total catch and release. Make totally catch and release, or at least retain the 5 fish annual limit.

Leave the current steelhead limit for the Quillayute River in effect. Wild steelhead is not a renewable resource.

Opposed to the liberalized rules proposed for the Quillayute River system steelhead. Opposed to allowing retention of wild steelhead on any rivers in Washington.(13)

Hoh River #2 proposal, Clearwater River #1 proposal, Quillayute River proposal and Goodman Creek proposals are approved by Eastside Steelheaders (8)

Opposed to proposed changes - need more enforcement on Olympic Peninsula.

Opposed to Quillayute River steelhead proposal. There are hatchery fish for people to keep and eat. (3)

Opposed to proposals for more harvest of wild steelhead. We should be very cautious with harvest. Ethically, we should not encourage killing of wild fish.

Opposed to proposed rule changes for the Quillayute system. A healthy run does not give us the right to kill them. Kill fisheries bring out the rabble who will litter and take more than their limits.

Current regulations are too restrictive and need to be fixed. Proposals are consistent with sound management. Hoh River should be opened from Hwy 101 to Morgan's Crossing to wild steelhead harvest, no selective gear rules, annual limit should be dropped. Quillayute River system - restore daily limit of 2 wild fish from December 1 - April 30,

remove the annual limit. Clearwater River - remove annual limit, but do not open above the mouth of the Snahapish for catch and release - it should be a sanctuary. (3)

All sport caught wild steelhead should be released. Tribes should not be allowed to net when wild steelhead are in the river.

Opposed to proposal for Quillayute system. Wild steelhead must never be killed. WDFW is a put and take organization. Opposed to the proposal for the Hoh River. Canada and Alaska do not permit wild steelhead kill.(3)

Endorse the proposed changes to the Quillayute, Hoh and Queets systems, but not the catch and release proposal for the Clearwater above the Snahapish - it should be a sanctuary and is subject to poaching if open. It is gratifying to see scientific data being used to manage the steelhead resource rather than a pseudo-ethical bias toward catch and release.

Opposed to the taking of wild steelhead in the Quillayute River system. The Green and the Stillaguamish have already been ruined. Protest the killing of any wild steelhead in Washington. There is no reason for it.

Quite pleased to learn that the Quillayute River system holds the healthiest run of wild steelhead in the state and will enjoy the opportunity to harvest additional wild fish. Support both proposals for the Hoh. Support the Clearwater proposal but not the catch and release fishery above the Snahapish.

The proposal to allow fishermen to retain two wild steelhead per day from the Quillayute River system is nonsense. There is no justification for killing and eating wild steelhead. There should be catch and release only for wild fish. (3)

Opposed to the changes for the Quillayute River system. At the very least, leave the 5 fish annual limit or release all wild steelhead throughout the state.

I wholeheartedly agree with the proposals. With the sound scientific data now available the department can manage these rivers to provide adequate spawning escapement and increased recreational harvest opportunity.

I favor more restrictions on catching wild steelhead, particularly the Dickey and Hoh rivers.

Opposed to Quillayute River system rule proposal. All wild steelhead should be released. Tribal harvest should be stopped or controlled. (3)

You can buy steelhead at Fred Meyer to eat. Please do not allow killing of wild fish.

Do not kill wild fish. The Hoh has been closed in recent years because of low runs. Any study done by WDFW cannot be current.

Gibbon's study is outdated. Keep the rules as they are.

Opposed to proposal for Quillayute system. Wild steelhead must never be killed. Sport harvest numbers are laughable. Canada and Alaska do not permit wild steelhead kill.(3)

Support the department's idea of permitting increased harvest on those specific streams where scientific data shows stocks meet or exceed escapement goals. Especially pleased with the Bogachiel and Goodman Creek proposals.

Support the recommended changes for wild steelhead where specific wild stocks have met escapement goals. Support the dropping of river specific annual limits. No biological reason why anglers should not be allowed to harvest wild steelhead where the run is meeting its escapement goals. Request you adopt these rules.

Protect the Peninsula's Future questions the escapement goal on the Quillayute and whether or not it has been met recently. Requests data for Quillayute, Hoh, Goodman Creek. Wild fish need habitat restoration, good hatchery practices, and cessation of harvest pressure. Salmonids are a public resource belonging to the citizens of the state.

Oppose the additional harvest of wild steelhead. Should be moving toward a policy of marking all hatchery fish and requiring catch and release on all anadromous wild fish.

Opposed to proposal to allow the retention of 2 wild steelhead per day. All wild steelhead should be released.(2)

Are you guys nuts? One wild fish should never be killed.

Support the proposals for the Olympic Peninsula streams, except the catch and release fishery above the Snahapish on the Clearwater. The rules adopted a few years ago have limited fishing opportunity for wild steelhead more than necessary. It seems that WDFW is responding to the majority of anglers with these proposals. The proposed changes are a cautious step in the right direction.

Opposed to changes for the Quillayute River system. Catch and release is fulfilling. If further rules are considered, they should be directed at further restrictions to killing wild fish.(3)

Please record an emphatic NO to the proposals. The entire fishing process is the objective, not the fish kill.

Do not allow an increase in the number of wild steelhead that can be retained on either a daily or annual basis. Wild steelhead retention should be eliminated in Washington.

Support proposed changes for the Quillayute, Hoh, and Clearwater rivers. Facts and data are clear.

Opposed to the proposals. Do not let political issues prevent you from doing what is right. (2)

Reject proposed sportfishing rule changes that would increase the harvest limits of wild steelhead anywhere in the state. If anything, healthy runs should be protected with even stronger regulations. (5)

Opposed to proposal. Would rather have these streams managed for a world- class catch and release fishery. (6)

Opposed. Can't believe WDFW is considering raising daily limit on wild steelhead.(4)

Opposed to proposal for Quillayute River system.(6)

Opposed to proposal for Hoh River.(3)

Opposed to proposals. All wild steelhead should be released. (36)

Opposed to proposals. Should be catch and release for all endangered species.

Opposed to rule changes for Quillayute system. The system is healthy because of current management. Biological data is only quantitative - does not show age classes of fish to enable quality fishery study. Current rules allow some harvest if people must.

Release all wild anadromous fish. (3)

Opposed to any change that takes more wild fish. The right thing is to go to no bait, single barbless hook, no wild steelhead catch on the Quillayute, Hoh and Queets systems.

Please do not raise the limit on the killing of wild steelhead.(2)

Proposal allowing more wild steelhead to be harvested is crazy. Should be trying to enhance the population.

Opposed to Quillayute proposal. Stock is not that large and will not hold up under that type of pressure.

Opposed to proposals. We need to preserve healthy wild stocks in the face of habitat degradation, etc. Snorkel counts on the Hoh show a decrease in all salmonids. Proposal would have a bad effect on bull trout. Bogachiel, Clearwater, Calawah, Dickey and Sol Duc all have habitat degradation from logging, etc. There is a restoration project proposed by the Hoh Tribe for Goodman Creek. The proposals are a step backward.

Kudos for attempting to overturn the over restrictive rules on catching and retaining wild steelhead.

Where surplus wild steelhead are present, anglers should be allowed to harvest them. I support these proposals. If a run is in danger, it should be closed. I don't like catch and release.

Agree with proposed changes for the Quillayute, Hoh, and Clearwater.

Many guides support complete wild steelhead release. All oppose proposals. Current rules offer a good balance and insure long dependable seasons. This is important to the local economy. Many rules are based on ethics, not biology (no snagging, only one pole per angler) Hoh has not met its escapement goal in recent years and WDFW does not have an active creel census or enough enforcement, so why liberalize? Escapement goals for the Quillayute are too low. If you want to offer more opportunity consider extending the season. Otherwise keep current regulations intact.(Written and oral testimony)

Why is WDFW doing this? It doesn't make any sense to me.

Oppose the proposals. Allowing a 2 wild fish limit will greatly hamper the possibilities of winter steelhead runs being restored. Today the December run of wild steelhead on the Sol Duc is almost nonexistent. The January through April runs are just starting to make a comeback, but all runs have declined. Mismanagement because of politics is ruining our fish runs. I was shocked by the chinook salmon season off La Push this year. A two fish limit will destroy the wild steelhead runs on the Sol Duc.

Opposed to the proposal to allow anglers to retain 2 wild steelhead per day or a season limit of 5. The biological need is to prohibit taking these fish to keep stocks at a sustainable level and it demands catch and release. Please adopt catch and release here. It works.

Keep the catch and release of wild steelhead. It's cheaper and better in the long run.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers does not support proposals. Escapement data is 14 years old. Escapement goals are too low - spawning capacity is much more than indicated. Hoh has had 2 emergency closures in 3 years. Enforcement is understaffed. Should have catch and release on all wild fish.

Leave the rules the same or reduce the wild stock kill limits. Increase the enforcement in this area. Let those who need to kill fish in order to enjoy the sport kill hatchery fish. The current rules are very aggressive in the first place.

Opposed to the proposed rules for the Quillayute River. Two steelhead per day is too liberal. WDFW may be relying too heavily on limited data. Err on the side of conservation. All wild steelhead should be released. WDFW should also mandate barbless hooks.

Disagree with proposals. Quillayute River system should have catch and release only requirements for all native steelhead.(2)

There is no such thing as a surplus escapement of wild fish. Single barbless hooks, no bait, and catch and release works.

Opposed to proposals. Should be catch and release or even closed to preserve wild steelhead.(2)

I do not support proposals to increase daily or yearly harvest limits on wild winter steelhead in the north coast. Do not support removing selective fishery rules from river stretches, like the Hoh River proposal. Believe in increasing the number of selective fishery waters on the north coast. (125 identical postcards)

Opposed to proposals. The more you preserve wild steelhead through catch and release regulations, the more licenses you will sell.

Opposed to proposals. Strongly believe that the only way to restore a healthy population to rivers is to implement catch and release throughout the state for all steelhead, including hatchery fish.

The fact that you're considering a daily kill limit of 2 wild steelhead is ridiculous. Please do the right thing and rescind this proposal (signed by 10 fishers)

Opposed to proposals. There should be no kill fisheries on native steelhead, statewide. BC, Oregon and Idaho allow only catch and release. Manage for quality rather than maximum harvest.

Because of the Quillayute River system's success, rule changes should focus on ensuring the wild steelhead run is improved and not risk any loss of fish or the need to impose emergency rules during the season. Over-escapement will not hurt the runs. If it isn't broke don't fix it. Reject the proposals.

MSY does not work. Excess spawners are not a waste. Models are not accurate or do not include enough variables to reflect reality. Reject the Olympic Peninsula proposals. Adopt a total wild fish release policy coupled with universal marking of hatchery fish.

Recreational steelheading is more than just harvesting fish - fishery management should be more than achieving MSY escapement goals. Keep the current rules as they are. The regulations may help restore the early wild component of the winter run.

Even the thought of eliminating the 5 fish limit on the taking of wild steelhead is preposterous.

It is astonishingly short sighted to consider allowing harvest of wild steelhead. Oregon and Montana have slot limits and catch and release rules. No one knows why the increase in these populations has occurred or whether the trend will continue. Allowing the harvest of wild salmonids is absolutely the wrong thing to do.

Opposed to the proposals. In my opinion I-696 should have been written to eliminate all salmon and steelhead fishing until the runs are back and can sustain a controlled fishery.

WDFW should be congratulated in analyzing the latest scientific data available and determining additional opportunity is available on north coastal rivers.

It is refreshing to see the proposals that the department has put forward that will allow greater harvest opportunity. These are offered in a responsible manner, based on a scientific approach, and the proposals are consistent with the

long term health of wild stocks. I support all of the proposals except the catch and release area on the Clearwater River above the Snahapish. This area is a spawning sanctuary.(2)

Allowing a harvest of wild steelhead is a mistake.

It's about time the department set some rules to increase the recreational harvest of wild steelhead. Tribes have been taking more than their 50%.

Opposed to any kill fishery for steelhead in Washington State. For any regulation that protects spawning adult steelhead, trout or salmon. Also must protect the spawning grounds. At a minimum bait should be banned on all streams with juvenile steelhead, salmon or trout. Mainstem fisheries should have bait bans from May 1 - October 1 to protect juveniles and resident trout.

Fourth Corner Fly Fishers ask: Has WDFW made a new assessment of individual wild stocks to determine that there are more than adequate numbers of spawners on each of these rivers? If there has been an increase in abundance in the last 2 years can these stocks withstand increased harvest along with all the other threats they face? Does WDFW have enough data to assume no harm will come to these stocks assuming maximum pressure due to the new rules? Is a 2 year period of data statistically significant? Have all the other uncertainties that can affect survival been studied and accounted for? Believe it would be difficult to answer "yes" to any of these questions. Request: Subject these and any future changes to a Wild Salmonid Policy analysis. Implement an escapement-modeling program before making any changes that would affect steelhead in WA. "Stand fast" on the decisions made 2 years ago. Carry out policies that emphasize a long term commitment toward recovery. Impose a 0 limit on all wild steelhead stocks until the above questions are answered.

Opposed to Quillayute River system proposals. The best scientific data that I am aware of indicates that the wild steelhead runs in this river system are still in decline.

To go back to the old kill quotas is not good biology. The escapement goals are too low. MSH does not work. Quillayute has some of the best habitat in the state and has the potential to produce more winter steelhead than any rivers in the world. Redd counts are not accurate. Populations of early returning fish are not healthy. Don't support proposal for Hoh. It has been closed early the last few years. What is the population in the SF Hoh? Selective fisheries have been very popular.

Opposed to Quillayute proposals. Have fished this area and noticed a steady decline in the resource throughout. Do what you must to save all native stocks of steelhead in the state.

Opposed to Quillayute River system proposals. It is one of a very few healthy stocks around the state. Why is recreational fishing in WA defined in numbers of fish killed? WDFW does not have a track record of success managing steelhead. In 5 or 10 years conditions will change and these rules will help make wild steelhead extinct. Are past fisheries managers accountable for the decisions they have made? Success stories are always the result of limited or no harvest of wild fish and the promotion of catch and release. BC realized this long ago.

Support proposals (3)

South King County Trout Unlimited approves of this proposal. Last year the Quileute Tribe harvested more than 60% of the steelhead taken. Fairness dictates that sport fishers should be given some additional harvest opportunity.

Opposed to proposals. To kill a steelhead is a terrible thing. To kill two legally is a double travesty.

Support removing the annual limits from coastal streams. However a daily limit of two wild fish may be too much. Would support full state regulations on the coastal rivers with additional rules stating "trout- 1 wild steelhead may be

retained as part of the daily limit December 1- April 30.” Should still encourage catch and release. Support selective fisheries and sanctuary areas.

Support proposals to liberalize harvest and eliminate selective fisheries on the Hoh, Goodman Creek and the Quillayute system. Also feel the SF Calawah should be opened to the former catch and release line above Hyas Creek. There is no biological reason for the current rules. They favor guides and other boaters.

In violent disagreement with proposals for Hoh and Quillayute system. Hoh has seen closures 3 out of the last 4 years. In the long run, catch and release leaves everyone better off.

Washington Steelhead Flyfishers disagrees with the killing of any wild fish. Opposes proposals. Is it Washington’s policy to kill enough wild fish in every run until it becomes depressed or endangered? A world-class fishery would improve the local economy. Dead fish are bad for the environment. If anglers focused on a particular run, they could decimate it in 2 generations. Taxpayers, fishermen, and the fish are best served by reducing the wild kill.

Support the current regulations on the Hoh River, Goodman Creek and the Quillayute River watershed and oppose the proposals to liberalize harvest and eliminate selective fishery on the upper Hoh. For Goodman Creek - lack of reliable data for harvest and escapement. For Quillayute watershed - current rules are a good balance of harvest opportunity - concerned over the health of stocks in small streams. Hoh River has failed to meet escapement goals throughout much of the 1990s and emergency rules were used 3 out of the last 4 years. Re-introduction of bait fishing on the Hoh would prove detrimental to Dolly Varden/bull trout population and cause increased mortality of steelhead. Closures and emergency rules have an adverse impact on the economies of coastal towns. (234 identical e-mails and letter from Olympic Peninsula Guide Association)

Steelhead ruins on north coastal rivers are productive and healthy. I’m supportive of proposals to harvest fish. We should not open the closed area on the Clearwater to catch and release. Support the proposal for one fish on the Hoh up to Morgan Crossing. Support Goodman Creek and Quillayute River system proposals. (2)

The Fish and Wildlife Commission took away much of our steelheading on the N coastal rivers. The department told them at Commission meetings that there was no conservation problem and opposed the Commission, but they wouldn’t listen. They had their minds made up. Support all the proposals except the catch and release on the Clearwater.

It is important that the Fish and Wildlife Commission gives us rules that will give sportsmen the opportunity to catch our share of the surplus wild steelhead. Support all the proposals except the catch and release area on the Clearwater.

Support statewide release of all wild steelhead. Mass numbers of wild spawning steelhead are essential for maintaining genetic diversity and the loading of nutrients into freshwater ecosystems.

King County Outdoor Sports Council endorses all the proposals except the catch and release zone in the upper Clearwater, which they oppose. KCOSC wants the Commission to know: Steelhead Management Plans are required to be jointly developed yearly by December 1 in Boldt case area by WDFW and tribes, on a stream-by-stream basis. Process calls for the tribes and state to share equally in the harvest of hatchery and wild steelhead. Surplus wild steelhead available for harvest are those in excess of Maximum Sustained Harvest Escapement. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission has informed the Commission many times that should the state decide not to harvest their share of the fish, the tribes may. The Wild Salmonid Policy included a resolution that calls for the tribes and WDFW to share equally in the conservation process. Increasing the daily harvest limits on these rivers will significantly increase the fishing opportunities for the large majority of steelheaders. Angler surveys show that only 18% of anglers prefer a limit of 0- for wild steelhead. 81% favor harvesting, and the preferred daily limit is 2 fish. 67% support 30 fish annual limit. Maximize fishing opportunity where you can. (Written and oral testimony)

Federation of Flyfishers steelhead committee asks that the following factors be considered: Quillayute river system is the ultimate destination for trophy steelhead fishermen. Rules adopted in 1996/7 were the result of requests from sports groups and the Olympic Guide Association. These limits have contributed to the present escapements. Annual returns vary considerably so provisions for low years must be made. An additional economic factor is that an adequate number of fish be available in the future to attract fishers to the area. Not enough enforcement in the area. Need funds allocated. Recommend retention limits of one wild fish per day and a statewide annual limit of ten wild steelhead.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers discourage the increase of the five wild steelhead limit per angler on the Quillayute system. First choice would be to eliminate retention of all wild steelhead. Eliminate wild steelhead retention on the Hoh and Clearwater December 1 - April 15.

In favor of two wild fish limit on these rivers. Annual limit should be no greater than 20. Catch and release should be discouraged whenever possible.

Agree with proposal on escapement goals. Waters West Fly Fishing Outfitter and various guides want everything their way. They do not speak for the vast majority of fishermen. There are too many guides on the rivers.

Disagree with the proposals for the Quillayute system. Hoh River has made its escapement goal only once since 1990 and has been closed to all fishing, including catch and release by emergency rule in three of the last four years. Escapement goals set 14 years ago are too low. Return data may be inaccurate. Failure of Owl Creek and glacially discolored nature of the Hoh coupled with lack of real-time creel sampling make accurate data collection difficult.

Opposed to proposals. Can gain economically from a healthy wild steelhead resource, like the Skeena River in BC. Hatchery fish are for those who need to keep a fish.

Disapprove of the Quillayute River proposal. Keep this run the healthiest steelhead run in the state. If any regulation needs changing, it should be to change to wild fish release year round. Hatchery fish are for keeping. (4 identical letters)

Refreshing to see these proposals. Reflects a more reasonable approach to harvest when surplus fish are available and makes law enforcement easier. Should allow a daily limit of 2 wild fish on all these rivers, except 1 on the Hoh. Clearwater should be closed from the mouth of the Snahapish upstream as a spawning sanctuary. Goodman Creek should close Feb 29 to all steelhead fishing. Upper Sol Duc should be a sanctuary. Hoh should close to all fishing groups after April 15.(2)

It is good to see WDFW acknowledge the fact that these runs are healthy and allow us to keep a trophy fish if we desire. Would also like to see the upper Sol Duc reopened to fishing.

Why is the catch and keep area being increased and fish take being liberalized on the Hoh River? Opposed to these proposals. Why is killing of wild steelhead being liberalized on the Quillayute system? Will increase angling pressure and result in higher kills than WDFW thinks.

Opposed to proposals. Department is incompetent to manage these runs. It is time for the federal government to step in.

Increasing rarity of earlier (Nov-Jan) returning wild steelhead alarms me. Maybe should only have retention of hatchery fish during this time period. Have a short opening in March if the runs are healthy. (2 wks, 2 fish annual limit). If runs cannot support harvest, should be totally closed.

Disgusted by the proposed rule changes for the Quillayute system. Why is it necessary to take any wild steelhead? Fish are being "sold out" for license sales. Should make taking any wild fish a felony.

Don't turn a healthy wild stock into a meat fishery. Look what happened to the Wenatchee. Hatchery fish are for eating. Wild fish are for releasing.

Do not support killing any wild steelhead on West Side rivers. Kill only hatchery fish.

Snohomish County Sportsmen's Association supports proposals. Most of our members are not big fans of catch and release.

Rainshadow Chapter of TU says: do not relax the rules on steelhead on the Quillayute. If anything, stricter rules are called for. It is time to stop managing salmonids as a harvest commodity.

Keeping wild steelhead in the Quillayute system is wrong. Will increase pressure from the meat seekers who will go there instead of other rivers. Wild runs will be decimated. (2)

Support continued harvest of wild steelhead by the private sportsman.

Wild Salmon Center opposes proposals. Other wild steelhead populations have not been protected by WDFW rules. Why not maintain one healthy population? Early component of Quillayute is depressed. Current regs are working. Quillayute is one of the few systems open in March/April - will have lots of fishing pressure. Reject the proposal. Require wild steelhead release statewide, including the Quillayute from December to February.

Agree with the proposals and ask that the Commission adopts them. If a compromise to the proposed regulations is necessary, then so be it. But the limits as they now stand do not reflect the data the department has accumulated and need to be more liberalized. If systems cannot handle the increased limits and not enough fish are escaping, then the system should be closed to all fishing. Allowing catch and release is too much temptation to poachers.

Opposed to proposals. Will increase angling pressure as other runs diminish. Existing regs have built up the population. Having an abundance of wild fish is not "wrong." Unexpected event could place the stocks in danger.

Opposed to proposals. Would like to propose that the waters above Morgan's Creek on the Hoh (and SF Hoh) become fly fishing only with catch and release for all species. If the proposals pass as proposed shouldn't there be a 3<sup>rd</sup> section from Morgan's Crossing to ONP boundary with catch and release and selective gear rules?

Opposed to proposals. Stop killing wild steelhead in Washington State. Runs are healthy because of current regs. Suggest a quality steelhead river management approach based on that of BC. Significant mortality occurs in recreational wild steelhead release fisheries. Suggest intensive education initiative and professionally produced video on wild fish release.

Support proposals on the Quillayute (2) and Hoh.

Opposed to raising the daily limit. Instead, why not open the currently closed waters above Highway 101.

Opposed to proposals. We're spending money to enhance the habitat. We should try to increase spawning escapement.

Opposed to proposals. With present rules, and angler can keep a wild fish. Calling wild steelhead harvestable is hugely irresponsible. Current rules are working. More anglers are releasing fish.

Support proposals. The escapements are so high that if we do not take advantage of the harvest, the tribes will.

Olympic National Park has concerns over proposals, especially on the Hoh. Angler interviews indicate that most are interested in a quality fishing experience more than keeping wild fish. This led us to extend the winter steelhead seasons on the Hoh until April 15 (with selective gear and wild release rules). We urge the department to support this quality fishery on the Hoh by retaining the annual limit and not allowing their retention above the DNR Oxbow campground. Also the annual limits of the Quillayute river system should be retained. Higher escapement goals are in order to allow for alternate uses such as viewing and nutrient recycling. Goodman Creek should be managed for quality fishing under wild release rules. Please reconsider the current two wild trout per day in small independent streams such as Kalaloch, Mosquito and Cedar creeks. These should have wild release requirements. ONP will probably not adopt the same rules as WDFW for these creeks.

Asking WDFW to consider allowing keeping 2 wild steelhead per day on the Quillayute system and the Hoh and Clearwater rivers. Does not need to be 30 fish annually - maybe 10 -12 on those rivers. The restrictions above 101 are most unfair - that is the only portion a bank fisherman has access to. Guides and boats are expensive. Current rules favor the wealthy. We feel it is wrong to target fish that must be released.

ONP wants to discuss using dorsal fin measurement on the upper Quinault and the Queets like we did on the Hoh this year. Also concerned about landlocked chinook in Lake Cushman. No harvest of these fish should occur.

Sense of outrage and disbelief over proposals. Will no longer support WDFW. Opposed to all of the proposals.

Opposed to proposals. Allocation argument is silly. WDFW should stand their ground in support of our right to forgo harvest to increase escapement. Escapement goal on the Quillayute is inadequate, a minimum figure, not an ideal. Why impose arbitrary limits? Allow the Quillayute to show how many fish it can sustain. Hoh hasn't been meeting escapement goal. Morgan Crossing proposal will affect bull trout. Opposed to all proposals. Would create too much pressure on these stocks. (Written and oral testimony)

Nothing wrong with the proposal to retain wild steelhead as long as there is a good escapement. Will give the economy of the Forks area a lift.

Please do not remove the 5 fish annual limit. There are enough hatchery fish to keep.

Please do not allow the retention of any more wild steelhead than is already allowed.

Oppose increase in the killing of wild steelhead.

Keep the current rules. Should be wild release in both the summer and winter seasons. Hatcheries produce enough fish if we all share the resource.

Please no killing of any wild steelhead on the Olympic Peninsula drainages.

No harvest of wild fish on N coastal rivers. Should all be catch and release.

Opposed to proposals. Don't know anyone who supports them. Most favor more restrictions instead. Hoh has been closed early several times lately. (2)

Opposed to proposals. Scientific basis is very weak. Erring on the side of conservation brings many more benefits than costs.

Opposed to proposals. Need more spawners, not less. Do not agree with killing early returning wild steelhead in many western Washington rivers December through February.

South Sound Fly Fishers are opposed. Wild runs are healthy because escapement goals have been exceeded. Urge no change in these rules and no increase in wild anadromous fish harvest anywhere in the state until there is a demonstrated record of success in restoring runs that are already depleted.

Urge the department to make the proposals a reality. Don't like catch and release. Catch and keep or do not fish.

Live in Forks and do not want Robert Ball representing my town for the releasing of wild steelhead. Guides are mostly from the Cowlitz and don't understand that if we don't take our share the Indians will. How about 3 days for the sportsmen, 3 days for nets, and 1 day for fish?

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited is strongly opposed. Perhaps one or two chapters disagree, but the vast majority support current rules.

It is a terrible thing to propose allowing the killing of wild steelhead - do the right thing - no wild steelhead harvest.

Good idea. If someone doesn't want to keep 2 fish, he doesn't have to. Will help local Forks economy.

In the past, restrictions were put on n coastal streams even though they have healthy runs available for harvest. Rules did not make biological sense. Please correct mistake by adopting these proposals.

Clallam County Commissioners oppose changes until definitive evidence is available to prove that the target species has recovered and other species which utilize steelhead for food have recovered. There is a cultural shift toward being better stewards of public resources. Wild winter steelhead have enormous cultural and economic importance. We feel that an increase in harvest from 2 to 30 is wrong at this time.

Opposed to relaxing the rules. Please begin to doubt the wisdom of managing for MSY.

Opposed to proposals. Should be no taking of wild steelhead. Should be protected by allowing catch and release only with barbless hooks and no bait.

Opposed to proposals. They are regressive from a political standpoint and a biological standpoint, and counterproductive from an economic standpoint.

Support wild steelhead retention on this system.

Keep the current rules or adopt even more conservative ones.

We want to decide whether or not to release a wild steelhead. Let Bob Ball and his following let them go. Most clients will keep only one for dinner. Forks depends on tourist dollars. Lets get back to healthy fish management.

Opposed to proposals. Would accept retention of one wild steelhead on rivers designated by biologists.

Opposed to proposals. Should be catch and release.

Opposed to proposals. Catch and release works in BC. Wild steelhead are a natural wonder. All wild fish should be released. Barbless hooks and no bait are best. Waters should be open, not closed, because closed waters invite poachers. Need better enforcement.

Don't keep any wild steelhead ever. Best rivers around the country are catch and release. The escapement goal should be the maximum carrying capacity of the river. Past estimates are not accurate - using bad information to make decision - do not adopt proposals.

Opposed to proposals. Don't dismantle what citizens proposed 2 years ago. Concerned over escapement in Hoh. Dickey and Goodman are too small to support two fish a day.

Opposed to proposals. All wild steelhead should be released. Canada, Montana and New Zealand have great catch and release fisheries.

Support proposal. Department has taken a thoughtful cautious stance. Co-management with tribes says we should harvest 50:50. Don't punish the rank and file for this elitist ideology. Approve as proposed except for the catch and release proposal on the Clearwater.

Support proposals. Data supplied on escapements and harvest of hatchery and wild fish by tribal and sport fisheries. Average escapement on all three systems has exceeded goals. Tribal harvest has exceeded sport by 2.58 to 1 for wild and 2.07 to 1 for hatchery fish. Any restrictions on wild harvest should be levied against the tribes. On the Quillayute tribes take 57%, 87% on the Hoh, 69% on the Queets. Average is 70% tribal, 30% non-Indian.

Oppose proposals. Hatchery fish provide a harvest opportunity and a buffer for native fish. New regs would increase harvest by 1000 fish. This figure is too low. Many fish caught are not reported. Not enough enforcement. Morgan's Crossing proposal is a bad idea. Proposals are opposed by Olympic Peninsula Guides, Forks Chamber of Commerce (written and oral testimony).

Support current rules for N Coast. Approval of proposals would be a step backward. Daily limits are for distributing catch and are poor tools for conserving biological resources by themselves. Nonetheless, the recently modified rules appear to be working on the n coastal rivers. Principal responsibility of WDFW is not to cater to one group of consumptive users, but to protect resources for the future. Data attached - stock recruitment, age structure for Quillayute, Hoh.

Approve changes. Quillayute has had 3X escapement goal in past 3 years. This is not due to the recent changes - it is too soon for them to show their effects. Fish won't be back until 2001. Hoh met its goal the last 4 years. Escapement goal is scientific and court-approved. Spawner surveys are done by helicopter or walking the banks. The Skeena River in BC which is catch and release needs to be because 90% of the steelhead are taken in mixed stock commercial fisheries in the river. Recommend a briefing from the staff on how well we have been managing these rivers.

Opposed to proposals. TU endorses status quo on rivers where steelhead populations are rebounding, particularly the Quillayute. Escapement goals should be a minimum, not maximum.

Wild steelhead should be 100% catch and release. Opposed to proposals. Run sizes hard to estimate. Keep current or more conservative rules for a premiere, world class fishery. Will help local economy.

Opposed to proposals. Will increase angling pressure resulting in more kill than WDFW estimates after February 29 when other rivers close. Two steelhead a day should only be for hatchery fish. How can you manage the Hoh conservatively by opening up more area and raising the daily limit?

Oppose changes. Current rules are working. Two wild fish a day has ruined other runs around the state.

Support proposed rules (written and oral testimony) except the proposed catch and release fishery on the upper Clearwater. Angler preference survey shows that 81% of anglers want a daily limit of 1 or more wild steelhead. Anglers like a 2 fish daily limit best. Most (67%) prefer a 30 fish annual limit. Bait or bait and lure combinations were the most preferred tackle. Most anglers release a portion of the wild steelhead that are legal to keep. Department's mission statement mentions providing the "maximum fishing opportunities" compatible with healthy fish runs. Wild salmonid police calls for MSY to be the basis for escapement goals. Tribes will take our share if we don't. Large packet of data and text attached.

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association appreciates the department's apparent willingness to provide harvest opportunity on a healthy wild population. Timing is bad, however. Keeping current rules seems prudent at this time.

Listen to your biologists and adopt these proposals. The majority of anglers would like to keep fish to eat.

## Additional Testimony

---

### **Comment on Entire Package**

Eastside Steelheaders ask the Commission to approve the proposal package in its entirety - areas of special emphasis listed under individual proposals. (8)

It is recommended that approval be granted subject sports proposals in WDFW letter dated October 26, 1999.

South King County Trout Unlimited opposes none of the proposals.

Oppose proposals. Need genetic diversity, minimum escapement and variation above the goal. BC stopped the wild fish kill on the Skeena River. Conditions that should be met before a retention fishery is scheduled: clear surplus of fish over and above spawning and tribal needs; surplus defined in a manner consistent with precautionary approach; adequate enforcement and management system in place; and significant community and recreational fisheries support for fishery.

Proposal for wild steelhead: daily limit of less than 2 wild steelhead or a season limit of 5. Have checkers at boat docks instead of waiting for punch card data.

### **Additional Proposals**

A number of places WDFW proposes reducing the daily limit to one fish to lengthen a productive fishing season. Would like to add Lake Padden in Whatcom County.

Klickitat River - no boat or raft fishing, no bait allowed, only one barbless hook, one fish daily limit of either salmon or steelhead. These rules work well in the Deschutes River in Oregon.

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers recommend lifting the restrictive limits on walleye and large and small mouth bass in the Columbia-Snake river basins and tributaries. These are introduced species that are eating ESA listed salmonids.

In lots of places wolf eels are very tame and can be taken as game animals. Please ban the taking of wolf eels.

Would support the following rule proposal if seasons were made longer because of the change: allow only one hook for salmon fishing in mixed stock or adipose clipped areas except on salmon plugs two treble hooks would be allowed. Possibly ban the use of bait in mixed stock fisheries. This would cause less fatality and save Puget Sound herring stocks. If possible allow one wild fish to be kept in a 4-5 day period. Allow a young sportfisher to keep his/her first fish in a trip or season in an adipose clip area.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers propose eliminating wild steelhead retention on the Skagit River from Dec 1 - Feb 29.

Close Skagit to wild steelhead retention Dec 1 - Feb 29.

Skagit River should close to steelhead fishing from all groups on March 30.

Upper reaches of rivers should be closed to all fishing. Catch and release should not be allowed. NF Skykomish should be closed during the summer season above Troublesome Creek. Catch and release should be discouraged whenever possible. Use total closure where needed.

Walleye daily limit should be changed to 3.

Place a "How to Release Fish" description in a prominent place in the pamphlet. Current location is no good.

Walleyes Unlimited Northwest suggests that the Alder Fill (Moses Lake) spring walleye fishery is a nightmare. Hundreds of very large walleye are taken illegally, mostly at night. At least, Crab Creek and Moses Lake should be closed at night from the Alder Street crossing to the Columbia Basin Hatchery from March 1 - June 1.

Remove restrictions on Northwestern Lake and have year-round fishing. Find some way to stop jig fishing for salmon on the Columbia River.

Request year-round season on Northwestern Lake (Klickitat Co) In a few years they will take the dam out and we will lose this fishery. This lake produces good trout and there is very little fishing pressure.

Size limits for shrimp should not apply to divers. Remove the size limit and lengthen the dive season. Reducing the number of pounds per person is OK.

Please allow people to capture animals to keep alive in fish tanks at home. It doesn't make sense that I can kill a highly sought after animal many times but I can't keep one alive at home.

Please find the resources necessary resources to support the Dept in its efforts to agree on an escapement goal on the Queets River.

Request a short season (June 1 - July 31) fly fishing only catch and release on the Cedar River.

Washington Council of Trout Unlimited proposes banning the use of treble hooks in any WDFW fishery. Propose a 2 year implementation strategy. Eliminate holding derbies or fishing contests in waters where you can't distinguish between wild and hatchery salmonids which may impact listed or candidate species.

Protect sea-run cutthroat by requiring release of trout except hatchery steelhead in the Skagit, Stillaguamish and Snohomish rivers and their tributaries.

Request the SF Nooksack be open for steelhead and trout fly fishing only, catch and release, from Wanlick Creek to the mouth.

In Puget Sound, all hooks used in saltwater should be barbless. Puget Sound emerging shrimp fisheries should never have been developed. Leave them for recreational harvesters. Additionally shrimp are a link in the food chain. At North of Falcon last year it was promised that "boat limits" would be addressed in this year's regulatory process. Descriptions need to be described in terms that the public can understand. (Not latitude and longitude) (written and oral testimony)

### **Steelhead Issues**

Why does a catch and kill fishery exist on the Queets River? Should be protected within the National Park and not subject to harvest.

Why does the same kill rate apply to both wild and hatchery steelhead on numerous Washington streams? Abolish the regulation allowing 2 wild steelhead to be killed per day. Or create an annual limit for wild fish.

Why don't early returning wild winter steelhead get the same protection as later returning wild fish? Killing wild steelhead before Feb 29 selects against early returning fish.

Does WDFW take poaching into account when harvest numbers are tabulated?

Why doesn't WDFW increase escapement goals?

Goal should be to stop commercial fishing for steelhead. Sport fishing provides a greater economic return. Catch and release is morally indefensible. It's just a matter of time until the animal rights people come down on the issue of why

state regulators would allow the torture of these fish. Total closure is a better alternative. It would be nice if we didn't need hatcheries, but we cannot restore the environment to what it used to be.

### **Sturgeon**

I have concerns about the inequities of sturgeon allotments given sports fishermen on the Columbia River, Longview to Vancouver area. Last year I kept records and there were 1019 sturgeon caught from January 1, 1999 to July 31, 1999. The largest was 39". All were released. I am disgusted with the allotment of fish to sport fishers, and the large allotment to the commercials in the estuary, where they are easy to catch. Commercial fishing is supposed to allow an opportunity for the public to buy fish but the sturgeon and spring chinook are sold elsewhere.

### **Salmon**

Concerned with the chinook stocks in coastal rivers. Alaska has rules for salmon of one per day, 5 per region, no more than 2 out of a few watersheds that work fine. Department should oppose Quillayute Tribe's 5 day a week fishery.

### **I-696**

Infuriated with comments that attention must focus not on harvest practices but on how to apply best science, and that we must not waste time on focus on allocation. The issue is who gets the fish and how. The current depleted state of Washington's fishery resources is the cumulative end result of many years of mismanagement. WDFW should publish catch records for every species. Sport anglers do not get their fair share. Commercial nets for groundfish in Puget Sound should be restricted, not just in the ocean. Sport anglers will be severely restricted by proposals concerning hake, rockfish, and the daily aggregate limit for bottomfish. Wastage (by-catch) at sea should be stopped. WDFW managers have managed commercial bottomfish fisheries so poorly that many species are now in peril. It is totally unacceptable that sport anglers be unfairly burdened with conservation measures that virtually preclude catching and keeping a reasonable number of salt water fish because of years of mismanagement by the state and excessive commercial catches. Need answers to questions such as What are the correct numbers regarding historical catches of marine fish and how they were caught?, why are commercial fishers allocated so many fish? Why have commercial fishers been allowed to fish at unsustainable levels? Why haven't destructive methods of fishing been eliminated? Why don't WDFW biologists have a complete understanding of populations, life cycles etc. for marine fish species? How many elected officials in Washington have held commercial fishing licenses in the last 25 years? How much financial support has been provided by commercial fishing interests to Washington state political figures over the last 25 years and by whom? What is the true economic value of a healthy sport fishery vs. A healthy commercial fishery?

### **Bass and Wildlife**

Wildlife division is unorganized and don't care. There are more bass fishers than any other type of fisher in the US. But it is always put on the back burner. Silver Lake fishing opportunity taken away - Kapowsin Lake opportunity turned down. Take a look at Colorado elk population - it makes no sense to shoot spikes and leave the bigger bills. Bow hunters have a hard time getting close to an elk - don't need additional restrictions.

### **Harvest Disclosure - NOF Compliance**

Northwest Marine Trade Association requests full disclosure of all harvest activity by tribal and non-tribal commercial fishers when in-season adjustments or closures are made to sport fishing. They also point out that there were three instances of lack of compliance with Fish and Wildlife Commission North of Falcon equal sharing of the conservation burden policy- the tribal Elliott Bay chinook fishery, the tribal Skagit Pink fishery, and the tribal Chehalis basin chum fishery. A similar situation exists with steelhead in the Puyallup River.

### **Reiter Ponds**

Local anglers are tired of subsidizing this facility on a yearly basis.

Urge Commission to put Reiter Ponds hatchery on agenda for next meeting and direct the department to keep it open.

### **Meeting Location**

Vancouver meeting site was well thought out - the Inn is nice and it is remote enough to eliminate most annoying public participation.

Why is the hearing being held only in Vancouver - certainly will limit participation.

### **Selective Gear Rules**

Revise to prohibit the use of gang trolls, multiple gear and similar strings or attractors. Allow spinners not to exceed 1" in diameter or length.

### **Marine Areas 6&7**

These are adjacent to each other but do not have the same rules. It's easy to be in the wrong area by mistake. Why can't WDFW provide Latitude/longitude coordinates for key boundary points?

### **Hatcheries/Salmon Recovery**

I understand you are selling salmon to fish buyers for one cent per pound at three of the local hatcheries with the eggs included. Why don't you just hatch more salmon and plant wherever possible? I understand that \$50 million is being invested in saving west coast salmon and 45% of this has already been spent on administrative costs.

We must not even consider elimination of our hatcheries

Requests Commission complain to our congressional representatives and senators about the non-funding of the Mitchell Act.

### **River Health**

We need to watch the health of the rivers of the northwest. I fish in both Washington and Oregon.

### **Hoh River**

Oppose the recent department rule which redefined Hoh River hatchery steelhead on a dorsal fin measurement basis. Should clip 100% of the hatchery fish. Pulling fish aboard in landing nets and measuring fins can only result in killing the smaller wild fish. (3)

### **Commission and Department**

My observations of WDFW and Commission activities over the last year indicate a higher level of professionalism and recognition of the complexity of issues that I have seen in the previous 50 years.

### **Trailing Hooks**

Saw an article that stated commission was considering eliminating the use of a trailing hook, and require those using bait to use a circle hook. Circle hooks would be counter-productive because it would be more difficult to release small salmon, requiring more handling and increasing mortality. Please reconsider this proposal.

### **Wading on Spawning Beds**

Commission should add this subject to their agenda. Wading on spawning beds when eggs are incubating is like planting a garden and walking on the planted area.

### **Region 6 Lakes**

Because the Elwha dams will be coming down would like to see quality lake waters protected in Clallam Co. Would like to see limitations on non-electric motors, catch and release regulations, maximum size limits, and year-round fishing.

### **Salmon Seasons**

Salmon seasons set at North of Falcon meetings open the 1<sup>st</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> no matter what day of the week they fall on. Saturday openings would be better for the working man and his family.

### **Deschutes River**

Two years ago lead the effort to make the Deschutes River a year-round catch and release fishery. Staff changed the proposal at the last minute to have a closure during April and May. Staff has not given a satisfactory reason for this change. This regulation is in use on the Yakima and the NF Snoqualmie. Concerned that the department plans to plant Puyallup River-derived steelhead in the Deschutes. Sent in proposal again this year, but it did not come out in the packet of proposed rules. Called and were told that the regional biologists had not supported the proposal. Why not? There are more and more year-round catch and release fisheries around the state. Department is not living up to its mission statement of "an informed public participating in policy development and contributing to quality decision making." Also fails to meet goal 7 to maximize fishing, hunting, and non-consumptive recreational opportunities. Ask the Commission to adopt a year-round season on the Deschutes.

### **WDFW**

Department needs to be held accountable for its present and past practices in allowing our fishing heritage to become threatened, endangered, or extinct. Hope someone will take charge and restore NW fisheries to a harvestable and manageable level.