

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: Friday, August 23, 2019

Agenda item: Petition – Tacoma Municipal Watershed Fishing Closure

Presenter(s): Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager
Aaron Bosworth, Region 4 Fisheries Biologist

Background summary:

The Department has received a petition to create a permanent fishing closure in the upper Green River in the Tacoma Municipal Watershed from the Tacoma Municipal Watershed Boundary Marker (approximately 1.3 miles downstream of the Tacoma Headworks Dam) to the Friday Creek confluence. This area of the Green River was closed to fishing in past years, but the Municipal Watershed was changed from “closed” to “open” for fishing during the rule simplification process. Public access within the municipal watershed is currently prohibited and anglers cannot legally walk to any part of the Green River that flows through the municipal watershed. Tacoma Public Utilities feels that a fishing closure would help re-inforce the closed area around their watershed and reduce confusion among anglers.

Staff recommendation:

Accept this petition and initiate rule-making concurrent with rule-making for 2SHB 1579 (2019) implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance. The completion date for rule-making is targeted for December 2019.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.330 Should the Commission:

- a) Deny the petition in writing, stating the reasons for the denial, specifically addressing the concerns raised by the petitioner, and where appropriate, the alternative means by which it will address the concerns raised by the petitioner;

or-

- b) Initiate rule-making proceedings?
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

No public process has been conducted on this petition.

Action requested:

Accept this petition and initiate rule-making to consider closing the section of the Green River within the Tacoma Municipal Watershed from the Tacoma Municipal Watershed Boundary Marker (approximately 1.3 miles downstream of the Tacoma Headworks Dam) to the Friday Creek confluence.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to accept the petition and direct the Department to initiate rule-making concurrent with the rule-making for implementation of 2SHB 1579 (2019).

Is there a “second”?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed

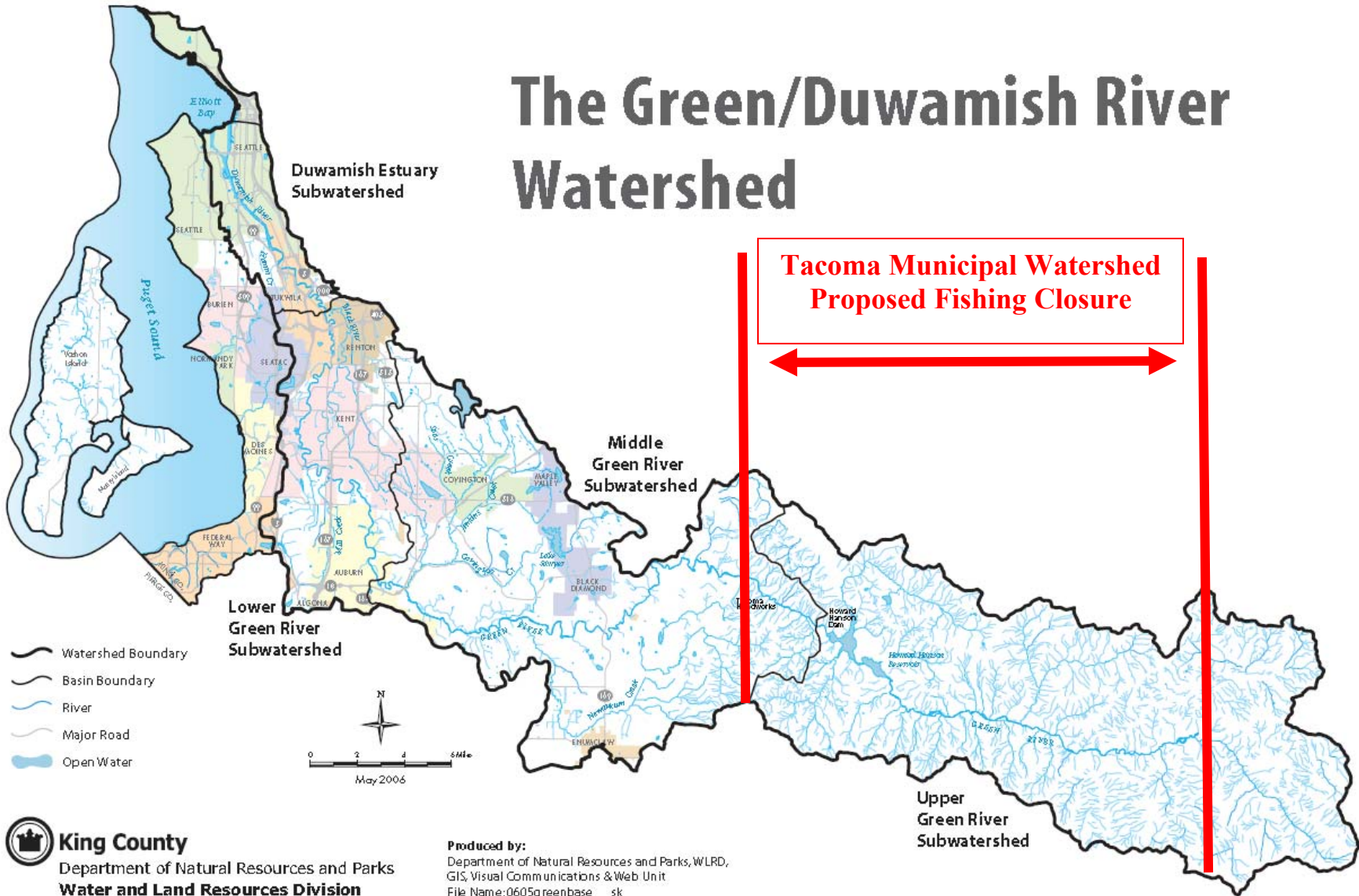
Justification for Commission action:

Supporting a fishing closure would help clarify the closed area around the public municipal watershed and enhance public safety.

Post decision communications plan:

Communicate the outcome of the Commission decision to the petitioners.

The Green/Duwamish River Watershed



 **King County**
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Produced by:
Department of Natural Resources and Parks, WLRD,
GIS, Visual Communications & Web Unit
File Name: 0605greenbase sk

**Upper
Green River
Subwatershed**