

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: October 18-19, 2019 Briefing and Public Hearing

Agenda item: Petition: Green (Duwamish) River Tacoma Watershed Closure Area to Fishing

Presenter(s): Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager

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:

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

A public news release and online notice through our website notified people of the opportunity to comment on commission petition rule proposal. Department staff provided explanations for proposal. The end date for submitting comments is October 17, 2019. The Department has conducted a regional workshop with the public to discuss the rule process and proposed regulation changes.

- Mill Creek: beginning at 5 pm., Sept. 24, WDFW Region 4 headquarters, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek.
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Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing and Public comment only. No action requested at this time.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to _____ (adopt/amend/deny) _____ (rule(s)/petition) as presented by staff (if appropriate)

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

Post decision communications plan:

WAC language for Green River changes

WAC 220-312-040 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—

Puget Sound.

~~((94))~~ (125) **Green (Duwamish) River (King County):**

(f) From the mouth of Cristy Creek (at Flaming Geyser State Park) to the ~~((water pipeline walk bridge (1/2 mile downstream of))~~ Tacoma Municipal Watershed Boundary Marker (1 mile downstream to Tacoma Headworks Dam):

(i) Within 150 feet of the Palmer Pond outlet rack: Closed waters.

(ii) Open for game fish the Saturday before Memorial Day through December 31.

(iii) Game fish: Statewide minimum length/daily limit, except: Cutthroat trout and wild rainbow trout: Minimum length 14 inches.

(iv) Open for game fish and salmon November 1 through December 31:

(A) Anti-snagging rules.

(B) Night closure.

(C) Daily limit 6 salmon of which no more than 3 may be any combination of adult coho and adult chum. Release Chinook_

(g) From Tacoma Municipal Watershed Boundary Marker (1 mile downstream to Tacoma Headworks Dam) to Friday Creek: Closed waters.