

# Non-native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy

Steve Caromile, Inland Fish Program Manager  
Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager



# Schedule

2021		
Late-January	Fish Committee Briefing	Briefing on initial draft policy elements
February	Initiate consultation with comanagers on policy development	
March	Submit draft policy elements for public comment	
March 16	Public Zoom outreach meeting	
<del>April 5</del> May 5	Public comment period ends for DRAFT policy elements	Extended 30 days to May 5th
<del>April</del> late May	Summarize public comments on draft policy elements	Distribute to advisory group
<del>April</del> June 9	4th meeting of advisory group	Discuss public comments
Late- <del>April</del> Feb	Complete initial draft policy	
June 24/25	Commission Briefing	Briefing on draft policy and public comments received & commission guidance
<del>June</del> July	2nd Draft of policy	Possible 2nd Zoom work session
<del>June</del> July	5th meeting of advisory group	Review 2nd draft and accept appropriate comments for final
August 6-7	Commission Briefing and Public Hearing	Public Comment on Policy and Commission guidance
August	Final Policy and SEPA	
September 17-18	Commission Briefing and Decision	Staff recommendation and commission decision
Late-September	Final Advisory Group Meeting	Final policy decision and ad-hoc Advisory Group close out



# Tribal Review & Input

- Feb 24<sup>th</sup> letter sent to all 29 WA tribes (tribal chairs and natural resource directors).
- Puget Sound (1)
  - Policy may be based on speculation that increased angler effort and harvest will increase prey for SRKW
  - Increased daily limits on streams may cause increased impacts to resources and harm to habitat
  - More firm guidance for administrative decisions
- Columbia River (2)
  - Doesn't provide a clear policy position or guidance
  - Needs to consider best available information
  - Input from co-managers when implementing actions



# Public Review & Input

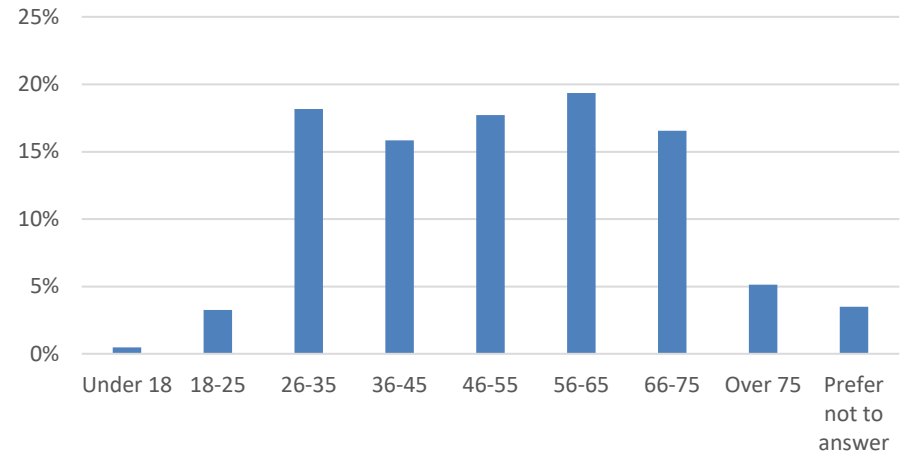
- Online review and input March 8<sup>th</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Extended to May 5<sup>th</sup>
    - 456 Participants
    - 11,936 responses
    - 1,672 comments
    - + 11 letters
- March 16<sup>th</sup> Teams Live Q&A session 6-8pm
  - Lightly attended (12 registered, 33 anonymous)
  - Received and responded to over 100 questions



# Demographics

- Ages 26-75 equally represented

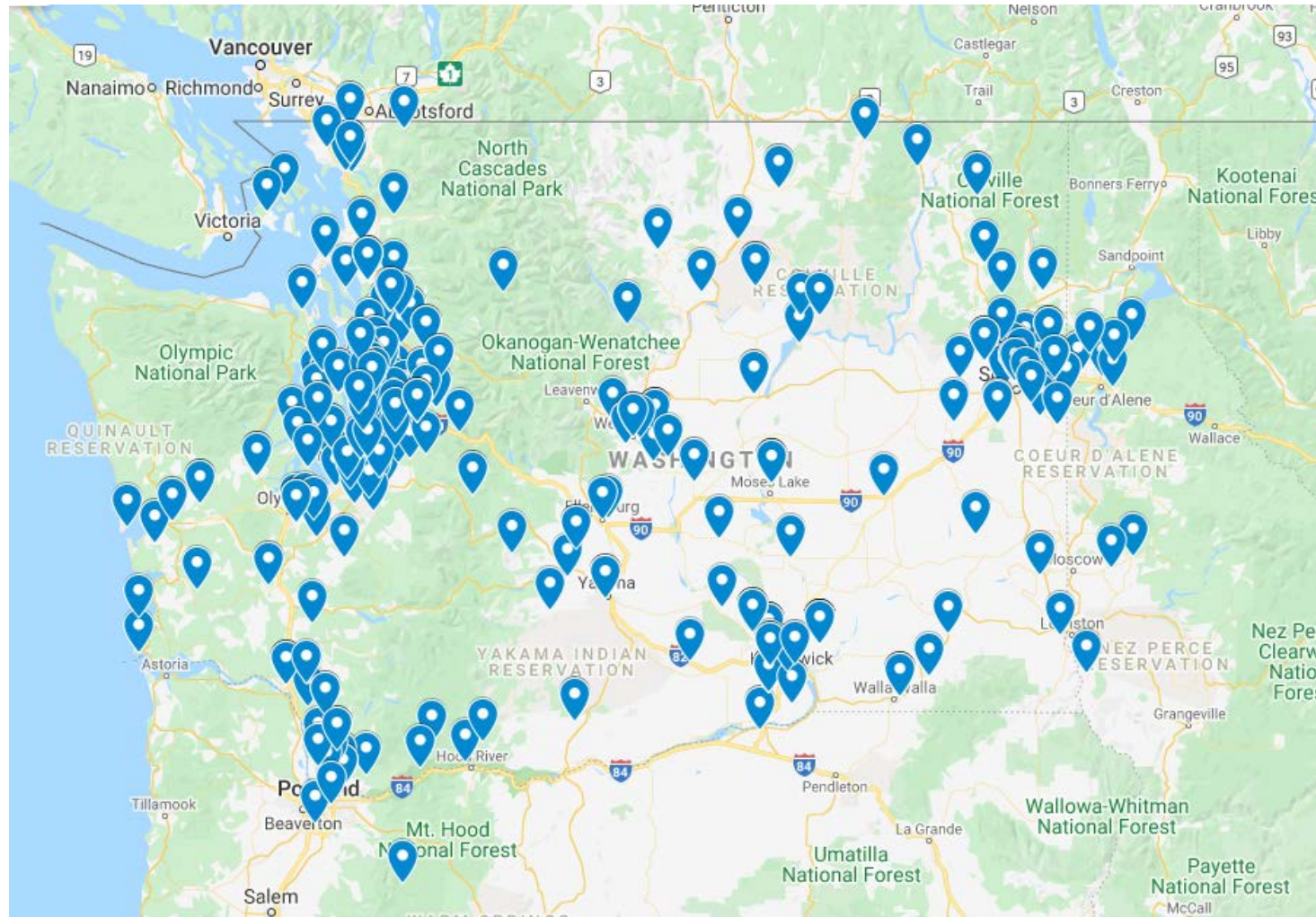
Age Grouping of Respondents



- 98% participants from PNW



# Demographics



# Policy/Survey Design

## Six Policy Elements

1. Population Management
2. Fishing Regulations
3. Introduction/Supplementation/Translocation
4. Habitat
5. Illegal Introduction
6. Targeted Control



# Policy/Survey Design

## Six Waterbody types

### Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds

1. With native anadromous fish
2. With native species of concern
3. Without native species of concern

### Lakes, Ponds, and Reservoirs

4. With native anadromous fish
5. With native species of concern
6. Limited or no connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy

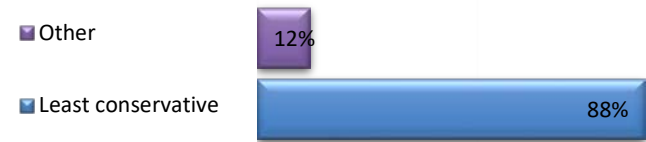




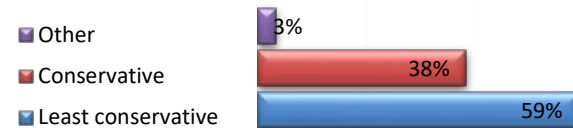
# General Survey Results

- A lot of consistency to how options were chosen
- Both “comments” and “Other” options very consistent
- Hard topic, definite polarization
- The common ground message from participants was the use of science

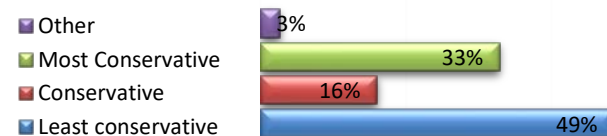
## Elements with 1 Option 14 Questions



## Elements with 2 Options 8 Questions



## Elements with 3 Options 14 Questions



# Population Management

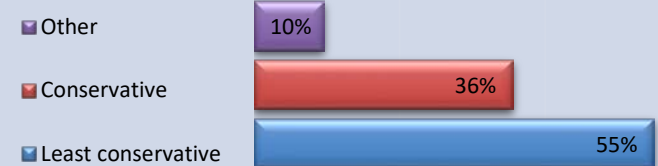
## Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds

w/ native Anadromous Fishes

Other (38)

- NNGF and salmonids / native fish should carry equal management emphasis
- Utilize best science to inform balanced management practices
- Prioritize the needs of native fishes

397 Responses

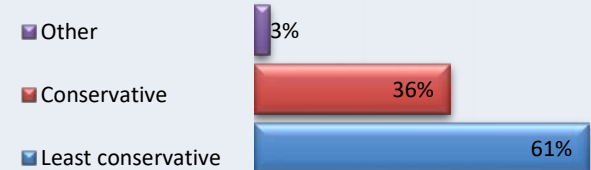


w/ native species of concern

Other (10)

- NNGF and salmonids / native fish should carry equal management emphasis

359 Responses



# Population Management

## Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs

<p>w/ native Anadromous Fishes</p>	<p>Other (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NNGF and salmonids / native fish should carry equal management emphasis</li> <li>Utilize best science to inform balanced management practices</li> </ul>	<p><b>356 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Most Conservative</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Other	3%	Most Conservative	28%	Conservative	17%	Least conservative	52%
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<p>w/ native species of concern</p>	<p>Other (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NNGF and salmonids / native fish should carry equal management emphasis</li> </ul>	<p><b>348 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Most Conservative</td> <td>28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Other	2%	Most Conservative	28%	Conservative	17%	Least conservative	53%
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# Population Management

<p><b><u>Rivers, Streams &amp; Beaver ponds w/ out native species of concern</u></b></p>	<p><b>Other (41)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will manage vs may manage for the benefit of NNGF</li> <li>• Management of native species should be the priority</li> <li>• Restore extirpated populations</li> <li>• Would like more options to consider</li> </ul>	<p><b>292 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>86%</td> </tr> </table>	Other	14%	Least conservative	86%
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<p><b><u>Lakes, Ponds &amp; Reservoirs w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy</u></b></p>	<p><b>Other (37)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will manage vs may manage for the benefit of NNGF</li> <li>• Prioritize native fishes</li> <li>• No limits/remove NNGF</li> </ul>	<p><b>295 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>87%</td> </tr> </table>	Other	13%	Least conservative	87%
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# Fishing Regulations

## Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds

<p><b>w/ native Anadromous Fishes</b></p>	<p><b>Other (16)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NNGF and salmonids / native fish should carry equal management emphasis</li> <li>• Promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish and enhance NNGF where appropriate</li> <li>• Manage for all game fish</li> </ul>	<p><b>311 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Most Conservative</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>41%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Other	5%	Most Conservative	33%	Conservative	20%	Least conservative	41%
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# Fishing Regulations

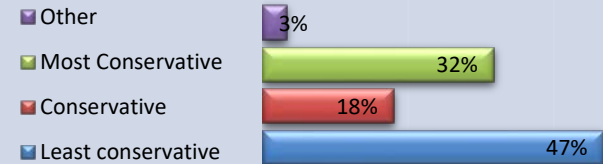
## Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs

w/ native Anadromous Fishes

### Other (10)

- Promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish and enhance NNGF where appropriate

**305 Responses**

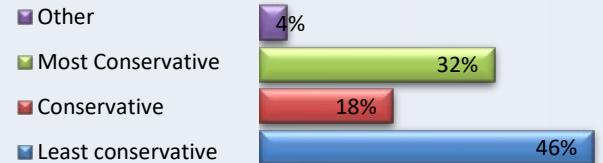


w/ native species of concern

### Other (11)

- Promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish and enhance NNGF where appropriate
- Promulgate rules that reduce impacts to salmonids and native species of concern
- WDFW will manage to create balance between native and non-native fish

**301 Responses**



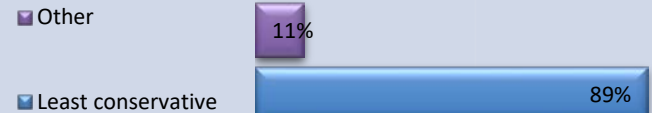
# Fishing Regulations

**Rivers, Streams & Beaver ponds w/ out native species of concern**

**Other (29)**

- Promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish and enhance NNGF where appropriate
- Prioritize the needs of native fishes
- Reduce or remove NNGF
- Restore native populations

**268 Responses**

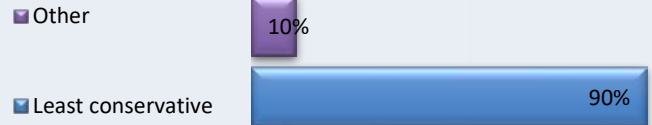


**Lakes, Ponds & Reservoirs w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy**

**Other (26)**

- Promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish and enhance NNGF where appropriate
- Prioritize the needs of native fishes
- Reduce or remove NNGF
- Restore native populations
- Stock native species

**258 Responses**



# Introduction/Supplementation/ Translocation

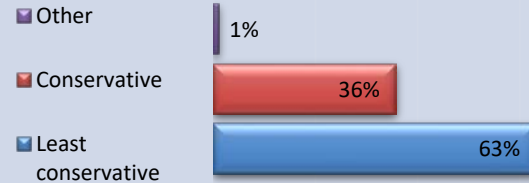
## Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds

w/ native  
Anadromous  
Fishes

Other (4)

- WDFW may introduce, translocate or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production
- Active management in favor of NNGF should be an option

302 Responses

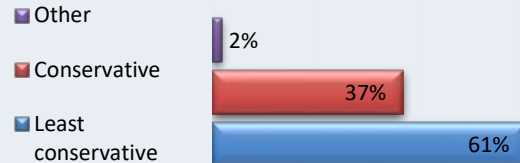


w/ native  
species of  
concern

Other (5)

- WDFW may introduce, translocate or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production
- Active management in favor of NNGF should be an option

302 Responses





# Introduction/Supplementation/ Translocation

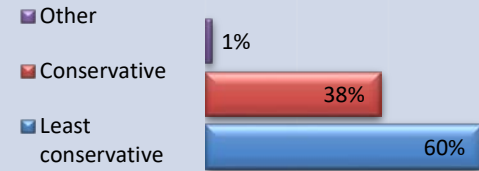
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w/ native  
Anadromous  
Fishes

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- WDFW may introduce, translocate or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production

**300 Responses**

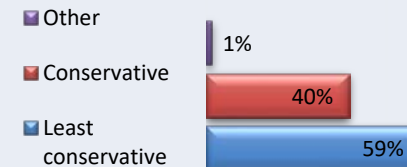


w/ native  
species of  
concern

Other (4)

- WDFW may introduce, translocate or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production

**296 Responses**



# Introduction/Supplementation/ Translocation

<p><u>Rivers, Streams &amp; Beaver ponds w/ out native species of concern</u></p>	<p><b>Other (23)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WDFW may introduce, translocate, or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production if approved via environmental review</li> <li>• WDFW will not introduce NNGF into Washington waters</li> <li>• Prioritize native species protection and proliferation</li> </ul>	<p><b>253 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>91%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Other	9%	Least conservative	91%
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# Habitat

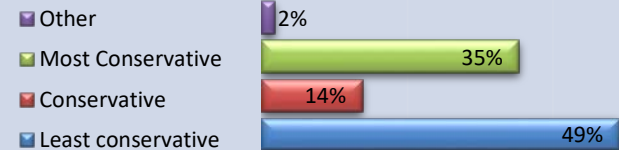
## Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds

w/ native  
Anadromous  
Fishes

Other (5)

- WDFW will provide support for or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration project that benefit native anadromous fishes and non-native game fish.

283 Responses

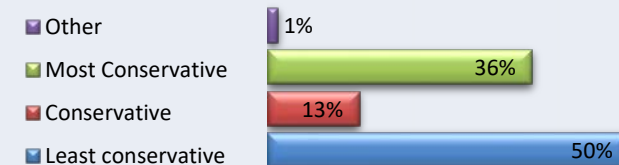


w/ native  
species of  
concern

Other (4)

- WDFW will provide support for or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration project that benefit native anadromous fishes and non-native game fish.

278 Responses



# Habitat

## Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs

<p>w/ native Anadromous Fishes</p>	<p>Other (2)</p>	<p><b>275 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Most Conservative</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Other	1%	Most Conservative	33%	Conservative	14%	Least conservative	52%
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<p>w/ native species of concern</p>	<p>Other (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to stock and manage for non-native sportfish everywhere</li> </ul>	<p><b>273 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Most Conservative</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Other	1%	Most Conservative	35%	Conservative	15%	Least conservative	49%
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# Habitat

<p><b><u>Rivers, Streams &amp; Beaver ponds w/ out native species of concern</u></b></p>	<p><b>Other (19)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WDFW will provide support for or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration project that benefit native anadromous fishes and non-native game fish.</li> <li>• Prioritize native species protection and proliferation</li> <li>• We oppose habitat policies that would direct WDFW to manage or modify habitat in a way that benefits non-native species.</li> </ul>	<p><b>232 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>92%</td> </tr> </table>	Other	8%	Least conservative	92%
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# Illegal Introduction

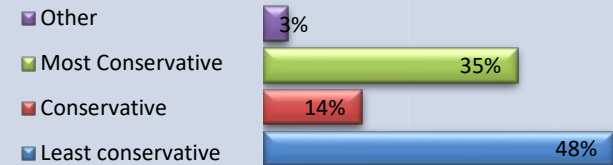
## Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds

w/ native Anadromous Fishes

Other (9)

- Ensure non-native studies accurately report non-native gamefish impacts on native fish
- Eliminate all non-native fish species

266 Responses

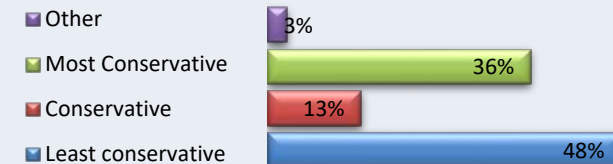


w/ native species of concern

Other (7)

- WDFW may utilize passive management techniques to control the illegal introduction of non-native game fish populations introduced after this policy's writing. This may include actions like, but not limited to, season or harvest regulations, habitat/flow modifications, etc. and can only be done if there is a scientifically proven threat to the preferred non-native game fish present or the state economy

266 Responses



# Illegal Introduction

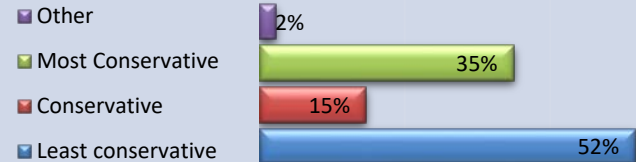
## Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs

w/ native Anadromous Fishes

**Other (6)**

- WDFW may utilize passive management techniques to control the illegal introduction of non-native game fish populations introduced after this policy's writing. This may include actions like, but not limited to, season or harvest regulations, habitat/flow modifications, etc. and can only be done if there is a scientifically proven threat to the preferred non-native game fish present or the state economy

**265 Responses**

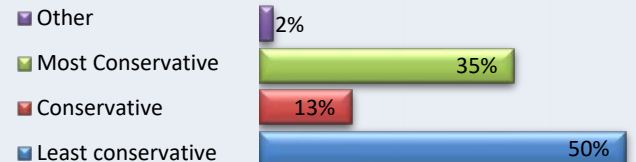


w/ native species of concern

**Other (5)**

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**260 Responses**



# Illegal Introduction

<p><u>Rivers, Streams &amp; Beaver ponds w/ out native species of concern</u></p>	<p><b>Other (10)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WDFW may utilize passive management techniques to control the illegal introduction of non-native game fish populations introduced after this policy's writing. This may include actions like, but not limited to, season or harvest regulations, habitat/flow modifications, etc. and can only be done if there is a scientifically proven threat to the preferred non-native game fish present or the state economy</li> <li>WDFW will actively or passively manage to control the establishment or expansion of non-native game fish</li> </ul>	<p><b>263 Responses</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Least conservative</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response Category	Percentage	Other	4%	Conservative	43%	Least conservative	54%
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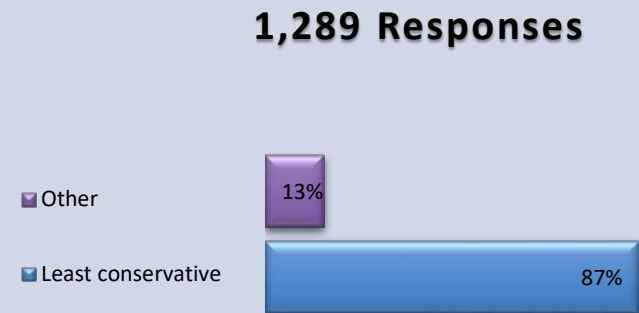


# Targeted Control

## Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds, and Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs

### Other (173)

- Only control NNGF where major impact is documented
- Language needs to be amended as the language herein could supersede all other management action sections.
- WDFW will perform localized control of non-native gamefish to meet conservation and or fish management objectives



# Summary of Comments

- Manage fish with the best science, not politics
- Nothing in this policy supports, or is positive for NNGF
- WDFW doesn't support bass/walleye anglers
- Stop destroying fisheries, should be growing them
- Viable opportunity besides trout and salmon
- Native species are struggling, should be priority
- Non-native are a great opportunity, but high risk to native species
- Remove all non-native fish by any means possible





**Questions?**