

Monitoring Freshwater Fisheries

Modernizing how we monitor coastal and Puget Sound watersheds



Additional coastal and Puget Sound freshwater monitoring will help WDFW:

- Meet priority research needs.
- Conserve and protect populations of threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead.
- Optimize seasons and fishing opportunities, directly benefiting anglers through more timely and accurate data collection.

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The freshwater river systems of the Puget Sound basin and Washington coast provide some of the most diverse, abundant salmon and steelhead populations in the state, and provide important recreation opportunities for many Washington residents as well as economic benefits for rural communities.

For years, monitoring of fisheries and fish populations in these watersheds has been insufficient to effectively manage this resource. Today, river fisheries have grown in popularity even as salmon abundance has declined, making the need for monitoring resources more important than ever. This includes critical monitoring to help protect ESA-listed populations.

WDFW is requesting funding to improve monitoring of these fish and fisheries. This proposal would help fund:

- Direct monitoring of freshwater fisheries, including deploying more than a dozen staff throughout Puget Sound, Coastal, and Grays Harbor watersheds to collect fishery data and monitor angler effort.
- Operation of fish traps and a fish-tagging program to monitor fish traveling through Lake Washington and the ship canal.
- Staff to operate the trap at the Centralia Diversion Dam on the Nisqually River, working with tribal co-managers to fully implement monitoring and recovery agreements.
- Staff to operate the weir and trapping operations on the Naselle River, to count adult fish migrating upstream and restrict passage of hatchery fish.

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