Non-native Gamefish Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
October 1, 2020, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Introduction:
Steve Caromile welcomed the group, summarized the key charge of the committee and kicked off introductions of the Committee Members and WDFW staff.

Kelly Cunningham, Fish Program Director, thanked the committee members for their time commitment and interest in helping the department craft a non-native gamefish policy. He also provided an overview of the key role of advisory groups and members in providing expertise and guidance to the Department and the Commission and the role of agency staff as managers in crafting recommendations based on that guidance.

Draft Charter:
Steve Caromile provided an overview of the Draft Charter for the committee, running through the mission, roles, responsibilities, committee structure and meeting frequency and duration of the group. He also reviewed the Fish & Wildlife Commission blue sheet which directed the formation of the group and the development of a Non-native Gamefish Policy.

Draft Framework:
Steve Caromile reviewed an initial framework that him and the WDFW team developed as a starting point to help identify management areas and waterbody types that we may want to include in the Policy. The group did a quick brainstorm of other management areas and waterbodies to include and talked about whether and how to designate between non-native species based on level of risk they pose to native species. Steve also reviewed the list of Non-native gamefish species in Department statute and rule.

Scheduling/ Wrap-Up

Steve Caromile walked through the schedule for upcoming meetings of the group, in order to meet key Commission deadlines. He walked through meeting frequency, time of day and committed to getting date options out to the group to scope the convenient times for the group and ensure good participation. Kelly Cunningham emphasized the time commitment associated with this committee and asked Committee Members to let us know early if they can’t commit to this level of participation.

Steve closed out the meeting committing to send the group the following items;

• The Draft Charter,
• A Roster of Committee Members (minus physical addresses),
• The Draft Framework,
• The List of Non-native Gamefish Species,
• The Fish & Wildlife Commission blue sheet, and
• Meeting date options so the group can help scope the next meeting date and time.

Non-native Gamefish Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Summary
October 26, 2020, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Overview of the agenda for this meeting:
Discussed communication internal to the group and with public. Identified that we heard some concern from Advisors that there is a preference for evening meetings and we will endeavor to accommodate that request going forward.

Mission Statement:
Comment from Steve that we heard your input and changed the word depredation to impact. The word depredation was included in the FWC Blue Sheet.

Policy Scenario Matrix spreadsheet:
Walk through the spreadsheet. Talked a bit about definitions, discussed FDR and the potential for future changes to the classification of waterbodies is handled. [Need to create a suite of definitions for the group to use]. Waters defined; physical versus biological structured categories... Discussion of native species of concern/anadromy.
The group had a length discussion around the range of options to be considered in the matrix.

Non-native Gamefish Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
December 16, 2020, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Update PowerPoint - Caromile

- Legislation
- FWC Blue sheet
- FCW Guidance – consistent with...
- Draft Matrix; reviewed comments from advisors, met with DD - inverted language to make it positive, met with other FP Sr. Managers, incorporated those as well. Identified that there was a lot of redundancy – e.g. pop management; felt it was too inclusive and should be an overarching value statement.
- Values and Approach to Pop Management:
  C. Shaber. – potential benefit to native spp of non-natives spp; should call that out. Added language “or may potentially benefit native anadromous fish.”
  B. Harriman – same comment, e.g. tiger-muskie – benefit to smolt out.
  T. Sullivan – is the default the more conservative (toward native anadromous) approach.
  C. Bukowski – agreed in comment to input of Shaber and Harriman
  C. Sergeant – opened statement for policy benefit in this matrix, is there a plan to add context to help the reader/reviewer understand the intent?
  C. Shaber – Manage – is that a positive thing, what is your intent of that? Negative or positive? Caromile – see comment in slide.
  B. Harriman – like everything said so far... where do cutthroat or other native fish come in when they are in conflict with salmon? Bass benefit through removal of N. pikeminnow, which is a benefit to salmon.
  - Population Management - Bring down that newly added language from the previous slide.
  C. Shaber – question about keeping “a” language in this lakes, ponds, and reservoirs section. Discussion associated with the use of the word may vs will. Addition of non-native and/or native.
  Caromile - Rules were already structured that way.
  T. Sullivan in the chat commented; “Can "limited connectivity" be added to the definition list to provide some sideboards?”
  C. Bukowski – feels like the warmwater guys are not being supported here. Removing limited versus eliminating fishes.
  C. Shaber – add the “may” option as ‘b’. Comments about directing WDFW to more actively manage for the benefit of NNGF – Caromile response that we have a WW program that does that.
  - Fishing Regulations -
Caromile – big change to “protecting game fish”
C. Shaber – nothing positive for NNGF in either of the first two options. Middle option should speak to where there is a balance.
Caromile – column A is pretty broad. Assessed impacts example. Will need to revisit this to find a bit of language that works better to capture the comment.
C. Bukowski – expressed concern with promoting harvest or suppression without prior assessment, looking to more restrictive language in the framework
B. Harriman – Samish Lake, coho run and other NNGF spp, carp, N pike minnow; to promulgate rules to support bass harvest may benefit N. pike minnow.
C. Sergeant – feel like this is not working; committee member values. suggested a management exercise to highlight the complex challenges present in fisheries management.
Caromile – Teams complicates things.
C. Shaber – the “b’s” need to be more middle of the road.
  - Introduction/Supplementation/Translocation
B. Harriman – comment re the Kettle R., stocking brown trout
  - Habitat
  - Illegal Introductions
C. Shaber – define illegal introduction.
T. Sullivan – comment Just an editorial suggestion, but highlighting the word that differentiates each cell might help future audience. e.g., may vs. will and passive vs active.
B. Jateff – Column ‘c’ would be a better option – using may – it combines a and b into a more concise sentence and into a single option.
Caromile – that would make them the same as ‘b’. If we define active and passive that might address it. Notably the connotation of active and passive here are reverse that of other sections.
C. Shaber – not specific to NNGF – changed to species...
  - Control
T. Sullivan – brook trout e.g. from NE WA.
C. Shaber – concerned about the use of the word control.
T. Steiger – comment in chat; "The word "control" is all inclusive and undermines the entire document. I dont agree with this section as a whole."
Non-Native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee
AGENDA

• Welcome/Housekeeping
• Policy background
• Review/ discuss draft matrix
• Summary/ Scheduling
Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.0811 RCW to read as follows:

The commission shall adopt rules to liberalize bag limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in all anadromous waters of the state in order to reduce the predation risk to salmon smolts.
FWC GUIDANCE

- **Blue Sheet** (Adv. Committee Mission)
  The Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee will consult with fisheries managers and agency leadership and provide recommendations to the department with the objective of developing a policy that:
  - Supports the protection and recovery of native species
  - Systematically applies available science to what is known about non-native species impacts on vulnerable native species and attempt to fashion fisheries that meet the needs and interests of non-native gamefish anglers where possible.
FWC GUIDANCE

- Consistent with existing Commission policies
- Consistent with other species conservation plans
- Consistent with state law
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds...</th>
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### VALUES AND APPROACH TO POPULATION MANAGEMENT

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<td>WDFW may will actively manage for the benefit of non-native and/or native game fish species. (add option B to include “may” language or option that includes “in areas where we already have non-native game fish fisheries”)</td>
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<td>WDFW will promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish.</td>
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## FISHING REGULATIONS

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| w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy | WDFW may will promulgate rules that protect gamefish. Rules are developed based on assessment of target fish populations. | WDFW may promulgate rules that promote the harvest and suppression of NNGF. Rules are developed based on assessment of impacts to native anadromous fishes. (work on language that strikes better balance) | WDFW will promulgate rules that promote the harvest and suppression of NNGF (assessment) |
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## HABITAT

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# ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION

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# ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION

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## CONTROL (specific control)

### Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs...

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DRAFT DEFINITIONS

• **Anadromy:** not waters that are just connected to anadromy. For lakes, known spawning above lake (2SHB 1579 list).

• **Native Species of Concern:** Native Fish and Wildlife species that are listed in State Wildlife Action Plan, or PHS species.

• **Native gamefish:** defined in WAC and RCW

• **Non-native gamefish:** Defined in WAC and RCW

• **Suppression:** physical, chemical, habitat modification, regulations.

• **Significant:** This can mean many things, and this definition can change over time for a given area. Up to person to define (in)significant for particular water.

• **Actively manage:** (may include, or such as but not limited to netting, electrofishing, rotenone, hook and line removal, etc.). Collect data, and provide goals, plans.

• **Passively manage:** (may include, or such as but not limited to management actions like regulations, habitat/flow manipulations and alterations, etc.)

• **Appropriate:** present no conflict with policy guidelines

• **Protect:** rule or practice that limits (removal, harvest or suppression) to all or some portion of (a) population(s)
SUMMARY

Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDFW may actively manage for (promote/in-favor/benefit) non-native game fish species.

WDFW will promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish.

WDFW will promulgate rules that promote the harvest and suppression of NNGF.

WDFW may actively manage for the benefit of native fish species of concern. When assessed as not significant, or may potentially benefit rare or species of concern (following guidance).

WDFW may actively manage to control the establishment or expansion of non-native species. This may include actions like, but not limited to, habitat enhancement or restoration projects that only benefit native gamefish, native food fish, or projects to benefit native species of concern.

WDFW activity may manage for (promote/in-favor/benefit) non-native game fish species where assessed as not significant. Or may potentially benefit rare or species of concern (following guidance).

WDFW activity may manage for the benefit of native fish species of concern. When assessed as not significant, or may potentially benefit rare or species of concern (following guidance).

WDFW may manage for the benefit of non-native and/or native game fish species as defined significant.

WDFW may actively manage for (promote/in-favor/benefit) non-native game fish species.

WDFW will not introduce, translocate, or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production if approved via similar environmental review (e.g. SEPA, NEPA) (eg. YY brook trout, tiger muskie).

WDFW policy categories (management actions).

Policy Categories (Management Actions)  
1. Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds with native anadromous fishes
2. Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds with native species of concern
3. Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds without native species of concern

Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds with native anadromous fishes:
- WDFW may actively manage for the benefit of native anadromous fishes. Banning activity management for rare and/or non-native fish species unless appropriate formal management techniques are in place.
- WDFW activity may manage for the benefit of non-native species of concern. When assessed as not significant. Or may potentially benefit rare or species of concern.
- WDFW activity may manage for the benefit of non-native species of concern.

Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds with native species of concern:
- WDFW may actively manage for the benefit of native species of concern. When assessed as not significant. Or may potentially benefit rare or species of concern.
- WDFW activity may manage for the benefit of non-native species of concern.

Rivers, streams, and beaver ponds without native species of concern:
- WDFW may actively manage for (promote/in-favor/benefit) non-native game fish species.
- WDFW activity may management for the benefit of non-native species of concern.