

6. Naselle River Internal Combustion Motors – (Decision)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Summary Sheet | 1 |
| Naselle River Revision WAC 232-28-619..... | 3 |

“SUMMARY SHEET”

Meeting dates: January 10, 2014 Commission Meeting

Agenda item #6: Naselle River Internal Combustion Motors – (Decision)

Presenter(s): Ron Warren - Fish Program

Background summary:

April 25, 2013 the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) received a petition to restrict fishing from a floating device equipped with an internal combustion motor in lower Naselle River:

Naselle River, from Hwy 4 Bridge upstream to the Crown mainline (Salme) Bridge year-round internal combustion engines prohibited.

The petition states:

This change is needed because:

“The Naselle River is a small stream and has very heavy bank fishing. Several jet sleds were observed in this section of the river during the peak of the late coho run (late November thru early December). The operators of these boats had no regard for the bank fisherman or the environmental impacts of the prop wash. One wading fisherman had a near miss incident on a blind curve while a jet sled was traveling at a high rate of speed downstream. The resulting turbidity and disturbance impacted the ability to catch fish and evidently the prop wash onto the shoreline was substantial. Most of this section of the river is open and accessible for public fishing. This rule change will improve safety, reduce environmental impacts and improve the fishing experience for fisherman. A large number of fisherman and landowners support this rule change.

The fish runs on the Naselle are improving which will increase the fishing pressure. We expect a higher rate of incident if the rule is not adopted.”

WAC 232-28-619 currently prohibits fishing from floating devices equipped with an internal combustion motor from Hwy 4 (river mile 14.2) upstream to the Crown mainline (Salme) Bridge (river mile 23.6) from August 1 – November 15th. This rule, as implemented, was proposed and discussed during the 2013 North of Falcon salmon season setting process.

This timeframe coincides with the majority of the salmon fishing season without overlapping the steelhead season which generally begins in late-November into early December targeting early-timed hatchery-origin fish.

The key issue is competition between bank anglers and boat anglers in this section of the river and the ethics that each constituent does or does not practice.

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

N/A

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Following the direction of the Commission, agency staff notified the public of the rule making action initiated by the proposal through an August 21, 2013 news release. This news release included information about a September 5, 2013 public meeting in Naselle WA and how to obtain a paper copy or how to access and comment on the proposed rule via the WDFW rule making webpage (http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/rule_proposals/).

There were 20 members of the public in attendance at the meeting. The majority of those spoke in favor of the rule as proposed. One individual voiced opposition to any restrictions on fishing and spoke poorly of WDFW in general.

The comment period was open from August 21, 2013 through October 31, 2013. Through the online comment period, 8 individuals provided comment; 5 in support, 3 in opposition. The majority of those in support of the rule are local residents who also attended the public meeting and have expressed concern that the river is too small through this section which creates a safety concern. Those opposed have argued that there is no scientific basis or conservation need for the rule, and that this adds a layer of regulation that is unnecessary.

The Commission heard public testimony at the December 6, 2013 meeting in support of the proposal.

Action requested:

Staff recommend adoption of the internal combustion motor prohibition on the Naselle River from the Highway 4 Bridge to the Crown Mainline (Salme) Bridge.

Draft motion language:

I move to adopt the changes as proposed by the Department, including floor amendments.

Justification for Commission action:

This action is justified under RCW 77.12.047.

Communications Plan:

N/A

Form revised 12/5/12

(122) **Naselle River (Pacific/Wahkiakum counties):**

(a) From the Highway 101 Bridge to the Highway 4 Bridge:

(i) August 1 through November 15:

(A) Night closure in effect.

(B) Anti-snagging rule applies.

(C) Barbless hooks are required.

(D) From the South Fork upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge:

Stationary gear restriction applies.

(E) It is unlawful to fish ~~with~~-from a floating device equipped with an internal combustion motor in the lower Naselle River from the Highway 4 Bridge to Crown Mainline (Salme) Bridge.

(ii) From Highway 101 Bridge upstream to Highway 401:

Anglers may fish with a two-pole endorsement August 1 through January 31.

(iii) Open the first Saturday in June through April 15:

Release all fish except anglers may retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead.

(iv) Salmon open August 1 through January 31:

(A) From August 1 through November 15:

(I) Limit 6; no more than 3 adults may be retained, and no more than 2 adults may be wild coho.

(II) Release wild Chinook and chum.

(B) From November 16 through January 31:

(I) Limit 6; no more than 3 adults may be retained, and no more than one adult may be a wild coho.

(II) Release Chinook and chum.

(v) Sturgeon: It is unlawful to retain sturgeon (catch and release only).

(b) From the Highway 4 Bridge to the Crown Mainline (Salme) Bridge:

(i) The following areas are closed:

(A) From the falls in Sec. 6, T10N, R8W (Wahkiakum County) downstream 400 feet.

(B) From the upstream entrance of the hatchery attraction channel downstream 400 feet.

(ii) From Highway 4 upstream to the full spanning concrete diversion structure at the Naselle Hatchery: Closed August 1 through October 15.

(iii) From August 1 through November 15:

(A) Night closure in effect.

(B) Anti-snagging rule applies.

(C) Barbless hooks are required.

(D) Stationary gear rules in effect.

(E) It is unlawful to fish from a floating device equipped with an internal combustion motor.

(iv) Open the first Saturday in June through April 15:
Release all fish except anglers may retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead.

(v) Salmon open August 1 through January 31:

(A) From August 1 through November 15:

(I) Limit 6; no more than 3 adults may be retained, and no more than 2 adults may be wild coho.

(II) Release wild Chinook and chum.

(B) From November 16 through January 31:

(I) Limit 6; no more than 3 adults may be retained, and no more than one adult may be a wild coho.

(II) Release Chinook and chum.

(c) From the Crown Mainline (Salme) Bridge to the mouth of the North Fork:

(i) Open the first Saturday in June through April 15:
Release all fish except anglers may retain up to 2 hatchery
steelhead.

(ii) August 16 through November 30: Night closure and anti-
snagging rule in effect.

(d) Upstream from the mouth of the North Fork:

(i) Open the first Saturday in June through October 31.

(ii) Selective gear rules apply.

(iii) Release all fish except anglers may retain up to 2
hatchery steelhead.

(123) **Naselle River, North Fork (Pacific County):**

(a) Open the first Saturday in June through October 31.

(b) Selective gear rules apply.

(124) **Naselle River, South Fork (Pacific County):**

(a) From the mouth to Bean Creek: Open the first Saturday
in June through the last day in February.

(b) From the first Saturday in June through August 15:
Selective gear rules apply.

(c) August 16 through November 30: Anti-snagging rule
applies and night closure in effect.

(d) Release all fish except anglers may retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead.

(e) Sturgeon: It is unlawful to retain sturgeon (catch and release only).