
Summary

Meeting dates: February 14, 2014 Commission Conference Call

Agenda item: Tenkara Fishing Petition

Presenter(s): Chris Donley, Inland Fish Program Manager

Background summary: The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) has received a petition requesting amendment to recreational fishing rules to include Tenkara Fishing techniques as legal on fly fishing only waters. Tenkara Fishing is a fly fishing technique invented in Japan. This technique uses long limber fly rods with no reel and a tapered or level monofilament line that is fixed to the tip of the rod. The line is normally 10 to 25 feet long depending on the length of rod and species pursued. This technique differs from conventional fly fishing due to the lack of the fishing reel and the nature of the Tenkara fishing line which is dissimilar to a “conventional fly line”. Tenkara Fishing is a close relative to conventional fly angling but distinct enough to not be included in the current sport rules definition of fly fishing.

Name	Change Requested
Timothy Harris	Modify WAC 220.56.210 to allow Tenkara Fishing techniques in fly fishing only waters.

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

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.330 should the Commission:

a) Deny the petition in writing, stating the reasons for the denial, specifically addressing the concerns raised by the petitioner, and where appropriate, the alternative means by which it will address the concerns raised by the petitioner; or

b) Initiate rule-making proceedings?

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has received a petition requesting amendments to recreational fishing rules to include Tenkara Fishing techniques into WAC 220.56.210 to allow Tenkara Fishing techniques as a method in fly fishing only waters.

Action requested:

Deny the petition for immediate rule-making action because the Department proposes to address this request in the next recreational fishing rule making process. This is not a time sensitive issue due to the fact that participation in Tenkara Fishing is limited to a small number of anglers and most waters open to recreational fishing allow this angling technique under the current rules. Fly fishing only waters do not include Tenkara Fishing techniques because this technique does not use a “reel” or a “conventional fly line”.

Draft motion language:

I move to Deny the petition to initiate immediate rule-making to include Tenkara Fishing techniques as legal on Fly Fishing only waters.

I move to direct the department to address including Tenkara Fishing techniques as legal for use on fly fishing only waters during the next recreational fishing rule making process.

Justification for Commission action:

This action is needed to address the request as described in the Tenkara Fishing petition received by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Communications Plan:
