

Sportfishing Regulations 2016-17 Proposals – (Briefing)

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Summary

Meeting dates: September 18-19, Commission Meeting

Agenda item: Sportfishing Regulations 2016-17 Proposals - (Briefing)

Presenter(s): Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager, Fish Program
Chris Donley, Region 1 Fish Program Manager, Fish Program
Brett Barkdull, Region 4 District Biologist, Fish Program
Steve Thiesfeld, Region 6 Program Manager, Fish Program

Background summary:

In April 2014 the Commission approved a three year rotating rule cycle where staff and public propose conservation and significant recreation rules that pertain to waters within the Columbia Basin the first year (2014), freshwaters of the Puget Sound and Coastal regions the second year (2015), and marine finfish, forage fish, and shellfish the third year (2016). The public was asked to submit rule proposals for the freshwaters of the Puget Sound and Coastal regions during the month of March for rules that would be effective starting July 2016. In addition, one proposal for the Lower Columbia River and tributaries was moved to this year to coordinate with Oregon to maintain consistency of rules in waters contiguous with Oregon State.

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

Establish rules and regulations for the upcoming 2016-2017 sportfishing season(s) to ensure conservation of the fish and shellfish resource, and provide sustainable recreational fishing opportunities.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

A public news release, online notice through the Department website, and an email to the regulation change email list in May notified people about the ability to submit rule proposals online. (Members of the public who were unable to submit proposals online were provided paper copies.)

A public news release, online notice through our website, and an email to our regulation change email list in August notified people of the opportunity to comment on sportfishing regulation proposals. Further, an email was sent to each member of the public that submitted a proposal to notify them of the status of their proposal and the ability to comment online. Department staff provided explanations for proposals that we recommend for further consideration and for proposals that were not recommend for further consideration. The end date for submitting comments is November 4, 2015. Members of the public who are unable to view or comment online will be provided paper copies of the recommended proposals and a form for comments. The comment forms will be entered online by WDFW staff.

In addition, four public meetings (two for Puget Sound region, one for Coast region, one for Columbia Basin region) were held to discuss the proposals and proposal process.

The Department also established a Sport Fishing Advisory Group to develop Sportfishing rule recommendations for steelhead on the North Olympic Peninsula's rivers. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Fish and Wildlife Commission during this regulation setting process.

Action requested:

NA-Briefing

Draft motion language:

NA

Justification for Commission action:

This action is justified under RCW 77.12.047.

Communications Plan:

The public (including people that submitted proposals) and our advisory groups were notified about the proposal submittal and proposal comment periods by e-mail, press release, and our website. The proposal comment period additionally included regional public meetings. Directions were provided for those requesting a paper copy. The department website provides instructions, associated documents, a timeline, and the ability to submit and comment on proposals online.

Form revised 12/5/12

2016-2017 SPORT FISHING RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS



September 9, 2015

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SPORTFISHING RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

In April 2014 the Commission approved a three year rotating rule cycle where staff and public propose conservation and significant recreation rules that pertain to waters within the Columbia Basin the first year (2014), freshwaters of the Puget Sound and Coastal regions the second year (2015), and marine finfish, forage fish, and shellfish the third year (2016). The public was asked to submit rule proposals for the freshwaters of the Puget Sound and Coastal regions during the month of March for rules that would be effective starting July 2016. In addition, one proposal for the Lower Columbia River and tributaries was moved to this year to coordinate with Oregon to maintain consistency of rules in waters contiguous with Oregon State.

This year, the department is recommending 50 rule proposals. Four public meetings occurred as shown in the table below. Written public comments are due by November 4, 2015. Oral comments will be received at the Public Hearing portion of the Commission Meeting November 13-14, 2015.

Public Meeting Table.

| Region | Date | Time | Location |
|--------|-------------|--------|---|
| 4 | August 13 | 6–8 pm | WDFW Mill Creek Regional Office 16018 Mill Creek Blvd. Mill Creek, WA 98012 |
| 5 | August 17 | 6–8 pm | WDFW Vancouver Regional Office 2108 Grand Boulevard Vancouver, WA 98661 |
| 6 | August 18 | 6-8 pm | Aberdeen Rotary Log Pavilion 1401 Sargent Blvd. Aberdeen, WA 98520 |
| 6 | September 1 | 6-8 pm | Natural Resources Building Room 175 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA 98501 |

NOT REGION SPECIFIC

1. Technical changes

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Corrects Washington Administrative Code language to reflect rule adoptions made by the Commission (technical changes). Formats the language in a clear structure and corrects mistakes in spelling, etc.

Explanation

This proposal corrects errors in WAC language and is a technical fix to address these errors. This change is needed so that the WAC language matches the Commission's intent.

Proposal 1 Table. Technical changes.

| Number | Issue | Details |
|--------|--|--|
| 1 | Rule location in the Washington Administration Code (WAC); needs to be moved to a different WAC. | Move the Big Quilcene River fishing rules out of the coastal WAC and into the Puget Sound WAC. |
| 2 | Rule location in the Washington Administration Code (WAC); needs to be moved to a different WAC. | Move Sturgeon information out of the Freshwater Exceptions WACs and into the Statewide Sturgeon WAC. |
| 3 | Spelling Errors--make spelling consistent with USGS | As needed. |
| 4 | Clarify closed waters | Because streams are now closed unless open, closed language in the Freshwater Exceptions WAC is only needed for clarification. As a result, closed water information that is not needed for clarification will be removed. |
| 5 | Schneider Creek description correction | The description of Schneider Creek currently states "Mouth upstream to falls." There are no falls in Schneider Creek so "falls" will be removed. |

2. Clarify fishing "fly" definition

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Clarify definition of what constitutes a fishing "fly."

Explanation

Add foam, rubber and lead wire/tape to clarify what materials are allowable for the construction of a fishing fly.

3. Remove internal combustion motors prohibition on small streams

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Remove unnecessary Internal Combustion Motor prohibition rule from small streams in Western Washington.

Explanation

This change removes the internal combustion motor (ICM) prohibition from small rivers and creeks where the use of a floating device equipped with an ICM is impractical and would not be considered feasible. Removing these prohibitions will streamline fishing regulations from rivers that include Skokomish, Tahuya and Union.

4. Allow harvest of Grass Carp

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Allow harvest of Grass Carp in select waters in Western Washington.

Explanation

Some lakes where grass carp were stocked are experiencing overgrazing of aquatic macrophytes due to overabundant grass carp populations. In an attempt to develop an effective grass carp population control method, WDFW would like to allow harvest in specific lakes to reduce carp abundances. See Table.

Proposal 4 Table. Allow harvest of Grass Carp

| Number | Lake | County | Proposed Rule |
|--------|----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Campbell | Skagit | No limit for anglers and bow fishers |
| 2 | Lone | Island | No limit for anglers and bow fishers |
| 3 | Duck | Grays Harbor | No limit for anglers and bow fishers |

5. Remove Crappie harvest restrictions

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Increase harvest opportunity for Crappie in select Western Washington lakes.

Explanation

Remove minimum size 9" and 10 fish daily bag limit. The harvest size and daily bag limit was put into place to grow larger more abundant Crappie in these lakes. Further monitoring and data collection reveals that these lakes do not have the proper forage and growth rates to produce abundant Crappie greater than 9 inches in length. Anglers should be allowed to harvest unlimited Crappie at all sizes. See Table.

Proposal 5 Table. Remove Crappie harvest restrictions.

| Number | Region | Lake | County | Current Rule | Proposed rule |
|--------|-------------|----------|--------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Puget Sound | Campbell | Skagit | Year-round, minimum size 9 " & daily limit ten | No minimum size and no daily limit |
| 2 | Puget Sound | Cassidy | Snohomish | Year-round, minimum size 9 " & daily limit ten | No minimum size and no daily limit |
| 3 | Coast | Duck | Grays Harbor | Year-round, minimum size 9 " & daily limit ten | No minimum size and no daily limit |
| 4 | Puget Sound | Sawyer | King | Year-round, minimum size 9 " & daily limit ten | No minimum size and no daily limit |

6. Remove daily limit on Brook Trout in Western Washington

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Remove daily bag limits on Brook Trout in Western Washington.

Explanation

Removes the daily minimum size and daily limit on Eastern Brook Trout for the Puget Sound and Coast, with a few exceptions (e.g. Ross Lake). This provides recreational opportunity and helps to remove these introduced fish from Washington waters where there is a conservation concern for species that Eastern Brook Trout predate upon or compete with.

7. Allow retention of stray hatchery Steelhead

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Allows retention of stray hatchery steelhead in streams in Regions 4 and 6.

Explanation

This proposal allows anglers to keep stray hatchery steelhead caught while fishing for salmon or game fish. This rule change would allow and encourage anglers to remove these stray hatchery steelhead that are not needed for hatchery propagation and could have unwanted genetic and competitive impacts on wild steelhead present in the watershed.

8. Adjust Trout harvest regulations for lowland lake fisheries

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Remove the harvest rules that limit anglers to no more than 2 trout greater than 14 inches in length. Increase harvest opportunity for large Trout and simplify rules in select Western Washington lakes.

Explanation

The original rule was implemented because few larger fish were being stocked and many anglers were high-grading smaller fish. In 2012, hatcheries increased stocking size to 2.5 fish per pound reducing this problem. See Table.

[Proposal 8 Table. Adjust Trout harvest regulations for lowland lake fisheries. The current rule is daily limit 5 fish and no more than 2 trout over 14". This proposal removes the 2 over 14" requirement and the daily limit is changed to 5 Trout. The original rule was implemented because few larger fish were being stocked and many anglers were high-grading smaller fish. In 2012 hatcheries increased stocking size to 2.5 fish per pound, reducing this problem.](#)

| Number | County | Lake |
|--------|-----------|--------|
| 1 | Jefferson | Leland |
| 2 | Jefferson | Ludlow |

| Number | County | Lake |
|--------|-----------|-------------|
| 3 | Jefferson | Sandy Shore |
| 4 | Jefferson | Silent |
| 5 | Jefferson | Tarboo |
| 6 | Kitsap | Buck |
| 7 | Kitsap | Horseshoe |
| 8 | Kitsap | Island |
| 9 | Kitsap | Kitsap |
| 10 | Kitsap | Mission |
| 11 | Kitsap | Panther |
| 12 | Kitsap | Wildcat |
| 13 | Kitsap | Wye |
| 14 | Mason | Aldrich |
| 15 | Mason | Benson |
| 16 | Mason | Clara |
| 17 | Mason | Devereaux |
| 18 | Mason | Hatchery |
| 19 | Mason | Haven |
| 20 | Mason | Howell |
| 21 | Mason | Isabella |
| 22 | Mason | Island |
| 23 | Mason | Kokanee |
| 24 | Mason | Lost |
| 25 | Mason | Maggie |
| 26 | Mason | Nahwatzel |
| 27 | Mason | Panhandle |
| 28 | Mason | Phillips |
| 29 | Mason | Robbins |
| 30 | Mason | Spencer |
| 31 | Mason | Tee |
| 32 | Mason | Tiger |
| 33 | Mason | Trails End |
| 34 | Mason | Twin |
| 35 | Mason | Wood |
| 36 | Mason | Wooten |
| 37 | Pierce | American |
| 38 | Pierce | Carney |
| 39 | Pierce | Clear |
| 40 | Pierce | Crescent |
| 41 | Pierce | Kapowsin |
| 42 | Pierce | Ohop |
| 43 | Pierce | Rapjohn |
| 44 | Pierce | Silver |
| 45 | Pierce | Spanaway |
| 46 | Pierce | Steilacoom |
| 47 | Pierce | Tanwax |
| 48 | Thurston | Black |
| 49 | Thurston | Clear |
| 50 | Thurston | Deep |
| 51 | Thurston | Hicks |
| 52 | Thurston | Lawrence |
| 53 | Thurston | Long |
| 54 | Thurston | McIntosh |
| 55 | Thurston | Pattison |
| 56 | Thurston | St. Clair |
| 57 | Thurston | Summit |
| 58 | Thurston | Ward |

9. Provide additional year-round fishing opportunity

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Open additional lakes to year-round fishing opportunity.

Explanation

A sector of the public is requesting more year-round fishing opportunity. A number of lakes were proposed by the public and WDFW staff to be considered for this expanded season. See Table.

Proposal 9 Table. Provide additional year-round fishing opportunity.

| Number | Lake | County | Current Season | Proposed Season |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Anderson | Jefferson | Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 2 | Bay | Pierce | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 3 | Chehalis River Potholes | Grays Harbor | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 4 | Deep | Thurston | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 5 | McIntosh | Thurston | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 6 | Pattison | Thurston | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 7 | Summit | Thurston | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 8 | Tanwax | Pierce | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 9 | Vogler | Skagit | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |
| 10 | Ward | Thurston | 4th Sat. in April - Oct. 31 | Year-round |

10. Increase Trout fishing opportunity in streams

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Increase Trout fishing opportunity in select streams in Western Washington.

Explanation

WDFW is seeking to expand the number of streams and season duration available for Trout fishing opportunity. These rule changes add additional angling days to these fisheries. See Table.

Proposal 10 Table. Increase Trout fishing opportunity in streams.

| Number | Watershed | Water | Current Rule | Proposed | Explanation |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|---|--|
| 1 | Chambers Creek (Pierce Co.) | Flett Creek | Closed | July 1-Oct. 31. Min. size 14"; Daily limit 2. Selective gear rules. | Provide recreational opportunity for abundant Coastal Cutthroat. |
| 2 | Chambers Creek (Pierce Co.) | Leach Creek | Closed | July 1-Oct. 31. Catch and Release. Selective gear rules. | Provide recreational opportunity for abundant Coastal Cutthroat. |

11. Modify Trout fishing opportunity in select Western Washington streams

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Consistent with the stream strategy approach, adjust fishing rules for ESA listed Steelhead protection and allow Trout fishing where appropriate.

Explanation

Close portions of these streams that harbor adult and juvenile ESA listed Steelhead for conservation reasons. In addition, open for trout fishing portions of these streams that are above the anadromous zone. See Table.

Proposal 11 Table. Modify Trout fishing opportunity in select Western Washington streams.

| Number | County | Waterbody | Rule to Change | Proposed Rule | Explanation |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Jefferson | Little Quilcene River | From Little Quilcene River Bridge on Penny Creek Rd. upstream (766): All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | From Little Quilcene River Bridge on Penny Creek Rd. upstream (766): All Game Fish Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 2 | Jefferson | Penny Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | All Game Fish First Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 3 | Jefferson | Rocky Brook | From falls upstream: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | From falls upstream: All Game Fish Sat. before Memorial day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 4 | King | Snoqualmie River | From Snoqualmie Falls upstream including North and South Forks Trout, Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct 31, Min size 10". Daily Limit 2 Other Game Fish, Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit All game fish, Nov 1-Fri. before the first Sat. in June, Catch-and-release | Change the dates for the catch and release season to align with the retention fishery. Change the last section to; All game fish, Nov 1-Fri. before Labor Day, Catch-and-release | The objective is to allow year round fishing with a retention fishery from the Saturday before Memorial Day through October 31 and catch and release fishing the rest of the year. There is currently an overlap in seasons with conflicting sets of regulations. In 2015 this overlap is the Saturday before Memorial Day, May 23 to the Friday before the first Saturday in June, June 5th. This is an error in both the pamphlet and the WAC. |
| 5 | Mason | Cedar Creek | All Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Pine Creek (Mason Co.) All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | All Game Fish: Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Pine Creek (Mason Co.) All Game Fish Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Intended to increase recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |
| 6 | Mason | Church Creek | Upstream of bridge on USFS road #2361: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Upstream of bridge on USFS road #2361: All Game Fish Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Intended to increase recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |

| Number | County | Waterbody | Rule to Change | Proposed Rule | Explanation |
|--------|--------|--|--|---|--|
| 7 | Mason | Fulton Creek | Mouth to falls: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release. Selective gear rules. Upstream of falls at river mile 0.8: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Mouth to falls at river mile 0.8: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release. Selective gear rules. From falls at river mile 0.8 upstream: All Game Fish Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 8 | Mason | Hamma Hamma River | From falls upstream All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | From falls upstream All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 9 | Mason | Jefferson Creek (Hamma Hamma River tributary) | All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Provides recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |
| 10 | Mason | LeBar Creek | Upstream of falls at river mile 1 All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Upstream of falls at river mile 1. All Game Fish Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Intended to increase recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |
| 11 | Mason | Lena Creek (Hamma Hamma River tributary) | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Provides recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |
| 12 | Mason | Lilliwaup River | From falls upstream: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | From falls upstream: All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 13 | Mason | Washington Creek (Hamma Hamma River tributary) | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Provides recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |
| 14 | Pierce | Chambers Creek | From mouth (Burlington-Northern RR Bridge) to markers 400' below the Boise-Cascade Dam: Min. size 14"; Daily limit 2. | From mouth (Burlington-Northern RR Bridge) to markers 400' below the Boise-Cascade Dam: Min. size 14"; Daily limit 2. Selective Gear Rules. | Harvest without Selective Gear Rules is inconsistent with Puget Sound River/Stream management. |
| 15 | Skagit | Dan's Creek | Sauk River trib. All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery Steelhead may be retained. Selective gear rules | Closed | Closes in the anadromous zone. |
| 16 | Skagit | Finney Creek | Closed | Finney Creek including all tributaries from upstream of the USFS 17 road bridge: All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | We have conclusively determined via genetic analysis that there is no anadromous access to steelhead above the barrier located immediately below the bridge. A significant population of rainbow trout exist above the barrier and are therefore available to anglers and angling. |
| 17 | Skagit | Goodman Creek | Closed | Goodman Creek above the Mt. Loop highway: Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit | Provides recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. |

| Number | County | Waterbody | Rule to Change | Proposed Rule | Explanation |
|--------|-----------|---|---|--|---|
| 18 | Skagit | Hilt Creek | Hilt Creek: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery Steelhead may be retained. Selective gear rules. | Hilt Creek and all connected tributaries and Beaver ponds above falls located 0.2 miles above the Hwy 530 crossing. All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial day-Oct. Statewide rules. | Fishing changes more closely align with the stream strategy. |
| 19 | Skagit | Jackman Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | From falls located 0.7 miles above Highway 20 at T35N, R8E, Sec SW 12: All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Closes the section of river in the anadromous zone and liberalizes the rules above the anadromous barrier. |
| 20 | Skagit | Jones Creek | All Game Fish: Saturday before Memorial Day -Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/ daily limit | Above the falls located 0.6 miles above Hwy 20 at sec 5, T35N, R6EAll: Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31: Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Closes the section of river in the anadromous zone and liberalizes the rules above the anadromous barrier. |
| 21 | Skagit | Rocky Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | Closed | Closes in the anadromous zone. |
| 22 | Skagit | White Creek (Sauk River tributary) | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery STEELHEAD may beretained. Selective gear rules. | Closed | Closes in the anadromous zone. |
| 23 | Snohomish | Clear Creek | Above Asbestos Creek Falls: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Above Asbestos Creek Falls: All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Changes the start date to be consistent with waters above anadromous zones. |
| 24 | Snohomish | Copper Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Changes the start date to be consistent with waters above anadromous zones. |
| 25 | Snohomish | Elliot Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide minimum size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | Closed | Closes in the anadromous zone. |
| 26 | Snohomish | Falls Creek, Sauk River | Sauk above White Chuck River: All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | From Falls located 0.4 mile upstream from the mouth to headwaters. Open from Saturday before Memorial Day to Oct. 31. Statewide min. size/ daily limit. | Closes the section of river in the anadromous zone and increase opportunity in the secton where anadromous fish are not present. |
| 27 | Snohomish | Lake TwentyTwo Creek (South Fork Stillaguamish River tributary) | Closed | Open the Saturday before Memorial Day through October 31 upstream from the falls located approximately at river mile 0.25. | Provides recreational opportunity above anadromous fish barriers. In addition, this rule proposal makes the Lake TwentyTwo Creek regulations consistent with other South Fork Stillaguamish tributaries such as Bear Creek. |

| Number | County | Waterbody | Rule to Change | Proposed Rule | Explanation |
|--------|-----------|---|---|--|--|
| 28 | Snohomish | Sauk, above Whitechuck rivers (includes Cadet and Sloan creeks) | Sauk, above Whitechuck River upstream, including North Fork and South Fork to Elliott Creek (828): All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release except up to 2 hatchery Steelhead may be retained. Selective gear rules. Cadet Creek (Snohomish Co.) All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide minimum size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. Sloan Creek (Snohomish Co.) All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Catch-and-release. Selective gear rules. | Change is only to the North Fork Sauk and tributaries above the falls at rm 1.7. This includes current rules for Cadet and Sloan Creeks. Current rules for the mainstem Sauk and SF Sauk included in this reach would not change. North Fork Sauk above NF falls including all tributaries: Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31: Statewide min. size/daily limit. | This opens a very significant area to the retention of resident fish where there is currently only catch and release fishing; anadromous fish are not present in this area. Significant numbers of resident fish are area available. This change also makes the opening day rules consistent with areas above anadromous zones open to fishing. |
| 29 | Whatcom | Kendall Creek | Above hatchery grounds (Whatcom Co.) All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | Above hatchery grounds (Whatcom Co.) All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Increases the season because this area is not accessible by anadromous fish. |
| 30 | Whatcom | Maple Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Steelhead conservation is needed below falls for anadromous fish. Above the falls, resident fish opportunity exists and anadromous fish are not present. Opening on the Saturday before Memorial Day is consistent with openings in streams with no anadromous access. Selective gear rules are not needed above the anadromous zone for conservation. |
| 31 | Whatcom | Racehorse Creek | All Game Fish First Sat. in June-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. Selective gear rules. | Racehorse Creek above falls located 0.3 miles above the North Fork road bridge. All Game Fish Saturday before Memorial Day-Oct. 31 Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Close below the falls because of anadromous fish presence and open above the falls where anadromous fish are not present. |

12. Increase selective gear fishing opportunity

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Increase selective gear fishing opportunity in Western Washington.

Explanation

Provides quality year-round fishing opportunity with limited Trout retention in various lakes. See Table.

Proposal 12 Table. Increase selective gear fishing opportunity.

| Number | County | Lake | Current Rule | Proposed Rule |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Snohomish | Chain | Year-round, statewide min. size/daily limit | ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT Year-round Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Other Game Fish Year-round Statewide min. size/daily limit. WDFW fishing regulations currently allow the use of a two –pole endorsement at this lake. We want this to continue. Lake rules already restrict use of internal combustion engines by county ordinance. |
| 2 | Snohomish | Martha (Warm Beach) | Year-round, statewide min. size/daily limit | ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT Year-round Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Other Game Fish Year-round Statewide min. size/daily limit. WDFW fishing regulations currently allow the use of a two –pole endorsement at this lake. We want this to continue. Lake rules already restrict use of internal combustion engines by county ordinance. |
| 3 | Snohomish | Ballinger | Year-round, statewide min. size/daily limit | ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT Year-round Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Other Game Fish Year-round Statewide min. size/daily limit. WDFW fishing regulations currently allow the use of a two –pole endorsement at this lake. We want this to continue. Lake rules already restrict use of internal combustion engines by county ordinance. |
| 4 | Snohomish | Flowing | Year-round, statewide min. size/daily limit | ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT Year-round Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Other Game Fish Year-round Statewide min. size/daily limit. WDFW fishing regulations currently allow the use of a two –pole endorsement at this lake. We want this to continue. Lake rules already restrict use of internal combustion engines by county ordinance. |
| 5 | Snohomish | Lost (Devil's) | Year-round, statewide min. size/daily limit | ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT Year-round Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Other Game Fish Year-round Statewide min. size/daily limit. WDFW fishing regulations currently allow the use of a two –pole endorsement at this lake. We want this to continue. Lake rules already restrict use of internal combustion engines by county ordinance. |
| 6 | Snohomish | Panther | Year-round, statewide min. size/daily limit | ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT Year-round Min. size 14". Daily limit 2. Other Game Fish Year-round Statewide min. size/daily limit. WDFW fishing regulations currently allow the use of a two –pole endorsement at this lake. We want this to continue. Lake rules already restrict use of internal combustion engines by county ordinance. |

13. Require mandatory hatchery Steelhead retention

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Mandatory retention of hatchery Steelhead in all streams in Regions 4 and 6.

Explanation

This is a conservation measure to reduce the potential impact of hatchery steelhead on wild steelhead populations through mandatory retention of hatchery fish. Hatchery steelhead can have deleterious impacts on wild steelhead genetic integrity and population productivity. This regulation is already in place during steelhead fisheries in the Columbia River and its tributaries, thus providing angling opportunity while reducing impacts to ESA listed steelhead. See Table.

Proposal 13 Table. Require mandatory hatchery Steelhead retention. Please note that there are no authorized steelhead fisheries in any stream in Hood Canal because hatchery fish are part of the supplementation program. The term "PHOS" refers to Percent Hatchery Origin Spawners.

| Number | Region | River/ Lake | Fork | Winter or Summer Steelhead | Yes/No | Why |
|--------|--------------|-------------|------|----------------------------|--------|---|
| 1 | Grays Harbor | Black | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 2 | Grays Harbor | Chehalis | All | Both | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |

| Number | Region | River/ Lake | Fork | Winter or Summer Steelhead | Yes/No | Why |
|--------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| 3 | Grays Harbor | Cloquallum | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 4 | Grays Harbor | Elk | | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 5 | Grays Harbor | Hoquaim | All | Both (Summer strays) | Yes | No summer hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 6 | Grays Harbor | Humtulpis | All | Both | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 7 | Grays Harbor | Johns | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 8 | Grays Harbor | Newaukum | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 9 | Grays Harbor | Satsop | All | Winter | No | These fish are needed for broodstock. |
| 10 | Grays Harbor | SF Chehalis | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 11 | Grays Harbor | Skookumchuck | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 12 | Grays Harbor | Wishkah | All | Both (Summer strays) | Yes | No summer hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 13 | Grays Harbor | Wynoochee | All | Both | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 14 | North Coast | Big River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter (Strays) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 15 | North Coast | Bogachiel River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 16 | North Coast | Calawah River | All | Winter and Summer | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 17 | North Coast | Cedar Creek | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter (Strays) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 18 | North Coast | Clearwater River | All | Winter and Summer (strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 19 | North Coast | Dickey River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter (Strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 20 | North Coast | East and West Fork Dickey Cr. | All, incl. Thunder Cr. | Winter (Strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 21 | North Coast | Goodman Creek | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter (Strays) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 22 | North Coast | Hoh River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer (strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 23 | North Coast | Kalaloch Creek | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter (Strays) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 24 | North Coast | Mosquito Creek | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter (Strays) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 25 | North Coast | Quillayute River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 26 | North Coast | Salmon River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer (strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 27 | North Coast | Sol Duc River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer (strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 28 | North Coast | South Fork Calawah River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |
| 29 | North Coast | South Fork Hoh River | All outside ONP boundaries | Winter and Summer (strays) | Undecided | North Coast Advisory Group will consider and recommend. |

| Number | Region | River/ Lake | Fork | Winter or Summer Steelhead | Yes/No | Why |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| 30 | North Coast | Tsoo-Yess River (Sooes) | All outside Makah Res. | Winter | Yes | Reduce pHOS. |
| 31 | Puget Sound | Green | All | Both | Yes/No | No only if we keep the winter program, summer run program broodstocking has not been a problem. |
| 32 | Puget Sound | Lake Washington | All | Both | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 33 | Puget Sound | Nooksack | MF | Winter | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 34 | Puget Sound | Nooksack | NF | Winter | No | These fish are needed for broodstock. |
| 35 | Puget Sound | Nooksack | SF | Winter | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 36 | Puget Sound | Samish | All | Winter | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 37 | Puget Sound | Skagit | All | Both | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 38 | Puget Sound | Skykomish | NF | Both | No | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 39 | Puget Sound | Skykomish | SF | Both | No | Gathering data on ability to collect broodstock. |
| 40 | Puget Sound | Snoqualmie | All | Winter | No | These fish are needed for broodstock. |
| 41 | Puget Sound | Stilliguamish | NF | Both | No | These fish are needed for broodstock. |
| 42 | Puget Sound | Stilliguamish | SF | Both | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 43 | Strait | Clallam River | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 44 | Strait | Deep Creek | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 45 | Strait | Dungeness River | All open water | Winter | Undecided | Meeting hatchery broodstock needs. Reduce pHOS. |
| 46 | Strait | Elwha River | All | Winter | NA | Fishing moratorium through spring of 2017. |
| 47 | Strait | Hoko River | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | Meeting hatchery broodstock needs. Reduce pHOS. |
| 48 | Strait | Lyre River | Below Falls | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 49 | Strait | Morse Creek | Below P.A. Dam | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 50 | Strait | Pysht River | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 51 | Strait | Salt Creek | All open water | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 52 | Strait | Sekiu River | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery plants, so remove any hatchery fish encountered; minimal impact to fishing experience. |
| 53 | Willapa Bay | Bear | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 54 | Willapa Bay | Naselle | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 55 | Willapa Bay | Nemah | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |

| Number | Region | River/ Lake | Fork | Winter or Summer Steelhead | Yes/No | Why |
|--------|-------------|-------------|------|----------------------------|--------|---|
| 56 | Willapa Bay | Niawiakum | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 57 | Willapa Bay | North | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 58 | Willapa Bay | Palix | All | Winter (Stray) | Yes | No hatchery program, so remove any/all hatchery fish, minimal impact in fishing experience. |
| 59 | Willapa Bay | SF Willapa | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 60 | Willapa Bay | Smith | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |
| 61 | Willapa Bay | Willapa | All | Winter | Yes | Meeting hatchery program needs. |

PUGET SOUND

14. Increase fishing opportunity in Lake Washington Ship Canal (King Co.)

Type of Rule Change Proposal
Recreational

Short Description
Increase area open to fishing in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

Explanation
The current regulations close a large portion of the Lake Washington Ship Canal to boat anglers targeting bass and close the area near the Ballard Locks to prevent boat traffic conflicts. There are no known biological and boating safety reasons for maintaining this closed area. This regulation would primarily benefit boat anglers targeting bass.

15. Pass Lake (Skagit Co.): Allow 2-pole opportunity

Type of Rule Change Proposal
Recreational

Short Description
Allow 2-pole fishing on Pass Lake.

Explanation
This proposal enables anglers to fish with two poles, providing additional recreational opportunity.

16. Rattlesnake Lake (King Co.): Allow trout harvest

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Trout: 2 fish daily limit, 14 inch minimum size limit.

Explanation

Currently Rattlesnake Lake offers only catch and release fishing. The public are requesting a rule that allows for some harvest of trout. Selective gear rules will remain in effect.

17. Clear Lake (Pierce Co.): Increase Kokanee daily limit

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Increase the daily limit for Kokanee from 5 to 10 fish.

Explanation

Surplus Kokanee are available for harvest in Clear Lake. This rule increases the daily limit for Kokanee to 10 fish. This is consistent with most Kokanee managed waters in Washington.

18. Collins Lake (Mason Co.) and Stump Lake(Mason Co.): Adopt statewide rules and harvest limits

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Adopt statewide limits and rules for Collins and Stump lakes.

Explanation

There is no need to have special fishing rules listed in the WDFW fishing pamphlet for these lakes. Currently these lakes have no public access, and are only fished by community members with legal access to the lake. WDFW does not stock trout in these lakes and does not want to have special rules regulating lake residents or other public that gain private access to these lakes.

19. Baker Lake (Whatcom Co.): Adjust Kokanee and Trout size limit

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

This proposal would change the Trout size limits to statewide rules, and specify that for Kokanee, the minimum length is 8 inches and the maximum length is 18 inches. By definition, all fish over 18 inches in length are Sockeye.

Explanation

This proposal changes the maximum length for Trout to increase recreational opportunity. Currently the Trout rule says the maximum length is 18 inches and this unnecessarily limits recreational opportunity. This proposal, by increasing the minimum size on Kokanee, also protects most Sockeye smolts from harvest during spring-timed fisheries.

20. Blackmans Lake (Snohomish Co.): Increase trout limit

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Increase the Trout daily limit on Blackmans Lake to five, no more than 2 over 15 inches in length.

Explanation

The existing rule is 3 Trout per day. This does not take advantage of the large number of Trout in the lake that are 10 to 12 inches in length. Large Trout are released in this lake through cooperative agreement with the Snohomish Sportsman's Club. Some anglers high grade Trout to harvest the larger fish, creating conflict and limiting opportunity for other anglers. To prevent this conflict from arising, anglers will only be allowed to harvest 2 Trout larger than 15 inches per day and can complete their 5 fish limit with additional smaller Trout.

21. Ross Lake (Whatcom Co.): Adjust trout fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Adjust angling rules on Ross Lake to protect Rainbow Trout and increase harvest on Brook Trout. Modify existing Rainbow Trout and Brook Trout harvest rules. New rules would allow daily limit 1, minimum size 16 inches for Rainbow Trout and increase the Brook Trout limit to 5 per day, no minimum size.

Explanation

The reasons for the regulation changes are to 1) Remove the non-native Brook Trout to help protect ESA listed Bull Trout and Dolly Varden, and 2) help recover native Rainbow Trout. The native Rainbow Trout population in Ross Lake is in decline. Reducing the daily limit and increasing the minimum length will reduce overall population exploitation and allow adult Rainbow Trout to spawn once before being subject to harvest. This is an exception with other Brook Trout rules in the state but aligns this U.S./ Canada border lake with nearby lakes.

22. Texas Pond (Skagit Co.) daily limit

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Remove daily limits for all game fish on Texas Pond.

Explanation

Overabundant Brook Trout and Bass pose a threat to downstream ESA listed Steelhead and Salmon. This rule is intended to use angler exploitation as a tool to reduce abundances of unwanted non-native gamefish.

23. Thornton Lake and Thornton Creek (Whatcom Co): No limit on Westslope Cutthroat

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Thornton Creek: All Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Oct. 31. No limit on cutthroat, and up to 2 hatchery Steelhead may be retained. No other species may be retained.

Explanation

Propose statewide rules, except no limit on cutthroat trout. Lower Thornton Lake and Thornton Creek are over populated with Westslope Cutthroat Trout that are making their way into the Skagit River. This offers a fishing opportunity, but is intended to be a conservation measure to reduce the Westslope Cutthroat population and thus the potential for the population to increase in the Skagit and potentially result in a negative interaction with native species such as Steelhead and Coastal Cutthroat.

24. Black Lake Ditch (Thurston Co.) warmwater angling

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Black Lake Ditch (Thurston Co.) from the confluence with Percival Creek upstream to Black Lake. From November 1 through the first Friday in June catch and release only for all game fish.

Explanation

This proposal would provide additional fishing opportunity for the many warmwater fishes present in the system.

25. Mill Pond (King Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Adjust angling rules on Mill Pond (King Co.) to allow juvenile-only fishing and remove adult fishing exceptions.

Explanation

This small lake is currently open to juvenile fishing only, except adults are allowed to fish on Free Fishing weekend. This proposal makes the lake open to juvenile fishing only. Permitting adults to angle in the pond reduces juvenile angling opportunity and there are many other waters nearby where adults can fish on Free Fishing weekend without impacting juveniles.

26. Sammamish Lake (King Co.): Remove hook restrictions

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Remove the seasonal single point barbless hook restrictions on Sammamish Lake.

Explanation

This proposal removes the current requirement for single-point barbless hooks. The current rule was implemented to help reduce post-release mortality on Kokanee. At the time, Lake Sammamish Kokanee were petitioned to be listed as Threatened under the ESA by USFWS. Since that time USFWS has determined that listing is not warranted for Sammamish Kokanee as they don't meet the criteria for an independent population. In addition, the Sammamish Kokanee population has had several strong spawning escapements in recent years and barbless hook restrictions are not warranted from a conservation perspective.

27. Alder Reservoir tributaries and upper Nisqually River (Thurston Co.): Increase Trout harvest opportunity

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Daily limit 2 trout over 14 inches, Selective Gear Rules for all tributaries to Alder Reservoir and the upper Nisqually River above Alder Reservoir.

Explanation

The current rules do not include the tributaries of Alder Lake Reservoir and the upper Nisqually River. Implementing these fishery rule changes will allow for some trout harvest opportunity while continuing adequate protection for native trout species in these waters.

28. Adjust fishing rules on Whatcom Creek, Skagit and Cascade rivers

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

This proposal adjusts the rules to remove unneeded seasons and fishery zones that were consistent with providing a fishery on hatchery Steelhead.

Explanation

Since hatchery Steelhead are no longer stocked in these streams, appropriate rules for protecting wild Steelhead, Salmon and resident Trout will be put in place. See Table.

Proposal 28 Table. Adjust fishing rules on Whatcom Creek, Skagit and Cascade rivers.

| Number | County | Water | Current Rule | Proposed | Explanation |
|--------|---------|---------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Whatcom | Whatcom Creek | Whatcom Creek from mouth to yellow markers below foot bridge below Dupont St. in Bellingham: Trout: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Min. size 14"; daily limit 2. Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Last day in Feb. Statewide min. size/daily limit | Whatcom Creek from mouth to yellow markers below foot bridge below Dupont St. in Bellingham: Trout: First Sat. in June-Dec 31. Min. size 14"; daily limit 2. Other Game Fish: First Sat. in June-Dec 31. Statewide min. size/ daily limit. | Season is shortened because hatchery Steelhead are no longer stocked in this creek. |
| 2 | Skagit | Skagit River | Skagit River from Hwy. 530 Bridge at Rockport to Cascade River Rd. (Marblemount Bridge) All Other TROUT June 1-Feb. 15 Min. size 14"; daily limit 2. Other Game Fish June 1-Feb. 15 Statewide min. size/ daily limit. | Skagit River from Hwy.530 Bridge at Rockport to Cascade River Rd. (Marblemount Bridge): All Other Trout June 1-January 31. Min. size 14"; daily limit 2. Other Game Fish June 1-January 31. Statewide min. size/ daily limit. | Season is shortened because hatchery Steelhead are no longer stocked in this river. |
| 3 | Skagit | Cascade River | Cascade River from mouth to Rockport-Cascade Rd. Bridge: All Other TROUT Sept. 16-Feb. 15. Min. size 14"; daily limit 2. Other Game Fish: Sept. 16-Feb. 15 Statewide min. size/ daily limit. | Cascade River from mouth to Rockport-Cascade Rd. Bridge: All Other TROUT Sept. 16-Jan 31. Min. size 14"; daily limit 2. Other Game Fish: Sept. 16-Jan 31. Statewide min. size/daily limit. | Season is shortened because hatchery Steelhead are no longer stocked in this river. |

29. Whatcom Creek (Whatcom Co.): Open a portion of the creek to fishing

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Increase fishing opportunity on Whatcom Creek and remove unneeded anti-snagging rules. Open the portion of Whatcom Creek from the foot of bridge below Dupont Street in Bellingham to the stone bridge at Whatcom Falls Park.

Explanation

This particular section of the creek used to be open prior to the Olympic Pipeline explosion in June of 1999. After the explosion, it was closed to allow for stream restoration. It has now been over 15 years and the ecosystem has made a strong recovery and it would be appropriate to reopen for angling. Anti-snagging rules are in place above the anadromous zone where there are no Salmon or Steelhead present to snag.

30. McAllister Creek (Thurston Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Remove the "barbless hook" rule from McAllister Creek and implement Selective Gear Rules.

Explanation

The current "barbless hooks" required for all species is inconsistent with the current "Selective Gear Rules" for Trout and Other game fish during overlapping seasons. This proposal removes the barbless hooks only rule and manages the creek under Selective Gear Rules.

31. McLane Creek (Thurston Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Adopt catch and release and selective gear rules for McLane Creek.

Explanation

The rule change is consistent with existing rules on other South Puget Sound streams (e.g. Skookum; Deschutes; Shelton; Goldsborough; Johns). Further, this rule is needed based on the apparent low number of Cutthroat spawners (redds/mile) relative to other South Puget Sound streams.

32. Chaplain Creek (Snohomish Co.): Close a portion of this stream

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Chaplain Creek (Snohomish County) from the beaver pond(Grass Lake) below the water filtration plant gate upstream - closed waters.

Explanation

The portion of Chaplain Creek above the water filtration plant is within an area closed by the City of Everett due to security concerns with the water supply. The portion being proposed for closure is within an incorporated area with a fence and/or no trespassing signs around the perimeter to protect the drinking water supply for the city of Everett.

33. Newhalem Creek (Whatcom Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Close angling on the anadromous portion of Newhalem Creek below the Seattle City Light hydropower facility. Open the creek to angling for all game fish above the power facility beginning the Saturday before Memorial Day to October 31st under statewide minimum size and daily limits for streams.

Explanation

This rule change is consistent with the WDFW Stream Strategy approach intended to limit angling impacts in the anadromous zone while maximizing recreational opportunity for trout angling.

34. North Fork Nooksack River (Whatcom Co.): Close a portion of this stream

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Currently this area falls within the section of the North Fork Nooksack that lies from the mouth up to Maple Creek. We propose a subsection of this stretch that runs from the North Fork of the Nooksack River (all sloughs and side channels) from a true east-west line running through a white monument marking the mouth of Kendall Creek downstream 1,500 feet. We propose that this area be closed year-round to all fishing.

Explanation

This proposal is a result of the ever-changing nature of this stretch of the Nooksack River. This proposal will clarify the mouth of Kendall Creek, avoiding public confusion with shifting river boundaries. In addition, this proposal protects Spring Chinook, Steelhead, and Chum that are attempting to enter the hatchery.

35. Skagit River (Skagit Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Open the lower Skagit River from mouth to Highway 536 at Mt. Vernon, from March 1 to May 31 for all gamefish.

Explanation

Last rule cycle this reach of the Skagit was opened for fishing for Trout March 1-May 31. "Other gamefish" was not proposed by the proponent, only because it was an oversight. Opening for other gamefish during this time frame simplifies the rules, and makes them consistent.

36. Minter Creek (Pierce/Kitsap Co.): Close to Trout fishing

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Close trout fishing from the mouth to the hatchery rack, year-round.

Explanation

This rule is intended to protect returning adult Chinook entering the hatchery rack. There will still be a salmon season November 1 to December 31st.

37. Snoqualmie River (King Co.): Adjust Trout season dates and harvest limits

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

On the Snoqualmie River above the falls including the North and South forks, allow year round fishing with a retention Trout fishery (2 fish daily, min. size 10 inches) from the Saturday before Memorial Day through October 31 and catch and release fishing the remainder of the year.

Explanation

These rules are conservative enough to ensure persistence of trout in the streams while allowing some recreational trout harvest.

38. Skagit River (Skagit Co.): Convert a portion of the river to catch and release Trout fishing

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Skagit River from Hwy. 530 Bridge in Rockport to Cascade River Road in Marblemount. June 1st - January 31. Catch and release only for trout.

Explanation

This proposal removes the retention of trout in the Skagit River from the Hwy. 530 Bridge at Rockport to Cascade River Rd. (Marblemount Bridge) and changes the closing date from February 15 to January 31. Catch and release regulations for trout in this section will allow fish to grow large and provide opportunity for anglers to repeatedly catch trophy sized trout.

39. Stillaguamish River (Snohomish Co.) night closure

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Close the mainstem Stillaguamish River and all sloughs below Marine View Drive to night fishing year-round, all species.

Explanation

This rule change makes for easier rule enforcement in this portion of the Stillaguamish River and reduces the potential for poaching activity.

40. Tolt River (King Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Adjust the fishing rules for the lower Tolt River. Currently the rule is "From the mouth to the USGS trolley cable near the confluence of North and South forks: All Species - First Saturday in June-Nov 30; selective gear rules." We propose to extend the time that selective gear rules are required to say, "Open the First Saturday in June to January 31, All Species: selective gear rules."

Explanation

To reduce hooking mortality on wild steelhead and bring regulations in line with the Statewide Steelhead Management Plan.

41. Kennedy Creek (Thurston Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Adjust fishing season dates and harvest rules for Kennedy Creek from Highway 101 upstream to barrier falls. This proposal changes the season end date from the last day in February to Oct. 31 and adjusts harvest rules to catch and release and selective gear rules.

Explanation

This change is needed because of an apparent low number of Coastal Cutthroat spawners (redds/mile).

42. Chambers Creek (Pierce Co.): Adjust fishing rules

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Chambers Creek from mouth (Burlington-Northern RR Bridge) to markers 400' below the Boise-Cascade Dam: all species: selective gear rules, except bait allowed September 1 to October 15. All Trout Catch and Release.

Explanation

Streams in South Puget Sound that harbor anadromous Cutthroat Trout are generally managed under restrictive harvest or catch and release rules. This rule is proposed to reduce handling and hooking mortality of coastal cutthroat.

43. Snohomish River (Snohomish Co.): Allow catch and release Sturgeon fishing

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Open the Snohomish River Sturgeon fishery year-round for catch and release opportunity from the Mouth to the Highway 9 Bridge.

Explanation

There is an abundant enough population of Sturgeon in the lower Snohomish River to allow for year-round catch and release Sturgeon fishing.

COAST

44. Increase fishing opportunity for anglers with lower extremity disabilities

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

This proposal applies to the Forks Creek Hatchery (Pacific Co.) fishery for anglers with disabilities. The current rule is: Closed Waters except for anglers with disabilities who must permanently use a wheelchair AND who have a designated harvester companion card. We propose this rule be changed to: Closed Waters except for anglers with lower extremity disabilities who must permanently use a medically prescribed assistive device every time for mobility as defined in WAC 232-12-825(1)(a) AND who have a designated harvester companion card.

Explanation

This proposal removes the wheelchair requirement to provide more opportunity for anglers with lower extremity disabilities.

45. Adopt selective gear rules for the Naselle River

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Adopt selective gear rules for the Naselle River from February 1 to April 15.

Explanation

Rule change is proposed to reduce hooking mortality on wild adult and juvenile Steelhead in the Naselle River.

46. Adopt "no fishing from floating device" rules on select streams

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Implement "no fishing from a floating device" rules on select North Coast streams. This proposal is being considered by the North Coast Advisory Group and will be refined as the Advisory Group provides feedback.

Explanation

Proposed to protect holding and spawning adult Salmon and Steelhead through reduced hooking/handling stress and mortality. See table.

[Table for Proposal 46. Adopt "no fishing from floating device" rules on select streams.](#)

| Number | River | County |
|--------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bogachiel | Clallam |
| 2 | Calawah | Clallam |
| 3 | Clearwater | Jefferson |
| 4 | Dickey | Clallam |
| 5 | Hoh | Jefferson |
| 6 | Quillayute | Clallam |
| 7 | Quinault | Grays Harbor |
| 8 | Salmon | Grays Harbor |
| 9 | Snahapish | Jefferson |
| 10 | Sol Duc | Clallam |

47. Adopt selective gear rules in North Coast Steelhead streams

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Implement Selective Gear Rules on North Coast streams to protect juvenile Salmon, Steelhead and Trout. This proposal is being considered by the North Coast Advisory Group and will be refined as the Advisory Group provides feedback.

Explanation

This proposal adopts Selective Gear Rules to protect resident Trout as well as juvenile anadromous salmonids but allows the use of bait during Salmon and Steelhead fisheries. See Table.

Table for Proposal 47. Adopt selective gear rules in North Coast Steelhead streams.

| Number | River | County |
|--------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bogachiel | Clallam |
| 2 | Calawah | Clallam |
| 3 | Clearwater | Jefferson |
| 4 | Dickey | Clallam |
| 5 | Hoh | Jefferson |
| 6 | Quillayute | Clallam |
| 7 | Quinault | Grays Harbor |
| 8 | Salmon | Grays Harbor |
| 9 | Snahapish | Jefferson |
| 10 | Sol Duc | Clallam |

48. Prohibit wild Steelhead harvest

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Do not allow harvest of wild Steelhead in select North Coast streams. This proposal is being considered by the North Coast Advisory Group and will be refined as the Advisory Group provides feedback.

Explanation

This proposal includes requiring the release of wild Steelhead; resident Trout, and not allowing any part of salmonids to be removed from the water if the rule or intention is to release the fish. See Table.

Table for Proposal 48. Prohibit wild Steelhead harvest.

| Number | River | County |
|--------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bogachiel | Clallam |
| 2 | Calawah | Clallam |
| 3 | Clearwater | Jefferson |
| 4 | Dickey | Clallam |
| 5 | Hoh | Jefferson |
| 6 | Quillayute | Clallam |
| 7 | Quinault | Grays Harbor |
| 8 | Salmon | Grays Harbor |
| 9 | Snahapish | Jefferson |
| 10 | Sol Duc | Clallam |

49. Require wild Steelhead harvest tag

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Conservation

Short Description

Require purchase and use of annual "Wild Steelhead" harvest tag. This proposal is being considered by the North Coast Advisory Group and will be refined as the Advisory Group provides feedback.

Explanation

Require the purchase and use of a harvest tag if an angler intends to harvest a wild steelhead. Upon harvesting a wild steelhead, the angler must affix the tag to the harvested fish. An angler is limited to one harvest tag per year. Additionally, if an angler is fishing with a licensed guide, they must use the guide's wild steelhead harvest tag. Licensed guides are limited to three harvest tags per year. Recommended that WDFW consider charging a premium for the purchase of these tags as is done for other trophy animals. See Table.

Table for Proposal 49. Require wild Steelhead harvest tag.

| Number | River | County |
|--------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bogachiel | Clallam |
| 2 | Calawah | Clallam |
| 3 | Clearwater | Jefferson |
| 4 | Dickey | Clallam |
| 5 | Hoh | Jefferson |
| 6 | Quillayute | Clallam |
| 7 | Quinault | Grays Harbor |
| 8 | Salmon | Grays Harbor |
| 9 | Snahapish | Jefferson |
| 10 | Sol Duc | Clallam |

LIBERALIZE LIMITS FOR BASS, CHANNEL CATFISH, AND WALLEYE IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES CONTIGUOUS WITH OREGON

50. Remove daily limits on warmwater fish in the Columbia River

Type of Rule Change Proposal

Recreational

Short Description

Remove harvest limits for Walleye, Bass and Channel Catfish in the Columbia River and tributaries in shared boundary waters with Oregon State.

Explanation

Consistent with the rule that was passed in the Washington only portions of the Columbia River and tributaries.