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PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT **OF INQUIRY**

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER		
STATE OF WASHINGTON		
FILED		

DATE: May 19, 2023 TIME: 10:28 AM

WSR 23-11-101

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) (P2023-11)

Subject of possible rule making: WDFW is considering rulemaking for Lake Roosevelt White Sturgeon Fishery

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.60.070

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Weak year-classes of wild-caughtlarval (WCL) white sturgeon produced between 2011-2016 (year-classes of concern), which were reared and released as part of the conservation aquaculture program in Lake Roosevelt, will begin entering harvestable sizes in 2023. This group of sturgeon is present in low abundance but has high conservation value. Concurrently, there is a need to maintain a harvest sturgeon fishery in Lake Roosevelt in order to remove over-represented year-classes of hatchery sturgeon produced from 2001-2010. The Lake Roosevelt sturgeon fishery will require multiple rule changes over the next decade in order to maintain harvest of target year-classes of sturgeon while managing the fishery to minimize harvest impacts to WCL year-classes of concern.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: WDFW is the sole authority regulating the Lake Roosevelt recreational sturgeon fishery. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians regulate Tribal sturgeon fisheries in Lake Roosevelt.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

Negotiated rule making

□ Pilot rule making

Agency study

□ Other (describe)

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting: /14

	(If necessary)		
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