



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

November 7, 2012

Mr. Phil Anderson, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Re: Proposed sport-fishing rule change 9

Dear Director Anderson:

I am writing on behalf of the Yakama Nation in support of removing all bag and size limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River, and their tributaries as described in Option 1 of rule change 9 in the proposed 2012-2013 sport-fishing rule changes. Such a change is long overdue. These introduced species are known, voracious predators of juvenile salmonids, many of which are listed under the ESA. At a time when the region is making enormous investments to achieve even modest gains in salmon recovery – including a bounty fishery to control predation by indigenous northern pikeminnows – management of introduced, non-native piscivores on a sustainable-yield basis simply cannot be rationalized. As a fishery co-manager with shared interests in the status and management of depressed salmon and steelhead populations throughout the Columbia and Snake basins, the Yakama Nation strongly urges WDFW to adopt Option 1 in support of salmon recovery.

Sincerely,

Phil Rigdon, Deputy Director
Department of Natural Resources

cc: Fish, Wildlife, and Law and Order Committee
Yakama Nation Fisheries
Paul Lumley – CRITFC
Tom Zeilman