

# **YAKIMA BASIN JOINT BOARD**

*A Partnership of Public Entities Promoting  
the Multiple Uses of the Yakima Valley's  
Water Supply*

## **IRRIGATION ENTITIES**

*KENNEWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
KITTITAS RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
SUNNYSIDE DIVISION  
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT*

## **MUNICIPALITIES** *CITY OF YAKIMA*

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

To: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife via Online Comments  
RE: Rule change recommendation # 9 to remove or modify size and daily limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River and their tributaries.

The Yakima Basin Joint Board (YBJB) represents various irrigation entities dependent on water from the reservoirs and rivers in the Yakima River Basin. As such, our operations are intimately linked with the survival of Yakima Basin salmonids. We are writing in relation to your current consideration to remove retention limits for bass, walleye and channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River and their tributaries as part of updating your fishing regulations for 2013-2014. We understand your recommendation is for one of two options, 1) lifting the retention limits entirely, or 2) lifting retention limits of smaller fish, and only allowing retention of 3 bass over 15 inches, or 1 walleye over 24 inches. Based on research conducted on non-native piscivorous predation on native salmonids, the YBJB supports the first option because it provides better potential to bolster salmon and steelhead returns. We recommend lifting all retention limits on non-native predator fish in the river segments identified in your proposal, including the entire Yakima River.

### Scientific Research of Particular Interest

- Yakima Basin researchers addressed piscivorous predation in the years 1998 – 2001, and between March 22 to June 16 of each of those years, smallmouth bass alone consumed, on average, over 200,000 juvenile salmonids annually (Fritts and Pearsons, 2004). Fritts and Pearsons suggested that if anything they underestimated their salmonid predation estimates.

We support this fishing regulation change, particularly option 1, which will limit non-native piscivorous predation on native salmonid fishes.

Regards,



Dave Brown, Board Chair