

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: September 13, 2019

Agenda item: 10. Amending rules pertaining to the expired Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement.

Presenter(s): Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs

Background summary:

The Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) was established by the legislature in 2009 with revenue dedicated to maintaining and improving recreational fishing opportunities throughout the Columbia River Basin. Projects included monitoring of salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Columbia and Snake rivers and tributaries to ensure WDFW remains within conservation and allocation guidelines, increased enforcement of regulations in designated areas, and funded research that allowed fishery managers to more accurately estimate angling impacts to listed fish populations. Anglers were required to have the CRSSE when fishing for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin.

The original CRSSE authorization expired after six years. The legislature extended the CRSSE in 2016 for 1 year. The legislature again extended the CRSSE in 2017 for 2 years. The Department's agency request legislation to extend the CRSSE was not adopted in the 2019 legislative session, and thus the CRSSE expired on July 1, 2019.

The Department filed an emergency rule this summer to remove references to the CRSSE and establish a new price-point for the Fish Washington license.

The CRSSE generated \$1.2M in SFY2019. The Department is requesting State General Fund in the 2020 supplemental operating budget for an on-going appropriation to backfill the loss of this revenue source.

The Department is requesting the Commission amend or repeal the following WACs that reference the now-expired CRSSE:

WAC 220-220-060: Reduced rate annual fish Washington license, and license upgrades.

WAC 220-220-230: Free Fishing Weekend.

WAC 220-220-210 Columbia River endorsement - repealed

The Department originally included WAC 220-220-320 in this CR-102 rule making package, but the Department notified the Code Reviser on August 9, 2019 to remove it. The Department has filed to re-open the rule and will amend the reference to CRSSE, as well as make other changes to the dealer fee rule at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in December 2019.

Staff recommendation: At a future meeting, staff will recommend that the Commission adopt and repeal the rules as proposed.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

This proposal is primarily a technical proposal to strike references to an expired endorsement and set a new price point for the Fish Washington license package in WAC.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

The Columbia River Salmon Steelhead Endorsement generated \$1,203,000 in Fiscal Year 2019. The legislature provided a one-time appropriation of State General Fund which back-

filled this revenue loss in SFY2020, and partially in SFY2021. The proposed price for the Fish Washington license was reduced by both the cost of the CRSSE and an additional \$1.20 to get the overall out-the-door license cost under \$70. Sales to date for this license package have increased.

Public involvement process used and what you learned: The Department filed a CR-101 on May 22, 2019. The CR-102 was filed July 3. The Department received a single comment from the public following the CR-101; the commenter asked a clarifying question about what the proposal's intention and the Department responded.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps: This is a briefing and public hearing. At a future meeting, Department staff will request that the Commission approve edits/amendments to the following WACs:

- WAC 220-220-060 Reduced rate annual fish Washington license, and license upgrades.
- WAC 220-220-230 Free Fishing Weekend.

And repeal of:

- WAC 220-220-210 Columbia River endorsement.

Draft motion language:

Post decision communications plan: The sunset to CRSSE has been communicated to retail license dealers via alerts on their sales system, as well as the fishing pamphlet. The Department distributed Fish Washington flyers to dealers that highlighted the CRSSE sunset and the new cost that was included in the e-rule, and communicated to customers via social media.