

Implementation of House Bill 1579, and Freshwater Gamefish Rule Housekeeping - Briefing and Public Hearing



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Presentation Outline

- Timeline and public involvement
- Implement 2SHB 1579
- Other freshwater gamefish proposals
- Public comments received (October 4)
- Public testimony

Timeline and Public Involvement

- June 13 CR-101 (Preproposal) filed
- Sept. 3 CR-102 (Proposal Rulemaking) filed
- Sept. 24 - Oct. 2 Public meetings in Mill Creek, Olympia, Ridgefield, Ephrata and Spokane Offices
- Sept. 17 – Oct. 17 Proposal posted to website for written public comment
- **October 18-19 Briefing and Public Hearing**
- December 13-14 Commission decision
- Rules will take effect 31 days after filing

Second Substitute House Bill 1579

- An act related to implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing Chinook abundance.



Second Substitute House Bill 1579

- **(Section 2):** A new section is added to chapter 77.08 RCW to read as follows: The commission shall adopt rules to liberalize bag limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in all anadromous waters of the state in order to reduce the predation risk to salmon smolts.

Prior Rule Changes

Eliminated daily limits of bass, walleye and channel catfish

- 2013 Washington /Oregon Border - Chief Joseph Dam mainstem and major tributaries
- 2016 Washington/Oregon Border – downstream to mouth mainstem and major tributaries
- 2018 expanded to include all tributaries in the Columbia River basin.

Rule Change Proposal

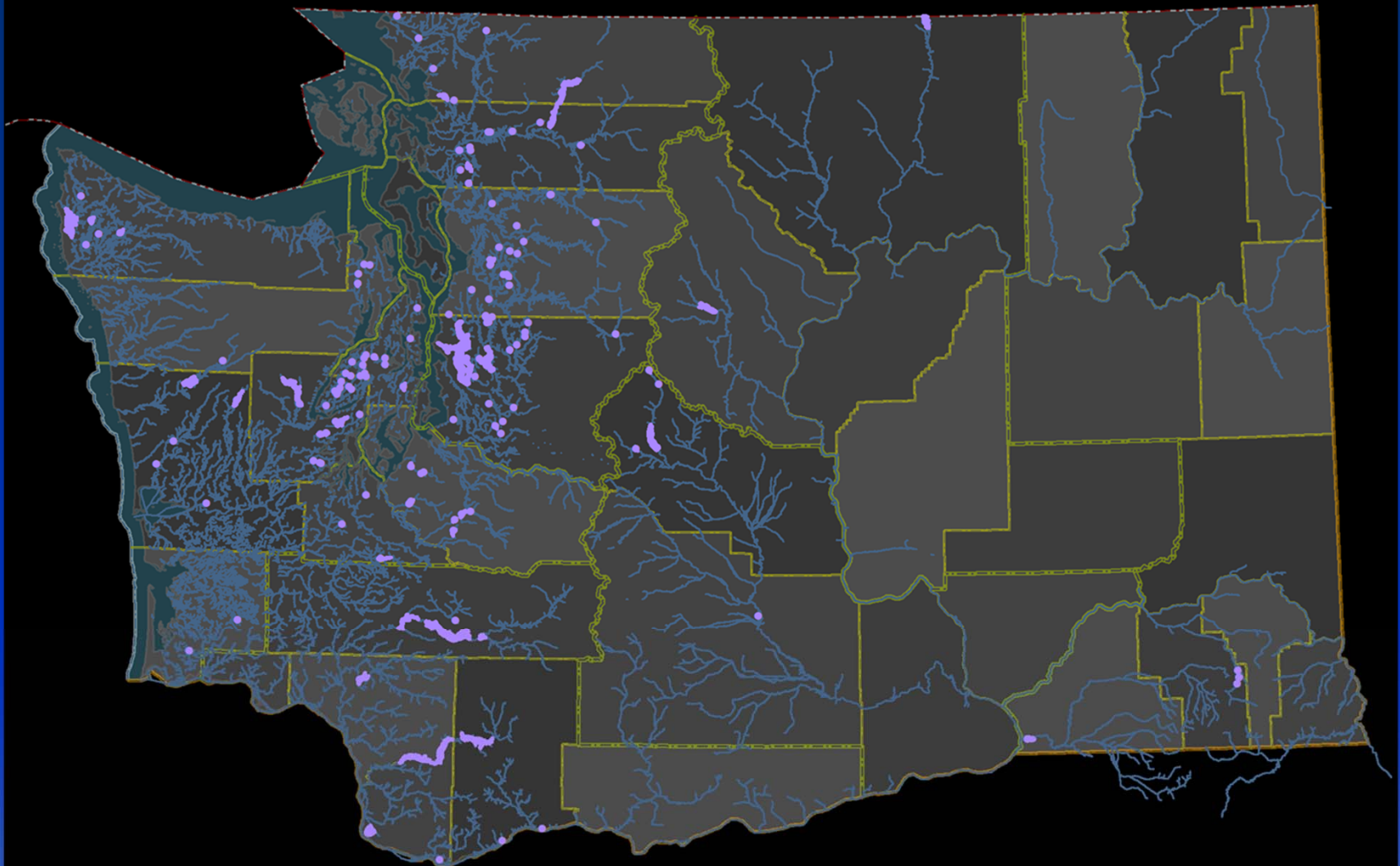
- This proposal eliminates daily limits and size limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in:
 - All rivers, streams and beaver ponds
 - In lakes, ponds and reservoirs where these three species inhabit the same water as salmon smolts
- 146 lakes, ponds and reservoirs identified by staff for rule change

108 - Puget Sound

14 - Coastal

12 - Southwest

12 - Eastside



Lakes proposed for eliminating daily limits and size limits for bass, walleye and channel catfish.

Other Gamefish Housekeeping



#1. Apply Beaver Ponds rule statewide

- Applies the rule “Beaver ponds located within or adjoining streams that are listed as open to trout and other gamefish follow same rules as the stream, except as otherwise listed” to the entire state.
- Applying this rule statewide was inadvertently overlooked during game fish rule simplification. Changing this rule will clarify and eliminate any confusion that occurs around rules for beaver ponds.

2. Include Kokanee in Statewide Trout Bait Rule

- Adds Kokanee to the species of fish that “When fishing with bait, all trout equal to or greater than the minimum size are counted as part to the daily limit whether kept or released.”
- Kokanee as a species were separated from trout during Sport Rules simplification process. Inadvertently this removed Kokanee from this bait rule. This rule change will include both trout and kokanee in this rule.

3. Remove daily limit of Lake Trout in Lake Chelan

- During rule simplification trout daily limit was standardized to 5 fish daily limit.
- This proposal returns to the previous rule for Lake Trout in Lake Chelan which was no minimum size or daily limit.
- The non-native Lake Trout population in Lake Chelan has significant negative impacts on other native gamefish present in the lake.

4. Reciprocity rule added to WAC and change to trout rule on Rufus Woods Lake

- A non-member fishing permit issued by the Colville Confederated Tribes shall satisfy the license requirement of RCW 77.32.010 on the waters of Lake Rufus Woods and on the north shore of Lake Rufus Woods.
- A Colville tribal member identification card satisfies the license requirement of RCW 77.32.010 on all waters of Lake Rufus Woods.

4. Reciprocity rule added to WAC and change to trout rule on Rufus Woods Lake, cont.

- During sport fishing rules simplification, a 14 inch minimum size was adopted.
- Staff is recommending the 14" minimum size limit be removed to align with the Colville Confederated Tribe rule in the lake. (2 fish, no min size)

5. Eastern Brook Trout removed from trout daily limit in Patterson Lake (Okanogan County)

- This rule change removes the daily limit for Eastern Brook Trout on Patterson Lake (Okanogan County).
- Eastern Brook Trout are no longer stocked into Patterson Lake, and the lake is currently managed as a mixed species water.

6. Remove Trout and Cutthroat size restriction on Black Lake (Thurston County)

- During gamefish rule simplification a 14” minimum size was added to trout rules in Black Lake in error.
- This proposal will revert Black Lake rules back to statewide minimum size and daily limits.

7. Technical changes

a) Yakima River whitefish clarification

- Remove the words “Open for whitefish only.” in the section of the Yakima River: From Roza Dam to 400 feet below Easton Dam; including the portion of Wilson Creek from the mouth upstream to BNSF railroad bridge.
- The proposal removes potentially confusing language and clarifies that during the whitefish season (Dec. 1-Last Day of February) other gamefish and catch-and-release trout seasons are allowed as well.

7. Technical changes, con't.

b) Tieton River NF

Clarify the river stretches; No rule change. This proposal restores river sections that were inadvertently removed from the WAC (mouth to FS road 740).

c) Landlocked Salmon rules in locations with Adipose Clipped Trout Rule Clarification

Allows retention of Landlocked Salmon in Lake Roosevelt and San Poil River where there are mark-selective trout fisheries. "Salmon count toward trout daily limit" and "No catch record card required".

Public Comments Received as of October 4, 2019

Support (19):

- Non-native fish contribute to loss of salmon

Oppose (109):

- Question why focus on all salmon and not just Chinook
- Why eliminate limits and not just increase them
- Think this will not increase salmon
- May increase populations of other predator species
- What is the science to support this (no science, limited science)
- These are economically valuable fisheries that you are destroying
- Should focus on seals & sea lions, bird predation, they are bigger issue
- Remove nets, curtail salmon fishing

No public comment received for freshwater gamefish housekeeping proposals

Total Comments (128)

Questions



Public Testimony

