

# Sportfishing Proposals 2013-14

## Public Testimony



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# Presentation Outline

- New Web-based Process
- Timeline and Public Involvement
- Written Comment – Popular Topics
- Public Testimony

# New Web-Based Process

- Created a Sportfishing Rule Change Page
- On-line proposal submittal and comment
  - Increase transparency
  - Increase efficiency

# Timeline and Public Involvement

- April 25-June 15      Accept Proposals
  - About 300 proposals received
  - 69 proposals recommended for further consideration
- October, & November      Regional public meetings (6)
- September-January      Public comment on proposals
  - Over 2,300 public comments received
- January 11      Brief Commission
- **February 8**      **Public Hearing**
- March 1-2      Commission Action

# Written Public comment – Popular Topics

- 4. Statewide fishing closure for sixgill, sevengill and thresher sharks (54 comments)
- 9. Remove or modify size and daily limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River, and their tributaries (259 comments)
- 15. Liberalize bag limits for walleye on Lake Roosevelt and the Spokane arm of Lake Roosevelt (126 comments)

## Written Public comment – Popular Topics

- 65. Cabezon minimum size requirement (81 comments)
- 66. Rockfish species retention in Marine Area 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line (222 comments)
- 67. Tuna daily limit (145 comments)

# Written Public comment – Popular Topics

- 68. Reduce lingcod minimum size in Marine Area 4 (93 comments)
- 69. Reduce lingcod season in Marine Area 4B (274 comments)

# #4. Statewide fishing closure for sixgill, sevengill and thresher sharks

- Support
  - Agree because of life history
  - Concerns for impacts to these sharks from fishing
- Oppose
  - Not many people fish for sharks so minimum impact
  - Lack of data to support closure
  - Recommend catch and release only, allows for data collection



# #9. Remove or modify size and daily limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River, and their tributaries

- Support Option 1 – Remove size and daily limits
  - Salmon and steelhead conservation and recovery
  - Expand to entire Columbia
- Support Option 2 – no daily limit, upper size limits
  - Upper size threshold to ensure don't wipe out population; world class walleye fishery
- Oppose
  - Concern for impacts to local economy from loss of fishery
  - Disagree because these fish eat northern pike minnow
  - Anglers seldom catch their limits now

# #15. Liberalize bag limits for walleye on Lake Roosevelt and the Spokane arm of Lake Roosevelt.

- Option 1: Retain 8 fish limit with 1 over 22 in.
- Option 2: 16 fish limit
- Option 3: 16 fish limit with 1 over 22 in.
- Option 4: No regulation on daily limit or size

Most support option 3 or 4

- Option 3:
  - Protects the large brood stock walleye
  - Maintains a quality fishery for large walleye
- Option 4:
  - recover native fish populations
  - Fastest way to reduce walleye numbers

# #65. Cabezon minimum size requirement

- Support
  - Will increase numbers of cabezon
  - Reduce Season in Puget Sound
  - Reduce daily limit to one fish
- Oppose
  - No in Marine Area 4 – lots of cabezon
  - No data to support change
  - Concern for continued loss of marine fish opportunity

## #66. Rockfish species retention in Marine Area 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line. (retain black, blue and yellowtail rockfish)

- Support
  - Provides additional protection for certain rockfish
- Oppose
  - Healthy abundance of rockfish
  - Already protection with 20 fathom restriction
  - Lack of data to support rule change
  - 2011 test fishery indicated large amount of rockfish

# #67. Tuna daily limit

2 fish daily limit for yellowfin, skipjack, and northern bluefin tuna

- Support
  - Two fish limit is sufficient for these species
- Oppose
  - No need to set limit at this time, populations in north are healthy
  - Regulation is not needed these species are rarely caught off Washington
  - Regulate commercial catch instead

# #68. Reduce lingcod minimum size in Marine Area 4

- Support
  - Lingcod population is healthy
  - Will reduce by-catch of other fish
- Oppose
  - Not healthy for lingcod population
  - 22" is too small because too little meat
  - To protect rockfish, need to remove larger lingcod

# #69. Reduce lingcod season in Marine Area 4B

- Support – May 1 through June 15
  - Will reduce by-catch of rockfish species
  - Necessary for rockfish protection
- Oppose
  - Plenty of lingcod for current season
  - More lingcod will mean less rockfish

# Additional Rule Proposals

- **Naches River Catch and Release** (34 comments)
- **Lake 16 Quality Fly Fishing** (16 comments)
- **No fishing from floating device: Sections of Hoh, Sol Duc, Calawah and Bogachiel Rivers**  
(102 comments) 0



# Naches River Catch and Release

## ■ Support

- Quality fishing experience for wild trout
- Conservation of wild juvenile salmonids
- Economic benefit, will increase angler participation

## ■ Oppose

- Not conservation issue
- Will decrease angler participation
- A person should be allowed to keep a fish

# Sixteen Lake (Skagit Co.)

## ■ Support

- Need a quality lake in Skagit/Snohomish County
- Ebey Lake (Snohomish County) has been a quality fly fishing lake but now is proposed to go to statewide rules (proposal #42).

## ■ Oppose

- Lake 16 should remain an opening day lake
- Will decrease angler participation

# No fishing from floating device: Sections of Hoh, Sol Duc, Calawah and Bogachiel Rivers

## ■ Support

- Protects spawning steelhead
- Unacceptable to allow drift boats to harvest fish in such an easy manner

## ■ Oppose

- Unnecessarily limits angler diversity
- Not everyone can access by foot

# Timeline

- Jan. 11-12 Brief Commission
- Jan. 29 Written public comment deadline
- Feb. 8-9 **Public Testimony**
- March 1-2 Rule adoption
- May 1 Pamphlet —rules take effect

# Questions?



# Public Testimony