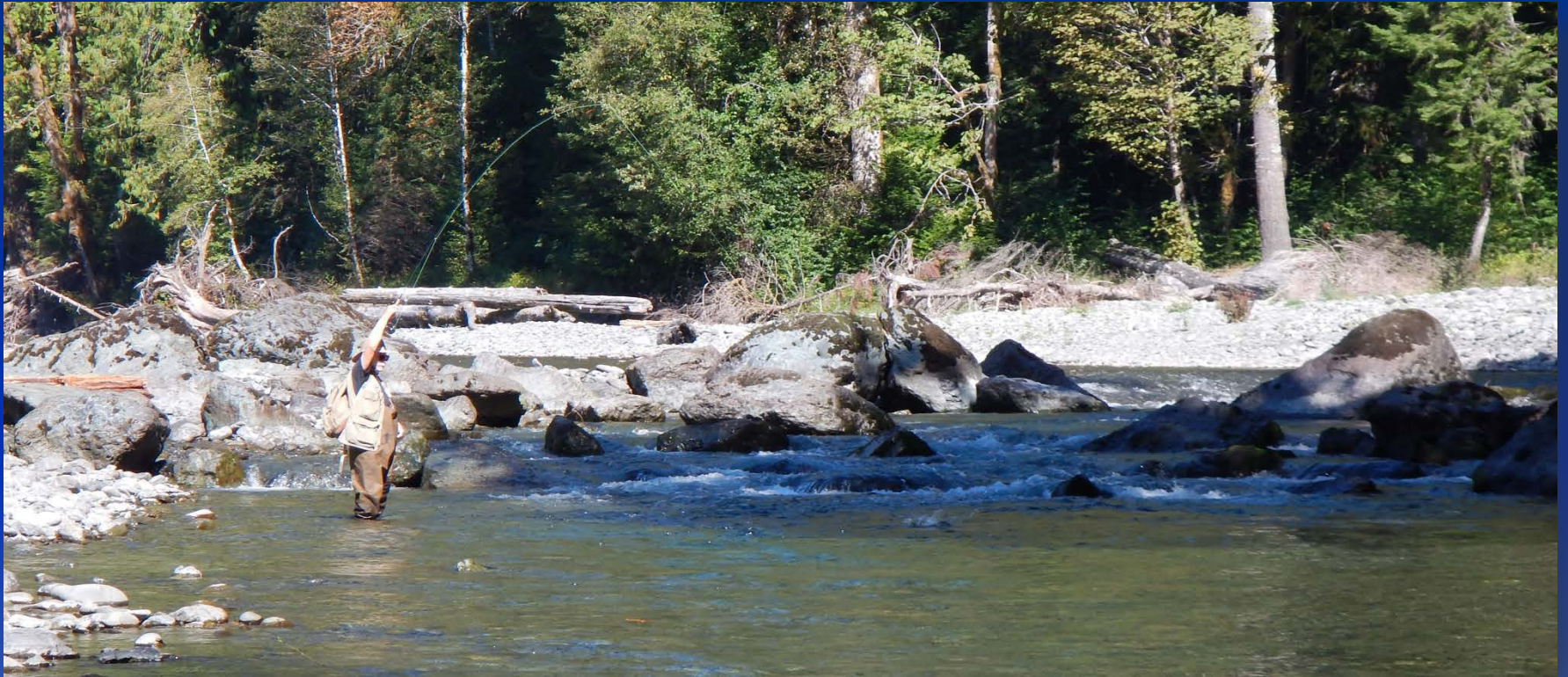


Sportfishing Regulations 2016-2017



Fish Program

Presentation Outline

- Process
- Timeline and public involvement
- Regulation Proposals
- Commission Discussion

Process

- Three Year Schedule,
 - Columbia Basin 2014
 - **Puget Sound and Coast freshwater 2015**
 - Marine finfish, forage fish and shellfish 2016
- Accept Public Proposals
 - Critical conservation need
 - Recreational opportunity

Timeline and Public Involvement

- May 1-30 Accept Proposals
(email, press release, website)
- July–November North Coast Advisor Group
- August 7-November 4 Public comment on proposals
- August & September Regional public meetings (4)
- September 18-19 Brief Commission
- November 13-14 Public Hearing
- December 11-12 Commission Action
- July 1, 2016 Rules take effect

Regulation Proposals

- Received over 300 proposals
- 50 recommended proposals
 - Cross Region– Chris Donley
 - Puget Sound– Brett Barkdull & Steve Thiesfeld
 - Coast– Steve Thiesfeld
 - Lower Columbia Warmwater– Chris Donley
- Notebook materials

Cross Region Proposals



Cross Region Proposals

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Technical changes

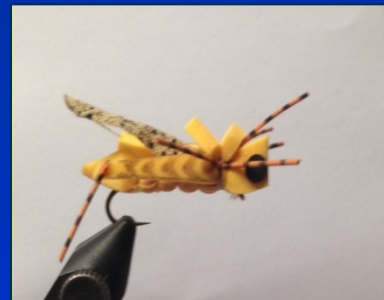
- Recommend 5 technical fixes to:
 - Reflect rule adoptions made by the Commission
 - Correct errors in spelling, dates

#1

Cross Region Proposals

Clarify fishing “fly” definition

- Clarify definition
- Add language about materials that may be used to construct flies



#2

Cross Region Proposals

Remove internal combustion motors prohibition on small streams

- Remove ICM restrictions where they are not practicable
- Simplify and reduce language in pamphlet



#3

Cross Region Proposals

Allow harvest of Grass Carp

- Initial use was to control aquatic vegetation
 - Overstocking and fish longevity resulted in overgrazing
 - Use harvest as a tool to reduce abundance and impacts

Campbell Lake (Skagit Co.)
Lone Lake (Island Co.)
Duck Lake (Grays Harbor Co.)



#4

Cross Region Proposals

Remove Crappie harvest restrictions



- Remove minimum size and daily bag limit requirements
- Data indicates that these lakes cannot produce abundant Crappie greater than 9 inches in length.
- Increase harvest opportunity in 4 lakes

Campbell (Skagit Co.)
Cassidy (Snohomish Co.)
Duck (Grays Harbor Co.)
Sawyer (King Co.)



#5

Cross Region Proposals

Remove daily limit on Brook Trout in Western Washington

- Liberalizes the minimum size and daily limit
- Introduced species that competes with native salmonids



#6

Cross Region Proposals

Allow retention of stray hatchery Steelhead

- Allows anglers to keep stray hatchery fish
- Reduces potential for unwanted genetic and competitive interactions with wild steelhead



#7

Cross Region Proposals

Adjust Trout harvest regulations for lowland lake fisheries



- Removes the rule “no more than 2 trout greater than 14 inches in length” from most lakes
- Purpose of rule no longer applies because stocking size has increased to 2.5 fish per pound

#8

Cross Region Proposals

Provide additional year-round opportunity

- Public is requesting more year-round fishing opportunity
- Ten lakes selected for this change



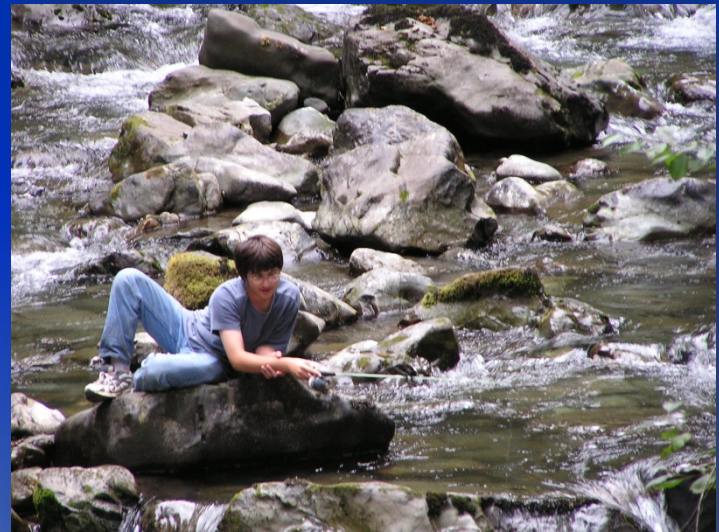
#9

Lake	County
Anderson	Jefferson
Bay	Pierce
Chehalis River Potholes	Grays Harbor
Deep	Thurston
McIntosh	Thurston
Pattison	Thurston
Summit	Thurston
Tanwax	Pierce
Vogler	Skagit
Ward	Thurston

Cross Region Proposals

Increase Trout fishing opportunity in streams

- Add additional angling days to fisheries
- Flett Creek and Leach Creek



#10

Cross Region Proposals



Modify Trout fishing opportunity in select Western Washington streams

- Consistent with stream strategy
- Open portions of streams above anadromous barriers
- Close portions of streams where concern exists for wild salmonids

#11, 29, 33, 34, 37, 38

Cross Region Proposals



Increase selective gear fishing opportunity

- Public input for additional selective gear lake fishing opportunity in Western Washington
- Six lakes provided for consideration

#12

Cross Region Proposals

Require mandatory hatchery Steelhead retention

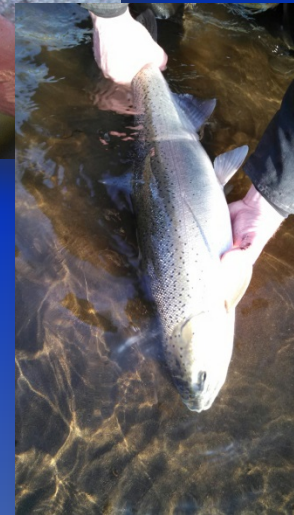


- Reduces potential for unwanted genetic and competitive interactions with wild steelhead
- Applies to streams where hatchery fish are planted and hatchery production goals are being met

#13

Not Region Specific Proposals

Questions



Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



Increase fishing opportunity in Lake Washington Ship Canal (King Co.)

- Increase area open to fishing
- No known biological or boating reasons for current closure

#14

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



Pass Lake (Skagit Co.): Allow 2-pole opportunity

- Allows anglers to fish with 2 poles
- Provides additional recreational opportunity

#15

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



#16

Rattlesnake Lake (King Co.): Allow Trout harvest

- Currently catch and release
- Public requests rule that allows for harvest of some trout
- Two fish daily limit, 14 inch minimum length

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Baker Lake (Whatcom County): Adjust Kokanee and Trout size limit

- Kokanee—minimum length 8 inches; maximum length 18 inches
- Other Trout —statewide rules for size limits
- Protect sockeye smolts
- Increase opportunity on large Trout



#19

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Blackmans Lake (Snohomish Co.): Increase Trout limit

- Increase limit from 3 to 5 fish per day
- No more than 2 over 15 inches in length
- Provides more opportunity on large number of Trout that are 10-12 inches in length



Photo by Loren Brokaw

#20

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4



Ross Lake (Whatcom Co.): Adjust Trout fishing rules

- Rainbow Trout-1 fish per day, minimum 16 inches in length
- Brook Trout-5 fish per day, no minimum size
- Protection for ESA listed Bull Trout/ Dolly Varden
- Recover native Rainbow Trout

#21

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Texas Pond (Skagit Co.) daily limit

- Remove daily limit for all gamefish
- Increase removal of Brook Trout and Bass



#22

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Thornton Lake & Thornton Creek (Whatcom Co.): No limit on Westslope Cutthroat

- Statewide rules, except no limit on Westslope Cutthroat
- Reduce interaction potential with Steelhead and Coastal Cutthroat in Skagit River



#23

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Mill Pond (King Co.): Adjust fishing rules



- Currently adults may fish during Free Fishing Weekend
- Juvenile fishing only, year-round
- Increases juvenile only angling opportunity

#25

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Sammamish Lake (King Co.): Remove hook restrictions



- Remove single point barbless hook restrictions
- Changes in Kokanee management make barbless hooks unnecessary

#26

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Adjust fishing rules on Whatcom Creek, Skagit and Cascade rivers

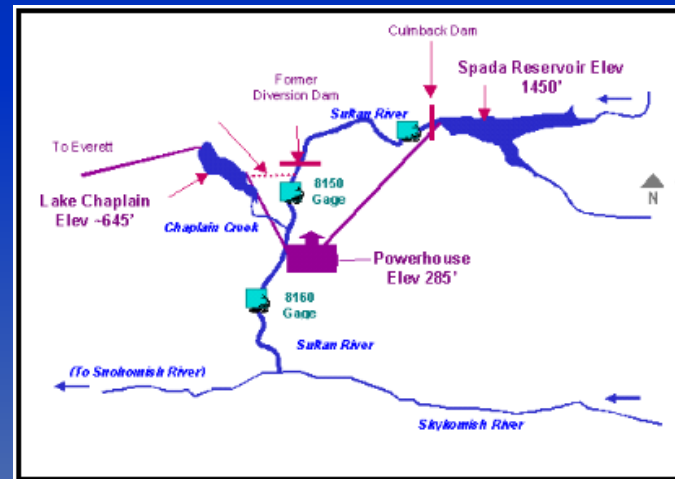
- Hatchery Steelhead are no longer stocked in these streams
- Removes seasons and zones needed for a hatchery Steelhead fishery
- Applies stream strategy rules for protecting wild salmonids

#28

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Chaplain Creek (Snohomish Co.): Close a portion of this stream

- Closes waters from the beaver pond (Grass Lake) below the water filtration plant gate upstream
- Protection of water supply for City of Everett



#32

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Skagit River (Skagit Co.): Convert a portion of the river to catch and release Trout fishing



- Removes retention of Trout from Hwy. 530 Bridge at Rockport to Cascade River Rd. (Marblemount Bridge)
- Reduces season closing date, from Feb. 15 to Jan. 31
- Allows Trout to grow large for trophy fishing experience

#35

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Stillaguamish River (Snohomish Co.) night closure



- Closes lower river and all sloughs to night fishing year-round for all species
- Easier rule enforcement
- Reduces the potential for poaching activity

#39

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Tolt River (King Co.): Adjust fishing rules



- Extends selective gear rules from Nov. 30 to Jan. 31
- Reduce hooking mortality on wild Steelhead
- Align rules with Statewide Steelhead Management Plan

#40

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Snohomish River (Snohomish Co.): Allow catch and release Sturgeon fishing from mouth to Hwy. 9 Bridge

Legal to fish year-round



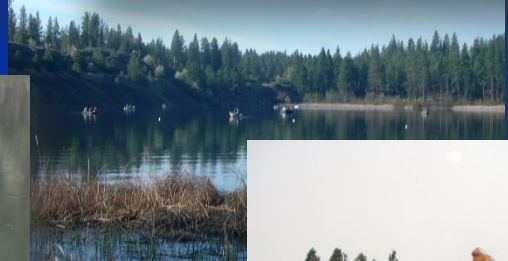
#43

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 4

Region 4 Questions



Region 6 Puget Sound Proposals



Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Clear Lake (Pierce Co.): Increase Kokanee daily limit

- Increase limit from 5 to 10 fish per day
- Consistent with most Kokanee waters in Washington State



#17

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Collins & Stump lakes (Mason Co.): Adopt statewide rules and harvest limits

- No public access
- WDFW does not stock trout so special rules are unnecessary

#18

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Black Lake Ditch (Thurston Co.) warmwater angling

- Nov. 1—First Fri. in June, catch and release only for game fish
- Provides opportunity on many warmwater fish present



#24

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Alder Reservoir tributaries and upper Nisqually River (Thurston Co.): Increase Trout harvest opportunity



- Current rule does not include these waters
- Opens these waters
- Daily limit 2 Trout over 14 inches
- Selective Gear rules

#27

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

McAllister Creek (Thurston Co.): Adjust fishing rules



- Simplify and make rules consistent for Trout and Other game fish
- Remove barbless hook rule
- Implement Selective Gear rules

#30

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

McLane Creek (Thurston Co.): Adjust fishing rules



- Additional protection for Cutthroat spawners
- Catch and release
- Selective Gear rules
- Simplify and make rules consistent with other South Puget Sound streams

#31

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

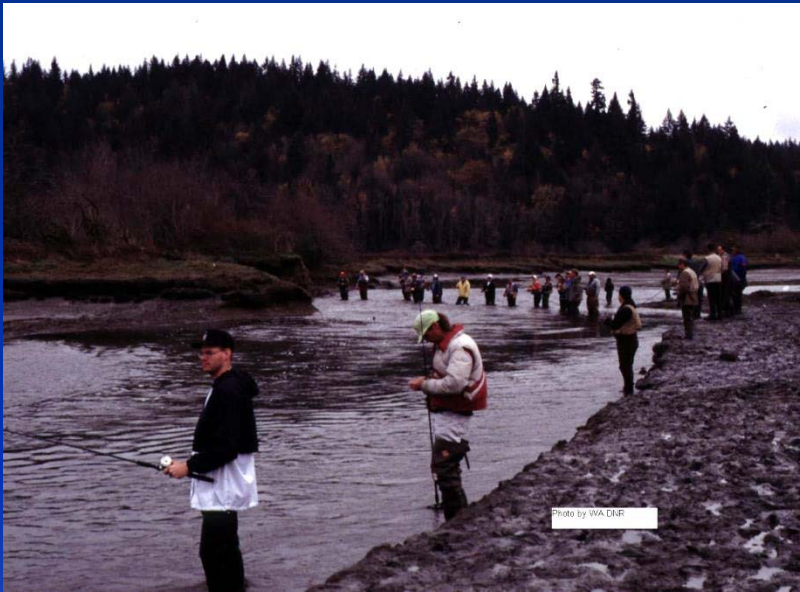
Minter Creek (Pierce/ Kitsap Co.): Close to Trout fishing

- Protect returning adult Chinook
- Close area from the mouth to the hatchery rack
- Salmon season will continue

#36

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Kennedy Creek (Thurston Co.): Adjust fishing rules



- Protection of Cutthroat spawners
- Season end date Oct. 31 (has been last day in Feb.)
- Catch and release
- Selective Gear rules

#41

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Chambers Creek (Pierce Co.): Adjust fishing rules



- Protection of Cutthroat
- Selective Gear rules, except bait allowed Sept 1 through Oct 15
- Trout catch and release

#42

Puget Sound Proposals—Region 6

Region 6 Questions



Coast Proposals



Coast Proposals

Increase fishing opportunity for anglers with lower extremity disabilities

- Forks Creek Hatchery
- Less restrictive than the current rule
- Removes wheelchair requirement

#44

Coast Proposals

Adopt selective gear rules for the Naselle River



- Inadvertently dropped
- Feb. 1 through April 15.
- Reduce hooking mortality on wild Steelhead

#45

North Coast Steelhead

Four major concepts proposed



- Adopt “no fishing from floating device” rules on select streams
- Selective gear rules
- Prohibit harvest of wild steelhead and trout
- Require wild Steelhead harvest tag

#46, 47, 48, 49

North Coast Steelhead

Department engaged ad-hoc North Coast Steelhead Advisory Group



- Diverse group focused solely on North Coast
- Met 6 times since July
- Great compromise by all members
- Developed a comprehensive package of recommendations
- Not all components supported by all members
- Not yet reviewed by SCPAG

Advisory Group Package

Interim recommendations to be re-visited, and if need be revised, in three years.

1. Prohibit the use of internal combustion motors on all North Coast Rivers.
2. Remove “Selective Gear Rules” on all North Coastal Rivers, and replace with:
 - a) Barbless hooks during the entire steelhead season.
 - b) Only one hook with up to three points.
3. Release all wild steelhead and rainbow trout.
4. Limit the use of bait to those times and river segments with hatchery steelhead present
5. Prohibit fishing from floating devices on the Hoh River above Morgan’s Crossing.

Advisory Group Package

- Components not related to fishing rules
 - ✓ Consider limits on the number of guides that are allowed to operate on the North Coast rivers.
 - ✓ Educate the angling public to encourage proper handling of fish.
 - ✓ Create an “endorsement” for fishing for steelhead in North Coast streams.
- “Parking Lot” Issues
 - ✓ Escapement goal level (believe too low)
 - ✓ Productivity
 - ✓ State-Tribal sharing

North Coast Steelhead – Next Steps

- Review package with SCPAG, consider comments
- Revise if necessary
- Release comprehensive package for public review and comment
- Report on public comment at November meeting (existing proposals and package)
- Staff recommendation on rules
- Continue to work with NCSAG on longer term and parking lot issues

North Coast Steelhead Questions



Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal



Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal

Liberalize limits for Bass, Channel Catfish, and Walleye in the Columbia River and tributaries contiguous with Oregon



- Remove harvest limits for Walleye, Bass and Channel Catfish
- Consistent with rest of Columbia River

#50

Lower Columbia Warmwater Proposal

Questions



Timeline

- **Sept. 18-19** **Brief Commission**
- **Nov. 4** Written public comment deadline
- **Nov. 13-14** Public Hearing
- **Dec. 11-12** Rule adoption
- **July 1, 2016** Pamphlet —rules take effect

Questions

