

Washington's Wild Future

A Partnership for Fish and Wildlife

South Bend Regional Forum (Region 6)

August 11, 2015

The following public comments were offered by participants at an open forum on fish and wildlife issues sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) at the South Bend Regional Forum. Approximately 52 participants attended the event, one of six regional forums conducted around the state.

HUNTING

- Access for waterfowl hunting in Pacific County is poorly posted, needs improvement and more access.
- Where will the 20% increase in the duck stamp be invested in Region 6?
- Where did Willapa Bay waterfowl go? Seems a dramatic decrease in number of waterfowl.
- Curtail marine animal abundance - Caspian turns, cormorants.
- Goose hunting - break in Oct/Nov disrupts prime goose hunting season.
- Poor hunting in March - too many duskies. Fewer duskies in Oct/Nov (mismatched seasons).
- Need more days for goose hunting in Pacific County.
- Increase fees should go to understanding impact of eelgrass removal on waterfowl.
- Need more enforcement officers.

FISHING

- Razor clamming is one of the only bright spots.
- Need more access for sport crabbing in Willapa Bay.
- Change sport crab rules in Willapa Bay to match rules in Columbia River, pots year round, lower min size, 12 crab limit.
- Allow a bonus limit of razor clams when possible – suggested 5.
- There should be an annual limit for retention of salmon in recreational fisheries.
- Annual limit for sports salmon may be geographic specific.
- Increase chinook production in Willapa bay.
- Raise more hatchery fish for recreational and commercial opportunities.
- Open North River earlier.
- Reduce bag limit to extend the fishery.
- Address noncompliance in recreational fishery.
- Need more enforcement officers.

FISHING LICENSE FEE PROPOSAL

- Given the value of the proposed increase, when you think of bang for the buck from razor clamming, I think most can appreciate it and will come to accept it. The season is really, really long, on a normal year. Understanding how hard your team works and the funding required to keep it working is essential.
- More fees for less opportunity?
- Need proportional reduction in catch record fees for seniors relative to difference in license fees or keep catch record cards free for seniors.
- Fees are too high for family recreational fishing.
- No inflation adjustment.
- Inflation adjustment OK.
- Catch record card – first one reduced to \$5 than the proposed fee – keep the same number of species on the card.
- Catch record card – reduce the number on the card.
- Recreational fishers are taking too much of the financial burden for the amount of fish taken.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

- Stop recreational fish from entering commercial market.
- Stop illegal charter fishing.
- Stop gillnets from anchoring end of net in Chehalis.
- Minimum age for commercial crew license.
- Commercial troll license fees are too high.
- No net pens in Willapa bay – (multiple comments).
- Consider discounted fee for crew license for family members – those folks are learning and helping with the family business.