

Commission Request to Department

“Blue Sheet”

Date of Request: 14 December 2019

Title of Request: Non-native Game Fish & Fisheries Policy

Commissioner: Thorburn

Request Due Date: End of 2020

Priority Level (put one check in each row):

Importance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Urgency:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> Low

Knowledge or Action Being Requested (narrative). Describe what you want to know. Be specific. Non-native game fishes, including warm-water species such as bass, walleye, channel catfish and pan fishes as well as some trout species, provide popular fisheries. At the same time, they pose a threat to fragile native fish populations by depredating juveniles and diminishing recruitment. Both the fisheries and threats have been recently managed somewhat non-systematically through harvest rules. This approach has created concerns among warm-water anglers about fisheries impacts. While protection and recovery of native fishes is our highest priority for harvest and other fisheries management, it could be useful to more systematically apply available science to what is known about non-native species depredation on vulnerable native species and attempt to fashion fisheries that meet the needs and interests of warm-water and other non-native game fish anglers where possible.

Output Requested (e.g., telephone call, memo, material from files, new report, presentation, other): Development of a policy document.

For Commission Executive Assistant Use

Date Assigned: _____ **Assigned To:** _____
[At Debrief] [Program]

revised 8/07/12 -eg

Table 1. Draft non-native game fish and fisheries policy development schedule.

DATE	TASK	PRODUCT
6/1/2020	Internal Kickoff meeting	
June, 2020	Create draft scoping document	
July 30, 2020	Fish Committee Briefing	Briefing on policy framework concept
Late July, 2020	Scoping comment period begins	Thirty-day comment period
Late July, 2020	Solicitation for ad-hoc advisory group membership	News release
Mid-August, 2020	Nomination period ends	
Late August, 2020	Director appoints nominees to ad-hoc advisory group	
Late August, 2020	Nominees accept membership	
Late August, 2020	Internally review scoping comments	
Early September 2020	Fish Committee Briefing	Briefing on outcome of scoping process and initial draft Framework for the policy and SEPA Document
Late September, 2020	First meeting of ad-hoc advisory group	Kickoff. Discuss process, task, and schedule. Review scoping work. Initial drafting of Policy and SEPA framework document (policy elements, 3 options for SEPA). Does range of options capture interest?
Late October, 2020	2nd meeting on policy and SEPA framework	Review final framework with advisory group
Early November, 2020	Initiate drafting of EIS and policy	3-4 months of work
Mid December, 2020	3rd Advisory Group Meeting	Initial draft SEPA
Early January 2021	Fish Committee Briefing	Briefing on initial draft policy and SEPA
January, 2021	Submit draft policy and EIS for public comment	
February, 2021	Public comment period ends for DRAFT plan	
March, 2021	Summarize public comments on draft plan	Distribute to advisory group
April, 2021	4th meeting of advisory group	Discuss public comments
Early May, 2021	Commission Briefing	Briefing on draft policy and public comments received
June, 2021	2nd Draft of plan and EIS	
June, 2021	5th meeting of advisory group	Review 2nd draft and accept appropriate comments for final
July, 2021	Commission Briefing and Public Hearing	Public Comment on Policy
August, 2021	Final Policy and EIS	
September, 2021	Commission Briefing and Decision	Decision
Late September, 2021	Final Advisory Group Meeting	Final policy decision and ad-hoc Advisory Group close out

Commission Blue Sheet Direction: Non-native game fishes, including warm-water species such as bass, walleye, channel catfish and pan fishes as well as some trout species, provide popular fisheries. At the same time, they pose a threat to fragile native fish populations by depredate juveniles and diminishing recruitment. Both the fisheries and threats have been recently managed somewhat non-systematically through harvest rules. This approach has created concerns among warm-water anglers about fisheries impacts. While protection and recovery of native fishes is our highest priority for harvest and other fisheries management, it could be useful to more systematically apply available science to what is known about non-native species depredation on vulnerable native species and attempt to fashion fisheries that meet the needs and interests of warm- water and other non-native game fish anglers where possible.

Legislative and Commission Policy guidance for range of alternatives:

- Consistent with existing Commission Policies
- Consistent with other species conservation plans
- Consistent with state rules and law

Policy Categories (Management Actions)	Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds with anadromy	Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds with Native Species of Concern	Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds without native species of concern	Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs with Anadromy	Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs with Native Species of Concern	Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs no anadromy or native species of concern
	a					
Population Management	b					
	c					
	a					
Habitat Management	b					
	c					
	a					
Supplementation / Translocation	b					
	c					
	a					
Illegal introduction	b					
	c	c	c	c	c	c
	a					
Other	b					
	c					

Table 1. Gamefish of Washington as defined in RCW and WAC. The species listed below are non-native to the state of Washington.

RCW 77.08.020

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	rock bass
<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>	lake whitefish
<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	blue catfish
<i>Ictalurus melas</i>	black bullhead
<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>	yellow bullhead
<i>Ictalurus nebulosus</i>	brown bullhead
<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	channel catfish
<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	green sunfish
<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	pumpkinseed
<i>Lepomis gulosus</i>	warmouth
<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	bluegill
<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	smallmouth bass
<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	largemouth bass
<i>Perca flavescens</i>	yellow perch
<i>Pomixis annularis</i>	white crappie
<i>Pomixis nigromaculatus</i>	black crappie
<i>Oncorhynchus aquabonita</i>	golden trout
<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic salmon
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	brown trout
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	eastern brook trout
<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>	lake trout
<i>Stizostedion vitreum</i>	Walleye
<i>Thymallus arcticus</i>	arctic grayling

WAC 220-300-380

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	Grass Carp
Hybrids involving genus <i>Esox</i>	Tiger Muskellunge
<i>Pylodictus olivaris</i>	Flathead Catfish
<i>Salmo trutta</i> X <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> hybrid	Tiger Trout