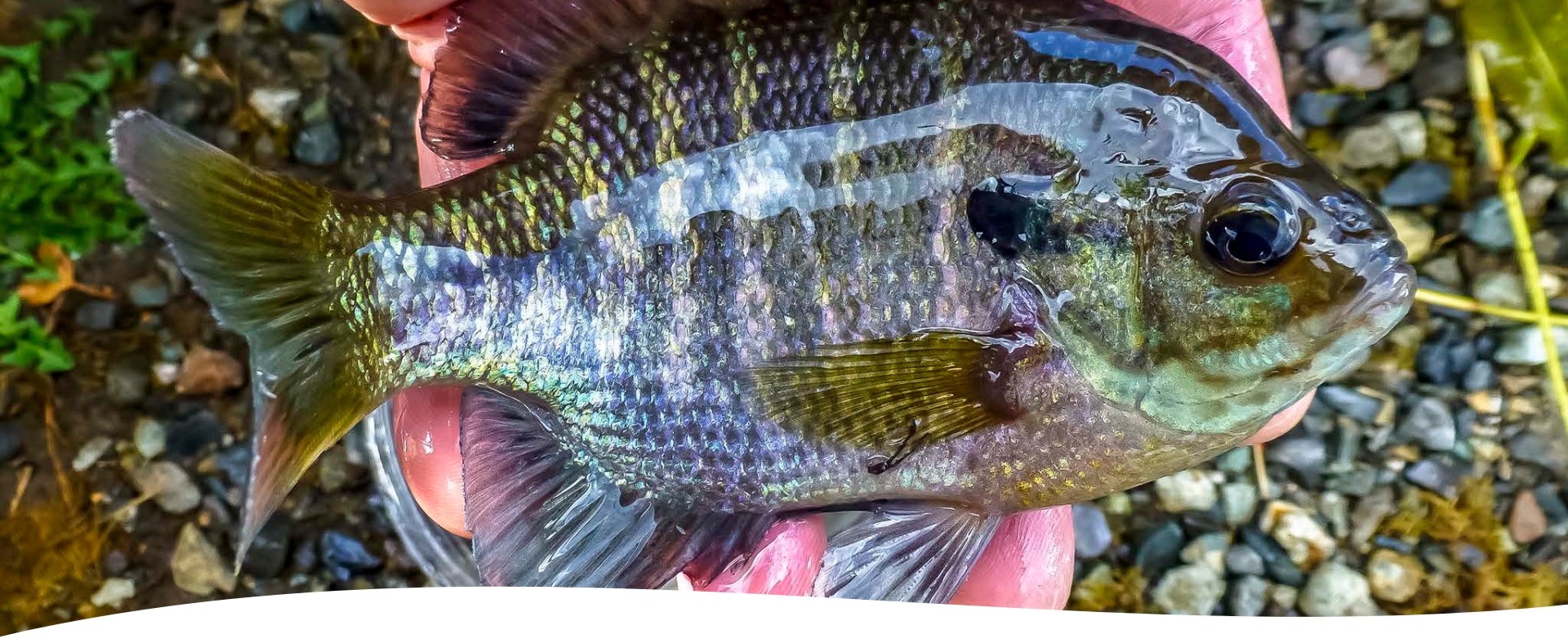
Non-Native Gamefish and Fisheries Policy

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE



AGENDA

- Guidance
- Committee Members
- Draft schedule
- Policy background
- Review/discuss draft matrix
- Questions

LEGISLATIVE GUIDANCE - 2SB 1579

Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.08 RCW (*actually 77.12.085*)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.

FWC GUIDANCE

- **Blue Sheet** (Adv. Committee Mission)

The Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee will consult with fisheries managers and agency leadership and provide recommendations to the department with the objective of developing a policy that:

- Supports the protection and recovery of native species
- Systematically applies available science to what is known about non-native species impacts on vulnerable native species and attempt to fashion fisheries that meet the needs and interests of non-native gamefish anglers where possible.

Ad-Hoc Advisory Group Members

Advisory Group Members

East Side Advisors	West Side Advisors
Bob Jateff	Allen Thurston
Craig Shaber	Chris Sergeant
Jaimie Rodriguez	Craig Bukowski
Ken McNaughton	David Paul Williams
	Robert Harriman
	Tag Watson
	Tim Sullivan
	Tony Steiner

DRAFT SCHEDULE

Draft Schedule

DATE	TASK	PRODUCT
June, 2020	Internal Kickoff meeting	
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 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. Does range of options capture interest?
Late-October, 2020	2nd Advisory Group Meeting	Review framework with advisory group
Mid-December, 2020	3rd Advisory Group Meeting	Review framework with advisory group
Late-January 2021	Fish Committee Briefing	Briefing on initial draft policy elements

Draft Schedule

DATE	TASK	PRODUCT
February, 2021	Submit draft policy elements and EIS for public comment	
February, 2021	Possible public Zoom outreach meeting	
March, 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
Late-April, 2021	Complete initial draft plan	
Early-May, 2021	Commission Briefing	Briefing on draft policy and public comments received
June, 2021	2nd Draft of plan and EIS	Possible 2nd Zoom work session
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

POLICY FRAMEWORK

GUIDANCE FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Consistent with existing Commission policies
- Consistent with other species conservation plans
- Consistent with state law

DRAFT POLICY OPTIONS

DRAFT DEFINITIONS

These definitions are for the purpose of this policy:

- **Anadromous :** The life history trait of certain fishes (e.g., salmon) where rearing occurs in saltwater and spawning occurs in in freshwater.
- **Anadromous Waters:** For rivers and stream, where anadromous fishes can access at any life stage. For lakes, ponds, and reservoirs, where anadromous fish spawning has been documented in inlet(s) or those waters effected by 2SHB 1579.
- **Control:** To physically removing, limit movement, and/or use biological mechanisms (e.g., sterile fish, apex predators, etc.) on a target fish species via mechanical, chemical, habitat modification, regulations, etc.
- **Illegal Introduction**: An aquatic species that have been moved from one source (e.g., lake, river, aquarium, etc.) to a receiving water of the state without the express consent of the WDFW. There is no statute of limitations on illegal introductions.
- **Limited Connectivity:** Non-direct and convoluted downstream connection with anadromous waters. Upstream migration by native anadromous fishes and/or native species of concern is either non-existent or significantly restricted by physical and/or biological characteristics (e.g., seasonal/restricted flows, impassible barriers, water temperatures, water quality, etc.).

DRAFT DEFINITIONS

- **Native Species of Concern:** Fish and wildlife species endemic to Washington state that are listed in State Wildlife Action Plan, PHS species, listed under the Endangered Species Act, etc.
- **Native gamefish:** Fish species endemic to Washington state and defined in RCW 77.08.020 and WAC 220-300-380. See table X below/above.
- **Non-native gamefish:** Fish species not endemic to Washington state and defined in RCW 77.08.020 and WAC 220-300-380. See table X below/above.
- **Protect:** Actions that protect, preserve, or conserve native anadromous fish species and/or native species of concern. Actions may include targeting non-native gamefish.
- **Suppression:** To reduce the abundance of a target fish species in whole or part via mechanical, chemical, habitat modification, regulations, etc..
- **Significant:** For the purposes of this policy, significant is not a specific and permanent number, rate, and/or range, but something sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention. However, significance must be measured via direct assessment, peer reviewed, and published.

DRAFT DEFINITIONS

- **Actively manage:** (may include, or such as but not limited to netting, electrofishing, rotenone, hook and line removal, etc.). Collect data, and provide goals, plans. Direct intervention by WDFW on a specific water body where staff may enhance, control, or suppress fish species by actions including, but not limited to hatchery stocking, translocation, sampling (e.g., netting, electrofishing, observing, etc.), data collection, management planning, and mechanical, chemical (e.g., rotenone), and habitation modification.
- **Passively manage:** (may include, or such as but not limited to management actions like regulations, habitat/flow manipulations and alterations, etc.) Indirect intervention by WDFW on a specific water body where staff manipulate fish species primarily through fishing regulations.
- **Where Appropriate:** The time, place, and manner on a specific water body where enhancement, control, or suppression of non-native gamefish may occur, but is also consistent with existing Commission polices, species conservation plans, and/or state law.

Policy Elements

- Population Management
- Fishing Regulations
- Introduction/Translocation
- Habitat
- Illegal Introduction
- Control

Six Water Types

- Rivers, Streams, and Beaver Ponds
  - w/ native anadromous fish
  - w/ native species of concern
  - w/o native species of concern
- Lakes, Ponds, and Reservoirs
  - w/ native anadromous fish
  - w/ native species of concern
  - w/ limited or no connectivity, or no anadromy

POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds…		
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW will manage for the benefit of native anadromous fishes, but may also actively manage for non-native game fish species when impacts to anadromous fishes are directly assessed with best available science, are not significant, and are consistent with anadromous fish management and recovery.	WDFW will only manage for the benefit of native anadromous fishes.
w/ native species of concern	WDFW will manage for the benefit of native species of concern, but may also actively manage for non-native game fish species when impacts to native species of concern are directly assessed with best avail science, are not significant, and are consistent with native fish management and recovery.	WDFW will only manage for the benefit of native fish species of concern.
w/ out native species of concern	WDFW may actively manage for the benefit of non-native game fish species	

POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs…			
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW will manage for the benefit of anadromous fishes and may actively manage for (promote/in-favor/benefit) non-native game fish species.	WDFW will manage for the benefit of native anadromous fishes, but may also actively manage for non-native game fish species when impacts to anadromous fishes are directly assessed with best available science and are not significant, are consistent with anadromous fish management and recovery.	WDFW will only manage for the benefit of anadromous fishes.
w/ native species of concern	WDFW will manage for (promote/in-favor/benefit) native fish species of concern and may actively manage for non-native game fish species.	WDFW will manage for the benefit of native species of concern, but may also actively manage for non-native game fish species when impacts to native species of concern are directly assessed with best available science, are not significant, and are consistent with native fish management and recovery.	WDFW will only manage for the benefit of native fish species of concern.
w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy	WDFW may actively manage for the benefit of non-native and/or native game fish species.		

FISHING REGULATIONS

Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds…			
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW will promulgate rules that protect native anadromous fish.	WDFW may promulgate rules that reduce impacts to salmonids. Rules are developed based on assessment of impacts to native anadromous fishes.	WDFW will promulgate rules that reduce impacts to salmonids.
w/ native species of concern	WDFW will promulgate rules that protect native species of concern.	WDFW may promulgate rules that reduce impacts to native species of concern. Rules are developed based on assessment of impacts to native species of concern.	WDFW will promulgate rules that reduce impacts to salmonids.
w/ out native species of concern	WDFW may promulgate rules that protect game fish.		

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w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy	WDFW may promulgate rules that protect gamefish. Rules are developed based on assessment of target fish populations.		

INTRODUCTION/ SUPPLEMENTATION/ TRANSLOCATION

Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds…		
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW will not introduce, translocate, or supplement via hatchery production non-native game fish.	WDFW may introduce, translocate, or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production if approved via environmental review (e.g. SEPA, NEPA) (eg. YY brook trout, tiger muskie).
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w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy	WDFW may introduce, translocate, or supplement non-native game fish via hatchery production if approved via environmental review process (e.g. SEPA, NEPA) (eg. YY brook trout, tiger muskie).		

HABITAT

Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds…			
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW will provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects that benefit native anadromous fishes and/or non-native gamefish.	WDFW will provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects that benefit native anadromous fishes and/or non-native gamefish, where impact of the project to anadromous fishes is *not significant*.	WDFW will provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration <u>projects that only benefit native gamefish, native anadromous fish, or species of concern.</u>
w/ native species of concern	WDFW may provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects to benefit native species of concern and/or non-native gamefish.	WDFW may provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects to benefit native species of concern and/or non-native gamefish, where impact of the project to native species of concern is not significant.	WDFW will provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects that only benefit native gamefish, native anadromous fish, or species of concern.
w/ out native species of concern	WDFW may provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects to benefit gamefish.		

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w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy	WDFW may provide support for, or undertake habitat enhancement or restoration projects to benefit non-native gamefish where appropriate.		

ILLEGAL INTRODUCTION

Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds…			
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW may utilize passive management techniques to control the illegal introduction of non-native gamefish populations. This may include actions like, but not limited to, season or harvest regulations, habitat/flow modifications, etc.	WDFW may actively or passively manage illegally introduced non-native gamefish to remove them or control their expansion. This may include actions like, but not limited to, netting, electrofishing, rotenone, or other active removal techniques.	WDFW will actively or passively manage to control the establishment or expansion of non-native gamefish.
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w/ out native species of concern	WDFW may utilize passive management techniques to control the illegal introduction or of non-native gamefish populations. This may include actions like, but not limited to, season or harvest regulations, habitat/flow modifications, etc.	WDFW may actively or passively manage illegally introduced non-native gamefish to remove them or control their expansion. This may include actions like, but not limited to, netting, electrofishing, rotenone, or other active removal techniques.	

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w/ Limited/ no connect to anadromous waters/ waters with no anadromy	WDFW may utilize passive management techniques to control the illegal introduction of non-native gamefish populations. This may include actions like, but not limited to, season or harvest regulations, habitat/flow modifications, etc.	WDFW may actively or passively manage illegally introduced non-native gamefish to remove them or control their expansion. This may include actions like, but not limited to, netting, electrofishing, rotenone, or other active removal techniques.	

CONTROL

Rivers, Streams and beaver ponds…	
w/ native Anadromous Fishes	WDFW may perform localized *control* of non-native game fish *where appropriate* to meet conservation and/or fish management objectives.
w/ native species of concern	WDFW may perform localized *control* of non-native game fish *where appropriate* to meet conservation and/or fish management objectives.
w/ out native species of concern	WDFW may perform localized *control* of non-native game fish populations *where appropriate* to meet conservation and/or fish management objectives

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w/ Limited or no Connectivity to anadromous waters, or waters with no anadromy	WDFW may perform localized *control* of non-native game fish populations *where appropriate* to meet conservation and/or fish management objectives.

Questions?