



PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Print Form

In accordance with [RCW 34.05.330](#), the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name Anthony Redder
Name of Organization _____
Mailing Address _____
City Spokane State WA Zip Code 99205
Telephone _____ Email _____

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClst.htm>.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: _____

1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

The subject (or purpose) of this rule is: _____

The rule is needed because: _____

The new rule would affect the following people or groups: _____

2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

Deer Lake, Stevens County, WA - Season opened up to a year-round fishery.

I am requesting the following change: _____

This change is needed because: _____

1. Ice fishing participation is steadily growing; Mackinaw ice fishing gaining interest
2. Deer Lake is the most productive Mackinaw fishery east of the Columbia River

The effect of this rule change will be: _____

1. Increased opportunity for ice anglers; potential increase in license/tackle sales
2. Increased harvest of Mackinaw and Perch; reduction in predation of stocked fish.

The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

It does not do what it was intended to do.

It is no longer needed because: _____

It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

Other (please explain): _____

Request to Amend the Fishing Season for Deer Lake, Stevens County

Date: 2 Nov 2023

To the Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I am writing this letter to accompany the petition to amend the Deer Lake fishing season to a year-round fishery and expand on my reasons for this request.

Firstly, I want to highlight the growing participation in ice fishing in Washington State in the last several years. I believe that ice fishing access and opportunity should be expanded to accommodate the rising popularity if the fishery can support it, which in this case, I contend that it can. While I acknowledge that an ice fishing opportunity currently exists at Deer Lake due to the season opening on March 1st, the ice fishing season only exists for a limited time or not at all due to warmer spring conditions. The safest and most ideal timeframe for ice fishing is December through February. I also put forth that adding ice fishing opportunities could be beneficial for the state by boosting license sales and provide potential growth in sales for local retailers and outfitters.

The second reason for my proposed rule change is that the expanded season would be favorable for fisheries management while at the same time giving anglers a better option to fish for Mackinaw through the ice. I recognize that ice fishing for Mackinaw is currently possible in Eastern Washington at Bead Lake and Horseshoe Lake; however, I argue that the fish density and catch rate at these lakes are so low that the opportunity is too limited. Deer Lake appears to have a sustainable number of these fish, if not a surplus. I contend that a year-round season would increase the harvest of Mackinaw and reduce the predation of stocked fish. Other popular but potentially nuisance fish, like Perch, would likely be targeted and harvested by ice anglers as well. Both could be beneficial for the long-term management of the fishery.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this petition detailing my thoughts on expanding the fishing season at Deer Lake. I am hopeful the WDFW will see this as a mutually beneficial amendment to the fishing regulations.

Respectfully,

Anthony Redder