

**Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee**  
**Draft Charter**  
**September 2020**

**Introduction**

WDFW formed the Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee in 2020 to engage the public and user groups from throughout Washington State, increase communication and transparency in management and get feedback on critical fisheries management decisions that have impacts on the industry. The main task of the committee will be to help advise the agency on developing a policy regarding the management of non-native fish species and their fisheries. This charter establishes the mission statement, organizational structure and method of operation for the Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee effective as of October 2020.

**Mission Statement**

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.

***Ground Rules***

In an effort to establish a positive working relationship and maximize our discussions, WDFW and Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee members agree to these guidelines:

- **Listen** actively, avoid side conversations and interruptions
- **Communicate** positively, productively and proactively
- **Respect** each other and our diverse opinions
- **Assume the best** of one another
- **Build trust** by speaking the truth, to the best of our knowledge
- **Build each other up**, not tear each other down
- **Respect each other's time** by honoring the agenda and time limits

**Organizational structure**

The Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee will represent the diversity of interests in gamefish management and native species conservation in

Washington State by including individuals from across the broad geography of the state with the following interests:

- Recreational fishing
- Fishing industry
- Native species conservation
- Local government officials or community groups

### ***Membership***

- The Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee is comprised of up to 12 members.
- Members are appointed by WDFW until the completion of the policy.
- Members may be reappointed or removed at WDFW's discretion.
- Members are responsible for their own travel and meal expenses.
- Alternates will not be allowed when a member is unable to attend a meeting.
- WDFW welcomes the participation of persons with disabilities in all programs and related outdoor activities, including membership in advisory groups.

### **Method of Operation**

The Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee operates under the guidelines of the WDFW Advisory Group Handbook, available on the WDFW website

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/WDFW\\_advisory\\_group\\_handbook.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/WDFW_advisory_group_handbook.pdf)), as further defined here:

### ***Meetings***

- The Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee does not have a chairperson.
- WDFW staff will plan and lead/facilitate meetings, including developing agendas with input from Ad-hoc Non-native Gamefish and Fisheries Advisory Committee members.
- Meetings may occur monthly to start and quarterly after until the policy is completed.
- Additional meetings will be scheduled as necessary.
- Meetings will be open to the public in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30).
  - WDFW will notify the public of proposed meetings, and will allow interested persons to attend.
  - The Open Meetings Act does not guarantee the public a right to speak or actively participate in the meeting; however, the CRAG will strive to

provide a public comment period (~5 to10 minutes) at each meeting that has public attendance.

- Public Records Act (RCW 42.56) – Fishing Guide Advisory Group meeting records are public, and therefore subject to disclosure.

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