

Sportfishing Regulations

2013-2014



Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager
Fish Program

Presentation Outline

- Criteria and new process
- Timeline and public involvement
- Regulation Proposals
- Commission Discussion

Criteria and New Process

- Accept Public Proposals with limited scope
 - Critical conservation need
 - Recreational opportunity that generates revenue
 - Technical/ Housekeeping
- New Web-based Process
- Results
 - About 300 original proposals
 - 69 recommended proposals

Timeline

- April 25-June 15 **Accept Proposals**
(email, press release, website)
- July, & September Meet with Fish Committee
- September-January Public comment on proposals
- October, & November Regional public meetings (6)
- January 11 Brief Commission
- February 8-9 Public Hearing
- March 1-2 Commission Action
- May 1 Rules take effect

Rule Categories

1. Statewide
2. Eastern Washington and Columbia Region Freshwater
3. Puget Sound Region Freshwater
4. Coastal Region Freshwater
5. Marine

Statewide

6 proposals

Statewide

1. Remove internal combustion motors prohibition on small streams

- In 2010 Selective Gear Rules definition modified
 - Separated Internal combustion motors prohibited
- Identified 52 streams or sections where prohibition not needed
- Simplify and reduce language in pamphlet

Statewide

2. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Technical changes

- Recommend 32 technical fixes to:
 - Reflect rule adoptions made by the Commission
 - Clarifies requirements to fish at ADA sites
 - Correct errors in spelling, dates
- List of proposed changes in notebook

Statewide

3. Resident trout streams open on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend

- Open about 100 streams or sections of streams early for resident trout fishing
- Increase recreational opportunity
- Areas where anadromous fish are not present

Statewide

4. Statewide fishing closure for sixgill, sevengill and thresher sharks

- Precautionary measure
- Lack information regarding status of populations
- Use Washington coastal estuaries as nursery grounds
- Slow growing and relatively low fecundity
- Highly susceptible to overfishing because of life history

Statewide

5. Increase two pole fishing opportunity on “quality water” lakes statewide

- Allow use of two poles on 51 quality waters statewide
- Increase recreational benefits

Statewide

6. Statewide white sturgeon rules

Options:

- Time and area reductions
- Catch and release only – no retention
- Reduced annual limit
- Terminal gear changes

Eastern Washington and Columbia Region Freshwater

34 proposals

Eastern Washington and Columbia

7. Align Washburn Island Pond (Okanogan Co.) rules with Colville Tribes

- Internal combustion motors may be attached to floating devices, but must not be used when fishing.
- Consistency for agencies and enforcement

Eastern Washington and Columbia

8. Increase Snake River hatchery summer steelhead harvest

- Currently season September 1 to March 31
- Expand season -- June 16 to August 31
- Retain up to 3 hatchery steelhead
- Remove hatchery steelhead

Eastern Washington and Columbia

9. Remove or modify size and daily limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in the Columbia River, Snake River, and their tributaries.

- Specific waters in notebook
- Option 1:
 - Remove size and daily limits
- Option 2:
 - Bass – no daily limit, no more than 3 over 15 in.
 - Walleye – no daily limit, no more than 1 over 24 in.
 - Channel catfish – no daily limit.

Eastern Washington and Columbia

10. Clarify boundaries for Burbank Slough (Walla Walla Co.)

Clarify areas west of Highway 12 (Casey Pond) and the channel east of Highway 12 to the No. 3 Pumping Station are available for fishing from a floating device

Eastern Washington and Columbia

11. Clarify areas open to angling on Walla Walla River (Walla Walla Co.)

- Walla Walla tributaries from Touchet River to Oregon boarder closed except Mill Cr. and Touchet River
- Removes need to list individual tributaries

Eastern Washington and Columbia

12. Consistent internal combustion motor rules on the Grande Ronde River (Asotin Co.)

- Internal Combustion Motors Prohibited September 15 to March 15
- Aligns with Asotin County motorized boating ordinance

Eastern Washington and Columbia

13. Prohibit use of internal combustion motors on Yocum Lake (Pend Oreille Co.)

- Small 47 acre Lake
- Aligns with county ordinance

Eastern Washington and Columbia

14. Convert Leader Lake (Okanogan Co.) to a year-round fishery

- Currently 4th Sat. in April to September 30
- Good populations of warm water fish
- Provide additional recreational opportunity

Eastern Washington and Columbia

15. Liberalize bag limits for walleye on Lake Roosevelt and the Spokane arm of Lake Roosevelt

- Option 1: Retain 8 fish limit with 1 over 22 in.
- Option 2: 16 fish limit
- Option 3: 16 fish limit with 1 over 22 in.
- Option 4: No regulation on daily limit or size

Eastern Washington and Columbia

16. Increase Scooteney Reservoir (Franklin Co.) daily limit for Walleye

- Increase limit from 5 to 8; only 1 over 22 inches may be retained
- Walleye population abundant
- Consistent with Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake

Eastern Washington and Columbia

17. Convert North Silver Lake (Spokane Co.) to a year-round fishery

- No longer public access to this lake
- Managed as a warm water lake
- Trout are no longer stocked

Eastern Washington and Columbia

18. Increase Touchet River hatchery summer steelhead harvest while protecting wild spawning summer steelhead

- Extend steelhead season by 15 days to April 15
- Provide additional opportunity to remove hatchery steelhead

Eastern Washington and Columbia

19. Extend Okanogan River (Okanogan Co.) game fish season

- Extend season for area upstream of highway bridge at Malott from August 31 to September 15
- Aligns with salmon season

Eastern Washington and Columbia

20. Adjust angling regulations on Monument Creek to protect ESA listed bull trout

- Require selective gear rules
- Provides additional protection for bull trout

Eastern Washington and Columbia

21. Adjust open area for trout fishing on the Methow River (Okanogan Co.) to protect steelhead

- Close trout angling on section of river from Highway 153 bridge at McFarlane Creek to Gold Creek earlier on September 15

Eastern Washington and Columbia

22. Remove daily limit on brook trout in Tucquala Lake (Kittitas Co.)

- No daily limit on brook trout
- Non-native brook trout are impacting native bull trout recovery

Eastern Washington and Columbia

23. Close to fishing year-round: Gold Creek, Gold Creek Pond, and Outlet Channel (Kittitas Co.)

- Extend closed waters into Keechelus lake bed
- Protect adfluvial ESA listed bull trout

Eastern Washington and Columbia

24. Prohibit the use of internal combustion motors on two reaches of the Yakima River

- From I 82 bridge at Selah Gap to Roza Dam
- Allows the use of internal combustion motors downstream of I 82 Bridge

Eastern Washington and Columbia

25. Change to Selective Gear Rules on nine streams and their tributaries in Region 3 to protect ESA listed steelhead and bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout

- Little Nachese R., Manastash Cr., Nile Cr., Oak Cr., Rattlesnake Cr., Swauk Cr., Taneum Cr., Teanaway R., N.F. Tieton R., and their tributaries

Eastern Washington and Columbia

26. Black Friday trout opener on Region 5 lakes

- Close Monday before Thanksgiving Day and reopens Friday after Thanksgiving
 - Battle Ground Lake (Clark Co.)
 - Fort Borst Park Pond (Lewis Co.)
 - Kress lake (Cowlitz Co.)
 - Klineline Pond (Clark Co.)
 - Rowland Lakes (Klickitat Co.)
- Provide holiday fishery

Eastern Washington and Columbia

27. Prohibit removal of salmon, steelhead, and dolly varden/ bull trout from the water on the Columbia River if intending to release

- Rocky Pt./Tongue Pt. to OR/WA boarder
- February 15 – June 15
- Unlawful when fishing from a vessel less than 30 ft. in length
- Aligns with Oregon rule

Eastern Washington and Columbia

28. Change opening date on Swift Reservoir (Skamania Co.)

- Delay opening to first Saturday in June
- landlocked salmon rules max size 15 in.
- Sept. 1 – Nov. 30 trout daily limit 10 from Dam to marker 3/8 mile below Bridge
- Salmon and steelhead reintroduction

Eastern Washington and Columbia

29. Change closure date on Vancouver Lake Flushing Channel (Clark Co.)

- Change the end date of the closure from May 30 to May 31

Eastern Washington and Columbia

30. Expand fishing opportunity to families, disabled and seniors on Fort Borst Park Pond (Lewis Co.)

- Remove juvenile anglers only designation
- Limited public fishing access in the area

Eastern Washington and Columbia

31. Lake Scanewa (Lewis Co.) year-round fishing

- Allow fishing March 1 – May 31
- Abundant hatchery spring Chinook release
- Consistent with adjacent waters of Cowlitz and Cispus Rivers

Eastern Washington and Columbia

32. Increase daily limit for kokanee on Merwin Lake (Clark/Cowlitz Co.)

- Daily limit 10 kokanee not part of trout daily limit
- Provide additional recreation opportunity
- Adult returns consistently exceed escapement needs

Eastern Washington and Columbia

33. Create new Rainey Creek (Lewis Co.) rainbow trout fishery

- Adipose fin clip only
- Upper end of Riffe Lake
- Replacement for Tilton R. and Skate Cr.

Eastern Washington and Columbia

34. Increase angling opportunity on Blue Creek (Cowlitz River)

- Open area near rearing pond outlet to all anglers
- Remove American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement
- New area on Cowlitz constructed for ADA
This area no longer meets ADA requirements

Eastern Washington and Columbia

35. Increase open angling area on Coweeman River (Cowlitz Co.)

- Extend area open to hatchery winter steelhead fishing approximately 5 miles
- Opens Mullholland Cr. To Baird Cr.
- Reduce hatchery/wild steelhead interactions
- Recommended by Steelhead Management Work Group

Eastern Washington and Columbia

36. Increase hatchery summer steelhead harvest opportunity on the South Fork Toutle River (Cowlitz Co.)

- Mouth to 4700 Rd. Bridge
- Additional opportunity last Saturday in May to First Friday in June, selective gear rules
- Reduce straying onto spawning grounds/ impact to wild winter steelhead
- Recommended by Steelhead Management Work Group

Eastern Washington and Columbia

37. Increase hatchery summer steelhead harvest opportunity on the Green River (Cowlitz Co.)

- Additional opportunity last Saturday in May to First Friday in June, selective gear rules
- Green: mouth to 400 ft. below Toutle Hatchery water intake
- Recommended by Steelhead Management Work Group

Eastern Washington and Columbia

38. Increase hatchery steelhead harvest opportunity in the Kalama River (Cowlitz Co.)

- Allow retention of hatchery steelhead from Upper Salmon Hatchery upstream to Kalama Falls
- Reduce the number of hatchery fish on spawning grounds

Eastern Washington and Columbia

39. Open steelhead fishery on White Salmon River (Skamania Co.)

- Re-open 3 mile section for hatchery steelhead angling
- From county road bridge to Northwestern Lake Rd. bridge.
- Closed while Condit Dam was being breached

Eastern Washington and Columbia

40. Change trout fishing rules on Skate Creek and Tilton River (Lewis Co.)

- Fin clipped hatchery trout no longer stocked
- Implement statewide rules for resident trout (2 fish daily limit, minimum size 8 in.)

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

20 proposals

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

41. Allow angling in beaver ponds on or adjacent to streams open to angling

- Currently, beaver ponds within the Puget Sound region are closed unless the pond is named and specifically opened
- Clarifies intent to allow fishing in these waters

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

42. Change Ebey Lake fishing rules (Snohomish Co.)

- Entire shoreline privately owned and not accessible to public
- Change rules to statewide and removes listing in pamphlet so as not to give impression that this is a lake accessible to the general public

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

43. Convert Long Lake to a year-round fishery (Thurston Co.)

- Additional angling opportunity
- Provide seasonal flexibility for stocking trout

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

44. Convert Ohop Lake to a year-round fishery (Pierce Co.)

- Provide additional fall and winter opportunity
- Stock larger trout at a lower density for a year-round fishery

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

45. Change Shady Lake opening date (King Co.)

- From June 1 to 4th Saturday in April
- Provide additional fishing opportunity in King County

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

46. Reduce waterfowl hunter/angler use conflicts on Fazon & Tennant Lakes (Whatcom Co.)

- Fishing from a floating device not allowed until January 28 – coincides with close of hunting season

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

47. Open most tributaries to Ross Lake to angling (Whatcom Co.)

- Consistent with the Stream Strategy
- Are above anadromous barriers
- Provide significant increase in opportunity
- Maintain closure of Ruby Cr.

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

48. Require seasonal use of single point barbless hooks to protect Lake Sammamish Kokanee (King Co.)

- January 1 through April 30
- Single point barbless hooks allow for safe release of kokanee
- Incidental kokanee catch has increased during winter and native kokanee present
- Assist in supplementation efforts

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

49. Increase daily limit on Cascade Creek Eastern brook trout (San Juan Co.)

- First Sat. in June – October 31
- Daily limit 10 Eastern brook trout
- Eastern brook trout population is abundant, particularly in non-anadromous zone
- Decrease competition for cutthroat trout
- Steelhead are not present in this area

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

50. Increase angling opportunity on the South Fork Nooksack River (Skagit/ Whatcom Co.)

- S.F. Nooksack R. and all tributaries upstream from and including Wanlick Cr.
- First Sat. in June - October 31
- Fly fishing only, Catch and Release
- Offers more than 30 miles of excellent and diverse angling opportunity

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

51. Open Minter Creek to trout fishing (Pierce/Kitsap Co.)

- First Sat. in June – October 31
- Minimum size 14 inches, selective gear rules
- Increase opportunity
- Consistent with Stream Strategy

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

52. Deschutes River year-round fishery (Thurston Co.)

- Old Hwy. 99 Bridge to Pioneer Park
- Current rule: First Sat. in June – October 15
- Open season year-round
- Increase opportunity

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

53. Shorten fishing season on Channel Creek to protect spawning sockeye (Whatcom Co.)

- Tributary to Baker Lake
- First Sat. in June – August 30
- Currently open through Sept. 15
- Protect spawning sockeye

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

54. Open a selective gear rules trout fishery in the lower Skagit River (Skagit/ Whatcom Co.)

- Mouth to Hwy. 536 Memorial Bridge
- March 1 – May 31
- Require ½ inch gap hooks and selective gear rules
- Provide additional recreational opportunity without significant impacts to wild steelhead

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

55. Close angling on Hutchinson Creek (Whatcom Co.)

- Protect juvenile anadromous salmonids
- This is a significant spawning and rearing area for Nooksack steelhead
- Consistent with Stream Strategy concept

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

56. Extend night closure and anti-snagging rules on the Wallace River (Snohomish Co.)

- Mouth to 363rd Ave Rd.
- First Sat. in June – Nov. 30 night closure and anti-snagging
- Currently Sept 16 to Nov. 30
- Reduce impacts to wild spawning Chinook

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

57. Change to selective gear rules on Canyon Creek to protect wild summer steelhead (Snohomish Co.)

- Tributary to S.F. Stillaguamish R.
- First Sat. in June – Jan. 31 add selective gear rules
- No longer releasing hatchery steelhead
- Reduce hooking mortality of wild steelhead

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

58. Quilcene trout retention (Jefferson Co.)

- Trout daily limit 2, min. size 14 in.
- Snorkel surveys indicate sea-run cutthroat available for harvest.

Puget Sound Region Freshwater

59. Change harvest regulation on Clover Creek for salmonid smolt protection (Pierce Co.)

- Steilacoom Lake upstream and all tributaries
- Increase minimum length to 14 inches and add selective gear rules
- Protect salmonid smolts

Coastal Region Freshwater

3 proposals

Coastal Region Freshwater

6o. Allow retention of hatchery trout (ad-clipped) of any size in coastal streams (Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, North Coast)

- Remove hatchery trout that residualize
- Reduce competition with wild juvenile steelhead
- Reduce genetic introgression with wild fish

Coastal Region Freshwater

61. Require release of kokanee in Elk Lake and Umbrella Creek (Clallam Co.)

- Protect Lake Ozette sockeye
- Ozette Lake sockeye federally listed under ESA
- Make these waters consistent with other Ozette Lake tributary waters

Coastal Region Freshwater

62. Convert Middle Nemah Pond and Mooses Pond to year-round fisheries (Pacific Co.)

- Increase sportfishing opportunity
- Limited trout fishing in lakes for this region

Marine

7 proposals

Marine

63. Increase daily harvest quota for spot shrimp (Marine Areas 1-4)

- Increase quota from 80 to 200 per person
- Limited spot shrimp fishery in ocean because of distance (30 + miles) from shore
- Increasing quota offsets high participatory costs

Marine

64. Anchovy and sardine daily limit and use of cast net gear (Marine Areas 1-4, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor)

- Anchovy and sardine 25 lb. aggregate daily limit
- Ability to use cast net gear
- Daily limit of 10 pounds for herring and smelt species
- Allow anglers to catch their own live bait

Marine

65. Cabezon minimum size requirement

- Marine Areas 4-11 and 13
- Minimum harvest size 18 inches
- Cabezon at low but stable numbers
- Allow majority of cabezon to mature and reproduce prior to harvest

Marine

66. Rockfish species retention in Marine Area 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line

- Only black, blue and yellowtail rockfish may be retained
- Additional protection for non-target rockfish species
- Increase number of rockfish that recruit to Puget Sound

Marine

67. Tuna daily limit

- Implement 2 fish daily limit for yellowfin, skipjack, and northern bluefin tuna
- Align daily limit with other marine food fish that are not common in Washington

Marine

68. Reduce lingcod minimum size in Marine Area 4

- Reduce length to 22 inches
- Lingcod are healthy on Washington Coast
- Align with Marine Areas 1 through 3
- Reduce bycatch of non-target species

Marine

69. Reduce lingcod season in Marine Area 4B

- Currently: April 16 – Oct. 13
- Season from May 1 through June 15
- Aligns season with Puget Sound seasons
- Reduce bycatch of rockfish species

Timeline

- Jan. 11-12 **Brief Commission**
- Jan. 29 Written public comment deadline
- Feb. 8-9 Public Hearing
- February Meet with Fish Committee
- March 1-2 Rule adoption
- May 1 Pamphlet —rules take effect

Questions

