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## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** (March 4, 2016) Commission Conference Call

**Agenda item:** 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan

**Presenter(s):** Craig Burley, Division Manager WDFW

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**Background summary:**

Each year the Department stocks almost 9 million trout into state waters that generate over 3.6 million angler days of fishing with a net economic value of about \$146 million dollars annually (TCW Economics 2008).

Several management strategies are used to maximize hatchery trout production in order to provide a quality trout fishing program state wide. Strategies include stocking fry and fingerlings (2-6 in.) in highly productive water allowing the fish to grow in lakes prior to a fishery and stocking catchable size trout (11-13 in.) in lower productivity waters close to opening day. The Department also stocks about 160,000 jumbo trout (greater than 14 in.) across the state to add excitement and the chance to catch a very large trout. Included in these jumbo trout this year are approximately 34,000 triploid trout purchased from a private grower.

In 1999, the Legislature gave the Department the authority to purchase triploid rainbow trout from private growers to supplement existing departmental hatchery trout production (RCW 77.18.050 Planting privately produced trout). This popular program has continued every year since (Table 1).

RCW 77.18.060 Determination of appropriate waters states:

*“The fish and wildlife commission in consultation with the department is authorized to determine which waters of the state are appropriate for this use. In making this determination, the commission shall seek geographic distribution to assure opportunity to fishers statewide...”*

Attached is the 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan with the proposed lakes to be stocked this spring (Table 2). The proposal would stock about 70% of the 34,000 triploid trout in Western Washington lowland lakes for the Lowland Lake Trout Opener and extending into the early weeks of May. The intent of using a larger portion of these fish in western Washington waters is to provide the type of fishery created in Eastern Washington through favorable growing conditions for trout.

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**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

Approval of 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan and delegation approval of the annual Triploid Trout Stocking Plan to the Director.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan is the result of staff working with constituents and advisors. This plan has been refined based on the input received, additional social surveys, as well as biological information regarding performance of these fish in specific waters.

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**Action requested:**

Approval of 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan and delegation approval of the annual Triploid Trout Stocking Plan to the Director.

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**Draft motion language:**

I move to adopt the 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan as presented in Table 2 and to delegate future approval of the annual Triploid Trout Stocking Plan to the Director.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

Approval of the proposed 2016 Triploid Trout Stocking Plan will continue the popular program of enhancing recreational opportunities for larger trout in lowland lakes. Delegation of authority to the Director to approve the stocking plan in future years will reduce staff workload and provide efficiencies in implementing the statewide hatchery trout program.

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**Communications Plan:**

A post-decision communication plan to inform the public of the 2016 Jumbo Trout Stocking Program will include posting the final stocking plan for Department produced trout as well as triploid trout purchased from private growers on the Agency web page and other forms of social media. Traditional media outlets will also be provided the stocking information for release to their users.

**Table 1.** Year, purchase budget, number of fish purchased, number of lakes stocked, and price per fish for the triploid trout program 2000-2016. The budget column figures are for purchase price only and do not include sales tax, administrative and transport costs.

Year	Budget	Number of Fish	Number of Lakes	Price per Fish
2000	\$90,320	45,008	43	\$2.01
2001	\$175,160	84,001	74	\$2.09
2003	\$117,660	51,522	73	\$2.28
2004	\$114,420	49,268	78	\$2.32
2005	\$124,000	51,311	80	\$2.42
2006	\$151,800	61,968	91	\$2.45
2007	\$190,000	60,703	95	\$2.63
2008	\$395,000	115,019	104	\$2.75
2009	\$125,000	42,196	95	\$2.92
2010	\$125,000	42,196	94	\$2.92
2011	\$147,000	50,000	96	\$2.75
2012	\$166,998	51,384	109	\$3.25
2013	\$163,800	52,000	108	\$3.15
2014	\$164,840	52,000	105	\$3.17
2015	\$197,600	52,000	125	\$3.48
2016	\$135,000	34,400	114	\$3.48

**Table 2. 2016 lowland lake triploid trout stocking plan.**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Lakes</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>	<b>Current Manage.</b>	<b>Season &amp; Special Regs</b>	<b>April Total</b>	<b>May Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Regional Percentage</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	Fishtrap Lake	Lincoln	196	Trout	O. D.	600	0	600	15.7%
	Diamond Lake	Pend Oreille	754	Mixed	O. D.	615	0	615	
	Clear Lake	Spokane	401	Mixed	O. D.	783	0	783	
	West Medical Lake	Spokane	235	Trout	O. D.	783	0	783	
	Williams Lake	Spokane	319	Trout	O. D.	901	0	901	
	Deer Lake	Stevens	1,163	Mixed	O. D.	492	0	492	
	Loon Lake	Stevens	1,119	Mixed	O. D.	820	0	820	
	Bennington Lake	Walla Walla	52	Trout	Y-R	410	0	410	
<b>Region 1 Totals</b>	<b>8 Lakes</b>					<b>5,404</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,404</b>	
<b>Region 2</b>	Beehive Lake	Chelan	60	Trout	O. D.	82	0	82	4.5%
	Wapato Lake	Chelan	186	Trout	O. D.	123	0	123	
	Jameson Lake	Douglas	388	Trout	O. D.	205	0	205	
	Caliche (upper)	Grant	13	Trout	1-Mar	123	0	123	
	Martha	Grant	13	Trout	1-Mar	123	0	123	
	Perch Lake	Grant	15	Trout	O.D.	123	0	123	
	Vic Meyers	Grant	12	Trout	O.D.	123	0	123	
	Conconully Lake	Okanogan	313	Trout	O.D.	82	0	82	
	Conconully Reservoir	Okanogan	450	Trout	O.D.	82	0	82	
	Pearrygin Lake	Okanogan	192	Trout	O.D.	164	0	164	
	Alta Lake	Okanogan	187	Trout	O.D.	123	0	123	
	Specatacle Lake	Okanogan	315	Trout	1-Apr	103	0	103	
	Wannacut Lake	Okanogan	412	Trout	O.D.	103	0	103	
<b>Region 2 Totals</b>	<b>13 Lakes</b>					<b>1,558</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,558</b>	
<b>Region 3</b>	Powerline Lake	Franklin	50	Mixed	Y-R	351	0	351	11.4%
	N. Fio Rito Lake	Kittitas	39	Mixed	Y-R	581	0	581	
	Lost Lake	Kittitas	145	Trout	Y-R	0	417	417	
	Cooper Lake	Kittitas	120	Trout	Y-R	0	417	417	
	Mattoon Lake	Kittitas	27	Mixed	Y-R	335	0	335	
	Clear Lake	Yakima	265	Trout	Y-R	827	0	827	
	Dog Lake	Yakima	60	Trout	Y-R	0	335	335	



Region	Lakes	County	Surface Acres	Current Manage.	Season & Special	April Total	May Total	Total	Regional Percentage
					Regs				
<b>Region 5</b>	Battle Ground Lake	Clark	30	Trout	Y-R	172	0	172	10.4%
	Klineline Pond	Clark	11	Trout	Y-R	171	0	171	
	Horseshoe Lake	Cowlitz	80	Mixed	Y-R	424	0	424	
	Kress Lake	Cowlitz	30	Mixed	Y-R	245	0	245	
	N. Rowland Lake	Klickitat	40	Trout	O. D.	671	0	671	
	Spearfish Lake	Klickitat	22	Mixed	O.D.	210	0	210	
	Kidney Lake	Skamania	12	Trout	O. D.	167	0	167	
	Wahkiakum Co. Ponds	Wahkiakum	6	Trout	Y-R	57	0	57	
	Carlisle Lake	Lewis	20	Trout	O. D.	220	0	220	
	Fort Borst Park Pond	Lewis	5	Trout	O.D.	259	0	259	
	Mineral Lake	Lewis	277	Trout	O.D.	563	0	563	
	S Lewis Co. Park Pond	Lewis	17	Mixed	Y-R	100	98	198	
	Plummer Lake	Lewis	12	Mixed	O.D.	214	0	214	
<b>Region 5 Totals</b>	<b>13 Lakes</b>					<b>3,473</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>3,571</b>	
<b>Region 6</b>	Aberdeen Lake	Grays Harbor	64	Trout	O.D.	164	0	164	29.0%
	Duck Lake	Grays Harbor	380	mixed	Y-R	130	0	130	
	Failor Lake	Grays Harbor	65	Trout	O.D.	246	0	246	
	Sylvia Lake	Grays Harbor	31	Trout	Y-R	164	0	164	
	Vance Creek Pond #1 *	Grays Harbor	10	Mixed	O.D., YF	99	0	99	
	Vance Creek Pond #2 *	Grays Harbor	17	Mixed	O-D	123	0	123	
	Gibbs Lake	Jefferson	37	Trout	Y-R, S, C&R	57	0	57	
	Tarboo	Jefferson	24	Mixed	O.-D.	41	0	41	
	Sandy Shore	Jefferson	36	Mixed	O.-D.	57	0	57	
	Teal Lake*	Jefferson	15	Trout	Y_R,S	25	0	25	
	Buck Lake	Kitsap	20	Mixed	O-D	33	0	33	
	Horseshoe Lake	Kitsap	40	Mixed	O-D	66	0	66	
	Kitsap Lake	Kitsap	238	Mixed	Y-R	390	0	390	
	Mission Lake	Kitsap	88	Trout	O.-D.	148	139	287	
	Panther Lake	Kitsap	100	Trout	O.D.	172	164	336	
	Wildcat Lake	Kitsap	112	Mixed	O.D.	180	171	352	
	Wye Lake	Kitsap	38	Mixed	O.D.	66	0	66	
Benson Lake	Mason	82	Trout	O.D.	131	123	254		
Devereaux	Mason	100	Mixed	O.D.	164	0	164		



Region	Lakes	County	Surface Acres	Current Manage.	Season & Special Regs	April Total	May Total	Total	Regional Percentage
<b>Total</b>	<b>114 Lakes</b>							<b>34,440</b>	
<b>Westside Totals</b>	<b>82 Lakes</b>							<b>23,563</b>	
<b>Eastside Totals</b>	<b>32 Lakes</b>							<b>10,878</b>	

O. D. = April 23, 2016

Y-R = Year-round

S = Selective Gear Rules (-limit)

F = Fly Fishing Only (-limit)

FF = Family Fishing

YF = Youth Fishing (and persons w/special needs)

C&R = Catch and Release

1>14" = 5 fish, no more than 1>14"