

# Sport Fishing Rule Simplification —Rule Action



# Presentation Outline

- Rule Process and Notebook Materials
- Sport Fishing Rules Recommendations
  - Group "A" Adopt as Proposed
  - Group "B" Adopt as Modified
  - Group "C" Do Not Adopt
- Commission Questions
- Main Motion
- Amendments by Group
- Adopt motion

# Timeline and Public Involvement

- January - August Staff develop proposals
- Sept.-Nov 30. Public comment on proposals
- Sept.–Oct Regional public workshops (6)
- October 27 Brief Commission
- November 2 File Regulations, Add to Webpage
- November 30 Public Comment Period Ends
- December 9 Public Hearing
- **January 19, 2018** **Commission Action**
- July 1, 2018 Rules take effect

# Notebook Materials

- Summary Sheet with Draft Motion Language
- 2018-2019 Sport Fishing Rule Change Proposals
- CR-102 and Recommended adjustments to WAC filing
- WAC language adjustments -- changes are in color



# Rule Recommendations



# Group "A" Adopt Rules as Proposed

- Eliminating Minimum Length and Daily Limit on Eastern Brook Trout
- Eliminate Mandatory Steelhead Retention
- Consistent Language for Game Fish Possession Limit
- Removing Duplicative Landowner Rules
- Separate Trout and Steelhead Rules

# Group "A" Adopt Rules as Proposed

- Standardize Juvenile Only Waters
- Steelhead Incidental Retention
- Stream Season for Game Fish (Saturday before Memorial Day through October 31)
- Whitefish Only Season Standardization

# Group “B” Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds
  - 6 Modifications
- Statewide Standard Rules for Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs:
  - 2 Modifications



# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds
  - Modification 1. Columbia River and all tributaries below Chief Joseph Dam, including Snake River – no daily limits and no size limits for bass, walleye and channel catfish
    - Initial proposal was to deregulate all rivers, streams and beaver ponds. Public suggested a modification to address concerns that the proposal is not necessary in areas outside of the anadromous zone of the Columbia Basin.

# Group “B” Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds:
  - Modification 2. Release wild rainbow and cutthroat trout in the following steelhead gene bank basins: Nisqually, Sol Duc, North Fork Toutle/Green, East Fork Lewis, Wind, and Grays/Chinook
    - Provides refugia from harvest to address comments expressing concern for wild steelhead and cutthroat trout

# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds:
  - Modification 3. Lewis River from Eagle Cliff Bridge to Big Creek. Revised to close early from Eagle Cliff Bridge to Muddy River.
    - Comments were received that significant opportunity would be lost by closing this entire stretch and suggesting that an alternative boundary would achieve the desired protection. The Department concurs.

# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds:
  - Modification 4. Kalama River from the natural gas pipeline to the lower salmon hatchery intake. Retain fly-fishing only.
    - Proposed removing the September 1 through October 31 fly fishing only regulation to simplify the regulations. Comments were received that this was still an important opportunity for fly anglers and helped meet the intent of providing diverse opportunities.

# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds:
  - Modification 5. Kalama River from 6420 Road to Kalama Falls: Retain closed waters from Jack Creek to Kalama Falls.
    - Proposed opening this section of river to simplify the regulations. Comments expressed concern about limited access to this area and continuing to provide a sanctuary for steelhead. The Department considered the comments and suggests modifying the proposal to retain a partial closure of this area.

# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds:
  - Modification 6. Stillaguamish River from Marine Drive to forks: retain selective gear rules, and catch and release except hatchery steelhead regulation, from the Saturday before Memorial Day through November 30.
    - Commenters suggested additional fly fishing and catch and release requirements for wild trout. Recommend a modified proposal to keep the status quo on the mainstem river.



# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs:
  - Modification 1. Coldwater Lake (Cowlitz County):  
Revise to trout daily limit 1, minimum length 18".
    - The Department supports retaining this lake as a quality fishing water while allowing some harvest.

# Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs:
  - Modification 2. Fazon, Terrell and Tennant lakes (Whatcom County): Retain current regulations and status quo (do not simplify).
    - Public input noted the potential of increased conflict between anglers and waterfowl hunters, and the potential safety issues, associated with simplified regulations.

# Group "C" Do Not Adopt

- Allow Chumming Statewide
  - Retain status quo with existing exceptions that allow chumming in select waterbodies
- Eliminate Panfish Special Rules
  - Retain status quo with existing panfish rules in select waters
- Rule Regarding Fishing for Trout with Bait

# Commission Questions?



# Main Motion

Move to adopt permanent amendments to:

- WAC 220-312-010 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - General Rules
- WAC 220-300-160 Definitions – Personal Use Fishing
- WAC 220-310-070 Statewide Bait Rules
- WAC 220-310-080 Game Fish Seasons – General Rules
- WAC 220-310-090 Game Fish Possession Limits and Size Limits
- WAC 220-312-050 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Eastside
- WAC 220-312-060 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - Columbia
- WAC 220-312-020 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - Coast
- WAC 220-312-040 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Puget Sound
- WAC 220-312-030 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - Southwest

as presented by staff.

# Amendments?

## Group "A" Adopt Rules as Proposed

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# Amendments?

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# Amendments?

## Group "B" Adopt Rules As Modified

- Statewide Standard Rules for Rivers, Streams and Beaver Ponds
- Statewide Standard Rules for Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs

# Amendments?

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- Allow Chumming Statewide
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