



The Adipose

Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition

June 2002

NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING WILD STEELHEAD

As most have no doubt heard, on February 9th in a 5-4 vote, the Fish and Wildlife Commission voted **against** statewide Catch and Release of all wild steelhead. After this vote, an amendment was unanimously adopted which reduced the allowable harvest of wild fish from 2 a day and 30 per year to 1 per day and 5 per year. Over the last year, this organization dedicated its energy to bring about change. While we had hoped that change would take the form of statewide C & R, the 1 and 5 option is significant and will result in fewer wild fish killed than in the past. For this I am proud of the WSC.

There are many people that I would like to thank for their part in the last year's campaign. First off, I would like to thank *all* of the nine commissioners for the thought and time they put into this very emotional issue. While I may not agree with the way the majority voted on Option 1, I respect their willingness to examine and discuss the issues. Thanks are due the WSC membership for their tireless dedication to the cause and the untold hours spent writing letters and making phone calls. Thanks go to the authors of the WSC White Paper, as this document was instrumental in convincing the commission to lower harvest levels. Finally, I would like to thank the other organizations that aligned themselves with the WSC in this fight. Without them, this would not have been possible.

While C & R was not won this year, there will be opportunities in the future to address it again. In the meantime, the WSC must move forward to ensure that the adopted harvest reductions are not in vain. There are many factors impacting the health of our wild runs and harvest is but one. The WSC now must work to address the other components of our action plan. Included in these are lobbying to ensure adequate funding for enforcement, scientific review of broodstock programs and prioritization of habitat restoration efforts. These issues are every bit as important as C & R in the overall goal of returning wild fish to abundance in our region's rivers.

Thanks again for all you have done in the past year. The WSC has made a difference and the best is yet to come.

Sincerely, Duggan Harman past WSC Board President

Thoughts from the President

As I sit here typing this, I can hear my newborn son cooing upstairs. I have to smile because I know that due to the hard work and dedication of the WSC and its members, he will be able to fish for wild steelhead when he gets older. This is my last Adipose article as president and likely one of the last things I will do before relinquishing the title to my successor.

It is with great pride that I put these words to paper; pride in what the WSC has accomplished in the last two years, pride in knowing we were nearly able to pull off statewide release of ALL wild steelhead and pride in knowing we did force harvest reductions to one-sixth of prior levels. I am especially proud that for the first time, MSY is being looked at not as the solution but as the problem. Above all, I am proud of being able to work with two of the most dedicated boards of directors that anyone could be blessed with. To a man, the group of **Bailey, Ball, Endsley, Johnson, Kent, Mantua, Norton, Ostberg, Petzold, Ripley, Simms and Starkes** has gone the extra mile to bring wild steelhead management out of the backroom and onto the public agenda. I consider myself blessed to have worked with each and every one.

This is simply a transition though, and the WSC will continue to lead the fight to save wild steelhead. The incoming board is a strong one. The new members; **Kent Alger, Jack Berryman, Dick Burge, Richard Hunt and Don Peterson** all bring a wealth of skills and experience to their new role. There are also enough board members remaining to ensure nothing is lost. I expect great things from this board and look forward to watching them take the WSC to the next level. As my friend and fellow board member **Les Johnson** once said, "Power to the Steelhead!"

Good luck to all and I will see you on the river!

Duggan Harman, WSC Board President



Maple Creek, Hoh River

photo by Mindy A.

News & Bits

What's going on at the WSC

On-line Catch Record

The feasibility of developing an on-line catch record is being examined as a means to collect real time data. Look for a pilot of this project to be made available in the near future.

WSC and others formally oppose NMFS rejection of their own scientific review panels

WSC has signed on with Washington Trout and Trout Unlimited to protest NMFS decision to reject their own scientific review panel recommendation regarding harvest levels on the Columbia River

Columbia Tangle Tooth Net Fishery

The WSC is examining problems that have been revealed regarding the tangle tooth net fishery for spring chinook that was recently conducted on the Columbia River. The by-catch of steelhead in this fishery was unacceptably high, frequently exceeding that of the target species. WSC will be issuing a formal complaint in some form soon.

Fall Steelhead Symposium

WSC is currently planning a Steelhead Symposium in the fall, inviting representatives from other clubs & organizations to collaborate on various issues regarding wild steelhead. WSC has formed a summit steering committee to identify interested parties/groups, suggest key issues and organize the initial meetings. If you would like more information regarding the summit or would like to help contribute in some capacity please phone Dick Burge @ 360-765-3815, or Dave Bailey @ 360-681-7043

WSC Website Bulletin Board is Moving

After experiencing frequent service interruptions from its current web provider, the BOD has opted to switch the forum and the website to another source. This move should be complete by the first week of June and will result in much more dependable access.

WSC Action Plan

The New BOD is currently reviewing and updating the WSC Action Plan to guide the organization for the next year. Feedback will be solicited at an upcoming membership meeting.

White Paper Mailed Out to Members

The white paper titled "Biological & Economic Benefits of Wild Steelhead Release" presented to the Wildlife Commission at the December Testimony was mailed out to all members. If a member has not received a copy contact Rich Simms at 425-880-4254 and we will make sure you get one. Copies are available to non-members for a \$7.50 donation.

WSC Members FYI-

The forum be up and running on WSC web site by the first week of June. This forum is developed for you. The Board invites all members to register and use the forum to develop ideas, ask questions and provide discussion regarding topics of interest and the WSC.

WSC Membership Report

As of May28th, the WSC membership stands at 127 members and 5 club/organizational memberships, for a total of 132. 2002 renewals collected so far stand at 119. Thank you for getting your membership renewals in, we appreciate your continued support! If you have not renewed please do so we need all our members support! The WSC would also like to welcome the following new members:

Dave Aughey, Lynwood, WA
Rocco Maccarone, Bothell, WA
Paul Swacia, Corpus Christi, TX
Robert Bailey, Longview, WA
David Balk, Sammamish, WA
Steve Bukieda, Portland, OR
Chris Cornelius, Mica, WA
Thomas Depuydt, Carnation, WA
Vern Jerimica, Issaquah, WA
J.D. Love, Forks, WA
Craig Lynch, Ridgefield, WA
Hal Mahnke, Longview, WA
Scott Rouse, Sammamish, WA
James P. Schmitz, Seattle, WA
Jerry Schroeder, Toledo, WA
Dean Simms, Kingston, WA
Dylan Tomine, Seattle, WA
Northshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Bothell, WA
North Umpqua Foundation, Idleyld Park, OR

Another 'thank you' to Craig Lynch for his donation to the WSC. We look forward to all our members your support and to working together so that wild steelhead can flourish in the Pacific Northwest.

Rich Simms, 1st VP of Membership



Bush Wackin', Hoh River

photo by Mindy A.

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President: Jack Berryman

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Region 5&6 South: Ron Nanney

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WSC Meeting Announcement
First Wednesday of the month (June 5th)
7:00 - 9:30
Bothell American Legion Hall
19213 Bothell Way NE
(Hwy 527)

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Hoh River Angler

Photo by Mindy A.