



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Program



Proposal Number
(WDFW use)

2010-2011 Sportfishing Rule Proposal Form

To propose a sportfishing rule, please fill out this form completely - one proposal or idea per form, please! Feel free to make copies of this form or share it with friends. Rule proposals need to reach us by June 1, 2009, to be included in this year's process.

Name Rich Simms, Wild Steelhead Coalition/Bill McMillan & Kurt Beardslee, Wild Fish Conservancy/Mark Taylor, Trout Unlimited/ Bill Redman, Federation of Fly Fishers Phone# 425-941-7041

Mailing Address Wild Steelhead Coalition 218 Main Street, Box #264 Kirkland, WA 98033 E-mail address president@wildsteelheadcoalition.org May we contact you by e-mail in the future? Yes X No

1. Current rule you would like to change: Fisheries rules on the Elwha River from the Hwy 101 bridge to the Olympic National Park boundary

2. Your proposed rule: a. Species affected: All wild fish b. Geographic areas affected: The Elwha River from the Hwy 101 bridge to the Olympic National Park boundary c. Time of year in effect: Any time the area is currently open to fishing d. Other details: There will be no hatchery outplanting in the designated portion of the Elwha River. This fishery will be catch-and-release; selective gear rules. 2 hatchery steelhead (adipose fin clipped) may be kept per day

3. Why this change is needed:

In February 2002 the Hatchery Scientific Review Group recommended that managers develop a new approach to managing steelhead (in reference to hatchery productions). "Managers should develop a system of 'Wild Steelhead Management Zones' for each region in Puget Sound and Coastal Washington, where streams are not planted with hatchery fish and are instead managed for native stocks. Such zones would reduce the risk of naturally spawning fish interbreeding with hatchery fish and provide native stocks for future fisheries programs." Some elements of the recommendation include: 1) significant portions of a basin should be free of the planting of hatchery steelhead, 2) the streams selected should represent a balance of large and small streams, productivity, etc. and 3) fishing within these zones could be allowed.

Wild steelhead have a large diversity that is important in the long term productivity, health and resilience of their populations. Scientists have stated that diversity in steelhead trout is as important to maintain as their abundance. Resident steelhead, or rainbow trout, are an important component of wild steelhead diversity, and it has become increasingly evident that this life history form needs increased protection. Recent research has highlighted that many important interactions between resident rainbows and steelhead occur. For example, one study found that resident rainbows constituted about 15% of the male component during spawning interactions and they may be the only males present during the late months. Rainbows also produce progeny of both residual and anadromous forms. Rainbow trout remain important not only in the diversity and productivity of wild fish, but are also recognized as an important component in the recovery of depleted/listed rivers.

It is proposed that the two ideas above be merged into a concept of what will be called “Wild Salmonid Management Areas” (WSMAs). The goal of the WSMAs is to help insure the maintenance of all wild salmonid populations with the abundance, productivity, and diversity one would associate with mixed populations using the habitat available to their respective stocks. The diversity of the area would be expected to include both inter- and intra-species considerations. WSMAs would be designed to protect the various life history forms of all species, protect the juveniles from harm or harvest, provide additional protection during spawning and insure that the other needs of the wild fish are met. In addition, hatchery fish would not be planted in these areas. Experience on catch-and-release regulated waters in Washington have shown that such fishing opportunities will remain popular with the angling public while further protecting the abundance and diversity of wild fish.

4. Public or Agency Involvement:

- a. Names of individuals or groups with whom you have discussed this change: **See cover letter**
- b. Describe their support or concerns: **Extensive support**

Please mail completed form(s) to: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sportfishing Rules Committee
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

This file may be downloaded and
printed from our Web site:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/rule_proposals/index.htm

Or FAX to: (360) 902-2944
Or e-mail AS **AN ATTACHMENT** to: sportfishing@dfw.wa.gov

Instructions

1. **Current rule you would like to change:** What rule is currently in effect for the area, species and time period you would like to change? Would any parts of the rule already in place remain in effect?
 2. **Your proposed rule:** describe the rule change you are proposing, being sure to include the details listed in parts a-d.
 - a. Species affected - What type of fish or shellfish would this rule apply to? (i.e., all game fish, trout only, yellow perch)
 - b. Geographical area affected - what area should be covered by this rule? (i.e., freshwater only, the Columbia River, or a specific area such as from the mouth of the Skagit River to the Memorial Highway Bridge). If your change refers only to a specific section of a river, we will assume that you intend that rules in effect in other areas will remain unchanged.
 - c. Time of year in effect - Should the rule be in effect all year, or just for a specified time period?
 - d. Other details - Anything else you want to include such as gear type, daily limit, etc.
 3. **Why this change is needed** - the reason or "justification" for the change you suggest (i.e., "to protect a population of fish or shellfish from overharvest," "to provide a specific type of fishing opportunity to a group such as juveniles," or "to provide harvest opportunity on a healthy population of fish.")
 4. **Public or Agency Involvement:**
 - a. Names of individuals or groups with whom you have discussed this change - please identify by name; and
 - b. Provide a brief description of their support or concerns.
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Sample Proposal

1. **Current rule you would like to change:**

Sample Lake is currently open to fishing for game fish from the last Saturday in April through October 31, with statewide size and daily limit.
 2. **Your proposed rule:** Sample Lake should have a year-round season.
 - a. Species affected – All Game Fish
 - b. Geographical area affected – Sample Lake, Sample County
 - c. Time of year in effect – Year-round
 - d. Other details – Size and bag limits would remain unchanged.
 3. **Why this change is needed** – Trout are no longer planted in Sample Lake, so there is no reason to restrict the opening time.
 4. **Public or Agency Involvement:**
 - a. Names of individuals or groups with whom you have discussed this change:
Sample County Poggie Club, Enforcement Personnel in Sample County (etc.)
 - b. Describe their support or concerns:
The Sample County Poggie Club supports this proposal. Local enforcement officers have not expressed any concerns over this change.
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