

The Adipose

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILD STEELHEAD COALITION

November, 2007

President Run

"Never ask a steelheader how the fishing is, because the fishing is always good, it's the catching that can sometimes use improvement"

I hope you have the opportunity catch this issue of the Adipose in between fishing trips and angling success this Fall season has been good to you. I was fortunate to find time to make a steelheadin' trip up to Northern BC this Fall and while we found good water conditions our beloved steelhead seemed to have made a sparse showing this year. My wife, Ingrid, has learned long ago the fishing is always good, so if she wants a measure of success she has to ask "Did you hook any fish?" I did have some opportunities and usually joked that I was fishing for takes. But this year I have to say I really enjoyed the solitude and most anglers I met were in good spirits even with the apparent lack of fish. It just makes you appreciate the fish you hook up with that much more. Like Thomas Quinn, who presented to the WSC a couple of years ago, "...steelhead were never considered to be a numbers fish, if you want numbers, fish for pink salmon"

I want to take this opportunity to personally invite you to attend our Membership Meeting on November 7, Wednesday evening, at the Center for Urban Horticulture. The meetings lately have been a good time with many people showing early to share a beverage, some pizza and talk about steelhead, it's been great! Our upcoming program is real opportunity to interact with Donna Darm with NOAA Fisheries and Heather Bartlett of WDFW to discuss the future management of steelhead and ask questions, so please join us for a special evening.

By the time you read this, the WSC will have submitted written testimony for the WDFW Major Rules Cycle and the Wildlife Commission will have met to hear testimony in Chelan, WA. This location is out of the way for many, so if you were able to attend and provided testimony we appreciate very much that you took the time to do so. I know the board puts a significant effort into putting together a well

thought out package in regards to the many proposals put forth that affect the conservation of steelhead.

My hat is off to **Dick Burge, Jack Berryman, Nate Mantua and Eric Doyle** for the time they spent on this effort.

I am also really excited about recent visibility the WSC has garnered outside our geographic location, which I attribute to our persistence and passion as an organization as well as the circle of influence the organization has achieved through some of our membership. WSC Member **Dylan Tomine** has written a couple of compelling articles regarding the plight of wild steelhead and engaging others to get involved in steelhead issues. His articles have appeared in **Salmon, Trout & Steelheader** (included in this issue of the Adipose) and most recently in **Wild About the Fly** in which the magazine has offered to send each WSC member a free copy of the magazine if you contact them.

Big news includes **Drake Magazine and Simms Fishing Products** completed a benefit art auction with the proceeds donated to the WSC to help sustain our work on wild steelhead issues which netted the organization \$5,000. The press release is also included in this issue. **Patagonia** is also excited about our work and has committed that the WSC will be recipient of their steelhead t-shirt as a part of their **World Trout Program** beginning in '08. The WSC will earn \$5 for each steelhead t-shirt sold in '08, so get ready to put your order in and tell your family, friends and enemies to do the same. If you own a sporting goods shop or know of someone who does, let them know so they can plan on putting some t-shirts in stock. Your support in distribution will be very much appreciated.

Great things are happening and I am glad you are with us!

Sincerely,
Rich Simms
President, Wild Steelhead Coalition

WSC VP for Conservation, Dick Burge, passes along these comments:

Heather Bartlett will send out comments to the public comments to Statewide Steelhead Plan draft in about one month. The plan will be presented to the Commission in December and they will take further public comments in a January. They will seek Commission approval in either January or February.

NOAA will put out 4(d) rules—the rules under which take can be authorized—around March. Take will include direct fishing impacts and incidental (as example other fisheries) impacts. These will also include definition and areas of critical habitat. Until those rules are reviewed by the public and published in the Federal Register, there are no federal rules or restrictions on take.

When the 4(d) rules are published, a Recovery Plan will be needed for the state to authorize/prosecute a fishery. This plan will be based in part on the states regional Resource Management Plan (RMP). The states RMP will establish allowable take. Until the state RMP and the Recovery Plan are completed, there can be no fishing that has impacts to wild steelhead. However, there are probable ways for the state to prosecute fisheries, as under Section 7, which was used (and was very cumbersome) with the Chinook listing.

For the above reasons, the state may try to have the Puget Sound RMP completed by March when the 4(d) rules are published in the Federal Register.

NOAA will be in charge of the Recovery Plan, although it may be written by the Governors office or by other state agencies/ad hoc Committees.

RMP and the Recovery Plan will require considerable funding for implementation, monitoring, research and hatcheries. It would be advantageous to meet with individual legislators to educate them with the problems of wild steelhead and the costs of recovery.

Reccomendations/Letters to the Director from the Steelhead & Cutthroat Policy Advisory Group (SCPAG):

1. Steelhead Contests
2. Wild Salmonid Management Zones.

Both of the above recommendations were approved by the SCPAG members by a large majority. The SCPAG has not received answers from the director's office on either set of recommendations, although the letters did not request answers.

Phil Anderson, the new Deputy Director, reviewed some of the ongoing management negotiations with west side tribes. The one of interest (to me) was the Hoh plan that is near completion.

That plan includes the same allocation process as the past 3 year plan: Up to 2/3 rds of the wild harvest will go to the tribe. Our 1/3 allows us to meet our needs during the states winter fishery (according to Phil).

The issue of the above allocation is based on the aggregate of the tribal harvest of hatchery and wild fish. Basically, because they do not take their share of hatchery fish they have the right to make it up with wild fish. This is a new framing of the issue by the Department as they cast it as a foregone opportunity issue 3 years ago. At any rate, WDFW would have to go to court to win 50% and they don't plan to because—(!) we don't need more fish for our fishery, and (2) it will complicate or thwart some of the other deals the state makes with the tribes. Although Phil didn't go into this, it seems obvious that the state does not want to foul their exchange program with the tribes as the state gets the tribal excess of other fish and shellfish.

Several of us argued strongly for higher escapements and an equal sport allocation. I pointed out that we could achieve a higher escapement if we received a 50% allocation and our excess fish reached the spawning grounds. We asked for a one year rather than 3 year plan so SCPAG members could be involved in the next round of discussions before the state initiates the 08/09 plan development with the Hoh tribe. No responses to most of our suggestions were immediately forthcoming We also discussed means in which sport fishers could participate in the plan planning process (not in the negotiations).

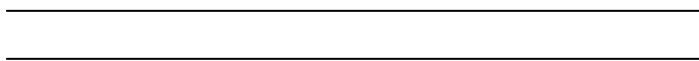
More on the November meeting

Come join us as we discuss the future of Puget Sound steelhead as they relate to the Endangered Species Act. Donna Darm of NOAA Fisheries and Heather Bartlett of the WDFW will discuss their agencies planned actions as they relate to the recent listing. Discussed will be the agencies development of the 4(d) rules for Puget Sound steelhead as well as the future of management of the Puget Sound steelhead fisheries in light of the recent listing.

The presentation will be followed by a length Q&A session where you will have the opportunity to discuss with our speakers the Draft Statewide Steelhead Management Plan, recent studies pertaining to the effects of hatchery steelhead programs and recent court rulings regarding hatchery vs. wild protection under the ESA.

So we would love to see you. Come prepared to enjoy some complimentary pizza and refreshments, a chance to mingle with your fellow steelhead bums and learn a great deal about the future of steelhead in Puget Sound.

If you have any questions, please contact **Ryan S. Petzold** (ryanpetzold@msn.com)



Good News

Wild Steelhead Coalition
November 2007 Adipose
Story: Patagonia/WSC Partnership
October 29th, 2007

PATAGONIA AND WSC JOIN FORCES

As part of its ongoing commitment to wild steelhead conservation, Patagonia has selected the Wild Steelhead Coalition as a 2008 recipient of funding from its World Trout t-shirts program. Starting in January, \$5 from the sale of every steelhead t-shirt from Patagonia's World Trout collection will go directly to WSC. Since 2005, more than 40,000 World Trout t-shirts have been sold, resulting in well over \$200,000 in donations to a select group of grassroots fish conservation organizations.

Beyond the much needed funds, the enthusiasm and personal interest in WSC expressed by Fishing Product Line Director, Steve Stracqualursi, and Fishing Sales Manager, Brian Bennett, provides a unique opportunity to work with Patagonia in developing further programs and strategies to boost WSC effectiveness.

The Patagonia steelhead t-shirt can be purchased at fly shops or online at patagonia.com.



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The following letter was submitted on WSC letterhead to the WDFW on October 20, 2007

To: Lori Preuss
WDFW Rules Coordinator
Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

From: Wild Steelhead Coalition
Rich Simms, President

Re: Written testimony regarding sport fishing rule proposals

The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) is pleased to have the opportunity to offer written testimony regarding proposed sport fishing rule changes for 2008. Before delving in to our testimony, we wish to commend the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for offering a number of significant proposals. We are generally supportive of the majority of the proposed rules and we feel that with proper implementation and enforcement, they will greatly benefit wild steelhead conservation in our state. However, we are strongly opposed to a few key proposals for specific reasons we will make clear.

We identify the proposed rules we are in support of by region and proposal number. Where appropriate, we provide additional commentary on specific rules of interest of interest to our organization.

Statewide Rules

Proposed Rule #1

The WSC supports the new anti-snagging rule. However, we must emphasize that more enforcement is needed to make the existing and proposed rules governing snagging, poaching, and intentional or unintentional mishandling of fish truly effective.

Proposed Rule #3

The WSC supports proposed rule #3 without further comment.

Proposed Rule #4

The WSC opposes raising the annual allowance for hatchery steelhead beyond the current limit of 30 fish per season. This proposed rule presents the surface appeal of reducing the numbers of hatchery

steelhead left in our rivers, which is consistent with the goals of our organization. However, a significant expansion in the allowable individual take of hatchery fish presents a number of issues and concerns that run against the best interests of steelhead conservation. We offer the following rationale in support of our position.

The Statewide Steelhead Management Plan (SSMP) has not been completed, therefore any proposals that could significantly influence hatchery operations are premature. The WSC has reviewed the SSMP in detail and has raised a number of key concerns. Most importantly, we strongly question the unsupported reliance on hatchery production to achieve the “dual objectives” of resource conservation and promotion of fishing opportunities. The state has not responded to public comments on the SSMP, nor has it addressed our comments on an earlier science white paper intended to provide the supporting rationale for this document. While the SSMP is in development, it is premature to submit a proposed rule change that incentivizes increased hatchery production and presents the potential for significant adverse effects on native steelhead populations.

Increasing harvest opportunities for hatchery fish will maintain the status quo for hatchery operations and may even promote additional hatchery production. While reducing the numbers of hatchery steelhead in our rivers is a stated objective of the WSC, we view raising the annual take limit to be an inappropriate means to this end. This proposal will not promote necessary reductions in hatchery production, and provides implicit justification for maintaining status quo hatchery operations in Puget Sound and on the Washington Coast that have been demonstrably detrimental to native steelhead populations. Even if more hatchery adults are taken in the fishery, the number of hatchery juveniles competing with native juveniles will remain constant or may even increase. Further, expanding fishing effort will likely lead to detrimental effects on stock diversity. This is an undesirable outcome from the standpoint of wild fish conservation, and is inconsistent with the requirements of the ESA.

Expanded harvest effort on hatchery fish is likely to cause detrimental effects on native steelhead diversity: Increasing the annual hatchery fish limit to 30

(Continued on page 7)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Simms Fishing Products & The Drake Magazine Flyfishing Photo Gallery Raises Money for Wild Steelhead Coalition

October 9, 2007 (Bozeman, Mont.)—Simms Fishing Products and The Drake Magazine recently presented the inaugural Flyfishing Photo Gallery at the 2007 FlyFishing Retailer World Trade Expo, raising nearly \$5,000 for the Wild Steelhead Coalition. The effort was made possible through the generous donation of works from professional photographers from across the country.

The Simms Fishing Products/Drake Magazine Flyfishing Photo Gallery displayed some of the finest flyfishing photography throughout the three-day FlyFishing Retailer World Trade Expo at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado, September 16-18, 2007. The photos were auctioned off to individuals and companies through a silent auction with all proceeds going to the Wild Steelhead Coalition.

Over harvest, habitat degradation, poor hatchery practices, construction of impassable barriers to migration and misguided management strategies have contributed significantly to the decline, and in some cases extinction, of wild fish runs. The Wild Steelhead Coalition is an organization dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the waters and rivers of the Pacific Northwest.

Simms Fishing Products and The Drake Magazine would like to thank each of the twenty following photographers for their gracious gift that will help support the legacy of the wild steelhead: Andy Anderson, Dan Armstrong, R. Valentine Atkinson, Barry and Cathy Beck, Kevin Birznieks, Tosh Brown, Denver Bryan, Pat Ford, Brian Grossenbacher, Jason Jagger, Mark Lance, Paolo Marchesi, Tom Montgomery, Brian O'Keefe, Tim Pask, Tim Romano, Daniel Root, John Sherman, Liz Steketee and Ken Takata.

About Simms Fishing Products

Established in the early 1980s, Simms Fishing Products designs, manufactures and markets waders and technical fishing apparel. Simms' world-renowned line of waders are designed, tested and manufactured in Bozeman, MT, utilizing the highest quality materials and workforce.

Simms' products are sold nationally and internationally at specialty flyfishing stores. For more information about Simms Fishing Products, please visit www.simmsfishing.com.

About The Drake Magazine

The Drake magazine is a twice-a-year journal for flyfishing enthusiasts. It was founded in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in the summer of 1998, with the goal of using creativity and originality to highlight the personalities, trends and lifestyle of the sport.

The Drake is distributed throughout North America, primarily through Barnes & Noble and specialty flyfishing shops. For more information about The Drake magazine, please visit drakemag.com.

2007 Final Membership Report

By Jim Schmitz

Starting in 2007, the Wild Steelhead Coalition decided to focus on membership recruitment. We came to the conclusion that we not only need to sign up new members, but find ways to keep current members on board. Overall, we have had success signing up new members with the new Pay Pal option. However, keeping people on board year after year continues to be a struggle. The WSC switched its membership to an annual January through December membership period. This is to help our members keep track of their current status and renewal time.

Since 2000 the WSC has had over 350 different members but never over 200 at one point. With this in mind, we set our goal to aim for 350 members in 2008. The WSC is the only organization solely dedicated to saving wild steelhead. In my opinion, anyone who fishes for wild steelhead & wants to help their future needs to support the WSC! These fish are in trouble and need your help. Please renew today! Sign up a friend and help keep the WSC around for years to come. If you are still reading this, you will need to know that this organization is run by a dedicated board of directors and some loyal trustees. Without a paid staff, we are never going to satisfy the needs of all our members. However, I can assure you that we are currently doing all we can for the fish. Please make it a goal to not only renew this year but find a way to get involved. As The Wild Steelhead Coalition continues to grow, so will the support for the fish.

We would like to thank those of you who have either renewed since the last Adipose or are on board as new members. We could not do what we do without the support of our loyal members. Below I listed the **top ten** reasons why you should be a member of the WSC.

1. You love wild steelhead
2. You fish for wild Steelhead
3. You spend every waking moment in the Steelhead's environment.
4. You want to help the fish.
5. You want to join the only group dedicated to saving Wild Steelhead.
6. You don't have the time to fight for fish yourself.
7. You can't live with the idea of watching the runs continue to decline.
8. You don't want to have to start carp fishing, which has happened to a few members already.
9. You don't want to see the state fish of Washington changed in your lifetime.
10. You want your fish stories and memories to last for years to come.
11. I lied and had to add a great way to meet people, learn and make new friends.

Thank you to those of you that renewed or are on board as new members; Willis Anderson, Pete & Vickie Boll, Bruce Barlow, Grant Baugh, Brian Bennett, Gary Bergquist, Mark Berry, Tim Boyd, David Butler, Dave Carlson, John Crites, Chris Deleone, Keith Eggert, Bill Ellis, Willie Evans, Jeff Ferguson, Ed & Vicky Igleheart, Greg Knab, John Kober, Larry Krumpelman, Hubert Langenhorst, Roger Layton, Tom Levendowski, Kim Lyons & Mike Rhamy, Steve Maris, Jim Marvin, Dennis Mayer, James Mello, Dag Midtgard, Bob Nall, Richard Olmsted, Mark Peterson, Pieter Salverda, Don Sapp, Bruce Savaglio, Mark Schmidt, MK Sexton, Peter Speer, The Tryline Group, Dylan Tomine, Tim Pask, Jim Traner, William Turner, Leonard Widen & Alan Yen.

(Continued from page 4)

will undoubtedly increase the level of effort targeting the hatchery run, with undesirable consequences for wild steelhead diversity. Introducing large numbers of hatchery steelhead into recreational fisheries during the 1960's increased the fishing effort by 63 percent and the catch by 53 percent. As is well known, intense harvest pressure on hatchery stocks has had a strongly detrimental effect on the early run component of many native winter steelhead populations in the region, relegating this once important component of wild steelhead diversity to near relic status. It is logical to presume that a significant expansion in the kill fishery opportunity will have similarly significant effects on fishing effort during the December to January peak of the hatchery run. It is similarly logical to conclude that this increased effort will place further pressure on remnant early run fish where they still exist. Rebuilding this early run component is a critical conservation objective where it can be achieved and proposed rule #4 runs counter to this interest. As such, it is patently unacceptable from a conservation perspective and likely to be inconsistent with recovery planning requirements under the ESA.

Expanded harvest effort on hatchery fish will exacerbate an acute tribal fishery allocation problem on coastal rivers: As is well known, the Western Washington Treaty Tribes have the legal right to 50 percent of the total commercial and recreational steelhead harvest allocation in the state. The tribes have benefited from a recent temporary legal injunction that allows the allocation of their harvest right between hatchery and wild stocks aggregated across multiple west end river systems. In effect, if non-tribal fishers take greater than 50 percent of hatchery fish across all of these rivers, this ruling allows the difference to be made up through harvest of native steelhead from specific river systems. By increasing non-tribal take of hatchery fish, the proposed rule will compel the tribes to demand an increased allocation of native steelhead escapement to their fishery.

The rationale for this proposal is clearly questionable given how acute the allocation issue is in many of our most important native steelhead sanctuaries. Presently the tribes are allowed to harvest 80 percent of the wild fish run on Queets and Quinault Rivers, and 67 percent of the run on the Hoh River. We have presented compelling evidence in past public

commentary that harvest rates of this magnitude on wild steelhead are unsustainable. Any proposal that could exacerbate this already difficult allocation challenge is clearly unwise.

Proposed Rule #5

The WSC strongly rejects the idea of “tournaments on wild steelhead in places and at times where wild steelhead retention is allowed.” We extend our disapproval to derbies or other forms of competition that could affect wild steelhead. The Steelhead Advisory Group (SAG) first brought this issue to WDFW’s attention. The SAG voted 19 to 4 to eliminate all tournaments, derbies, or similar competitions that target or otherwise harm wild steelhead statewide, a position we support.

Since the majority of the state’s wild steelhead have been listed under the ESA, it would seem to be an unwise policy decision to expose these populations to additional harvest pressure. This holds true regardless of whether or not native steelhead are the target species of the tournament. Tournaments can impose intense pressure on wild steelhead stocks even when they are not directly the target species. These are environments where large numbers of anglers pursue fish to be measured, and photographed. The increased frequency of capture and the increased stress of handling can be demonstrably harmful to fish. Tournaments promote a competitive mentality that does not foster immediate and careful release. This is likely to lead to higher incidental mortality as a consequence. Even in the absence of observable mortality, stress and injury from insensitive handling can decrease survival and spawning fitness following release. These effects are clearly detrimental to the objectives of wild steelhead conservation. All tournaments that target or indirectly cause increased incidental catch of wild steelhead should be banned!

Region 1

The WSC supports the following proposed rules submitted for Region 1 without further comment: #s 8, 11, 12, and 13.

Region 2

The WSC supports rules proposal #s 24 and 27 and for Region 2 without further comment.

Region 3

The WSC supports the following proposed rules submitted for Region 3 without further comment: #s 35, 37, 39, and 40.

Region 4

The WSC supports proposed rule #43 for Region 4. We are in complete agreement with the need to formally designate the Skagit/Sauk River system as a Wild Salmonid Management Area (WSMA). This system is one of the few remaining strongholds of wild steelhead diversity in the Puget Sound region and is deserving of careful management. We commend WDFW for taking this important step forward.

We are compelled however to point out that the agency is not being consistent in its decision making regarding WSMA designation. Specifically, we are concerned that WSC's proposal to designate the Quillayute River system on the Olympic Peninsula as a WSMA is not being considered in this year's rule change forum. This is a significant shortcoming in light of the fact that significant collaborative effort has been invested in the preparation of this proposal.

The Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout Policy Advisory Group (SCPAG) worked diligently to prepare a Quillayute WSMA proposal designed to protect the diversity of all wild salmonids in the system, with emphasis on the needs of wild steelhead. The proposal was vetted with Region 6 staff in Aberdeen during its development. Recognizing the importance of this proposal, agency staff offered several constructive comments which were integrated into the final rule change proposal submitted by WSC.

For policy reasons that have not been made clear to WSC or Region 6 staff, this proposal was not included in this year's sportfishing rules package. The package states only that other WSMA's would be considered as regional management plans are developed. The Quillayute River system is an important stronghold for wild steelhead diversity equally deserving of the same level of protection as the Skagit/Sauk system. Further, the WSMA proposal addresses immediate conservation needs that are recognized by both the WSC and regional staff. Given that the regional wild steelhead management plan for the Quillayute system will not be completed for at least 2 to 5 years, the rationale against instituting these immediate protective measures are less than

clear. We formally request that this proposal be given fair consideration.

Region 5

WSC supports proposed rule #48 for Region 5 without further comment.

Region 6

The WSC supports the following proposed rules submitted for Region 6 without further comment: #s 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63.

We offer additional commentary on the following proposals.

Proposal #55

WSC supports the proposal to expand the catch and release season on the Hoh River to April 30th. Due to complex tribal harvest allocation issues on west end rivers, and lack of access to tribal lands, recreational fishers are being denied access to native fish runs during an important part of the season. Expanding the catch and release season on the Hoh River will rectify this shortcoming in part. Additional opportunities to increase access on the Quinault and Queets River systems should also be investigated.

Proposal #58

WSC opposes this proposed rule change the status of wild steelhead in the Nisqually River system has clearly been perilous for several years. Stock abundance has hovered well below the escapement goal of 2,000 fish for many years. A short-term rebound in abundance is an insufficient basis to impose fishing pressure on this stock. We recommend that this important population remain protected until a clear trend towards increased productivity and abundance is established over a period of at least five years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wild Steelhead Coalition
Rich Simms
President

The following letter has been sent to Senator Maria Cantwell on behalf of the WSC.

The Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 28, 2007

Dear Senator Cantwell:

The Wild Steelhead Coalition is a not-for-profit steelhead conservation organization made up primarily of concerned, passionate, and well informed steelhead anglers that banded together in 2000 in order to promote an improved future for wild steelhead and steelhead fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. We are writing you today because of our concern for pacific coast salmon and steelhead. We are aware that you have been a long time supporter of restored salmon stocks, and recovery of the once robust fishery of the Snake River. Today, some of these species are extinct, and thirteen others are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

We believe that the recreational and commercial fishing communities have borne the brunt of the decline in these fish, and continue to suffer reduced season lengths and reduced take limits as a result. We are also aware that over the past many years, there has been great investment of taxpayer money to attempt to recover these fish, now approximating \$600 million a year. There are many issues which could be causing the continuing decline, but one thing is for sure. What has been done in the past is not working, and these fish continue on the road to extinction. There is no longer time to waste talking, planning, and discussing the problem. If we are to save these salmon runs, we must act now.

We call on you to support hearings in the Environment and Public Works Committee to determine what should be done to stabilize these fish, and recover their numbers. Because these fish swim the waters of the Pacific from Monterey Bay to Alaska, they are a resource shared by all, and their healthy levels affect people from all the states of the west coast. Much like clean water and clean air, there is a public responsibility to maintain healthy levels, and "downstream" communities have the right to expect healthy populations. For too long, effective action has been blocked by special interests, but we feel this is inappropriate because this issue affects more than those states. It's like polluting a stream or the air, and then claiming that it's nobody's business but the polluters. In this case, only the federal government has the legal ability to intercede on behalf of the general public, evaluate what can/should be done to recover these fish, and bring overall stability to the pacific coast salmon fishery.

We are aware that Senator Boxer, Chairwoman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, is open to holding hearings on this issue, specifically aimed at determining solutions to this ongoing decline of the fishery, as well as more effective use of taxpayer money. We call on you to message to Senator Boxer, in whatever subtle way may be appropriate, that you would support a "fact finding" hearing in EPW. The purpose of a hearing is not to advocate for any particular solution, but rather to get the scientific facts on the table, so good decision making can take place.

We know that spending additional taxpayer money on the same strategies of the past is neither wise nor likely to achieve the recovery goals needed. It is time for bold and aggressive action if these fish are to be saved. It is time to ask the tough questions, and to begin spending taxpayer money on recovery efforts that will work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wild Steelhead Coalition
Rich Simms
President

Wild Steelhead Coalition
218 Main St. Box 264
Kirkland, WA 98033

The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) is an organization dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the waters and rivers of the Pacific Northwest.



November, 2007

Meeting Announcement

Wednesday Nov. 7, 2007 6:00 - 9:30 PM

Meetings are held at the Univ. Of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture.
3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA 98105

We will be gathering in the Douglas Classroom.

Driving Directions: <http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/info/images/drivingdirectionsmappdf.pdf>
<http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/info/images/CUHGroundsmap05.pdf>

This months Topic: Puget Sound Steelhead and the ESA
Donna Darm- Head of the Protected Species Division at NOAA's
NW regional office
Heather Bartlett-New Director of WDFW's Steelhead Program

For more on the meeting see page 3