



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 Wild Steelhead Coalition: Rich Simms,
president and Richard Burge, VP of
Conservation. **Phone#** 360-765-3815

Mailing Address 1261 Leland Valley Rd. E. **E-mail address** fskibum@olyopen.com

May we contact you by e-mail in the future?

Yes **No**

1. **Current rule you would like to change:** Retention of rainbow trout in Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula ESU, gear restrictions for all trout species, hook size (new) for adult salmon and steelhead.

2. **Your proposed rule:**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| a. Species affected: | Rainbow trout (the resident form of wild steelhead); and adult salmon and steelhead (for the hook size suggestion) |
| b. Geographic areas affected: | Puget Sound and Olympic Peninsula anadromous rivers and their tributaries except river sections above barriers and rivers such as the Cedar River that are functionally extinct of wild steelhead and have been determined best managed for wild trout fisheries. |
| c. Time of year in effect: | Year round |
| d. Other details: | Catch and release only for rainbow trout. Selective gear only for all trout fisheries. We further recommend that WDFW establish a minimum hook size (such as 2/0) for the adult salmon and steelhead fisheries that will protect trout and juvenile steelhead and salmon from hooking mortality during those fisheries (and prevent targeting trout with bait). |

Why this change is needed: 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. As an example, in one study it was found that resident rainbows constituted about 15% of the male component during spawning interactions and may be the only males present during the late winter breeding months. Rainbow trout and steelhead each produce progeny of both residual and anadromous forms; hence managing both forms for anadromous productivity will help maintain healthy wild stocks of both forms. Rainbow trout remain important not only in the diversity and productivity of the wild fish but are also recognized as an important component in the recovery of depleted/listed rivers. In rivers where the rainbow trout population is depleted, the potential of productivity from late female spawners may be wasted. Because rainbow trout populations are not monitored, the potential for depletion today is very high and they should be fully protected from harvest, both to protect their population health and to assure that adequate numbers are available for mates for anadromous female steelhead. These proposed protection rules for rainbow trout will also help in the protection of steelhead parr and smolts and juveniles of other wild salmonid species.

3.

4. **Public or Agency Involvement:**

- a. Names of individuals or groups with whom you have discussed this change: Mike Gross and Bil Freymond have reviewed this proposal and indicated an interest in a regulation (s) that will protect rainbow trout and juvenile wild salmonids.
- b. Describe their support or concerns:

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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