



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 Wild steelhead Coalition: Rich Simms
President and Richard Burge, Conservation
VP. Phone# 360-765-3815

Mailing Address 1261 Leland Valley Road E.
Quilcene, WA. 98376 E-mail address fskibum@olyopen.com
May we contact you by e-mail in the future?
Yes x No

1. Current rule you would like to change: Wild steelhead retention season for all Washington Rivers

2. Your proposed rule:
a. Species affected: Wild steelhead
b. Geographic areas affected: All Washington Rivers
c. Time of year in effect: December 1 to February 15
d. Other details: Wild steelhead may not be retained during this period.

3. Why this change is needed: The literature on wild steelhead contains many reports and publications that have recorded the decline of the early runs (including McLachlan, 1994; WDFW, 1996; WDG Bulletins, 1956. 1957; Withler, 1966; Royal, 1972; Hooton, 1983; DeShazo, 1985; Wild Steelhead Coalition, 2006; McMillan, 2007) in most Washington rivers. This decline is described by the above authors as primarily due to a mixed stock fishery for early timed wild and hatchery fish created in the early 1960's by large plants of hatchery reared steelhead. Run timing is one of the important diversity traits of wild steelhead that helps maintain their total annual abundance and distribution. These early runs were large and known to migrate higher in the watershed during early high flows and occupy spawning areas not often accessed by later running fish. The total wild run to most rivers will never be complete, healthy or fully resilient until we recover these early runs. Using the opportunity to recover these early runs by releasing all wild fish during the recommended period will increase the health of the wild steelhead runs in non-listed ESUs, such as the Olympic Peninsula ESU, and help prevent further declines.

4. Public or Agency Involvement:
a. Names of individuals or groups with whom you have discussed this change: Milke Gross and Bill Freymond have reviewed this proposal.
b. Describe their support or concerns: Mike and Bill have indicated support this proposal.

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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