

Exhibit I

**Public Correspondence received as of
July 23, 2015**

Michael Gauvin

From: ODFW News
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 9:46 AM
To: ODFW All Staff
Subject: ODFW to unveil easier, simplified trout and warmwater fishing regulations

NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Michael Gauvin (503) 947-6214
Jessica Sall (503) 947-6023

June 3, 2015

ODFW to unveil easier, simplified trout and warmwater fishing regulations

SALEM, Ore. – For new anglers, Oregon’s complex fishing regulations can be daunting. Even seasoned anglers claim they frequently need a law degree to help them understand what’s allowed and what’s not.

Over the years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has heard an earful from the fishing community about how its regulations make fishing less fun, and pose a barrier to new anglers getting started. Beginning earlier this year, the agency embarked on a process to try to simplify the state’s trout and warmwater fishing regulations in time for the 2016 seasons.

“We’ve looked at every water body across the state, trying to develop common regulations, consistent language, and increased fishing opportunities,” said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries program manager. Because of their popularity and appeal to beginning anglers, the simplification process is beginning with trout and warmwater fisheries, Gauvin added.

Anglers will have a chance to hear about the results of this effort in a series of eight public meetings to be held throughout the state in June and July. Gauvin points out that these meetings are not part of the agency’s traditional public process for soliciting new regulations.

“We’re excited to share with the public the progress we’ve made simplifying fishing regulations,” he said. “There will be time during the meetings for questions about some of the changes we’ve made, but we will not be accepting new regulation proposals.”

All meetings will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

- **Eugene**, June 9, Lane County Community College, Bldg. 17 Rm. 308, 4000 E 30th Ave., Eugene 97405
- **Medford**, June 16, Jackson County Roads & Parks Auditorium, 200 Antelope Way, White City 97503
- **Roseburg**, June 17, ODFW District Office, 4192 N Umpqua Way, Roseburg 97470
- **Clackamas**, June 18, ODFW District Office, 17330 SE Evelyn, Clackamas 97015
- **Klamath Falls**, June 23, OR Institute of Technology, Mt. Bailey Room, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls 97601
- **Bend**, June 29, Central OR Community College, Health Careers Center, Rm. 140, 2600 NW College Way, Bend 97701
- **La Grande**, July 1, Island City – City Hall, 10605 Island Ave., Island City 97850
- **Newport**, July 6, Hallmark Resort, 744 SE Elizabeth, Newport 97365

Working with local district fish biologists and Oregon State Police officers, the simplification process took aim at the many “special regulations” that applied to individual water bodies across the state. The goal was to reduce the number of special regulations to those with a clearly identified biological or management purpose, and to streamline the remaining regulations into fewer, more consistent categories, Gauvin said.

Examples of some of the changes include:

- Eliminating the April trout opener and (with a few exceptions) opening those areas to year-round fishing.
- Standardizing catch limits for trout.
- Maintaining consistency in the how the regulations are listed.

“There still will be a few exceptions to the general rules,” Gauvin said, “but they will be far fewer and easier to understand.”

Not only will the rules themselves be simplified, but there will be an easier-to-read format and clearer language in the sport fishing regulations booklet. Beginning in 2016, regulations will be adopted, and new regulation booklets will be printed, every two years instead of every year.

“Trout and warmwater regulations don’t change much from year-to-year, and in-season regulations for salmon are posted on the ODFW website, so we saw an opportunity to save some money and time by printing regulations less often,” Gauvin said.

###

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Eugene, Oregon
June 9, 2015**

Public Correspondence

Regulation Modification Public Meeting

Sign In

9 June 2015

Name	email address	Phone
Dave Carpenter	dcarp@wi.com	503-859-6282
Rod Fosback	Rfosback61@gmail.com	541-913-5164
LeRoy Bergler	// //	541-954-7163
Jane Deloliesh	jane.m.deloliesh@usace.army.mil	503-780-2039
JUDIT BARK	jlesfor4@gmail.com	503-929-4496
SCOTT KIMNEY	scottkimney@gmail.com	503-910-7458
Crist Brumitt		541-683-3101
Susan Dieckhoff	Susan.di@fn.org	541-954-7163
Nick Lang	clang3705@gmail.com	360-219-4822

ANTHONY MATTHEWS	OSP	SPRINGFIELD - MCKENZIE
DAVID GIFFORD	OSP	SW REGION
CHRIS ASHENFELTER	OSP	- SFFUS
MARSHALL MANER	OSP	- OAKRIDGE

Springfield Fish Staff - manage Coast Fk Willamette, Middle Fork Will
 Jeff Ziller, District Fish Biologist, McKenzie
 Shannon Richardson, STEP Biologist, maintain Willamette
 w/ McKenzie
 Kelly Reis, Assistant District Fish Biologist

Eugene Angling Regulations Simplification Meeting Summary of Discussions and Comments

Held June 9, 2015 at Lane Community College

Combined notes of Jeff Ziller, Kelly Reis and Shannon Richardson

Meeting began at 6pm.

Mike Gauvin, Recreational Fisheries Program Manager, reminded the audience that only the trout and warmwater fishing regulations are targeted as part of this simplification effort. Salmon and steelhead regulations should remain unchanged in 2016, although wording may have been altered in some instances.

The simplification process began with entering all special regulations into a database and then lumping the various regulations into categories. Many regulations already fell out into categories and simply needed consistent language. The task was to then see how outlier regulations could fit into existing categories, if at all.

Terms "hatchery" and "wild" (or some palatable variation) will be defined for the purposes of the regulations and will replace the more wordy, biologically-oriented phrases "adipose fin-clipped" and "non-adipose fin-clipped" in an effort to reduce text and improve readability. One attendee prefers "unclipped" rather than "wild". Another attendee suggested "fin-clipped" rather than "hatchery" to aid in hatchery fish identification. Regardless of final word choices, there will be an outreach/education effort to facilitate understanding the changes with extensive definition provided in the regulations.

The opportunity for public input on the simplified regulations themselves will take place at the August and September Commission Meetings (Aug. 7 in Salem, Sept. 4 in Seaside). Details of the regulations will be in the Commission packet available on-line approximately one week prior to each Commission meeting. The August meeting is informational. Regulations will be set at September meeting. Public comment may be taken at both meetings.

Tonight's meeting attendees who provide e-mail addresses will be contacted when regulations are posted on the Commission website. In addition, all District Biologists (DBs) have been involved in this process and may be contacted with questions about the simplification process, as well as specific regulations.

There may be opportunity to review some regulations before being published in the Commission packet as Zone Regulations are finalized. District Biologists can make these regulations available to the public before the entire state has been finalized.

Mainstem and South Fork McKenzie River trout regulations will be simplified to two general regulations. The specific regulation applied depends on whether the area is stocked or not.

C:\Users\jgauvinm\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\BR6QM06B\Eugene Angling Regs Simplification Meeting Summary of Comments KR JZ SR_06102015 (2).docx \\fwsp\springfield\springfield-fish-data\angling-stuff\angling-regulations\2016\Eugene-Angling-Regs-Simplification-Meeting-Summary-of-Comments-KR-JZ.docx

- The entire McKenzie River will be open all year for trout, hatchery salmon, and hatchery steelhead.
- Catch and release all wild fish.
- 5 hatchery trout/day
- Flies and lures only, except bait is allowed from the 4th Saturday in April through October 31 from Hendricks Bridge upstream to Forest Glen boat landing (near Blue River). Bait area corresponds with the portion of the river stocked with hatchery trout.

Proposed regulations for Westside Willamette Tributaries, Upper Willamette Streams, and Small Ponds were outlined:

Comment [SER1]: 1. Should we capture what the proposed regulations are? 2. Are these correct?

- Westside Willamette Tributaries
 - Open all year
 - Flies and lures only
 - Harvest allowed from the 4th Saturday in May through October 31
 - 2 trout, 8" minimum limit during harvest
- Upper Willamette Streams
 - Open all year
 - Bait allowed
 - 2 trout, 8" minimum
- Small Ponds
 - Open all year
 - No minimum length on warmwater fish
 - Limit of: 1 bass, 10 crappie, 2 channel catfish per day,

Q. How will this effect kokanee fishing?

A. Not much- most waterbodies will have a 25-fish limit, some will have 5-fish limit

Q. If you catch your limit of one bass, can you keep fishing?

A. You may keep fishing for other species, but not for bass.

Q. If you catch your limit of 2 trout, can you keep fishing?

A. As is currently the case, you may no longer fish for trout once you have kept your limit.

Q. 15" length for "trophy trout" – biological reason? Concerned about existing fisheries with 20" trophy trout limits (Diamond Lake, for example)

A. For consistency with bass 15" designation. Easier for anglers to remember. This 15" trophy trout designation is for waterbodies newly designated in 2016 as "trophy trout waters" and will not be applied to all waterbodies. Biological issues in many cases will determine which lakes will be officially recognized as "trophy waterbodies" for this regulation. DBs will determine whether a waterbody is a "trophy" waterbody. Generally, if a waterbody was managed for a certain fishery in 2015, it will likely be managed similarly in 2016. Term "trophy" is also going to be used to promote

a fishery, and addresses a legislative interest to have “trophy lakes”, but at a much lower expense to the state than had the legislative approach been adopted.

Q. How will “trophy” waterbodies be determined? Any opportunity for public input?

A. Based on district biologists’ recommendation, zone by zone. In part a response to legislation seeking to develop trophy trout waterbodies; recognition that we already have “trophy” fisheries, but don’t call them out.

Concern expressed for the rushed process for public comment. Broad support for the concept of simplification; want more time to review final regulations. One angler commented that he would like to receive the draft regulations electronically prior to the August Commission Meeting.

The 2016 deadline came from above. Want to be sure fully vetted internally before sending out for public review. Possible DBs may be able to make their information available to public before regulations for the entire state are completed.

OSP reminded attendees that simplified regulations are to make it easier for kids, families and the average anglers to go fishing. In the past, public input to protect their favorite fisheries has increased complexity. From an enforcement perspective, OSP needs to be able to explain a regulation quickly to a judge (or an angler). There is still room to allow for exceptions, but there needs to be give and take to make this simplification process work. OSP comfortable with the level of participation and input they have had throughout the process.

Other comments:

- Anglers under the age of 10 should be allowed to use bait.
- Catch and release on wild fish is a problem because the wild fish are going to die if released. OSP reminded the audience that if we allowed injured fish to be retained, anglers would tend to kill many more fish than are currently being killed.
- Hayden to the confluence on the McKenzie should allow bait.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

From: Aaron Helfrich
To: Ziller Jeff
Cc: odfw.commission@state.or.us; Mealey Steve; Stewart Faye; Linklater Todd
Subject: McKenzie River Regulations
Date: Monday, June 15, 2015 6:42:15 PM

Jeff,

I realize ODFW is trying to simplify the regulations by eliminating bait below Hendricks to match the regulations below Hayden. I would like to offer another way to simplify. Instead of eliminating the bait Hendricks to Hayden, add bait (on larger hooks) Hayden to the mouth. This would create opportunity for effective salmon fishing closer to the metro area and may alleviate a bit of the congestion at the dam and Greenwood areas.

Todd fished quite a bit in the area for salmon and had no mortality on trout. The larger hooks are working. Eliminating bait Hendricks to Hayden will have a detrimental effect on tourism, license sales etc. We need a salmon fishing venue on the McKenzie River for larger boats on low water years.

Thanks for your consideration.

Aaron Helfrich

Aaron Helfrich
www.Helfrich.com
1950 Yolanda Avenue
Springfield, OR 97477
541-726-5039
541-913-7220 cell

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Medford, Oregon
June 16, 2015**

Public Correspondence

Medford Public Mtg

6/16/15

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
LOUIS JAMES	541-687-1882	DANARD @ BUDGET
Larry Butts	541 261 3653	Larrybutts7@msn.com
OTIS SWISHER	541-941-9173	
Kevi Goodrich		

Mulford

6/16/15

Q - Open Bayou year round to Trout.

→ Let them Fish for your money

Q → Overall picture of state of our Hatchery program of Fish
- Wild Fish is what will be the source not the hatchery fish

Send Lonnie presentation

Q → Lonnie - specific.

Time to Simplify the Regs for the Rogue. I agree.

Best simplifications: 1) return the Rogue trout fishery to a year around status. 2) Bag limit for ALL Wild Fish state-wide - Zero

1) ODFW Biologist Hooten, made the present change ie., Trout fishing on the Rogue CLOSED TO TROUT FISHING APRIL 1 to MEMORIAL DAY WEEK END on the basis that it would simplify the Regulations for the state. The only changes that WERE made, however, were to the Rogue System. Other Steelhead streams such as the Deschutes and McKenzie were not changed. The rationale was to protect the hatchery smolts released from Cole Rivers Hatchery on their journey to the ocean.

In a discussion with two different ODF biologists, the answer to my question "How long does it take for the released hatchery fish to reach the ocean?" Both answered "About two weeks." Yet, the river is closed for TWO MONTHS, April to Memorial Day week end.

Since the beginning of releases from Cole Rivers Hatcher, at 1,600,000 salmon smolts per year, that's a total of 50,000,000 salmon smolts; in addition, there have been several million STEELHEAD smolts. The returns of both species from these smolts are such that an open season for a Trout Catch during that two month period would have been insignificant to the overall returns of Salmon and Steelhead as adults.

If the catch rate of those smolts as trout is estimated as 4,000 trout from the almost 2,000,000 annual release of Salmon and Steelhead smolts, how much better for the public to have the added fishing opportunities for the increase in their License Fees which are being proposed for the next year's Budget. Just add 4,000 more releases to the Hatchery's 2,000,000 smolts annually to offset the catch by the happy public who you have given more fishing opportunities for their money.

2.) RELEASE ALL WILD FISH, NATIVE FISH, UNFINCLIPPED FISH - (you pick the terminology), of any size or specie (except non-native Brook Trout, or those you choose to name other than Steelhead, Salmon, Bull Trout, etc).

The long term future of the Trout, Salmon, and Steelhead fishery of Oregon depends on its present Wild Stocks, not on the present Hatchery program. Protection of these Wild Stocks State-wide is a necessity. Start that protection NOW.

Otis D. Swisher
2180 Poplar Drive, #322
Medford, Oregon 97504
ghoti5@hotmail.com

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Roseburg, Oregon
June 17, 2015**

Public Correspondence

ROSEBURG: REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION MTNG.

6-17-16

NAME:	E-MAIL/PHONE #:	LOCATION:
TERRY HAILS	terryhails@car2.com	ALBANY, OR.
STAN GUILLES	STAN GUILLES@YAHOO.COM	WILBUR
DARREN TUFILY	TUFILY@CHARTER.NET	ROSEBURG
SIM MUCK	SAKSMUCK@MYDFN.NET	ROSEBURG
ABEL RODRIGUEZ	ABELTRC@Q.COM	

June 17, 2015

Staff: Mike Gauvin, Tim Walters, Greg Huchko, Mike Gray, Meghan Dugan
OSP: Lynn Withers, Tom Willis

Q – Are all hatchery fish clipped?

A – No. Explanations will be given in the definitions sections.

Comment – tough for Commission to make a decision the same day they hear testimony, therefore they already made their decision.

Q – How will OSP enforce angling regs when seasons conflict with hunting?

A – It's a balancing act. Hoping to provide OSP with easier regulations for enforcement.

Q – Quartzville Creek has native fish so you'd be fishing on them all year. My fly fishing friends and I go to eastern Oregon in the winter to fish, so if open year-round, you'll see more angling pressure here.

A – We went through with district biologists and they identified sensitive areas, made recommendations for simplification here. Idaho did same.

Q – Will Cooper Creek be in there?

A – As far as trout regulations, not change at all.

C – I don't believe changing bass regulations is better, it gives the impression you're doing something for salmon. Seven years ago, the Umpqua ranked high for bass fishing; now it's not even in top 200. April through fall closure – Umpqua is filled w/bass fishing. ODFW needs to stand up for the fisheries, are we really doing anything for salmon? Changing regulations isn't going to make a difference, it's just picking on different user groups. Need stiffer fines for people who stock bass. Limits on bass should be statewide consistent 5/day, not sure we even need a trophy fishery. Bass are prolific; people fishing them aren't keeping them, so it's not effective at removing them to help salmon. If people keep them might make a difference.

Q - What's purpose of going to 15 on smallmouth bass?

A - By increasing the limits, it's not going to limit population, but if impact on native fish, perhaps we reduce that. Smallmouth bass do eat salmon/steelhead. We did electrofishing and have data; we have seen smolts and lamprey in bass stomachs, so if this can help those populations that what we're going on. We know we won't eliminate those populations of bass and we know it's a popular fishery.

Comment - NOAA studies – 80 to 90 percent survival rate b/c spill has made different, improvements in fish passage. If you want to make a difference to native fish, it's about temperature control. 76 is killing salmonids; very valuable fishery, need a 3rd category where we just say we're screwing the fishermen.

Comment - Regulation proposals won't make a difference in bass populations b/c people aren't keeping them.

Q - What's the harm in no limit? You tell salmon/steelhead anglers there won't be bass in 20 years.

A – We've told people there won't be an impact to (salmon? Bass?)

Comment - I'm pissed off that you don't care about me.

A – By increasing bass bag limit, it gives people who want to keep more bass the opportunity to do that. These regulations aren't for special interest groups on either end, this is for our general angling population. Our focus is on the average angler and family fishing.

Q – I'm an average angler, I appreciate it when you went up to 15, but I don't know that no limits will help, why not keep it as it is?

A - Consistency. This is only place in state w/15 limit, so it needs to change to fall in line w/rest of state. Other regulations are no limits or 5 bass limit. Umpqua is unique and identified as one that needs changed to conform statewide. District input was no limit fishery.

Q - If regulation book is the law, is there another book regarding rules? And how much different? People aren't reading the regulations. Current one is the easiest I've seen in 20 years.

A - It's the OARs we work off of. Emergency regulations would be posted at POS locations and locations at the water body, a news release, web postings. The mobile app will help.

Q - I'd like OSP to go over new salmon regulations, spring or fall are they the same or different?

A - There was confusion even with us. No more than 5 on the main, 10 on the north; can combine. Also changing date of when spring fish becomes fall.

Q - Are comments being recorded?

A - Yes. She's in the back.

Comment – 2 years is great.

ODFW Comment - There will be advertising, we have control over where they're placed. Company has dynamic website that's easy to search.

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Clackamas, Oregon
June 18, 2015**

Public Correspondence

Please Sign In

Angling Regulation Simplification Meeting
Clackamas

June 18th 2015

Name	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Matt Cunningham		matthew.cunnington@yahoo.com
Grey Wise	503-829-8784	gkwise@troll.net
Scott Rutschman	503 550-8412	rutschsc@yahoo.com

Please Sign In

Angling Regulation Simplification Meeting
Clackamas

June 18th 2015

Name	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Bob Jenkins	503 771 4817	
Allan R. Weehey	503 698 2332	

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Klamath Falls, Oregon
June 23, 2015**

Public Correspondence

Total Attendance = 18+1+1 = 20

ODFW Public Meetings Notes 6-23-15

Q = will public input guide the commission's decision?

Q = Williamson very unique river that needs micro-management

Q = Send information on place to comments to the attendees. ~~For~~ with plenty of time.

Q = Simplification is good, but not at expense of fishery, ^{does} the data support this amount of pressure?

Clearwater, near spawning, very sensitive

Q = Navigable or not?

Trespass or not?

Q = Williamson - really two rivers, may need to evaluate how much can be filtered w/ barbed wire crossings?

Q = How much of this is revenue driven?

Q = Are these proposals a done deal?

Comments:

Lots of opposition about Williamson regulations

Michael Gauvin

From: ODFW Info
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Michael Harrington; Michael Gauvin
Subject: FW: Please do NOT make changes to the fishing regulations on the Williamson River. Thank you!
Attachments: RSCN2872.JPG; 046_46-001.JPG

From: Kathy McCartney [<mailto:mccartney0583@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 2:28 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us; johnump@centurylink.net
Subject: Please do NOT make changes to the fishing regulations on the Williamson River. Thank you!

Please protect the holding areas and safe zones for Williamson River fish by leaving the regulations as they are and allowing no fishing from a boat on the Williamson from Collier to the Chiloquin bridge. These fish are stressed enough as it is. Please do not change the regulations on the Williamson River.

Most Sincerely,
Kathy McCartney

You have been sent 2 pictures.

RSCN2872.JPG
046_46-001.JPG

These pictures were sent with Picasa, from Google.
Try it out here: <http://picasa.google.com/>

Michael Gauvin

From: ODFW Info
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 1:56 PM
To: Michael Gauvin; Michael Harrington
Subject: FW: ODFW possible Williamson River Fishing Regulation Changes

From: Kathy McCartney [<mailto:mccartney0583@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 1:51 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: ODFW possible Williamson River Fishing Regulation Changes

Please pass this message on to the department considering making changes to the fishing regulations on the Williamson River:

Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife,

We cannot recall any public access for hard boats from Collier Park to the Chiloquin Bridge. It is all private put-ins and take outs except for perhaps pontoon boats and rafts, but, as for letting the boats anchor and fish the few resting places and comfort zones, this would only stress these fish more than they already are. These fish are the continental U.S.'s largest strain of rainbow trout. Talk to an old-timer like Jim Walters, a Chiloquin resident, who will tell you that Williamson "bows" are a fraction of the former runs and they ARE in trouble. Please keep the current regulations for the sake of these fish.

Most Sincerely,

Tom and Kathy McCartney
541-485-7472

Michael Gauvin

From: Michael Harrington
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 4:41 PM
To: william.r.tinniswood@state.or.us; Michael Gauvin
Subject: FW: ODFW Angling Regulation Simplification

FYI

Mike Harrington
District Fish Biologist
Klamath Watershed District
1850 Miller Island Road
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(O) 541-883-5732
(C) 541-891-7012

From: paul zuest [<mailto:pz4bass@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 10:21 PM
To: Michael Harrington
Subject: RE: ODFW Angling Regulation Simplification

Michael, sorry you had to see some of Klamath at its worst. it seems a lot of people who live on our public waters (Klamath county) are only willing to share on their own terms. I thought it was a good presentation. thank you. paul zuest

From: michael.r.harrington@state.or.us
CC: michael.r.harrington@state.or.us; michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us; william.r.tinniswood@state.or.us
Subject: ODFW Angling Regulation Simplification
Date: Wed, 24 Jun 2015 22:51:12 +0000

All:

You are receiving this e-mail because you participated in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's informational meeting regarding the simplification of our angling regulations on June 23, 2015 in Klamath Falls. The process and its' timeline have been extremely challenging and we are glad you were able to participate in the first round of public meetings. The statewide process began in November, 2014 and we plan to propose regulation simplifications to the Commission the week of July 27, 2015.

The current proposals are not final and your comments are under consideration. If you have additional questions or comments before July 27, contact Mike Harrington (michael.r.harrington@state.or.us) in Klamath Falls, or Mike Gauvin (michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us) in Salem. When the staff's proposed angling regulations are submitted to the commission the week of July 27, you will be able to comment on the content using the following link: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/>. Public testimony can be made on the proposals at Commission meetings on August 7 (Salem), and September 4 (Seaside). Our proposals were developed to simplify the regulations, ensure conservation of native fishes and their habitats, and to provide angling opportunity; please consider this when preparing comments.

Thank you,

Mike Harrington
District Fish Biologist
Klamath Watershed District
1850 Miller Island Road
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(O) 541-883-5732
(C) 541-891-7012

Michael Gauvin

From: Michael Harrington
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 4:46 PM
To: william.r.tinniswood@state.or.us; Michael Gauvin; Rasmussen, Josh
Subject: Response from Derek - Williamson River Proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: Derek Yonekura [<mailto:dgyk12@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 4:16 PM
To: michael.r.harrington@state.or.us
Subject: Williamson River Proposal

Mr. Harrington, first let me say that my displeasure with the proposal should in no way be taken as a personal attack on your integrity or your colleague's. That was not my intent and if it came across that way I apologize . I am very happy to see catch and release in the Williamson .

That alone was courageous in and of itself. I realize catch and release in lake would be a difficult proposal .

However, I sincerely believe that fishing out of a floating device would harm the fishery in many ways. I understand your position having to follow a mandate from your administration. I believe your mandate can be satisfied by omitting Fishing from floating devices above Chiloquin.

Sincerely ,
Derek Yonekura

Sent from my iPhone

Michael Gauvin

From: Michael Gauvin
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Michael Harrington
Subject: Fwd: fishing regulation on Williamson River

See below

Begin forwarded message:

From: ODFW Info <odfw.info@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Date: July 1, 2015 at 2:21:19 PM PDT
To: Michael Harrington <Michael.R.Harrington@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>, Michael Gauvin <Michael.W.Gauvin@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Subject: **FW: fishing regulation on Williamson River**

From: j h [<mailto:johnump@centurylink.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 2:13 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: fishing regulation on Williamson River

I don't understand why you would want to endanger redband trout by changing the regulation to allow fishing from water craft from above the Chiloquin Bridge and allow trolling from the 97 Bridge to Modoc Bridge. These fish have suffered a decline over the years. Even with your "catch and release" plan how many fish will survive after being caught while trolling a multiple barbed hook ie. treble style hooks. You should leave the regulation as they are it's not to complicated for even a person with a limited education or understanding of this very fragile system. Work on the side of the fish you are trying to protect.

Thank-You
John E. Holing

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 11:18 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Klamath Guide Associate Letter
Attachments: Klamath County Guide Association Letter_2015.pdf

Categories: Commission

For September meeting packet.

Mike Gauvin
Recreational Fisheries Management
Program Manager
Fish Division

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us
(w)503-947-6214
(c) 503-910-3059

From: Randy Rigdon [<mailto:fishrigdon@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 10:55 AM
To: Michael.W.Gauvin@state.or.us
Subject: Klamath Guide Associate Letter

Hello Mr. Gauvin,

The attached letter is a coordinated response from the Klamath Guide Association regarding the proposed regulation changes for the Williamson River.

We have also sent this letter for comment to Mike Harrington and Bill Tinniswood in hopes that they may revise their original proposal before it goes onto Salem. Please let me know if you would like to personally discuss anything included in this letter with myself, or any other guide association members. My contact information is below.

Respectfully, Randy Rigdon

Randy Rigdon
(541) 891-5939
www.oregontrophytrout.com

Klamath County Guide Association

Response to the Williamson River 2015 Fishing Regulation Change Proposal stated as “The simplification of our angling regulations”.

The goal of “simplification of regulations” is a worthy goal, yet should not come at the expense of managing a truly unique, wild fishery. The Williamson River is a complex system of tributaries and because of the adfluvial nature of these fish this system and the states management would also have to include both Agency and Klamath Lakes. Within the “Williamson River” there are two distinct fisheries. One fishery above the Klamath Marsh and one below that feeds Lower Klamath Lake. Proper management of the entire Williamson River and the Klamath Basin as a whole is not possible without special consideration of this complicated network of rivers and lakes. Clearly, the Williamson River and the Klamath Basin fishery is not a candidate for a broad swiipe of the pen that would, “simplify the regulations”. The opportunity to simplify the regulations can be achieved in a variety of other ways and in other places. Generalized simplification of the regulations for the Klamath Basin would be simply irresponsible. It is the consensus within the Klamath County Guide Association that the Williamson River and Klamath Basin as a whole be properly managed and regulated as a trophy trout fishery. The management and preservation of this fishery should be based on the best information available from all resources, public and private, and the state management of this fishery should be reflected as clearly as possible in our angling regulations.

Part 1. Proposed catch and release only fishing for red band trout in the entire Williamson River.

Catch and release for the entire Williamson River, Wood River and Klamath basin as a whole is not a new concept for the guide association. Fellow senior guides have been practicing voluntary catch and release for the last 25 plus years, well before the guide association was formed and well before the state fisheries biologists saw the need to address the multitude of strains on the fishery that we are currently experiencing in the basin. To the best of my knowledge, all local guides voluntarily practice, promote and support catch and release in the entire Klamath basin. Should the local fisheries biologists have the wisdom to move forward with the proposal to include catch and release in the Williamson River, or anywhere else in the Klamath Basin, the guide association and members would unanimously support their efforts.

Catch and release for the Williamson River would meet the state wide goal of simplification to the existing regulations and offer the local state fisheries biologist an opportunity to manage the wild fishery. Because the basin is still considered as a trophy fishing destination, the visitors generate significant economic benefit for not only the state with resident and nonresident license sales, but most importantly for the local community.

As guides we are seeing more and more pressures put on this unique resource. There are more angling pressures from not only local and visiting anglers, but also from what appears to be a fast going number of tribal fisherman who are taking an increasing number of fish from the river near Chiloquin. Environmental concerns are also pressuring the resource. Current drought conditions have affected water levels, spawning habitat, and riparian habitat. Water clarity in the upper river has hindered

escapement for the juvenile red band trout. These factors have been taking their toll on the fishery in a much more silent way and are not ones that we can easily evaluate, or control. As guides we are seeing daily catches that are declining in both size and number which jeopardizes our trophy, or "Blue ribbon" status in the fishing world where there are many other quality angling options. Catch and release on the Williamson River would help the wild fish to stabilize their populations and allow them to grow back to true trophy size. Catch and release on the Williamson River alone is not a cure for the fishery as a whole. It is just a single piece of a complicated puzzle. True management of the Klamath Basin fishery would have to include the Lower Klamath and Agency Lakes for reason stated prior and should be seriously considered should the population of red band continue to be challenged.

Part 2. Proposed elimination of current boating restrictions on the entire Williamson River.

The Williamson River is a complicated system that has a multitude of recreational uses. Most simply put, the current and long time boating restrictions are in place for very good reason. The boating regulations were originally designed to reduce angler conflicts and most importantly to protect sensitive pre and post spawning red band trout. The need for boating restrictions is real and an essential tool for protecting the red band trout and their spawning habitat. We do understand the need to provide opportunity to fisherman in the state, yet directing pressure to sensitive spawning areas is misguided.

The current boating regulations are simple, logical, and easy to interpret. The landmarks are clear and well placed. These rules have been enforced by not only local law enforcement, but mostly by fellow anglers who are using the water. To simply eliminate these well established and respected rules would be a huge step back for the river, anglers and most importantly the spawning fish and their critical habitat. The guide association members are in favor of keeping these regulations in place as currently stated.

In summary, complex systems such as the one we have here in the Klamath Basin must require a reasonable level of regulation and management. We are all in favor of state wide fishing and hunting regulation simplification, yet we are also obviously aware that not all fisheries are good candidates for this task. The Williamson River with all of her beautiful complexities has a true and real need to be regulated. Most anglers want to do the right thing, honor existing regulations and do their best to respect local traditions. As local fishing and hunting guides, we act as daily representatives for this fantastic and unique fishery. We gladly assist in respectful angler education, promoting the area and at times enforcement of the state laws and regulations. As responsible members of this community and with a deep love and respect for this resource we "simply" want to support clear and logical goals that will benefit the fishery for future generations to enjoy.

Best regards, Klamath Guide Association Members and Supports

Michael Gauvin

From: Michael Harrington
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 1:49 PM
Cc: Michael Gauvin; Mike Harrington
Subject: Williamson River angling regulation proposal

All:

You are receiving this e-mail because you participated in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's informational meeting regarding the simplification of our angling regulations on June 23, 2015 in Klamath Falls.

Concerns were expressed regarding ODFW's proposal that would allow angling from a floating device above the Chiloquin Bridge, on the Williamson River. These restrictive angling regulations were developed in 1950 due to social conflicts between bank anglers and boat anglers who concentrated their efforts around fish stocking trucks. However, since the 1970's the Williamson River has been subjected to increasingly conservative regulations and in-stream restoration actions. ODFW was directed to manage the Williamson for wild trout in 1978 and hatchery supplementation ceased and in 1980. The trout populations have responded accordingly to these management actions and anglers have experienced memorable population spikes caused by great water years in the mid 1980's and late 1990's.

Although our draft regulation proposal was biologically justified, we have decided to retain the no angling from a floating device above Chiloquin. This will continue to serve as a mechanism to reduce conflict between user groups. Additionally, ODFW proposed a catch and release regulation for the entire Williamson River which was received well by the fishing public.

Our proposed regulation will read as follows:

Williamson River:

- *Open May 22, to October 31*
- *Catch and release for rainbow trout*
- *No angling from a floating device from Chiloquin Bridge to the headwaters.*

All of the draft proposals for the 2016-17 regulations will be available for public viewing and comment during the week of July 27, 2015. We urge you to **provide written comment** on the final proposal before the August 7, commission meeting.

Mike Harrington

Mike Harrington
District Fish Biologist
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(C) 541-891-7012

ODFW
4034 Fairview
Industrial Drive S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302

Gentlemen:

This is to strongly support the recommendations of our State Fish Biologist here in Klamath Falls. Starting with the 2016 fishing season the Williamson River to be restricted to catch and release only.

Our Redbands need our help and by restricting the Williamson to catch and release will not only help the Williamson but the entire Klamath and Agency Lake fisheries.

From personal experience average fish size is gradually decreasing. Moving here in 1961 my first fish on Klamath Lake weighed 8 pounds. Having never caught a fish that size I kept it and weighed it. In those years you kept everything you caught—now we only catch and release. My fishing buddies have also noticed the gradual decrease in size. A guide friend from the Redding Fly Shop who has fished Klamath Lake most of his life now goes to Pyramid Lake instead of Klamath Lake because he also thinks our Redbands have decreased in size. This past spring between ice-out and mid June my boat and my buddies boat had caught 363 Redbands.

We fish a lot!! Sometimes almost everyday for weeks at a time with his boat or mine and 3 to 5 fishing buddies everyday. We have been doing this for what seems like forever. I feel we have a hands on practical background for our concerns.

The following are fish numbers for years 2010-2014: {We also have data prior to 2001}

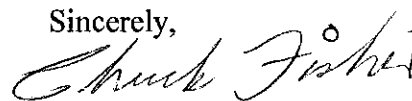
Year	No.	Wt.	Yearly total
2010	2	12	
	6	10	324
2011	1	11	
	5	10	226
2012	No fish over 10 lbs.		272
2013	2	11	
	3	10	453
2014	2	10	
	1	11	
	2	12	363
2015	1	10	
	1	10	383

CC:
Bill Tinneswood

Note:

1. Years ago we weighed many fish between 6 to 9 pounds. Now those are being replaced with fish 3 to 5 pounds.
2. We used to weigh lots of fish. The past few years we weigh only what might be 10 pounds and over.
3. We probably catch just as many or more than we used to because:
 - Experience on the water since 1961
 - a. 12' boat and 5 H.P. Johnson in 1961
 - b. Now we have 18' boat and 60 H.P. Yamaha
 - c. Fishing equipment and technics have drastically improved.
 - d. More time on the water
4. Number of big fast boats and number of fisherman have increased, which means more fish with "big fish genes" are being killed.

One more thing— why would anybody kill a wild fish in the first place and especially when they taste terrible—regardless of how they are prepared or the time of year.!! If you want to eat fish go to Lake of Woods.

Sincerely,


Chuck Fisher

Chuck Fisher
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Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601
E-mail - mlf@the.fisherhouse.com
Phone No. - 541-882-4160

P.S. Our fisheries people in this area do an outstanding job-- Especially Bill Tinniswood

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 12:51 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: williamson

Mike Gauvin
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From: Rhett Foster [<mailto:rhett.foster@debelsupply.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 12:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us
Subject: williamson

As an avid angler and concerned member of the angling community, I am writing in regards to the proposed regulations for the Williamson river.

I fully support the proposed regulations for the Williamson river. I would also like to encourage a proposal for the use of barbless hooks in the future. I feel this would help in reducing the mortality rate of the fish, especially in the spawning waters above the Chiloquin town bridge.

It is very important we work together to maintain and improve this Wild Trout fishery.

Thank you.
Rhett Foster

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 10:59 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Williamson River regulation change proposals...comments

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From: Michael Harrington
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 10:49 AM
To: Bill Lindsey
Subject: RE: Williamson River regulation change proposals...comments

Bill:

We appreciate your comment on the Williamson River regulation and it has been submitted to headquarters staff. If you would like to comment directly to the Commission, the official proposal will be available for viewing the week of July 27 (<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/>).

Thanks,
Mike

Mike Harrington
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From: Bill Lindsey [<mailto:admin@historicbottles.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 9:28 AM
To: michael.r.harrington@state.or.us
Subject: Williamson River regulation change proposals...comments

Hi Michael...

I was given your email address (hope it is right) by a neighbor on our street here along the lower Williamson River - specifically Rivers Drive which runs along the river from the Williamson River Store/Modoc Point Bridge upstream for a mile or so. I would like to comment on what I understand of the proposed changes to the regulations for "our" stretch of river which includes "*Catch and release for rainbow trout Aug. 1st-Oct. 31st*" and "*No angling from motor-propelled craft while motor is operating.*"

What I understand from the articles in the Herald & News is that the ODFW/Wildlife is trying to simplify the river regulations to achieve more consistency from mouth to headwaters. Great! They can be confusing both on the Williamson and many other waters. Right now the Williamson regulations are broken into 4 sections. Since I just fish primarily in the lower 2 sections - and primarily in the above Modoc Point Road Bridge section (but well below Chiloquin and even highway 97) where we live - my main concern is geocentric to our reach. I've been fishing this river for about 20 years and owned our house along it for 14 years. I've fished a lot of the river over the years - not just "our" stretch - but all of it up to near the headwaters above Klamath Marsh. So know about most of it, though will largely just comment on the lower reaches.

First off - and a relatively minor concern - is that I've not seen any changes proposed to the "*No angling from motor-propelled craft while motor is operating*" regulation? If one were to achieve consistency in the lower two stretches where motor trolling is really possible one of those would have to change, i.e., make our section like the lowest stretch, or vice versa. I assume that the regulations will not change for those stretches regarding trolling vs. not trolling? The articles I saw were mute on that point.

As a property owner along the river I prefer that there be no trolling in our stretch simply for peace and quiet - which I grant is a very non-biological reason. I often fish from our dock and boats trolling back and forth would be an inconvenience to my casting as I can easily reach across the river. In any event, I see people trolling in our non-trolling stretch all the time during the season so I suppose for simplicity it would be easiest to to extend trolling (motor operating fishing) to our stretch...or the entire river although motor trolling isn't practical above Chiloquin anyway. But if my "vote" counts for anything I would keep the no fishing while motor operating rule as is...and extend it downstream to the mouth. (This would be my version of the Chiloquin to Kirk Bridge property owners recently complaining about the proposed change to allow angling from a floating device...a change which apparently has been retracted anyway.)

The catch and release proposal has had me thinking a lot about our fishing experiences on this portion of the river. I'm sure the "biologically justified" reason mentioned in the article for complete catch and release (really the only complete river length consistency I see) is very straight forward - less harvest, more fish to procreate and perpetuate. That is also great! More fish to catch and release - which is what we (our family) do 95%+ of the time anyway.

However, the one problem I see there is that the only reason we keep fish is when they get deeply hooked, bleeding substantially from the gills and are highly likely to die anyway. We primarily spoon fish (sometimes fly fish) and the fish sometimes will take the lure deep - deep enough so that the hook(s) pinch the gills against the gill rakers causing bleeding in variable amounts.

We have released some fish every year as required after the August 1st catch and release only date that were bleeding enough that we saw them later floating belly up dead or close. Albeit it is a very small percentage of the fish caught but it has included fish in the 24 to 30" range - probably predictably good spawners. This is sad to see though I know that something else will feed on the fish if we don't - crayfish at the very least. Prior to August 1st we will typically keep such fish but only the ones that are bleeding very profusely as I understand that some mildly bleeding fish can survive...and they certainly will not survive if we keep them. Most do not bleed much as they are hooked forward of the gills/tongue...except a tiny bit from the hook hole in the "lips".

In any event, I'm not sure what the right solution is for this but one alternative is to maintain the keeping one fish per day through the season (through October 31st) for our Modoc Road to Chiloquin stretch #2 as it is now with the lower mouth to Modoc Road stretch #1. If pressed, that is the option I would pick for our reach of the river. However, I do notice a decrease in people fishing our #2 stretch once the catch and release regulations take hold on August 1st...and I like that. I suspect that if the river goes complete catch and release there will be fewer people fishing? Don't know for sure but I also like that.

If it does get changed to all catch and release, I'll be saddened when I "release" a profusely bleeding fish back...but will understand that in the complete scheme of things catch and release will be an overall plus to a healthy stock of native red band trout. Thanks for allowing me the input!

Bill Lindsey - Williamson River, Oregon

SHA/BLM Historic Glass Bottle Identification & Information Website

email: bill@historicbottles.com

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: Instituting mandatory catch and release fishing on the Williamson
Attachments: Fishing Letter.pdf

Another one for the file

Mike Gauvin
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From: Michael Harrington
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Michael Gauvin; william.r.tinniswood@state.or.us; Elizabeth A OsierMoats
Subject: FW: Instituting mandatory catch and release fishing on the Williamson

FYI

Mike Harrington
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From: Eileen Bucklin [<mailto:embucklin@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 10:58 AM
To: michael.r.harrington@state.or.us
Subject: Instituting mandatory catch and release fishing on the Williamson

Dear Mike

This is my response to Luke Avgard's article in the July 10th edition of the Klamath Falls paper. I am very sorry I missed your June 29th meeting. But I only learned of it from Avgard's article and that was too late. I live on the Williamson, just upstream from the most downstream bridge. I have been an avid outdoorsman but at 76 I am slowing down. I bought the place on the Williamson with the idea it would make fishing and duck hunting easier. I am very much opposed to making mandatory catch and release, as are most of my neighbors. I believe

I might have a set of arguments that would interest you. I have spent some time in composing the attached and hope you will read it. I do not have much information about you. Only what little was revealed in the newspaper. So I have had to make inferences. I do apologize if some of them are out of line.

I should add that in the last few days I have contacted neighbors to urge them to email you as to their interests. Five out of the six contacted wished to continue to be able to keep a fish and said they would send an email to you to that effect. Further, the one person who favored mandatory catch and release was the only person who knew about the meetings you held prior to their being held. In fact I was the one who first informed the five as to what was up. The sixth person learned through his fly fishing club. I deduce from this that there are still large numbers of people who still do not know what is happening, have not been heard from and consequently whose views are unrepresented. And I imagine that most of these would be against mandatory catch and release. What is my justification for thinking that? Being observant and living on the river I would estimate that where I live about three quarters of all the fishermen I see spin fish, possibly more. They obviously are not members of fly fishing clubs, or, probably, any fishing club at all. Nor are they interested in honing the art of fishing to any high degree that would take precedence over being able to keep a fish. Fish for these people are not means to improve ones skills to be put back so as to still serve that end. They are to be happily caught and eaten

Mike Bucklin

You have been reported to have said that you have made "the best attempt to please all" the people. I am not sure exactly what that means, since pleasing everyone would seem to be impossible. If you pleased Avgard you would not be pleasing me, and I strongly suspect vice versa. Well. Why I ask myself would you put a lot of effort into trying to do the impossible? Is it that trying to please (only) a majority would suggest that some sort of vote would have to be held which would determine what percentage of people favored what option, and that vote is not going to happen? Talking generally about pleasing everyone avoids revealing specifically what the options would be if a vote were held. Of course that could have been revealed at the meeting, and short of pleasing everyone you might try to please the most. On the other hand you might just simply think that since you cannot please everyone you will just go ahead and propose what you thought best.

Again you say that simplified regulations are not negotiable "whatever happens." One knows exactly what that means, namely that the whole river will be governed by the same regulations. But one does not know how that would effect the likelihood of catch and release being implemented. It wouldn't seem to. But it would make compromises that might be accepted by most, or even all far more difficult if not impossible. For example in New Hampshire stretches of the Connecticut River are catch and release, to please those who prefer that, and other stretches which allow keeping a limit to please those who accept heavier fishing pressure and fewer fish caught for the ability to keep something. In fact I do not know why you say simplified regulations no matter what, when different regulations for different stretches would give everyone something. That might not please everyone but it might make changes in the regulations acceptable to most.

I do take it that studies have shown that more people do prefer to accept higher fishing pressure and fewer catches in order to keep a fish, though no doubt this varies from place to place and time to time. Most of my neighbors keep some fish. And as to non residents of the area, I have as Ovgard has, observed people keeping fish. One can only presume that they would wish to be able to continue to do so. I can also say that far more people fish below the bridge after July than before, and far fewer fish above it, where catch and release becomes mandatory. Of course this is anecdotal. But referring to a few individuals who favor catch and release as if they were representative of the majority, as the reporters did, is worse. I certainly hope they weren't the only ones who showed up!

I still remain puzzled by your being adamant that regulations should be the same for the whole river. It makes sense to allow fishing from boats in the lower deeper sections that can hardly be waded, and to disallow it in the upper river which can be waded and boat traffic might disturb the fish as well as wading anglers. Allowing trolling with a motor also makes sense only below the bridge here but not above it, if for no other reason that it separates the trollers from the casters. Differing regulations costs nothing and yes one has to be aware of differences, but they are not confusing (exception: where the Williamson ends and the lake begins). I do get mixed messages from you however. If simplifying regulations will happen, no matter what, and is the only change that is non-negotiable one could infer that options to catch and release are still on the table. That is not the impression I got in today's paper.

I do hope you are interested in pleasing as well as objectively determining what amount of people are pleased by what. Forgive me for being negative but it does seem that you have only offered "sops" in exchange for signing off on catch and release; namely opening of the Sprague for winter fishing, allowing fishing from boats above Chiloquin [cancel that], continuing to allow people to take brown and brook trout, and simpler regulations. These are things we have already, or are of no real value to a lower Williamson angler. Certainly they do not "balance" making mandatory catch and release, and if coming up with and offering this "deal" is what you meant by the best attempt to please everyone that is sheer deception, as that is hardly an attempt at all. And surely you can see the deception. "Best attempt" might mean the best you are willing to do given that your mind was made up about catch and release. I ask forgiveness if I have misjudged you. Perhaps you do think that the matter should and can be determined by what would make most people most pleased (fish first, and last, being understood). But words can be deceiving. Vagard's claim that the Wood River has retained its high popularity even with catch and release required for rainbows there, for example, is totally disingenuous. That river is fished for browns which can be taken, not for rainbows that can't. But perhaps as well you simply do not realize how much the ability to keep a few fish means to some people, even how immoral, or aesthetically displeasing some aspects of catch and release are. If this letter does anything I hope it will show you that who owns the moral high ground is at least moot. So much for pleasing people.

There really ought to be a vote, with clear alternatives to mandatory catch and release, and with a clear outcome. Town meetings may not be representative depending upon who hears of them and can go. And short of boos or ovations determining whether most agree or not is not easy. Those who want a certain agreement might see one that is not there, or verifiably so anyway. With a website, or a touch town phone a vote shouldn't be that difficult, or expensive. And a vote would put an end to suspicions that one's preference is getting short shrift by talk of pleasing everybody. I am not sure the job of a wildlife biologist is to please people anyway. Rather their expertise lies in gathering information so that they could inform people what will happen to wildlife populations if X is done or Y is not done. Perhaps people today would rather be pleased than informed. And a vote of the uninformed who care only of being pleased, might well terrify any one who cares about wildlife. But the vote would not be on whether there is a problem or not with a population, or what would fix that. These are (disputable) matters of fact and voting does not effect them. Where being pleased and voting comes in is where there are more than one solution, though the matter is more complex than this. For if a population contains fewer members because of keeping, but stabilizes there showing no risk just fewer fish then determining which it is to be would be a matter for voting. Catch and release is promoted not only by those who think there is a problem that it would solve, but also merely because they prefer it as Vagard does. Vagard wants mandatory catch and release because he thinks the fishing will be better, that is people, including himself, will catch more fish, this at the expense of others being able to keep a fish or two, or even fishing at all. That is simply being greedy.

There are other issues.

There is the moral question. You may not take this seriously but I do. I believe that it is acceptable to catch and kill a fish for supper, though some would question even this. But I also think there is something morally suspect in intending to catch a fish only to release it. There is no question in my mind that being caught is a traumatic experience for a fish. And for what? Not to provide us supper, where generally something gets killed, but merely to take pleasure in the

fish's struggles. In addition there is the matter of waste, also a moral matter. Williamson River rainbows run large and have big mouths, and rarely rise to small dry flies that would make little damage. They tend to take streamers deeply where even barbless they would be difficult to remove: the same with lures I would guess, but do not know. Stressing a fish and releasing it in warm water also contribute to the mortality rate. What that rate is I do not know. I imagine it varies depending on the fish, water temperature and tackle. What is evident is that sooner or later a fish will die, and with catch and release you simply have to throw it back, or risk a large fine. I really dislike fishing in an area where the fish run mostly smaller than the size limit. For you know you will kill some, and the more small fish you have to go through to catch a legal one, the more small fish you will kill. At least in this case you are intending to kill something for supper. With catch and release you are intending to catch fish despite the fact that in being caught they may die and be wasted. That makes fishing so viscerally unenjoyable for me I do not wish to do it. If there is a limit on fish, and I catch that limit, I quit, even if that means I have fished only for a few minutes. For then I would be fishing catch and release with all its moral failings. With the minimum limit of one, after the keeping of which one would (I hope) be legally obliged to quit there never would be a (legal sized) fish wasted. What is really obscene is the catch and release of dozens of fish rather than the keeping of one or two. One even hears talk of one hundred fish days, clickers used to keep count. Call this an aesthetic matter if you will, but I find this gross. I suspect a good many catch and releasers want to fish all day, or a large part of one, thus not only traumatizing higher numbers of fish, but injuring/killing more as well. The trouble with catch and releasers is that they have no sense of enough. And someone who is not torn by seeing a fish bleeding at the gills as it swims off to die has no respect for wildlife. Something also morally less than appealing is the idea of releasing fish to be caught over and over again. More catches for people like Avgard mean "better fishing". One hears that in the Yellowstone the fish get so accustomed to being hooked that when they are they simply go limp. Lee Wulfe (sp?) famously said that a fish is too valuable to catch only once. I find this, in order, disgusting and disgustingly commercial. Yes guides and outfitters have a commercial interest in keeping catch rates up (while fishing all day), but they can always only take clients if they release their catch, and have no business restricting me.

What then about the fishery. Ovgard says that there is no telling how many fish are harvested each year. But if this is true then the Fish and Wildlife people have no reason to think that there is a new problem which catch and release could solve. Their reasoning seems to be that there might be a problem, and it would be cheaper, safer and easier to institute catch and release than determine whether there is a problem or not. But why, if as Ovgard thinks, the Williamson fishery has maintained its status as "world class" would one even think there is a problem given the very limited ability to keep one fish with a season of little more than two months (above the bridge). Certainly if what Ovgard says is true there is no dire need or rush to institute catch and release before a study is made to see if there is a problem or not. One wonders whether there are even plans to get that information, since with catch and release installed there would be no need, though of course you would be safer still if proactively you prohibited all fishing. That would certainly treat "keepers" and "releasers" equally.

Not all research is that expensive. A simple mandatory catch report could be instituted perhaps with a season limit and fee. I would be happy to pay that extra fee. A couple of years of this would give a baseline to judge which way a population is going. Ovgard evidently thinks the fishing still "world class" whereas you must think it is sufficiently in trouble to call for immediate action. This would be a way to resolve such contrary views.

Proponents of catch and release think that having to put a fish back is no big deal. You can always buy a fish to eat at the grocery store. And they are right, about being able to buy a fish. But they are wrong as well. The prospect of a good fish supper of a fish you caught yourself adds focus to the fishing and makes a meal a memorable one. This is just as true as shooting a grouse over your own setter or eating corn out of your own garden or an apple off a tree you planted. This is living just a tiny bit, closer to nature.

I am only asking of you what is most reasonable. First, if you have evidence that there is an immediate problem make that evidence available, say on a web site. If you do not have any evidence, say so. Then tell us why the rush. And second, do not assume you know what would please everybody, or even most everybody as a fix for any problems you might find. Give some alternatives as to what would be biologically sound, some with, some without mandatory catch and release and let the people decide. Consider such options as even shorter seasons, keep and catch -and-release in different stretches of the river, size limits, tackle restrictions, restrictions in the lake itself (and one wonders whether the lakes would be effected by your proposal: tighter regulations there would certainly effect the take), and even season quotas. Some combination of these might make catch and release unnecessary, and that at least would allow me to fish.

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Bend, Oregon
June 29, 2015**

Public Correspondence

Regulation Simplification Mtg
June 29th 2015

Name	Phone	email
Sabe Parr	8312121201	sabe.parr@gmail.com
Yancy Lind	541 312 6821	yancy-lind@ml.com
Kathleen Schroeder	541 400-3185	kathleen.s.schroeder@gmail.com
LEE ANN ROSS	541312 2568	rossleann@YALCO.com
Herb Blank	541-312-2568	hblank@yahoo.com
Louise Dunham	503-320-3886	louise.kathy.d@gmail.com
Bill Seitz	541-330-8186	wseitz@beuchbroodband.com
John Anderson	541-385-8693	JAnderson@beuchbroodband.com
Frank McKim	541 389-1449	quailtrail@comnet.com
CHARLIE SCHILLINSKY	541-213-6121	CASRODS47@GMAIL.COM
JOHN GARRISON	541 593 8394	info@GARRISONGUIDE.COM
FRANK CARIGLIA	541-4199117	HEADWATERS365@gmail.com

6/29/2015

Gabe Parr

- Formal change - what is cost savings realized
- Advertising
- Multi-year

Yenay - are we compromising science for simplicity?

How does the public provide feedback in process

What is process to engage

Commission mtgs or website

Why only protections for steelhead not native redband

Charlie - are there restrictions on non resident guides specifically Owyhee

Bill - opening other streams year round will help spread out pressure through the area

- supports removal of bait

Gabe - how do you gain access to look at all proposed changes? Website on July 27

Year round trout + SFS fishing in lower river strongly supported

Yenay - how to get a handle on poaching problem? Will this help? simplicity will help, but not panacea

Simplicity will help remove confusion

6/29/2015

Young - what do you expect the public opinion to be to the process. How will Commission view public input. What is best way to gauge support

Blackwater trout - needs special protection
- need better outreach + education

LeAnne - year round angling in streams will expose spawning fish to wading or reefs. Can you include information in regs to educate

Bend

Start 6:00 pm

Introductions

Explanation as to why we went through this process.

Powerpoint Presentation

Questions

Format, newsprint \rightarrow glossy. What is cost savings?

- Don't know yet. Ad sales help pay for regs. Should be big savings due to reduction in size of book & multiyear book.

Are we sacrificing biology for simplicity?

- 2 reasons for regs - biology & sociology

No bait to protect outmigrating anadromous species. Why don't we do that to protect native trout populations?

- protection of native fish taken into account

How do you want to receive feedback?

- Notes now, go to commission website, come to commission meeting

Do you need to schedule a time at the commission meeting?

Any changes to Metolius?

- Year round in upper river, no change in gear or bag

Does ODFW address # of out of state guides? Owyhee?

- Don't know. Marine board regulates guides, land managers have other restrictions

Applaud ODFW for changes to Crooked River.

Is there a public area to look at all of the changes?

- Yes

Another comment applauding the changes to increase opportunity.

Poaching is rampant. Will these changes improve enforcement?

- Should clarify regs for anglers so they don't inadvertently break rules

Will motor regulation be removed from Hasmev?

-Yes

If able to call OSP on the water, will get a fast response.

- McKenzie changes exempl. Will help anglers & OSP make things more black & white

Commissioners take public testimony into account. Does ODFW expect negative or positive testimony?

- All testimony is good since groups that are upset will show up to testify so ~~so~~ positive testimony is encouraged too. So far the support has been positive.

Thinks blackwater trout needs special emphasis for protection.

- Changes in regs (wild vs. Hatchery) will protect blackwaters since they are unmarked. East will be CTR for wild trout

Will there be education about avoiding redds since streams will be open all year?

- Should be part of Angler Ethics portion.

Michael Gauvin

From: Lind, Yancy <yancy_lind@ml.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 3:37 PM
To: michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us
Subject: Bend Regs Meeting

Thanks for the presentation last night. Good info. You guys are on the right track.

Yancy

Yancy Lind, CRPC®
Lind | White Group
Senior Financial Advisor | Vice President
Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management
541-312-6821 | 888-312-6821 (toll free)
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"The interest of our customers must come first." - Charles E. Merrill

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Michael Gauvin

From: Lind, Yancy <yancy_lind@ml.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 2:14 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us; brett.l.hodgson@state.or.us; Rod French; Lind, Yancy; Renee Schindele; Cliff Price; Dave Dunahay; Eric Steele; Frank Turek; Karen Kreft; Kari Schoessler; Lee Ann Ross; Peter Martin; Tim Schindele
Subject: Support for simplified angling regulations

To: Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission
Cc: Central Oregon Flyfishers Board of Directors, ODFW Staff

Commissioners,

Central Oregon Flyfishers is an angling club located in Bend with approximately 300 member families residing throughout Central Oregon and the rest of the state. We are an active club with year-round meetings, outings, and conservation activities where we work closely with our local ODFW field biologists. We are particularly proud of our education programs:

- Kokanee Karnival is an award-winning year-long fisheries and angling education program for 4th and 5th graders in the Bend-La Pine School District that is run in partnership with the local ODFW STEP biologist.
- Next Cast Flyfishers is a program for teens designed to introduce them to the sport of fly fishing.
- Adult education courses span the gamut from introductory classes run in conjunction with the Bend Parks and Recreation Department to advanced casting and fly tying.

I have been authorized by the COF Board of Directors to write to you in support of the proposed angling regulation changes, designed primarily to reduce complexity and increase angler participation. ODFW representatives previewed potential changes at a meeting in Bend on June 29 that was attended by a number of community members. At that meeting I heard many supportive comments without a single criticism.

Those supportive comments were in regard to the overall concept as well as specific changes proposed for our local waters, including:

- Catch & release for wild trout on lakes.
- Allow the use of an electric motor while actively fishing on Hosmer Lake.
- No bait on the Crooked River.
- Open the entire Metolius River to angling year round.
- Opening the lower Deschutes to fishing year round (with the understanding that The Tribes retain control of their bank).

Central Oregon Flyfishers strongly supports all of these proposals. Wild, native fish need to be protected, especially in places where planted fish are readily available for harvest. ODFW staff cannot recall the reason why the use of electric motors is currently banned while actively fishing on Hosmer Lake. Nor can they recall the reason why part of the Metolius is currently closed during the winter. Newly reintroduced steelhead in the Crooked River need protection, especially from anglers using bait. Opening the entire lower Deschutes to fishing year round will allow anglers much more opportunity to harvest hatchery steelhead, providing angler incentive and reducing the potential for spawning with wild fish.

We support the good work being done on this topic by ODFW and hope that you will approve their recommended changes.

Yancy Lind
Conservation Chair, Central Oregon Flyfishers

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Regulation Simplification Meeting

**La Grande, Oregon
July 1, 2015**

Public Correspondence

ODFW Regulation Mtg

7/1/2015

NAME	Phone	e-mail
JIM LAUMAN	541-534-5221	

LaGrande - mtg.

7/1/15

Willamette ^{Streams} - Eliminated the kids by not allowing bait.
- Goal. → to recruit not being met.

2 fish per day only - AN ISSUE

-OSP - Possession limits CONCUN.

Tim Schwartz →

-Wyoming Regulators →

→ work to line up structures w/ our reaches
for clarity for locations

Regulation Simplification Meeting

**Newport, Oregon
July 6, 2015**

No Public Correspondence

General

Public Correspondence

Amanda Mckenzie

From: Michael Gauvin <michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Amanda Mckenzie
Subject: FW: ODFW LCR trout fishery LOS July 2015
Attachments: ODFW LCR trout fishery LOS July 2015.doc

Categories: Commission

Mike Gauvin
Recreational Fisheries Management
Program Manager
Fish Division

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us
(w)503-947-6214
(c) 503-910-3059

From: Chris Knutsen [<mailto:chris.j.knutsen@state.or.us>]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 11:56 AM
To: Michael Gauvin (michael.w.gauvin@state.or.us)
Cc: Bruce McIntosh; Robert Bradley; Shannon Hurn
Subject: FW: ODFW LCR trout fishery LOS July 2015

Mike, please include the attached in the public record for angling regulation simplification. Chris

Chris Knutsen
District Fish Biologist
ODFW - North Coast Watershed District
4907 Third Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Phone: 1.503.842.2741 x233
FAX: 1.503.842.8385



Wild North Coast Trout Unlimited Chapter #213

“Moss Backs”

wildnorthcoasttu@gmail.com

9 July 2015

Chris,

I am writing on behalf of the Wild North Coast Chapter of Trout Unlimited to convey our chapter support to ODFW to modify and simplify regulations to allow a modest consumptive trout fishery in lower Columbia River tributaries. The chapter board voted to support this proposed regulation change after receiving additional background information from you and after extensive board discussions.

We support ODFW in your efforts to balance wild cold water trout and salmon fishing opportunities with conservation strategies based on the best available science.

As a new Trout Unlimited Chapter we look forward to working with you and ODFW in a positive and productive partnership, the common ground is the ground we all stand on in our north coastal watersheds.

Best WILD fishes,

Doug Ray WNCTU chapter Vice Chair/Conservation Chair (acting chair)

Michael Gauvin

From: Gary Galovich
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 1:08 PM
To: Michael Gauvin
Subject: FW: Proposed Regulation Changes

FYI... Also, I'm downstairs in the classroom right now if you want to visit.

From: Justin Blackmore [<mailto:justin.blackmore.ti5u@statefarm.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 12:26 PM
To: gary.m.galovich@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Regulation Changes

Hello Gary,

I am writing in regards to proposal to remove warm water fish regulations on the Columbia River and any other system with warm water fish for that matter. Currently there is a lack up public support for the actions of our States Fish and Wildlife Department and the goal of simplifying regulations is a great idea however using the guise of regulation simplification to alienate the warm water anglers of the state will further the lack of support for ODFW. I have spoken to so many warm water anglers and they are all pissed to say the least about this proposal. First of all there is no real evidence to show the removal of regulations for warm water fish will help any of the other fish in the system and many people could successfully argue it would hurt the salmon and trout fishery rather than help. What happens when there is an overabundance of tiny smallmouth bass in the river because the bucket brigade keeps all the healthy mature fish and won't bother with the 8"ers. We end up with more fish just smaller in size because no one wants them. The small fish can still eat other fish and the compete for the food base all other fish use and likely no real improvement for any other fish in the system will be seen. This is a political move and not one based on the best interests of the fishery or the anglers that enjoy warm water fishing. The very limited study on predation of salmon smolt on the Columbia from bass contains a very narrow scope for one small section of the river system next to a Dam. The Dam, being a main source of the salmon and trout population decline, is overlooked for the few numbers of bass seen feeding alongside it. That's like catching a murderer and arresting the gun and setting the guy free. This change does not address any issue other than to appease special interest groups and make them feel good while kicking another group of anglers in the gut. As a warm water angler I know we will always be the first to be thrown by the wayside which is evident in the previous removal of 1 of our 2 warm water biologists for the state. Warm water anglers know that in most cases our opinions and the fish we target are not important to this states Government. Please don't let our fisheries be ruled by politics instead of sound science. I urge you to really push for us on the warm water front and help show the warm water anglers in the state that we have a voice too. I also would really like you to share this at your meeting tomorrow so the other parties involved in this process can hear from someone that will be negatively impacted by this change.

Thank you,

Justin Blackmore
Central Oregon Bass Club President
Founder of Oregon State University Bass Club
541-915-4621

From: [mattyrademacher](#)
To: [ODFW Commission](#)
Subject: Fishing. Regulations
Date: Saturday, May 23, 2015 8:43:09 AM

Good morning;

I have been fishing in Oregon since 1970. I was born in 1966 in Portland, and lived in Gladstone all of my life. Currently I have been accepted into the Angler Education program, working under Jeff Fulop. Recently i was asked a question on the fishing reg's for the Crooked River. I was suprised to find out the regulations are WRITTEN in such a way that it is so confusing to anyone who is not currently a Guide or a lawyer. These Rules get so specific that not only does it turn the average non-fishing type or the mothers of oregon that they would rather go to a fish farm or not go at all.

Now I personally have read these reg's for years and years, I pride myself on knowing these rules, But. here lies the problem, They are way too spccific regaurding the areas and geographic locations of the boundries, I CANT stress this enough. Half the population dont even know where these rivers are, let alone where mile marker 4 , or the OFWD markers are or even what they are. So i suggest that imput from single mothers who dont even know what a trout is, SHOULD be the oncs who the regulations should be written for. At a third grade level, not at the level of very smart fishing savy people, I say this because I Audit Inspection Techniques from government companys like Pratt and Whitney, Boeing, Snecma etc. the fishing reg's are way harder to read and figure out where when and who and how to fish in oregon. 75 percent of the ones who do fish dont read um anyway. They just want to go take their familys to go fishing. but get TURNED OFF by the HUGE complicated rule book that is. too specific to hardcore fly and year around fishing fanatics.

So in conclusion;

If the reg's were written so the average NON-FISHING. single mother who never fished before and is from another state, can easily figure out where to take her kids and new boyfriend fishing, it would be beneficial and bring in more revenue because more people could go fishing and notbe so intimidated. thank you

Matty Rademacher

From: mattyrademacher
To: [ODFW Commission](#)
Subject: Fishing Reg's
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2015 9:39:57 AM

Good Day.

I had some questions on how to interpret the Regulations. It seems that the People who write these very confusing Reg's are super smart. But they are written at a 13 th grade level, where as the general population of people only have a level of understanding at a 6th or 7th grade level. So what happens is they cant understand the confusing overwritten Reg's. and just fish wherever and whenever they want to. I am very versed on the reg's. and I have a College Degree and still get confused by the Regulations. Thank you

Matty Rademacher
503-432-0743. or
mattyrademacher@yahoo.com

1/25/14

Dear ODFW,

I would like to make a suggestion to help make the yearly sport fishing regulations better. My suggestion was that like the regular yearly one, I thought a chapter in the book should be dedicated to holding the newest regulations, and the changes made to the older regulations to show what changed over the past year. That way instead of reading every last detail and comparing it with the last years book you could just see what changed. This would save a lot of time and would also help the Oregonian abide and recognize the new regulations and laws created by your team.

Sincerely,

Camron Wright



16 years old
P.O. Box 27
Canyonville, OR
97417

Mr. Thomas B. VanDusen
P.O. Box 601
Christmas Valley, OR 97641-0601
December 30, 2014

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Dept
Fish Division, Angling Regulations Coordinator
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Sir:

1. Regulation on the Long Tom River; times for "catch and release" read as follows: "Open Jan 1 to April 24 and November 1 to December 31..."

Another Example:

2. Siskiyou Island Wildlife Area: "Closed all areas January 1 - April 15 and October 1 to December 31."

Wouldn't it make a better presentation to make the regulated dates run in a congruent manner such as:

1. November 1 to April 24 (and)

2. October 1 to April 15.

No gaps, no confusion. The split times that continue through to the next day look ridiculous.

I don't catch and release. It does more harm than good. The fish are dead the following day, washed up on the bank from barbless hooks going through the head structures rather than stopping, as barbed hooks do. I know that "catch and release" is politics it's also cruelty. It's better to catch and keep, and eat. The fish aren't wasted, dead on the bank.

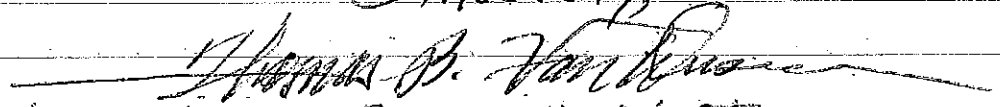
over please

A classic was a huge wiper, dead on the bank at Asta Reservoir, from a catch and release. That fish was worth 20 good servings, not the "few little morsels" of FDA guidelines servings. Where's the logic in the waste of that fish. With Oregon's LOW TAKE LIMITS, it makes sense only to fish at times and places that one can TAKE WHAT YOU CATCH.

I haven't fished for quite a while now, due to the "GOTCHA" regulations in this ridiculously politically regulated state. Shame on Oregon for making fishing stressful and difficult, rather than an enjoyable experience. You guys need to go JUMP IN A LAKE! Maybe the yellow water snakes someone put in there several years ago will "regulate" you in their "gotcha" kind of way. They have killed the fishing, and WILL CHASE YOUR BOAT when trolling.

The "turn in Poachers" form in the synopsis can cause trouble. What is to say someone who is turned in is poaching or not? There is bound to be the falsely accused, ... I thought the state game wardens determined who is poaching by checking licenses. "I don't like this guy. I'm going to turn him in on the mail in form." I would take such a tattle tale tit to court, as, I don't fish without a license, PERIOD. Leave this out of the synopsis!

Sincerely,


Thomas D. Van Nusen