

# **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

**Received May 23, 2018 to August 31, 2018**

**Subject: Opposition to Native Fish Society/Harvey  
Young Petition**

**Letters with additional comments attached**

**From:** Gil Mells  
**To:** [ODFW.Commission@state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.Commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Harvey Young  
**Date:** Sunday, August 12, 2018 4:20:36 PM

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I'm opposed to this proposal.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** Ron Morro  
**To:** [ODFW.Commission@state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.Commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Retention of Wild Steelhead  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 9:43:03 AM

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The Harvey Young petition to prohibit retention of Wild Steelhead is wrong. Many people including those with disabilities fish and enjoy our Chetco river They have a unique opportunity to catch a fish with easy access. They and the rest of us catch and retain far less fish than the guides motoring up the river for another pass in front of social security bar. If you want to improve the river limit the motors and raise the licenses for out of state guides and non residents.

Our residents pay with their money and labor to improve our rivers. Give us a fair share to fish and keep 5 Wild Steelhead a year. Thank you.

Ronald P. Morro

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Michelle Tate](#)  
**To:** [April H Mack](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Winter steelhead.  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 3:01:35 PM

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Fishing Regulation PC

**From:** Larry Jonas <larryjonas48@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 12, 2018 1:20 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Winter steelhead.

August 7, 2018

Petition to Maintain Current ODFW Wild Winter Steelhead Regulations To Continue To Allow Harvest Of Wild Winter Steelhead In All Of Oregon Southwest Streams.

Ten good reasons to deny the petition/proposal by Harvey Young which proposes to require the release of all wild winter steelhead in SW zone streams.

1. We have a high abundance of wild winter steelhead in these streams.
2. This zone has little public access, comparably little fishing pressure, pristine habitat with very high juvenile steelhead densities. It is a steelhead mecca!
3. With the exception of the Rogue, which is a unique and complex river system, these rivers have less than 10% of the available steelhead habitat that is even accessible to fishermen. The Chetco for example, (perhaps the most popular and heavily fished river) has 180 miles of available winter steelhead habitat. Only about 12 miles of this river are accessible to fishermen due to the lack of roads and the rugged topography. The North and South Forks are closed to steelhead angling, and the mainstem above the S. Fork confluence is virtually wilderness. Even the most ardent river guide can only fish 8 hours a day due to daylight availability. That's 30% of the time. Add in some high-water events and inclement weather and it decreases to about 10%. In short, even the most hardcore fisherman can access only about 10% of the river, 10% of the time. There is plenty of escapement! Some of these streams get almost no fishing pressure!
4. Science shows that sport fishing for WW steelhead has little or no effect on a populations overall viability. (Coastal Multi-Species Plan 2014, page 65)
5. The science supports our current regulations.
6. The "Harvey petition" has no biology, no science behind it.
7. About 80% of Oregon anglers support harvest of WW steelhead. (CMSCP 2014, page

65)

8. Harvest of WW steelhead is a large part of our economy.
9. This petition/proposal is largely driven by the Native Fish Society. Look at their website and they'll tell you that they are anti-harvest and anti-hatchery. Look what they've done to WA state. If given a chance, they will run our steelhead fisheries into the ground.
10. Our culture of maintaining a sustainable yield, while providing a consumptive harvest is what sells hunting and fishing licenses. To go away from this heritage will diminish our management capabilities.

Please give the resource, the public, and most of all our biologists and their life's work, the respect that they are due and rule on the side of science.

Please vote to maintain our current steelhead regulations and the right to harvest wild winter steelhead at the current rate.

**From:** [Michelle Tate](#)  
**To:** [April H Mack](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Wild Salmon "Catch and Keep" not release.  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 3:31:46 PM

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pc

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**From:** Boutique Events <dmarieboutique@live.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 10, 2018 8:12 AM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Wild Salmon "Catch and Keep" not release.

Dear ODWF Commission Members,

It has been brought to our attention that Harvey Young and the native fish society have a proposed to you, to make wild steelhead in Southern Oregon, "catch and release" only. We frequent the Rogue River, Chetco, and other local rivers, and it is our belief that our runs of wild steelhead are very healthy and that we should continue to be able to keep five fish a year as the current rules allow.

We are opposed to changing the current rules, and encourage you to take into consideration the many livelihoods this will affect, not to mention the many fishermen/women who appreciate fishing the waters and returning home with their prize catch.

Thank you very much for your time and positive consideration to this matter.

Sincerely....

David and Deborah Levendusky

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**From:** [Michelle Tate](#)  
**To:** [April H Mack](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Wild steelhead  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 3:32:08 PM

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PC

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

From: Terry Kennedy <goldbeachfishing@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, August 9, 2018 2:39 PM  
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us  
Subject: Wild steelhead

My name is Terry Kennedy I am a resident of Southern Oregon. I live in Gold Beach and have Fish the rivers in Southern Oregon for the past 45 years. I would like to express to the commission that I strongly oppose catch and release of all wild steelhead. A lot of our streams here only have wild steelhead. The runs all seem to be very healthy and lots of returning fish. I would like to Request for the the commission to keep our limit of five wild fish a year in place.

Sent from my iPhone Thank you for your time Terry Kennedy



Wild Rivers Fishing, PO Box 1646, Brookings, OR 97415 - (541) 813-1082 - [www.wildriversfishing.com](http://www.wildriversfishing.com)

Aug. 27, 2018

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Commissioners,

This comment is regarding the petition to restrict harvest of wild steelhead in southwestern Oregon.

I am a full-time fishing guide living and working from my hometown of Brookings, Oregon. I spend as many, or more days, as any other guide on the Chetco each fall and winter.

I admire and respect petitioner Harvey Young and his desire to protect winter steelhead on the Chetco and other Oregon rivers, but feel a change to the fishing regulations is unwarranted and has no scientific basis. ODFW staff has not made any finding that wild winter steelhead in Southwestern Oregon are in need of increased harvest restrictions to maintain sustainable populations.

There are other rivers, notably the Smith River in Northern California, where restrictions on wild steelhead harvest have shown no impact in increasing numbers of fish. Habitat, ocean conditions and predation from marine mammals, other fish, and birds have a bigger impact on salmon and steelhead populations and run size. Wild steelhead runs are healthy on the Chetco, Rogue, Elk and Sixes rivers. ODFW's management of these fisheries has been successful at protecting fish populations while allowing limited harvest of wild fish. This is commendable.

A change in the regulations will have a negative economic impact on rural Southwestern Oregon, where sportfishing is an important source of revenue during the winter for tourist-related businesses. It also will hit the blue collar angler who prefers to keep one or two wild fish a year for food.

Current regulations have been successful in maintaining a sustainable sport fishery on the Chetco and other Southwestern Oregon rivers. This petitions should be denied.

Sincerely,

Andy Martin

**From:** Christa Brasseur  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Steelhead SW zone  
**Date:** Monday, August 27, 2018 10:51:42 AM

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Dear commissioner,

I'm a life long Oregon resident and outdoorsman. I'm employed at Mercy Flights And I've been hearing for months that you are considering eliminating harvest of wild winter steelhead here in the SW zone.

Please do not do this. I'm requesting that you maintain current regulations. You should be increasing opportunity, not taking it away.

Sincerely,

Beaux Brasseur

Sent from my iPhone



# City of Brookings

898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415  
(541) 469-1104 Fax (541) 469-3650 TTY (800) 735-1232  
[jpieper@brookings.or.us](mailto:jpieper@brookings.or.us); [www.brookings.or.us](http://www.brookings.or.us)

**Mayor Jake Pieper**

May 30, 2018

Michael Finley, Chair  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive  
Salem, OR 97302

Mr. Finley:

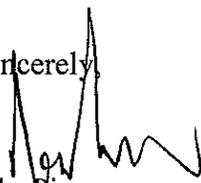
The Brookings City Council has voted unanimously to urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to maintain current regulations concerning the harvesting of wild winter Steelhead on the Chetco River.

We understand that a petition is being circulated to change the regulation of winter Steelhead to "catch and release" only. The City of Brookings adamantly opposes this change.

The current regulations attract many recreational fishermen to the Chetco River, and this activity is important to the local economy. We believe that the current regulation of one fish per day and five fish per year is very reasonable in management of the wild Steelhead and find no scientific basis for making a change.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jake Pieper  
Mayor

Cc: City Council  
City Manager  
Leonard Krug  
Steve Mazur, ODFW

ODFW

JUN 1 2018

Director's Office

**From:** [Michelle Tate](#)  
**To:** [April H Mack](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Retention of wild steelhead.  
**Date:** Monday, August 13, 2018 3:01:10 PM

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PC

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

From: Mark Stevens <mrstevens1988@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 1:50 PM  
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us  
Subject: Retention of wild steelhead.

Science and time show that the current regulations are working. If it's not broke, don't fix it.

Sent from my iPhone