



## Association of Northwest Steelheaders

6641 SE Lake Rd. • Milwaukie, OR 97222-2161

503-653-4176

[www.nwsteelheaders.org](http://www.nwsteelheaders.org) • [office@anws.org](mailto:office@anws.org)

September 30, 2019

Testimony concerning Lower Mainstem Columbia River Fisheries Management Reform

Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders (Northwest Steelheaders) concerning Columbia River Fisheries Management Reform.

The Northwest Steelheaders was founded in 1960 and is one of the oldest recreational fishing and conservation non-profit organizations in the Pacific Northwest. We have nine chapters in Oregon and Southwest Washington and approximately 1500 members, a great many of whom fish for salmon on the Columbia River. The mission of the Steelheaders is to enhance and protect fisheries and fish habitats for today and tomorrow, with our vision being abundant and sustainable fisheries in healthy watersheds.

The Northwest Steelheaders supports full implementation of the original Columbia River Fisheries Management Reform policy agreement.

As Oregon Governor Brown has noted, Oregon and Washington invested a great deal of time and effort in resolving conflicts and providing certainty for fisheries in the lower mainstem Columbia through adoption of the original reform policy agreement. We were thus extremely disappointed with actions taken by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission earlier this year that abandoned the fundamental commitments embodied in the Reform agreement to (a) improve the selectivity and conservation value of lower mainstem non-treaty commercial salmon fisheries through the replacement of gillnet fisheries with alternative mark-selective fisheries, and (b) optimize the economic and social benefits to our region through the prioritization of recreational fisheries on the mainstem.



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We call on the PRC, as well as the full Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions, to repudiate these broken promises and honor the commitments embodied in the original reform agreement.

Sincerely,

Tom VanderPlaat  
Board President

Chris Hager  
Executive Director

Association of Northwest Steelheaders  
*A Place to Fish and Fish to Catch*