

Southeast Zone
Correspondence

Southeast Zone Proposals

Category: Conservation

Nos: 335P and 343P

Page 1

No. 335P – Agency Lake

- Eliminate harvest of Reband trout in agency Lake
- **Existing rule:** bag limit 1 trout per day, use of bait allowed.
- **Proposed rule:** Change to catch-and-release only.

Rationale: *The purpose of this proposal is to protect the declining numbers of Redband trout impacted by increased fishing pressures and significant river related construction projects such as: Wood River wetlands construction projects; removal of Sprague River Dam, Levy removal on the Nature Conservancy; and Williamson River delta project. (Ed Miranda, JR, Randy Rigdon, Sid Mathis, members of Klamath County Guides Association.)*

No343P – Williamson River, Sections 2,3, and 3 which includes the mouth up to Kirk Bridge

- Eliminate harvest of redband trout in Williamson River.
- **Existing Rule:** Section 1: 1 per day, May 24 – Oct 31; Section 2: 1 per day, May 24 – July 31; Section 3: 1 per day, May 24 – July 31.
- **Proposed Rule:** Eliminate the retention of redband trout in Sections 1,2, and 3 of the Williamson River. Catch-and-release all seasons from the mouth of Williamson River to Kirk Bridge on Williamson River.

Rationale: *Decrease in number of redband trout. The reason for this change is due to three reasons. 1. Numbers of redband trout have been decreasing for the last five years and continue to do so. 2. River pressure on the river has more than doubled in the last five years with no end in sight. The kill of redband trout on the lower part of the river is out of control, whether legal or illegal there is an impact to the fishery. 3. Environmental impact mainly due from spraying on the upper part of the river and in populated areas. (Ed Miranda, Jr.; Randy Rigdon; Sid Mathis; and members of the Klamath County Guides Association.)*

Due to the pressure and the work on the Williamson River and changing the mouth, and all the pressure that's on it now, people moving in, fishing every day, we're concerned about the health of the fishery down the road if it's not preserved now it may be too late. We can reassess this in four years to see how it's going. We believe that Agency fish count is down and we need to get ahead of it now before it's too late.

We agree with the above proposal with no bait restrictions in Agency only. The catch-and-release line should be from the south end of the Straights, all of Agency Lake and 4-mile. The Straights connect Agency Lake with Klamath Lake.

We the undersigned agree with the above proposal.

	Printed Name	Signature	Address
1	DAVID L GERARD	<i>D L Gerard</i>	37325 LINDOC POINT RD #16 CHILWELL, OR 97624
2	Janet Gerard	<i>Janet Gerard</i>	32323 Madoc Rd Chilwell OR 97624
3	DON JOHNSTON	<i>Don Johnston</i>	210 LYTTON ST KLAMATH FALLS OR 97601
4	Randy Madden	<i>Randy Madden</i>	3930 Bristol Ave Klamath Falls OR
5	Andy Matisak	<i>Andy Matisak</i>	5050 Sunset Ridge Rd. Klamath Falls Oregon
6	Randy MATHISAK	<i>Randy Matisak</i>	5050 Sunsetridge rd Klamath Falls OR 97601

Southeast Zone Proposals

Category: Conservation
 No.: 335P

Agency Lake

Page 8

	Printed Name	Signature	Address
7	186 Andy Whitman	<i>Andy Whitman</i>	5125 Alva Ave. ^{Klamath Falls OR 97603}
8	187 Quinn McBain	<i>Quinn McBain</i>	8322 Rockinghorse Ln. K Falls ⁹⁷⁶⁰³
9	188 A Gillis	<i>A Gillis</i>	Klamath Falls
0	189 Jeff Schumann	<i>Jeff Schumann</i>	PO Box 242, Keno, OR, 97627
1	190 Tim Wagoblast	<i>Tim Wagoblast</i>	7733 Doregal, K Falls, OR 97603
2	191 Wally Kees	<i>Wally Kees</i>	6211 Hwy 59 Klamath Falls
3	192 Doug White	<i>Doug White</i>	2627 Bisbee K Falls
4	193 Orlando Boorman	<i>Orlando Boorman</i>	5742 Airway Dr K Falls
5	194 William L. Heryford	<i>William L. Heryford</i>	4617 Larry Pl. Klamath Falls
6	195 Jerry A Schumann	<i>Jerry A Schumann</i>	4115 Hwy 140 West Klamath Falls
7	196 James Keltze	<i>James Keltze</i>	204 W Eldorado K Fall 97601
8	197 Fern Steers	<i>Fern Steers</i>	1111 Old Fork Rd - 5 Falls
9	198 Chantel Downing	<i>Chantel Downing</i>	Klamath Falls
0	199 Melinda Downing	<i>Melinda Downing</i>	85A Rockinghorse Ln. K Falls. OR 97603
1	200 Francine Webber	<i>Francine Webber</i>	Klamath Falls OR.
2	201 Steve Soffell	<i>Steve Soffell</i>	80463 Klamath Falls, OR
3	202 Steve Frey	<i>Steve Frey</i>	9221 Hill Rd Klamath Falls, OR
4	203 Chad Elbert	<i>Chad Elbert</i>	5011 Burgdorf Rd, Bonanza, OR 97623
5	204 Tyler Congleton	<i>Tyler Congleton</i>	5184 Chestnut Ln K Falls 97601
6	205 Brett Carroll	<i>Brett Carroll</i>	109 Hawthorne St. K-Falls, 97601
7	206 JOHN ALLEN	<i>John Allen</i>	5407 SIERRA CT K-FALLS 97601
8	207 DAVID PLUMMER	<i>David Plummer</i>	4444 CROSBY AVE
9	208 KEVEN WILLIAMS	<i>Keven Williams</i>	5507 Delaware Ave
0	209 John Singer	<i>John Singer</i>	25440 2nd St Chilocaw 97624
1	210 MARE SPONG	<i>Mare Spong</i>	1341 Wild Plum Ct KF 97601
2	211 JAKE NELSON	<i>Jake Nelson</i>	238 N LAGUNA SE KLF 97601
3	212 GARY BRUNOLD	<i>Gary Brunold</i>	2021 Lakeshore Dr KF 97601
4	213 NICK STRAMM	<i>Nick Stramm</i>	2023 N. ELWOOD APT 2 Klamath Falls 97601

Southeast Zone Proposals

Category: Conservation
 No.: 335P

Agency Lake

Page 7

	Printed Name	Signature	Address
158	Debra Brunold	<i>Debra Brunold</i>	2021 Lakeshore Dr. Klamath Falls ⁹⁷⁶⁰¹
159	Walt Davis	<i>Walt Davis</i>	4045 ALTAMONT DR KFALLS, OR 97603
160	JASON DASSEL	<i>Jason Dassel</i>	7019 Reader Rd K Falls 97603
161	Kevin Noble	<i>Kevin M. Noble</i>	5120 Miller Ave. KFalls, OR 97603
162	Scott Gelhardt	<i>Scott Gelhardt</i>	4818 Larry Pl, KFalls, OR 97603
163	Megan Hunt	<i>Megan Hunt</i>	4444 Crosby K. Falls, OR 97603
164	JENA CLOVER	<i>Jena Clover</i>	5407 Harlan Dr. KFalls, OR 97603
165			
166			
167			
168			
169			
170			
171			
172			
173			
174			
175			
176			
177			
178			
179			
180			
181			
182			
183			
184			
185			

Central Zone
Correspondence



Oregon Bass Federation Nation

Affiliate National B.A.S.S. Federation

Marla Rae, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406 Cherry Avenue NE.
Salem, Oregon 97303

August 30, 2008

Chair Rae,

I am writing this letter because I'm pretty useless as a presenter in front of the Commission. I was unable to say several things that I think are important considerations in the Prineville Res. Crappie regulation proposals 326P and 327P.

Proposal 327P would establish an 8 inch minimum size for retention of crappies. Proposal 326P is an alternate proposal that would establish the minimum length of 6 inches for retention.

ODFW has concluded that increasing the size of the minimum fish for harvest to 8 inches will result in fewer pounds removed by anglers. We agree that this is the likely outcome, especially in the first year that the regulation is in place.

The proposals intend to address a social issue that is seen as a problem by the recreational crappie angler that retains only the crappies over 8 inches long. They feel that the total number of Crappies available for them to harvest is out of proportion to the total number of Crappies available for harvest. Their feeling is that because large numbers the crappies are being taken as small as 3 inches, that it is effecting the average size available. Their logic says that those taken out early will not be growing into the larger size. They contend that the total number of pounds removed does not equate to an acceptable basic yield recreational fishery. The perception of many locals here is that a number of the angling population are retaining every fish in order to supply restaurants in the Portland area. In addition we know that since Washington State has added limits to many of their waters, the number of boats with Washington numbers has increased.

Biologists in other northern tier states have tell us that in order for us to determine what the optimum crappie fishery is, we must allow all the crappies to spawn at least once. They said over time nature will handle the rest of the effort.

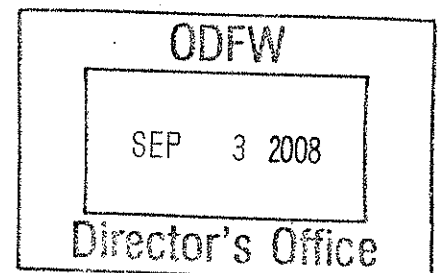
The local anglers have no problem with others harvesting fish. However, they do feel that size does matter to the ethical angler. They equate a 3 in. crappie to killing a 3 in. bass or trout. We ask that you show that you value the warmwater recreational fishery by approving 327P.

The warmwater minimum task list that was presented to the Commission in April 2001 contained the same points.

The alternate 6 inch proposal 326P would be a small step in the right direction if we can't go straight to the right thing.

Sincerely,

Chuck Lang, Conservation Director
Oregon BASS Federation Nation



Southwest Zone
Correspondence

Rhine Messmer

From: Michael Strupp [amstrupp@web.de]
Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2008 7:34 AM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: killing of Umpqua winter steelhead

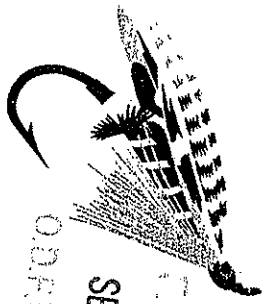
Dear Sirs,

hello from a concerned Umpqua winter steelhead fisherman: please allow a ten-year moratorium on the killing of wild Umpqua winter steelhead. Facet: to obtain enough evidence pro or con to justify actions i.e. state fish regulations.

Sincerely, Michael Strupp

P.S. I have fished the Umpqua main stem and the North Fork since the early 60's.

"Hostage" mit Bruce Willis kostenlos anschauen!
Exklusiv für alle WEB.DE Nutzer. <http://www.blockbuster.web.de>



SEP 02 2008

ODFW MAIL DESPT.

John M. Davis, M.D.
1752 Golddust Drive
Sparks, NV 89436
775-626-5915

27 August 08

ODFW

Dear Sirs,

Wild Steelhead, Gold Stream and
Winter fish should be the top priority of
fish management.

I have travelled annually for 25 years
from Reno, Nevada to Key fish for Steelhead
for one to two weeks. I have encountered
fishermen from all over the country and
indeed other parts of the world. It is so
not looking for quantity but rather
to have a fish in the most beautiful
river in the world.

How we deal with our resource,
both short and long term, determines our
legacy. British Columbia has
enlightened regulations in the Skeen

System -
10 years

all catch and release of Steelhead,
batter nets and no holding fish -
even with traps they have problems
with commercial salmon
keeping with the migration times of certain
river runs.

It is the Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife take a long
range perspective for future generations.
No harvest of any wild Steelhead.

Sincerely,

John M Davis

John M. Davis

1752 Golddust Dr

Sparks, Nevada

89436

Willamette Zone
Correspondence

Rhine Messmer

From: Goldsby Larry [goldsby_larry@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 10:20 PM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: deadline on the Molalla River

Why don't we just close all fishing on the Molalla River. There is so little area that is available to bank fish on the river right now so just shut the whole river down. What purpose does it serve to move the deadline down to Pine Creek other than to take away an area that has FREE BANK ACCESS. There are still people who would like to go fishing or hunting with out having to pay a landowner for that opportunity or even keep and eat what they catch. I have lived in this state my entire life and I am disgusted with what little opportunities there are any more to fish or hunt. Who's interests do you serve?

Rhine Messmer

From: bobs email [bjbain@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 31, 2008 11:21 AM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: fishing regs

Dear ODFW: I have seen the degradation of the trout fishery first hand on the Santiam and McKenzie Rivers over the course of some 50 years of fishing them, and enthusiastically applaud the effort to reinstitute catch-and-release, fly-and-lure rules for them along with other Western Oregon streams. The day of subsistence fishing for trout is long over, and if there are to be any trout to furnish future fishermen some pleasurable experiences (and to survive as resident species) this measure must be taken, in fact is long overdue. It was a vast, and maybe irredeemable, mistake, to rescind this measure some 15 years or so ago, when it was first attempted to be established, and the fishery has suffered immeasurably. It's too late for me, but future fishermen and all their support industries will benefit!

Yours very truly,
Robert V. Bain
Salem

Rhine Messmer

From: Ted Chudy [tedchudy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 11:14 AM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: McKenzie changes

Ted Chudy

1395 E. Briarcliff Lane
Eugene, Oregon 97404
541-461-2898

Re: comments on proposed McKenzie changes

I have been taking my nephew down the McKenzie for several years now, on the stretch between Finn Rock and Helfrich.

He was learning how to fish, and we used bait - a single Salmon egg on a hook below a small splitshot sinker. I spent a LOT of time untangling lines and re-tying hooks until he learned to keep his line off the bottom.

He is now nine years old, can untangle most of his snarls, does a pretty good job of not snagging the bottom, and catches a few fish. It's a lot of fun for both of us.

Your proposal to ban bait on that stretch of the river will preclude him from fishing there.

Casting lures in fast water takes years of practice, and many lost lures. A nine year old child just can't do it. At a cost of \$2-3 per lure it would cost me too much to replace what he would lose on snags, not to mention the amount of time and frustration of re-tying lures over and over again.

Our trips are a combination of fishing in slower water and enjoying white-water rafting, with the highlight of the trip being Martin's rapids before we take out.

The ban on bait tells him you can either raft the rapids or fish somewhere else. You cannot do both.

We see many children fishing on the banks, and it's the same situation for them. How do you expect kids to catch fish while learning to cast lures in fast water?

For myself its not an issue. I've already gone through the learning process and can use lures effectively in moving water.

If you feel you must ban bait on that stretch of the river, you should at least make an exception for children. Something like banning the use of bait after age 15.

The McKenzie guides may want to protect the native trout and Dolly Varden, but I suspect if their clients catch more fish because of the ban they see a little more money in their pockets.

Finally, I believe Dolly Varden are fish predators and not worm or egg eaters, and the only large native Rainbow trout I have ever had to release were caught on lures. I really don't believe children are a threat to these fish.

I urge you - Do not take this rafting/fishing experience from my nephew or other youngsters.

Rhine Messmer

From: John Sullivan [jgsulli@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 1:09 PM
To: Rhine Messmer
Cc: ZILLER Jeffrey S
Subject: Bait Fishing on the Upper McKenzie

Greetings,

Let me say upfront Jeff Ziller and your team are hard working respected people.

We have a 70 acre farm just east of Vida Oregon. I understand that the Fish and Wildlife commission has all but made up it's mind to ban bait fishing from Blue River to Goodpasture Bridge. I am a non working member of the McKenzie River Guides Association and have some understanding of the position taken at the annual meeting. However, we are third generation on the river and I am involved in many state and local commissions and boards so I have an understanding of how the process works when it comes to following staff recommendations. This I where I have concerns. I will write the commission but want to better understand how you are thinking about this. You are proposing taking a pastime and converting it into a purist sport. Let me explain: 1) You are "springing" this on the local businesses. I have asked the local business if anyone from the state or local district office has spoken to them about the impact on their businesses. To a person they said no. Seems to me you should have taken that into consideration since in some cases it will adversely affect them. They are also the ones who issue licenses and will not be doing that as a result of this ban since they lose money on the visa transactions. 2) There is no sunset provision to your recommendation. That makes it too easy "not to have any follow up on the part of staff". Would it not make more sense to set a two year ban and then follow up to see if there is any impact?. 3) You have made no accommodations for junior anglers. This last week end I had over 10 children and grandchildren fishing off my bank and experiencing a wonderful pastime. I have almost one mile of river bank on our farm. They will lose this right to the rights of the fish. I question government doing this. 4) If you were serious about this trial you would ban hatchery fish from this stretch as well in order to see if in fact the issue is bait or competition from the hatchery fish. I do not propose this since it would have further adverse consequences on local business but you can not argue that it makes your trial more scientific. 5) It was about 5 years ago that the Corp of Engineers changed the water temperature at Cougar Reservoir to the tune of \$41 Million. If your recall the program had limited success and caused the river to cloud for two years. At public meetings fish biologist and engineers claimed the science was good. Hardly, not to mention that for two year following that the state hatchery on the McKenzie suffered a one third lose in production to a disease. I have helped in the planting process valley wide and have a sense that the Cougar Dam project had more to do with the lose of native fish than the few that are caught on bait. Don't you? 6) As I mentioned we are third generation on the river. My brother in law who grew up on this river use to use spinners for his "bait" He has told me that he caught native fish with spinners more often than others were catching them with worms or eggs. Now I understand the issue of the bait being taken aggressively but it again demonstrates that you are not explaining your methodology entirely. By the way we have not caught a native fish on our banks with bait in the last number of years. So your argument falls short. I have asked enough questions for now and look forward to your response so I can write my letter to the commission. It is my intent to speak at the commission during the meeting on the 18th and 19th. Is there a particular time set aside for public comment or do we need to attend the full two days?

Lastly, I floated the river from Finn Rock to Helfrich Landing this last week end and noted a large number of bait fishermen, women and children along the way. I was wondering if you or Jeff Ziller have done that this summer?

At a minimum you should not try to pass this proposal until you take the time to get to know the people and business you are about to adversely effect.

9/2/2008

Thank you,

John G. Sullivan
Filacres
jgsulli@hotmail.com
541-896-3825

9/2/2008

Rhine Messmer

From: jsktrio@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 12:32 PM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: Proposed McKenzie bait ban.

Dear Sir,

I understand that you are seeking public comment on a proposed bait fishing ban on parts of the McKenzie River. Many young anglers, including my 10 year-old son, learn to fish on that stretch of river. He caught his first fish just below Finn Rock. We just returned from an afternoon of enjoyment, fishing and a bit of white water, a combination that I am afraid would not be possible if such a ban were in place. Youngsters tend to lose a lot of lures in fast water and need to learn with lightly baited lines. Don't deny the future anglers of Oregon that opportunity.

Perhaps a compromise could work: bait for those under 16, lures for older, more experienced fishermen.

James A. Reilly
2455 Emerald
Eugene
345-6770

[Get the MapQuest Toolbar. Directions, Traffic, Gas Prices & More!](#)

Rhine Messmer

From: Ginger19599@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2008 4:55 PM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: Angling Reulation Coordinator

Sept.7th 2008

To Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Angling Regulations

The River of No Return sounds like a movie I saw a long time ago.
we do not need a Re-Run.
I taught 3 of my children to fish the McKenzie.
the oldest now 48 years old. I have a grandson who has spent many hours fishing
there with me.
I have fished the McKenzie for 60+years.
I wonder how many people will not be able to fly fish or use lures
so not get to enjoy using the McKenzie that we all pay taxes for?????????
Please give this some more thought before closing the River to bait fishing.

Thank you

Bob Smith Springfield Or 97477

Psssst...Have you heard the news? [There's a new fashion blog, plus the latest fall trends and hair styles at StyleList.com.](#)

9/8/2008

12 AUG 2008

REGARDING BAIT FISHING -

I AM A SOON TO BE 60 YEAR OLD WOMAN. I HAVE BEEN FISHING SINCE I WAS 4 YEARS OLD. SOME OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES ARE OF FISHING WITH MY DAD AND GRANDPA. BESIDES THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT, WE BONDED. AT THE TIME WE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS CALLED BONDING.

CONVERSATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN WHISPERS. WHILE INTENTLY WATCHING THE END OF MY POLE I LEARNED ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH. I LEARNED ABOUT FAMILY, NATURE AND STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND AND ANIMALS. THE NIGHT BEFORE A FISHING TRIP WE WOULD GO OUT AND PICK NIGHTCRAWLERS. IT WAS ALMOST AS MUCH FUN, WITH DIFFERANT LESSONS LEARNED.

I DO NOT WANT TO SEE FAMILIES LOSE OUT ON THE LESSONS AND LOVE THAT ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE ABILITY TO BAIT FISH.

OVER THE YEARS MORE AND MORE PLACES HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED FROM BAIT FISHING. I THINK THE RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE LIFTED. IF BAIT FISHERMAN WEREN'T RESTRICTED TO A FEW AREAS THEY WOULD BE MORE SPREAD OUT. THESE AREAS WOULDN'T BE AS LIKELY TO GET FISHED OUT.

NOW THAT I'M OLDER I HAVE BAD KNEES AND HIPS. I CAN'T WALK FAR OR STAND FOR VERY LONG. I STILL LOVE TO FISH BUT AM UNABLE TO STAND LONG ENOUGH TO USE FLIES OR LURES. I IMAGINE THERE ARE MANY ELDERLY & PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PEOPLE WITH THE SAME PROBLEM. WE PAY TAXES AND SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE THE OREGON

WATERS AS MUCH AS THE PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD RIVER GUIDES & BOATS.

FISH WERE PUT ON THE EARTH TO HELP FEED PEOPLE. PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CLIP THE HOOK AND LINE OFF AT THE FISH'S MOUTH. THIS WOULD PROVE THE FISH SWALLOWED THE HOOK. PEOPLE COULD THEN TAKE IT HOME AND EAT IT. THIS SOUNDS MUCH BETTER TO ME THAN RIPPING THE GUTS OUT OF THE FISH JUST TO RELEASE IT TO GO TO WASTE IN THE RIVER. YES, I DO KNOW THAT OTHER CREATURES MIGHT EAT THE WASTE HOWEVER, I'D RATHER SEE IT FRYING IN A PAN.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO RESTRICT MORE AREAS FROM BAIT FISHING YOU NEED TO OPEN MORE AREAS. HOW ABOUT THE SIUSLAW?

AS LONG AS MEN ARE BREEDING RAINBOW TROUT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE RAINBOWS. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF THEY AREN'T WILD. YOU CAN'T EAT THE WILD RAINBOWS YOU CATCH AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN SEE THEM AS YOU'RE DRIVING BY.

PLEASE CONSIDER US OLDER FOLKS AND THE YOUNGSTERS.

THANK YOU -

Candace L. Morgan

Northwest Zone
Correspondence

PO Box 217
Manzanita, OR 97130
503 368 4648
orewent@nehalem.tel.net

August 29, 2008

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97303

Subject: 2009 Angling Regulation Proposals 132P and 150P

Commissioners:

There are two proposed changes to 2009 Angling Regulations that would affect the searun cutthroat populations in Oregon coastal streams.

Proposal 150P would allow a person to harvest two 8" cutthroat trout per day in the waters of the North Coast during the trout season from the end of May to the end of October, approximately a 23-week period.

Proposal 132P would prohibit the harvest of cutthroat trout in coastal streams along the entire coast and the use of bait when angling for trout.

I respectfully urge the Commission to accept proposal 132P and reject 150P.

A liberal policy that will be detrimental to wild searun cutthroat populations in Oregon coastal streams is being promoted by those who support 150P and oppose 132P. The policy allows the harvest of wild fish, from populations of uncertain health, before they can propagate and has questionable public benefit. The arguments presented for this policy do not stand up to careful scrutiny.

Argument 1: Kids need to kill wild fish to acquire and retain interest in fishing.

Comment: No evidence has been presented to support this. In general, I believe kids are way ahead of many adults in their understanding of the need for stewardship of the natural world and the need to protect wild species. My experience as a grandfather is that my grandchildren enjoy fishing for and catching searun cutthroat and are quite happy to release the fish they catch. We all know that the human population is increasing while native fish habitat is deteriorating. It should be made clear to kids that wild trout require our protection if they are to continue to provide angling opportunity for them into the future. ODFW's excellent hatchery programs already provide the opportunity for kids to catch and keep quality trout in lakes along the coast.

A cynical view of this argument could be that its promoters want to catch wild fish to stock their freezers. However, I prefer to believe that it comes from a misunderstanding of the needs and desires of the next generation of anglers.

Argument 2: Wild searun cutthroat populations are healthy and can support an open-ended harvest on all open coastal streams.

Comment: This argument appears to be supported by sparse anecdotal evidence. My own experience suggests that over the past three years there are fewer searun cutthroat where I fish than there were four to six years ago. There does not appear to be hard stream-by-stream data available showing that all coastal streams have healthy searun cutthroat populations. Even with a two fish per day limit, the number of searun cutthroat that might be harvested over a season in a hard-fished stream is limited only by the number of fish 8" and over. One experienced angler can easily kill a hundred or more fish in one season on a stream that does not have a population sufficient to support that kind of harvest. Multiply this by the number of anglers on the stream and you have a disaster in the making.

I believe the health of searun cutthroat populations in most streams is at best uncertain. It is not prudent to allow harvest of these fish coast-wide without evidence that all populations are healthy.

Argument 3: If the wild searun cutthroat populations deteriorate, ODFW can reinstate the catch and release policy.

Comment: About 20 years ago searun cutthroat populations were adversely affected by what many believe were poor ocean conditions. At the same time anglers were allowed to continue to harvest these fish. The populations became so depleted that ODFW wisely instituted a catch and release policy for them. It took a number of years for the populations to recover to the point where they provided even a marginal catch and release fishery. What has changed at ODFW to prevent this same situation from happening again? Can ODFW predict the timing and severity of natural events, such as poor ocean conditions, so that harvest policies can be changed before harvesting compounds the problem? Do they have a program in place to continually monitor the searun cutthroat populations in all coastal streams so that local populations do not become depleted?

The philosophy embodied in this argument will produce unfortunate cycles in the fish populations. As stocks struggle to recover from adverse natural conditions, the lag in management action compounds the problem by continuing to allow harvest of fish leaving anglers with a long stretch of a poor fishery.

For Columbia River salmon, both the harvest and the escapement are carefully monitored and fishing is regulated on almost a real time basis. This type of data is not available for searun cutthroat on the coast and for this reason a very conservative management policy of catch and release must be maintained for these fish.

A conservative position regarding coastal searun cutthroat would oppose 150P and support 132P.

As someone who started fishing for coastal cutthroat in the 1940's, I empathize with those who would like to see searun cutthroat abundance and harvest regulations return to what we all enjoyed in the last century. However we have seen too many changes in fresh water habitat and ocean conditions that continue to make the life of these fish more precarious. The desires of a few

anglers to retain wild searun cutthroat 8" or more in length must not override the desire of the great majority of anglers to see populations of large trout healthy enough for a catch and release fishery. These latter desires are clearly expressed by anglers in the 2006 Oregon Licensed Angler Survey¹. You can view the report of the survey on the ODFW web site at:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/docs/2006_oregon_fish_report.pdf

The graphs on pages 66, 99, 107, 108 and 110 of that report are particularly informative on the subject of trout retention, catch and release and what trout anglers consider a "quality" fish. Copies of these graphs are attached. Some conclusions that can be drawn from the data are:

About 80% of trout anglers are OK with catch-and-release, especially where conditions require it, as I believe is the case for the coastal searun cutthroat.

By a ratio of over 3 to 1, trout anglers say they would rather catch a fish in the 12" and above size range than an 8" fish. Searun cutthroat commonly reach the size of 12" and above, some going to 18" or more.

Over twice as many anglers feel that healthy trout populations should be managed for larger trout than for maximum harvest. I'm sure most would agree that populations of unhealthy or uncertain status should also be managed for larger trout to increase opportunities for reproduction. The retention of 8" cutthroat does not constitute management for larger fish.

Summary

A policy allowing the retention of searun cutthroat in Oregon coastal streams serves no public need and is contrary to the expressed preferences of licensed anglers. A liberal management policy in the past that allowed retention of searun cutthroat during a period of poor ocean conditions significantly damaged populations resulting in an unattractive fishery. Over time a conservative catch and release policy appears to have allowed populations to recover to where a credible fishery now exists in some waters, but probably still not at historic levels. In the absence of criteria for quantifying population health and of hard data showing healthy populations in every stream on the coast open to searun cutthroat fishing, the only rational and prudent course is to allow no coast-wide retention of cutthroat trout. Retention of cutthroat at this point greatly increases the risk of a repeat of the past with poor fish populations and disappointed anglers.

I respectfully urge the Commission to accept proposal 132P and reject 150P.

Sincerely,

Burton Went

Attachment: Excerpts from Oregon Licensed Angler Survey
Copy: Rhine Messmer, ODFW

¹ Oregon Licensed Angler Survey, Responsive Management, Harrisonburg, VA, 2006

Attachments

Excerpts from

Oregon Licensed Angler Survey

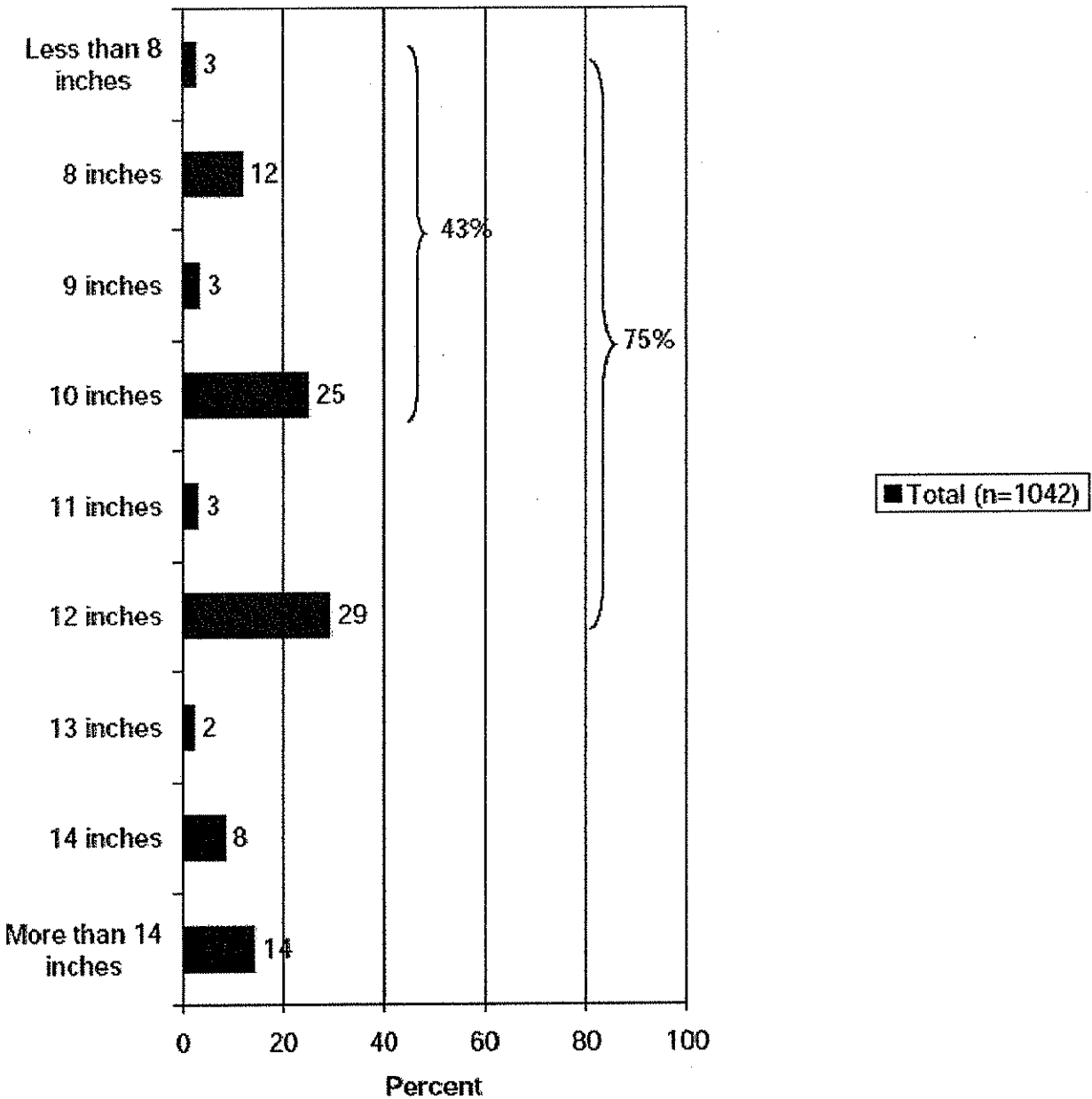
2006

Responsive Management

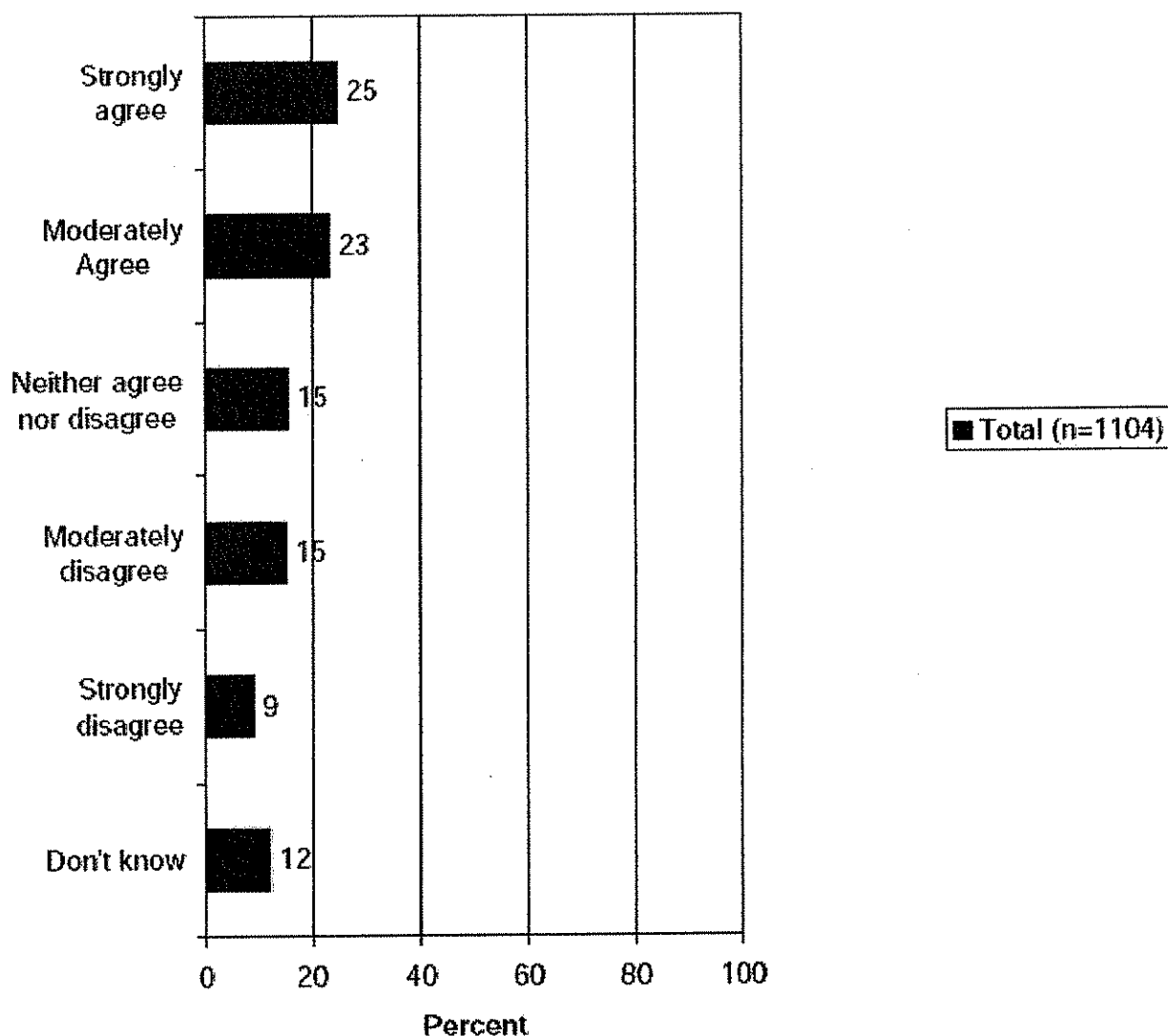
Harrisonburg, VA

Sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

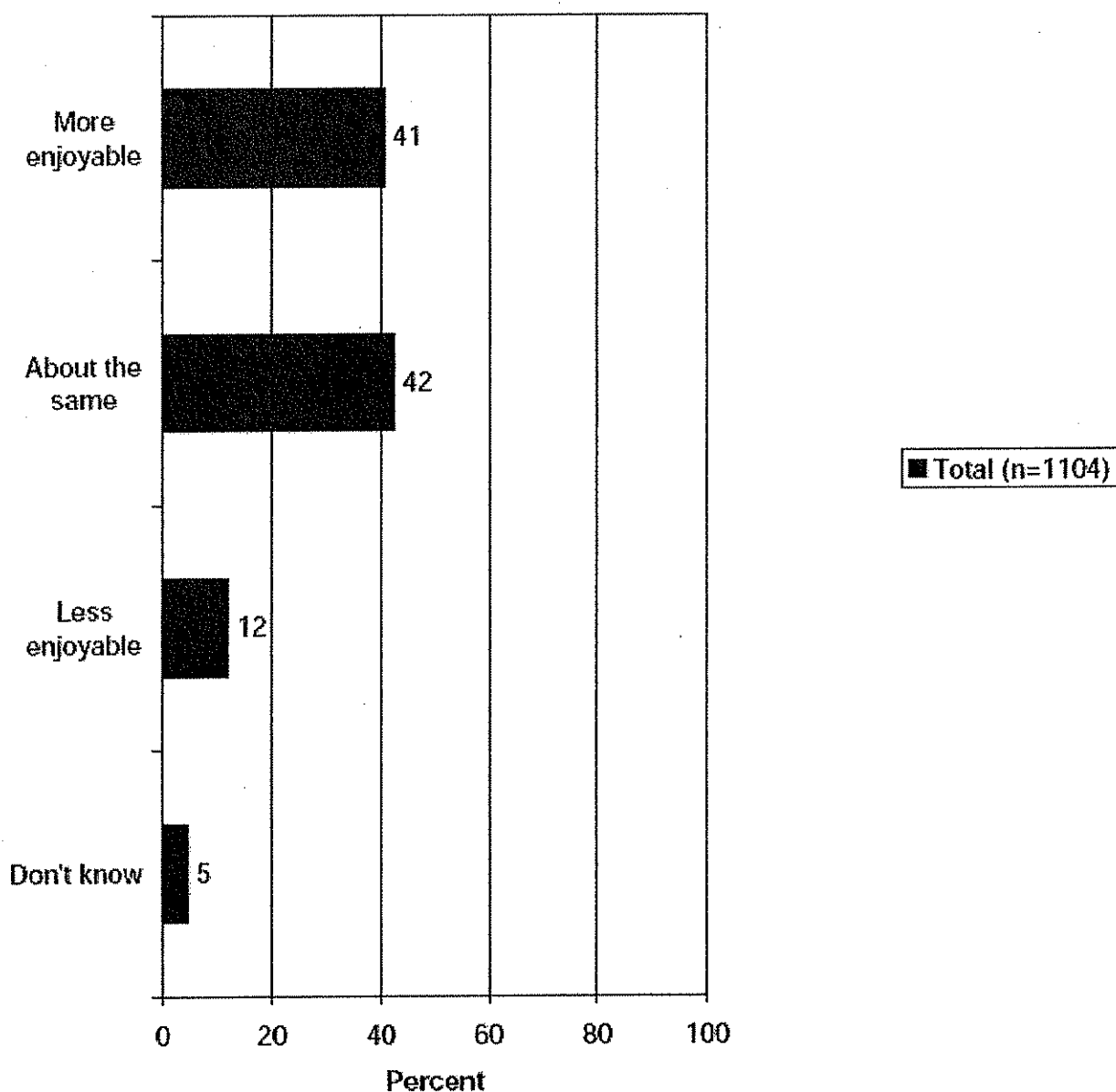
Q99. In inches, what is the minimum length you consider to be a quality trout? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Oregon in the past 12 months.)



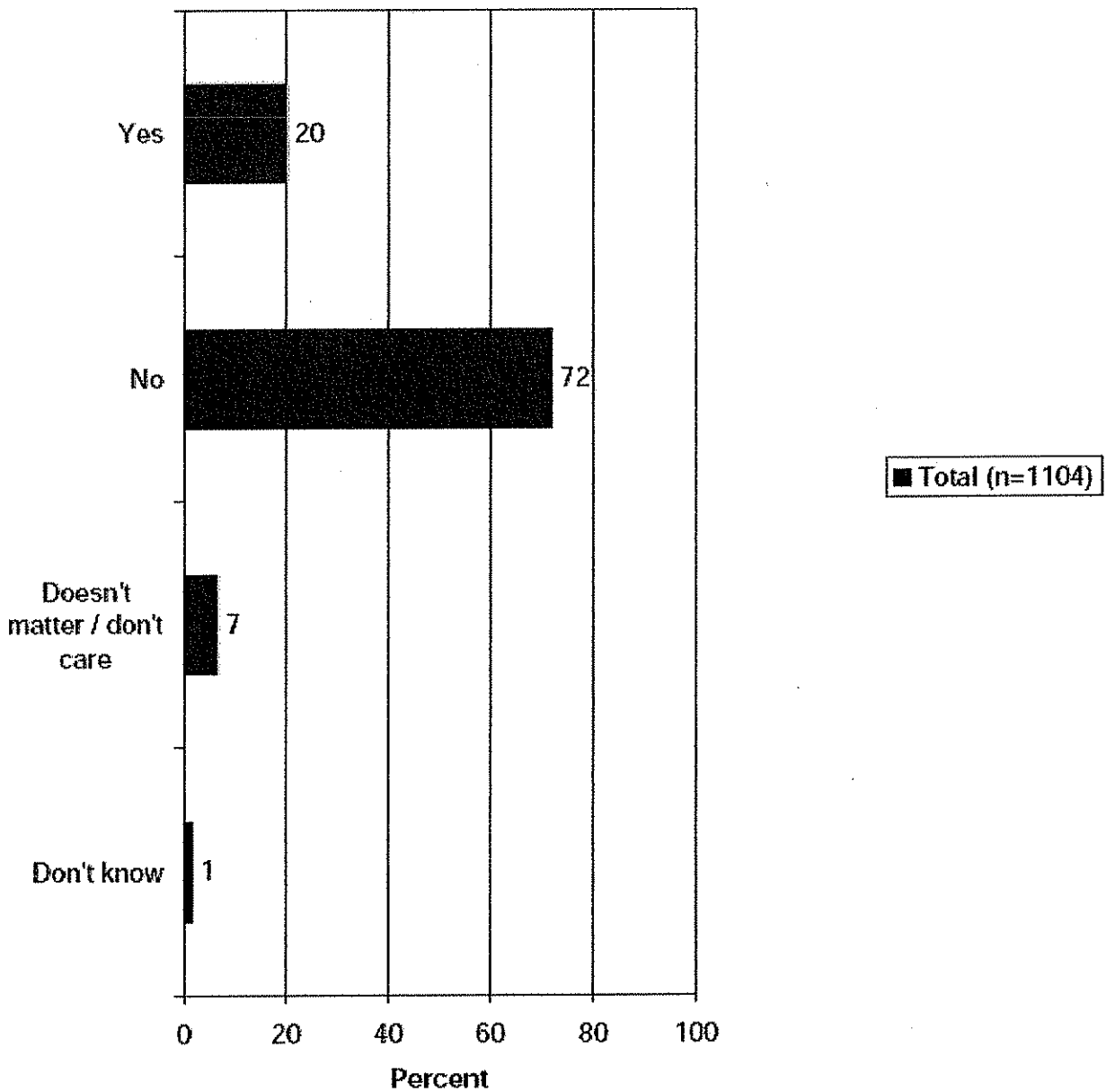
Q142. If a trout population is healthy, do you agree or disagree that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife should manage fisheries for larger trout rather than maximize the number of trout harvested? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Oregon in the past 12 months.)



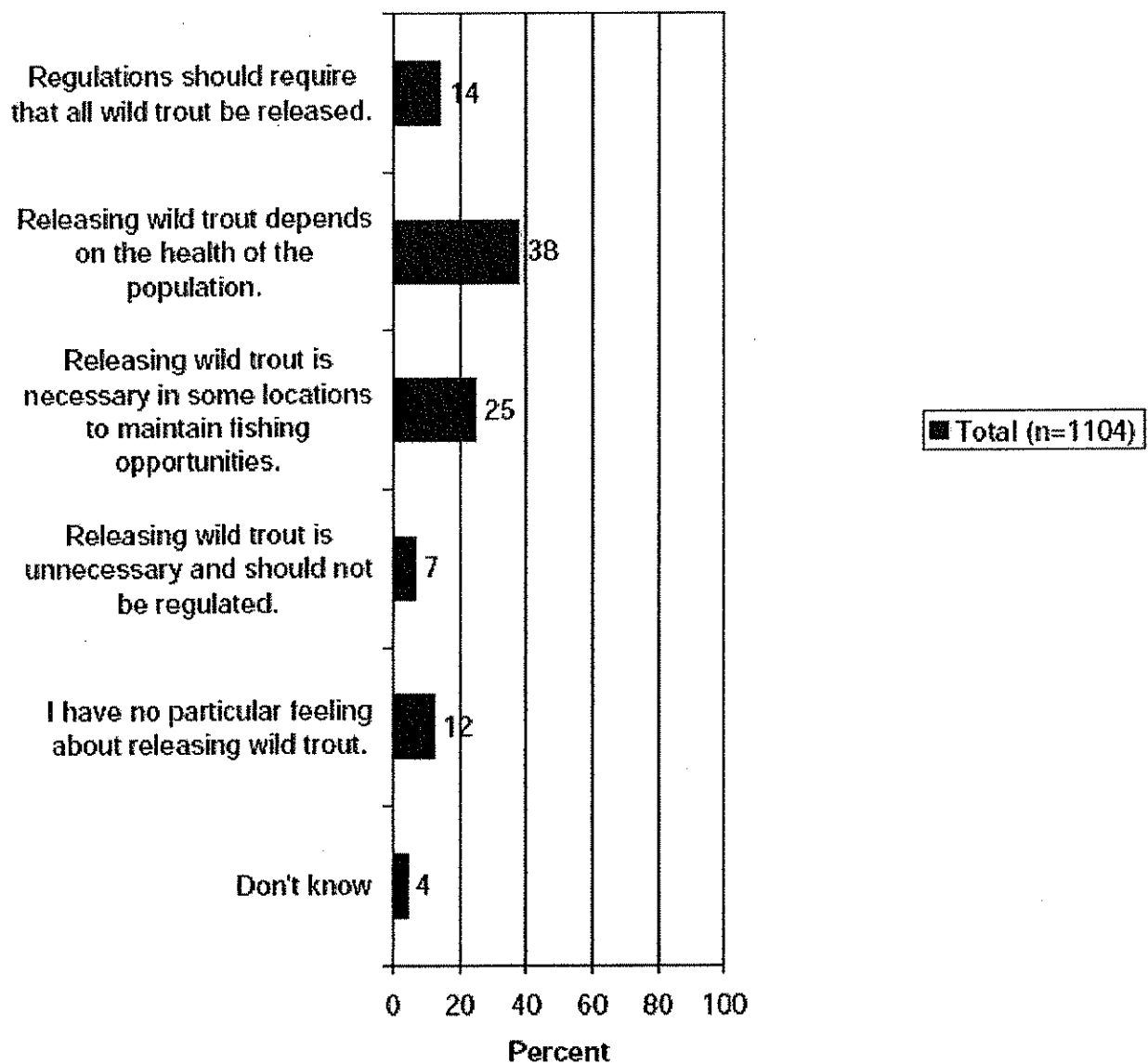
Q144. Would you say that releasing trout makes fishing for trout more enjoyable, about the same, or less enjoyable? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Oregon in the past 12 months.)



Q145. Would you say catch and release regulations cause you to fish for trout less often? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Oregon in the past 12 months.)



Q147. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about catch and release regulations for wild trout that you catch in Oregon? (Asked of those who fished for trout in Oregon in the past 12 months.)



Rhine Messmer

From: Shane Stewart [wetfly54@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 5:04 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Cc: Rhine Messmer
Subject: Proposal 150P

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this email as a concerned angler and conservationist. The very fact that a proposal such as 150P is still very much alive and up for your consideration amazes me.

I know each and every one of you pay attention and are familiar with our decimated wild salmonids runs on not only the north coast but state wide. You have, in the past, taken bold steps to protect these fish. These wild coastal cutthroat trout are a rare jewel to be shared and enjoyed by the angling population of this state but by allowing a harvest of any kind is reckless and dangerous. The science and population trends are showing a decline in these cutthroat trout populations and to allow any kind of harvest could indeed spell doom for yet another population of wild fish in Oregon.

The proximity of the Portland metro area to these north coast wild trout could and will spell disaster for not on them but pre-migrant salmon and steelhead that will approach the same eight inch minimum size that 150P allows for harvest.

I would urge you all to please take ODFW's mission to heart and protect this precious wild resource by rejecting 150P but also adopting 132P which would afford protection on both sections of the Oregon coast.

I want to thank the commissioners who took time to respond to my nearly 500 signatures I sent last month. I am encouraged by the support and vision that these commissioners have shown and appreciate their support.

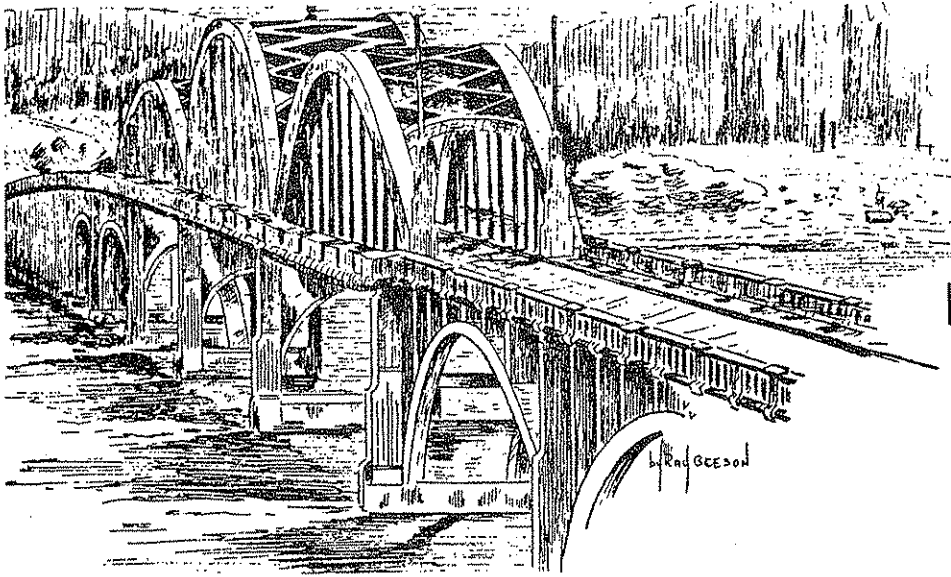
Respectfully Yours,

Shane Stewart

Conservation Chairman - Washington County Fly Fisher

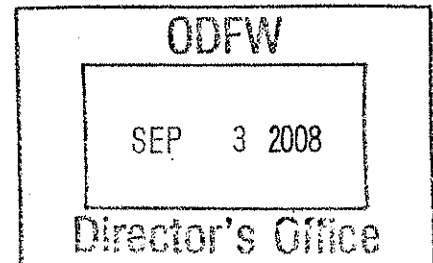
Native Fish Society

Trout tUnlimited Life Member



PORT OF ALSEA

Post Office Box 1060
Waldport, OR 97394
(541) 563-3872



August 30, 2008

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, OR 97303

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

The purpose of this letter is to express strong opposition to proposal 132 P as submitted by Mr. Walt Weber of the Rainland Fly Casters. This proposal would allow only catch and release for all trout in the Northwest and Southwest Zones with bait not allowed. This proposal would shut down the taking of all trout on the entire Oregon Coast except for hatchery fish.

I am a life-long resident of the Oregon Coast, a retired Fishery Biologist with ODFW for 35 years, and am currently Chairman of the Port of Alsea Board of Commissioners. I believe it is ODFW's policy to provide maximum recreational opportunity to the public as long as there is no biological impact. The Port of Alsea also operates under the same general policy. Mr. Weber presents no biological data to indicate that sea-run cutthroat trout populations are depleted or endangered.


I understand that the purpose of the proposed rule change is to protect sea-run cutthroat trout. This suggests that resident cutthroat trout, an unknown percentage of which become sea-run trout, are limited or low in numbers. The exact opposite is true and simple random population surveys by ODFW in selected coastal streams will bear this out. As Assistant Dist. Fish Biologist in the Coos District under Dr. Paul Reimers in 1990, I initiated a study designed to show that miles of fish bearing streams in that district were hugely underestimated. I used electrofishing equipment to survey 100 small streams that summer. I found 98 of the 100 streams had cutthroat trout present in stream sections labeled non-fish bearing. Most of the fish were small and stunted indicating overpopulation. As a result we added 500 miles of streams that would then have protection under the Forest Practices Act in our district alone. It is my understanding that

this same method of stream assessment has been adapted throughout the state, giving protection to many hundreds of miles of streams.

I grew up in Seaside. Friends and myself would spend endless hours walking the logging roads and catching 6 to 8 inch cutthroat. We took great pleasure in bringing them home so my Mother would fry them for us to eat. The first fish my son, daughter, and two grandchildren caught were small cutthroat trout taken from a 6-foot wide stream near Seaside. Now only two eight inch or larger can be kept in most coastal streams when hundreds of them are overpopulated with hundreds of thousands of stunted cutthroat trout. Again, a small but unknown percent of these fish become sea-run.

Recent rapid biological assessment surveys completed by ODFW in the Newport area in dozens of small streams indicate an average of approximately 200 cutthroat trout per mile. I am relatively sure that the same could generally be said for the entire coast. ODFW does not need to further eliminate fishing opportunity when there is not biological impact to Oregon's cutthroat trout population. Again, Mr. Weber presents no biological data to support Rainland Fly Caster's proposal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John A. Johnson, Chairman
Port of Alsea

C: Rhine Messmer
Reese Bender

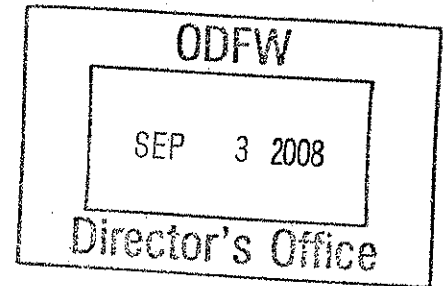
August 31, 2008

From:

Barry McPherson
905 NE 7th St.
Newport, OR 97365-2520

To:

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, OR, 97303



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

I am a Newport resident who recently became aware of a proposal before you to take away the opportunity for anglers to catch and keep 2 cutthroat trout per day in the bays and rivers of the central and south coast. I strongly encourage you to reject this proposal.

I think this proposal represents an unneeded restriction on the angling public, and a belated proposal that restricts the public from full opportunity to comment on it. I attended the public meeting on proposed changes to Oregon angling regulations that was held in Newport last May. There was no mention of this proposal at that meeting and no one there raised a concern about cutthroat trout populations being depleted.

I have seen a graph put together by your local fish biologists that suggests to me that there is no reason to add this restriction on the angling public, and I strongly encourage you to review that information. It shows that the number of juvenile cutthroat migrants per square mile of basin that have a good probability of continuing into the ocean varies from basin to basin, but shows no positive effect from the closure to consumptive angling for trout in North Coast bays and rivers. One basin (S. Fk. Kilchis) does show an increase in migrants after the restriction went into effect, but there were even bigger increases in three mid-coast basin where there were no restrictions. Overall, I think you would have to conclude that the restrictions have, and will have, no benefit to the production of juvenile migrant cutthroat that would become sea-run adults returning to anglers in bays and streams.

Some proponents of this restriction on trout fishing claim that adoption the proposal could or would lead to a "Blue Ribbon Fishery" for catch-and-release anglers on the Oregon coast. Attracting large numbers of fly anglers and catch-and-release lure anglers seems very unlikely, but if this were to happen, it would likely be counterproductive to cutthroat populations because of catch-and release mortality and spread of invasive species such as New Zealand mudsnails.

I participate in various catch-and-release fisheries for the joy of playing, viewing, and showing others interesting and beautiful fish. I hope, in part, to inspire people to value

these fish and do what they can to sustain the fish and the very important habitat they need. But I am well aware that no matter how careful I am, some of those fish will die after I release them. It may take hours or even weeks for predation, disease or other causes to kill them because of some stress or injury imposed by anglers catching and releasing them, so anglers don't often see the mortality they cause. But numerous studies are clear: depending on species, hooking location, handling, water temperature, etc., some percentage of those fish will die. And some anglers go out and catch-and-release dozens of trout in a day. An angler who catches and keeps 2 trout a day is likely to have less impact on a population of trout than a catch-and-release angler who catches and releases 36 fish a day with a 10% post-release mortality rate (i.e., a kill of about 4 fish per day).

It may help you to review the science on the spread of New Zealand mudsnails and their potential impact on productivity of Oregon streams. Whether the NZ mudsnails were accidentally introduced to the United States by fly anglers is not clear (on their boots or fishing tackle), but the pattern of expanding distribution of this harmful species to "Blue Ribbon" fly angling waters is clearly linked to fly anglers, despite their best intents. I was one who went fly angling in New Zealand in 1987 before the NZ mudsnail threat was realized. I could have been an unwitting contributor to the spread. So, even with the best of intents, attracting large numbers of anglers who travel extensively and fish different waters in relatively quick succession increases the risk of spreading things like NZ mudsnails, fish diseases, and other problems for our valued fisheries. The local kids who thrill at bringing home a couple of trout to show and eat, and local coastal people, who often are in high need of putting some meat on the table for their families, do not present this type of risk to nearly the same extent as the "Blue Ribbon Fishery" anglers.

So, as a still active, but unpaid, fish biologist who enjoys catch-and-release as well as consumptive angling, and has looked at some solid science on the issue, I strongly encourage you to reject any proposal that would remove the opportunity for anglers to catch and keep 2 cutthroat trout per day in the bays and rivers of the central and south coast.

Thank you for your consideration of my input,


Barry McPherson

cc. Rhine Messmer, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager

Charley Dewberry
89580 Dick Way
Florence, OR 97439
September 2, 2008

Rhine Messmer
Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Ave, NE
Salem, OR 97303

Dear Mr. Messmer:

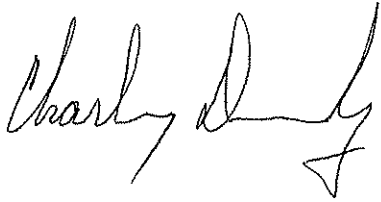
I am writing this letter in opposition to angling proposal #132P. I believe that this proposal is unnecessary and would have limited effect on cutthroat populations. I work as a stream ecologist and restoration ecologist on the central Oregon Coast and I live on the North Fork of the Siuslaw River. I have worked for 30 years on the Oregon Coast conducting snorkel surveys and writing restoration plans for salmonids. My limited fishing these days is fly-fishing for trout.

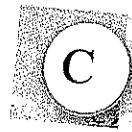
I believe that this proposal is unnecessary. Cutthroat trout, especially sea-runs, are depressed from their historical abundance of 1900, but their populations are not as low as they were during the 1980's and 1990's. The number of cutthroat have risen from lows in the 1980's-1990's under the current regulations. The current regulation appears to work.

I believe that this proposal would have little effect on cutthroat populations along the coast. The current regulation limits the catch to 2 fish per day on the central Oregon Coast. My experience is that few fishermen are targeting cutthroat. Most are salmon fishing. Also, the majority of streams are already closed. The fishery is spatially limited. For example, here in the Siuslaw- only Lake Creek and lower major tributaries are open for fishing. Several hundred miles of tributary streams are already closed. To close the

few open areas would have limited effect on the cutthroat populations within the Siuslaw basin as a whole.

In summary, I do not support this proposal because I think that it is not needed and also if it were put in place the results would have minimal effect on the populations of Cutthroat in coastal Oregon streams.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charly D. G." with a stylized flourish at the end.



Mr. Gerald H. Carlson
2318 Westminster Ave. NW
Salem, OR 97304

Sept 2, 2008

Rhine Messmer
Angling Regulations Coordinator
ODFW
3406 Cherry Ave NE
Salem, OR 97303

Dear Sir:

My wife and I are very much in favor of
the 2009-2012 Fishing Rule Proposal to keep
Cush throat times on the Northern Coastal
rivers north of Salmon River instead of the
catch and release rule now in effect.

Thank you for your consideration in this
matter.

Very truly yours,

Gerald Carlson

Lois K. Carlson

Phone No: 503-581-4304

Rhine Messmer

From: McGinty [mcginty@peak.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 11:18 AM
To: Rhine Messmer
Cc: mcginty@peak.org
Subject: Fishing Regulation Modified

We are objecting to the fishing regulation change proposed by the Rainland Fly Casters to make all streams, tidewaters, and bays in the Northwest and Southwest Zones for flyfishing only.

As written this would restrict all fishing to fly only in the tidewaters and bays because if you caught a trout while fishing for pan fish, you would be in violation of the restriction. Throwing trout or small steelhead back is known to have a high mortality rate.

It appears to be an attempt by a group of fly fishermen to take away fish that belong to all Oregonians. We are senior citizens and enjoy taking our grandkids and a small boat fishing in the tidewaters and bays. If this restriction were in place, there is no way you can start out a youngster fishing on a fly rod. The Willamette Valley is still less than a hundred miles from most tidewaters and bays, and you can still make a day trip for all kinds of fishing, even with the high cost of fuel.

We most emphatically object to this proposal by a fly fishing club trying to keep us from fishing for the popular blueback trout.

Thank you for your consideration of our objection.

Bill and Pauline McGinty
P.O. Box 482
Philomath, OR 97370
Phone: Home 541-929-5238
Cell 541-740-8121

Rhine Messmer

From: Reese Bender [striperfisher@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 10:43 AM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: Angling Regulation Proposal #132P

To: Rhine Messmer ODFW Staff & Commission members

Re: Angling Regulation Proposal 132P

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on an angling regulation proposal that has recently come to my attention. The proposal is #132P. The proposal is to eliminate consumptive fishing for "wild" coastal cutthroat trout over most of the Oregon Coast. I strongly oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

- 1. The current regulations adequately protect coastal cutthroat trout.**
- 2. Coastal cutthroat are very abundant and widespread with the current management program.**
- 3. Coastal cutthroat offer abundant opportunity over a very diverse area and provide the only close opportunity for many young people on the coast who are just learning to fish.**
- 4. There is not any "conservation issue" with current management that is in place.**
- 5. During my 30+ years working as a fishery biologist for ODFW on the southern Oregon Coast I observed that almost every stream that I sampled had an abundant cutthroat population.**
- 6. More and more angling opportunity is being eliminated by "special interest" groups.**

In conclusion, this angling regulation proposal is completely unnecessary and unjustified and would eliminate a lot of opportunity that is available especially for younger anglers who don't have access to other fisheries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

**Reese E. Bender
Fishery Biologist, Retired**

9/5/2008

Rhine Messmer

From: William Dickson [wtomd@me.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 07, 2008 1:44 PM
To: Rhine Messmer
Subject: regulation 132p

Dear Rhine,

I was pleased to read a recent article in the Siuslaw news regarding ODFW's position on regulation 132p. As you said so clearly, the science does not justify such a drastic regulation. Your stated goal of increasing fishing opportunities for novice and young anglers should be applauded. I surely hope that the commissioners pay attention to the experts and not a vocal minority. Again, thank you for your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Dickson
Florence, Oregon
9975110