

## **GOLD BUTTON PROGRAM**

*By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman*

I want to remind all Members of the Gold Button Certificate program that was implemented by the Club several years ago. This is a re-vamped, more politically correct version of a program that had been in place for many years and then discontinued. The goal of the new program remains the same—the recognition of fishing proficiency, but done in a more fish-friendly manner. Certificates for fish caught between December 15, 2007, and December 14, 2008, will be presented as part of the Awards Ceremonies in January 2009. Applications are due by December 31, 2008. Here are the guidelines for the program—there have been no modifications to the classes or minimum sizes:

### **“GOLD BUTTON” Awards**

- a. Gold Button Awards, each in the form of a certificate, shall be presented at the January meeting each year to Members qualifying with the largest fish caught during the prior qualifying year in the below-listed classes, which may be modified from time to time by the Board.

This awards program is modeled after an earlier “Gold Button” award, which featured the presentation to winners of a replica of the regulation Club button with fish species and weight inscribed. Although the earlier program was discontinued because of its conflict with a catch and release philosophy, these buttons are still proudly worn by WFFC members. The new program, which is intended to be consistent with a catch and release philosophy, carries forward the tradition.

Largest fish for purposes of this award shall mean the longest fish, measured from tip of the nose and the extreme tip of the tail, in accordance with WDFW regulations. Measurements shall be made in a manner that is least traumatic to the fish. The Board has established minimum sizes for fish, which it may modify from time to time.

STEELHEAD TROUT	31”
RAINBOW TROUT (caught in waters where natural or artificial barriers prevent anadromous fish from reaching them)	25”
CUT-THROAT TROUT	21”
BROWN TROUT	24”
BROOK TROUT	20”
GOLDEN TROUT	14”
KING or CHINOOK SALMON	38”

SILVER or COHO SALMON	34"
PINK SALMON	28"
CHUM SALMON	34"
LOHANTON CUT-THROAT TROUT	24"
DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT	28"
ARTIC CHAR	28"

- b. The certificates presented to winners shall give the data on each fish as regards to length, date of catch, and related information. They shall bear a likeness of the regulation Club button and shall be signed by the President.
- c. Each qualifying year shall run from December 15th to December 14th.
- d. Fish entered must be caught in waters of the state of Washington that are open to the general public.
- e. Fish entered must have been taken on a fly in regulation manner, without the use of spinner or bait, and otherwise in accordance with all applicable fishing regulations. No fish caught from any private waters is eligible for entry. All fish must be caught by a WFFC member in good standing.
- f. The regulation manner of fly-fishing shall be with a fly and leader attached to a fly line, carried on a fly reel; said fly line to be of such weight that the weight of the line combined with the action of the fly rod shall be capable of controlling the presentation and action of the fly.
- g. Entry form applications, as per copy here included, must be properly executed and delivered to the Awards Committee by December 31 following the qualifying year then ended.

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

GOLD BUTTON AWARDS APPLICATION

SPECIES: \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH: \_\_\_\_\_ inches      FLY (pattern, size): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CAUGHT: \_\_\_\_\_      TIME OF DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE CAUGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CAUGHT BY: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_, Washington.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)