

Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040



December, 2003

WFFC Submission to the WDFW Commission Meeting, Dec. 6, 2003

25 November 2003

Mr. Evan Jacoby
WDFW Rules Coordinator
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia WA 98501-1091

Dear Mr. Jacoby:

The Conservation Committee of the Washington Fly Fishing Club (WFFC) has reviewed the proposals currently under consideration for implementation in this major cycle. In that regard, please see the attached spreadsheet for our commentaries on the proposals upon which we felt we could provide informed opinion. The bulk of the 104 proposals listed in Department's document are beyond our expertise.

That said, the Conservation Committee of the WFFC requests that the Commission fully consider the overwhelming number of requests for statewide release of wild steelhead. By our counts, this was the single most common proposal made by the citizens of the state of Washington. The rationale provided in your documents: **"NOTE: This rationale applies to all of the proposals in this section. The Commission considered this during the last major regulation change cycle and did not adopt it. It is too soon to re-address this issue. In addition, not allowing wild steelhead harvest under any circumstances will complicate allocation issues with treaty tribes"** is completely unreasonable! It is our perspective that the fundamental reason that we have a Commission is that they can hear the public that they serve.

And, the public has said that they wish to have statewide wild steelhead release considered by the Commission. Staff arguments that we listened to this in the last major cycle, are totally inappropriate. If the public wishes to raise the issue, the Commission should hear their concerns. And, there is no bigger public issue that faces each of our Commissioners than the preservation of the unique genetic heritage of our fish and wildlife.

One of the fundamental tenets of adaptive management is the inclusion of new data and scientific evidence on the management of any species at risk. We are fortunate to have a dozen (maybe it's only a half-dozen, or less) major stream systems where the unique genetic heritage of our steelhead isn't at risk. In all other watersheds, the survival of the unique genetic heritage of our **STATE FISH is AT RISK.**

Scientific publications completed since the last major cycle (see McLean, University of Washington, PhD Dissertation, 2003) have documented the inability of hatchery steelhead to increase populations of returning adults. On-going research at the University of Washington is demonstrating the continued erosion of reproductive success of F-1 and F-2

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President's Riffle
WFFC Creel Notes
December, 2003

It is with some sadness as I write this, my last riffle, as President of the WFFC. In January, 2004, **Jim McRoberts** will take over the reins as the WFFC President. I would have liked to return for another year, but my wife and I have adopted a baby girl, our first child, and I want to make sure that any spare time I have is available for her.

I have enjoyed immensely serving the club this past year. It has really gone by quite quickly. If you haven't served on the Board yet, as either an officer, Trustee, or committee person, you would be surprised at the time the Board personnel put in, and the seriousness with which these guys treat their role. The WFFC is truly fortunate to have many of these guys. Not that this is an exhaustive list, but guys like **Chuck Ballard, Don Simonson, Pete Baird, Dick Brening, Curt Jacobs, and Bill Neal** are perennial participants, and all work their tail ends off for the club. Before the WFFC Holiday party, get out your Creel Notes and read down the list of Board members, and if you run across them at the party, let them know how much you appreciate the time they put in for our group.

The longer I am a member of this club, and the more involved and active I become in it, the more I realize just how special this group of guys and our club is. I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks in allowing me the privilege of serving as the 2003 WFFC President; it has been an honor.

Respectfully;
Richard Embry



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Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To work to the outlawing the use of salmon eggs in any form during the regular trout season.
3. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
4. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout in state waters.
5. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
6. To encourage and assist boys — particularly of high school age—to become fly fishermen and true sportsmen.

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hybrids of wild/hatchery salmonid spawning. In essence, the **best available science uniformly recommends the preservation of all wild steelhead populations.** Regulations that ignore or promulgate the continued harvest of wild steelhead ignore the current scientific basis that should inform the adaptive management process that we embrace.

Co-management of wild steelhead resources with treaty tribes remains a difficult issue. On balance, the Conservation Committee of the WFFC rejects the legal argument of 'foregone opportunity.' The historical record will show that the majority of streams that continue to have viable runs of wild steelhead have been co-managed with the treaty tribes since the Boldt decision. And yet, those co-managed streams continue to have viable runs of wild steelhead! The inclusion of a state-wide wild steelhead release will benefit the vast majority of watersheds and could only harm limited watersheds if the treaty-tribes decide to harvest all the wild steelhead that return through their ancestral lands. That won't happen! The treaty tribes have an invested (economic) interest in the continuing survival of the unique genetic heritage of our wild steelhead. Should we ever see an enormous increase in the number of wild steelhead returning to a particular watershed, the Department can issue an Emergency Regulation that allows the harvest of wild steelhead!

In summary, the Conservation Committee of the Washington Fly Fishing Club recommends that the Commission approve a regulation requiring state-wide release of wild steelhead.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Schaad

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*(For complete list of WFFC recommendations,
see pages 6 & 7)*

UNDERSTANDING THE CAST **ARTICLE #2**

Last month I listed three of the most important tasks that need to take place to produce a nice narrow controlled loop. These three are:

- Remove the slack from the fly line prior to beginning the cast.
- Pointing the rod tip at the fly line move the rod tip along a straight line path.
- Progressively accelerate the casting motion to end in an abrupt stop.

Now lets explore as to "why" these three tasks are so important. First we must realize that the fly rod is our tool in casting. This tool is nothing more than a flexible lever. The more efficiently we utilize this lever the tighter loop, and the further the fly line will travel. The only thing the fly rod can do on its own is unbend, (unload). So we need to start bending the rod at the beginning of the cast and continue to bend it all the way to the abrupt stop to then allow it to do its thing and unbend, (unload). If we don't remove the slack prior to beginning the cast there will be no resistance for the rod tip to pull against. We rely on the resistance of the fly line outside the rod tip to assist in bending, (loading) the rod.

The fly line outside the rod tip is going to follow the path of the rod tip as we move it through the casting stroke. Consequently a straight line rod tip path will cause the fly line to project into a straight line path producing a narrow energy efficient loop. If the rod tip attains a convex or doming path the fly line will result in a large energy inefficient, uncontrolled loop.

Remember we want to gradually bend our rod through the casting stroke producing the maximum bend at the point we abruptly stop the rod. To accomplish this we need to continue to progressively accelerate our casting motion. Once we stop our stroke the rod takes over and does the only thing it can do and that is unbend, (unload) taking the fly line with it forming the loop.

The next edition will address the "how" in making the "what" happen. Stay tuned.

I want to solicit your comments regarding these articles on casting. Please let me know your thoughts and suggestions.

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Don Simonson

FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor

FISHING BY THE BOOK

Book Review by *Michael Wearne*

The Moon Pulled up an Acre of Bass is a chronicle by Peter Kaminsky of a month of striper bass fishing near Montauk Point at the east end of Long Island. Peter Kaminsky writes about fishing regularly for The New York Times. His writing has also appeared in *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life* and *Sports Afield*.

This book details a month of fishing in which the author lived in a friend's home and spent the month of October devoted entirely to fishing for stripers. Almost all of the fishing was fly fishing.

Scott Rosenkranz mentioned this book to me while we were fishing for silvers off Whidbey Island. I had mentioned I was reading about striper bass fishing and how intrigued I was in that type of fly fishing. I had read On the Run by David De-Benedetto, which follows the migration of the stripers from Maine to North Carolina. Kaminsky's book focuses on the Montauk Point area of Long Island.

This is a delightful book, fun to read, and full of facts, stories and that magic that we all feel when we are fishing. The author relates his experiences with a variety of guides and local individuals. He tells stories about his daughters. He even incorporates a story about fly fishing in India.

Kaminsky is knowledgeable about fly fishing and he is willing to exhibit his lack of knowledge concerning various aspects of fishing in the Montauk area. When I finished this book I felt much more knowledgeable about various aspects and techniques of striper fishing.

The Moon Pulled up an Acre of Fish is a wonderful fly fishing book, well worth the time.

On a related note, if you have an interest in this type of fishing, check out www.stripermoon.com. This is a great web site hosted by Ken Abrames, a Long Island fly fishing guide.

EXTRA HOLIDAY SPENDING CASH?

Are you interested in some extra holiday spending cash this year? If so, please submit all your outstanding payment requests for expenditures made on behalf of and with the approval of, the WFFC. Why wait until March '04 to submit your receipts for last spring's outings or other past activities? Mail or e-mail me your requests for payment with receipts and I'll make sure a check gets cut before the end of the year. Who knows, maybe this reimbursement will allow you to go to the next level and get the auction item that you want at this month's Christmas Party!

Seriously, the end of the year and the start of the next one is upon us. This is an extremely busy time for the treasurer as we try to close out the books for the past year and prepare a budget for the new one. Your submitting any outstanding WFFC expenditures that you may have, as soon as you can, is very helpful and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Jim Sokol, 2003 Treasurer



Oops! *By Gene Cates*

For tying a fly to the tippet
Of advise I will give you a snippet
When you've tied a good knot
It will help quite a lot
If you're careful to trim it, not clip it.

The Big Event is here!

This month is the WFFC Holiday Dinner, Auction, and Raffle!

Where: College Club (of course)

When: Dec 16th. Wet Fly casting at 5:30, Dinner at 7:00, Raffle, Auctions, and Entertainment throughout the evening.

Attire: Coat & Tie

How Much: If you've not yet paid, it is \$35 at the door, CC accepted.
Wine/Beer \$2, Mixed drinks \$3

It's shaping up to be a great evening, with many exciting items available for auction and raffle, such as these **AUCTION GOODIES:**

***Al Pratt** original drawing, beautifully framed

***Kris Kristofferson** painting

***Gil Nyerges** watercolor

*Corbett Lake 2 for 1 trip

***Bruce Ferguson** custom-tied salmon flies,
mounted and framed

*Eliguk Lake 2 for 1 trip

How about a fabulous new rod? **Sage** has donated a TCR 890--an 8 weight 9 foot rod with very fast action. The retail value on this beauty is \$725!

Pining for a luxurious stay at a high end lodge, complete with world-class trout fishing and Montana hospitality? Then we will have a prize for you-- A weekend for two at

Ruby Springs Lodge!

-Includes three days/two nights lodging in a beautiful riverside cabin, and all gourmet meals

-Also includes two days of guided fishing on any of these waters:

-Madison River -Big Hole River -Ruby River -Beaverhead River -Private creeks

-Ruby Springs Lodge is top-drawer all the way. The retail value of this trip is \$3900!

-Dates are either early May or mid October--we will have the exact dates on Tuesday

-Learn more at www.rubyspringslodge.com

RAFFLE GOODIES

*Hi Hium!

*"The Fisherman's Den"--complete with cigars, scotch, art, and books

*Yakima float trips

*Stillaguamish float trips

*Tying bench

*Rods, vests, books, jackets, flies, and more!

Note: RESERVATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY DINNER ARE NOW FULL. If you haven't made your reservation yet, you won't be able to dine, but you are still welcome to partake in the rest of the festivities, including the raffle, auction, and the evening's entertainment.

Proposal Number	Succinct Identifier	Conservation Comm. Recommendation	Commentary
1	Daily Limit for Eastern Brook Trout	Support	None needed. A good proposal "The Conservation Committee is opposed to the continued introduction of Tiger Trout into Washington. We don't need further 'exotics', we need further increases in our native species." Very difficult to enforce.
2	Classify Tiger Trout as a Game Fish	Oppose	
3	Buoyant Lure Restrictions	Support	A single rule regarding hooks would help enforcement efforts.
6	Single Hooks Required in Marine Areas	Support	
7	Salmon Release in Marine Areas 5-13	Support	"Will require substantial education efforts and needs a clear definition of ""on board"
12	Six-Gill Shark Protection	Support	"Not an area of concern for flyfishers. However, conservation of this species is a concern. Anything that can reduce mortality should be supported."
18	Oyster Harvest	Support	The current rule could not be enforced. The proposed rule is more manageable.
26	Snagging Clarification	Support	A clarification that makes enforcement easier is in the best interest of the resource.
27	Removing Steelhead and Salmon from Fresh Water	Support Intent	Agree with the principle, disagree with the implementation. Too many folks can't recognize a 'salmon or steelhead required to be released' and will be automatically classified as criminals.
30	Daily Limit for Hatchery Steelhead in SE Washington Rivers	Support	The Conservation Committee recommends that the daily limit for hatchery steelhead be increased to 3 for all rivers in the state. Each hatchery steelhead that remains capable of spawning is capable of reducing the genetic variability of steelhead stocks and should be removed from the watershed. Harvest of all hatchery steelhead within a watershed is a desirable goal. While not a regulation proposal, hatchery production of steelhead should be capped and a 5% annual reduction in production should be implemented.
31	Upper Grande Ronde Steelhead	Opposed	A significant proportion of the wild steelhead run in the Grande Ronde enters the river prior to the 1st of October. Use of bait in the river will differentially increase mortality on the early run of wild fish. While the Conservation Committee supports the harvest of the hatchery fish, it should not occur at the expense of an increased mortality of wild fish.
34	Mill Creek Closed Area	Strong support	Increased protection of listed species warrants this change in regulation
53	Cle Elum River	Support	Prohibition of bait is consistent with increasing survival of resident trout and pre-migrant salmonids.
58	Upper Yakima River Winter Whitefish	Support	
59, 60 & 61	Dog/Leech/Lost Lakes	Support	Each of these lakes is capable of producing a trophy fishery. Proposed

			regulations are consistent with increasing opportunities for a high quality resident fishery
62	Cedar River C & R Fishery	Conditional Support	"A limited fishery seems warranted if monitoring throughout the fishery is implemented. Specifically, snorkeling should be conducted throughout the season to ascertain whether stocks remain healthy. With an open river (even under C&R regulations), we anticipate an increase in poaching/illegal harvest of the largest fish in the system."
69	Standardization of Rules for Cutthroat	Strong support	Excellent proposal that will benefit any Protection in SW Washington Streams trout within the streams.
70	Columbia River Sturgeon Fishery	Strong support	Protection of these exceptionally large sturgeon (which may produce the vast majority of sturgeon young in the Northwest) seems overdue. Implement immediately.
72	Cowlitz River - 3 Proposals	Support	
74	Close Tributaries to the lower Klickitat River	Support	Protection of ESA listed juveniles warrants the change in regulations.
75	Upper Klickitat Season Extension	Oppose	Increased pressure in a mixed stock fishery will increase mortality on ESA listed wild stocks. A better solution to the issue of stray hatchery fish is to reduce the number of hatchery fish planted in adjacent watersheds.
81	Big Beef Creek	Support	
82	Big River Wild Steelhead Retention	Support	
85	Hoko River Hatchery Steelhead	Support	
86	Hoquiam River and Forks	Support	Good proposal
87	Kalaloch, Cedar & Mosquito Creeks	Support	Good proposals
88	Naselle River Season	Support	
89	Puyallup and Carbon Rivers	Support	Conservation of remaining wild stocks requires limiting the fishery
91	Upper Quinault River Season	Request Amendment	WFFC support is conditional upon wild steelhead release. Currently the Upper Quinault reaches escapement goals. It may well be a major incubator for progeny of wild fish that stray and colonize other peninsula streams. Protection of these fish requires careful management.
92	Salmon River Wild Steelhead Retention	Support	Provides additional protection for wild steelhead.
95	Tahuya, Dewatto River Seasons	Strong Support	Both rivers deserve additional protection.
96	Union River	Strong support	Another sanctuary for wild steelhead!
103	Lost Lake	Support	Increases opportunity
104	Teal Lake	Support	Increases opportunity and provides without degrading the fishing experience



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
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Stamp
here

Meeting Announcement



Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at The College Club, 505 Madison St.
The Wet Fly hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner is served at 6:45 PM

**IT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME !
LOOK IN SIDE FOR DETAILS.**