

## **WDFW Draft Resident Native Trout Harvest Management Policy Development Public Comment: <https://publicinput.com/u5460>**

- 1. The draft policy framework has two geographic areas: an anadromous zone, and no- or limited- connectivity to the anadromous zone.***

***Do you think these two geographic areas are representative of the locations inhabited by resident native trout?***

Answer: Yes.

***If no, please provide comments on geographic areas.***

- 2. The draft policy framework has three conservation categories:***
  - 1. No known conservation concerns for resident native trout.***
  - 2. Known conservation concerns for resident native trout.***
  - 3. Known conservation concerns – impacts to juvenile salmon/steelhead production, rearing, or outmigration.***

***Do you think these three categories adequately represent the most likely conservation concerns we have in Washington?***

Answer: No.

***If no, what other categories should be included?***

New categories should be:

- 1) No Conservation Concerns
- 2) Known Conservation Concerns (should pull in Policy Actions a), b), c), and d) from Number 1 – No Known Conservation Concerns)
- 3) Unknown Conservation Status

Numbers 2 and 3 should be combined under Anadromous Zone Policy Options

- 3. To answer this question, please review the linked native trout harvest management policy options document above.***

***Under each conservation category is a range of draft policy statements for resident native trout.***

***Do you think that any one of these draft policy statement options will adequately protect resident native trout and juvenile anadromous salmonids?***

Answer: No.

***If no, can you provide other policy statements that you think should be included?***

- a. For the “No Known Conservation Concerns” category: This will absolutely not protect intended species. This policy guidance is all about harvest and does not account for all Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) parameters. The default should be catch and release only and selective gear regulations, *until WDFW has the data to show* the population is healthy enough to sustain harvest without impacting VSP parameters.
- b. Known Conservation Concerns: Eliminate Policy Option A and include the same policy recommendation above for ‘No Known Conservation Concerns.’ B: WDFW may restrict or close angling until populations can sustain angling pressure.
- c. Add an extra category: No Conservation Concerns: these populations can sustain harvest without significantly impacting the VSP parameters of the populations.

For fish populations with No Known Conservation Concerns status or Known Conservation Concerns status, WDFW should default to catch and release only with selective gear regulations to minimize impacts from recreational fisheries on resident and anadromous fish populations through all life stages.