

**Phil Rockefeller**  
Chair  
Washington

**Tom Karier**  
Washington

**Henry Lorenzen**  
Oregon

**Bill Bradbury**  
Oregon



## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

**W. Bill Booth**  
Vice Chair  
Idaho

**James Yost**  
Idaho

**Pat Smith**  
Montana

**Jennifer Anders**  
Montana

July 7, 2015

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members**

**FROM: Stacy Horton, Policy Analyst/Biologist, Washington**  
**Jim Ruff, Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations**

**SUBJECT: Update on the development of a coordinated regional policy to address northern pike.**

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenters:** Stacy Horton and Jim Ruff will update the committee on efforts to develop a coordinated regional policy for northern pike

**Summary:** As an outcome of the Council's June 9<sup>th</sup> Fish committee presentation on *Northern Pike in the Upper Columbia*, the committee requested that staff investigate the possibility of developing a coordinated regional strategy regarding the management, control and treatment of northern pike. Currently, policies and regulations across state lines are not fully consistent. Staff will present a table (attachment 1) showing the policies and fishing regulations regarding northern pike for each state; provide a draft letter to the WDFW Commission for the fish committee to consider (attachment 2); and provide an update on outreach efforts to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).

**Relevance:** The northern pike is an introduced, non-native fish species which is known as a voracious fish predator. Preserving Fish and Wildlife Program effectiveness by aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species is the Council's third highest emerging priority.

Workplan: This presentation addresses Council work plan item 2.B, which promotes regional fish and wildlife recovery by prioritizing and implementing 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program actions.

Background: See the northern pike [presentation](#) by the Kalispel Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Colville Tribe and WDFW from the July 9, 2015 Council Meeting in Coeur d' Alene, ID

More Info:

Attachment 1: Table Comparing State Rules and Regulations Regarding Northern Pike in Idaho, western Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

Attachment 2: Draft Letter to the WDFW Commission for Fish Committee Consideration

# ATTACHMENT 1

JR/SH  
7/6/2015

## Northwest State Policies and Regulations regarding Northern Pike

<u>Northwest State</u>	<u>Northern Pike Classification</u>	<u>Northern Pike Bag Limit</u>	<u>Does state have a N. pike catch &amp; kill requirement?</u>	<u>Does the state allow N. pike derbies/contests?</u>	<u>Are N. pike on state's AIS List?</u>
<b>Idaho</b>	Game fish	No daily limit	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No
<b>W. Montana</b>	Warmwater game fish	15 fish daily or no limit <sup>3</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes	No
<b>Oregon</b>	Prohibited species	n/a <sup>5</sup>	No <sup>1,5</sup>	No <sup>5</sup>	Yes <sup>4</sup>
<b>Washington</b>	Prohibited species	No daily limit <sup>6</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> It is unlawful to possess or transport a live N. pike (e.g., the fish must be dead) away from the immediate vicinity of the water body in which the fish was harvested.

<sup>2</sup> Although Idaho allows fishing derbies for N. pike, every fish caught must be killed.

<sup>3</sup> Montana has liberal N. pike harvest limits and methods of take (there is no limit on some waters and winter spearing is permitted on many lakes in western Montana).

<sup>4</sup> Oregon classifies N. pike as a "prohibited species." Under administrative rules, prohibited species may not be imported, possessed, sold, purchased, exchanged or transported in the state.

<sup>5</sup> Since there are no identified populations of N. pike in Oregon, there are no angling regulations or bag limits, nor are there fishing derbies or contests, and there is no catch and kill requirement.

<sup>6</sup> In Washington, a person may possess or transport dead prohibited N. pike obtained under WDFW's recreational sport fishing rules (WAC 220-56-100 and 220-56-115). There is no minimum size, no daily limit and no possession limit. Release of any live N. pike into water other than the water being fished is prohibited, e.g., catch and release is allowed in waterbody where caught.

## ATTACHMENT 2

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Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Chair  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission  
600 Capitol Way N.  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Chair Smith:

On behalf of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, I want to thank you for your leadership in declaring northern pike a prohibited species in Washington. We believe a similar regional policy is needed to address this invasive predator, and we hope to work with the commission to develop and implement it.

As an agency charged with protecting our region's fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia River Basin, we're concerned that a northern pike invasion in the mainstem river could have devastating impacts on our mitigation and recovery efforts.

Northern pike enter Washington waters from both Montana and Idaho. At a recent Council meeting, we heard from WDFW and tribal biologists that harm to native fish species, initially experienced in the Pend Oreille River, is now evident in the Kettle River arm of Lake Roosevelt in northeast Washington. We're concerned that northern pike will next move down into the Columbia River corridor and prey upon the last healthy population of Chinook salmon in the Hanford Reach and ESA-listed salmon and steelhead, as well as other native fish species. A coordinated regional effort is needed now to prevent their spread and manage their impact in the basin.

We applaud your policy on northern pike. It is our hope that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission could be the catalyst for the adoption of a consistent policy by the other Northwest states. Council staffers Stacy Horton ([shorton@nwcouncil.org](mailto:shorton@nwcouncil.org)) or Jim Ruff ([jruff@nwcouncil.org](mailto:jruff@nwcouncil.org)) can provide assistance in developing this important regional non-native fish policy.

Sincerely,

Phil Rockefeller, Chair