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**Board of Commissioners**  
Steven Burke, *President*  
Colleen McAleer, *Vice President*  
Connie Beauvais, *Secretary*  
**Executive Director**  
Karen Goschen

December 8, 2020

Mr. Kelly Susewind, Director of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Re: Port of Port Angeles Comments on Proposed Changes to Steelhead Fisheries

Dear Director Susewind:

The mission of the Port of Port Angeles is to bring people, resources and industry together to foster economic prosperity and living wage jobs in Clallam County. Tourism, particularly sport fishing, is an important contributor to Clallam County's economy.

The Port appreciated the partnership and engagement with WDFW to manage successful halibut and salmon season openings this past year. The partnership resulted in anglers having the opportunity to safely fish despite the COVID-19 restrictions and allowed marinas to carefully operate across Clallam and Jefferson Counties with the support of WDFW.

We are concerned, however, with the recently released proposal to severely limit or possibly close steelhead fishing along the Washington Coast. Steelhead fishing provides important jobs for guides, for service industries and local businesses. It provides opportunities for safe recreation to our residents, visitors, people with disabilities, and children.

The information from WDFW indicates that steelhead escapement on some river systems (e.g.- Quillayute) will exceed escapement goals. We urge WDFW to allow for sport fishing in those river systems that are projected to exceed escapement goals. We also believe flexibility can be tailored to allow additional fishing opportunities where the data is questionable.

A "one size fits all" approach to closing all steelhead fishing on the Coast will unnecessarily harm Clallam County's small businesses and eliminate an important outdoor recreation opportunity that is so vital to people as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The Port of Port Angeles urges WDFW to consider options that retain sport fishing options for visitors and residents. It's too important to Clallam County's economy and its residents.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Best Regards,

Steven Burke, President

On behalf of the Port of Port Angeles Board of Commissioners

WE BRING PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND INDUSTRY TOGETHER TO FOSTER LIVING WAGE JOBS

[www.portofpa.com](http://www.portofpa.com)



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## Distribution List

### Port of Port Angeles Comments on Proposed Changes to Steelhead Fisheries

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Mr. Kelly Susewind, Director of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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