

# Roger Rouleau

Hello,

I worked in the commercial diving industry for over 30 years witnessing the changes made to protect water quality. My work included installation and maintenance on sewage outfalls, pipe line discharges from pulp and paper plants and other private and industrial intake & waste pipelines into our rivers, Puget Sound and Pacific ocean.

Why in the world would there be consideration to relaxing any requirements such as de-listing redband trout as a designated use of the Spokane River? Isn't that a step backwards?

There are warning signs along the river because of the concentrations of PCB's in the river. I have seen the impacts of silt and other debris due to discharges into the river. People swim enjoy the beaches and fish. Perhaps someday the insect population will recover enough to support a healthier population of fish than there is now. Unfortunately contaminants and the slow water from the dams make recovery of the river more difficult.

I was informed that after 40 years of knowing about public health dangers posed by PCB's, the state has never required Spokane River polluters to control the PCB pollution and thus failing to meet the Clean Water Act goals. This is hard to understand, maybe I have been misinformed?

Polluters application for variance should be made available to the public before scoping and there should be more education available to the public so they may fully understand the impacts. My education was a result of my work underwater, not many have had that opportunity to see, first-hand the damage we have done to our waters.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the scoping process to adopt a variance for lowering water quality – a move that threatens the ecological health of the Spokane River.

Roger Rouleau