

**WA Dept. of Ecology's Public Hearing on  
Multiple Revisions to WAC 173-201A  
Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**

**Oral Testimony from Joseph Bogaard, Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
Received 9-16-2019 in Vancouver, WA**

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Transcription was provided by PostCAP LLC in Olympia, WA.

Okay. Next we have Joseph Bogaard. Did I pronounce that correctly? Joseph? Hi.

>> Hi there.

>> Okay. State your name clearly for the record.

>> My name is Joseph Bogaard. I'm Executive Director of the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition.

On behalf of the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed rule changes to water quality standards for surface waters of the state of Washington draft EIS to raise total dissolved gas caps to 125% TDG in order to help outmigrating juvenile salmon and steelhead avoid powerhouse encounters and increase their survival and increase adult returns in years that follow.

In summary, given the time limitations, we strongly support a rule change by the Department of Ecology in time for the spring 2020 juvenile salmon and steelhead migration that allows total dissolved gas at 125%. We request that the Department finalize this rulemaking adjusting allowable total dissolved gas to 125% for the Columbia and Snake rivers this fall or in time for the 2020 migration on a permanent and year round basis we ask that any and all conditional language in the EIS considering a legally -- quote, legally valid Endangered Species Act consultation, end quote, be removed from this rule in its final form.

And finally, we want to communicate our strong support that this rule specify that total dissolved gas be calculated on a 12-hour average as it has in the past rather than on the average of the two highest hourly measures in a given day.

We're afraid that the proposed two-hour measurement would lead to significant lower levels of spill than would otherwise occur and thus reduce essential much needed benefits to imperiled salmon and steelhead populations in the basin.

Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition is an organization for more than 40 member groups and members with memberships at the state, regional and national level. We're committed to a mission to protect and restore healthy abundant self-sustaining populations of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake River basin and the benefits that they deliver to people, to fish and wildlife populations, including critically endangered southern resident orcas and to ecosystems.

Salmon and steelhead populations are of great cultural, ecological and economic

significance to the communities and people of the Northwestern nation. In the Columbia and Snake Rivers these fish once returned as adults on an annual basis in the tens of millions, today wild populations return at 1 or 2% these historic levels. Many populations have gone extinct. Those that remain, 13 are in danger of extinction. Adult salmon returns in recent years have declined steeply with 2019 returns amongst the lowest on record.

These population declines are causing great economic hardship on commercial, recreational, and travel communities across the northwest. With impacts reaching as far away as Alaska. They are also harming other fish and wildlife populations, including critically endangered southern resident orca.

Protecting and restoring these fish requires urgent bold action and must be a top priority for Washington State. And northwest communities.

I'll conclude my remarks to say that Save Our Wild Salmon and many of our member groups will be submitting more detailed comments by the -- before the close of public comment period. And thank you for consideration of our concerns.