David DesJardin

Dear Washington Department of Ecology Shoreline Management Team, my name is David DesJardin and I am a resident and an angler who lives in Pierce County.

I am writing in support of strengthening and expanding shoreline fishing access as part of the implementation and any updates to Chapters 173-26 and 173-27 WAC under the Shoreline Management Act.

WAC 173-26-221(4) clearly directs local master programs to promote and enhance public access—defined as the ability of the general public to reach, touch, and enjoy the water's edge, travel on the waters of the state, and view the shoreline—while protecting ecological functions, private property rights, and public safety. Fishing is a traditional, water-dependent recreational use that falls squarely within this public trust interest. Greater physical access for bank and shoreline fishing helps fulfill the Act's preference for uses that benefit large numbers of people and provides equitable opportunities for residents who may not own boats or waterfront property.

I encourage Ecology to:

• Emphasize fishing access (including bank fishing sites, trails, and modest facilities) as a priority public-access component when reviewing shoreline master programs and permits under WAC 173-26 and 173-27.

• Support local governments in identifying and securing additional public access points specifically suitable for fishing where ecological conditions allow.

• Ensure that permit and enforcement procedures under WAC 173-27 do not create unnecessary barriers to low-impact public fishing access improvements.

Increased shoreline fishing access advances the goals of the Shoreline Management Act, supports outdoor recreation, and benefits Washington residents and visitors. Thank you for considering this perspective as you implement and refine these important rules.

Sincerely,

David DesJardin

Pierce County WA