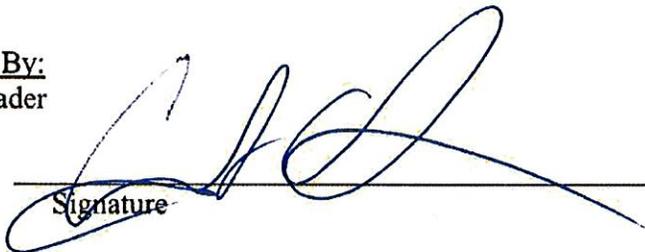


**Entiat National Fish Hatchery  
Fishing Plan 2019**

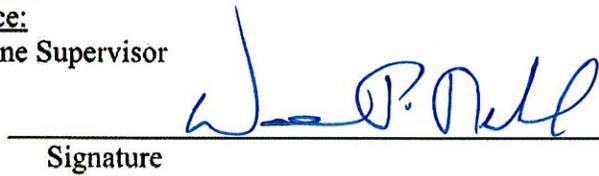
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Entiat National Fish Hatchery  
6970 Fish Hatchery Dr  
Entiat, Washington 98822**

**Submitted By:  
Project Leader**

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2 Oct 2019

**Concurrence:  
Eastside Line Supervisor**

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 10/2/2019

**Approved:  
Assistant Regional Director- Fish and Aquatic Conservation**

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2 Oct. '19

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# ENTIAT NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY FISHING PLAN

## I. Introduction

National Fish Hatcheries (NFH) are guided by the goals and objectives of the *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020* (USFWS 2016), the mission and goals of the NFH System, the authorized purposes of an individual hatchery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) policy, laws and international treaties.

The Service owns and operates Entiat NFH located on the Entiat River approximately 6.8 river-miles upstream from the mouth. Operations began in 1941 as partial mitigation for the loss of fish passage and anadromous fish production due to construction and operation of the Grand Coulee Dam. During the period 1941 to 1974, Entiat NFH raised a variety of salmon and trout species from multiple stocks, however; the majority of effort was focused on spring and summer Chinook salmon.

Entiat NFH raised and reared solely spring Chinook salmon from 1975–2007. The spring Chinook salmon program was terminated in 2007 after concerns were raised regarding the benefits of the program compared to the impact of the Entiat NFH spring Chinook salmon production on wild/natural-origin spring Chinook salmon in the Entiat River. In response to this risk analysis in 2007, Entiat NFH discontinued the spring Chinook salmon program and initiated a new summer Chinook salmon program in 2009.

Entiat NFH was constructed and operates under the authority of Section 2 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of August 30, 1935 (49 Stat. 1028) as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of Grand Coulee Dam. The hatchery is currently funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and operated by the Service. The *U.S. v. Oregon* decision of 1969, through subsequent management agreements, sets production goals for the facility.

NFH lands are maintained for the fundamental purpose of propagating and distributing fish and other aquatic animal life and managed for the protection of all species of wildlife (50 CFR Ch.1 70.1).

Entiat NFH has provided fishing opportunities to the public on hatchery lands since 2017. This document serves to retroactively and officially open designated portions of Entiat NFH lands to public fishing via the Code of Federal Regulations. This action will ensure that all legal and policy obligations are met.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the state's principal steward of fish and wildlife resources. State law directs WDFW to conserve native fish and wildlife and their habitat, while also supporting sustainable fishing, hunting and other outdoor opportunities

for millions of Washington residents and visitors. In 2017, WDFW completed its 2017-2019 Strategic Plan (WDFW 2017). The Service’s authorization of fishing at Entiat NFH is in compliance and consistent with WDFW’s strategic plan. For fish species such as Pacific salmon, WDFW works closely with state and Federal agencies to set regulations that protect native species and allow for equitable harvest opportunities. WDFW is committed to providing sustainable fishing opportunities throughout the state. Popular outdoor activities like fishing are a “quality of life” issue for millions of Washingtonians, and generates billions of dollars in revenue and provides economic benefits for local businesses and communities each year. The WDFW plan is designed to maintain and increase those benefits with strategies that range from improved fishing access to increased catch-per-unit-effort.

## **I. Statement of Objectives**

The objective of this plan is to ensure that the federally-owned lands within the Entiat NFH are made available to the public for fishing opportunities. This plan will take into account operational requirements that restrict access to certain areas of the property and the fact that not all of the property lends itself to fishing opportunities. The main contribution to fishing access provided by the hatchery is along portions of the facility’s Red Willow Trail system up to the designated fishing boundary line established by WDFW (Figure 1).

### **Fishing Plan Goals**

Goal 1: *Fishing, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities are enhanced and expanded.* The Service strives to complement WDFW’s goals which seek to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish and ecosystems while providing sustainable recreational and commercial fishing opportunities. The ‘former’ opportunities mentioned prior are enhanced via increased and improved access.

Goal 2: *Increase angling participation.* Diverse, stable, and productive angling opportunities are the basis for increased angling participation. The Service strives to follow WDFW’s objective of providing hatcheries and other public access sites that are safe, clean, and effectively support the public’s use and enjoyment of these natural resources.

### **Fishing Plan Objective**

The objective of a fishing program at Entiat NFH is to provide opportunities for visitors to fish from hatchery lands in accordance with the Service’s Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program Strategic Goals, WDFW Strategic Plan Goals, and WDFW fishing regulations.

The program will:

- Include clear and concise regulations that are readily available to visitors via informational kiosks at the hatchery entrance and Red Willow Trailhead;
- Pose minimal conflict with overall fish and habitat objectives;
- Pose minimal conflict with other priority public use activities; and

- Provide a quality fishing program that allows opportunities for visitors to fish on hatchery lands.

### **Fishing Plan Strategies:**

- a. Allow anglers to fish along the Red Willow Trail system up to the designated fishing boundary line established by WDFW.
- b. Provide a parking area allowing hatchery access to the Red Willow Trail.

## **II. Description of Fishing Program**

### **A. Areas to be Opened to Fishing**

Bank fishing will be allowed on Service property starting at the Red Willow Trailhead and will extend along the western shore of the Entiat River up to the designated fishing boundary line established by WDFW (Figure 1). This totals approximately 1,000-feet of accessible Entiat River shoreline and the associated 2.0 acres of hatchery property.



Figure 1. Aerial view of Entiat NFH with fishing access denoted.

### **Species to be Taken, Fishing Periods, Fishing Access**

FISHING: Anglers are required to comply with species and take limits in WDFW fishing regulations. Specific areas will be open for anglers to access year-round in accordance with WDFW regulations. Anglers need to be aware of emergency closures enacted by WDFW to

ensure hatchery broodstock needs are met. These closures and catch limit regulations will be posted on WDFW websites, regulation books, and on-site at the informational kiosks.

#### **B. Fishing Permit Requirements**

Anglers who are eligible to fish under Washington State law are eligible to fish on hatchery units. They must obtain a Washington State fishing license and follow Washington State laws, limits, and regulations.

#### **C. Consultation and Coordination with the State**

WDFW was contacted by local anglers requesting that the fishing boundary be extended upstream. WDFW contacted Entiat NFH to seek concurrence and coordination with the hatchery.

#### **D. Law Enforcement**

Enforcement of fishing regulations on hatchery property will be primarily conducted by state wildlife law enforcement officers.

The following methods are used to control and enforce fishing regulations:

- Hatchery and fishing area boundaries will be clearly posted.
- Federal law enforcement may randomly check anglers for compliance with Federal and state laws.
- The hatchery will post fishing regulations on the hatchery information kiosks and in hatchery offices.

#### **E. Funding and Staffing Requirements**

There will be little costs associated with the development of infrastructure to support fishing at Entiat NFH. Parking areas and informational kiosks are already in place.

### **IV. Conduct of the Fishing Program**

#### **A. Fishing Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures**

No special application or registration process is required.

#### **B. Hatchery-Specific Fishing Regulations**

Listed below are hatchery-specific regulations that pertain to fishing at Entiat NFH as of the date of this plan. These regulations may be modified as conditions change or if hatchery lands expand.

Sport Fishing: The Service allows fishing on designated areas of the hatchery in accordance with state regulations.

### **C. Relevant State Regulations**

All current state regulations apply to fishing on Entiat NFH lands.

### **D. Other Hatchery Rules and Regulations for Fishing**

- Camping, overnight use, and fires are prohibited;
- Fishing on hatchery lands is allowed seven days per week;
- Hatchery requests that the public only use established trails.

## **V. Public Engagement**

### **A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Fishing Program**

The fishing opportunity is publicized in the WDFW fishing regulations as well as on the informational kiosks located at the hatchery. Special announcements and articles may be released in conjunction with fishing seasons.

### **B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Fishing Program**

No public reaction would be anticipated to opening up access. The fishing has been available to the public for the past two years and no significant changes are planned.

### **C. How Anglers Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations**

General information regarding fishing can be obtained at:

Entiat NFH  
6970 Fish Hatchery Drive  
Entiat, WA 98822

Regulations will be available on the hatchery information kiosks and office. The 2019 Washington State Sport fishing Regulations can be found at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations>.

## References

Service (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). 2016. Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020. Falls Church, VA.

WDFW (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2017. 2017-19 Strategic Plan. Olympia, WA.