

Dear Board of Fisheries,

I would like to apologize for not being able to attend the meeting in person and answer your questions. Unfortunately my job as a boat captain does not allow me significant time off during the busy hunting season.

I would like to respond to on time comments from Maritime Helicopters regarding proposal 29. They claim that current FAA rules will mitigate safety concerns; helicopters must remain 500 feet from persons, vessels or buildings per FAR Part 91.119. Being within 500 feet of a helicopter is generally a loud non wilderness experience. Furthermore despite FAR regulations myself and numerous other anglers have had unsafe experiences where helicopters were much closer than 500 feet nearly landing on us. Lastly, numerous disabled and elderly people participate in the steelhead fishery without helicopter assistance yearly.

I would like to point out that every advisory council voted unanimously in support, private on time comments were 7-2 in support. It is nearly unanimous among residents of the state that this measure be adopted. The only non resident who commented on this proposal also supports this proposal.