

**PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL**  
**SMITH RIVER SALMON AND STEELHEAD STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**March 1, 2007**

INTRODUCTION:

It is timely for the State Fish and Game Commission to develop and cause to be implemented a strategic plan to assure the long term health of Smith River Chinook salmon and Steelhead stocks. Such a plan should be guided by a carefully crafted set of concepts developed under the policy guidance of the Commission. Such concepts might include the following.

- I. Management of the Smith River should be based on an understanding of the population levels of its fishery resources.

Recommended Action:

- A. Locate private and public funding sources for a multi-year count of salmon, Steelhead and Cut-Throat trout.
  - B. Request that DFG develop staffing requirements and a budget for Plan implementation.
- II. Review Smith River angling regulations in light of Strategic Plan goals and objectives (to be developed). As objective scientific data is developed from fish population studies regulation changes may evolve. Regulations on the Smith shall be guided by principles such as the following:
    - A. The condition of the fishery resources.
    - B. Consistency with other North Coast River regulations.
    - C. Common good sportsmanship.

- III. Lawbreaking will not be tolerated.

Recommended Action:

- A. The Commission shall publicize its Smith River Strategic Plan and implementing regulations through local media, contacts with judges and members of the bar and through the Board of Supervisors and County Fish and Game Commission members.
- B. DFG shall provide such law enforcement assistance as may be needed to assure that the Commission's Strategic Plan is effective.

This Preliminary Policy Proposal for Commission consideration might be initially considered by the Taucher Committee. Input might be sought from a broad spectrum of constituent groups, including the Smith River Advisory Committee and other interested groups. Representing the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, we stand ready to assist your Commission in this work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles P. Bucaria,  
Director, NCCFFF

