



# Association of Northwest Steelheaders

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## **Title: Introduction Statement on Policy and Positions**

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Last Revised:

### **To our membership:**

The environment of fishing and the Steelheaders is nearly buried in political rhetoric and finger pointing on who said what, to whom, and why. No matter what position is taken on an issue, feelings will be hurt and people will become upset.

We have lost members over a letter to the editor; views of organizations that are not part of the Association, but with 'Steelheaders' in their name are being used to question our positions; and fisheries organizations are fighting publicly over differences that may be substantive or only perceived.

The mechanism the Association has to deal with this is the Executive Committee. Under the bylaws:

- The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to maintain and oversee the day to day duties of the Association
- Approve Association policy statements
- Assure and maintain communication throughout the Association

In the same vein:

- The objectives of the chapters shall be to support the stated objectives of the Association; to serve as a local instrument of policy of the Association.

With this as an overview, no chapter or member shall purport to speak for the Association in matters of policy nor should any statements be made that could be inferred to be Association policy on sensitive issues, without the express approval of the Executive Committee.

We wish this were not so, but the reality is that more and more of your Executive Committee and staff resources are being used to address this type of problem, ("put out fires") instead of supporting you in your fishing activities.

Thanks for your support.

Your Executive Committee