

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Alec Taylor <alectaylor945@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:02 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River catch and release for all rainbow trout

Hi,

My name is Alec Taylor. I am a local fishing guide and have been fishing the Swan River since I was very young. After the change in the regulations allowing the harvest of 5 rainbow trout daily I have noticed a serious decrease in fish populations, both cutthroat and rainbow trout combined. I believe people are keeping whatever they want in the first place and getting away with it. Due to lack of patrol on the swan river and poor management there has obviously been a decrease in most species in that river. This regulation to make the the Swan catch and release for rainbow trout needs to pass and also needs to be enforced.

Thank you for your time,

Alec Taylor

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Brad Heine <bassmaster00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:51 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River catch and release proposal

My name is Brad Heine and I am very much in favor of returning the swan river back to catch and release for rainbow and cutthroat trout. Since the change in regulations allowing the harvest of 5 rainbows daily I have noticed a significant decrease in fish numbers throughout the river. I didn't even fish it last summer due to low fish numbers. The last 2 times I floated it before that we landed two small rainbows and that was all. This is a very special and gorgeous river that I've enjoyed fishing my whole life and it's a shame to see it in the current state it's in where fishing isn't even enjoyable any more due to low fish numbers. Thank you very much for your time.

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Jerry McGuire <mangeymoose@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 8:46 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River Fishing Amendment

This is a bad idea, this will mainly benefit those in the outfitter and guide business, not the everyday sportsman.

Jerry McGuire

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer \[mail.onelink.me\]](mailto:mail.onelink.me)

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Bret Rahe <brahe@gvtc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:06 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River Fishing Amendment  
**Attachments:** proposed-fishing-regulation-amendment-swan-river-final\_03222024.pdf

I am writing this message to convey support of the attached summary of the proposed amendment to fishing regulations applicable to the Swan River located south of Swan Lake in northwestern Montana. I fully support the proposed amendment and recommended changes to catch-and-release only for both cutthroat and rainbow trout, use of single pointed hooks only, and maintaining the requirements for no intentional fishing for bull trout. I fish this river multiple times each year, and such measures will from my perspective improve angler opportunity, and as noted in the summary, while catch-and-release may be contrary to the Statewide plan, the Department acknowledged that it does not anticipate any significant or irreparable harm to the resource if these measures are adopted and implemented.

The Swan River is very special place and is the primary reason I return to Montana each year to spend time outdoors. I hope it continues to prosper in the future, and I feel implementation of the amendment will ensure that will occur.

Best Regards.....  
Bret Rahe  
Spring Branch, Texas

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Brant Borden <grizfan55@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:18 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan river restrictions

My name is brant Borden and I am against the proposed rules regarding the swan River fishery. I am sick and tired of being overlooked and ignored by the people who are supposed to represent me and my license dollar. It seems all the commission aims to do is please certain minority groups or make a profit off of our publicly owned resources. Hunting and fishing in western Montana has progressively gotten worse and worse exponentially in a short amount of time due to in my opinion, mismanagement. While work is done to get more gill nets on swan lake and mack days kills thousands of fish on flathead lake the only result I see is a decline in overall fishing quality, not an incline in native species. This swan river proposal, in my opinion, seeks to satiate the ever outspoken fly fishing community with no gain to the common angler. It is much like the biologists in Eastern Montana, whose salary is paid with hunter dollars, managing elk not for the hunter but for the rancher. This is just another painful example of the silent majority being ignored by our "representatives " to make sure the squeaky wheel gets its grease. Thanks for your time.

Sent from my Galaxy

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Aaron Rasmussen <aaronrasmussen1442@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:44 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River rule changes

Sent from my iPhone

The rule changes proposed by commissioner Tabor are unnecessary as the fwp biologists stated in their review of the amendment. This push to make all rivers and streams in the flathead drainage single point hooks is a trout unlimited agenda that most of the angling public does not support. With zero data on how many fish are harvested with the current regulations and zero data on how single point hooks would actually improve a fishery these agendas are being forced on the sportsmen.

Our fine game wardens who are understaffed, overworked, and under appreciated don't need another petty rule to enforce either. They have enough to deal with from day to day.

And as far as the bull trout in the swan river the angling public isn't the problem with lower and lower numbers returning to swan lake, as long as all the tributaries are chock full of brook trout tons of those eggs from bull trout are coming down the river as hybrid brook-bull crosses and that isn't helping their plight one bit.

Every one of these rule changes takes away opportunities from sportsmen and women, and the trout unlimited/fly fishing agenda shouldn't be the only one considered by the commission.

Aaron Rasmussen, Kalispell

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Floyd Bienstock <floydbienstock13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:55 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River

Please change it back to catch and release. It will be a far superior fishery that way.

Floyd Bienstock  
Floydbienstock13@gmail.com  
(602)558-1331

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Chancy Jeschke <chancyfish@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:55 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Hello, I would like to comment on 2 items on the agenda for fishing regulations changes. I strongly oppose the change of no treble hooks on the flathead river from Columbia falls to Flathead lake. There was over 30 anglers at the scooping meeting and a strong major opposed this regulation. There is not enough data to support this. Also a majority of the river you are proposing is not a primary fisherier for bull trout and cutthroat. You have nearly 20 miles of the river that is not strong habitat and very seasonal used for Bull trout. There are many issues that do not support this change!!

I also just was informed and read the proposal for piper creek to swan lake no trebles. Once again I oppose this regulation. I do not believe there is strong enough data to support this. What is the mortality on trout single vs treble hook? How much fishing pressure is on this stretch of river? Why is this a issue? is it that the trout have hook scares? The guides to do not like there clients to see the hook scares? We know this was a issue with the flathead system why it was implemented!!

Iam strong support of rainbow trout they are a great fish and support regulations on them but hasn't fwp stance on rainbows in cutthroat water always been the hybridization of the two? So why catch and release only on the rainbows?

As a Montana native and life long angler I believe our commissioner should come talk to the sportsman in region 1 and justify his proposals.

Chancy Jeschke



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** chris holliday <radongas@centric.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:38 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Screw your single hook proposals. Why not ban fishing outfitters to save fish. Did you idiots ever think of that?

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Ted Schmidt <tschmidt@azinjurylaw.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 2:24 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Catch & Release on the Swan River

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a lifetime fly fisherman who regularly vacations in Montana to enjoy its many wonderful rivers and streams. I am a particular fan of the Swan river near Bigfoot. What a pristine, gem of a river and fishery.

I understand you are considering changing the rules on the Swan to Catch and Release. I am writing to strongly support such a change. As our wild country and rivers continue to be threatened, this is a river that meets all the criteria for quality water, catch and release status. I urge you to take the positive step of invoking Catch and Release only status for fishing on the Swan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ted Schmidt

Ted A. Schmidt  
Schmidt, Sethi & Akmajian  
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## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Larry Johns <johns.larry40@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 11:37 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Catch and torture for fun fishing

Place a daily limit on how many fish are caught and "tortured for fun" each day in order to save 30% +/- of the current no limit on the catch and torture for fun fishermen, fisherwomen, and all other forms of human kinds that fish.

Just sayin!

Sent from my iPad

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Michael Bias <mike@foam-mt.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 4:15 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission; KC Walsh; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org; Temple, Dustin; Ryce, Eileen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FOAM Comments on Swan River Amendment  
**Attachments:** FOAM Swan River Cmnts.pdf

Commissioners, Director, Dr. Ryce,

Please find attached our letter in support of the recently proposed Swan River fishing regulation amendment to reinstate the historic catch-and-release regulation for rainbow trout on the Swan River. There is growing concern among the guiding and outfitting communities that the continued allowable harvest of rainbow trout on the Swan River is detrimental to the trout fishery of that river. Our justifications for supporting this amendment are detailed in the letter.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting in April.

Respectfully,

mike

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Michael A. Bias, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
406-925-2276 (cell)



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Kirk Rasmussen <kirkasmussen86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:16 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposals for single hooks in the Swan River, Flathead River system. And other proposals included.

I am truly disappointed in the proposals. As a Montana native @ 37 years of age fishing and hunting has been our families passion since I can remember and well before I was around. These type of proposals made into Law seem small at the time but over time they have been stacking up eating away slowly on waters that I fish. As a licensed fisherman im tired of our waters being shut down. The preservation of the fish in question is important. But these laws trying to be installed are not the answer. The bi catch of netting and sampling these threatened species is way more detrimental to the fish then responsible fishing. In closing.... I am against any regulations restricting us anymore then the regulations already instituted. Thank you for your time

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Connor Mulvaney <cjmulvaney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:17 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support of Catch and Relapse for Rainbow Trout

Hello,

I am emailing in support of changing the Swan River back to catch and release. I think it is important to protect our fish populations in Montana.

Thank you,  
Connor Mulvaney

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Hale Snyder <hsnyder@nbsmokehouse.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 2:54 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Swan River - catch and release only!!

Dear FWP,

I support this change! We have a home on the lower Swan and fish the upper Swan with local guides all season. This river can not sustain the fish population with these daily kill numbers.

Thanks for your help!  
Hale Snyder



**Hale Snyder**  
Executive Vice President

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