

Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

August 1, 2019

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: ODFW Headquarters, Salem OR

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

Attendance:

Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner	David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner
Bob Spelbrink – ODFW Commissioner	Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner
Mary Wahl – ODFW Commissioner	Don Mclsaac – WDFW Commissioner
Michael Finley – ODFW Commissioner	Kim Thorburn – WDFW Commissioner
Mark Labhart – ODFW Commissioner	Jim Anderson – WDFW Commissioner
Holly Akenson – Previous ODFW Commissioner	Kessina Lee – WDFW Region 5 Director
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director	Ron Warren – WDFW Director of Fish Policy
Anika Marriot – OR AG Office	Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff	Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff	Ben Anderson – WDFW Staff
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff	Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff
April Mack – ODFW Staff	
John North – ODFW Staff	
Bernadette Graham-Hudson – ODFW Staff	
Bruce Eddy – ODFW Staff	
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff	

Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda

New and visiting commissioners from both Washington and Oregon introduced themselves. Though her term as commissioner has ended, Holly Akenson will continue to serve on the Committee to provide continuity.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

Review of Recent Columbia River Fishery Policy History

Staff presented background material (PPT slide shows) and answered follow up questions from Committee and visiting Commissioners.

Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond

Cursory Review of Issues in the Range of Alternatives under Consideration

The PRC briefly reviewed the Range of Alternatives, this is a complete listing of what the PRC is trying to deal with for 2020 and beyond.

There was discussion on current status quo and concurrency sections. The group reviewed the Washington Commission action and where the Oregon Commission is in terms of taking action on the February 26 PRC recommendation.

Refining and Prioritizing Alternatives for Analysis for Increased Upriver Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Stability

The PRC removed options one, two, five, six, seven, nine, and ten from future discussion. Options three, four, and eight remain as candidates for further analysis. A brief description of the rationale for placing an option in the inactive category is shown below; further rationale can be found in the document *Analysis of Results of Policy Issue Alternatives under Consideration*.

- 1 (License sales) – Topic confirmed as inactive as result of March 14 meeting. Based on past sales of Columbia endorsements in both states, allocation by license sales area would result in allocations that are similar to status quo.
- 2 (Origin of stock) – Topic confirmed as inactive as result of March 14 meeting. Many Chinook stocks encountered in Snake River fishing areas originate from outside Oregon/Washington waters, and annual shifts in production occur throughout the basin are factors that complicate a usable allocation regime.
- 5 (No upriver Catch Balance) – Topic confirmed as inactive as result of March 14 meeting. As presented by public, this option would not be consistent with *US v Oregon* Management Agreement, which requires accounting of catch balance fish from all areas.
- 6 (Lower river 5 days/week) – Topic discussed and designated as inactive during August 1 meeting. Days per week has been used in lower river fisheries in the past. Staff expects that reduction in days per week would not create reduction in catch of upriver fish due to effort shift response by anglers observed in years when days-per-week was used as well as extensions that would occur to comply with existing buffer implementation management.
- 7 (Different benefit measure) – Topic discussed and designated as inactive during August 1 meeting. There was considerable uncertainty on what the option is actually proposing and how a different benefit measure would affect fishery stability.
- 9 (payback to upriver) and 10 (payback to lower river) – Topic discussed and confirmed as inactive during the August 1 meeting. Paybacks are complicated to organize and would be particularly complex for upriver spring Chinook due to the use of impact percentages in management of the fisheries. In other areas where tried, payback regimes can have exaggerated unintended consequences when run sizes vary as much as has been observed for Columbia River spring chinook. Payback schemes might be considered when there is a pattern of lack of conformance to allocations, but that is not the case in this situation.

Document Format for Final Agreement

PRC and Commissioners discussed what a final agreement could look like. A narrative format (as generally outlined in the sample document) was agreeable, as it allows us to:

- Be less prescriptive
- Provides background and a general framework
- Stay at policy level and rely on staff for details
- Corresponding rules can be adopted as needed from the narrative (as has been done in Oregon in the past).

Thermal refuges were discussed, and flagged as a future agenda item.

Future Process and Schedule

The PRC adopted future meeting dates of August 29, October 1, and November 18. The next meeting will be hosted by WDFW, at the Region 5 Ridgefield Office. The October 1 meeting is scheduled to take place at the ODFW Salem location, with the November 18 meeting to be located at the WDFW Ridgefield Office.

Conclusionary Matters

Staff Assignments for next meeting

- Share Bill Tweit's presentation (PPT) on fishery management basics and Commissioner Graybill's document of where fish are produced upriver.
- Send out transmittal of February 26 PRC recommendation and Washington's motion in Spokane (March 2019), confirming that the PRC recommendation was to continue with the 2019 measures unless altered by the PRC during deliberations for 2020 and beyond.
- Run model of how Issue 3 - alternative 3 (plus 500 fish to Snake River) would effect last 5 years of fisheries; use one existing spring Chinook alternative for sp/co allocation as a base to work from.
- Attempt to complete Spring Chinook section of Range of Alternatives first, plus other Issues as time permits.

Public Testimony

Due to time allowed, the floor was opened to public comment for those still present. Brad Halverson, Jim Coleman, and Robert Sudar provided comments.