

# **Columbia river Salmon Fishery Policy Review (Briefing/Public Comment)**

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## Summary Sheet

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<b>Meeting dates:</b>	December 14, 2019
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Columbia River Policy Review – Joint WA/OR Committee Update and Public Input
<b>Presenter(s):</b>	Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, Fish Program and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fisheries Manager

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### Background summary:

In January 2013, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC) adopted Policy C-3620. The policy was amended in 2017 and 2019, and expires in 2023.

The objectives of the policy “are to promote orderly fisheries (particularly in waters in which the states of Washington and Oregon have concurrent jurisdiction), advance the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead, and maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state.” The policy recognizes uncertainty in implementation, depends on continued economic and biological analysis, and relies on an adaptive management approach.

Staff developed a five-year policy performance report during 2018 with stakeholder input. Oregon and Washington Commissions held a joint meeting to discuss Columbia River issues and indicated interest in reaching policy and regulatory concurrency between the two states. The two Commissions agreed to create the Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC) consisting of three Washington and three Oregon commissioners to develop recommendations to the full Commissions in each State.

The PRC met on January 17, February 6, February 26, March 14, August 1, August 29, and October 1; available meeting summaries are attached. Additional meeting(s) are being scheduled for winter/spring of 2020, although it is not yet clear who Oregon will appoint to the PRC to replace the Oregon members who are no longer members of the Oregon Commission. The intent of the initial round of meetings was to determine the process goals of the PRC, review fishery information, and then develop recommendations to each state’s Commission to consider for adoption. The two primary focuses of the PRC were to, first, provide recommendations that will achieve concurrency for the short-term, and secondly develop potential modifications for the long-term by reviewing a range of alternatives.

During early 2019, the PRC focused on concurrency for the short-term. The PRC did develop a recommendation at the February 26, 2019 meeting for each Commission to take under consideration. Their recommendation was approved by the WFWC on March 2, 2019, and is as follows:

- Transition Period with amendment for Spring Chinook Transition Period refers to all the allocations and gear types allowed in 2016.
    - Last year moving from gillnets to alternative gear.
  - Change from mandatory barbless hooks to voluntary barbless hooks effective as soon as practical but by June 1, 2019 at the latest.
  - Good faith progress toward recommending a comprehensive Columbia River salmon fishery policy for 2020 and beyond, to be completed as soon as possible. The policies embodied in this motion are intended to be in place until such comprehensive policy is adopted.
  - To be used only in 2019, the motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used unless the Upriver run size update is more than 129% of the Upriver spring Chinook pre-season forecast of 99,300.
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During the summer and fall of 2019, the PRC has focused on long-term modifications by reviewing a range of alternatives. This process is on-going and awaiting the next meeting(s) with the intent to develop recommendations back to each Commission for consideration. Staff is aware of several other issues that could require additional Commission consideration: efforts to reduce the number of commercial fishing licenses in the lower Columbia and development of alternative commercial fishing gears. Commissioners from each state may have additional issues.

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**Staff recommendation:**

Not applicable.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

At this meeting, the Commission will receive a progress report from staff and the three Commissioners on the PRC.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

Not applicable.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Public engagement and comments were received during the WA Policy review process during 2018 and are incorporated in the five-year policy performance report. The PRC meetings are open to the public and since August 1, 2019, have allowed for public comments; online commenting became available prior to the October 1, 2019 PRC meeting and has been forwarded to each Commission. All PRC materials are posted on the WDFW website. Staff has provided updates to the commercial and recreational advisor groups. The Commission will take public input at this meeting.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Review progress report from the PRC.

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**Draft motion language:**

None anticipated.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

Staff will continue make a record of the PRC process and engage with stakeholders as necessary.

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*Form revised 2-15-18*

# Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

January 17, 2019

10am to 5pm

Location: ODFW Office, Salem Oregon

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

## ATTENDANCE:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner  
Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner  
Bob Webber – ODFW Commissioner  
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director  
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff  
April Mack – ODFW Staff  
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff  
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff  
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff  
John North – ODFW Staff

David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner  
Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner  
Don Mclsaac – WDFW Commissioner  
Ron Warren – WDFW Staff  
Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff  
Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff  
Cindy LeFleur – WDFW Staff  
Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff

## NOTES:

See meeting agenda, attached.

## Agenda Item 2: Procedural Matters

### 2a: Conducting the meetings

- Commissioner Don Mclsaac (WA) was elected Chair
- Meeting to be conducted in accordance with standard Roberts Rules of Order
- All meetings are to be open to the public
- Public Comment: These meetings won't have regular public comment, as the formal Commission meetings do.
- There will be no formal minutes written for the PRC meetings, but summary notes to include and key progress decisions and recommendations by the RRC or a PRC will be prepared in writing
- The summary notes and decisions document will be drafted by staff with consultation with the Chair and circulated to PRC Commissioners for approval.
- Reaching a committee recommendation
  - While no decisions binding to either full Commission can be made by the PRC, decisions of the PRC will strive to make a recommendation that can be taken back to the full Commissions
    - Recommendations made by the committee will be transcribed by staff and approved by the PRC as part of the summary notes process

### 2b: Use of Fishery Advisors

- There will be no appointment of fishing industry or participant advisors, but fishery experts may be called on situationally as desired by the PRC

## **2c: Future meeting schedule and process.**

- The overarching goal is to achieve concurrent policies and regulations for 2019 and beyond
  - First step: Focus on the 2019 season, to have concurrency prior to the start of the North of Falcon process in mid-March
  - Secondary priority: continue the dialogue on the long term beyond 2019 and make this the primary focus after mid-March
- Next meeting scheduling
  - When and where
    - Feb 6<sup>th</sup> @ WDFW, Ridgefield, 9am-5pm
    - Feb 26<sup>th</sup> @ ODFW, Salem, 10am-5pm
    - March 14<sup>th</sup> @ WDFW, Ridgefield, 10am-5pm
- A detailed schedule and process document should be developed for PRC review at the next PRC meeting

## **Agenda Item 3: Policy and Regulatory Concurrency in 2019**

### **3a: Initial review of issues identified at the November 1 joint Commission meeting.**

- **3a iii: Discussion of issues, next steps and staff tasking for next PRC meeting.**
  - The following criteria that should guide PRC decision-making on 2019 concurrency (from current WA Policy):
    - Maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of both the sport and commercial fishing industries
      - As referenced in original WA Policy language, use ex-vessel values and angler trips, in comparison to the period prior to 2013
    - Meet conservation goals for salmon and steelhead
    - Promote orderly fisheries (concurrent rules)
  - Committee Members agreed that it would be best to not return to non-concurrence after 2019.
  - Four options were identified for further staff analysis and review and the next PRC meeting:
    - i. Option 1: Transition Period Rules
      - allowance of fisheries under the allocation and gear type measures in the policy during the Transition Period years. Include the following and any others appropriate to the Transition Period.
      - 70/30 spring Chinook – tangle nets ok in mainstem
      - 70/30 summer Chinook – gill nets ok in mainstem
      - 70/30 fall Chinook – gill nets ok in mainstem
    - ii. Option 2: Approximately 2018 Status Quo
      - 80/20 spring Chinook with no mainstem commercial fishery. Unused impacts go to escapement
      - 2018 regulations for summer and fall Chinook

iii. Option 3: No Economic Loss from Base Period

- Describe allocations and gear types that provide for no economic loss to the commercial fishery across a full season (not by individual season/fishery) – (base period identified as the 2010-2012 average values)

iv. Option 4: Other Option Identified by Staff

The PRC agreed that staff could present additional approaches if applicable.

**Agenda Item 4: Policy and Regulatory Concurrency 2020 and beyond**

**4b: Initial review of List of Ideas Matrix (handout), if possible and appropriate.**

- **4b i: Discussion of issues, next steps and staff tasking for upcoming PRC meeting.**
  - For the upriver/downriver allocation of spring chinook within the sport fishery allocation, include in the listing of ideas the ideas received from the eastside stakeholders to the WFWC; for example, the “payback” options
  - For the commercial fishery license buyback program option, the PRC will need to identify and list program goals for further analysis
  - Provide example of 2010-era spring Chinook Willamette/Upriver allocation matrix (note, differences existed between WA and OR allocation policy on this matrix)

**Agenda Item 5: Conclusion**

**5a: Review of expectations for next and future meetings.**

- Staff Assignments
  - Send around draft meeting summary notes to PRC members very soon
  - Prepare a descriptive narrative of the four options described for 2019 above and analysis that PRC members should consider at the next meeting towards a goal of making progress towards a single recommendation
  - Prepare a draft schedule and process document for PRC activities, for review at the next PRC meeting
  - Provide materials for next meeting by ~February 1
- Expectations for next meeting
  - The PRC will focus first on 2019 issues, including the review the staff analysis of the four options above and further discussion of voluntary barbless hooks and the status of the Youngs Bay fishing closure sanctuary.
  - The PRC will continue dialogue on a long-term policy, as a secondary focus.

# Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

February 26, 2019

9am to 5pm

Location: ODFW Headquarters Office, Salem OR

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

## ATTENDANCE:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner	David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner
Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner	Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner
Bob Webber (phone) – ODFW Commissioner	Don Mclsaac – WDFW Commissioner
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director	Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff	Cindy LeFleur – WDFW Staff
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff	Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff	Ron Warren – WDFW Staff
April Mack – ODFW Staff	Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff
John North – ODFW Staff	
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff	

## Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting start was delayed due to technical difficulties securing Commissioner Weber's participation by phone.

The draft agenda was adopted as the working agenda for the meeting without change. Staff reviewed the list of materials. These items were requested at previous meetings.

## 2019 Policies and Regulations

Commissioners and staff reviewed Narrative Descriptions of each options, no changes were proposed.

Staff provided a briefing on modeling assumptions and results.

Staff reviewed how each of the options performed under three primary evaluation criteria for 2019. It was noted that there were no significant differences between conservation and orderly fishery criteria in any of the options. Regarding the economics evaluation, recreational angler trips in every option slightly exceed the base, but the commercial fishery ex-vessel economic value in every option did not achieve the level of the base, with Option 2 showing the lowest commercial economic value and Option 1 being the closest to the base.

Staff presented and reviewed documents provided on mark rates. Based on cursory information from Washington field staff, enforcement and customer service it seems most anglers primarily use barbless hooks to comply with the law and were overwhelmingly not in favor of it.

Staff presented information and answered questions on the effectiveness of the Youngs Bay Control Zone. A discussion on options to try to improve Select Area Bright Chinook salmon



(SAB) reaching Youngs Bay and other Select Areas followed, and additional information was requested.

### **Developing a Consolidated Recommendation**

Prior to making any proposals or motions, Commissioners shared their perspectives, reactions, and leanings.

The following motion was made by Commissioner Kehoe and seconded by Commissioner Mclsaac.

*Towards concurrent policies and regulations for 2019, I move to adopt Option 1, Transition Period, to also include a change in sports fisheries from mandatory barbless to voluntary barbless hooks effective as soon as practical but by June 1, 2019 at the latest.*

*The motion also calls for good faith progress towards recommending a comprehensive Columbia River salmon fishery policy for 2020 and beyond, to be completed as soon as possible. The policies embodied in this motion are intended to be in place until such comprehensive policy is adopted.*

- The final vote on the motion, as successfully amended (see below) and clarified, passed
  - Aye- Commissioners Kehoe, Akenson, and Buckmaster
  - Nay- Commissioners Graybill, Weber
  - Commissioner Mclsaac announced the motion would pass without the Chair voting and did not vote

### **Staff Clarification on Summer Chinook seasons:**

Replace “above a spawning escapement goal of 20,000 at Priest Rapids dam” with “under the US v OR Management Agreement,” and replace “See page 7 in the” to “based on current” in footnote iii.

### **Amendments:**

The amendment is to change Fall Chinook sharing language from “ $\leq 70\%/\geq 30\%$ ” to “ $\leq 65\%/\geq 35\%$ ,” and to replace the word “freeze” with “modify” in the first sentence of the option 1 written description. Amendment moved by Commissioner Akenson

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment failed
  - Aye- Commissioners Buckmaster and Akenson
  - Nay- Commissioners Weber, Graybill and Kehoe
  - Commissioner Mclsaac announced motion will fail regardless of Chair’s vote and did not vote

The main motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used in

2019 unless the Upriver [spring Chinook] run size update is more than 129% of the preseason forecast. Amendment moved by Commissioner Mclsaac.

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment withdrawn

The main motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used in 2019 unless the Upriver run size update is more than 129% of the Upriver spring Chinook pre-season forecast of 99,300. Amendment moved by Commissioner Mclsaac.

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment failed
  - Aye – Commissioners Weber, Kehoe
  - Nay- Commissioners Graybill, Akenson, and Buckmaster
  - Commissioner Mclsaac announced motion will fail regardless of Chair’s vote and did not vote

To be used only in 2019, the main motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used unless the Upriver run size update is more than 129% of the Upriver spring Chinook pre-season forecast of 99,300. Amendment moved by Commissioner Buckmaster.

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment passed
  - Aye- Commissioners Weber, Kehoe, Buckmaster
  - Nay- Commissioners Graybill and Akenson
  - Commissioner Mclsaac announced motion would pass without a Chair’s vote and did not vote

#### Transmission to Full Commissions

The committee discussed how to carry the motion to their respective full Commissions. The motion and amendment was provided to committee members in writing (see attached Transmission Document).

Final chinook salmon allocations, as moved and amended:

- Spring 80%/20% in 2019 (unless run update is >129% of preseason forecast) then 70%/30%
- Summer 70%/30%
- Fall  $\leq 70\%$ / $\geq 30\%$  of the most constraining stock

### **Future Process and Schedule**

Next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by Washington at the Ridgefield office.

Additional meeting dates were discussed and identified:

- March 26<sup>th</sup> – webinar, IT host TBD
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Helens Oregon

### **Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

Commissioners briefly walked through a draft document of range of alternatives for 2020 and beyond regarding the sharing of the sport fishery impacts between lower river and upper river sport fisheries. They plan to revisit this topic in April.

### **Conclusionary Matters**

Staff Assignments:

- Provide more analysis on Youngs Bay- look at if there could be any further explanations for the trend line on the SAB harvest share, and identify what other options are there to increase escapement of SABs to Youngs Bay
- Review of the Range of Alternatives display and be prepared for further discussion at the next PRC meeting.

# Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

February 6, 2019

9am to 5pm

Location: WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield WA

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

## ATTENDANCE:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner

Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner

Bob Webber – ODFW Commissioner

Curt Melcher – ODFW Director

Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff

Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff

Chris Kern – ODFW Staff

April Mack – ODFW Staff

John North – ODFW Staff

Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff

Anika Marriot – OR AG office

David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner

Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner

Don McIsaac – WDFW Commissioner

Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff

Cindy Lefleur – WDFW Staff

Tami Lininger – WDFW Staff

Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff

Ron Warren – WDFW Staff

## Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

The over-arching goal of the PRC as shown in the meeting summary notes of the January 17 meeting, was reiterated:

- The overarching goal is to achieve concurrent policies and regulations for 2019 and beyond:
  - First step: Focus on the 2019 season, to have concurrency prior to the start of the North of Falcon process in mid-March
  - Secondary priority: continue the dialogue on the long term beyond 2019 and make this the primary focus after mid-March

The draft agenda was adopted as the working agenda of the meeting without change (attached).

## 2019 Policies and Regulations

### Analysis of Options

Analysis of three new policy options were to be discussed in terms of the evaluation criteria agreed to at the January 17, 2019 PRC meeting in Salem, in comparison to the base period of 2010-2012 prior to the major change in policy approach that occurred in 2013 (the “pre-policy” base period). The evaluation criteria for the Policy Review Committee were the purpose/goals stated in the Washington policy document: 1) the ability to meet or advance conservation goals; 2) the ability to conduct orderly fisheries; and 3) the ability to advance the economic well-being of both the sport and commercial fishing industries.

Additionally, Oregon has a statutory requirement to optimize fishery benefits for the State of Oregon. The fishery metrics within the economic criteria for sport fisheries was angler trips and for commercial fisheries was ex-vessel value. The model outputs also show Local Personal

Income Impact, a metric that describes the broader economic impact of the fisheries to the region.

#### Option 1: Transition Period Policies

- In a discussion of refining the written description of this option, it was determined that the intent of this option is to freeze the policies in place during transition year of 2016, together with the suite of enhanced Oregon SAFE area hatchery production releases that were added to the March 2017 rules adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- Initial modeling results of the sport and commercial fishery metrics of Option 1 were reviewed for 2019, as well as out years to 2024, and adjusted during the course of the meeting. Modeling results will be reviewed and verified for presentation at the next meeting.

Evaluation of Option 1 under the three criteria showed the following:

- Conservation
  - The ability to achieve conservation goals under Option 1 would be essentially the same as without changes brought forth by the new policy approach in 2013, and the same as Option 2 and Option 3.
- Orderly Fisheries
  - Staff indicated that evaluation of a particular policy approach in terms of the ability to conduct orderly fisheries was dependent upon the concurrency of the policies in the two states, not the details of individual model runs or policy options. Thus, in a manner similar to the conservation criteria, there would be no difference between Options 1 and the pre-policy base period, or Options 2 and 3 with regard to the ability to conduct orderly fisheries—so long as there is concurrency in policy between the States.
- Economics
  - As modelled for the meeting sport fishery angler trips under Option 1 for 2019-2024 would be collectively slightly better ~3% in comparison to the pre-policy base period, with slight increases for spring chinook and fall chinook seasons, and no change for summer chinook seasons.
  - Commercial fishery ex-vessel values would be ~15% worse in 2019 than the pre-policy base period allocations; modeling detail showed substantially reduced values in mainstem areas (~67% of base), but improved values in SAFE areas. However, with increased releases in SAFE areas, total commercial fishery economic benefits could show a slight increase of ~2% by 2024.

#### Option 2: 2018 Status Quo

- In a discussion of refining the written description of this option, it was determined that the intent of this option is to replicate the 2018 Washington policy, not the concurrent actual regulations negotiated to be in effect in 2018. The key difference is the sharing of

the most limiting fall chinook impacts (a commercial allocation of  $\geq 25\%$  is the 2018 Washington policy;  $\geq 30\%$  is how fisheries were managed in 2018). This option should be retitled “2018 Washington Policies” for future analytical work, to reduce any confusion with actual 2018 status quo seasons.

- Impromptu modeling of this clarified option was done during the meeting and will need to be confirmed for review at the next meeting.

Evaluation of Option 2 in comparison to the 2010-2012 base period under the three criteria showed the following:

- Policy performance under the conservation and orderly fisheries criteria showed no difference with the base period or Options 1 and 3, as noted above.
- Economics
  - As modelled for the meeting, sport fishery angler trips under Option 2 for 2019-2024 would be collectively slightly better (~4%) in comparison to the base period allocations and production, with most of the difference with Option 1 due to increased angler trips in the summer chinook season.
  - Commercial fishery ex-vessel values would be more than 30% less in 2019 than base period policies; modeling detail showed substantially worse values in mainstem areas (~-40% of base), but 15% better values in SAFE areas. Modeling of out years to 2024 still showed negative comparative ex-vessel values in excess of ~20%, even with increased releases in SAFE areas.

Option 3: No Loss of Economic Benefit Potential

- The January 17 PRC meeting notes describe this option as “...allocations and gear types that provide for no economic loss to the commercial fishery across a full season...” (compared to base period policy allocations and SAFE production). Noting there could be many ways to refine a written description of this option, the PRC had asked the staff to attempt a description.
- Staff modeled two sub-options for review to illustrate that different approaches could be taken to achieve this outcome. Modeling assumptions for commercial fisheries ranged from 20%-25% for spring chinook, 0%-20% for summer chinook,  $\geq 35\%$  for the most limiting fall chinook stock, and various other gear and area restriction assumptions.

Evaluation of Option 3 in comparison to the 2010-2012 base period under the three criteria showed the following:

- Policy performance under the conservation and orderly fisheries criteria showed no difference with the base period or Options 1 and 2, as noted above.

- Economics
  - As currently modelled, sport fishery angler trips under both Option 3 sub-options would be collectively slightly better (~3%) in comparison to base period policy allocations from 2019-2024.
  - Commercial fishery ex-vessel values under both Option 3 sub-options would be collectively less in 2019 than they would be without the 2013 harvest reform policy (~16%); modeling detail showed significant negative impacts in mainstem areas(~65% of base), but 15% better in SAFE areas for 2019. Modeling of out years to 2024 could achieve economic parity with pre-policy allocations and SAFE production with increased releases in SAFE areas.

#### Voluntary Barbless Hooks and the Youngs Bay Sanctuary

There was no discussion of proposals for these two topics, but rather assignments to staff for information to be discussed at the next PRC meeting (see conclusion, below).

#### Developing a Consolidated Recommendation

No proposals for a consolidated recommendation for 2019 policies and regulations were discussed, pending the confirmation of modeling results and additional comparative analysis to be shown at the February 26 PRC meeting.

#### **Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

Committee members reiterated a strong interest to not neglect the need for a comprehensive policy approach for the long term, while still focusing on 2019. The committee did not modify the List of Ideas Matrix, but prioritized several items:

- Low Priorities: a search for new WA SAFE areas; Joint State commercial license buyback program
- High Priorities: all of the items on pages 1 and 2 of the matrix; the inclusion of a section on hatchery production goals with special attention to mitigation hatchery programs, and including SAFE target production goals
- Medium Priorities: all remaining items in the matrix.

#### **Future Process and Schedule Document**

The draft process and schedule document was reviewed, with most of the discussion about the timing needed for each full Commission to decide on a single set of policies for 2019 in time for the onset of the North of Falcon process in mid-March. There was agreement to strive for a recommendation from the PRC at its next meeting on February 26 in Salem, Oregon and to organize staff assignments with that priority in mind. Another review of the Future Process and Schedule document will occur at that meeting with any adjustments as necessary to achieve the primary (2019) and secondary (2020 and beyond) goals of the Committee.

## Conclusion

The Committee asked the Chair to work with the staff to prioritize the listing of assignments below so as to optimize the chances of reaching a recommendation for policies in 2019 at the next PRC meeting.

- Develop stand-alone narrative descriptions of each Option, as opposed to the model run assumptions, scalars, coefficients, etc.
- Review, confirm, and validate model output results.
- Review models to verify the difference in angler trips when allocation changes.
- Show economic returns for high and low run sizes within the 2013-2018 grouping, for display with the average results.
- Prepare easily viewed comparison of option results for 2019.
- Provide detail on Select Area assumptions (OR and WA)
  - Pre-policy level of releases, and releases for returns in 2019
  - Where the funding comes from
  - Where the broodstock comes from
  - Risk of not meeting broodstock/egg goals
- Where does the Columbia River endorsement money go (OR and WA)? What programs are supported by the endorsement funds?
- Identify which fisheries (commercial/sport/species) have unused allocation but were provided the opportunity to use their share
- Look at angler trips relative to different allocation levels
  - If it does not negatively affect sport and improves commercial that might show areas where we might want to make changes.
    - Keep the sport fishery in the positive with regards to angler trips (economically enhanced)
    - Need to truth economic response model with 2019 pre-season fisheries model.
- What is the marked/unmarked ratio in Spring/Summer/Fall MSF fishery and/or what are the mark rates?
  - Specifically, how many fish are caught and how many fish are released in each fishery
- Youngs Bay Control Zone - does the sanctuary increase the number of fish caught in the Youngs Bay commercial fishery?
- Obtain information of barbed hooks vs. barbless hook perspective within sport sector fishery participants, if available.
- Provide a Pound Net update to the group



- Develop an initial straw range of options for upriver/downriver sharing of spring Chinook (WA commissioner subgroup assignment- 2020 and beyond), for analysis for the 2020 and beyond period
- Briefing from OR and WA on hatchery productions goals (SAFE areas?)
  - Where is production occurring?
  - What species are being produced?
  - How many are produced?
  - What is the funding source?
  - How secure is the funding?
- Look at specific areas or runs that could benefit from additional sport or commercial fisheries to remove hatchery fish and improve PHOS
- Share the NOAA 5-year status review and Columbia River Partnership Taskforce goals with group
- Share WA white paper on Orcas (Chair McIsaac to provide)

## Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

March 14, 2019

10am to 4pm

Location: WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield WA

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

### Attendance:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner	David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner
Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner	Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner
Bob Webber – ODFW Commissioner	Don McIsaac – WDFW Commissioner
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director	Kessina Lee – WDFW Staff
Anika Marriot – OR AG Office	Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff	Cindy LeFleur – WDFW Staff
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff	Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff	Ron Warren – WDFW Staff
April Mack – ODFW Staff	Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff
John North – ODFW Staff	Dan Rawding – WDFW Staff
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff	Tami Lininger – WDFW Staff

### Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda

Kessina Lee, WDFW Region 5 Director, and Oregon Director Curt Melcher provided opening remarks.

There was a proposal to adjust times to come to conclusion at 3pm, it was agreed to set that as the new goal.

There was a proposal to discuss allowing public testimony at future meetings under the Future Process and Schedule portion of the meeting. While time did not allow for discussion under the agenda item, there was discussion when the topic was proposed. PRC members did not object to this idea, and were in favor of allowing public testimony at the onset of the next meeting, so long as public input doesn't impair the ability of the PRC to complete scheduled work in a reasonable time frame. Written public input between meetings will also be allowed.

### 2019 Policies and Regulations

#### Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting March 2, 2019 Report of WA Commissioners and Commissioner Discussion

The Committee expressed their thanks to staff for their work in developing and relaying the February 26 PRC recommendation to the Commissions.

The Washington Commission accepted the recommendation. Five Washington Commissioners voted to approve the recommendation: Commissioners Kim Thorburn, Barbara Baker, Robert Kehoe, Donald McIsaac and Jay Holzmilller voted yes. Commissioner David Graybill voted no, and Commissioners Bradley Smith and Larry Carpenter abstained. Abstentions were based on concern for lack of public testimony opportunity on the west side of the State.

Washington Commissioners relayed some of the comments provided from the March 1-2 Commission meeting. The materials and audio from the Washington Commission meeting are available online (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings/2019>)

### OFWC Meeting March 15

Director Melcher provided a review of the Oregon process. While the Oregon Commission is to receive an update on the PRC progress and the Washington Commission vote at their meeting on March 15, the earliest they could vote on permanent rules is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Post Meeting Note:*

At their March 15 meeting, the OFWC decided to consider permanent rules at the June 7 meeting. However, the OFWC tasked Director Melcher with adopting a temporary rule to make barbless hooks voluntary if necessary to achieve concurrency with any rules adopted by Washington prior to June 7.

## **Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

### Prioritizing and Developing a Range of Alternatives for Analysis

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the development of a range of alternatives for staff analysis on policy issues put forward at the first two PRC meetings (see Attachment 1). While 15 policy issues were discussed, the majority of the time was spent on the range of alternatives for changes in the sharing between geographic sections of the spring Chinook sport fishery, including 10 policy “sub-options” that were received in public testimony from east-side interests during the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policy review process.

In the discussion of refining, eliminating, adding, and prioritizing the various policy issue possibilities the PRC provided the following guidance:

- Spring Chinook sport fishery allocation sub-option items 1 (allocation based on license information), 2 (allocation based on stock of origin), and 5 (eliminate upriver catch balancing) were placed in a category of likely to be removed from the list.
- A new spring Chinook sport allocation alternative was added, consisting of status quo 75%/25% sharing but with an add-on to the 25% upriver share of 500 ESA-listed fish impacts.
- The option of 65%/35% was added to the fall Chinook sport/commercial allocation alternatives.
- An alternative of an abundance-based approach to the summer Chinook sport/commercial allocation for areas downstream of Priest Rapids Dam was added.
- The alternative for an abundance-based allocation matrix for sport/commercial sharing of coho was tentatively removed from the range of alternatives.
- The policy alternative of a limitation on sport fishing guide licenses or effort was de-prioritized, pending public input including with the guide community, and further discussion about the license authority recommendation pathways and other legal review issues.

- There was no committee support to include the topic of a commercial license buy-back program in the range of alternatives for analysis as a policy measure for 2020 and beyond, for several reasons, and thus this alternative is to be de-prioritized from further consideration at this time.

#### Discussion of issues, next steps and staff analysis tasking

The PRC tasked the staff with providing a detailed description of each topic, a range of policy alternatives, options and sub-options, for ease in moving the issue forward. For items removed or de-prioritized by the PRC, staff will prepare summary information describing the discussion and reasoning by PRC. The staff was also tasked with providing a draft rationale narrative of why a policy element was either eliminated or de-prioritized, something that will be useful for discussions with the public as well as a matter of record and reference for PRC purposes.

#### **Future Process and Schedule**

The PRC decided to cancel the webinar meeting that was on the schedule for March 27 and plan the next meeting to be in person. The final recommendation was to reconvene May 20<sup>th</sup>.

##### *Post Meeting Note:*

After the meeting concluded the PRC agreed that the next meeting would be June 5 in Salem and not May 20.

#### **Conclusionary Matters**

##### Staff Assignments

- Provide short narrative descriptions of each policy issue alternative, option or sub-option in Attachment 1.
- Provide short narrative description of the rationale for policy items designated by the PRC for elimination or de-prioritization from active analysis at this time.
- Utilize existing allocation modeling to examine initial comparisons of alternatives to status quo.
- Prepare 'scorecard' or other method to summarize spring Chinook sport fisheries, allocations, impact usage, etc. to inform PRC discussion.
- Assess with a qualitative discussion when there are difficulties with a quantitative analysis.
- Prepare a draft summer Chinook abundance-based allocation matrix for below Bonneville sport/commercial catch sharing.
- Distribute meeting materials approximately a week in advance of the next meeting.

# Attachment 1

## Possible Policy Changes for 2020 and Beyond: Range of Alternatives for Analysis

Policy Issue or sub-option	Alternatives				
	Status Quo	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<b>Spring Chinook</b>					
Within-sport sharing between lower river and upriver fisheries (and Bonvle - St. Line/above St. Line)	75%/25% (10%/15%)	65%/35% (15%/20%)	85%/15% (5%/10%)		
Provide greater security for Upriver fishing seasons		Allocate by area of license purchase	Allocate by area of license residence		
1: License alloc basis		Alloc by stock origin			
2: Alloc by stock origin		LR only buffer			
3: LR only buffer		UR set season			
4: UR set season		No UR catch bal			
5: No UR catch bal		LR @ 5 days/wk			
6: LR @ 5 days/wk		Diff benefit msrmt			
7: Diff benefit msrmt		No LR extensions			
8: No LR extensions		UR payback			
9: UR payback		LR payback			
10: LR payback					
Sport/Commercial Allocation	?	70/30	80/20	Abundance Based Matrix	
Allocation of Unused Impacts		Any?			
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear	Tangle Nets Only	Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only	None
Sport/Commercial Allocation of Allowable Harvest below PR Dam	?	Abundance Based Matrix	70/30	80/20	50/50
Allocation of Unused Impacts		Any?			
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear	Tangle Nets Only	Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only	None
Definition of Harvestable Surplus below PR Dam	Only if forecast > 50 K over PR Dam	Any?			

### Spring Chinook sub-options

- 1 Allocate on the basis of license sale location or point of origin
- 2 Allocate on the basis of origin of stocks caught
- 3 Apply buffer only to fisheries below Bonneville
- 4 Establish a set season above Bonneville
- 5 Remove the catch balance requirement for fisheries above Bonneville
- 6 Limit LR seasons to 5 days per week
- 7 Measure benefit based on harvest instead of economic value
- 8 No LR extension beyond pre-season plan
- 9 Annual payback to UR fisheries for LR fishery overages the year before
- 10 Annual payback to LR fisheries for foregone opportunity to safeguard UR fisheries

Possible Policy Changes for 2020 and Beyond: Range of Alternatives for Analysis

Policy Issue or sub-option	Alternatives				
	Status Quo	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<b>Fall Chinook</b>					
Sport/Commercial Allocation of Most Contrainring Fall Chinook Impacts	?	70/30	80/20	Other?	
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Gill Nets; Alternative Gear	Alternative Gear Only	Other?	
<b>Coho</b>					
Sport/Commercial Allocation	?	Abundance Based Matrix	70/30	80/20	
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear	Tangle Nets Only	Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only	
<b>Other Measures</b>					
Limitation on Sport Fishing Guide/Charter Licenses	No Limitations	Capped at 2019 Level, in both States	Capped at 125% of 2019 level, in both States	Capped at 2016 level, in both States	Other
Commercial License Buyback Program	Pursued in WA only	B-State Pursuit with Goal of Reducing Licenses by 25%	B-State Pursuit with Goal of Reducing Licenses by 50%	B-State Pursuit with Goal of Eliminating Licenses Latent in 2010-12	

## 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 McIsaac – 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.

## Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

August 29, 2019

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield WA

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

### Attendance:

Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner	David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner
Jill Zarnowitz– ODFW Commissioner	Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner
Michael Finley – ODFW Commissioner	Don Mclsaac – WDFW Commissioner
Mark Labhart – ODFW Commissioner	Kelly Susewind – WDFW Director
Holly Akenson – Previous ODFW Commissioner	Ron Warren – WDFW Director of Fish Policy
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director	Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff	Chris Donley – WDFW Staff
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff	
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff	
John North – ODFW Staff	

### ODFW Support Staff

April Mack – ODFW Staff

### WDFW Support Staff

Matt Davidson – WDFW Staff  
Ben Anderson – WDFW Staff  
Nikki Kloepfer – WDFW Staff  
Tami Lininger – WDFW Staff  
Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff

### Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda

Commission and staff introductions.

The Committee adopted the agenda with the removal of Range of Alternatives (RoA) Spring Chinook Issue 5, allocation of unused commercial impacts, from discussion at this meeting,.

### Public Comment

Public testimony was set to five minutes each and public were encouraged to focus testimony on items on the agenda.

Public testimony was received from: Irene Martin, John Foltz, Greg King, Robert Sudar, Liz Hamilton, Heath Heikkila, Steve Fick, and Greg Johnson.

### Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond

#### Review and Refinement of the Range of Alternatives (RoA) for Analysis

Chris Donley presented an overview of the Snake River spring Chinook sport fishery.

Staff presented analysis results of RoA Spring Chinook Issue 3, Alternative 3 and the three remaining sub-options from Spring Chinook Issue 4. There was discussion on how the analysis was performed, and considerations for how these options affect fish management.

### Decisions Under Spring Chinook Policy Issue 3: Allocation of Upriver Spring Chinook Within Recreational Fisheries

- Alternative 1 (65%/35%) – Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: In addition to staff member’s analysis, this alternative is out of the range of what was originally proposed by SE Washington stakeholders. To date, the PRC has not identified an increased allocation to mid-Columbia River as an objective. The allocation of 65% to the lower river is lower than the resulting allocation from subtracting 500 fish to be transferred upriver, which the Committee viewed as beyond the level of change desired.
- Alternative 2 (85%/15%) – Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: In addition to staff member’s analysis, this alternative is out of the range of what was originally proposed by SE Washington stakeholders.
- Alternative 3 (+500) – Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: This was done in favor of adding an alternative of 70%/30% due to the difficulty of annually managing a static 500 upriver fish transfer and associated impacts across various run sizes. Further, the analysis showed that within recent run sizes, the net effect of this alternative was very similar to a simple 70%/30% allocation.
- NEW Alternative 4 (70%/30%) – Commissioners requested analysis of a new alternative with sub-options of ‘4a’ and ‘4b.’
  - This allocation appears less complex than adding 500 upriver fish from the lower river’s allocation to the Snake River fisheries’ allocation but achieves a similar result.
    - Sub-option 4a: 70%/12.5%/17.5% (below Bonneville/mid-Columbia/Snake)
    - Sub-option 4b: 70%/10%/20% (below Bonneville/mid-Columbia/Snake)

### Decisions Under Spring Chinook Policy Issue 4: Provide Improved Season Stability for Upriver Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- Option 3 (lower river buffer only) - Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: This option would reduce the lower river fishery, and would not add to the Snake River fishery. It would increase the risk of exceeding allocations in the Bonneville to State Line fisheries.
- Option 4 (Upriver season set) - Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: Fixed seasons would increase the likelihood of exceeding allocation and impacts of the non-treaty share. A set season works well when you have limited entry or no allocation issues. In this situation, set seasons are not practical due to variations in annual run sizes and other issues. This option would likely not result in meaningful opportunity.

- Option 8 (No lower river extension) - Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: Under this option, the lower river may not be able to achieve its sub-allocation. While this would provide additional assurance of not exceeding, it also contains the biggest risk of leaving non-treaty fish unused. It might also lead to longer lower river seasons adopted initially, with in-season curtailments, which is less precautionary, than the current approach.

#### Spring Chinook Policy Issue 1: Spring Recreational/Commercial Allocation

The Committee postponed this agenda item due to lack of time. Commissioners requested a new alternative of 65%/35% for future discussions.

#### Spring Chinook Policy Issue 2: Allowable Spring Mainstem Commercial Gear

Reviewed description.

- Alternative 1- Non-tangle net alternative gear. Topic discussed and designated as deprioritized/inactive.
  - Rationale: There are not currently any non-tangle net alternative gears available and feasible for use in this fishery. Eliminating tangle net and gill net gear would eliminate the only gears that could be used in spring mainstem seasons.

#### **Other Measures in the RoA: General Policy Discussions**

*The PRC discussed the following four matters as possible policy inclusions in a final recommendation.*

#### Increased Alternative Commercial Gear Development and Implementation

Topic discussion included a review of prior PRC discussions and new ideas about cataloguing areas and information.

- The Committee continued to support moving forward with this for further discussion at future meetings.
- It would be useful for a workgroup to catalog
  - The current state of analysis of what gears might work, in a “fact based review”
  - A catalog of river environments below Bonneville Dam and where different alternative gears might be most effective, area-by-area
  - A reexamination of what else is available, including new studies or improved study designs
- The Committee recognized the need to have support from the commercial fishery, and financial and fishery impact funding for a successful program to proceed.

## Commercial License Buyback Programs – Other Measures: Issue 2

Based on PRC discussion at the January and February PRC meetings, the PRC previously marked this topic inactive. It was suggested by the Chair to bring back the topic for re-examination, since the focus on 2019 concurrency and season setting has passed. At the next meeting, the PRC would like to consider a few paragraphs for the final recommendation policy document. The subgroup/committee continue to work on a report that identifies the potential objectives of a buyback program.

- The resulting buyback program policy would need to be conducted in a coordinated manner in both states
- It would need to identify a common objective(s)
- It would need a process for input from affected parties

## Hatchery Production Enhancement and Limitation on Sport Fishery Guide/Charter Licenses- Other Measures: Issue 1

These topics were added to the list of assignments (above) for the subgroup to draft possible policy language for PRC discussion at the next meeting.

*Action Item: A subgroup (WDFW Commissioner McIsaac, ODFW Commissioner Akenson, Chris Kern and Ron Warren) was tasked to develop some brief policy language for review by the PRC and potential inclusion in a policy document on the following four topics: a) alternative commercial fishing gear, b) commercial license buyback program, c) hatchery production goals, and d) limitations on recreational guide/charter licenses.*

## Other Matters in Achieving Concurrency in 2020 and Beyond

### **Voluntary Barbless Hooks**

There was a review of what happened at the August 2, 2019 Oregon Commission meeting. Oregon did not set voluntary barbless into permanent rule for 2020. This was done with the understanding that the topic would be revisited in future PRC meetings, and by the full Oregon Commission who would receive a full briefing from staff and provide time for public comment.

### **Commercial fishing advisory committee for Emerging Fisheries**

Seines and other alternative gears are not currently legal under Washington statute. Therefore Washington must pursue alternative gears under statutes for emerging fisheries and is required to establish an advisory group. The recruitment for the group has started, and the intention is to ensure that it is fully compatible with the work of PRC.

Oregon Senate Bill 830 (2013) removed prohibitions on these commercial fishing gears in Oregon, so there is not a similar emerging fishery process requirement in Oregon.

## **Future Process and Schedule**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2019 with a start time of 8 a.m.

Public testimony will be accepted. Staff was requested to provide a method of accepting written public comment expanding the public comment opportunity for consideration by PRC members.

## **Conclusionary Matters**

### Staff Assignments for next meeting

- Provide all remaining analysis on alternatives in the RoA that the PRC has not discussed for 2020 and beyond.
- Direction was given on analysis of spring Chinook Issue 5, and summer Chinook Issue 2 - it would be useful for staff to provide the following information to aid in a decision for either of the options under consideration:
  - What the picture of increased escapement looks like, and how important these impacts are
  - What the open fisheries on unused impacts have been, and how important are those fishery opportunities
- The policy language subgroup is to draft policy language for the four topics listed above.
- Staff is to determine if an 'electronic portal' method can be provided for acceptance of public comment, and if available, notify the public of this option. Information received would be forwarded to PRC members in advance of the next meeting.

# Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)



October 1, 2019 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Room  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon  
Meeting Notes



## Attendance

Michael Finley- ODFW Commissioner  
Holly Akenson- Previous ODFW  
Commissioner  
Curt Melcher- ODFW Director  
John North- ODFW Staff  
Chris Kern- ODFW Staff  
Anika Marriott- OR AG Office

Don McIsaac- WDFW Commissioner  
David Graybill- WDFW Commissioner  
Bob Kehoe- WDFW Commissioner  
Ron Warren- WDFW Director of Fish Policy  
Ryan Lothrop- WDFW Staff  
Cindy LeFleur- WDFW Staff

## ODFW Support Staff

Michelle Tate- ODFW Staff  
April Mack - ODFW Staff

## WDFW Support Staff

Myrtice Dobler- WDFW Staff

## Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda

Commission and staff introductions. Opening remarks from previous ODFW Commissioner Akenson, WDFW Commissioner Graybill, and Chair McIsaac.

The Committee adopted the agenda without changes, while recognizing the volume of work being attempted today may require flexibility.

## Public Comment

Public testimony was set to four minutes each. Testimony was received from public.

Staff and the Committee shared details about the written testimony process. The links are active on both the WDFW and ODFW Committee websites. When submitting written testimony people will be asked for their name, address, state, and comment. The system will allow one document to be attached.

There was discussion on distribution of written testimony.

- Distribution of testimony
  - WA: 3 PRC Commission representatives, Nikki Kloepfer and WA staff
  - OR: Michelle Tate will distribute to Commissioners and staff
- Length of comment period
  - For the next meeting, written public testimony will be accepted through Thursday November 14. After that, the portal will be suspended
    - The Committee will determine when/ if the portals will open again
- Notification that portals are open
  - Notification on PRC websites
  - Emails to known stakeholders/ interested parties

# Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)

October 1, 2019 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Meeting Notes

## **Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

### **Review and Refinement of the Range of Alternatives (RoA) for Analysis**

#### **Summer Chinook**

Recreational/Commercial Allocation (Issue 1) - Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decision:

- All of the allocation options listed in the Range of Alternatives will remain as options to carry forward to November.
- Alternative 2 (Abundance Based Matrix) – The Committee recognized this method would add a layer of complexity to fishery management, but identified an abundance based matrix as an alternative of interest. In comparison to the 70/30 sharing in the current PRC recommendation, the matrix would provide a greater sport fishery share during years of lower abundance and a greater commercial fishery share during years of higher abundance.

Allocation of Unused Commercial Impacts (Issue 2) - Analysis is not complete, materials will be available for the November meeting. PRC decisions:

- Alternative 1 (unused commercial impacts allocated 100% to spawning escapement) – The PRC deactivated this alternative from further analysis. As a management tool it would constrain fisheries beyond current management guidelines and it's challenging to guarantee that 100% of the unused impacts would reach the escapement areas.
- Alternative 2 (unused commercial impacts to be allocated to either upriver fisheries or increased spawning escapement) – The Committee retained this alternative for discussion in November. This alternative gives fishery managers the flexibility of an additional management tool and the leeway to determine specific needs for an area.

Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear (Issue 3) - Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decision:

- The alternative of OR Status quo (use of alternative gear only) was deactivated from further analysis. At this time, it isn't viewed as a viable option for a commercial fishery due to lack of alternative gear options, superior to gill net gear, which work during the summer Chinook time frame.

#### **Fall Chinook**

Recreational/Commercial Allocation (Issue 1) - Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decisions:

- Alternative 1 (80/20) – This alternative was deactivated from further analysis. It was not viewed as able to maintain economic viability when compared with other fall fisheries, in the context of the legal mandate for Oregon and policy for Washington.
- Alternative 2 (65/35) – This alternative remains as an option depending on analysis and final decisions for other species and items.



## Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)

October 1, 2019 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Meeting Notes

Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear (Issue 2) - Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decision:

- Alternative 1 (alternative gear only) – This alternative was deactivated due to the current lack of alternative gear options that provide a clear path for economic viability and low bycatch impacts.

#### **Clarification on definition for Alternative Gear, as used by the PRC.**

Alternative gear is defined as: *Including but not limited to: purse seine, beach seine, tangle net, pound net, or other gears as authorized by the Commissions.*

- A footnote including this definition will be added to the Range of Alternatives document for future meetings.

#### **Coho**

Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear (Issue 2)

Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decisions:

- Alternative 1 (non-tangle net alternative gear only) – This alternative was deactivated. The Committee did not view this option as feasible based on comparison of economic viability with other gear types.
- OR Status Quo Alternative (Tangle Net Gear Only) – This alternative was deactivated. The Committee wants to provide flexibility to fishery managers to utilize the best commercial gear options for fishery management. Limiting to one gear type, would not do this.

#### **Spring Chinook**

Recreational/Commercial Allocation (Issue 1)

Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decisions:

- Alternative 2 (Abundance based matrix) – Committee identified this as an option to carry forward to November. They requested the analysis from staff include: allocations of 80/20 at lower abundance, 70/30 at medium abundance, and a greater commercial share at high abundance.
- All other allocation options remain active.

Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear (Issue 2)

Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decision:

- OR Status Quo Alternative (Tangle Nets Only during the Post-Update Time Frame) – The Committee deactivated this alternative. This alternative doesn't give flexibility for managers to choose the best commercial gear option available at the time.

## **Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)**

October 1, 2019 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### **Meeting Notes**

#### Allocation of Upriver Spring Chinook within Recreational Fisheries (Issue 3)

Staff reviewed and answered questions on materials. PRC decision:

- All alternatives will carry forward to November for additional discussion.

#### Allocation of Unused Recreational Impacts

This topic was raised in discussion. The Committee recognized this is an issue.

- It was added to the Range of Alternatives under policy issue 5 (from just ‘commercial’ to ‘recreational and commercial’ impacts).

#### Allocation of Unused Commercial Impacts (Issue 5)

Materials were not complete for this item, they will be provided for the November meeting.

### **Policy Document Language**

#### **Draft Potential Language for the General Provisions Section**

The PRC discussed and moved forward the draft language on the following four topics:

- Limitation on Sport Fishery Guide/Charter Licenses
- Commercial License Buyback Programs
- Hatchery Production Goals
- Increased Alternative Gear Development and Implementation
  - In this section there was a question on wording of providing “other incentives for participants”; this is direct language from current WA/OR Policy/Rules. Staff will look into original meaning/intention

The PRC tasked the writing workgroup to develop draft language on the following, for consideration in November for possible inclusion in the General Provisions Section.

- Thermal Angling Sanctuaries.
- Fishery Monitoring.
- Exploration/Development of New SAFE Areas.
- Inclusion of SAFE Areas Production Goals.

It was noted that the success of this policy is closely tied to the continued success of the SAFE areas and that the PRC will need to review the economic contributions of Select Area policy changes.

The PRC thought it would be useful to include a Fact Sheet as an attachment to the draft policy document. This was in response to concerns about public perception of various elements that could be misinterpreted as to purpose and effect. The Fact Sheet will serve as an aid in deliberations at the November PRC meeting, and in the event a recommendation is reached, at the Commission meetings in December.

The writing work group will create a final draft of the General Provisions document and an initial draft of a Fact Sheet to present and discuss at the November meeting.

# **Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)**

October 1, 2019 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Future Consideration of Voluntary Barbless Hooks**

Due to the new members on the PRC and both State's Commissions, the Committee requested staff capture in writing the basis of the PRC February recommendation, and other relevant information, for discussion in November and distribution to respective commissions. The summary will include:

- Brief summary of scientific studies on fish mortality effects
- TAC review
- Origin of mandatory barbless requirement in current policy
- Relevance of retention fisheries as opposed to 100% catch and release fisheries
- Barbless hook regulation status elsewhere in OR/WA
- Potential handle of wild B-run steelhead

### **Future Process and Schedule**

#### **Review of Draft Process and Schedule Document**

The next PRC meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2019 in Ridgefield WA. It will be a full day meeting with a start time of 8 a.m.

### **Conclusionary Matters**

#### **Review of Staff Assignments**

- Summer Chinook: staff requested to develop an abundance based matrix
- Spring Chinook: staff requested to develop an abundance based matrix
- Barbless hook information summary
- Writing group (select commissioners and staff) to develop draft of proposal document
- Non-linear angler trips: explore some nonlinear assumptions for summer Chinook that could estimate angler trips across different allocation alternatives
- Summary of package/big picture analysis, similar to the "long sheets" utilized at PRC meetings earlier in the year, including overall economics across fishing seasons, including SAFE.