



State of Washington
Fish & Wildlife Commission

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February 10, 2020

Mary Wahl, Chair Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
odfw.commission@state.or.us

Re: Columbia River Salmon Management Policy

Dear Chair Wahl:

On behalf of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission), I am writing to communicate the results of our January and February Commission meetings regarding the review of Washington's Columbia River Salmon Management Policy (Policy).

The Commission acknowledges and respects your decision to suspend the PRC process. We also want to express our appreciation for the excellent work of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff over the course of 2019 in the Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee process. The joint Washington and Oregon staff deserves strong recognition for their efforts in completing a substantial amount of scientific analysis of options to address shortcomings in current policies identified in the comprehensive reviews conducted in both States.

At our January meeting, the Commission delegated responsibility to our director Kelly Susewind to negotiate directly with your director Curt Melcher with the goal of achieving a concurrent regulatory approach in 2020. Given the recent salmon run-size forecast information, it appears likely that many of the current differences between the Washington Policy and Oregon's rules are moot in 2020. Nevertheless, the Commission believes it is important to strive for as much certainty as possible as both States plan for the 2020 seasons. It is important to note that our delegation for this negotiation process between our respective Directors is limited to 2020. Our Commission believes that future changes to the Policy, if any, should be based on the best scientific information available and an open, transparent process, as opposed to a one-year negotiated compromise between the two Directors.

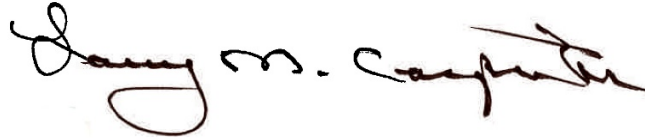
During both our January and February Commission meetings, several Commissioners expressed their desire to move forward with the ongoing Commission review process with the goal of completing the review in a timely manner. In November 2018, WDFW published its comprehensive review of the Policy performance over its initial five years. See Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620, 2013 – 2017. This review showed important objectives and expectations were not being achieved. We believe it is our responsibility to address the identified shortcomings and also consider the ideas to improve the Policy that have come forward during the policy review process. Thus, at our February meeting we adopted a

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Bob Kehoe, Seattle • Don McIsaac, Hockinson • Kim Thorburn, Spokane, James Anderson, Buckley

schedule that resumes the policy review process in mid-March with the objective of reaching a conclusion by this summer.

We wish you much success in your newly appointed position as chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry M. Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

CC:
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Members
Kelly Susewind
Ron Warren
Bill Tweit