

# Columbia River Policy 3630: Annual Update 2022

December 10, 2022

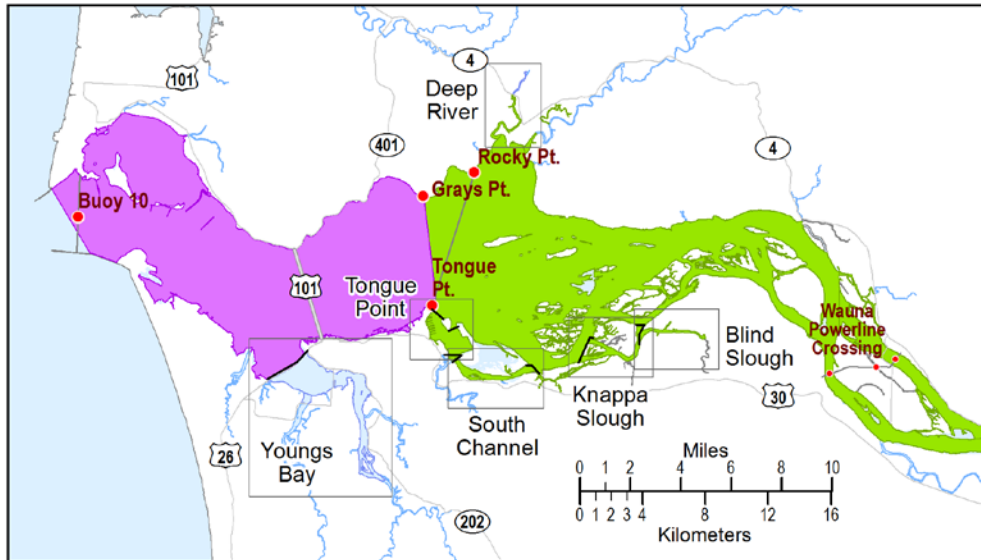
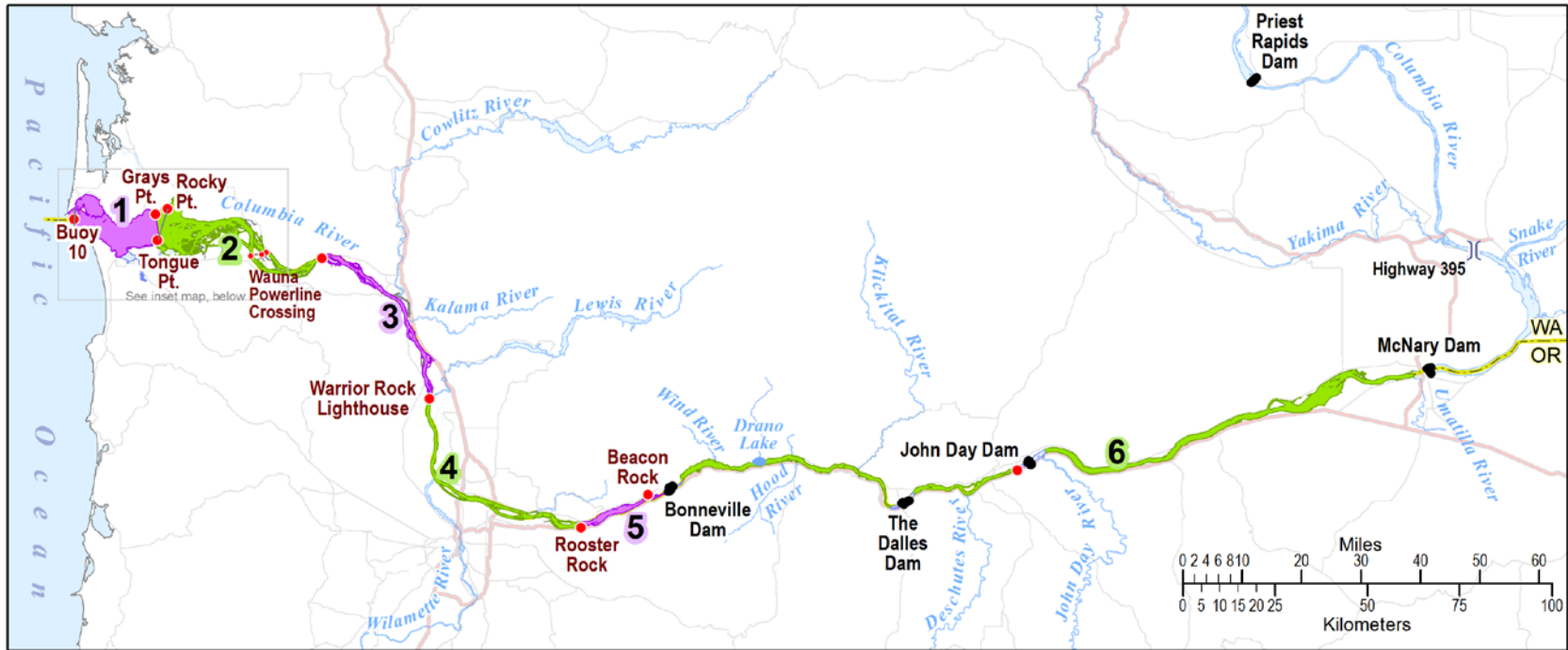
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# Mainstem Fisheries Review

- Includes fisheries described in the 'Fishery Specific Provisions' of C-3630.
- Statistics provided are considered preliminary, and subject to change, as run reconstruction is currently on-going through the winter.
- Run sizes and impact rates are based on Columbia River mouth run size unless otherwise indicated and are subject to change pending run reconstruction.





WDFW Fish Science, 11/23/2021



# Upriver Spring Chinook



## Run size

- Preseason: 122,900
- Updated run size: 185,400

## Allocation & Gears

- C-3630: 70% recreational (70% Lower Columbia River (LCR; downstream of Bonneville Dam), 10% Bonn-OR/WA state line, 20% Snake), 30% commercial (any gear any period)
- Oregon: 80% recreational (75% LCR, 10% Bonn-OR/WA state line, 15% Snake), 20% commercial (post-update tangle net only)
- 2022 Management approach: 70% recreational (70% LCR, 10% Bonn-OR/WA state line, 15% Snake, 5% unallocated); 20% commercial (post-update tangle net only); 10% unallocated

## ESA Impacts

- Recreational: 0.91% out of 1.26% allocated
  - LCR: 0.65% out of 0.93% allocated
  - Bonneville to OR/WA state line: 0.09% out of 0.13% allocated
  - Snake (WA): 0.17% out of 0.20% allocated
- Commercial: 0.37% out of 0.38% allocated
- **Total non-treaty ESA impacts: 1.28% out of 1.90% allowed**



# Upper Columbia Summer Chinook



## Run size

- Preseason: 56,300
- Updated run size: 79,200

## Allocation & Gears

- C-3630: <Priest Rapids Dam (PRD): 70% recreational, 30% commercial (gillnets allowed)
- Oregon: <PRD: 80% recreational, 20% commercial (gillnets not allowed)
- 2022 Management approach: <PRD: 70% recreational; 20% commercial (no gillnets); 10% unallocated

## Catch Sharing

- <Priest Rapids Dam
  - Recreational: 3,780 of 4,146 allocated
  - Commercial: 65 of 1,184 allocated
- **Total non-treaty harvest rate (in-river, ocean): 22.3% out of 28.0% allowed**



# Sockeye



## Run size

- Preseason: 198,700
- Updated run size: 664,600

## Allocation

- C-3630: 70% recreational, 30% commercial
- Oregon: 80% recreational, 20% commercial
- 2022 management approach: 70% recreational; 20% commercial; 10% unallocated

## ESA Impacts

- Recreational: 0.22% out of 0.7% allocated
- Commercial: 0.004% out of 0.2% allocated
- **Total non-treaty Snake River ESA impacts: 0.22% out of 1.0% allowed**



# Fall Chinook



## Run size

- Lower River Hatchery; surrogate for ESA-listed Lower Columbia River
  - Preseason: 73,600 (no current ability to update the run size)
- Upriver Bright; surrogate for ESA-listed Snake River Wild
  - Preseason: 229,700; Updated run size: 267,000

## Allocation & Gears

- C-3630:  $\leq 70\%$  recreational,  $\geq 30\%$  commercial of most constraining fall stock; gillnet Zones 1-5
- Oregon:  $\leq 70\%$  recreational,  $\geq 30\%$  commercial of most constraining fall stock; alternative gear sub-allocation; gillnet Zones 4-5; recreational season objectives
- 2022 Management approach:  $\leq 70\%$  recreational,  $\geq 30\%$  commercial of most constraining fall stock; gillnet Zones 4-5

## ESA Impacts

- Lower River Hatchery (Lower River Natural ESA component); most constraining fall stock
  - Recreational: 7.31% out of  $\leq 6.87\%$  allocated
  - Commercial: 1.95% out of  $\geq 2.95\%$  allocated
  - Total (in-river, ocean, northern) ESA impacts: 37.5% out of 38.0% allowed**
- Upriver Bright (URB)/Snake River Wild (SRW ESA component); constrained fisheries with reduced run size in early October
  - Total non-treaty: 14.75% URB and 13.67% SRW ESA out of 15.0% allowed each**



# Coho

## Run size

- Preseason
  - Early stock: 431,400
  - Late stock: 252,300

## Allocation & Gears

- C3630: ESA impacts prioritized by fishing sector with no numerical allocation; gillnets allowed
- Oregon: ESA impacts prioritized by fishing sector with no numerical allocation; gillnets not allowed
- 2022 Management approach: ESA impacts are prioritized by fishing sector with no specific numerical allocation; no gillnet fishery; coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear and live-capture techniques

## ESA Impacts

- **Total (in-river, ocean, northern) ESA impacts: 17.6% out of 23.0% allowed**





# Chum



## Run size

- Preseason: 16,000

## Allocation

- Commercial fisheries assign sufficient share to prosecute fisheries.
- No retention in commercial or recreational fisheries.

## ESA Impacts

- **Total non-treaty ESA impacts: 1.2% out of 5.0% allowed**



# Commercial Alternative Gear



# Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF): Rule-Making

Rule to designate a lower Columbia River Emerging Commercial Fishery was Finalized November 2022

- Qualified applicants will be selected by lottery for participation
- Fishery details will be discussed during the NOF and Compact processes
- Please visit this webpage for finalized documents associated with this rulemaking:

[Columbia River non-treaty commercial fisheries | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)



# Emerging Fishery Implementation Budget Request

New fishery monitoring	Funding for staff dedicated to observing and collecting samples for this fishery, and to address implementation questions as needed (e.g., utility of steelhead excluders)
Shoring up monitoring tools	Funds to purchase PIT tag array and PIT tag supplies
Alt gear feasibility	Funds to support work identifying viable fixed gear locations throughout the lower Columbia River
Gear Fund	Funds to help fishers cover the capital costs associated with new gear/gear optimization



# Fall Tangle-Net Study

Purpose: Evaluate release mortality rate of existing alternative gear ( $\leq 3.75''$  mesh) targeting hatchery coho with gear modification and earlier start time

- Columbia River commercial fisher concept
- OR/WA joint state effort
- Intended to occur fall of 2021 but postponed to 2022 due to supply chain issues with receiving nets



# Commercial License Reduction



# 2022 License Reduction Proviso

- (65) \$14,400,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the department to reduce the number of nontribal commercial gillnet fishing licenses on the Columbia River through a voluntary buy-back program.
- (a) Until November 30, 2022, the department may pay up to \$25,000 each for licenses that have been inactive since 2019 and up to \$120,000 each for licenses that have been active since 2019. After November 30, 2022, the department may pay up to \$20,000 each for licenses that have been inactive since 2019 and up to \$96,000 each for licenses that have been active since 2019. It is the intent of the legislature that this will be the last appropriation made to buy back licenses for the Columbia River gillnet fishery.
  - (b) For all licenses purchased, the department shall calculate the reduced impacts to wild and endangered stocks based on the most recent five-year average of harvest and reserve those impacts for conservation through increased wild salmonid escapement or mark selective fisheries capable of harvesting surplus hatchery-reared salmon where needed to meet federal genetic protection requirements for wild salmon populations in a manner consistent with state-tribal fishery management agreements.
  - (c) The department must make recommendations to the legislature for any necessary changes in statute, regulations, or program funding levels to transition lower Columbia River mainstem gillnet fisheries to alternative, selective fishing gears, including pound nets or other gears capable of benefitting wild salmon conservation through mark-selective harvest practices. The recommendation must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022.



# Proviso updates

## Subsection A

- 240 total WA license holders
- 169 licenses retired
  - 151 active
  - 18 inactive

## Subsection B

- Working on an approach for calculating impacts
- Likely to need differing approaches for different species

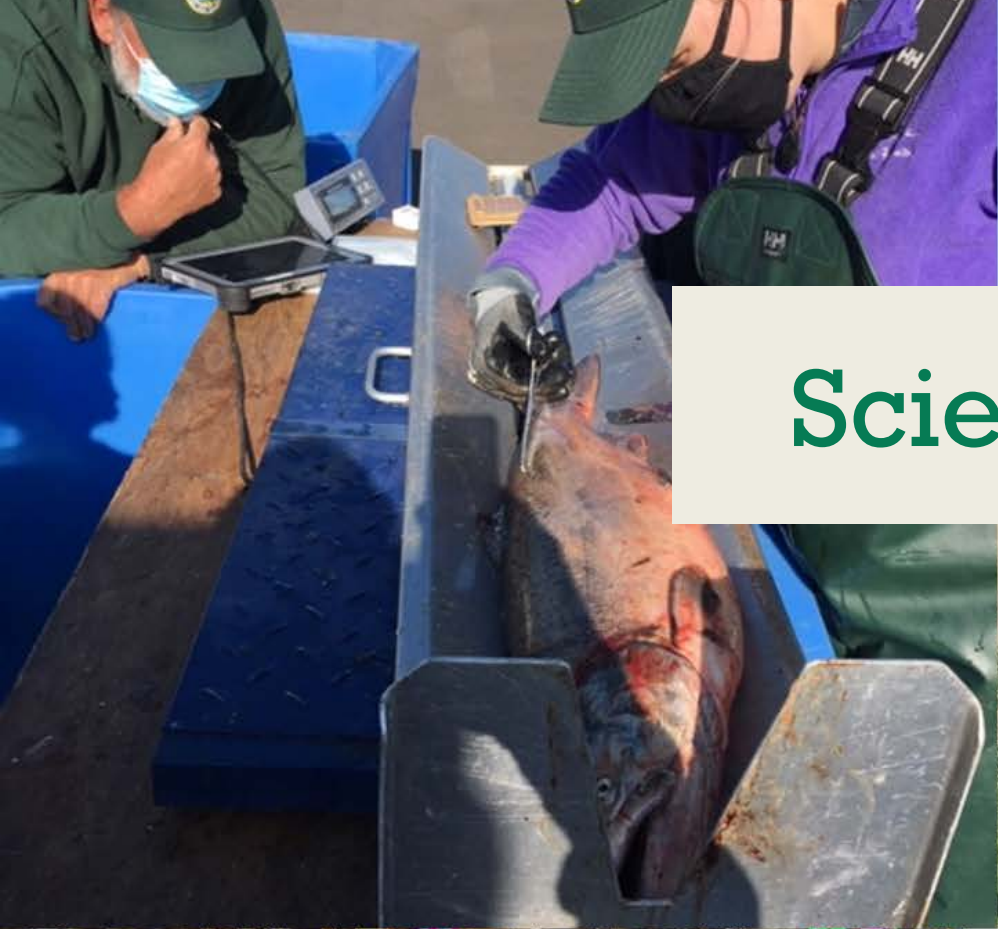
## Subsection C

- Report due December 1, 2022
- Focus on questions we aim to answer through ECF process on commercial viability of various alternative gears

[Columbia River license reduction program | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)







# Scientific Monitoring



# Electronic Monitoring Feasibility Study

- WDFW awarded a NFWF grant in Fall of 2021 to test the feasibility of using EM on small boats (< 40 ft).
- Unspent funds were extended into 2022 and geographic scope expanded to state-wide salmon fisheries.
- Monitoring occurred on recreational guide and commercial vessels in Columbia River (and tributaries), Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor.



# Mark-Selective Fishery Fund Award

- WDFW implemented ~\$45k during 2022 to supplement mainstem mark-selective fishery sampling during the Buoy 10 fishery in coordination with the Ocean Sampling Team.
- WDFW received ~\$94k to supplement 2023 mainstem non-treaty mark-selective fishery sampling with an emphasis on recovering CWTs and improving catch statistics during summer/fall.



# Guide License Limitation

- This would need to be a joint effort with OR, and little discussion has occurred to date
- WA made logbooks mandatory for guides beginning in 2020
- Data from logbooks and creel may inform future direction



# Hatchery and Natural Production Goals

Goals exist in a variety of places including:

- The CBP
- Recovery plans
- Management agreements
- HGMPs/FMEPs/Biological Opinions

Work through the Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC) is helping to prioritize actions needed to help achieve the goals defined in the CBP



# Thermal Angling Sanctuaries

WDFW staff completed a white paper on this topic, and it is posted on our website:

[Fishery Management in Columbia River Cold Water Refuge for Salmonids | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)



# Connect with us!

- We are continually updating our Columbia River Fisheries and Management webpages with new information:  
[Columbia River fisheries and management | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- You can sign up for our Columbia River updates e-mail list serve:  
[WDFW mailing lists | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)





Questions?

