

Special Fish Committee Meeting November 30, 2022
Report and Recommendations

The Fish Committee met November 30, 2022 at the Region 5 Office to review the 2022 recreational fall chinook salmon fisheries in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, with a focus on the fishery in the Buoy 10 area, and discuss possible management options for 2023 fisheries.

All Fish Committee members were in attendance, together with approximately 50 members of the public and Department staff. The agenda and staff briefing materials are available on the Commission website.

Committee considered written public comment received prior to the meeting and 12 individuals who testified during the meeting. The Committee agreed to the following recommendations for consideration by the full Commission at the upcoming meeting in Clarkston, Washington.

1. Staff should consider the collective meeting content when preparing and conducting an upcoming survey of fishery participants and affected interests that is to be designed to obtain input that would be considered in the 2023 North of Falcon forum relative to lower Columbia River recreational salmon fisheries.
2. When modeling lower Columbia River recreational fall chinook salmon fishery options at the onset of the 2023 North of Falcon forum,
 - a. primary attention should be taken to ensure that all conservation goals have a high likelihood of being achieved;
 - b. an important goal of the structure of the recreational fisheries should be to not infringe on the allocation to commercial fisheries;
 - c. initial modeling of fishery options for the Buoy 10 area fishery should include the following alternatives:
 - i. every other day closed to fishing by guided fishing trips and use of guided licensed vessels;
 - ii. a delay in the start of the Buoy 10 fishery until August 16;
 - iii. a comparison of the number of days open and the proportion and number of fall chinook salmon released under mark-selective fishing regulations and a fishing regulations allowing full retention; and
 - d. the affect of regulating the fishery in all three areas below Bonneville Dam with a mandatory barbless hook requirement in comparison to a voluntary barbless hook regulation.