

ECF Planning Discussion

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WAC Revisions

ECF Rules

- CR-101 Posted May 19, 2023

[2023 Columbia River Emerging Commercial Fishery | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

- CR-102 likely to post in mid-July
- Public hearing sometime in August
- Goal is for rules to be effective end of September



WAC 360-220-520

Columbia River emerging commercial fishery—Issuance of an emerging commercial fishery license and experimental fishery permit—License and permit conditions.

(1) To maintain consistency in this fishery enabling the department to gather the best available information, a fisher selected by lottery ~~in the initial year the fishery is offered~~ will be able to renew their permit for the duration of the fishery.



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(2) Applications for participation in the one-time lottery are due by **October 15th, 2023**. ~~April 30th of the initial year in which the fishery is offered.~~

(a) Only one application per person is allowed, and only one gear type may be permitted per person.

(b) The **proof of purchase for the** alternative gear an applicant is interested in fishing **must be** ~~is in the applicant's possession by~~ **submitted to the department by April 30th in the inaugural year of the fishery** ~~the time their application is submitted.~~ **If such proof of purchase is not submitted by the above date, the department will notify that fisher of their failure and select a new fisher to replace them in the fishery.**



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(3) Issuance of the annual emerging commercial fishery license and experimental fishery permit will occur by May 30th prior to the start of each fishing season.

(a) If the total number of available permits is not filled from the applications received by the deadline, the department may ask for additional applications. **If more applications are submitted than the number of permits available, the department may select and notify additional fishers to serve as alternates in the event a selected applicant is no longer able to participate or fails to present the proper proof of purchase for alternate gear.**

(b) Applicants selected must respond within 10 business days of being notified by the department to accept the permit and purchase the emerging fishery license. If the applicant fails to purchase the license and permit within 10 business days of notification of selection, the department may issue the license and permit to another applicant.



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(4) The conditions of possessing a valid license and permit are as follows:

(a) Fishery participants are not precluded from participation in other commercial fisheries.

(b) Fishery participants are required to have a state observer observing their catch while actively fishing.

(c) If a permit holder fails to make ~~multiple~~ **at least two** landings during the fishery, the experimental permit issued to that fisher will be voided, that person will have his or her name permanently withdrawn from the applicant pool, and a new applicant will be selected from the ~~applicant~~ pool **of alternate fishers**.

(d) This license and permit are not transferable between persons. The license and permit holder must be present and in possession of a valid license and permit during fishing operations. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW [77.15.540](#) Unlawful use of a commercial fishery license—Penalty.

(e) It is unlawful to violate the conditions of the emerging commercial fishery license and experimental fishery permit. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW [77.15.540](#) Unlawful use of a commercial fishery license—Penalty.

(f) This license and permit may be revoked at the discretion of the director and future licenses and permits denied for failure to comply with conditions specified in the permit or violations of other commercial fishing regulations.





ECF Budget Concepts

ECF Proviso Language

28 (51) \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal
29 year 2024 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for
30 fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for grants to commercial fishers
31 to modify fishing gear in order to facilitate participation in the
32 emerging commercial fishery in the lower Columbia river, and to fund
33 staffing and supplies needed to monitor the emerging commercial
34 fishery on the lower Columbia river. The purpose of the grants to
35 modify fishing gear is to support the state's efforts to develop
36 fishing tools that allow for increased harvest of hatchery fish while
37 minimizing impacts to salmonid species listed as threatened or
38 endangered under the federal endangered species act. The department
39 must provide a report of goods and services purchased with grant

Code Rev/KS:lel

435

H-2006.4/23 4th draft

1 funds to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30,
2 2025.



Draft Spend Plan

Category	FY 1	FY 2
Staff time	~\$34,000	~\$134,000
Fisher Gear	\$100,000	\$20,000
Field supplies	\$26,000	~6,000
Overhead (36.03%)	\$90,000	~\$90,000
Total	\$250,000	\$250,000



Fisher Gear Grant Concept

- ~7 participants in ECF
 - Up to 3 pound nets
 - Up to 4 seines
- Split money 7 ways ~14,000 each fisher in FY 1, based on need
- Provide an additional ~5,000k each fisher in FY 1 for other associated costs
- Grant program structure: reimbursable versus up-front with proof of purchase



BREAK



Model Scenarios

2 beach seines, 1 purse seine, 3 pound nets

Stock	Run size	Mark rate
BPH	136100	0.87
LRH	77100	0.74
LRW	8600	0.01
PUB	46300	0.82
SAB	600	1.00
URB	272400	0.28
Early_coho	253000	0.60
Late_coho	128000	0.75
A run steelhead	55400	
B run steelhead	8000	

Species	Gear	Mort rate
Chinook	Purse	0.21
Coho	Purse	0.29
Steelhead	Purse	0.02
Chinook	Beach	0.33
Coho	Beach	0.38
Steelhead	Beach	0.05
Chinook	Pound	0.07
Coho	Pound	0.09
Steelhead	Pound	0.06



The ECF will be allocated up to 6.7% of the non-treaty commercial (2% non-treaty) allocation

Stock	Total non-treaty	Total non-treaty commercial	Total ECF	Total ECF <u>per fisher</u>
SR Wild Brights	15.0%	4.50%	0.30%	0.05%
Upriver Brights	15.0%	4.50%	0.30%	0.05%
LCR Wild Tules	9.4%	2.82%	0.19%	0.03%
Wild B Sthd	2.0%	0.60%	0.04%	0.01%

Approximately 80 total B steelhead could be handled (16/fisher x 5 fishers) within this allocation assuming an average release mortality rate of 4% and a run size of 8000 total B steelhead



Option 1

Days per week

Start Date	Week	Zone	Beach	Purse	Pound
1-Aug	31	13	0	0	0
6-Aug	32	13	0	0	0
13-Aug	33	13	0	0	0
20-Aug	34	13	0	0	0
27-Aug	35	13	2	2	2
3-Sep	36	13	2	2	2
10-Sep	37	13	2	1	2
17-Sep	38	13	0	0	0
24-Sep	39	13	0	0	0

	Kept fish / fisher		
	Beach	Purse	Pound
Tule	367	474	86
Bright	69	47	69
Coho	170	98	329

	Released fish/fisher		
	Beach	Purse	Pound
Tule	76	99	19
Bright	97	151	62
Coho	114	131	659
Wild B Run	1	1	2

	Release morts / fisher		
	Beach	Purse	Pound
Tule	25.1	20.9	1.3
Bright	31.9	31.7	4.3
Coho	43.2	38.0	19.8
Wild B Run	0.1	0.0	0.1



Option 2

Start Date	Week	Zone	Days per week		
			Beach	Purse	Pound
1-Aug	31	13	2	2	2
6-Aug	32	13	2	2	2
13-Aug	33	13	2	2	2
20-Aug	34	13	2	2	2
27-Aug	35	13	2	0	0
3-Sep	36	13	0	0	0
10-Sep	37	13	0	0	0
17-Sep	38	13	2	2	2
24-Sep	39	13	2	2	2
1-Oct	40	13	2	2	2
8-Oct	41	13	2	2	2
15-Oct	42	13	2	2	2
22-Oct	43	13	2	2	2

	Kept fish / fisher		
	Beach	Purse	Pound
Tule	375	465	64
Bright	103	89	88
Coho	254	591	724

	Released fish/fisher		
	Beach	Purse	Pound
Tule	78	98	14
Bright	143	283	80
Coho	147	501	1047
Wild B Run	2	2	2

	Release morts / fisher		
	Beach	Purse	Pound
Tule	25.8	20.5	1.0
Bright	47.4	59.4	5.6
Coho	56.0	145.2	31.4
Wild B Run	0.1	0.0	0.1



Questions

- Do you have a strong preference for one of these options or do you have another option to suggest?
- Do you see value in fishing for coho with these alternative gears?



BREAK



Economics Brainstorm

Are alternative fishing gears economically and commercially viable?

1. What are the alternative gear **capital and operating costs**?
2. What **financing options** are available to support investments in alternative gear?
3. What amount and species of fish will be allowed to be harvested, and what is the **economic value**?
4. Is there a reasonable expectation for **sufficient and consistent opportunity** with alternative gears?
5. How will alternative gears **influence markets** (e.g., access to markets and **market price**)?
6. How will markets and **marketing influence** the economic viability of alternative gears?
7. How might fishers need to **adjust their business model** to be economically viable with alternative gears?



Will alternative gears affect commercially viability of other businesses?

8. How do alternative gears influence the available opportunity and economic performance of **other Columbia River commercial fisheries**?
9. How will fixed gear use **interact with mobile gear**?
10. How are the costs and benefits of alternative gear fisheries **distributed among the fleet**?
11. How will the implementation of alternative gears **impact new entrants** into the commercial fishery?
12. How will alternative gear fisheries impact the economic **viability of seafood processors, buyers, and other local small businesses**?
13. How will alternative gear fisheries impact the economic **viability of Columbia River communities**?
14. How do alternative gear fisheries perform **relative to other West Coast fisheries**?



Potential Economic Data Collection

Costs Study: *How do costs and cost structures compare across gears?*

- Cost survey, possibly based on recent NOAA efforts
- Would target both gillnet and alternative gears (for comparative purposes)
- Critical to determining conditions of commercial viability, identifying potential cost-share or financing programs, impacts on local non-fishing economies

Demand Study: *Would there be an ex-vessel price premium for fish caught with alternative gears?*

- Measure perceptions of fish quality, willingness-to-pay for product characteristics across the supply chain (processor through end customer)
- Could inform marketing plans, determine conditions of market segmentation

