



# Columbia River Fisheries Management Plan Development

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Presentation to the Washington Fish and Wildlife  
Commission

# BACKGROUND

- Oregon Initiative 81-failed
- Governor Kitzhaber Proposal
  - Governor asks Oregon FWC to develop new rules
  - Work in concert with Washington for concurrent policy and sharing of investment and benefits
  - Enhance off-channel productions and boundaries/locations for gillnet fishery
  - Sport fishing priority in mainstem with alternative gear commercial fishery
  - Final Outcome intended to benefit both sport and commercial fisheries
- Columbia River Work Group formed
  - Three Commissioners from each state
  - WDFW and ODFW Directors and senior staff
  - Four advisors from each state and one lower river counties rep
  - A contracted facilitator

# WA/OR Process Schedule

- September 4-Joint staff meeting to prepare for Working Group
- September 21- Work Group meeting in Olympia
- October 18 - Work Group meeting in Portland
- November 8 Commission discussion/public comments
- November 15- Work Group meeting in Seaside, OR
- December- Commission considers Workgroup recommendations

# Materials Presented on October 18

- Modified joint-agency staff report w/ appendices
- Washington Work Group member recommendations
- Off-channel tour and demonstration of alternative gear
- Mainstem fishery maps and statistics
- Select Area fisheries maps, statistics and enhancements
- Conservation assessments
- Alternative gear evaluation details
- Fall fishery strategies/objectives
- Commercial and Sport Advisor presentations

# Joint-agency staff report October 18

## Transition (2013-2016+)

- Allocations:

- 70:30 sport:commercial for spring and summer Chinook, and sockeye-tule fall chinook (ranges depending on objectives)
- Modeled at 55:45 for upriver bright fall Chinook (ranges depending on objectives).
- No substantive change for coho

- Off-Channel Enhancements: 2013+

- 1 M spring Chinook (750k OR, 250k WA): 83% increase
- 920k coho (720k OR, 200k WA): 24% increase
- 500k (?) select area bright fall Chinook (OR): 33% increase

# Joint-agency staff report October 18

## Transition (2013-2016+)

- “Reasonable” fall sport fishery objectives:
  - Buoy 10 through Labor Day for fall Chinook
  - Tongue Pt to Warrior Rock through mid September (MSF?)
  - Warrior Rock to Bonneville full season Chinook fishery
  - Coho- full season fishery Buoy 10 and above
- Commercial characteristics:
  - Tangle and gill nets allowed in mainstem; plus alt gear if approved
  - 25% more adult Chs adults in off-channel immediately; ~25% more adult coho mid way through transition
  - Substantive upriver bright Chf opportunity in mainstem
  - New opportunity for hatchery tule and coho if alt gear approved

# Joint-agency staff report October 18

## Long Term (2017+)

- Allocations:

- 80:20 sport:commercial for spr and sum Chinook and sockeye
- < 80:20 for tule fall Chinook ( considers comm. access to hatchery tules and sport objectives)
- ~ upriver bright fall Chinook- share depending on sport objectives
- No substantive change for coho

- Off-Channel Enhancements:

- Up to 1.25 M spring Chinook (1M OR, 250k WA): ~100% increase
- Up to 4.7 M coho (4.5M OR, 200k WA): ~100% increase
- 750k select area bright fall Chinook (OR): ~50% increase

# Joint-agency staff report October 18

## Long Term (2017+)

- “Reasonable” fall sport fishery objectives:
  - Buoy 10 through Labor Day for fall Chinook
  - Tongue Pt to Warrior Rock through mid September (MSF?)
  - Warrior Rock to Bonneville full season fishery
  - Coho Buoy 10 and above full season fishery
- Commercial characteristics:
  - Tangle nets and other selective gear in mainstem
  - Infrequent opportunity for Chs in mainstem
  - Off-channel: ~100% more adult Chs and coho; 50% more SAB
  - Substantive upriver bright Chf opportunity in mainstem
  - New substantive mark-selective opportunity for hatchery tule and coho



# Adaptive Management

**Adjustments could be made to the long-term management framework if one or more of the following triggers occur:**

- Significantly lower than expected returns to off-channel sites
- Insufficient space in off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet
- Significantly lower than expected mainstem commercial harvest using selective gears
- Circumstances that delay or preclude use of selective techniques or enhancement of off-channel fish production

# Adaptive Management

(cont'd):

- Significantly lower than expected economic return to commercial fishers
- Conflicts with terms of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement
- Failure to meet conservation needs

# WA Subgroup Considerations

- Initiate pilot alternative gear fishery in 2013
- Develop a commercial buyback program
- Enhance Washington off-channel options
- Production shifts consistent with conservation-HSRG
- Increase management certainty
- Improve management tools
- Review progress no later than January, 2015

# Wa Subgroup Considerations

- Commercial tangle-net gear only for spring Chinook-2013
- Sooner increase in sport allocation for summer Chinook
- Sturgeon catch and release only if 2012 population does not increase
- Re-shape fall fisheries
  - Coordinate commercial strategy with recreational objectives
  - Coordinate with U.S. v. Oregon
  - Implement fall seine commercial fishery in the lower river
  - Develop a coho mark-selective commercial fishery in October
  - Target upriver bright commercial fishery above the Lewis River

# Assignments for November 15

- Merge Joint Staff and WA workgroup products-decision document
- Implementation plan for transition period
- Clarify adaptive management plan
- Funding requirements and potential funding sources
- Consider options provided by commercial advisors
- Additional modeling of commercial fisheries at 95%-100% of current value
- Ex-vessel value of commercial fishery- current, transition, and long-term

# Assignments For November 15

- Model seine fishery outcomes
- Model fall fisheries with sport fishery objectives
- Evaluate conservation outcomes
- Incorporate barbless hook proposal
- Provide management details of the tangle-net fishery

# Next Steps

- November 15 Work Group meeting in Seaside, OR
  - Review results of recent analysis
  - Finalize working/decision document
  - WA/OR Work Group members seek consensus recommendation
- December commission meetings to consider recommendation
- Washington Commission consider policy

