

Summary Sheet

Meeting: February 6-7, 2015, Commission Meeting

Agenda item: 2015-2016 North of Falcon Policy C-3608 – (Policy Adoption)

Staff Contact: Ron Warren, Deputy Assistant Director – Intergovernmental Salmon Management (Fish Program)

Presenter(s): John Long, Statewide Anadromous Manager, (Fish Program)
Ron Warren (Fish Program)

Background:

The Commission's North of Falcon Policy provides direction and guidance to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) as it conducts the annual process for defining salmon fishing seasons in Pacific Ocean, Columbia River, Puget Sound, and Washington Coastal marine and freshwater areas.

Department staff briefed the Commission in December and January on the current North of Falcon Policy (C-3608), and requested guidance for any modifications. A public involvement process was identified by staff members, which included meetings with recreational and commercial advisors to allow public comments on the North of Falcon policy.

Policy issues:

The current policy has expired. Policy guidance was given to the Department for defining annual salmon fishing seasons in Washington State that meets conservation and fishery management objectives for non-treaty commercial and recreational fishing opportunity.

Public involvement process and outcome:

Meetings with recreational and commercial fishery advisors as well as the Puget Sound Recreational Fishery Enhancement Oversight Committee have occurred. At these meetings Department staff reviewed the current North of Falcon policy and requested comment. Public comment will be received through January 31st and will be summarized for the Commission at their February 6-7, 2015, meeting.

Action requested:

The Commission will consider adopting a North of Falcon policy at the February Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

I move to adopt the North of Falcon policy, number C-3608, as presented by staff.

Justification for Commission Action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

The draft policy was placed on the department's web page in a prominent location to seek comments. Staff met with commercial and recreational fishery advisors and our Puget Sound Recreational Fishery Enhancement Oversight Committee to explain the policy, proposed edits, and to solicit comments.
