

Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620

*2015 Annual Review
January 23, 2016*



Policy Summary

- Commission adopts Columbia Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620) in January, 2013
- Policy effective through 2023
- Transition period 2013-2016
- Annual review beginning in 2014 and a comprehensive review after 2016

Transition Period (2013-16)

- Progressive shift of mainstem salmon allocation to the sport fishery
- Further development of selective gear for the mainstem commercial fishery
- Implement pilot alternative gear commercial fisheries
- Increase salmon production in the off-channel areas
- Investigate expansion of off-channel fishing area for the commercial fishery
- Begin development of a commercial buyback program
- Consider additional measures to enhance fishery management effectiveness.

Public Processes in 2015

- A total of 49 Columbia River Compact hearings were held to consider and implement Columbia River fisheries
- Two Columbia River Recreational and three Commercial Advisory Group meetings were held to review run forecasts and receive input on fishery management and alternative gear development
- Participation in the North of Falcon process by working with managers and constituents to develop management plans for the summer and fall fisheries
- Two North of Falcon meetings held in eastern Washington

Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Test fisheries have shown that purse and beach seines can be an effective gear for salmon harvest in the fall
 - Steelhead handle can be relatively high
 - Three year release mortality study complete and under review
 - Current ESA permit release mortality rates significantly higher than anticipated for salmon
 - WDFW continues to work with co-managers and NOAA on release mortality
 - Pilot commercial seine fishery conducted in fall 2014 and 2015 with mixed results-low participation in 2015
- Seines fished in the summer handle moderate numbers of Chinook but sockeye handle is high
 - Snake River sockeye are ESA-listed and allowable impacts are limited

Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Coho tanglenets evaluated in 2009 - 2011 and showed promise for mark-selective fishery
- Full fleet fisheries implemented in 2013 - 2015
 - Structure similar to spring Chinook seasons with live-capture regulations in place
- Three-year mortality rate study complete in 2015
 - Analysis of post-release mortality is ongoing
 - ESA permit includes a high interim mortality rate
 - Mortality study rates will replace interim rates

Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Other gear types reviewed or under investigation include:
 - Ocean commercial troll gear (2009); low catch rates
 - Pound net (2013); negligible catch rates
 - Fish wheel – planning stage – Securing permits big hurdle
 - Floating fish trap – (2009-10); low catch rates; inconclusive
 - Arrow net – (2013-14) limited field testing; inconclusive

Washington Select Area Plans

- Deep River spring Chinook releases (350K) discontinued in 2014
- Continue to investigate the Cathlamet Channel as a new spring Chinook Select Area site – (first adult returns in 2016)
- Spring Chinook smolts released from the net pens include (~200K) released in 2014, (142K) in 2015, and (~114K) planned for 2016
- Deep River planned release in 2016 includes 1 million Coho and 1 million tule fall Chinook

Oregon Select Area Plans

- Expand season opportunities
- Provide additional hatchery fish for release by shifting current production and/or providing new production
 - Enhanced production generally on track in 2014-15
 - 2016 on track for Coho and spring Chinook, fall Chinook may be ~250K short of the 1.9 million goal
- Expand area boundaries – research ongoing since 2011
- Establish new Select Area sites - initiated in 2014
 - Four areas investigated; work to continue in 2016

Gill Net License Buyback

- Coordinating with ODFW and the industry to evaluate interest in a buyback program
- Have discussed investing in a coordinated survey with ODFW
- Individual interest likely to become more clear after transition period
- Funding source would need to be identified after development of buyback program
- Oregon legislation transfers commercial support programs to Counties

Additional Plan Elements

- Barbless hooks required to aid in the safe release of wild fish
 - Oregon Commission rejected a proposal allow barbed hooks in the Willamette and Select Area sites
 - Washington Commission approved exceptions during certain times and areas in some lower river tributaries
- To increase management certainty, the Department continues to work to secure funding sources to support fishery monitoring, data collection and analysis
- Improve accuracy of preseason forecasts and in-season run size updates-ongoing in TAC reviews
- Improve in-season tracking of ESA impacts of each fishery

Adaptive Management

- Commissions track implementation through annual reviews; if policy expectations not achieved:
 - determine causes & identify action to correct course
 - make adjustments needed to stay on track
- Cohesive package - the key elements and principles of the plan would remain intact

Adaptive Management *(continued)*

- Reconsideration of state-managed mainstem fisheries may take place under the following circumstances:
 - Lower than anticipated catch and economic expectations to the commercial industry
 - Insufficient space in off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet
 - Biological, fiscal and/or legal circumstances that delay or preclude implementation of alternative gear, buyback of commercial permits, and/or additional off-channel hatchery investments
 - Management objectives are not achieved for sport or commercial fisheries
 - Conflicts with the terms of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement with Columbia River tribes
 - Failure to meet conservation objectives

2015 Spring Season

- Upriver spring Chinook forecast – 232,500 fish
- Actual return – 289,000 fish; 124% of forecast
- ESA impacts shared 70/30 sport/commercial
- LCR sport season open for 74 of 107 possible days from Mar 1- Jun15, including 11 days in April
- Zone 6 season open 75 days March 16-May 10 and May 28-June 15
- Snake River Sport opened April (4 areas 3-days/wk), closures in May. Re-opened in June. Season open 7 of 11 wks possible
- Adaptive management implemented to transfer fish from LCR sport to upper fisheries for continued opportunity

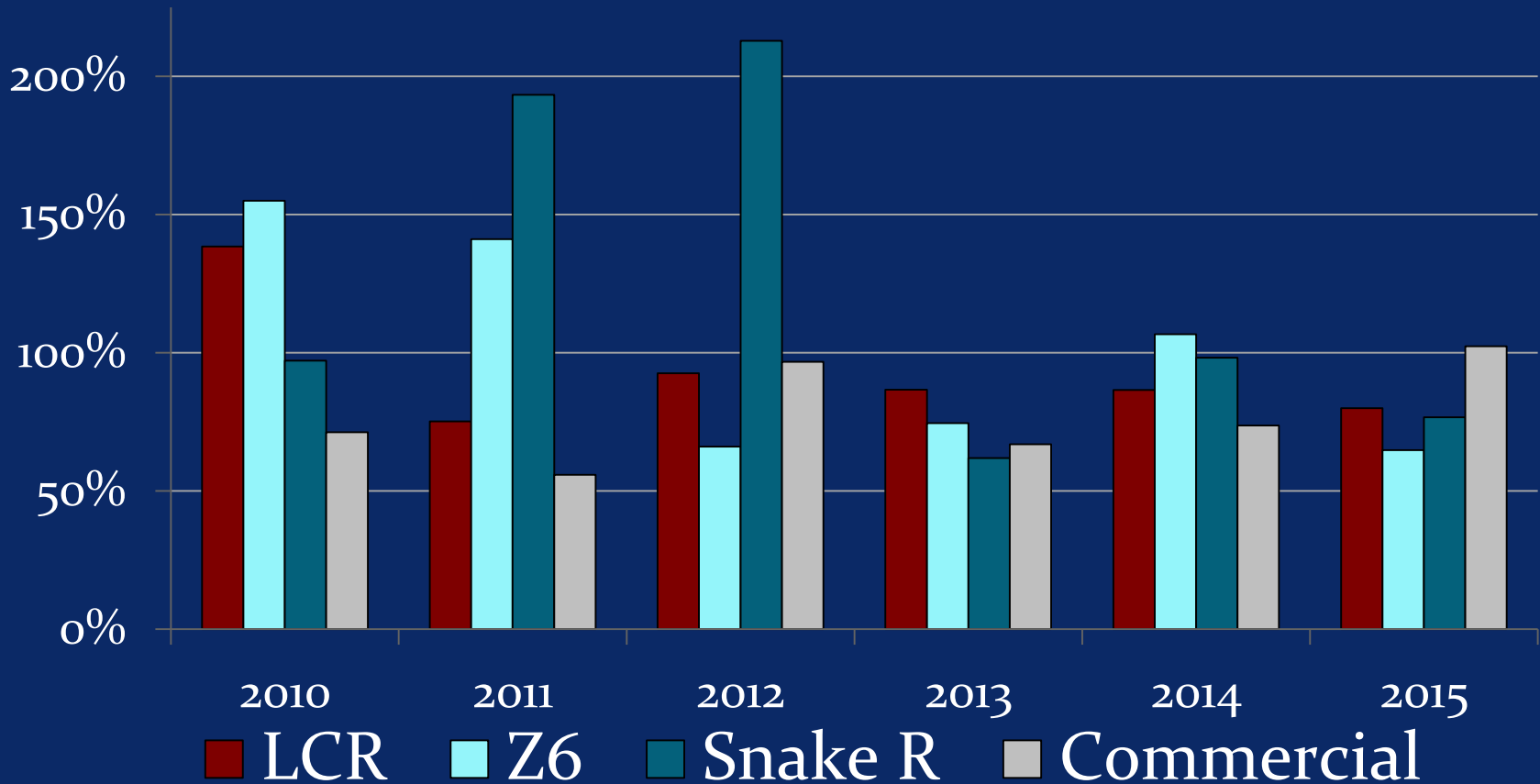
2015 Spring Season *(Continued)*

- Commercial fisheries - eight periods March 31- June 11
- Tanglenets used through mid-May
- Adaptive management implemented to allow use of large-mesh gear to avoid shad and increased salmonid handle time
- Adaptive management implemented to potentially transfer remaining ESA impacts to initiate final commercial fishing period (June 11)
- Select Areas – harvest was the best since 2010; emergency closures necessary to remain within allocated commercial ESA limits

Spring Chinook Season Results

		<u>Catch Balance</u>			<u>ESA Impacts</u>		
		Pre	Post	Actual	Pre	Post	Actual
Commercial	Mainstem	1,760	5,942	5,724	0.21%	0.51%	0.75%
	Select Area	244	433	804	0.15%	0.15%	0.28%
	Commercial Total	2,004	6,376	6,528	0.36%	0.66%	1.02%
Recreational	LCR Sport	10,318	19,316	15,689	0.84%	1.16%	0.69%
	BONN to McN	1,376	2,616	1,696	0.11%	0.15%	0.07%
	Snake River	1,112	2,889	1,996	0.17%	0.23%	0.10%
	Sport Total	12,806	24,836	19,381	1.12%	1.54%	0.86%
	Total Non-Indian	14,810	31,211	25,909	1.48%	2.20%	1.88%

Percent of Actual Catch Compared to Allocated



2015 Summer Season

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook Forecast - 73,000 fish
- Actual return – 126,900 fish
- Fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam allocated 66-60%
- Non-Indian fisheries downstream of PRD are allocated 70/30 sport /commercial
- Sockeye forecast – 394,100 fish
- Actual return - 512,500 fish
 - ESA limit 1%; allocated 70/30 sport/commercial
 - Retention allowed in mainstem fisheries

2015 Summer Season *(Continued)*

- LCR sport open June 16-July 31
 - Jun 16-Jul 2 MSF, 2 fish bag, July 3-31 non-MSF, 1 Chinook bag
- BON- PRD sport open June 16-July 31
 - Upstream to Stateline – Jun 16-Jul 2: MSF, 2 fish bag; July 3-31: non-MSF, 1 Chinook bag
 - Stateline to PRD: Jun 16-Jul 31:MSF, 2 fish bag
- Above PRD sport open July 1- August 31 (MSF, 2 fish bag)
- Commercial season consisted of 3 periods (8-12 hrs each)
- Select Area fishery in Youngs Bay only (early returning fall Chinook)
- Wanapum and Colville tribal fisheries also occurred

2015 Summer Season Results

2015 Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Fisheries Summary				
(All data preliminary and includes kept + release mortalities)				
	Pre	Post		
Runsize	73,000	126,880		
Harvest allocated	Allowed		Actual	Actual/
Fishery	Pre	Post	Take	Allowed
PFMC Ocean Fisheries	5,000	8,690	8,690	
Below Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)	34.3%	40.0%		
Recreational Below Bonneville	2,230	7,970	6,150	77%
Commercial Below Bonneville	1,650	4,070	3,940	97%
Recreational Bonn. to PRD	620	1,520	790	52%
Below PRD Total	5,490	13,560	10,880	80%
Above Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)	65.7%	60.0%		
Wanapum Tribal	300	300	280	95%
Colville Tribal	5,260	11,190	10,410	93%
Recreational above PRD	4,960	8,850	4,820	54%
Above PRD Total	10,510	20,340	15,520	76%
Non-Treaty Total	21,000	42,590	35,080	82%

2015 Fall Season

- Preseason forecast – 925, 300 Chinook (518K URBs)
 - ESA impacts allocated ~ 70/30 for URB and LRH
 - Preseason planning - 55% URBs and 70% LRH to sport
- Actual estimate - ~ 1.4 million Chinook (150% of forecast)
- Preseason Forecast - 539,600 Coho
- Actual estimate – much less than forecast
- Fisheries constrained by ESA limits on LCR tule fall Chinook and LCN Coho
- Fishery season objectives met for LCR sport – B10 shortened
- Preliminary actual sharing – 59% URBs and 70% LRH to sport

2015 Fall Fishery - Sport

- Buoy 10 –
 - 108,300 angler trips
 - Chinook catch (36.6K) ranked 2rd highest; more than preseason
 - Coho catch (36.9K) also very high despite low return
 - Allocated ESA impact on LCR tules likely exceeded preseason
- LCR sport –
 - 131,400 angler trips
 - Chinook catch (41.5K) ranked highest; more than preseason
 - Coho catch (1,000) about average for this area
 - Allocated ESA impact LCR tules likely similar to preseason
- Z6 sport – full season ~ 13,300 Chinook, more than preseason

2015 Fall Fishery - Commercial

- Chinook fisheries – August through October in Zones 4-5
 - Chinook catch totaled 76,900 fish; similar to preseason
 - Allocated ESA impact on LCR tules likely similar to preseason
- Coho fisheries – October in Zones 1-3
 - Minimal catch due to reduced return
 - 5 periods; 2,900 Coho; < 10% of preseason
- Select Area Commercial – ~standard season (slight modification)
 - Landings less than average
 - Chinook catch (18.1K) lowest since 2009, 78% of average
 - Coho catch (27.4K) 41% of average

Pilot Commercial Seine Fishery

- 23-day season (Aug 24-Sep 30) to address research-related questions on implementing seines
- After two draw periods, Lottery drawing for 3 beach and 3 purse seines permits.
- Individual Fish Quotas (IFQs) assigned to each permit
- Landings include 2,800 Chinook and 600 coho
- Mixed results for success of all permittees
- High start-up costs, low mark rates, and conflict with sport fishery were most significant issues described by fishers in a post-season questionnaire

2015 Economic measures

- One of the guiding principles reads in part “*seek to enhance the overall economic well being and stability of Columbia River fisheries*”
- Identifiable economic measures include:
 - Angler trips for recreational fisheries
 - Ex-vessel values for commercial fisheries
- Expansion factors or “multipliers” can be applied to both these metrics
- Both metrics are strongly affected by outside factors
 - Run size strength, river conditions, mark rate, etc.

2015 Angler Trips

- Below Bonneville fisheries:
- Total angler trips was second highest since 1982
- Total Chinook catch of nearly 103,500 was highest since 1982

Below BON	Angler Trips		
	2013	2014	2015
Spring	109,700	145,600	151,200
Summer	52,000	53,700	50,600
Fall – B10	65,800	107,700	108,200
Fall - mainstem	141,500	143,900	131,400
Total	369,000	450,900	441,300

- upstream of BON - the additional angler trips/harvest would significantly increase these values if included

2015 Commercial Fisheries

- Mainstem and Select Area sites:
- Total Chinook catch second highest since 1989 due mainly to record high Chinook returns in summer and fall
- Total coho catch was lowest since 1993
- Mainstem accounted for 65% of Chinook and Coho catch
 - Mainstem fall Chinook was 52% of annual total ex-vessel value

	2013	2014	2015
Mainstem	\$3,212,689	\$3,755,108	\$3,406,924 ^a
Select Area	\$2,131,769	\$2,472,256	\$1,589,992
Total	\$5,344,458	\$6,227,364	\$4,996,916

- ^aSeine fisheries added an additional \$56.6K in 2015

2015 Policy Performance

- 2015 fisheries - within ESA, *U.S. v Oregon* and Commission guidelines
 - Adaptive management protocols enacted in Spring season
 - Season objectives met, except B10 season
 - Tanglenet gear continue for coho
 - Seine gear implemented in fall fishery
 - R&D for new Select Area sites continues
 - Public processes in place help to ensure transparency, input

2016 and Beyond

- Spring – ESA sharing 70r/30c; season similar to 2015; recreational sub-allocation 75 lower/25 upper
- Summer – Above Priest Rapids 60-90% share for Chinook. Lower river harvest shared 70r/30c for Chinook and sockeye;
- Seasons developed during the North of Falcon process.
- Fall – ESA shared ~70r/30c for Chinook; seasons developed during the North of Falcon process
- Continued implementation of alternative gear types in commercial fisheries
- Continued review of release mortality rates

Keys outcomes for success

- *US v Oregon* and other management protocols are met; remain within ESA conservation limits
- Commercial Fisheries:
 - Select Area enhancements result in increased harvest
 - Alternative gear is successfully used to harvest additional hatchery salmon and assist in conservation objectives
 - maintain access to surplus upriver bright fall Chinook
 - restores access to late stock hatchery coho
- Recreational fisheries:
 - increases angler trips and meet season objectives
 - maintain opportunity throughout basin

Questions?

