

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates:	March 17, 2018
Agenda item:	Columbia River Policy Review and Next Steps – (Briefing, Public Hearing and Possible Decision)
Presenter(s):	Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, Fish Program and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fisheries Manager

Background summary:

In September 2012, the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions agreed to work together, with agency staff, and key stakeholders in an effort to develop alternative approaches to management of the sport and commercial fisheries on the Columbia River. A Workgroup was formed consisting of three commissioners from each state. Advisors to the Workgroup included two sport and two commercial fishing stakeholders from each state and a Clatsop County Commissioner representing the four coastal counties of Pacific, Wahkiakum, Clatsop, and Columbia. The Workgroup met three times during September-November, 2012 to discuss and analyze proposed fishery strategies. A final workgroup document, *'Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries: 2013 and Beyond'*, was completed on November 21, 2012.

In January 2013, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC) utilized the November 21 Workgroup recommendations as guidance to develop and adopt Policy C-3620. The policy was amended in 2017 and expires in 2023.

The objectives of the policy “are to promote orderly fisheries (particularly in waters in which the states of Washington and Oregon have concurrent jurisdiction), advance the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead, and maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state.” The policy recognizes uncertainty in implementation, so depends on continued economic and biological analysis, and relies on an adaptive management approach.

The commission requested a comprehensive and thorough review of the five years that the policy has been in place, and provided the staff with a list of 40 questions relevant to the review. The review (Attachment 1) summarizes the responses to the 40 questions and provides additional information in an Appendix. The questions and answers are grouped into three categories; A) complete review, B) cursory information, C) incomplete or lacking information.

Staff recommendation:

Review only, no staff recommendation.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

The Commission will need to review the results to date and determine whether additional analysis is necessary at this time. The Commission could request that staff prepare additional information or potential adaptive management actions for consideration at a future time.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Not applicable.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Review results were presented to stakeholders at meetings of the Columbia River Recreational Advisors and Commercial Advisors on March 14, 2018 and a press release was issued notifying stakeholders that a five-year review had been requested for presentation at the March Commission meeting.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

To be determined.

Draft motion language:

Not applicable.

Post decision communications plan:

If the Commission requests additional analysis or development of potential adaptive management steps, those requests should be communicated to stakeholders via the Advisors Groups.