

# North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – November 2, 2018



## Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2018

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# Purpose

- Brief FWC on current North of Falcon Policy
- Potential modifications for new policy
- Policy Consideration Process/Schedule
- Seek Commission Guidance

# North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will ensure that management decisions are consistent with:

- Statutory Authority
- *U.S. v. Washington*
- *U.S. v. Oregon*
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- PFMC's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- State/Tribal agreements
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

# North of Falcon Policy

Provides general guidance to the Department when planning and managing annual salmon fisheries

- Conservation Principles
- Providing Harvest Opportunity
- In-season Management
- Monitoring and Sampling
- Enforcement and Compliance
- Gear and Fishery Conflicts
- Incidental Mortalities
- Communications

# North of Falcon Policy

Department will implement consistent with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

- Science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated and accountable
- Meet or exceed ESA, recovery and conservation goals

# Fishery Management

## Fishing opportunities:

- Will be provided when they can be directed at healthy wild and hatchery stocks
- Will utilize selective methods and gears to maximize fishing opportunity and minimize impacts on depressed stocks to the fullest extent possible
- From a statewide perspective, fishing directed at each species will not be exclusively reserved for either sport or commercial users.

# Fishery Management

Meaningful recreational fishing opportunities:

- Will be distributed equitably across fishing areas and reflect the diverse interests of fishers, including retention and catch-and-release fisheries

# Fishery Management

## Puget Sound

- For chinook and coho stocks, objectives in priority order are:
  - Provide meaningful recreational opportunities
  - Identify and provide opportunities for commercial harvest
- First 200,000 Lake Washington sockeye available for non-treaty harvest provided to recreational fisheries
- For Puget Sound-origin pink salmon, provide meaningful opportunities to both recreational and commercial fisheries while minimizing fishery conflicts



# Fishery Management

## Puget Sound

- For Fraser River-origin chum, pink and sockeye stocks, the majority of the harvest to commercial fisheries
- For Puget Sound-origin chum stocks, the majority of the harvest to commercial fisheries

# Fishery Management

- **Grays Harbor** - managed consistent with the Commission's Grays Harbor Policy (POL C-3621)
- **Willapa Bay** - managed consistent with the Commission's Willapa Bay Policy (POL C-3622)

# Fishery Management

- **Columbia River** - managed consistent with the Commission's Columbia River Policy (POL C-3620) and in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife representatives
- **Pacific Ocean** - managed consistent with the PFMC's Framework Salmon Management Plan

# In-season Management

- Actions will be implemented consistent with pre-season conservation and harvest management objectives, and the fishery intent developed through the North of Falcon process
- In-season updates (ISUs) affecting Puget Sound fisheries will be evaluated for technical merit and to improve achievement of conservation and allocation objectives
  - ISUs should be documented
  - Descriptions of potential modifications to fisheries should be included in the List of Agreed Fisheries

# Monitoring and Sampling

...will be provided to account for species and population impacts of all fisheries

Fishery participants will be required to comply with fishery monitoring...

# Enforcement and Compliance

...strategies will be developed and staffing provided to promote compliance

... establish and maintain effective coordination with Tribal enforcement

# Gear and Fishery Conflicts

...fisheries shall be structured to minimize gear and other fishery conflicts

... shall be resolved by involving the appropriate sport and commercial representatives in a dispute resolution process managed by Department staff

# Incidental Mortalities

...minimize mortalities on non-target species (e.g. rockfish, seabirds, etc.)

...limit seabird mortalities consistent with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act



# Communications

## **Make ongoing improvements for effective public involvement during the NOF planning process and fishery implementation**

- Include participants as observers during appropriate state/tribal meetings
- Record decisions in writing
- Use a variety of tools to communicate effectively
- Consult with stakeholders prior to making major decisions with the comanagers

# Communications

## Schedule of 2018 public meetings

2018 North of Falcon Meetings	Date
Willapa Bay - Grays Harbor Forecast meeting <a href="#">Montesano City Hall</a>	2/26/2018
Statewide Forecast Meeting <a href="#">Lacey Community Center</a>	2/27/2018
March Pacific Fishery Management Council <a href="#">Rhonert Park, CA</a>	3/8-14/2018
Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">Sequim – Trinity Church, 7 pm</a>	3/15/2018
Columbia River Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">WDFW Ridgefield Office</a>	3/19/2018
Grays Harbor Advisor meeting <a href="#">WDFW Montensano Office</a>	3/19/2018
NOF #1 - State – Public <a href="#">OB2 Auditorium, Capitol Campus, Olympia</a>	3/20/2018
Willapa Bay Advisor meeting <a href="#">WDFW Montensano Office</a>	3/22/2018
Pacific Fishery Management Council Public Hearing – <a href="#">Chateau Westport</a>	3/26/2018
Mid-Columbia/Snake Rivers Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">WWCC - Clarkston</a>	3/27/2018
Puget Sound (South Sound – Hood Canal) Recreational Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">Lacey Community Center</a>	3/27/2018
Grays Harbor Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">Montensano City Hall</a>	3/27/2018
Mid-Columbia River Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">Chelan PUD, Wenatchee</a>	3/28/2018
Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">WDFW Mill Creek office, 6-8 pm</a>	3/28/2018
Columbia River Public Meeting <a href="#">Region 3 - Kennewick Irrigation District Board Rm /Auditorium</a> <a href="#">2015 South Ely Street</a>	3/29/2018
Willapa Bay Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">Raymond Elks Club, Raymond</a>	3/29/2018
Columbia River and Ocean Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">WDFW Ridgefield Office</a>	4/2/2018
NOF #2 - State – Public <a href="#">Lynnwood Embassy Suites</a>	4/3/2018
NOF #2 - State – Tribes <a href="#">Lynnwood Embassy Suites</a>	4/4/2018
April Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting <a href="#">Portland Sheraton Airport</a>	4/6/2018-4/11/2018
Willapa Bay Fisheries Discussion <a href="#">WDFW Montensano Office</a>	4/12/2018
Grays Harbor Advisor meeting <a href="#">WDFW Montensano Office</a>	4/17/2018

# Delegation of Authority

**The Fish and Wildlife Commission delegates authority to the Director to:**

- make harvest agreements with the Northwest Treaty Tribes and other governmental agencies
- Adopt permanent and emergency regulations resulting from those agreements

# Potential modifications to Policy

## Last renewal of policy:

- Housekeeping changes
- In-season update language
- Willapa Bay Policy reference

## Potential changes for 2019-2020 policy

- For Puget Sound sockeye, Lake Washington threshold reference seems dated, and there is no mention of Baker sockeye - Consider eliminating Lake Washington specific reference, simply identify Puget Sound-origin sockeye as recreational priority

# Policy Process

- November 2, 2018 FWC briefing
  - Brief Commission and seek guidance on modifications
  - Initial public comment
- December 2018
  - Briefing on potential revisions to draft policy
  - Additional public comment
  - Additional Commission guidance for revised draft
  - Revised draft posted online for public comment
- January 2018
  - Commission considers adoption of revised policy

# North of Falcon Policy

- Policy C-3608
- Expires December 31, 2018

Questions/Guidance ?