



Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW)

Public Comments received between June 11, 2020 through noon on June 17, 2020

This is a compilation of comments received at through our online public comment portal after the Joint-State PRC was put on hold.

From: [123ContactForm](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Contact the Policy Review Workgroup
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:45:53 AM

Name	Dennis Harman
Email	drharman5@gmail.com
Address	Sumner Wa.
Comments	<p>Every year the quantity of Harvestable fish declines in or state.....We are using 10 year statistics to prop our return estimates to allow over harvest runs that have declined dramatically over just the last 5 years...we need to update and correct the models used and change them to a 5 year time frame to get more accurate predictions. we must insure timely in season, monitoring daily to reduce over fishing of runs and provide on board monitoring of tribal and commercial fishing.. We must reduce the gill net sizes from 9 and over inches to 7" or lower and use tangle nets. To allow larger fish, to survive the nets and return to spawn. We are systematically and intentionally, culling our genetically superior 3-4-5 year old fish out of the runs thereby depleting the genes pool of larger fish for profit only...i.e. "larger fish, more money" and all that is left for up river fisherman is smaller fish and jacks to return...JUST THE INFERIOR LEFT OVERS!!!!. IT MUST STOP... !!!!! we are systematically over fishing and under protecting our runs every year. We are hopping from run to run and allowing over fishing but the weaker runs are not producing so all fish ARE being sacrificed to tribal and commercial net fishing..you cannot continue to give the majority of the fish to a few hundred individuals.. Sincerely. Dennis Harman, Reel River Fisher of Washington</p>
Attachment	

The message has been sent from 75.172.57.132 (United States) at 2020-06-11 12:45:50 on Chrome 83.0.4103.97
Entry ID: 146

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River and Gill Netting.
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:38:14 AM

From: David Huttula <davidhuttula@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:35 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River and Gill Netting.

I am writing bad a sportsman. My family loves to fish. Often there are three generations out trying to catch a salmon. We support efforts to conserve wild fish and promote hatchery fish raising to give us fish opportunities. Gill nets are a non specific form of catching that kills non target fish. Gill nets damage wild runsnof salmon and also damage and kill non target endangered fish like sturgion and steelhead.

Sports fishing gives the state the biggest economic advantage with the tens of thousands of individual license, boat and tackle, local purchases of food, hotel, and other supplies. Much more than commercial fisheries contribute.

Please honor the agreements made years ago and paid for by millions of our Columbia River endorsement fees and stop gillnetting non the Columbia River

David Huttula

davidhuttula@aol.com. Woodland WA. 360-256-1632

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Barbara Baker](#); [Bob Kehoe](#); [Brad Smith](#); [Dave Graybill](#); [Donald McIsaac](#); [Anderson, James R \(DFW\)](#); [Larry Carpenter](#); [McBride, Tom A \(DFW\)](#); [Linville, Molly F \(DFW\)](#); [Thorburn, Kim M \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Reform
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:34:43 AM

From: lk2thlite@aol.com <lk2thlite@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Reform

Dear Commissioner's,

I don't understand reversing the Columbia River Reform agreements. More recently entertaining a gill net fishery on Spring Chinook. Why should anybody pay for a Columbia River Endorsement??

Over and Over again WDFW is not meeting Escapement in many systems but going against their own regulations and continue to Over Harvest into Extinction! ESA stocks not protected!
I hope the state of Idaho brings litigation to WA and OR since it's the only thing they understand.

I see at the North of Falcon Process they gave Tribal Harvest 63% of the fish in Puget Sound. Above and beyond the 50% of the Bolt decision. Once again I hope litigation is brought in place of this Insanity. Obviously Tribal money or casino is brought into the back door in Olympia.

Washington Fisheries are going extinct and their future are in your hands and a failing WDFW.

God help us with Stewardship of NW Fisheries!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gary L Johnson
P.O. Box 816 Raymond, WA 98577 (360) 942-2141 home

From: [FRANK L'AMIE](#)
To: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Gill Nets
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 5:41:10 PM

The Commission meets tomorrow to discuss gill nets on the Columbia. Reinstating gill nets on the Columbia is the worst idea ever. They kill endangered fish without any selection process. The commission in good faith eliminated them several years ago. KEEP THEM OUT ! There is room for commercial and recreational fisheries on the Columbia but not for gill nets. It will precipitate the end of Salmon, Steelhead, and Sturgeon fishing for ever.

Frank L'Amie
fklamie@Comcast.net
Phone 1-360-256-1953
Cell 1-360-910-9828

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River gill nets
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:57:42 PM

From: EARL E BETTS <EARLEBETTS@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River gill nets

Commissioners:

I strongly oppose returning non tribal gill nets to the Columbia River.
This is a non selective fishery and kills many ESA listed fish and other marine life.

Why would you even consider this with our salmon and steelhead returns at record lows? It makes no sense at all.

If you do decide to move forward with returning non selective gill nets to the Columbia River, you should mandate that a independent monitor be on every boat to record by catch and death rate of non targeted species.

Thank You for your consideration.
Earl Betts

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Gillnets on mainstream Columbia
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:45:52 AM
Attachments: [Gill Nets.msg](#)

From: scott harrison <hairballz57@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 6:48 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Gillnets on mainstream Columbia

Stop this craziness! Save our endangered runs of steelhead, salmon & sturgeon! No gill nets!
Thank you!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Recent Fishery Zoom MTGS
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:01:06 PM

From: lk2thlite@aol.com <lk2thlite@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Recent Fishery Zoom MTGS

Dear Commissioner's

Thank you for taking Public Input on these matters that are important to us.

I strongly support Conservation for all the Fisheries in WA state. Runs are going extinct with more to follow. When will we manage for fish instead of people? When will Escapement Goals be met? When will we stop hearing not meeting Brood Stock? (Cowlitz river largest example with many more).

When will ESA be protected like they should? How many times have models, projections, numbers, been wrong?

When will Conservation and Restoration be the Main Subject in this debacle?

I heard a commissioner state that a gill net is our best tool. Really? How is it selective? How much by-catch? How does it protect wild or ESA? How well does a live box work? Should we tell the Colville Nation that what they are doing doesn't work as well as a gill net. Is it acceptable to say oops we killed too many? I hope I'm painting a clear picture of the many issues that continue with business as usual. According to the words of Ron Warren seven years ago the average Chinook is 12lbs.!!

I support better monitoring methods, selective fishing regulations, better equipment, and habitat restoration.

We have been going down the same road for too many years and the results speak for themselves. It's time for dramatic change while there are some fish still around. Stewardship!

Thank you for your time, consideration, and hard work.

Gary L Johnson
P.O. Box 816 Raymond, WA 98577 (360) 942-2141 home

Testimony of Kent Martin to WDFW Commission, June 12, 2020, re Columbia River Policy C-3620. P.O. Box 83, Skamokawa, WA 98647. 360-795-3920. 17846martin@gmail.com.

Commissioners,

It seems the big knowledge gap in the recreational fishery that this policy (C-3620) is up for review in part because most of the promises made to the commercial fishery have not been kept. For example:

- Promised production increases have not been met.
- No new Select Areas have been established.
- Alternative gears have not come to fruition, because ideology adulterated the science and no investigations have been done on the gears' economic viability.

We hear a great deal about “non-selective gillnets.” This is catchy rhetoric but it doesn't explain why the recreational fishery believes they need 70%-80% of the wild fish kills to run their fishery. This request belies their claims to be selective. It is difficult to imagine how gillnets are a barrier to wild fish recovery and pHOS control when 70%-80% of the wild fish mortalities are in the sport fishery.

Recent commercial catch and release data, as it relates to mesh size and time and area fished are readily available. Our mortality rates on critical stocks have actually been reduced.

There have been numerous fictions peddled regarding tangle nets not being selective. In fact, the observed mortality rates are very near the supposed sport mortality rates. I say “supposed” because the sport fishery hasn't had a catch and release study in 25 years and that was on the Willamette, not on the actual lower Columbia River mainstem. One would think that the recreational fishery would be anxious to deal with this conservation issue and work towards obtaining the science to justify their requests for more fish.

The contention that SAFE areas are harvesting more fish than sportsmen in the mainstem conveniently overlooks recreational harvest of the same salmon when they enter tributaries such as the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Multnomah Channel, Willamette and other locations, such as Drano Lake.

Even current hatchery production levels are not sustainable unless the recurring surpluses are caught. Despite current mark-selective recreational fisheries, those surpluses continue to occur without a commercial fishery to reduce them. What is not sustainable is even the current hatchery production, with only mark-selective catch and release sport fisheries. Sport fishermen are being misled if they do not understand this problem.

From: Bryce Divine <brycedivine@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Contact the Commission: Commission Meetings

Name	Bryce Divine
Email	brycedivine@icloud.com
Address	141 Carlon Loop Rd. Longview WA 98632
Phone	360-430-1550
Subject	Commission Meetings
Message	Comments on Policy C-3620 reforms
Attachment	https://www.123formbuilder.com/upload_dld.php?fileid=f644ab2b6adc80d1c48c06df2f8bf639

The message has been sent from 71.236.169.105 (United States) at 2020-06-13 14:24:49 on Edge 18.18362
Entry ID: 2016

Members of the commission:

The Federal Salmon Recovery Plan for the Columbia Basin is described as the 4-H process. That is there are four areas or issues that need to be addressed and are of various complexity. They are Harvest, Hatcheries, Hydropower, and Habitat.

Harvest reforms are required to reduce take of listed stocks to a level that will not impede their recovery. This is commonly described as impact limits. It is a Federal requirement that State Fishery managers observe these limits. In the case of listed stocks of Spring Chinook of Snake River origin, the non-tribal impact limit is approximately 2% and varies fractionally according to run strength. When returns are poor it is less. This 2% limit is allocated between sport and commercial fisheries with the commercial share being less than 1%. The argument that this commercial take is a threat to recovery is nonsense.

Hatchery reforms are required because it is believed that hatchery produced salmon develop traits that are not conducive to robust natural reproduction and when allowed to spawn with wild origin stocks the offspring inherit these traits reducing the reproductivity of the population. Reducing PHOS (percent hatchery on spawn) is the main goal of hatchery reform. There are basically four strategies for reducing this PHOS to an acceptable percentage. Reduce hatchery production which is detrimental to other species that rely on salmon for survival (orca), and fisheries. Develop selective fishing gear and strategies that increase the rate of hatchery origin harvest without exceeding impact limits to listed stocks. Install weirs or other devices to allow hatchery fish to be sorted out of spawning populations and locate hatchery production in locations where they are unlikely to mix with natural wild stock spawners. All these strategies have problems that include feasibility, effectivity, and negative affects on ecosystems, spawning behavior, and fisheries.

Hydropower and Habitat are the other two H's and are the most difficult and complex to solve. However, their solution is critical to recovery and of national political scope. The sacrifices required for harvest and hatchery reforms are local and though painful, relatively small. On the other hand, Hydropower and Habitat solutions have broad implications and are beyond Commission authority.

Regarding Policy C-3620, it did not bring about nor did it aid in development of selective commercial fishing gear. That work began in the late 1990's and resulted in the tangle net development and testing of beach and purse seines. The Sport Fishery advocates of Policy C-3620 I believe, feared that selective commercial gears would allow the commercial sector to expand catches of hatchery origin salmon to the detriment of the Sport allocation. The most important and telling component of the Policy was a massive shift of impact allocation from the commercial sector to the sport sector. This shift prevents meaningful PHOS reduction from occurring and is in the long term, eliminating the Commercial Fishery, a longtime goal of the Sport Fishing Lobby. I take great umbrage at the suggestion that policy failure was because of poor implementation. It failed because Select Areas could not be expanded, because Select Area production in terms of returns has not happened, because lopsided impact allocations are not adequate to prosecute existing Select Area Fisheries nor allow the use or development of selective gears in the main stem of the Columbia River. We now have the benefit of eight years of hindsight and policy failure has been acknowledged by even some of the authors and reform opponents on the Commission. It is time to accept the reforms proposed by the PRC and move ahead. The status quo is unacceptable.

From: [123ContactForm](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Contact the Policy Review Workgroup
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:06:25 AM

Name	Randi Kyle
Email	randikyle1@yahoo.com
Address	Anatone Washington
Comments	<p>In the 70s there were more fish. What have you changed since then? Why? What is the plan to get back to those levels? It isn't rocket science.</p> <p>I remember reading Fishing and Hunting magazine and it listed kreel reports of all rivers. There were millions more fish back then.</p> <p>Why would you not think the tribe is in it for the long run. Meaning whitey killed all their buffalo to starve them and control them. Why do you not believe killing the runs and the herds is not their long haul plan to get back at whitey?</p> <p>All wildlife and fish need to have better protection from third parties that have no ties to the tribe or in state government. It gets biased and slanted when not ran this way. F&G cannot voice against their bosses or state idiot leaders, Inslee, in fear of retribution.</p> <p>The tribe has charters they are not following let alone being forced to adhere to. F&G has no clue how many animals they kill or fish they waste because the tribe is untouchable or unquestioned. They have no rights killing Blue Mountains elk because the elk were never here when they owned the land. They come in year after year killing big bulls with rifles in August and September during the every other skin color archery season. Talk about racism let alone not following the charter that was set. F&G has no way of knowing how to set quotas because they have no clue how many elk they kill every year. Now that the wolves have killed 2300 elk in a trophy bull area in less than 3 years You have cut all other skin color hunting tags in half or more just to feed your wolves and kill off the genetics of giant bulls.</p> <p>This is why a third party must come in and control and dictate. This will allow agents and biologists to submit their findings without being attacked by special interests groups that use feelings in lieu of facts.</p>

So does AZ, NM and Texas allow Mexicans to kill whenever and however many they want? Yes I feel a bit sorry they had utopia before whitey showed up. Do Africans get to kill elephants and rhino\'s unchecked?

Attachment

The message has been sent from 96.60.122.116 (United States) at 2020-06-17 10:06:22 on Chrome 83.0.4103.106
Entry ID: 148

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Comment Puget Sound co-managment /Columbia River reforms
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:32:27 PM

From: Dave Yoder <dave@mrcnow.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Comment Puget Sound co-managment /Columbia River reforms

Dear Mr. Director and Board

We continually hear that sportfishing seasons are being cut every season. I never thought when I started fishing in WA. that I would see things as bad as they are! We understand that there are threats to salmon. All the usual publicized ones. However the most insidious ones are the ones that take place out of public view. If it needs to happen in private, something is being hidden! Public accountability removes "doubt" from the equation and shows good faith and integrity.

Unfortunately the culture of deception has become the norm for WDFW! There is not a sportsman in the state of Wa that trusts the decision making process used by WDFW. Not the science or the integrity! Sportsmen keep losing quota and commercials and tribes get it redistributed to them. When they overharvest, there are no fines, loss of quota, to them. It comes out of our quota. The continued culture that we have, will eventually lead to the demise of Salmon. If we truly have a problem that WDFW the tribes and concerned citizens care about, then we need to be together. We give up together and we benefit together. Any other strategy is doomed for failure. Please stop taking away from one, to give to another. Bring all the user groups together in a spirit of mutual cooperation and integrity. Let's overhaul the season setting process and let's produce an abundance for everyone.

For each of you the question is What legacy will you leave for the next generation? One that in your old age, you can sit back and be proud of. Or one that reflects wasted opportunity, because you wouldn't stand on principle. Please change the co manager process. Stop letting the tribes dictate everything!

Columbia River The big C is the engine for NW Salmon . The news we keep hearing is returns are not expected to be good ! Then in the next sentence, we hear proposals for nets in the main stem. If the Columbia begins to suffer, it will have a catastrophic domino effect..Do not even consider destructive nets in the main stem. Commercials are enjoying good results in off main stem areas let that be enough. It makes no sense to even consider the risk of non targeted by catch and overfishing that will surely follow. Please protect the Columbia river!

Dave Yoder CCA member

From: [123ContactForm](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Contact the Policy Review Workgroup
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:44:41 AM

Name	Garry Lowry
Email	rllowry@tds.net
Address	Vancouver WA
Comments	Your #1 goal in respect to the Columbia River should be to get all Commercial Nets out of the river and tributaries. Their time has passed! And don't use our tax money for any free giveaways in the estuaries or buying licenses or nets back!
Attachment	

The message has been sent from 67.189.11.116 (United States) at 2020-06-17 09:44:38 on iPhone 12.1.2
Entry ID: 147