

## Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

March 14, 2019

10am to 4pm

Location: WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield WA

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

### Attendance:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner	David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner
Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner	Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner
Bob Webber – ODFW Commissioner	Don McIsaac – WDFW Commissioner
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director	Kessina Lee – WDFW Staff
Anika Marriot – OR AG Office	Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff	Cindy LeFleur – WDFW Staff
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff	Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff	Ron Warren – WDFW Staff
April Mack – ODFW Staff	Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff
John North – ODFW Staff	Dan Rawding – WDFW Staff
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff	Tami Lininger – WDFW Staff

### Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda

Kessina Lee, WDFW Region 5 Director, and Oregon Director Curt Melcher provided opening remarks.

There was a proposal to adjust times to come to conclusion at 3pm, it was agreed to set that as the new goal.

There was a proposal to discuss allowing public testimony at future meetings under the Future Process and Schedule portion of the meeting. While time did not allow for discussion under the agenda item, there was discussion when the topic was proposed. PRC members did not object to this idea, and were in favor of allowing public testimony at the onset of the next meeting, so long as public input doesn't impair the ability of the PRC to complete scheduled work in a reasonable time frame. Written public input between meetings will also be allowed.

### 2019 Policies and Regulations

#### Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting March 2, 2019 Report of WA Commissioners and Commissioner Discussion

The Committee expressed their thanks to staff for their work in developing and relaying the February 26 PRC recommendation to the Commissions.

The Washington Commission accepted the recommendation. Five Washington Commissioners voted to approve the recommendation: Commissioners Kim Thorburn, Barbara Baker, Robert Kehoe, Donald McIsaac and Jay Holzmilller voted yes. Commissioner David Graybill voted no, and Commissioners Bradley Smith and Larry Carpenter abstained. Abstentions were based on concern for lack of public testimony opportunity on the west side of the State.

Washington Commissioners relayed some of the comments provided from the March 1-2 Commission meeting. The materials and audio from the Washington Commission meeting are available online (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings/2019>)

### OFWC Meeting March 15

Director Melcher provided a review of the Oregon process. While the Oregon Commission is to receive an update on the PRC progress and the Washington Commission vote at their meeting on March 15, the earliest they could vote on permanent rules is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Post Meeting Note:*

At their March 15 meeting, the OFWC decided to consider permanent rules at the June 7 meeting. However, the OFWC tasked Director Melcher with adopting a temporary rule to make barbless hooks voluntary if necessary to achieve concurrency with any rules adopted by Washington prior to June 7.

## **Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

### Prioritizing and Developing a Range of Alternatives for Analysis

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the development of a range of alternatives for staff analysis on policy issues put forward at the first two PRC meetings (see Attachment 1). While 15 policy issues were discussed, the majority of the time was spent on the range of alternatives for changes in the sharing between geographic sections of the spring Chinook sport fishery, including 10 policy “sub-options” that were received in public testimony from east-side interests during the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policy review process.

In the discussion of refining, eliminating, adding, and prioritizing the various policy issue possibilities the PRC provided the following guidance:

- Spring Chinook sport fishery allocation sub-option items 1 (allocation based on license information), 2 (allocation based on stock of origin), and 5 (eliminate upriver catch balancing) were placed in a category of likely to be removed from the list.
- A new spring Chinook sport allocation alternative was added, consisting of status quo 75%/25% sharing but with an add-on to the 25% upriver share of 500 ESA-listed fish impacts.
- The option of 65%/35% was added to the fall Chinook sport/commercial allocation alternatives.
- An alternative of an abundance-based approach to the summer Chinook sport/commercial allocation for areas downstream of Priest Rapids Dam was added.
- The alternative for an abundance-based allocation matrix for sport/commercial sharing of coho was tentatively removed from the range of alternatives.
- The policy alternative of a limitation on sport fishing guide licenses or effort was de-prioritized, pending public input including with the guide community, and further discussion about the license authority recommendation pathways and other legal review issues.

- There was no committee support to include the topic of a commercial license buy-back program in the range of alternatives for analysis as a policy measure for 2020 and beyond, for several reasons, and thus this alternative is to be de-prioritized from further consideration at this time.

#### Discussion of issues, next steps and staff analysis tasking

The PRC tasked the staff with providing a detailed description of each topic, a range of policy alternatives, options and sub-options, for ease in moving the issue forward. For items removed or de-prioritized by the PRC, staff will prepare summary information describing the discussion and reasoning by PRC. The staff was also tasked with providing a draft rationale narrative of why a policy element was either eliminated or de-prioritized, something that will be useful for discussions with the public as well as a matter of record and reference for PRC purposes.

#### **Future Process and Schedule**

The PRC decided to cancel the webinar meeting that was on the schedule for March 27 and plan the next meeting to be in person. The final recommendation was to reconvene May 20<sup>th</sup>.

##### *Post Meeting Note:*

After the meeting concluded the PRC agreed that the next meeting would be June 5 in Salem and not May 20.

#### **Conclusionary Matters**

##### Staff Assignments

- Provide short narrative descriptions of each policy issue alternative, option or sub-option in Attachment 1.
- Provide short narrative description of the rationale for policy items designated by the PRC for elimination or de-prioritization from active analysis at this time.
- Utilize existing allocation modeling to examine initial comparisons of alternatives to status quo.
- Prepare 'scorecard' or other method to summarize spring Chinook sport fisheries, allocations, impact usage, etc. to inform PRC discussion.
- Assess with a qualitative discussion when there are difficulties with a quantitative analysis.
- Prepare a draft summer Chinook abundance-based allocation matrix for below Bonneville sport/commercial catch sharing.
- Distribute meeting materials approximately a week in advance of the next meeting.

# Attachment 1

## Possible Policy Changes for 2020 and Beyond: Range of Alternatives for Analysis

Policy Issue or sub-option	Alternatives				
	Status Quo	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<b>Spring Chinook</b>					
Within-sport sharing between lower river and upriver fisheries (and Bonvle - St. Line/above St. Line)	75%/25% (10%/15%)	65%/35% (15%/20%)	85%/15% (5%/10%)		
Provide greater security for Upriver fishing seasons		Allocate by area of license purchase	Allocate by area of license residence		
1: License alloc basis		Alloc by stock origin			
2: Alloc by stock origin		LR only buffer			
3: LR only buffer		UR set season			
4: UR set season		No UR catch bal			
5: No UR catch bal		LR @ 5 days/wk			
6: LR @ 5 days/wk		Diff benefit msrmt			
7: Diff benefit msrmt		No LR extensions			
8: No LR extensions		UR payback			
9: UR payback		LR payback			
10: LR payback					
Sport/Commercial Allocation	?	70/30	80/20	Abundance Based Matrix	
Allocation of Unused Impacts		Any?			
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear	Tangle Nets Only	Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only	None
Sport/Commercial Allocation of Allowable Harvest below PR Dam	?	Abundance Based Matrix	70/30	80/20	50/50
Allocation of Unused Impacts		Any?			
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear	Tangle Nets Only	Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only	None
Definition of Harvestable Surplus below PR Dam	Only if forecast > 50 K over PR Dam	Any?			

### Spring Chinook sub-options

- 1 Allocate on the basis of license sale location or point of origin
- 2 Allocate on the basis of origin of stocks caught
- 3 Apply buffer only to fisheries below Bonneville
- 4 Establish a set season above Bonneville
- 5 Remove the catch balance requirement for fisheries above Bonneville
- 6 Limit LR seasons to 5 days per week
- 7 Measure benefit based on harvest instead of economic value
- 8 No LR extension beyond pre-season plan
- 9 Annual payback to UR fisheries for LR fishery overages the year before
- 10 Annual payback to LR fisheries for foregone opportunity to safeguard UR fisheries

**Columbia River Policy Review**

**Possible Policy Changes for 2020 and Beyond: Range of Alternatives for Analysis**

Policy Issue or sub-option	Alternatives				
	Status Quo	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
<b>Fall Chinook</b>					
Sport/Commercial Allocation of Most Contrainring Fall Chinook Impacts	?	70/30	80/20	Other?	
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Gill Nets; Alternative Gear	Alternative Gear Only	Other?	
<b>Coho</b>					
Sport/Commercial Allocation	?	Abundance Based Matrix	70/30	80/20	
Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear	?	Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear	Tangle Nets Only	Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only	
<b>Other Measures</b>					
Limitation on Sport Fishing Guide/Charter Licenses	No Limitations	Capped at 2019 Level, in both States	Capped at 125% of 2019 level, in both States	Capped at 2016 level, in both States	Other
Commercial License Buyback Program	Pursued in WA only	B-State Pursuit with Goal of Reducing Licenses by 25%	B-State Pursuit with Goal of Reducing Licenses by 50%	B-State Pursuit with Goal of Eliminating Licenses Latent in 2010-12	