



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Meeting: January 5, 2006

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97303
1:00 p.m.

Approved at the February 9, 2006 Commission Meeting

Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Marla Rae, Chair	Carter Kerns, Commissioner
Don Denman, Vice-Chair	Dan Edge, Commissioner
Zane Smith, Commissioner	Roy Elicker, Interim Director
Jon Englund, Commissioner	Kris Kautz, Deputy Director
Skip Klarquist, Commissioner	Chris Wheaton, Interim Deputy Director
Roy Elicker, Interim Director	Steve Sanders, Assistant Attorney General
Bill Cook, Assistant Attorney General	Tina Edwards, Executive Assistant

MEETING

On January 5, 2006 at 1:00 p.m., Chair Marla Rae called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (commission) meeting to order.

Exhibit C: DRAFT 2006 OREGON COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN BRIEFING

Staff Presentation:

DeWaine Jackson, Wildlife Research Project Supervisor, Craig Foster, District Wildlife Biologist, Lakeview and George Keister, District Wildlife Biologist, Baker City provided the Commission with a briefing on the Draft 2006 Oregon Cougar Management Plan.

Public Testimony:

Jim Morrell
OHA
69090 Barclay Drive
Sisters, Oregon 97759
(541) 549-6469

Mr. Morrell testified that he appreciates the efforts of personnel. He said he is continuing to work with sportsmen's groups to change the statutes. He also spoke to hiring professional hunters to hunt cougars causing damage.

Jerod Broadfoot
SCI First for Hunters
(503) 685-9400

Mr. Broadfoot is a member of Safari Club International and submitted written testimony. SCI opposes the plan, and requests the Commission harvest cougars in each region until all human safety, elk/deer management and livestock predation issues are addressed, allow more involvement by hunters to assist in fixing the cougar management problem by extending the cougar season to a 12-month season, and ask the legislature to reinstate the use of dogs. SCI believes dogs are the most effective management tool.

Don Schaller
1625 NW 13th St.
Portland, OR 97229
OHA
(503) 646-4733

Mr. Schaller is a Portland resident and a member of the Portland chapter of OHA, and was a member of focus group. Mr. Schaller asked the Commission to approve the plan and feels it is not a perfect plan, but is the best alternative at this time.

Al Elkins
OHA
2595 Snowberry Ridge Ct
West Linn, OR
(503) 780-6824

Mr. Elkins stated that in a letter from OHA dated October 2005, the Board voted to support the plan to reduce the number of cougars as provided in the plan. Mr. Elkins expressed OHA's concern about using hunter dollars to kill cougars, and feels the solution would be for the Department to ask the 2007 legislature for assistance. Mr. Elkins thanked the staff for their work on the plan.

Cornelia Cerf
15115 SE Woodland Way
Milwaukie, OR 97239
(503) 654-7066

Ms. Cerf said what she has heard reinforces what staff presented today. Mr. Cerf feels that money should be spent to go after the problem cougars, and also feels that the list as sightings be only those which are absolutely verified. Ms. Cerf also urged the Commission to expand and disseminate widely, and the fine educational materials on living with wildlife.

Paula Rae Wilson
3635 SW Corbett Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97239

Dr. Wilson testified she participated and testified at the August public meeting in Portland and has reviewed the draft. Dr. Wilson feels cougar renewal strikes her as somewhat wasteful, and does not feel we should kill cougars that are not killing livestock. Dr. Wilson said the viable population is a question that staff should consider. Killing in advance could exceed our expectations of the cougar population. She said cougar conflict is the variable in the plan. Dr. Wilson is also concerned about population, because when population numbers decrease, the animals increase reproductive rates that could result in increased litters. Dr. Wilson agreed that there are excellent aspects of the plan.

Larry Jacobs
CR-FNAWS
14011 SW Roy Rogers
Rd
Sherwood, OR
(503) 590-4769

Mr. Jacobs testified on behalf of Oregon sheep projects. Mr. Jacobs feels that cougars are eating more than their share of sheep, and his organization feels the cougar plan is long overdue. Mr. Jacobs feels there needs to be consistent, compatible, balance and understanding of wildlife policy to maintain all species of wildlife to optimum levels. Mr. Jacobs said that CR-FNAWS would like to see cougars at the 1994 levels, but does believe it is a possibility in this state. Mr. Jacobs feels this plan takes proactive approach to protect livestock conflicts and approves the adaptive management approach. Mr. Jacobs expressed concern that the cost of the plan is at the expense of other species. Mr. Jacobs stated that the Oregon Plan for North American Wild Sheep urges the Commission to adopt this plan.

Larry Larson
5940 Basil St NE
Salem, OR
(503) 585-1318

Mr. Larson testified that he is in favor of this plan and feels that it's not perfect, but it's a good start. Mr. Larson said there are problems in Salem and North Santiam with eight individual cougars. Mr. Larson said that all cougars eat so all cougars are a problem.

Mr. Larson said that the cougar population of North Santiam is growing, as verified by the local biologist. Mr. Larson said that cougars are here and are a hazard, and feels it is only a matter of time before there is a human incident occurs. Mr. Larson urged the Commission to pass this plan.

Jerry Vavra
51184 Gates Br. Rd.
Gates, OR
(503) 897-3384

Mr. Vavra testified that he has hunted in the Santiam Unit and has noted in the last three years, there continues to be decreasing numbers of elk and deer in that area. Mr. Vavra has seen a female cougar and two kits and did not see any deer and feels this is due to the cougar population.

Marty Vavra
51184 Gates Br. Rd.
Gates, OR
(503) 897-3384

Marty Vavra testified she came across a cougar kill while riding her horse. Mrs. Vavra says in last 10 years she has not seen any deer or elk in the area. Mrs. Vavra testified she works with Forestry to make horse trails, and there are no deer and elk. Mrs. Vavra feels the plan would be a start and she supports the plan. Mrs. Vavra's area has no new development but she always see cougars. She also has livestock.

Dave Wiley
OHA
5547 7th Ave SE
Salem, OR
(503) 371-4901

Mr. Wiley testified he is lifelong hunter and outdoorsman, and urged the Commission to adopt the cougar plan. Mr. Wiley believes that staff have used all tools available to manage the population and supports the management plan. Mr. Wiley feels cougars are now in conflict with humans as well. Mr. Wiley said the objectives of the plan are to maintain healthy and viable cougar population while reducing cougar/human conflicts. Mr. Wiley added that the proposed plan is logical and meets the measures.

Joe Ricker
OHA
5985 Basil St. NE
Salem, OR
(503) 399-0177

Mr. Ricker testified he supports the cougar plan, and appreciates the hard work of staff. Mr. Ricker said that the plan is based on science and not emotion, but expressed concern about hunter dollars being used. Mr. Ricker believes it is time the Commission go to legislature to get tax dollars to pay for ODFW activities that are not part of hunting and fishing. Mr. Ricker feels the plan should not be paid with hunting and fishing dollars.

Dewey France
SCI
PO Box 15133
Salem, OR

Mr. France testified he supports this plan. Mr. France believes the plan will allow hunters to be more involved with cougar management. Mr. France said he would like to take emotion out of the equation and stick to science.

Kelly Peterson
John Hadidian, HSUS
1414 SE 36th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 230-0270

Ms. Peterson introduced her colleague, John Hadidian to speak on behalf of their organization. Mr. Hadidian testified he is the Director of the Urban Wildlife Program of the Humane Society of the United States, and has submitted written testimony outlining HSUS views and comments. The HSUS strongly opposes the plan. The reasons are multiple and details can be found in the written comments. Mr. Hadidian relayed that HSUS is concerned about the uncertainty of what HSUS sees as science used as its basis and for all management recommendations. HSUS feels the

science in the plan is questionable, and said that this concern has been addressed by others as well as HSUS. Use of model is fine in some respects, he said, but does not work well enough to be the basis for management of cougars in Oregon. Mr. Hadidian said that HSUS is concerned for all parties in human/wildlife conflicts. Dr. Hadidian stated these animals have a biological community of their own, and asked the Commission to consider appointing a new scientific advisory board to look at the best feedback and best consensus from people who hold no stake in this. Dr. Hadidian also testified that HSUS has problems with the population recommendations. Dr. Hadidian said HSUS acknowledges conflicts and agrees something should be done about it, and urged the Commission to work with ecological principles.

Ivan Maluski
Sierra Club, Oregon
2950 SE Stark #110
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 238-0442

Mr. Maluski testified that he has submitted extensive written comment. Mr. Maluski expressed his concern over the summary of objections and states he cannot support vague objectives. Mr. Maluski asked how cougar sightings differ from cougar complaints, and feels the information must be verified. Mr. Maluski said the plan, as written, will fail to target the problem animal and feels this plan allows for indiscriminate killing across landscapes. Mr. Maluski said the plan proposes a strategy which his organization opposes. Mr. Maluski testified the plan approach is to indiscriminately kill and uses unscientific criteria, but fails to provide adequate data and formulas and proposes theory developed in Wyoming. Mr. Maluski believes that the plan should be augmented with further education.

Steve Mathers
OGPA
20129 Mathers Rd
Bend, OR
(541) 389-6743

Mr. Mathers testified he wants to see the cougar management plan approved and become more proactive in cougar management. Mr. Mathers said his organization feels the decline in animals out there are directly related to cougars.

Cat Koehn
Eugene, OR

Ms. Koehn testified she opposes the plan, and feels it is not biologically defensible. Ms. Koehn feels it will increase safety threats, if allowed. Ms. Koehn said that ecosystems are badly deteriorating, and mismanagement has caused the deterioration. Ms. Koehn feels this plan contains misconceptions, and believes that cougars are not after humans and reports that nobody has been hurt by cougar in the history of Oregon. Ms. Koehn believes that cougars are a self regulating population, and urged the Commission to maintain public safety as it has been, and follow what Washington and California have done, and uphold the trust of wildlife.

Sydney Herbert
5125 SW Dosch Rd.
Portland, OR 97239
(503) 244-4415

Mr. Herbert testified he would be willing to pay a small fee, and other conservation communities would pay a fee if there was a program to do that. Mr. Herbert urged the Commission to cater to the people who want to watch wildlife. Mr. Herbert believes this is a culture war.

Dave Williams
USDA APHIS
Wildlife Services
(503) 326-2346

Mr. Williams testified he was a member of focus group and thanked ODFW for putting the science and social values into the plan. Mr. Williams feels that ODFW has shown patience and respect for public opinions by staff. Mr. Williams believes that funding aspects should be the focus. Mr. Williams stated that USDA APHIS oversees cooperative funded programs, and says that USDA APHIS competes with funding decisions every year against mandated public service programs. Mr. Williams believes additional funds are needed to carry out the plan. Mr. Williams believes the Commission can't afford to switch from a reactive to proactive approach.

Jeff Ritter
OHA
7582 MacLeay Rd SE
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 363-6329

Mr. Ritter testified he supports the plan. Mr. Ritter believes there has been a decline in game animals, and thanked the biologists and Commission for the work they've put into the plan. Mr. Ritter said that there are opportunities to enhance cougar habitat invited people to do so.

Michelle Cullens
Mountain Lion
Foundation
PO Box 1896
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 442-2666 x107

Ms. Cullens testified she strongly opposes the plan and encourages the Department to consider a proactive approach for management and community involvement to reduce cougar conflicts. Ms. Cullens explained that her foundation has been constructing cougar-proof enclosures to reduce and prevent cougar/human conflict. Ms. Cullens feels that education is not enough, and provided detailed comments to the Commission in a handout received by staff at the meeting. Ms. Cullens invited the Commission to come out on January 6th to see a cougar-proof enclosure that is being built at a ranch in Salem.

Shawn Waldon
1817 17th Avenue
Forest Grove, OR
(503) 318-9971

Mr. Waldon testified that his father was a cattleman. Mr. Waldon opposes the plan and feels that educating the public about cougar conflicts will help decrease the number of conflicts. Mr. Waldon believes that coyotes are more of a problem.

Sharon Harman
Oregon Humane Society
PO Box 11364
(503) 416-2994

Ms. Harman is the Director of the Humane Society in Oregon and feels that there are diverse values when it comes to cougars. Ms. Harman feels the plan needs to be based on sound science, and the basis for assumptions creates a lack of integrity and credibility due to poor science. Ms. Harman feels the plan does not make sense. Killing mother cougars with kits is not a good thing, she said. Ms. Harman also believes that dogs being used to hunt cougars in the field is not a good idea. Ms. Harman feels our society has no right to sanitize wildlife, and urges that animal husbandry should be considered. Ms. Harman says that removing pets from the outdoors could help the problem.

Rod Harder
National Rifle Assn.
1498 Marion Street, Suite
A
Salem, OR
(503) 361-0070

Mr. Harder testified that he believes dogs are the most effective way to hunt cougars. Mr. Harder says that NRA has varying opinions on the plan, but it is clear that cougar populations have to be reduced. NRA has concerns about using hunter dollars for the plan. Mr. Harder believes the public should pay for it if they approved it (Measure 18). Mr. Harder believes that federal aid to kill big game sets a negative precedent.

Matt Rossell
In Defense of Animals
5428 NE 30th
Portland, OR 97211
(503) 249-9996

Mr. Rossell testified his opposition to the cougar plan, and is concerned about human conflict. Mr. Rossell believes the plan should focus on problem animals, and is concerned about excessive cougars that would be killed with this plan. Mr. Rossell believes that Oregonians care about the suffering of each individual animal. Mr. Rossell is also opposed to using unverified complaints. Mr. Rossell feels that this is more about politics than science, and urged the Commission to base the plan on solid science.

Rodger Huffman
Oregon Dept of
Agriculture
(503) 986-4681

Mr. Huffman testified that he is the Predator Control Manager for Oregon Department of Agriculture, and has also submitted written testimony, which he summarized. Mr. Huffman was also a part of the focus group, and states that the changes suggested by the focus group have been incorporated into the draft plan. Mr. Huffman believes the plan is thorough. Mr. Huffman also suggested that the directors of ODA and ODFW discuss what budget processes are needed to address getting Wildlife Services personnel in many or all of the counties to assist with predation issues and to support verified reports.

Kevin Westfall
OCA
3415 Commercial St SE,
Ste 217
Salem, OR
(503) 361-8941

Mr. Westfall testified he is a member of the Oregon Cattleman's Association and appreciates the opportunity to testify. Mr. Westfall says that OCA has strong beliefs about the plan and is supportive. OCA encourages its members to report conflicts, and by doing so, believes that ODFW will reciprocate and help manage these conflicts. OCA hopes the Department will change its adaptive management strategy if they receive signs this strategy is not working, and encouraged the Commission to get cougar levels back in check with 1994 levels. OCA further urged the Department to seek additional and stable funding, and asked the Department to find a stable source of funding for the future.

Connie Durker
5428 NE 30th
Portland, OR 97211
(503) 249-9996

Ms. Durker testified that she spent many hours in the woods and has never seen a cougar. Ms. Durker is opposed to the plan for numerous reasons – the main one is that cougars will be hounded, and that not many males will be killed. Ms. Durker is also concerned about the objective set for killing. Ms. Durker urges citizens to take steps to protect children, pets and livestock and feels that killing cougars is not the answer. Ms. Durker urged the Commission to consider a different plan.

Syd Most
4509 N. Montana
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 288-7692

Syd thanked Commissioner Smith for offering discussion on conservation alternatives, and believes that non-lethal methods should be an alternative. Syd said that the dog issue seems big, and urged the Commission to keep Oregon a truly humane state.

Emily Ahyou
11029 SW Tualatin Rd
Tualatin, OR 97062
(503) 810-2900

Ms. Ahyou testified she is from the PSU ecology cultural and learning program, and believes that Measure 18 demonstrates the value that Oregonians place on the cougar. Ms. Ahyou believes that the plan circumvents Measure 18, and asked that this plan be revised for people who want to preserve and protect these animals. Ms. Ahyou believes that emotion is okay, and that compassion and respect should be a part of the Commission's decision.

Laura Ireland Moore
No information provided

Ms. Moore testified she was a member of the focus group participant, and said there is a statutory authority to deal with cougars. Ms. Moore feels that having some sort of pro conservation approach is a good idea. Ms. Moore also feels that having fees come from other constituents is important and encourages ODFW to do this. Ms. Moore also believes that non-lethal methods should also be a priority for wildlife services and education.

Courtney Dillard
No information provided

Ms. Dillard testified that the Department should target problem animals and verify the sightings. Ms. Dillard believes that a more appropriate approach staff should look at are the wide variety of causes that lead to reductions in deer and elk populations and study cougar populations to look at when cougars are likely to attack. Ms. Dillard believes that in order to get good policy you have to have good arguments. Ms. Dillard feels the plan cannot be fully subjective until someone has a personal gain to kill more cougars. Ms. Dillard also believes that exact language should be used (kill versus harvest) in the plan.

Misha Dunlap
Attorney in Oregon

Ms. Dunlap testified that she has reviewed the plan and has concerns, primarily because it appears there is not empirical evidence of current cougar populations to determine accurate numbers. Ms. Dunlap urged the Commission to make a decision on sound science and not for special interest groups.

Action:

Briefing

Commissioner Smith asked staff to provide a monitoring plan outline addressing the threshold for sustainability and the validity of zones. Commissioner Edge asked staff to incorporate a model section and acknowledge the uncertainty that the agency has with the model. Commissioner Edge also suggested adding a paragraph addressing the population numbers as a ballpark number as well as mentioning scientific counters in

the document appendix. Staff will provide this information to the Commission at the February meeting.

Exhibit B: R&E BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Staff Presentation:

Laura Tesler, R&E Program Coordinator, requested the Commission to fill two vacant Board positions on the R&E Board.

Public Testimony:

No public testimony

Action:

Commissioner Denman moved to appoint Darlene Kline-Dolby as the Sport Fishing Representative, and to appoint Bob Mullong as the Public-at-large Representative. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Exhibit D: OUTFITTER AND GUIDE TAG PROGRAM

Staff Presentation:

Tom Thornton, Game Program Manager, asked the Commission for formal adoption of staff recommendations for changes to the deadlines and process for Outfitters and Guides to sell deer and elk tags, take public testimony, and consider final rulemaking action.

Public Testimony:

Paul Rainey
OGPA
PO Box 489
Tualatin, OR

Mr. Rainey submitted written testimony and further testified that he asked the industry what are some of the challenges guides are facing, and the responses were that the overwhelming problem is the limited time to market tags received in the allocation process, as all tags must be sold prior to April 15. Mr. Rainey urged the Commission to strengthen the existing program. OGPA asks the Commission to join them in supporting the proposed rules to OAR 635 designed to create a fair and equitable allocation process for all Oregon's outfitters.

Steve Mathers
OGPA
20129 Mathers Rd
Bend, OR
(541) 38906747

Mr. Mathers explained some reasons why tags are not being sold, and believes that the proposed program will add the flexibility that outfitters need. Mr. Mathers feels it is a good change to the program.

Phil Donovan
OGPA

Mr. Donovan testified he is in support the outfitters' testimony.

Action:

Commissioner Denman move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Division 075 as proposed by staff. Commissioner Edge seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Exhibit G: SCHEDULE OF DAMAGES FOR COMMERCIAL FISH VIOLATIONS

Staff Presentation:

Harry Upton, Department Economist, provided the Commission with a summary of the annual update of OAR 635-006-0232, Schedule of Damages for Commercial Fishing Violations and asked the Commission to amend the schedule of damages as proposed by staff in Attachment 4.

Public Testimony:

None

Action:

Commissioner Edge moved to amend the Schedule of Damages for Commercial Fishing Violations contained in OAR 635-006-0232 as proposed by staff in Attachment 4. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Marla Rae adjourned the meeting at 5:51p.m.



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Meeting January 6, 2006:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, Oregon 97303
8:00 a.m.

Approved at the February 9, 2006 Commission Meeting

Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Marla Rae, Chair	Chris Wheaton, Interim Deputy Director
Don Denman, Vice-Chair	Carter Kerns, Commissioner
Zane Smith, Commissioner	Dan Edge, Commissioner
Jon Englund, Commissioner	Lindsay Ball, Director
Skip Klarquist, Commissioner	Kris Kautz, Deputy Director
Roy Elicker, Interim Director	Steve Sanders, Assistant Attorney General
Bill Cook, Assistant Attorney General	Tina Edwards, Executive Assistant

MEETING

On January 6, 2006 at 8:05 a.m., Chair Marla Rae called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (commission) meeting to order.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Region Manager Reports (Written report is part of the Commission's official record.)

Southwest Region

Steve Denney, Southwest Region manager, reported on the Columbian White-Tailed Deer trap and transplant program. Mr. Denney also reported on the mountain quail transplant program, which has entered its fifth year, and includes transplant of birds into Washington and Idaho under a three-year joint agreement. Mr. Denney also updated the commission on coho salmon counts

Northwest Region

Rick Klumph, Acting Northwest Region Manager, reported on the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Coho Fishery. Biologists believe that this year's slower fishery is due to a combination of smaller returns of adult coho and unpleasant fishing conditions during much of November, which typically is the peak month for harvest of adult coho on the lakes. Mr. Klumph also reported that the snowy owl that had recently been captured at the Portland International Airport was trapped and taken to a safe release site at Netarts Spit in Cape Lookout State Park. Mr. Klumph also reported on the Surplus Salmon that has been donated to the Oregon Food Bank by the department. The American/Canadian Fisheries, Inc., a company based in Bellingham, Washington,

processes the fish donated in accordance with federal food handling guidelines. American/Canadian provides all the staff and equipment at no charge to ODFW or the food bank in exchange for the opportunity to market by-products of the filleting process in international markets.

High Desert Region

Chip Dale, High Desert Region Manager, reported on the Central Oregon Mule Deer Study. Mr. Dale also updated the commission on the High Desert Chukars in Malheur County. Mr. Dale also reported on recent Elk Damage complaints in the Harney District, which have increased since Late November, which resulted in damage to landowner property. Mr. Dale additionally reported on the J.C. Boyle Canal Blowout that occurred early in December, creating a four by six foot hole in the dam.

Northeast Region

Craig Ely, Northeast Region Manager, reported on the Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Initiative Program which began in 1995 as a program to accelerate restoration of bighorn sheep in the Hells Canyon region of Idaho, Oregon and Washington and to conduct research applicable to bighorn sheep restoration and management throughout the western United States and Canada. Mr. Ely also provided the Commission with an update and Summary of Winter Conditions at Ladd Marsh and the Elkhorn Wildlife Area. Mr. Ely also reported that Steelhead angling was also hampered by frozen rivers and lack of adequate open water. Fish moved very little and anglers had a difficult time, but that winter ranges in Baker County remained open during the period and no conflicts with upland bird hunters and wintering deer were observed. Mr. Ely also gave an update on the Fall Deer Inventory in Minam, Imnaha and Snake River units.

Adopt Temporary Rules

Roy Elicker, Interim Director, requested the commission ratify the following temporary rules. The temporary rules were previously adopted by the director under his emergency action authority.

635-004-0090

Adopted December 2, 2005, effective January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006.
Amended rule to adopt a 60-inch size limit for green sturgeon in the commercial ocean fisheries.

635-004-0027

Adopted December 5, 2005, effective January 1, 2006 through April 15, 2006.
Amended rule to set the 2006 harvest quota for the Yaquina Bay commercial roe herring fishery.

635-004-0045

Adopted December 9, 2005, effective December 30, 2005 through May 31, 2006.
Amended rule to open the 2005-06 commercial season for Dungeness crab fisheries in the ocean.

635-039-0090

Adopted December 9, 2005, effective December 30, 2005 through December 31, 2005. Amended rule to re-open the recreational season for Dungeness crab fisheries in the ocean.

635-017-0095; 635-023-0095; 635-042-0130; 635-042-0133; 635-042-0135

Adopted December 15, 2005, effective January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006. Amended rules to set commercial fishing seasons for smelt and sturgeon in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, adopt green sturgeon size limits, and establish recreational sturgeon seasons in the Columbia River including the Willamette River downstream of Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel).

635-004-0019

Adopted December 27, 2005, effective January 1, 2006 through June 28, 2006. Amended rule to adopt inseason actions implemented by the Federal government for commercial fisheries including adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries and commercial trip limit tables.

635-051-0070

Adopted December 20, 2005; effective dates December 20, 2005 through January 31, 2006

Rules are amended to allow and regulate public hunting access on Port of Morrow lands. The Port of Morrow unexpectedly offered to open lands for public access through the end of the current game bird seasons (January 31, 2006).

Action:

Commissioner Englund moved to ratify the temporary rules. Commissioner Klarquist seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Expenditure Report:

Staff: Kris Kautz, Deputy Director for Administration

Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES

The commission considered approval of the December 1 and 2, 2005 commission minutes.

Action:

Commissioner Denman moved to approve of the minutes as amended. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Exhibit E: MAIN STEM COLUMBIA RIVER NON-TREATY SPRING CHINOOK FISHERIES AND RENEWAL OF THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON

Staff Presentation:

Curt Melcher, Assistant Fish Division Administrator, provided the Commission with a staff review of spring Chinook and winter steelhead management and asked the commission for guidance on negotiating a new fishery management agreement with Washington. Commissioner Englund noted for the record that he has a potential conflict of interest because his business sells equipment to commercial and recreational fishers. Chair Rae noted that the declaration of a potential conflict of interest does not preclude the commissioner from participating in the discussion and the vote.

Gail Achterman and Dr. Susan Hanna from the Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University (OSU), conducted a review of economic literature and provided recommendations for improving economic data and analysis for managing Columbia River spring Chinook. The OSU INR review of the literature concluded that both commercial and recreational fisheries generate positive net benefits and impacts, but noted that economic studies specific to the Columbia River were limited and sporadic, and the data was incomplete. The OSU report found that the literature did not tell which fishery had greater value, or which fishery generates greater economic impacts, and provided the following recommendations and conclusions: 1) Improve the integration of social and economic concerns into management objectives by developing a research plan, economic data and analysis timed for management cycle and decision framework to apply economics and set up continuing social science advice, and 2) Improve economic data and information by developing objectives for economic performance, developing performance indicators and developing a process for data collection. Dr. Hanna also acknowledged that economics is not the only answer; there are many other factors to be considered when allocating a limited resource.

Public Testimony:

State Representative
Wayne Scott
House District 39

Representative Scott testified he has heard from many constituents for the sport fishery, and voiced that participants are concerned with the shortened season and the amount of fish. Representative Scott said he supports the sports fishermen, and believes their concerns are justified. Representative Scott advised the Commission that the decision will not be an easy one, and stated that he trusts the Commission will carefully consider all of the testimony that is submitted and that the decision made will be in the best interest of both the sport and commercial fishing industry.

Phil Donovan
NSIA/NWSFI

Mr. Donovan testified that the strong support and showing of the sport fishers today is born out of frustration of the last allocation. Mr. Donovan suggests a new approach to spring Chinook allocations, in which the Commission would adopt a set of policies

rather than allocation numbers and establish a methodology that is adaptable to different run sizes. Mr. Donovan urged the Commission to provide better stability to sport fisheries and establish conservative approaches to manage the state investment.

Jack Glass
Fishing Guide
NW Steelheaders

Mr. Glass testified he admires OSU's review of staff's proposal, but disagrees with their comments about not being able to find adequate information on this fishery. Mr. Glass believes the information is out there. Mr. Glass opposes the 40/60 split, as well as the early gillnet season. Mr. Glass suggests good river management.

Tom Wolf
Tri-Limited and fish
Conservation Groups

Mr. Wolf testified the groups he represents are concerned about wild steelhead incidental take. Mr. Wolf said his groups support the staff reformation of two percent. Mr. Wolf urged the Commission to direct staff to look at the declining numbers and incidental harvest and have staff look into this. Mr. Wolf feels the Commission should consider the harvest. Mr. Wolf feels that spring Chinook should be considered a heritage and the Commission should protect those fish. Mr. Wolf suggests the Commission take a new approach and adjust the harvest allocations mid-season.

Dan Grogan, owner of
Fisherman's Marine
outdoor retail store in
Portland

Mr. Grogan testified that during the last two years, his sales have been at a downward spiral. Mr. Grogan supports the recreational fishing industry, and urged the Commission to look at the bigger picture. Mr. Grogan feels the Commission must decide where certain industries should fish, and further states that two successful fisheries are not possible. Mr. Grogan said he does not support commercial gillnetting.

Carmen MacDonald
No Information Provided

Mr. MacDonald testified that he supports the sport fishery and feels that if we go by what the document says, we lose what is fair and whole. Mr. MacDonald stated that overall salmon harvest is 61% commercial and 39% sport. If equity and optimization is the whole, equity will never be achieved because we don't need that many fish to offer spring full seasons on the Columbia River. Mr. MacDonald stated optimization means we harvest the bulk of commercial fish in the ocean and the inland waters are approachable and usable by recreational fishers, which highlights the sport fishery.

Bob Reese
pres NW Guides and
Anglers

Mr. Rees feels sustainability in Oregon's fish and wildlife is important, and supports the guides. Mr. Rees says he volunteers his time to assist ODFW, and is here today to remind the Commission that there are many small business members and anglers. Mr. Rees feels that fragmented seasons will kill the tourism momentum and jeopardize the fiscal stability of the Agency. Mr. Rees feels that the solution may be to make opportunities available to recreational fisherman.

Paul Rainey
NW Public Affairs
NW Sportfishing Industry

Mr. Rainey testified he wants to share his time with Don Reading from Idaho.

Don Reading
Ben Johnson Associates,
Inc.
6070 Hill Road
Boise, Idaho 83703
(208) 342-1700

Mr. Reading provided copies of an economic impact study prepared by Ben Johnson Associates on the 2001 salmon season in Idaho. Mr. Reading briefed the Commission on the details contained in the report.

Jody Mathers
Guide from Astoria,
Oregon

Mr. Mathers testified that being a fishing guide is his sole source of income. Mr. Mathers provided statistics of the costs associated with running his business. Mr. Mathers feels if he loses the two weeks of springer season, he will not be able to survive.

Bill Shake
No contact information
provided

Mr. Shake testified he is a retired biologist and is currently the NSIA policy advisor. Mr. Shake feels the Agency should return to its vision in order to take best advantage of public investments. Mr. Shake requested the Commission consider the conservation needs of these spring Chinook and the economic impacts of fully prosecuted sport fisheries, in the context of the current public vision and investments.

Don Swartz
Retired Biologist
No contact information
provided

Mr. Swartz testified that the computer model of the agency has been consistently under predictable. Mr. Swartz feels the objective of management is to produce a fairly short season and it has cost this region dearly.

Jim Harmon
711 NE Countryside Dr
Vancouver, WA 98634
(360) 882-0143

Mr. Harmon asked the Commission to make a decision to make a viable sport fishery for the Columbia River spring Chinook, and provide sports fishers with a season they can work with.

Chris Vertopolous
NW Guides Association

Mr. Vertopolous wanted to remind the Commission that the sport fishery is a very important fishery. Mr. Vertopolous indicated Oregonians have a world class fishery in their own backyards.

Mike Myrick
NW Steelheaders

Mr. Myrick testified that he is concerned about the closures, and feels the Agency should get a better system. Mr. Myrick does not support a 3, 4 or 5 year agreement.

B.G. Eilertson
GI Joe's Sports Store
9805 SW Boeckman Rd
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Mr. Eilertson testified on behalf of G.I. Joe's retail sports store. Mr. Eilertson requested the Commission to adopt policies that will provide full sport fisheries on the Columbia River. Mr. Eilertson feels that NSIA's proposed methodology lays out a common sense approach to maximizing sport fisheries, while providing commercial fishing opportunities and urged the Commission to embrace the conservation ethic that drove this proposal and realize the benefits through robust fisheries in the future.

<p>Dan Doern Olympia, Washington</p>	<p>Mr. Doern testified that he supports NSIA and sport fishing.</p>
<p>Bob Funk, Vice President Mustad's New York</p>	<p>Mr. Funk said he is here from New York representing his organization and said that the Commission's decisions affect manufacturers nationwide. Mr. Funk feels Oregon needs a strong viable fishery in order to maintain protection for wild steelhead with a two percent cap and urged the Commission to provide enough allocation to keep fisheries open. Mr. Funk feels that sport fishing and tourism make good sense.</p>
<p>Trey Clarskadon NSIA</p>	<p>Mr. Clarskadon testified in favor of sport fishing.</p>
<p>Dennis Richey Oregon Anglers</p>	<p>Mr. Richey testified his organization supports the two percent proposal. Mr. Richey reported that sports fisherman are looking for equity in the fishery. Mr. Richey said that mitigation on the Columbia has been cut by 34 percent, therefore mitigation of springers should be ramped up in Oregon hatcheries.</p>
<p>Deborah McQueen Brown's Landing Boats Scappoose, Oregon</p>	<p>Ms. McQueen testified there is nothing better than fishing with our families and the Commission should protect the sport fishery.</p>
<p>Peter Roscoe City of Astoria</p>	<p>Mr. Roscoe testified he is a city councilman from Astoria and feels we need commercial fisherman to supply products to the markets. Mr. Roscoe presented the Commission with a resolution from city of Astoria in which the City of Astoria requests the Agency to adopt Option 2 and modify the current allocation to 50 percent for recreational fisheries and 50 percent for commercial fisheries.</p>
<p>Irene Martin St. James Episcopal Church PO Box 83 Skamokawa, WA 98647 (360) 795-3920</p>	<p>Ms. Martin testified that OSU researcher Susan Hanna is correct when she said she could not find social information on fisheries. Ms. Martin supports the commercial fishery, and said she is not here to endorse the status quo. Ms. Martin urged the Commission to take into account the statistics and come up with another allocation for a better fishery.</p>
<p>Kent Martin Commercial Fisherman PO Box 83 Skamokawa, WA 98647 (360) 795-3920</p>	<p>Mr. Martin testified that he is commercial fisherman who supports the commercial fishery. Mr. Martin feels that gillnetting is the most common way to harvest. Mr. Martin also says that the commercial fishery is open to any other possibilities for alternative harvest strategies.</p>
<p>Chris Doumit Bristol Pacific Fish PO Box 342 Cathlamet, WA 98612 (360) 795-0216</p>	<p>Mr. Doumit testified he is a commercial fisherman and supports a 50/50 split. Mr. Doumit said we need to take emotion out the equation and focus on what the proper use of a public resource is.</p>

Hoby Kytr
Salmon for All
PO Box 56
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 325-3831

Mr. Kytr handed out a powerpoint presentation comparing the sport and commercial fisheries.

Fred Ostling
Salmon For All
243 E. Birmie
Cathlamet, WA

Mr. Ostling testified he is a commercial gillnetter and favors the 50/50 split. Mr. Ostling has no problem with two percent steelhead cap and urged the Commission to look at the commercial side as well.

George Trott
(360) 89904149

Mr. Trott is a commercial fisherman and a Wahkiakum County council member. Mr. Trott said his small town relies on small businesses to sustain his town. Mr. Trott said when fishing seasons are affected, their income deficit is felt in their county.

Edmond Keene
17280 NW Davidson Rd
Banks, OR 97106
(503) 224-4410

Mr. Keene testified that he is a sport fisherman and owns two boats and supports the sport fishermen.

Christopher Maresh
17158 SE Oatfield Rd
Portland, OR 97267
(503) 654-4663

Mr. Maresh testified he is a commercial fisherman and believes in a fair and equitable share and urged the Commission to make changes.

Brian Brush
North River Boats

Mr. Brush testified that inland fisheries people are his main customers.

Jack Kalluuki
CRFPU
79806 Blackford Rd
Clatskanie OR
(503) 728-4551

Mr. Kalluuki testified he is concerned about the fish buying public of Oregon, and feels they are neglected. Mr. Kalluuki feels the 60/40 split isn't reasonable, and urged the Commission to make it a 50/50 split for the public.

Jack Marincovich
CRFPU
PO Box 627
Astoria, OR
(503) 325-2702

Mr. Marincovich testified that he is a commercial fisherman and his union has represented the commercial fishing interests for over 100 years. Mr. Marincovich feels the commercial industry has earned their fair share, and supports the 50/50 split.

Bruce Crookshanks
CRFPU
18542 Elderberry St
Rochester, WA 98579
(360) 273-7354

Mr. Crookshanks testified that he is a Columbia River gillnetter and is speaking for the public who buys salmon in the store or goes out to eat salmon. Mr. Crookshanks believes if the commercial fishers don't fish, the public is denied their access to this resource. Mr. Crookshanks supports the 50/50 split and the staff recommendation.

Charles Yeager
Salmon for All
1477 6th St
Astoria, OR
(503) 325-3150

Mr. Yeager testified that he is a commercial fisherman and addressed the social and economic values mentioned earlier. Mr. Yeager feels that anything less than a 50/50 allocation would be difficult for him to maintain his health coverage.

Bruce Jolma
Salmon for All
410 NE Alder Street
Clatskanie, OR
(503) 728-4168

Mr. Jolma testified that he is a commercial fisherman and feels commercial fishermen are assets to their communities. Mr. Jolma is in favor of a 50/50 split in the allocation.

Darren Crookshanks
6130 Willow Grove Rd
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 957-4586

Mr. Crookshanks testified that he is a gillnetter and a fish buyer and also owns a commercial marine shop. Mr. Crookshanks is in favor of a 50/50 split. Mr. Crookshanks feels he deserves a fair opportunity like everyone else.

Bryce Divine
141 Carbon Loop Road
Longview, WA

Mr. Divine testified he is a gillnet fisherman and feels that the 60/40 split makes it hard for the commercial fishermen to access the harvest. Mr. Divine feels that sport fishers have other options, such as tributaries.

David Quashnick
92296 Willow Rd
Astoria, OR
Gillnetter

Mr. Quashnick testified that he is a commercial fisherman and feels he should not have to continue to fight for his livelihood. Mr. Quashnick feels commercial fishermen are the people's fishermen and put the fish in the market. Mr. Quashnick feels the 50/50 split is the only answer and it makes it fair for salmon for all.

Bruce Buckmaster
SFA
Box 1186
Astoria, OR
(503) 861-2259

Mr. Buckmaster testified that he represents the commercial fishery and feels there should be an equitable split of spring Chinook. Mr. Buckmaster informed the Commission that the information the commercial industry presents is complete and correct. Mr. Buckmaster says that the rural coastal communities welcome sports fishers as well as commercial fisheries. Mr. Buckmaster urged the Commission to move toward equitability and would like to see a 50/50 split.

Nathan Rogol
SFA
25755 SW Rogol Drive
Hillsboro, OR
(503) 887-6849

Mr. Rogol feels there should be an equitable split, which will support a greater impact for the commercial fisherman. Mr. Rogol feels that viable fisheries were a promise by government. Mr. Rogol also says nets are used in every river from the Columbia on north and is no way associated with decimating the resource. Mr. Rogol feels the substitution opportunity will not work for commercial fishermen. Mr. Rogol feels that both fisheries can co-exist together.

Neithan Hunemiller
Nate's Bait
290 W Berkeley
Gladstone, OR
(503) 655-1201

Mr. Hunemiller testified the Agency should put more fish into the system that would help accommodate everyone instead of arguing about the split.

Donald Martin
Martin's Tackle
7608 SE 70th
Portland, OR 97206
(503) 380-0977

Mr. Martin testified he is a sport fisherman, but used to do commercial fishing. Mr. Martin asks the Commission how they base the steelhead mortality, and adds that they have no long-term mortality.

Mike Nicolle
Mike's Tackle
2114 Columbia Blvd.
St. Helens, OR 97051
(503) 396-2876

Mr. Nicolle asked what is going to be done for the fish? Mr. Nicolle feels we talk about allocation but we should worry about the fish. Something needs to be done for the fish.

Larry Snyder
Vancouver Wildlife
League
800 W. 41st Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
(360) 695-9021

Mr. Snyder testified he is the Vancouver Wildlife League President who represents small boat anglers. Mr. Snyder says he was sent to offer three recommendations. VWL wants to continue the cycle that was started prior to this one of 60/40. VWL also wants to see a timeframe on this minimum of 3 years and ideally 5 so anglers won't have to go through this process so often. Mr. Snyder says that VWL supports the guiding principles and fishery management objectives in the staff report, and indicates that item #3 is no change in the two percent mortality rate of wild winter steelhead.

Barbara Wells
SFA
40969 Grand View Lane
Astoria, OR
(503) 458-6593

Ms. Wells said she comes from a commercial fishing family. Ms. Wells said the commercial fishery wants the sport fishers to come to their areas, and feels there needs to be an equal share of 50/50 split.

Jim Vineyard
307 Caufield St
Oregon City, OR
NW Steelheaders
(503) 655-5079

Mr. Vineyard testified he is a sports fisherman, and that his family was in the commercial fishery. Mr. Vineyard feels the commercial fishery is a choice of life. Mr. Vineyard supports the 60/40 split because he enjoys being out fishing with his family.

Nick Glegor
Astoria, OR

Mr. Glegor testified that he is a boat builder, gillnetter and commercial and sport fisherman and supports 50/50 split.

Jim Wells
SFA President
40969 Grand View Lane
Astoria, OR
(503) 458-6593

Mr. Wells testified he is the Salmon For All President and supports the commercial fishery. Mr. Wells listed items that the commercial fishers have been required to do, and feels the commercial industry has done all of the changing and feels the sport fishing industry should step up and do their part to make changes. Salmon for All requests 50/50 split in ESA catch and requests a three year agreement. Mr. Wells feels that if staff feels two percent cap is necessary, the commercial industry supports it, if it is in the name of conservation.

<p>Scott Glegor SFA Astoria, OR Gillnetting for 30 years</p>	<p>Mr. Glegor testified that he has been gillnetting for 30 years and gets it from both sides because he does sport and commercial fishing. Mr. Glegor feels both sports and commercials should have a recovery box. Mr. Glegor feels the commercial industry has done their share and supports a 50/50 split.</p>
<p>Steve Grutbo Pure Fishing</p>	<p>Mr. Grutbo testified that he is the owner of a retail store called Pure Fishing and supports the sport fishing industry.</p>
<p>Wendy Wall 92416 Svensen Mkt Rd Astoria, OR (503) 458-6614</p>	<p>Ms. Wall testified that she is the wife of a commercial fisherman, and said that rural areas continue to be frustrated by this fishery. Ms. Wells feels that the commercial fishermen are the foundations of their communities, and feels a 50/50 split is fair.</p>
<p>Vanessa Wall 92416 Svensen Mkt Rd Astoria, OR (503) 458-6614 Derek Wall 92416 Svensen Mkt Rd Astoria, OR (503) 458-6614</p>	<p>Ms. Wall testified that she is a commercial fisherman and feels a split of 50/50 is fair. Mr. Wall is a commercial fisherman and feels the 50/50 split would be fair.</p>
<p>Randy Wall 92416 Svensen Mkt Rd Astoria, OR (503) 458-6614</p>	<p>Mr. Wall testified he supports the 50/50 split. Mr. Wall is a 5th generation commercial fisherman.</p>
<p>Dan Christopher Oregon Guide 21970 NE Fairview Lake Way (503) 665-8892</p>	<p>Mr. Christopher testified he is a fishing guide and feels we should hold it at 60/40. Mr. Christopher feels this should be fair for all.</p>
<p>Dave Winters 38240 SE Rude Rd Sandy, OR (503) 637-3819</p>	<p>Mr. Winters is a sport angler and supports the sport fishing industry. Mr. Winters said he is unemployed because of lack of fish and shorter seasons, and says the fish are not there.</p>
<p>Rick King Sport Angler 16220 SW Loon Drive Beaverton, OR</p>	<p>Mr. King testified that he is a sport fisherman and the fish are there, and said he is not opposed to commercial fisheries at all. Mr. King believes it is time for change. Mr. King feels the Agency should take wild fish from hatcheries to another place.</p>
<p>Brian Tarabochia</p>	<p>Mr. Tarabochia agrees with the local guide Jody Mathers, that finding solutions that benefit everyone is what we need to do. Mr. Tarabochia supports the 50/50 split.</p>

Henry Balensifer
Student
WORF Inc.

Mr. Balensifer is a student at Warrington High School and is a 3rd generation commercial fisherman. Mr. Balensifer said that commercial fisherman help students with scholarships, and advocates for educational enhancement. Mr. Balensifer is In favor of 50/50 split.

Joe Salvey
Oregon Guide
33896 SE Elm
Oregon
(503) 349-1411

Mr. Salvey testified he is a local fishing guide, and asked the Commission to look at well being of Oregon and the benefit that fishing brings to the community. Mr. Salvey would like to see a season last throughout the season but allow gillnetters access to the fish. Mr. Salvey does not support a 50/50 split. Mr. Salvey supports a 60/40 split.

John McKinley
Box 310
Cathlamet, WA 98612
(360) 431-9212

Mr. McKinley testified that he is a commercial fisherman and has a non-resident Limited Entry Oregon commercial gillnet permit. Mr. McKinley asked the Commission to consider splitting the fish.

Marty Kuhler
Box 312
Cathlamet, WA 98612
(360) 795-3743

Marty supports the commercial fishery. Marty donates time to assist the test fishery to help the Department, but does not get anything for it. Marty likes the economic study by OSU, and recommends a 50/50 split. Marty agrees with staff's recommendations.

David Johnson
Fishing Guide
PO Box 516
Tillamook, OR 97141
(503) 201-4292

Mr. Johnson testified that he is a fishing guide and supports the two percent cap on wild steelhead and the two fish bag limit for sport fishermen.

Tom Marlin
CASSH Past Chair
Portland, OR
(503) 253-6795

Mr. Marlin feels that what we need is more fish. That would solve the problems. Mr. Marlin also feels the salmon should be counted correctly over Bonneville dam before the nets go in.

Jerry Westerholm
CRFPU
PO Box 2075
(503) 738-7609

Mr. Westerholm testified that he is a commercial fisherman and agrees with the 50/50 split. Mr. Westerholm disagreed with Mr. Marlin on the count, and added that select areas are not the answer.

Jerry Dove
Tillamook Anglers
7510 Trask
Tillamook, OR

Mr. Dove testified he is a member of the Tillamook Anglers Association. Mr. Dove believes the Agency should raise more spring Chinook.

Thomas Way
lfish.net
1018 SW 2nd Street
Oregon

Mr. Way believes that the previous 60/40 split was designed to prevent consumptive waste. He said that is the primary decisionmaking process here. Mr. Way supports a 65/35 or 70/30 split.

Ray Self
23555 S. Trilliom Hollow
Rd
Oregon
(503) 631-8161

Mr. Self testified that he supports the sport fishery and believes that commercial fishing has taken more than their fair share. Without native fish we all lose, he said. Mr. Self believes that sport fishing is much more friendly for native stocks.

Jim Beyem
Port of Astoria
40080 Old Highway So.
Astoria, OR
(503) 458-6829

Mr. Beyem testified that he is sad to see this allocation battle continue. Mr. Beyem supports commercial fishing. Mr. Beyem provided a letter showing the Port of Astoria's support of the commercial fishery.

Eldan Korpela
1-3rd Street Apt 208
Astoria, OR
(503) 325-1565

Mr. Korpela testified that he spent 27 years as a school teacher and fished commercially at Bristol Bay, and was a fish biologist. Mr. Korpela supports the commercial fish industry. Mr. Korpela also spent four years on the STEP committee.

Gary Kish
29395 NW Reeder Rd
Portland, OR 97231

Mr. Kish testified that he supports the sport fishery and thanks the general angling public for their support. Mr. Kish believes the solution is within the two percent ESA and how it impacts how we spread these fish over the two fisheries. Mr. Kish also expressed his concern over the declining license sales. Mr. Kish feels it is important to concentrate commercial fishing in select areas and keep the sport season going.

Dale Ballard
4945 Keiko Ct NE
Salem, OR 97305
(503) 585-5024

Mr. Ballard believes it is time for a drastic change. Mr. Ballard believes the nets don't belong in the river any more and favors sport fishing. Mr. Ballard feels the nets do not have a place in the environment and supports the 60/40 split.

Lee Cain
Astoria School District
35269 Lyngstad Hts
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 338-9219

Mr. Cain testified he is a teacher for the Astoria School District. Mr. Cain believes the direct and indirect impacts of allocations affect these students and supports the commercial fishing industry. Mr. Cain said his decision has to do with social and bio economics and urged the Commission to consider a fair and equitable split.

Chris Carter
8560 SW 74th Avenue
Portland, OR 97228
(503) 245-3295

Mr. Carter endorsed the OSU report and says it may be better to use of budget resources simply to determine if the allocation is within a reasonable range. Mr. Carter said he agrees with the recommendations for a workshop to develop an economic research plan and further recommends a full range of important Oregon fishery economic research needs. Mr. Carter believes ODFW needs to improve the integration of economic and social elements into its management processes.

Jenny Fagan
19461 Westling Drive
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 557-1188

Ms. Fagan testified she supports the sports fishing industry and believes a 60/40 allocation would be fair.

Gary Soderstrom
CRFPU
PO Box 747
Clatskanie, OR 97016
(503) 728-0188

Mr. Soderstrom testified that he is a member of the Columbia River Protective Union and supports the commercial fishery. Mr. Soderstrom believes in order for the commercial industry to survive, we need an equal split.

Jim Markee
SFA
5605 Inland Shores Way
#202
Keizer, OR 97303

Mr. Markee testified he represents Salmon for All. Mr. Markee believes that these are the public's fish and asked the Commission for more fish.

Steve Gray
Bell Buoy Crab Company
PO Box 399
Seaview, WA
(360) 642-2408

Mr. Gray testified he is a commercial fisherman and owns the Bell Buoy Crab Company on the Columbia River. Mr. Gray says he represents the public just as the commission does, and thinks the 50/50 split is absolutely where we need to be.

Liz Hamilton
NSIA
PO Box 4
(503) 631-8859

Ms. Hamilton testified she supports the sport fishing industry and the Agency needs to return to more flexible management and an adaptive management approach. Ms. Hamilton also urged the Commission to seek an end to the front-loading fisheries. Ms. Hamilton reported that NSIA wants to see a return to the full season which will begin in March and will go through April below Rooster Rock. NSIA also supports a two fish bag limit.

Todd Davidson
Oregon tourism
Commission

Mr. Davidson testified that visitors come to Oregon to recreate, and tourism is Oregon's largest trade and supports the sport fishing industry. Mr. Davidson urged the Commission to keep in mind its goal in creating Oregon's image, which is about predictability, seasons and stability. Mr. Davidson also urged the Commission to consider elimination of abrupt seasonal closures and to communicate with tourism when changes are made to the fishery to form a better partnership.

Rod Sando
Retired F&W Director

Mr. Sando urged the Commission to look at the strategic direction in their decision making processes, and to retreat back to what our strategic principles are. Mr. Sando believes the Commission needs to offer those ideas and act in good faith, and notes a weakness in economic data and analysis.

Ryan Rogers
Fisherman's Market
830 W. 7th
Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 484-2722

Mr. Rogers testified he is concerned about the loss of exceptional public resources if the allocation is greatly reduced. Mr. Rogers supports the commercial fishing industry and is in favor of a 50/50 split.

Kent Anderson
Anderson's Outdoors
PO Box 1335
Welches, OR 97067
(503) 550-6303

Mr. Anderson testified he is not personally affected by closure of Columbia, but supports the sport and guide fishery as a whole. Mr. Anderson believes the inability to go out and pursue the fish will affect this industry.

Scott Johnson
52376 NE 14th St.
Scappoose, OR 97056
(503) 998-6105

Mr. Johnson testified that he is a sport fisherman. Mr. Johnson believes most people have a huge financial interest in the sport fishery and he wants more time on the boat with his boys. Mr. Johnson feels we need seasons to get his family out on the boat. Mr. Johnson is not in favor of the 50/50 split and says that sport fishermen want to stay with 60/40 until the pie gets bigger and we get more fish.

Steve Fick
SFA and Seafood
Processors Association

Mr. Fick testified he is a commercial fisherman, a member of Salmon For All, and a member of the Seafood Processors Association. Mr. Fick says he agrees with Chair Rae, and would like to see sport and commercial fisheries come to some kind of agreement. Mr. Fick says he would like to see the fishery open for a longer period of time. Mr. Fick reminded the Commission that they have received letters from rural Oregon, schools, cities, ports, and chambers of commerce. The commercial fishery wants the impacts back to a 50/50 split. Mr. Fick feels this is not an issue of economics, as shown to the commission by OSU. Mr. Fick urged the Commission to give staff direction to negotiate with Washington for a 50/50 allocation. Mr. Fick said he has ideas on how the Commission can do this and would be glad to share his ideas with them. Mr. Fick feels the Commission should model a one fish a day bag because we have a limited resource and all have to work together to keep the resource viable.

Action:

Considerable discussion ensued regarding what the commission wished to accomplish as a result of the allocation numbers. Commissioners asked staff questions related to the suggested change in allocation methodology from NSIA, historical allocation ranges ongoing into negotiations with Washington, the need for both flexibility and sideboards in negotiations, the desire for objectives and guiding principles, and run size modeling.

Commissioners also discussed how a full recreational fishery might be defined, the importance of rural employment and the economics of coastal communities, and the pros and cons of the practice of "frontloading" the season for commercial fishers.

Commissioner Smith suggested that a 60/40 allocation be adopted with a small deviation up or down accompanied by two objectives: 1) Seek a full season for the sports fishery and 2) maintain or increase the commercial catch and acknowledge that there be compromises on both sides. Commissioner Kerns moved to direct staff to negotiate for a 55% sport/45% commercial with the ability to deviate 5% either direction.

The motion also included direction to achieve to the extent possible the objectives of a full season for sports fishery and the maintenance or increase of the commercial catch. Further, staff should negotiate to maintain the 2% limit on wild winter steelhead and endorses a two-year agreement length with Washington. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3. Voting in favor were Commissioner Kerns, Englund, Klarquist and Edge. Voting in opposition to the motion were Commissioners Denman, Smith and Chair Rae.

Exhibit F: DRAFT FISH PASSAGE RULE ADOPTION

Staff Presentation:

Tom Stahl, Fish Passage Coordinator, asked the Commission to adopt fish passage rules regarding when fish passage must be addressed, fish passage criteria, fish passage mitigation, and other items implementing the 2001 fish passage statutes.

Public Testimony:

None

Action:

Commissioner Smith moved to adopt the new sections and modifications to OAR 635, Division 412 as proposed by staff in Attachment 4. Commissioner Klarquist seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

UNSCHEDULED TESTIMONY

Michael Neff
Haglund, Kelly, Horngren,
Jones & Wilder
Portland, Oregon

Mr. Neff testified that he represents Mr. Stout from Dayville, Oregon and wishes to address the Commission on the Murderer's Creek and the Blue Mountain Land Exchange. Mr. Neff said Mr. Stout acquired property in the area several years ago and manages cows on his land. Mr. Neff said the state proposed an exchange of isolated parcels in the Murderer's Creek Wildlife Area. He said he raised the issue because land in this area has been previously been proposed for exchange, and he believes there may be future proposals. Mr. Neff said his client would like to be informed of any discussions prior to any final decisions on this property, because his client is willing to pay more than fair market value for a parcel.

Stan Shones

Mr. Shones thanked the Commission for their time and

1483 Old River Rd.
Siletz, OR 97380
(541) 444-2620

consideration regarding the December 2, 2005 Limited Entry alternatives for Pacific Sardines. Mr. Shones feels the staff report was incomplete and biased in favor of staff's preferred alternative, Option A. Mr. Shones believes that with the industry divided equally, staff was out of line to choose any one option above another. Mr. Shones encouraged the Commission to do the right thing in light of the information provided in his written testimony and reopen the conversation to consider the complexity and what the economic impact will have on the fishing industry and the state of Oregon.

Joel Puratich
Bob Puratich
PO Box 272
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(253) 370-1718

Joel and Bob Puratich submitted written testimony and requested ODFW to reconsider the decision last month granting commercial sardine fishing permits. Both Robert and Joel have been involved in the sardine fishery since 2000 and have over \$2 million invested in their fishing vessel and gear. Both Joel and Bob stated that they have met the annual landing requirements set by the Department but do not qualify for the 2006 permit under the reallocation plan passed on December 2, 2005. Joel and Bob requested the Commission reconsider its decision and allow people who had developmental permits and met the requirements, and asked the Commission to restore their fishing rights.

Jim & Sandy Fisher
1620 7th Drive
Hammond, OR 97121
(503) 861-3413

Mr. Fisher testified at the December 2 meeting on the sardine issue and requested that the sardine Limited Entry matter be reconsidered. Mr. Fisher feels there was no indication prior to the decision that he would not receive a permit, and feels the decision was unfair. Mr. Fisher said he suspects there will be some legal challenges. Mr. Fisher said he has an investment in this fishery and has put much time and energy into it.

Eugene Law
754 Olalla Road
Toledo, OR 97391
(541) 351-0089

Mr. Law testified that he was unable to attend the December 2 meeting, and asked the Commission to reconsider the December 2 decision and establish an appeals board for the transition from developmental to Limited Entry. Mr. Law said there is nothing written in the statute to waive a case.

Mike Okoniewski
Pacific Seafood
1635 Downriver Drive
Woodland, WA 98674
(360) 225-8553

Mr. Okoniewski urged the Commission to reconsider the recently adopted Limited Entry sardine decision of December 2. Mr. Okoniewski feels this is an unbalanced plan.

Chair Marla Rae adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.