

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERIES REFORM

14 February 2017

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Outputs for Today

(see handouts for additional requested details)

- No policy (in all outputs)
- January 20th OFWC action
 - (Enhanced commercial rebalance)
- WDFW Policy
- Staff recommendation
 - Rebalance

OFWC January Action – Enhanced Commercial Rebalance Plan

Modeled as:

- Spring 80/20, small MS commercial fishery with tangle nets
- Summer 80/20 (5% off-channel, 15% MS) MS commercial fishery largemesh gillnets
- Fall Chinook 66/34, MS commercial fishery with gillnet in Z4-5 and Coho tangle net in Z 1-3.
- Implementation of reduced fall “conservation fishery”
 - CSA fishery reduced from Staff Recommended Rebalance
- SAFE releases in accordance with Mitchell Act Reductions
 - Addition of 500K spring Chinook to Gnat Cr., 390K for backfill of Coho cut at current Oregon sites, and 250K each to Westport Sl. (OR) and Coal Cr. (WA, shifted from Cathlamet).
- Allow barbed hooks in off-channel sport fisheries
- Remove Youngs Bay sport closure

OFWC January Action – Enhanced Commercial Rebalance Plan

	Angler trips	Ex-Vessel Value	LPI
Appendix C “Base”	350,400	\$3.86 M	\$28.33 M
Appendix C 2017+	425,450	\$4.25 M	\$33.79 M
No Policy	405,600	\$5.75 M	\$34.61 M
Enhanced Comm	425,600	\$5.87 M	\$36.08 M

- Ex-vessel value calculated through 2022 to capture returns of additional off-channel hatchery production
- Mean ex-vessel for 2017-2021 = \$5.57 M

OFWC January Action – Enhanced Commercial Rebalance Plan

Meets:

- Commercial Ex-Vessel “enhanced” over no-policy scenario
- Gillnets removed in spring
- Recreational fishery mainstem priority more than without policy or transition
- Higher economic returns for region than no or full policy
- Some conservation set-aside

Does not meet:

- Conservation benefits less than staff recommendation
- Less recreational priority than planned or staff recommendation
- Gillnets remain in summer and fall
- Takes additional time to accrue full commercial benefits
- Concurrent regulations unlikely
- Ongoing funding unlikely

WFWC January Policy

Modeled as:

- Spring 80/20, off-channel gillnet fishery (no mainstem commercial)
 - No commercial runsize buffer
- Summer 80/20, no commercial gillnets
- Fall Chinook $\leq 75/\geq 25$, Coho tangle net in Z 1-3
 - Mainstem gillnets Zones 4/5 for next 2 years w/enhanced monitoring
 - Continue alt gear assessments w/presumptive replacement of gillnets after 2 yrs
 - MSF beach and purse seine fisheries in Z 1-5
- Aggressively pursue commercial buyback

WFWC January Policy

	Angler trips	Ex-Vessel Value	LPI
Appendix C "Base"	350,400	\$3.86 M	\$28.33 M
Appendix C 2017+	425,450	\$4.25 M	\$33.79 M
No Policy	405,600	\$5.75 M	\$34.61 M
WFWC Policy	428,900	\$4.30 M	\$34.09 M

- Ex-vessel value calculated through 2018 after which gillnets are sunset in mainstem fisheries.

WFWC January Policy

Meets:

- Phase out gillnets in mainstem fisheries
- Recreational fishery mainstem priority
- Ongoing funding likely

Does not meet:

- Does not enhance viability of commercial fisheries
- Does not optimize economics for region
- Conservation benefits inadequate
- Regulations not currently concurrent

Adaptive Management – Rebalance Plan (staff recommendation)

Modeled as:

- Spring 80/20, small MS commercial fishery with tangle nets
- Summer 80/20, MS commercial fishery with selective gear to be developed by fleet with agency assistance
- Fall Chinook 70/30 (68/32 w/set aside), MS commercial fishery with gillnet in Z4-5 and Coho tangle net in Z 1-3.
- Implementation of fall “conservation fishery”
- Off-channel releases in accordance with Mitchell Act Reductions
 - Addition of 500K spring Chinook to Gnat Cr., 390K for backfill of Coho cut at current Oregon sites, and 250K each to Westport Sl. (OR) and Coal Cr. (WA, shifted from Cathlamet).
- Allow barbed hooks in Willamette River and off-channel sport fisheries
- Remove Youngs Bay sport closure

Adaptive Management – Rebalance Plan (staff recommendation)

	Angler trips	Ex-Vessel Value	LPI
Appendix C “Base”	350,400	\$3.86 M	\$28.33 M
Appendix C 2017+	425,450	\$4.25 M	\$33.79 M
No Policy	405,600	\$5.75 M	\$34.61 M
Rebalance	427,300	\$5.38 M	\$35.51 M

- Ex-vessel value calculated through 2022 to capture returns of additional off-channel hatchery production
- Mean ex-vessel for 2017-2021 = \$5.08 M
- Conservation set-aside value is included

Adaptive Management – Rebalance Plan (staff recomm.)

Meets:

- Increased conservation focus
- More recreational priority than without policy or transition
- More assurance of viability for commercial fisheries than full implementation
- Commercial economics similar to “Freeze Transition” by 2022
- Gillnets removed in spring and summer, use in fall limited
- Higher overall economic returns for region than full policy
- Continued funding likely

Does not meet:

- Less recreational priority than planned
- Gillnets remain in fall
- Less ex-vessel value than “without policy”
- Takes additional time to accrue full commercial benefits
- Regulations not currently concurrent

Economic Comparison Summary

	App C "Base"	App C 2017+	Model Option			
			No Policy	OFWC Action	WFWC Policy	Rebalance
Angler trips	350,400	425,450	405,600	425,630	428,900	427,300
Ex-vessel \$	\$3.86 M	\$4.39 M	\$5.75 M	\$5.87 M	\$4.30 M	\$5.38 M
LPI \$	\$28.33 M	\$33.79 M	\$34.61 M	\$36.08 M	\$34.09 M	\$35.51 M

Conclusions

- At this time, it is not possible to enact, in full, all guiding principles.
- Staff recommended Rebalance alters original policy as little as possible while allowing substantial gains to commercial ex-vessel values relative to full policy implementation.
- Staff recommended Rebalance optimizes economics in a manner consistent with conservation, prioritizes recreational fisheries in mainstem and commercial fisheries in off-channel, phases out gillnets in most seasons, provides opportunity for concurrent regulations with WDFW, and is likely to receive continued funding.

Options

1. Adopt changes in CR Fisheries Reform consistent with staff recommended Rebalance Plan
2. Adopt changes in CR Fisheries Reform consistent with WFWC January Policy
3. No action – adopted OARs from OFWC January action remain unchanged
4. Adopt changes in CR Fisheries Reform that are intermediate to the two separate commission actions

