Public Correspondence

Public correspondence received as of January 25, 2008
For the record.

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From: Red Vandehey [mailto:redv@xprt.net]  
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 3:03 PM  
To: ODFW Commission  
Subject: Lower Columbia spring chinook fishing

Greetings,

I began fishing for salmon on the Willamette and lower Columbia in 1942 at the age of 10. I haven't missed a season except for the 4 years the Korean War demanded my participation.

ODFW is in for a lot of grief if they push to close the lower Columbia to spring chinook fishing in 2008 to protect the Willamette wild fish. First of all, it will hurt business on both sides of the lower river. Secondly, it will cost both states revenue when you anger that many fishermen. To suggest everyone run up above the I-5 bridge to compete with the usual crowd plus the netters, is insanity at it's worst. Even if they were willing, the launch and parking facilities are inadequate for that number of additional boats and the situation will become ugly.

There is a compromise for the Willamette and lower Columbia this spring which will allow people to fish and will do minimal damage to the fish you want to protect. First, keep the netters off the lower Columbia. Outlaw the use of all bait and scents. Limit each angler to one artificial lure with a single barbless swash hook. Studies have shown the mortality rate for lost or released fish is in the 2% to 3% range using barbless swash hooks.

Up until the middle 50's artificial lures were all we had for trolling and anchor fishing for salmon on the Willamette and Columbia. With our salmon runs in decline, it is reasonable to ask people to give up bait and use artificial lures with a single barbless swash hook for the foreseeable future. Yes, it will impact the bait industry but it is a reasonable price to pay so thousands of people can continue to enjoy the sport, contribute to the economy, and keep the revenue flow coming to ODFW.

Those of us who have been at it for awhile still call it fishing instead of catching. It is really all about anticipation. It's about spending a day on the water and the excitement of knowing a salmon could strike your lure any second.

I urge you to allow that to continue to happen this spring on the Willamette and lower Columbia.

Thank you for listening.

Red Vandehey  
Hillsboro, OR
Fishing for end to fight
Sport, commercial fleets try to solve conflict over river salmon allocations

By CASSANDRA PROFITA
For the Observer

ILWACO - Washington and Oregon fish and wildlife commissioners are looking to a stakeholder group of sport and commercial fishing representatives to help them make a hotly contested decision on Columbia River salmon seasons.

But despite a vote of confidence from the boards at a joint meeting last Thursday, some doubt the stakeholders can bridge the deep rift between the two embattled fishing groups.

Among other tasks, the 13 stakeholders are charged with finding mutually agreeable terms in the zero-sum task of splitting the wild spring chinook salmon harvest impacts between sport and commercial fishing industries. The split determines the length of several valuable fishing seasons on the river. It's currently set at 57 percent for sport fishers and 43 percent for commercial fishers.

"There are some very strongly held value differences between these groups, and a low level of trust," Curt Melcher, deputy director for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, told the boards Thursday. "We need to figure out how these fisheries are going to coexist on the lower Columbia, how they're going to share these impacts, which is almost always the constraint on the fisheries."

The state boards vote every two years on adjustments to the allocation of harvest impacts to wild spring and summer chinook salmon, whose Endangered Species Act-listed runs make them the limiting factor in the length of fishing seasons on the Columbia.

The decision to change the allocation is "zero-sum game where one party's gain is the other party's direct loss," said Melcher.

The two commissions are scheduled to rule on this year's allocation at their February meetings. Normally, the decision would last two years, but with the stakeholder process underway, it will
likely only carry until next year.

In a discussion at the joint meeting Thursday, some commissioners said they would like the stakeholders to ease the contentious task of divvying up the highly coveted allocation.

"People are very affected by this decision, and many of us are from areas far distant from the Columbia River," said Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Miranda Wecker, of Naselle. "It makes sense to have the stakeholders figure it out."

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Zane Smith, of Springfield, said the stakeholders need to put catch data in context for commissioners if they expect a change in the allocation.

"I really don't want to go through those numbers again. They don't mean anything to me," he said. Smith went on to say if the stakeholders can't make a case for a change, "we might just stick with where we are until we get something that moves us off the status quo."

Oregon Commissioner Dan Edge, who has attended all three stakeholder meetings to date, said he is "very optimistic" that the group will find a long-term solution that will "avoid the type of decision we had last time."

Last time the issue came up, in January 2006, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jon Englund of Astoria was shunned by the sportfishing industry for voting to increase the commercial share. Some recreational fishers vowed to take revenge by boycotting Englund's businesses, including Astoria's Englund Marine Supply.

Bruce Buckmaster, an Astoria resident who represents commercial fishing interests in the stakeholder group, said he thinks commissioners who have been through the decision process before will be more likely to keep the allocation as is for now.

Many sport fishers who testified before the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Saturday proposed a 70 percent sport, 30 percent commercial split in impacts. Commercial fishers urged the board to keep the allocation as is.

Buckmaster said even if there's no consensus on the allocation numbers through the stakeholder process, "what there will be is exposure of all agendas and positions and the difference between want and need."

But Hamilton said she doesn't put much stock in what the stakeholders can accomplish.

"The stakeholder group does not include the right set of stakeholders, and that puts at risk any sort of durable product," she said. "Additionally, just because 13 people ... play 'let's make a deal' in a room, that does not necessarily mean their deal reflects the best for the resources or what society's values are for the wise use of the resources."

The Washington commission will meet Feb. 1-2 to vote on the issue; the Oregon commission meets Feb. 8 to take public testimony and make a decision.
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Commission
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303

Dear Sirs:

I know that you are facing some tough decisions on the 2008 Spring Chinook Salmon sport season on the Columbia River. I only hope that you will be fair with the allocation of the available catch in the Columbia River and the Willamette River systems.

I understand that the Willamette run is weak, so I realize sport fishing below the I-5 Bridge will be curtailed. If there is a Willamette fish to be harvested, I hope you don't just let the Willamette system take these fish, but open it to a limited season for the Willamette River and the Columbia River below the I-5 Bridge.

My thinking on this season is two days a week, until the quota is filled, one fish limit per day and a five fish limit per person for this Spring Season.
Living in Astoria and if there were no Lower Columbia River season, I would be limited on the amount of fishing I could do because of gas prices and the fatigue of traveling, but when I did go, it would be to the Multnomah Channel and the weaker run.

I'm 65 years old and haven't written a letter since high school so I hope you realize how very important this issue is to me.

Thank You

Roy D. Niemi
290 McClure Ave.
Astoria, OR 97103
Salem, OR 97303
3406 Cherry Ave NE
Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish

Jan 15 2008

Portland OR 97205
290 McLough Ave

Ray Neim
Sandra Fixsen

From: ODFW Commission  
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 1:31 PM  
To: Sandra Fixsen  
Subject: FW: spring salmon fishing  
Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Completed  

For the record and response.

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From: Barbara Smith [mailto:barbs02@comcast.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 1:03 PM  
To: ODFW Commission  
Subject: spring salmon fishing

I heard rumor that the Willamette river maybe shorten for the spring salmon run or not at all this year do to the excepted low run. Is there any talk about this at all.
Thank You
Charles Smith
To Washington and Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commissioners:

My name is Frank Amato and I have published Salmon Trout Steelheader magazine for over 40 years as well as nearly 300 books on fishing.

From what I hear there is consideration being given to have NO SPORT OR COMMERCIAL spring Chinook fishery below the I-5 bridge because of possible low return numbers of Willamette River spring Chinook salmon.

Obviously there should NOT be a gill net fishery in this area except for the Select sites. However there SHOULD be a sport fishery in the lower Columbia from the I-5 bridge to near the mouth.

This can be done safely to protect wild Chinook by instituting a fishing regulation for that 50 mile stretch requiring NO BAIT and a SINGLE BARBLESS HOOK.

I have much experience using artificial lures and plugs with single barbless hooks and no bait when fishing for fall Chinook. Establishing this no-bait, single barbless hook emergency regulation would allow thousands more citizen anglers to enjoy the beautiful lower Columbia while doing virtually NO harm to wild Willamette River spring Chinook. Accidental mortality would be somewhere between 2 and 5% with single barbless hooks and NO BAIT! I would suggest a hook size no larger then 3/0.

Also, in my opinion the citizen advisory committee put together by the governors to suggest salmon allocations in the Columbia River is entirely suspect. It is strongly over-weighted in favor of commercial interests. About 8 members (including Butch Smith) lean strongly toward commercial interests (maybe 150 or fewer active gillnetters) leaving only 5 to support the over 100,000 sport anglers who use the river. I can't believe how horrible the lack of balance and prejudice is favoring commercial interests. Their decision will be highly suspect in my opinion and I am sure the public will have its say through legislators and possibly an initiative petition to ban ALL gill netting in the Columbia River.

Respectfully,

Frank W. Amato, Publisher
For the record.

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From: Vanderipe, Bret [mailto:Bret.Vanderipe@calence.com]  
Posted At: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 11:29 AM  
Posted To: ODFW Commission  
Conversation: Columbia River Salmon Allocation  
Subject: Columbia River Salmon Allocation

Dear Commissioners,

The Columbia River commercial netters need to receive a lower allocation so that sport fishermen can have longer season and more opportunity to fish.

My reasoning is this:

We have 122 commercial fishermen on the Columbia River that receive approximately half of the salmon allocation. There were less than 50 active commercial fishermen from Washington during the spring of 2007. Contrast this with the tens of thousands of anglers from Washington that fishing during the spring of 2007. Those commercial fishermen were given almost the same opportunity as those tens of thousands of sport anglers. State statute says that the allocation must be equitable, but it does not say equal. I can not see any way economic or otherwise why such a low number of commercial fishermen should receive the same equal benefit as thousands of sport fishermen.

From a conservation standpoint allowing commercial netting on the Columbia River doesn’t make any sense. These commercial netters have a high wild mortality rate due to their non selective way of fishing. Up to 40% of the wild fish they handle die after they are released back into the river. The netters have attempted to employ selective methods which don’t kill as many wild salmon by using “tangle tooth nets”. The downside of tangle tooth net is that they have smaller mesh which gill net and indiscriminately kill wild steelhead. Tangle tooth nets have a lower mortality of 18% on salmon but kill a very high percentage of the wild endangered steelhead that get caught in them. That is not selective fishing. We can not gill net our way back to recovering these endangered stocks of wild salmon and steelhead.

Due to the high mortality rate that commercial fishing has on wild stocks all of those commercial fishermen only caught at total of 2950 salmon before they reached their ESA impact level. That’s 2950 salmon for the whole commercial fleet of Washington and Oregon. 2950 salmon! That’s it. So let’s assume that each salmon can feed 10 people after it has been sold to a market and then purchased by the consumer, which then comes out to 29,500 meals. Contrast that to the mortality for sport fishing that is only 10% which means that sport
fishermen can catch 3 times more hatchery fish while working with the ESA impact level and killing the same number of allocated wild fish as the commercial fishermen. That allows more hatchery fish to be removed from the river which is why they were put there in the first place. 8850 hatchery fish is what the sport anglers would catch if they were given the commercial allocation. That is 88500 meals of hatchery spring Chinook salmon.

This doesn't even take into account the recreational benefit that the angler received.

The average spring Chinook angler on the Columbia River fishes 9 days per spring Chinook landed. The average angler puts approximately $100 back into the region's economy for every day fished (this $100 is the generally accepted number by WDFW & ODFW) That means every fish caught by a sport angler puts $900 back into the economy! Again if sport fishermen were allowed to take those hatchery fish rather than commercial fishermen catching them that would have meant an economic benefit of $5,310,000! There is no way that our region received $5,310,000 worth of benefit from those fish when they were caught commercially. Again this doesn't even factor in the recreational benefit of these fisheries.

We are foregoing major tourism dollars by not maximizing the potential of Columbia River Salmon sport fishing. It isn't sport fishing friendly and our region is suffering because of it. The way things are currently done gives the bulk of the benefit to a few individuals while telling ten of thousands of anglers that this is “equitable”. Where is the equity in this?

The conservation aspects, economic and recreational benefits of sport fishing seem so obvious to me and I can't understand why we are still allowing commercial gill netting on the Columbia River.

I implore you to please direct the Oregon Commission to make sport fishing a priority, and please ask them to give sport fishermen a much higher allocation then they have been receiving in the past.

Sincerely,
Bret Vanderipe

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Bret Vanderipe
Director, Business Development
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Global Channel Partner of the Year - US/Canada

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Dedicated Sr. Client Advocate
Mike Saul
Calence, LLC

1/15/2008
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For the record.

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From: Brian Christensen [mailto:swimshady_2@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Monday, January 07, 2008 9:46 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: fish allocation
Subject: fish allocation

i believe that sport fisherman get the low end of the stick every year while providing a large income to both oregon and washington and the gillnetters are rapeing our rivers with little return to our economy.theres no way in hell they should be allowed to fish below the i-5 bridge(or anywhere period!) with the state of the willamette fish basin.we sportsmen and women are getting sick of it and we vote, one day we will get together and you shall feel our smite!!!!!!! maybe soon

registered voter, Brian Christensen, Canby, Oregon

Watch "Cause Effect," a show about real people making a real difference. Learn more
Quick and to the point,

1) Please do not allow the gill nets to kill esa Willamette salmon by fishing the lower river,

2) Please dont let gill net needlessly kill steelhead with tangle nets. On a great steelhead year like this you could kill 5 or 6 fish just to take 1 chinook.

3) 1 fish a day is plenty for us below Bonneville. Please dont listen to NSIA on letting us have 2 fish per day. That will close our season a day, a week or more early. Nsia does not represent sport fisherman on this issue. Ask them how many members they have. Fisherman have screamed for years "give us a full season what ever that takes." Please only start us at 1 fish a day, if the run turns out as good as they say add the second fish latter.

4) Don't use your vote to support non selective harvest methods, dont be the person that voted to kill the last fish a stream produces. Do this by not adding 1 % but removing alot of % from the commercial fretts allocation.

--
Dan Christopher
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 8:05 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: input on salmon allocation

For the record.

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From: Lacey DeWeert [mailto:laceydeweert@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Monday, January 07, 2008 8:35 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: input on salmon allocation
Subject: input on salmon allocation

As a non-resident license holder in the state of Oregon, I am writing on behalf of sportsfisherman and the future salmon allocations we will have on the main stem of the Columbia River. After paying over $100 last year for my out of state license, I want to make sure my voice is heard in this allocation process. As an active sportswoman, I live for the opportunity to get out on the weekends and enjoy the outdoors. I own and run my own open sled and often take two other anglers with me on outings. On average, I personally spend ~$75.00 a day on just fishing related needs during the spring and fall salmon seasons. Fuel, bait, tackle and food make up the primary bulk of my expenses. In the fall, I moor my boat, so there is that added expense of $200.00 as well that goes to the Port of Chinoook. For the last calendar year, I fished 23 days on the main stem Columbia for salmon. So that works out to be at a minimum $1,925 that I personally put back in the local fishing communities as an active sportsfisherwoman. It deeply bothers me that my time and opportunity on the water could be reduced even further if the commercial fleet is given the same or an even greater allocation than in years past. Please listen to the ten of thousands license holders and their plea for more angling opportunity on the main stem Columbia for salmon.

Sincerely,

Lacey DeWeert
2060 Statesman Dr.
Woodland, WA 98674
360-560-5992

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1/14/2008
for the record.

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From: Dan Marvin [mailto:coconutdan@yahoo.com]
Posted At: Monday, January 07, 2008 7:58 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Spring Allocations
Subject: Spring Allocations

Greetings to the Commissioners

My name is Dan Marvin I'm a Columbia river commercial Salmon and Crab Fisherman. I also work with the Whiting and Sardine fleets for a large processing company as a fleet manager. I would like to support a 60/40 sport commercial split on spring impacts,. I believe this is fair split with the sport industry being able to continue to fish in the tributary's and a large hatchery program in both Tillamook and In Southern Oregon on the Rouge.
I also strongly feel that the only way this ongoing battle ever be tempered is to reduce the commercial troll fleet to under 200 permits, Oregon Gillnet to 50 to 75 permits and limit the guides to a reasonable and workable number. This is who the primary allocation battles are being fought by.

Thank you for serving the state of Oregon
Dan Marvin

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For the record.

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From: Jay Daly [mailto:j.daly@comcast.net]
Posted At: Monday, January 07, 2008 9:39 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: 2008 Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocations.
Subject: 2008 Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocations.

Dear Commission Members,

There is a disturbing trend affecting Oregon Sportsmen and women. We are loosing our chances to fish for our Columbia River Spring Chinook. In the years since 2002 the 122 Columbia River Gill netters have received an increased allocation for Columbia Spring Chinook by the commission. This commercial fishery method of non selective gill nets and its excessive impact on wild fish is negatively affecting our fishing heritage, our environment and our economy. This commercial fishery has been managed to steer away from the Endangered Snake River Spring Chinook and the result has been a greatly diminished Willamette run!

Reduced non selective commercial fishing pressure will:

- Reduce bycatch of endangered wild steelhead and sturgeon
- Increase harvest of hatchery Spring Chinook keeping them off the reds and giving our wild fish a better chance to recover.
- Provide a huge boost to our local economies. We are really cheating ourselves here with the shortened and unpredictable seasons making travel to Oregon for Spring Chinook fishing a roll of the dice for my out of the area customers to even book travel plans.
- Provide increased fishing opportunities for Oregon Families.

There is going to be a huge Spring Chinook run this year on the Columbia, please allocate Oregon Sportsmen and women a chance to fish it though May with a 2 fish bag limit.

Would you each please reply with an acknowledgment that you read this email? I would like your email addresses to write to you all individually in the future. Thank you.

Happy New Year,

John S. Jay Daly
58901 Evergreen Loop
St. Helens, OR 97051

Jay Daly

1/14/2008
US Coast Guard Licensed and Insured
Salmon, Sturgeon & Steelhead
503-341-9571
www.fightclubguidedfishing.com
Dear Commission Members,

I am writing you as a recreational fisherman concerned for our fish and fisheries. Salmon are important to me as a magnificent regional icon as well as a recreational pursuit. The people of the northwest have consistently said recovery of these magnificent (and tasty) creatures is very important to them.

Of the 4 H's of recovery (Hydro, Habitat, Harvest, Hatcheries) only harvest is currently something we can immediately manipulate to provide positive results. The rest are complex issues and will take time.

We cannot harvest our way to recovery. Harvest will happen so let's harvest responsibly. Hook and line fisheries, such as those utilized by the recreational fleet, carry a 10% mortality rate and have a statistically insignificant amount of by-catch. They have the ability to adapt to the species targeted and reduce stress on handled fish.

Gillnets are a poor harvest tool in mixed stock fisheries. They carry a 40% release mortality as well as having a by-catch associated with them. Please be aware that by-catch includes ESA (Endangered Species Act) listed salmon and steelhead as well as sturgeon. How wise and justifiable is it to use such a destructive harvest tool on stocks we are expending tremendous amounts of money, time and energy on in the name of recovery? Gillnets also, through advances in information and technology, have the ability to achieve and exceed their assigned impacts, as well as those of the recreational fleet, in one or two 10-12 hour fisheries. Our only current means of removing gillnets from the mainstem is the allocation process. Reducing commercial allocation moves gillnets off the mainstem Columbia River and into the select areas that were developed for them. Additional benefits realized are:

- increased escapement of wild stocks
- full and uninterrupted sport seasons fueling local economies

1/14/2008
increased access to fish by tribal fishers

new/sustained sport fisheries above the dams including Idaho

I simply ask that you direct state fisheries managers to set sport and commercial chinook salmon allocations at 80% sport and 20% commercial for each of the three seasons, spring, summer and fall. Let's give our fisheries managers a more selective harvest tool to work with, hook and line fisheries. It is well past time to reward selective fishing methods.

Thank you

Mark Stetzer
Dear Commissioners,

As an Oregon Sport Fishing Tackle Dealer, my livelihood and that of my employees is directly affected by your decisions. Soon, you will make plans for the Columbia basin salmon and steelhead fisheries. I urge you to reduce the impact allowances given to the Columbia River Gillnet fishing fleet. The economic impact of fish caught by this fleet is significantly lower than that of a sport caught fish. Additionally, gillnets cannot be considered a selective fishing method. Between the damage from the dead and dying fish that fall out of the nets that are never counted and the damage caused by the fish that never recover after intentional release from the nets, banning gillnets should be a top priority of the commission. I am speaking as a person who has worked in fish hatcheries, been a commercial fisherman (with many family members still in that occupation) and as a sportsman. Please move toward the permanent removal of gill nets from the northwest. There are other fishing methods available to the commercial fishermen. Trolling lures is a very effective method that should be given serious consideration to. Another method that should be examined is fish wheels. They can be exceptionally selective if designed properly.

Best regards,
Doug Hall
MorningBite.com
12311 SW Autumnview Street
Tigard, OR 97224
admin@morningbite.com
503-946-5877
For the record.

c

From: Marv McQuinn [mailto:GuideMarv@msn.com]
Posted At: Thursday, January 10, 2008 5:25 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocations
Subject: Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocations

Commissioners:
I think that the gillnet versus sport anglers allocation should benefit the sport anglers with a greater percentage. That conclusion should be based on the greater revenue to the State AND the best way to keep the run healthy.
The Sport anglers represent a larger population group. And that group brings to the State a bigger share of revenue. The revenue is not only thru licenses but benefit local economies through the tourist dollars and the expenditures made by our State anglers for purchases of gear, boats and travel expenses. The gill-netters only have 122 people none of which make a sole living off of Columbia River Spring Chinook. Many fishing guides make their living out of taking people fishing. They introduce people to a recreation that is a wholesome sport, one that you would be proud to have your children and Grandchildren learn!!!!

The individual sport angler is able to help the wild run of fish by releasing un-harmed wild fish with a low mortality rate. The mortality rate is 4 times higher with the gill nets even using the newer tangle/tooth nets.

I hope my voice is being heard with the many thousands of other anglers [even the silent ones] by the Commission and you will support us and the State economy.

Thank you,

Marv McQuinn
Marv's Guide Service
Hillsboro, OR
503 649-5444
From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2008 8:22 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Columbia River Chinook Allocations

For the record.

c

From: Blum, Stephen A [mailto:stephen.a.blum@intel.com]
Posted At: Thursday, January 10, 2008 4:35 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Columbia River Chinook Allocations
Subject: Columbia River Chinook Allocations

ODFW Commissioners,

As time draws near for you and your Washington counterparts to decide on the 2008 allocations for Columbia River Chinook populations, please keep these points in mind:

- Global Climate Change. The Pacific NW is warming up, storms and hence high water events are getting worse, river temps are increasing, riparian zones are becoming less and less conducive to reproduction by native stocks. The indiscriminate killing caused by free drifting gill nets in the Mainstem Columbia is an added, 100% avoidable additional stress on native stocks.
- Regional Economic Benefit. A lot of people make their living catering to the sport-fishing industry on the Columbia river and tributaries. Guides, boat manufacturers, tackle manufacturers and retailers, bait shops, Mom & Pop Convenience stores, the list goes on. No one makes their living supporting the Columbia river mainstem gillnet industry, the gillnetters themselves don’t even make a living at it, no one’s way of life would be ruined if the nets were put away for good.
- Sturgeon. These wonderful fish are under enough stress trying to elude Sea lions, how many have to suffocate in gillnets too? Not to mention the highly publicized, but too lightly punished, abuses of the limits by a few morally bankrupt gillnetters. You did well creating the sturgeon sanctuary below the dam, now go all the way.
- DFW budgets, a large part of your budget comes from our, SPORT FISHERS, license fees, which number in the hundred’s of thousands. How much comes from the 200 or so commercial gillnetters? Keep giving the fish to them and we will stop buying licenses, “Why should I pay almost $50 for a license I can’t use?”

Take the gillnets out. Terminal commercial fisheries have proven to be very successful all over the world, and that success can be measured in lower operating costs meaning higher margins for the commercial fishermen as well as greatly reduced damage to non-target stocks due to the more selective nature of the operation.

Do the right thing for Oregon, Washington and the Columbia and all her creatures.

- Ban the gillnets.
- One fish limits.
- Barbless single point hooks only.
- License revoked for violations, sport or commercial.

Thank you for listening


1/14/2008
Stephen A. Blum
F20 Thin Films Engineering
D: 503-613-5092
P: 866-429-5551

2007 World Champions
From: Lacey DeWeert [mailto:lacey.deweert@kelso.wednet.edu]  
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 12:09 PM  
To: ODFW Commission  
Subject: Columbia River 2008 salmon allocation

January 14, 2008

To: ODFW Commission  
RE: 2008 Spring Salmon Allocation on the Columbia River

My name is Lacey DeWeert and I live at 2060 Statesman Dr. in Woodland, WA. I am writing to you on two issues: I want to see a full Spring Chinook season be available for sportsfishermen on the Columbia River and I want to see commercial gillnetters restricted to the SAFE terminal waters set aside for them on the Columbia River.

As a sportsfisherwoman, I feel my contribution back to local and state economies needs to be taken into consideration as the spring Chinook allocation is being set. For the 23 days that I fished spring and fall Chinook on the main stem Columbia, I spent $3,705 on fishing related expenses. That total includes: my boat payment, tackle, fuel, bait, launch fees and moorage fees. It does not include my truck payment, insurance payments or the lodging costs I incurred during my pursuit of these fish. With an economic recession looming on the horizon and the fact that the number of fishing license holders is steadily declining, we need to keep sportsfishermen on the water. Our economic contribution far outweighs that of the 122 active gillnetters on the Columbia River.

I understand gillnetters need to support their families, what I do not understand is why they cannot be restricted into the SAFE terminal waters that have already been set aside for them? How can we gillnet our way to recovery on ESA (Endangered Species Act) stocks? With a kill percentage of 40%; meaning that of the wild fish they do catch the mortality rate of those fish is 40%, how can we continue to let them ravage these stocks? By restricting them to SAFE terminal waters, they will have the least impact on ESA stocks and will still be allowed to continue their livelihood. By allocating more Spring Chinook to commercial gillnetters, two things happen to the fish runs: One, more ESA stocks besides just Spring Chinook are impacted. ESA steelhead are also tangled and killed in their nets; an unfortunate by-catch according to commercial gillnetters. Two, you are limiting sportsfishermen from taking more hatchery fish from the river, thus allowing more hatchery fish on wild fish spawning grounds. Both of these situations can be reversed if we restrict where gillnetters can fish on Columbia River.
In closing, I would like to see the spring allocation be split 70/30 for sportsfishermen and I would like to see the commercial gillnetters be restricted to their SAFE terminal waters. Doing this is what’s best for fish and the economy; it just makes sense.

Thank You,

Lacey DeWeert
2060 Statesman Dr.
Woodland, WA 98674
360-560-5992
Dear Commissioners,

I am concerned about the current status of the wild upriver spring chinook on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. I am aware that you will be meeting on January 12 to discuss the harvest allocation regarding these fish.

It is evident to myself and many other knowledgable individuals that harvesting these fish with a non-selective method such as gill netting is nonsensical and outdated. The incidental catch and resulting death of many wild ESA listed spring chinook and steelhead must end.

Until a truly selective method of harvesting the hatchery spring chinook can be implemented, commercial fishing on the Columbia River should be confined to the SAFE areas only.

Sport fishing, although not totally selective, has a much lower mortality of released fish and should be given precedence when allocating harvest of spring chinook in the mainstem Columbia River. The number of hatchery fish which can be harvested until the limit of impacted wild fish is reached is much greater with the much lower mortality of released fish associated with sport fishing.

Many, many more people benefit from an extended sport fishing season as compared to the few who benefit from the commercial harvest. This is a public resource and should be shared in such a way as to benefit the majority, not a select minority as has been done historically. The economic benefit to the larger community from an extended sport season is huge compared to the benefit from the commercial fishery.

I am asking you to do the right and fair thing and give precedence to the sport fishing allocation of spring chinook in the Columbia River.

Sincerely,
Antar Pushkara
85091 Larson Rd
Eugene, OR 97405
Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.
From: Chris V [mailto:chrisv@pacific.com]  
Posted At: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 10:55 PM  
Posted To: ODFW Commission  
Conversation: Upcoming allocation  
Subject: Upcoming allocation

To the members of the commission,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming allocation hearings that will decide our future spring Chinook seasons on the Columbia river.

As you know, I am a fishing guide (small business owner) residing in Garibaldi, Or. I have been in the business for sixteen years and eleven of those years it has been my one and only full time job. I generate about 65% of my annual business from the Columbia river, be it mostly salmon fishing and a bit of sturgeon fishing. The rest of the year I fish the rivers, bays and ocean adjacent to Tillamook county.

The months of April (when we get a season), June and August as well as the first half of September find me on the Columbia river entertaining my guests, who come from all over the US and sometimes abroad, to fish for the mighty salmon and sturgeon. These guests of mine spend a bit of money with me but generally spend allot more in hotels, rental cars, restaurants, fishing licenses etc. etc. During those months I rent a house in Hammond Or, eat at local restaurants every night, spend way to much money at local gas stations for my boat and truck, rent moorage at the West Mooring basin in Astoria and support other local businesses, buying bait, groceries etc, etc. I know you get the picture that my customers and I and all the other guides and charters inject allot of $$ into the local economy. Lets not forget the thousands of unguided sport anglers who do just the same every day during the height of the season.

As this allocation process nears, I am concerned that it will be another disappointing decision allowing the non-selective gillnet fleet a larger piece of the pie. In turn, I will again face shorter seasons all the while watching Oregon's sportfishing/tourism industry shrink. My annual income shrinks and the income of local businesses shrink.

In my sixteen years of watching this process, it continually baffles me that the non-selective nets get more of the allocation and the sport allocation and season gets smaller. Lets remember that sport anglers must release endangered and protected wild spring Chinook and the gillneters must release them also. You and I both know that the margin of the mortality rate, between sport caught (10%) and net caught (40%) is hugely in favor of sport caught, this is reflected in the impact statement. In other words a net caught and released salmon most likely dies and putting it in a revival tank (assuming they have a functional tank) is largely futile. At best its a mandated "feel good" tactic to enhance the image of the gillnet industry. All that being said, this is why both user groups get a relatively small season, because the gillnets kill to many wild fish and the sport fleet has to shoulder a large part of the gillnet caused burden. More importantly, shouldn't we consider how terrible it is to send back all those dead spring Chinook salmon.

In a nutshell, the states are trying to spare endangered wild salmon, while implementing a viable sportfishing and commercial season for the harvest of hatchery salmon. What do we do? It only makes sense to give a larger part of the allocation to the more economically viable sportfishermen that kill
fewer of the endangered salmon. Save wild salmon and help the local economies, its a no-brainer.

Commissioners, It is my hope that you, as well as all the other state officials, recognize the dilemma that is in front of us and take a few progressive steps towards a "more equitable" spring Chinook season.

Thank you very much for your time and service and I wish you and your families a great 2008.

Sincerely,
Chris Vertopoulos
Oregon Fishing Guide
Garibaldi, Or.
503-349-1377
www.northwestanglingexperience.com

1/14/2008
In regards to the CR Spring Chinook allocation process I would like to voice my opinion. The conversation should be towards "conservation" first and "allocation" second. Considering the state of E listed runs on CR tributaries it is simply inconceivable to allow "non-selective" gilnets in the river. Also take consideration the by-catch impacts that are traditionally ignored when considering CR Spring Chinook allocation. Please vote in favor of "selective" Sport Fishing and its limited impacts on ESA listed runs and its many benefits to the "common good". Please vote against a destructive, self defeating and outdated fishing method that negatively impacts many, most importantly the Salmon.

Thanks for your time,

Matthew Clark
http://www.pacificghostproductions.com
http://www.smallstreamsalmonfishing.com
For the record.

From: Chuck and Becky Halva [mailto:cbhalva@comcast.net]
Posted At: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 8:46 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Spring Chinook Allocation
Subject: Spring Chinook Allocation

Dear Commissioners,

I am concerned about the current status of the wild upriver spring Chinook on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. I am aware that you will be meeting in the near future to discuss the harvest allocation regarding these fish.

It is evident to myself and many other knowledgeable individuals that harvesting these fish with a non-selective method such as gill netting is nonsensical and outdated. The incidental catch and resulting death of many wild ESA listed spring Chinook and steelhead must end.

Until a truly selective method of harvesting the hatchery spring Chinook can be implemented, commercial fishing on the Columbia River should be confined to the SAFE areas only.

Sport fishing, although not totally selective, has a much lower mortality of released fish and should be given precedence when allocating harvest of spring Chinook in the mainstem Columbia River. The number of hatchery fish which can be harvested until the limit of impacted wild fish is reached is much greater with the much lower mortality of released fish associated with sport fishing.

Many, many more people benefit from an extended sport fishing season as compared to the few who benefit from the commercial harvest. This is a public resource and should be shared in such a way as to benefit the majority, not a select minority as has been done historically. The economic benefit to the larger community from an extended sport season is huge compared to the benefit from the commercial fishery.

I am asking you to do the right and fair thing and give precedence to the sport fishing allocation of spring Chinook in the Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Charles Halva
Aloha Oregon
cbhalva@comcast.net
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 7:27 PM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Gill Netting

For the record.

c

From: Erik Vanderfange [mailto:kfmoneybull@yahoo.com]
Posted At: Wed 1/9/2008 6:16 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Gill Netting

Each Spring I have a tradition of spending a few days on the Columbia River for Salmon Fishing. There is a disturbing trend affecting Oregon Sportsmen families. We are loosing our chance to fish for our Columbia River Spring Chinook. In the years since 2002 the 122 Columbia River Gill netters have received an increased allocation by our Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission. This commercial fishery method of non selective gill nets and its excessive impact on wild fish is negatively affecting our fishing heritage, our environment and our economy.

I have observed salmon runs diminished over the years and frankly, gill nets have no place in the sensitive Columbia River Fishery.

The ODFW Commission tells us they are implementing the will of the legislature when they put these non selective gill nets in the river with our wild fish. This has got to change! Please urge the Commission to give the vast majority of Oregon citizens a chance to fish a full season and reduce the damaging allocation the gill-netters receive.

The reason I am writing this letter is that I want an opportunity to take my two boys fishing each spring. They are 3 months and 3 years old. I hope someday to take my grandkids fishing and tell them stories of our yearly fishing ventures. You have the opportunity to make effective positive changes. Please think of future generations.

I and other sport fisherman spend hundreds of dollars in the local communities during our fishing trips. I am sure the 122 gill netters do not spend an equal amount of dollars as the sport fisherman.

Please Help!

Thank you for your time,

Erik Vanderfange (Dad)
Evan (3 years)
Alex (3 months)
Klamath Falls, Oregon

1/14/2008
For the record.

c

From: Eric Jeanes [mailto:ejeanes@r2usa.com]
Posted At: Thursday, January 10, 2008 10:13 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation:
Subject:

Eric D. Jeanes

10432 316TH Ave NE
Carnation, Washington 98014
ejeanes@r2usa.com

10 January 2008

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406 Cherry Ave.
Salem, OR 97303

Subject: Columbia River Spring and Summer Chinook Allocation.

Honorable Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

My name is Eric Jeanes and I live in Carnation, Washington. I am writing to voice my displeasure in the manner that the Spring/Summer Chinook salmon allocation process has occurred in the past on the Columbia River. As a sport fisherman and tax payer in the state of Washington, the current distribution appears to favor only a small portion of the population. The current plan allows for a relatively small user group (<100 commercial fishermen landed spring...
Chinook in 2007) to utilize up to 50% of the allowable impacts while thousands (83,000 sport fishermen participated in 2007) of the other citizens sit on the sideline fighting for the scraps.

I personally travel more than 400 miles round-trip to participate in the spring Chinook fishery in the Columbia River (spending the majority of my time in Oregon) and look forward to the opportunity that you have afforded to me over the past several seasons. However, to provide such unbalanced allocation to a small user group has me questioning the sanity of spending hundreds of dollars on each trip (more than 30 trips since 2001) to the local communities that do not appear to need our financial support, considering their support for the current allocation. On a typical weekend trip, I personally spend the following money in the communities surrounding the Columbia River: hotel room ($200); gasoline ($125); food ($100); boat launch/moorage ($25); bait/ice/tackle/snacks/boat gas ($50). In short, my family contributes approximately $2,500 directly into the local communities during a typical spring Chinook season on the Columbia River.

I further urge you to encourage the commercial fleet to seek out and embrace a more selective way to access their portion of harvestable fish as their opportunity is currently restricted by the non-selective way which they choose to conduct their fishery. If they were to move toward a more selective method they could harvest more hatchery fish and still allow for full recreational seasons which would be a win for both groups as well as the economy of the Pacific Northwest. I realize that the total impacts to ESA fish are currently limited to a certain percentage of the estimated return. However, the harsh reality is that sportfishing is far more selective compared to gill-net (estimated 10% sport release mortality vs 40% commercial release mortality) and the use of sportfishing results in greater catch of the target stock (hatchery component) given the same impact on ESA components.

Please consider the future generations of Pacific Northwest citizens during the current allocation process. I truly relish the opportunity to take my two children (Parker and Fischer) to the Columbia River for many years to come to participate in this trophy fishery that you have provided but fear that the allocation of impacts (which are both unfair to the citizens of Pacific Northwest and biologically indefensible under the Endangered Species Act) may prevent them from enjoying it.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment,

Eric D. Jeanes

1/14/2008
For the record.

c

From: Jeff Hanes [mailto:j25hanes@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Sunday, January 13, 2008 6:34 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Attention ODFW
Subject: Attention ODFW

Dear Commissioners,

The Columbia River commercial netters need to receive a lower allocation so that sport fishermen can have longer season and more opportunity to fish.

My reasoning is this:

We have 122 commercial fishermen on the Columbia River that receive approximately half of the salmon allocation. There were less than 50 active commercial fishermen from Washington during the spring of 2007. Contrast this with the tens of thousands of anglers from Washington that fishing during the spring of 2007. Those commercial fishermen were given almost the same opportunity as those tens of thousands of sport anglers. State statute says that the allocation must be equitable, but it does not say equal. I can not see any way economic or otherwise why such a low number of commercial fishermen should receive the same equal benefit as thousands of sport fishermen.

From a conservation standpoint allowing commercial netting on the Columbia River doesn’t make any sense. These commercial netters have a high wild mortality rate due to their non selective way of fishing. Up to 40% of the wild fish they handle die after they are released back into the river. The netters have attempted to employ selective methods which don’t kill as many wild salmon by using “tangle tooth nets”. The downside of tangle tooth net is that they have smaller mesh which gill net and indiscriminately kill wild steelhead. Tangle tooth nets have a lower mortality of 18% on salmon but kill a very high percentage of the wild endangered steelhead that get caught in them. That is not selective fishing. We can not gill net our way back to recovering these endangered stocks of wild salmon and steelhead.

Due to the high mortality rate that commercial fishing has on wild stocks all of those commercial fishermen only caught at total of 2950 salmon before they reached their ESA impact level. That's 2950 salmon for the whole commercial fleet of Washington and Oregon. 2950 salmon! That's it. So let’s assume that each salmon can feed 10 people after it has been sold to a market and then purchased by the consumer, which then comes out to 29,500
meals. Contrast that to the mortality for sport fishing that is only 10% which means that sport fishermen can catch 3 times more hatchery fish while working with the ESA impact level and killing the same number of allocated wild fish as the commercial fishermen. That allows more hatchery fish to be removed from the river which is why they were put there in the first place. 8850 hatchery fish is what the sport anglers would catch if they were given the commercial allocation. That is 88500 meals of hatchery spring Chinook salmon.

This doesn't even take into account the recreational benefit that the angler received.

The average spring Chinook angler on the Columbia River fishes 9 days per spring Chinook landed. The average angler puts approximately $100 back into the regions economy for every day fished (this $100 is the generally accepted number by WDFW & ODFW) That means every fish caught by a sport angler puts $900 back into the economy! Again if sport fishermen were allowed to take those hatchery fish rather than commercial fishermen catching them that would have meant an economic benefit of $5,310,000! There is no way that our region received $5,310,000 worth of benefit from those fish when they were caught commercially. Again this doesn't even factor in the recreational benefit of these fisheries.

We are foregoing major tourism dollars by not maximizing the potential of Columbia River Salmon sport fishing. It isn't sport fishing friendly and our region is suffering because of it. The way things are currently done gives the bulk of the benefit to a few individuals while telling ten of thousands of anglers that this is "equitable". Where is the equity in this?

The conservation aspects, economic and recreational benefits of sport fishing seem so obvious to me and I can't understand why we are still allowing commercial gill netting on the Columbia River.

I implore you to please direct the Oregon Commission to make sport fishing a priority, and please ask them to give sport fishermen a much higher allocation then they have been receiving in the past.

regards
Jeff Hanes
For the record.

From: zoie lamb [mailto:damezoie@mac.com]
Posted At: Saturday, January 12, 2008 10:25 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation:
Subject:

Dear Commissioners,

The Columbia River commercial netters need to receive a lower allocation so that sport fishermen can have longer season and more opportunity to fish.

My reasoning is this:

We have 122 commercial fishermen on the Columbia River that receive approximately half of the salmon allocation. There were less than 50 active commercial fishermen from Washington during the spring of 2007. Contrast this with the tens of thousands of anglers from Washington that fishing during the spring of 2007. Those commercial fishermen were given almost the same opportunity as those tens of thousands of sport anglers. State statute says that the allocation must be equitable, but it does not say equal. I can not see any way economic or otherwise why such a low number of commercial fishermen should receive the same equal benefit as thousands of sport fishermen.

From a conservation standpoint allowing commercial netting on the Columbia River doesn't make any sense. These commercial netters have a high wild mortality rate due to their nonselctive way of fishing. Up to 40% of the wild fish they handle die after they are released back into the river. The netters have attempted to employ selective methods which don't kill as many wild salmon by using "tangle tooth nets". The downside of tangle tooth net is that they have smaller mesh which kill net and indiscriminately kill wild steelhead. Tangle tooth nets have a lower mortality of 18% on salmon but kill a very high percentage of the wild endangered steelhead that get caught in them. That is not selective fishing. We can not gill net our way back to recovering these endangered stocks of wild salmon and steelhead.

Due to the high mortality rate that commercial fishing has on wild stocks all of those commercial fishermen only caught at total of 2950 salmon before they reached their ESA impact level. That's 2950 salmon for the whole commercial fleet of Washington and Oregon. 2950 salmon! That's it. So let's assume that each salmon can feed 10 people after it has been sold to a market and then purchased by the consumer, which then comes out to 29,500 meals. Contrast that to the mortality for sport fishing that is only 10% which means that sport fisherman can catch 3 times more hatchery fish while working with the ESA impact level and killing the same number of allocated wild fish as the commercial fishermen. That allows more hatchery fish to be removed from the river which is why they were put there in the first place. 8850 hatchery fish is what the sport anglers would catch if they were given the commercial allocation. That is 88500 meals of hatchery spring Chinook salmon.

This doesn't even take into account the recreational benefit that the angler received.

The average spring Chinook angler on the Columbia River fishes 9 days per spring Chinook landed. The average angler puts approximately $100 back into the regions economy for every day fished (this $100 is the generally accepted number by WDFW & ODFW) That means every fish caught by a sport angler puts $900 back into the economy! Again if sport fishermen were allowed to take those hatchery fish rather than commercial fishermen catching them that would have meant an economic benefit of $5,310,000! There is no way that our region received $5,310,000 worth of benefit from those fish when they were caught commercially. Again this doesn't even factor in the recreational benefit of these fisheries.

We are foregoing major tourism dollars by not maximizing the potential of Columbia River Salmon sport fishing. It isn't sport fishing friendly and our region is suffering because of it. The way things are currently done gives the bulk of the
benefit to a few individuals while telling ten of thousands of anglers that this is “equitable”. Where is the equity in this?

The conservation aspects, economic and recreational benefits of sport fishing seem so obvious to me and I can’t understand why we are still allowing commercial gill netting on the Columbia River.

I implore you to please direct the Oregon Commission to make sport fishing a priority, and please ask them to give sport fishermen a much higher allocation then they have been receiving in the past.

Sincerely,

ZOIE LAMB

1/14/2008
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 9:14 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Columbia River Salmon Allocation

For the record.

c

From: Ron Anderson [mailto:ronanderson64@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Saturday, January 12, 2008 9:29 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Columbia River Salmon Allocation
Subject: Columbia River Salmon Allocation

Dear Commissioners,

The Columbia River commercial netters need to receive a lower allocation so that sport fishermen can have longer season and more opportunity to fish.

My reasoning is this:

We have 122 commercial fishermen on the Columbia River that receive approximately half of the salmon allocation. There were less than 50 active commercial fishermen from Washington during the spring of 2007. Contrast this with the tens of thousands of anglers from Washington that fishing during the spring of 2007. Those commercial fishermen were given almost the same opportunity as those tens of thousands of sport anglers. State statute says that the allocation must be equitable, but it does not say equal. I can not see any way economic or otherwise why such a low number of commercial fishermen should receive the same equal benefit as thousands of sport fishermen.

From a conservation standpoint allowing commercial netting on the Columbia River doesn't make any sense. These commercial netters have a high wild mortality rate due to their non selective way of fishing. Up to 40% of the wild fish they handle die after they are released back into the river. The netters have attempted to employ selective methods which don't kill as many wild salmon by using “tangle tooth nets”. The downside of tangle tooth net is that they have smaller mesh which gill net and indiscriminately kill wild steelhead. Tangle tooth nets have a lower mortality of 18% on salmon but kill a very high percentage of the wild endangered steelhead that get caught in them. That is not selective fishing. We can not gill net our way back to recovering these endangered stocks of wild salmon and steelhead.

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fishermen can catch 3 times more hatchery fish while working with the ESA impact level and killing the same number of allocated wild fish as the commercial fishermen. That allows more hatchery fish to be removed from the river which is why they were put there in the first place. 8850 hatchery fish is what the sport anglers would catch if they were given the commercial allocation. That is 88500 meals of hatchery spring Chinook salmon.

This doesn’t even take into account the recreational benefit that the angler received.

The average spring Chinook angler on the Columbia River fishes 9 days per spring Chinook landed. The average angler puts approximately $100 back into the regions economy for every day fished (this $100 is the generally accepted number by WDFW & ODFW). That means every fish caught by a sport angler puts $900 back into the economy! Again if sport fishermen were allowed to take those hatchery fish rather than commercial fishermen catching them that would have meant an economic benefit of $5,310,000! There is no way that our region received $5,310,000 worth of benefit from those fish when they were caught commercially. Again this doesn’t even factor in the recreational benefit of these fisheries.

We are foregoing major tourism dollars by not maximizing the potential of Columbia River Salmon sport fishing. It isn’t sport fishing friendly and our region is suffering because of it. The way things are currently done gives the bulk of the benefit to a few individuals while telling ten of thousands of anglers that this is “equitable”. Where is the equity in this?

The conservation aspects, economic and recreational benefits of sport fishing seem so obvious to me and I can’t understand why we are still allowing commercial gill netting on the Columbia River.

I implore you to please direct the Oregon Commission to make sport fishing a priority, and please ask them to give sport fishermen a much higher allocation then they have been receiving in the past.

Sincerely,
Ron Anderson

1/14/2008
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 9:14 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Columbia Allocations

For the record.

c

From: Noffsinger, Gregory L [mailto:gregory.l.noffsinger@intel.com]
Posted At: Saturday, January 12, 2008 6:44 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Columbia Allocations
Subject: Columbia Allocations

With the importance of the up coming allocations I wanted to write in my personal testimony. I am a sportsman with a passion for fishing. With living only 30 minutes from the Columbia I fish it regularly when fishing season permits. While I am not a guide I fish over 120 days a year with about half coming on the Columbia. It is very important to me to stand up for these fish. Although it is my passion to fish it is equally my passion to work on saving these fish for my future kids to spend time fishing with me. If we continue our harvest at all cost ways my future kids will not get that opportunity.

Recently Commercial fisherman groups were offered over 400K to find ways of commercially harvesting more hatchery fish and having a less effect of the native fish. They turned down this offer to stick with their own ways of harvesting. The same ways that have been done for over 100 years. If this method continues my kids will not be able to fish for the salmon that are dear to my heart. There are better and smarter ways to harvest these hatchery salmon and commercial fishing in the mainstream Columbia is not one of them. Forty percent of native salmon die after being caught in commercial nets. This is opposed to 10% by sportsman. Selective fisheries have been set up for commercial gillnets to harvest salmon. These fisheries have been very successful in catching a very high percentage of hatchery salmon while leaving the native salmon alone and continue to move up river and spawn. Without native salmon we will have no hatchery salmon.

With a predicted high return of spring Chinook this year most of the Christmas gifts that I gave out were $45 gift certificates to GI Joes, Sportsman Warehouse and Fisherman’s Marine Supply. $45 representing the cost of an Oregon’s fishing license and salmon/steelhead tag. I want to bring friends and family out fishing on the Columbia river this spring to enjoy how great Oregon and the Northwest can be. I can not do that if I am not allowed to fish the Columbia river. While license sales are down in Oregon from past years it is easy to see a correlation to good fishing and fisherman out on the water. More fish and fishing time the better is for Oregon. This fish are not cheap to fish for. See for yourself. Any weekend during fishing season it is not unusual to see hundred’s if not thousand of boat’s through the Columbia river. One night of commercial fishing takes away so many fish out of the river it is not worth fishing for a few days till more fish can come in.

While there are thousands of fisherman that fish for the Columbia river salmon there are only 122 commercial licenses.

One last point I would like to mention with huge importance is the use of tangle nets. Tangle nets although have a lower mortality rate of salmon they are perfect size gillnets for native steelhead. Sportsman have worked to save the native steelhead. It is a waste to have any of these fish caught, killed and thrown over board dead because of commercial fishing.

Thank you for your time
Greg Noffsinger
7059 SE Stella Ct.
Hillsboro, OR 97123

1/14/2008
For the record.

-----Original Message-----
From: Keith Blanchard [mailto:blanchardk75@hotmail.com] Posted At: Saturday, January 12, 2008 5:30 AM Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: allocation meeting
Subject: allocation meeting

Hello, My name is Keith Blanchard and I’m a registered nurse in Roseburg, OR. I want you to know that I support selective harvest over non selective harvest of chinook salmon on the Columbia River. I hope your decesion in todays meeting reflects that. I spend thousands of dollars a year to support my fishing hobby and most of it is spent in the communities near the waters I fish. Which includes the Columbia, I plan on spending thousands more but only if I have ample opportunity to fish and only if there are healthy stocks available.

            Thank you, Keith Blanchard.
From: Casaria Tuttle  
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 9:13 AM  
To: Sandra Fixsen  
Subject: FW: Spring Chinook allocation

For the record.

c

From: Jerre Munson [mailto:taken_line@comcast.net]  
Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2008 7:44 PM  
To: ODFW Commission  
Cc: SEN George; REP Nelson  
Subject: Spring Chinook allocation

Dear Commissioners;

I am concerned about the current status of the wild upriver spring Chinook on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. I am aware that you will be meeting on February 8th to discuss the harvest allocation regarding these fish.

It is evident to myself and many other knowledgable individuals that harvesting these fish with a non-selective method such as gill netting is nonsensical and outdated. The incidental catch and resulting death of many wild ESA listed spring Chinook and steelhead must end. It should not be about sport vs. commercial but rather what is better for the fish and how better to maximize the investment that society has made in wild fish recovery and hatchery harvest.

Until a truly selective method of harvesting the hatchery spring Chinook can be implemented, commercial fishing on the Columbia River should be confined to the SAFE areas only. The bulk of the Spring Chinook caught and sold to the market by the commercial fisherman are caught in these Safe areas. With the potential closing of the mainstem Columbia river below I-5 due to the low return of the Willamette spring Chinook will put the commercial fleet onto a 35 mile stretch of the Columbia river. This would have these ESA listed spring Chinook being caught several times by these non-selective nets increasing the non-survival rate which is already calculated at 40%

Sport fishing, although not totally selective, has a much lower mortality of released fish and should be given precedence when allocating harvest of spring Chinook in the mainstem Columbia River. The number of hatchery fish which can be harvested until the limit of impacted wild fish is reached is much greater with the much lower mortality of released fish associated with sport fishing.

Many, many more people benefit from an extended sport fishing season as compared to the few who benefit from the commercial harvest. This is a public resource and should be shared in such a way as to benefit the majority, not a select minority as has been done historically. The economic benefit to the larger community from an extended sport season is huge compared to the benefit from the commercial fishery. In the ODFW Town Hall Meetings document for the 2007-09 Budget Proposal it is stated that in 2001 licensed Oregon anglers made up 14.9% of the total state population. Anglers spent $245.5 million on equipment, $99.9 million on food and lodging, $84.8 million on transportation, $74.2 million on other trip

1/14/2008
costs and $97.4 million on other costs. We need to continue this trend by allowing the Oregon angling public to have viable seasons and make Oregon a destination for fishing our famed salmon runs.

I am asking you to do the right and fair thing and give precedence to the sport fishing allocation of spring Chinook in the Columbia River.

Sincerely,
Jerre Munson
650 NE 13th Street
McMinnville, Oregon
97128
From: Mike Niece [mailto:m.niece@comcast.net]
Posted At: Friday, January 11, 2008 10:35 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: sports fishers
Subject: sports fishers

Dear Commission Members,

I am a sportsfisherman. I have 32 years of salmon fishing on the Columbia under my belt. I learned from my Dad, my kids have fished with me and now my grandkids are learning to fish with me.
Please see to it that the Columbia river sports fishing men and women are given the opportunity of a full season of Columbia river fishing. The commercial interst must stay in the SAFE terminal areas where they were intended to be. The wild Salmon need your help also. The wild steelhead need your help. Gillnets do not get us to wild fish recovery.
I believe the non-fishing public has ample opportunity buy salmon via ocean harvest and Native American harvests. I fact, I have purchased commercially caught ocean salmon and Native American caught salmon. I know the quality and availability.
Please do the right thing. The right thing for the salmon and the right thing for the bill paying sports fishing public. I am not alone. Every one of my fishing family and my fishing friends agree with what I am telling you.
This letter is truly representaive of many, many sportsfishers wants.

Thank you for your service to the State and to the people of Oregon.

Mike Niece  503-396-1813

1/14/2008
1/11/08

Dear Commissioner's:

I am a licensed fishing guide in both Oregon and Washington. My entire income is made from taking people fishing. With the money I receive from my clients I pay my house payment, utility's, food, and general living expense's. I also pay taxes, health insurance, fuel for both truck and boat, tackle, R.V. spot rentals, fishing license's and a number of other expenditures to numerous to list. My business is important to the economy of the State of Oregon.

In February you will be deciding the allocation for Spring Chinook between selective sport fishermen and non-selective commercial fishermen. I encourage you to raise the allocation in favor of the selective sportsman.

You have reviewed all the facts. You have seen that commercial gill netting is a non-selective fishery that endangers our wild fish populations, yet in the past you have awarded a minority of commercial fishermen 1/2 or more of the allocation. Please vote responsibly for the 600,000 anglers in the state of Oregon.

Please increase the allocation for selective sport fishing and give us a full season of fishing on the Columbia River for Spring Chinook.

Sincerely,

Greg Frogner

1/14/2008
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 9:14 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW:

For the record.

c

From: Gerald Bogart [mailto:bogieandellie@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Sunday, January 13, 2008 1:34 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation:
Subject:

Dear Commissioners,

The Columbia River commercial netters need to receive a lower allocation so that sport fishermen can have longer season and more opportunity to fish.

My reasoning is this:

We have 122 commercial fishermen on the Columbia River that receive approximately half of the salmon allocation. There were less than 50 active commercial fishermen from Washington during the spring of 2007. Contrast this with the tens of thousands of anglers from Washington that fishing during the spring of 2007. Those commercial fishermen were given almost the same opportunity as those tens of thousands of sport anglers. State statute says that the allocation must be equitable, but it does not say equal. I can not see any way economic or otherwise why such a low number of commercial fishermen should receive the same equal benefit as thousands of sport fishermen.

From a conservation standpoint allowing commercial netting on the Columbia River doesn't make any sense. These commercial netters have a high wild mortality rate due to their non selective way of fishing. Up to 40% of the wild fish they handle die after they are released back into the river. The netters have attempted to employ selective methods which don't kill as many wild salmon by using "tangle tooth nets". The downside of tangle tooth net is that they have smaller mesh which gill net and indiscriminately kill wild steelhead. Tangle tooth nets have a lower mortality of 18% on salmon but kill a very high percentage of the wild endangered steelhead that get caught in them. That is not selective fishing. We can not gill net our way back to recovering these endangered stocks of wild salmon and steelhead.

Due to the high mortality rate that commercial fishing has on wild stocks all of those commercial fishermen only caught at total of 2950 salmon before they reached their ESA impact level. That's 2950 salmon for the whole commercial fleet of Washington and Oregon. 2950 salmon! That's it. So let's assume that each salmon can feed 10 people after it has been sold to a market and then purchased by the consumer, which then comes out to 29,500 meals. Contrast that to the mortality for sport fishing that is only 10% which means that sport
fishermen can catch 3 times more hatchery fish while working with the ESA impact level and killing the same number of allocated wild fish as the commercial fishermen. That allows more hatchery fish to be removed from the river which is why they were put there in the first place. 8850 hatchery fish is what the sport anglers would catch if they were given the commercial allocation. That is 88500 meals of hatchery spring Chinook salmon.

This doesn’t even take into account the recreational benefit that the angler received.

The average spring Chinook angler on the Columbia River fishes 9 days per spring Chinook landed. The average angler puts approximately $100 back into the regions economy for every day fished (this $100 is the generally accepted number by WDFW & ODFW) That means every fish caught by a sport angler puts $900 back into the economy! Again if sport fishermen were allowed to take those hatchery fish rather than commercial fishermen catching them that would have meant an economic benefit of $5,310,000! There is no way that our region received $5,310,000 worth of benefit from those fish when they were caught commercially. Again this doesn’t even factor in the recreational benefit of these fisheries.

We are foregoing major tourism dollars by not maximizing the potential of Columbia River Salmon sport fishing. It isn’t sport fishing friendly and our region is suffering because of it. The way things are currently done gives the bulk of the benefit to a few individuals while telling ten of thousands of anglers that this is “equitable”. Where is the equity in this?

The conservation aspects, economic and recreational benefits of sport fishing seem so obvious to me and I can’t understand why we are still allowing commercial gill netting on the Columbia River.

I implore you to please direct the Oregon Commission to make sport fishing a priority, and please ask them to give sport fishermen a much higher allocation then they have been receiving in the past.

Sincerely,

Gerald Bogart

1/14/2008
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 1:52 PM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Columbia River Spring Chinook

For the record.

c

From: Bryant, Kerry [mailto:Kerry.Bryant@nwdc.net]
Posted At: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 1:46 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Columbia River Spring Chinook
Subject: Columbia River Spring Chinook

Subject: 2008 Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation meetings

The spring chinook run of 2008 may be one of the very best runs in recent history, possibly approaching 300,000 fish. As the commission meets to determine how the harvest of these fish will be managed, I would like to offer my input and request that you fight for the fishing in our state.

Last fall, chinook retention in many Oregon tributaries was curtailed due to concerns about return numbers. However, the gillnetters were allowed on the Columbia river, downstream of these same tributaries. While it was illegal to keep a chinook in some rivers it was perfectly legal to catch and kill that same chinook in a gillnet placed downstream of the river. This makes no sense at all to me.

I am opposed to any gillnetting on the Columbia river and encourage the government to force the gillnetters who fish in the Columbia river to adopt methods that protect our wild fish resources. There are already selective methods available to the commercial fishery that allow the non-fishing public access to Chinook salmon. The ocean troll fishery is very selective. SAFE area fisheries in the Columbia river move hatchery fish off channel to net pen locations in the lower river with minimal impact to wild fish. Finally, terminal methods could be used at the fish ladders and hatcheries themselves- but this has not been met with any degree of support by the gillnetters.

Gillnets have a release mortality of non-target Salmon of 40%- vs. 10% by a sportfishing released fish. The gillnet fishery benefits at most a couple hundred licensed commercial fishermen. The sportfishery is comprised of tens of thousands of recreational anglers who buy licenses, bait, fuel, and tackle in our local economy. There is no comparison at all between the economic benefit of gillnetting vs. sportfishing.

Thank you for the consideration.

Best Regards,

Kerry Bryant
Supervisor: ACS-NWDC
Data Tape Library,
Restores, Image Processing
kerry.bryant@nwdc.net
503-466-6748

1/9/2008
Commissioners,

I am writing you regarding your upcoming meeting on January 10, 2008 where you will be discussing allocation of Spring Chinook in the Columbia River.

The following is my testimony to you on January 6, 2006 regarding the allocation issue.

Friday, January 06, 2006

Testimony of Bill Shake to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Good Morning,

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the 2006 Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation between sport and gillnet fisheries.

My name is Bill Shake. I am retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where I was the Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries and I spent several years as the senior policy representative on Columbia River issues. I am currently a NSIA Science and Policy Advisor.

I would like to address the purpose of selective area fisheries.

In the past two decades a strategy was initiated to: buy back gill net permits; to mass mark Columbia River hatchery fish; and release thousands of these fish in terminal areas such as Young’s Bay where they would be available for commercial harvest. This strategy envisioned that these fisheries would reduce commercial fisheries in the Columbia River mainstem and reduce impacts to ESA listed stocks.

There has been a tremendous public investment in multiple rounds of buy-back of commercial
gillnet permits (in both Washington and Oregon) and in the development of terminal area fisheries over the last 20 years. The purpose of this investment was to help the non-Indian commercial gillnet fishery adjust to the reduction in mainstem harvest as ESA limitations and reallocation from non-Indian fisheries to Indian fisheries emerged as dominant factors. This was a vision for the future.

These investments were made primarily using public funding, not the industry. These permit buy backs were not industry funded, like the groundfish buyback. The purpose was to soften the blow as commercial gillnet fishing was shaped out of the mainstem and toward terminal areas. It was not designed to make commercial gillnetting more profitable for the remaining fishermen or to supplement full mainstem harvests.

We need to return to our vision in order to take best advantage of these public investments.

I respectively ask that you 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 investment, by supporting the approach proposed by NSIA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission today.

Bill Shake

The issues described in the above testimony apply to this years decision as well. Millions of Bonneville Power Administration rate payer dollars have been spent to provide safe areas where the gill net fleet can fish with minimum effect on ESA listed stocks. This strategy would allow the recreational fishermen and women to selectively fish in the mainstem throughout the season.

The first order of business in this years decision is conservation. The Willamette run is severely depressed and we need to insure adequate escapement. Restricting fishing below the I 5 bridge will address this issue. This would provide an opportunity for a selective recreational fishery above the bridge. The economic value of the recreational fishery is significant for the region. As a recreational fisherman I can attest to my contribution to the economy.

In summary, 1) Conservation Willamette run is paramount; 2)The terminal area fisheries were designed to allow a commercial harvest to be prosecuted while minimizing impacts to listed stocks; 3) Mass marking of hatchery fish was established to provide a selective fishing opportunity for recreational fishers and those commercial ventures that are truly selective.

1/9/2008
I am sorry I will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting but hope you will consider my comments. If you have any questions please call (503 886-9721).

Thank you,

Bill Shake
Dear Commission

I am concerned about the upcoming allocation regarding the Columbia River. I want you to understand that I make my living selling advertising for Salmon Trout Steelheader Magazine. I work with Manufactures’ of all types from boats to tackle trucks and the list goes on and on. Gill netting is outdated and produces a miniscule amount of revenue in comparison to the sports industries; we support thousands of full time jobs and need some common sense recovery, not to mention the fact of killing endangered stocks. We are leaving tens of millions of dollars on the table. When the Columbia closes to Sportfishing its like turning off the lights, REAL PEOPLE get laid off and most important my paycheck shrinks!

Thanks for your time

Dave Eng
Salmon Trout Steelheader
Casaria Tuttle

From: Bill Shake [bill.shake.1@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 10:16 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Cc: Roy Elicker; Ed Bowles
Subject: Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation

Commissioners,

I am writing you regarding your upcoming meeting on January 10, 2008 where you will be discussing allocation of Spring Chinook in the Columbia River.

The following is my testimony to you on January 6, 2006 regarding the allocation issue.

Friday, January 06, 2006

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I would like to address the purpose of selective area fisheries.

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There has been a tremendous public investment in multiple rounds of buy-back of commercial gillnet permits (in both Washington and Oregon) and in the development of terminal area fisheries over the last 20 years. The purpose of this investment was to help the non-Indian commercial gillnet fishery adjust to the reduction in mainstem harvest as ESA limitations and reallocation from non-Indian fisheries to Indian fisheries emerged as dominant factors. This was a vision for the future.

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We need to return to our vision in order to take best advantage of these public investments.

I respectively ask that you consider the conservation needs of these Spring Chinook and the economic impacts 1/9/2008.
of fully prosecuted sport fisheries, in the context of the current public vision and investment, by supporting the approach proposed by NSIA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission today.

Bill Shake

The issues described in the above testimony apply to this years decision as well. Millions of Bonneville Power Administration rate payer dollars have been spent to provide safe areas where the gill net fleet can fish with minimum effect on ESA listed stocks. This strategy would allow the recreational fishermen and women to selectively fish in the mainstem throughout the season.

The first order of business in this years decision is conservation. The Willamette run is severely depressed and we need to insure adequate escapement. Restricting fishing below the I 5 bridge will address this issue. This would provide an opportunity for a selective recreational fishery above the bridge. The economic value of the recreational fishery is significant for the region. As a recreational fisherman I can attest to my contribution to the economy.

In summary, 1) Conservation Willamette run is paramount; 2)The terminal area fisheries were designed to allow a commercial harvest to be prosecuted while minimizing impacts to listed stocks; 3) Mass marking of hatchery fish was established to provide a selective fishing opportunity for recreational fishers and those commercial ventures that are truly selective.

I am sorry I will not be able to attend tomorrows meeting but hope you will consider my comments. If you have any questions please call (503 886-9721).

Thank you,

Bill Shake

1/9/2008
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 12:09 PM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW:
Attachments: spring Chinook.doc

For the record.

c

From: Mike Stockman [mailto:mikes@boringfire.com]
Posted At: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 11:28 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation:
Subject:
Jan. 9th, 2008

To the ODF&W Commission,

I am writing to you today to ask a moment of your time concerning the impending Columbia River Spring Salmon Allocation process that will be occurring very soon. It seems to me inconceivable that the states of Oregon & Washington continue to allow the continued use of non-selective gill nets in the Columbia river. Considering all of the environmental issues that these salmon face both in leaving and returning to the Columbia river, whether it’s dams, rising water temperatures, decreased river flows, or sea lions, we should do everything possible to insure their survival while at the same time allowing for recreational opportunity for those of us so blessed to be living in the great pacific northwest and also allow a commercial harvest when numbers permit. I do not oppose commercial harvest if the methods do not significantly impact the resource. One does not need a college degree or the title “Biologist” to see that our current methods need a major review. Other commercial methods are available to those few who are allotted so much and yet cause so much waste. The gillnetters have continually fought any attempts to observe their practices, have continually made minimal attempts to revive unwanted fish, have continually fought any discussion in alternate fishing methods. To consider allocating any amount to so few is an outrage to those of us who pursue these awesome fish. There are currently 122 gillnetters on the Columbia river that receive approximately one half of all salmon allocated, the other half are devided among ten’s of thousands of northwes anglers. The economic impact of these thousands of anglers is spread throughout the region in the way of lodging, meals, fuel, licenses, & equipment, not to mention the tourist dollars generated from those not from this area. The commercial need for salmon will continue to be met by the other commercial methods currently employed in the industry.

I know that you value the resources that we of the Pacific Northwest all value. At some point, common sense must prevail and we must put our collective foot down and say “Enough!” There has to be a better way to insure these resources are no longer wasted and written off as simple “Non-targeted by-catch”. Now is the time to begin a new vision to insure these magnificent fish are still here for our children and their children. Thank-you for your time. Michael Stockman, 48 year, lifetime resident of Oregon.
For the record.

c

From: CHRIS & LIANNA MULHEMAN [mailto:chrisandlanna@msn.com]
Posted At: Wednesday, January 09, 2008 7:50 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Salmon allocations
Subject: Salmon allocations

Dear Sirs,

I have donated over 20 years of my life to fish and wildlife projects. It seem that the more effort I put into helping improve the fisheries numbers, the higher the allocation for the gill netters. Surely you are all aware of the vast amounts of financial benefit our state and communities derive from sports fishermen.

PLEASE allocate more fish to sportsmen.

Chris Muhleman
Commission,

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opinion regarding Columbia River Spring Chinook allocation. For the last several years sports anglers share of the allocation has continued to shrink while the non selective gillnet fishery has expanded forcing shortened seasons on sports anglers. It is fact that the selective sport fishery has far lower mortality rates than non selective gill nets, yet tens of thousands of sport fishers are prematurely cut off from access for 122 non selective gill net operators whose negative impacts effect far more than just the target species. Sport fishers need increased allocation & fully prosecuted seasons.

Shifting more allocation to sport fishers will:

- Benefit conservation & recovery efforts by virtue of lower sport (selective) mortality impact on ESA fish.
- Lower impacts on steelhead & sturgeon from non selective gill net by catch
- Remove more hatchery fish from the system, lowering the risk of interbreeding
- Stabilize & lengthen sport seasons that local businesses who have been suffering from shortened & unpredictable seasons depend on.
- Increase fishing tourism through stable seasons & healthy fisheries

Gill nets are an out dated & destructive tool. In fact it is my understanding that the gill net fleet is currently seeking to increase the allowed "hang ratio" of their nets. This tactic places folds in the net in effect making them even more deadly. Gill nets should be confined to the terminal fishery area's only.

Increased allocation should be assigned to the sport fishery. Sport fishers selective, low impact tactics & high economic benefit make this the only choice that can be made for the fish.

Thank You
Russ Low
33954 Pittsburg RD
Saint Helens, OR 97051

1/9/2008
For the record.

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**From:** randy bradshaw [mailto:randybradshaw@hotmail.com]
**Posted At:** Tuesday, January 08, 2008 9:41 PM
**Posted To:** ODFW Commission
**Conversation:** Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation
**Subject:** Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

January 8, 2008

I am writing to voice my concern over the current allocation process and the manner in which it seems to be proceeding in a way that has very little emphasis on conservation of wild stocks, or the maximum harvest of hatchery strains through the use of selective harvest. I am bringing this matter to your attention because as a recreational conservationist I am always told that the ODFW Commission makes its allocation decisions based on legislative mandates in essence putting the responsibility in your hands as well as those of the governor.

While the use of tangle nets, which on the Columbia are merely small mesh gill nets, has shown some reduction in Native Spring Chinook mortality their use results in unacceptable by-catch of Steelhead which I would remind you are by law a game fish in the state of Oregon and are not available for commercial harvest.

It is my contention that while the commercial fleet has zealously clung to a method of harvest that is non-selective by any practical definition of the word and given that predictions for the Willamette runs are dismal at best, the only viable option available is to confine the commercial fleet to the “safe” terminal areas which have been set up exactly for that purpose at great expense to the general public. It is wrong to limit the access of the recreational angler, or the non-angling public to the maximum allowable harvest of hatchery fish because the commercial fleet has chosen to fish in a non-selective manner.

I would urge you to encourage the commercial fleet to seek out and embrace a more selective way to access their fair share of harvestable fish as their opportunity is currently restricted by the non-selective way which they choose to conduct their fishery. If commercial fishing interests were to move toward a more selective method they could harvest more hatchery fish and still allow for full recreational seasons which would be a win for both groups as well as the economy of the state.

It should not be about sport vs commercial but rather about what is better for the fish and how better to maximize the investment that society has made in wild fish recovery and hatchery
harvest. After all if we deplete our fish runs to unrecoverable levels everyone including the fish will lose.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Bradshaw
76144 HWY 47
Clatskanie, OR 97016

Watch "Cause Effect," a show about real people making a real difference. Learn more
For the record,

c

Dear commissioners,

Please take note and help those if us that fish as sportsmen. The situation is getting out of control.

There is a disturbing trend affecting Oregon Sportsmen and women. We are loosing our chance to fish for our Columbia River Spring Chinook. In the years since 2002 the 122 Columbia River Gill netters have received an increased allocation by our Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission. This commercial fishery method of non selective gill nets and its excessive impact on wild fish is negatively affecting our fishing heritage, our environment and our economy. This commercial fishery has been managed to steer away from the Endangered Snake River Spring Chinook and the result has been a greatly diminished Willamette run!

The ODFW Commission tells us they are implementing the will of the legislature when they put these non selective gill nets in the river with our wild fish. This has got to change! Please urge the Commission to give the vast majority of Oregon citizens a chance to fish a full season and reduce the damaging allocation the gill-netters receive.

Reduced non selective commercial fishing pressure will:

- Reduce bycatch of endangered wild steelhead and sturgeon
- Increase harvest of hatchery Spring Chinook keeping them off the reds and giving our wild fish a better chance to recover.
- Provide a huge boost to our local economies. We are really cheating ourselves here with the shortened and unpredictable seasons making travel to Oregon for Spring Chinook fishing a roll of the dice for my out of the area customers to even book travel plans.

There is going to be a huge Spring Chinook run this year on the Columbia please advise the ODFW Commissioners to give Sportsmen a chance to fish it though May with a 2 fish bag limit.

Thank you,

1/9/2008
Buddy Rivers
Area Recruiting Manager
CDI IT Solutions
503-397-3732 office
503-819-3754 cell
866-274-4804

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For the record.

c

From: Gil Muhleman [mailto:gmuhleman@adairhomes.com]
Posted At: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 3:51 PM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Salmon Allocation
Subject: Salmon Allocation

To our Commissioners,

I am writing you with concern for our ESA listed salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River system. Currently, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife manages Allocations for Equity among user groups. There are less than 200 active gill-netters targeting hatchery spring Chinook. Contrast that with many thousand sport fishers. Recently these netters have received a larger quota on these endangered fish than sport fishers. Consider that netters have approximately a 40% mortality rate on these ESA listed fish as opposed to 10% by sport fishers and it becomes obvious that there are better ways to protect our endangered fish while allowing access to the hatchery strains. I have many friends and acquaintances that make their living in whole or in part because of this fishery. They support their families just like the gill-netters do but accomplish this with a dramatically smaller impact on our protected fish. Allowing nets to indiscriminately kill sturgeon of all sizes, native salmon and native steelhead is a shame and a waste. This is about what is right for the fish and happens to be the best fit for our economy.

Again, please represent the majority on this issue (thousands of sport fishers) and not the usurious groups or lobbyists from Salmon for All.

Sincerely,

Gil Muhleman
For the record.

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Gary MacKie 
To: ODFWcommission@cohoZ.dfw.state.or.us
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 4:13 PM
Subject: Re: Allocation of Columbia River(tributaries)Salmon/Steelhead/Sturgeon Harvest

No one benefits from the present system of non-selective harvest methods(gill-nets) on the Columbia River and its Tributaries. It is a destructive, self defeating, and sorely outdated method that benefits few (momentarily) and negatively impacts many fish and fishermen. The economic impact reverbrates through the sportfishing/tourism/taxes(fuel)/boat builders/tackle dealers/vehicle sales(tow)/etc... The amount of income to the State from non-selective(gill-netting) harvest is miniscule compared to the multi-millions contributed by the sport fishing citizenry, who maximize society's investment in wild fish recovery and hatchery harvest.

Sport fishermen MUST get full Salmon Seasons on the Columbia River, preferably not interrupted by periodic gill-net days; which usually put off the bite for four days after netting. WHY even consider giving 122 commercial fishermen an allocation that inhibits tens of thousands of selective fishermen(sport) from spending their time and money While enjoying the true miracle of Living in the PNW.

To briefly summarize from Kevin Newell "Total Fishermen Guide Service of Woodland, Wa.:"The conservation aspects, economic and recreational benefits of sport fishing seem so obvious to me and I can't understand why we are still allowing commercial gill netting on the Columbia River". My feelings exactly, Let's get the nets out of the River and allow our Citizens to experience the joy of Selective Salmon/Steelhead/Sturgeon Harvesting since our taxes go to conserving and restoring these vary runs.

Gary L. MacKie
Formerly Gary's Guide Service
1444 Umpqua Court
Woodburn, Ore 97071
December 27, 2007

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, Or. 97303

Dear Commissioners,

We are aware that allocation agreements between sport and commercial fishermen will be discussed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission early in 2008. We would recommend that the current spring Chinook allocation be changed closer to a 50%/50% split between sport and commercial. We support both commercial and sport fishermen who are our customers and hope that a better way of resolving differences can be developed through your Consensus project. We have worked hard to develop local and regional markets and the public has responded most favorably. The public has a vested interest in this resource through their taxes and fees. The majority of the public's access is through commercial fishing and the ability to purchase fish at local markets.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steve Wilson
Owner
Sea Blossom Seafoods
Olympia, WA
From: Tina EDWARDS [mailto:Tina.Edwards@state.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 11:19 AM
To: Tuttle, Casaria R
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment in favor of Sport Fishing

FYI...guess I'm still on some people's "lists"

Tina Edwards
Assistant to Nancy Keeling, Administrator
DHS Office of Safety & Permanency for Children
tina.edwards@state.or.us
(503) 945-6731

>>> "Bryan Irwin" <Bryan@sibirwin.com> 1/8/2008 10:55 AM >>>
Dear Commission Chair Rae and Commissioners,
I am writing to urge you to make a significant change in the allocation of spring Chinook on the Columbia River in favor of sport fishing. I have been a licensed Oregon angler for at least 25 years and sport fishing is very important to my family. Please consider these points:

Conservation
At their very best, gill nets are a huge waste of ESA impacts with a 40% release mortality. The truth is they are eliminating any chance of salmon recovery. The 40% number is based on the gill netter not exceeding soak times, using their recovery box and the salmon not swimming into another net. We know these assumptions are not true! Please see the numerous articles I sent to you in March and April of 2007 highlighting gillnet violations. None of the netters even had working recovery boxes!

Economics
I have little doubt that you have been buried with economic information showing sport fishing brings WAY more into the economy. You should also consider who is profiting from this resource. Commercial fishing brings nice profits to a handful of local processors and a number of out of state restaurants. Sport fishing supports hundreds of Oregon businesses and thousands of Oregon jobs.

“Equitable split”
In my opinion, equitable splitting of the ESA impacts has been the scapegoat in the past. After all of the debate the Commission simply says, “The law requires us to split the allocations equitably” and gives a split somewhere within 10% of 50/50. However, the law does not require you to allow the use of non-selective gill nets on sensitive ESA listed salmon. Please
be the Commission that stands up for the fish and disallow or severely limit the use of gill nets this year. The commercial fishermen will never develop the technology to fish selectively as long as you allow them to use nets. Demand change!
I'm not "anti-commercial fishing" I'm "anti-Gill Nets", and as public servants charged with protecting our resources you should be too!
-Bryan Irwin
503-819-8185
January 8, 2007

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Attn: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Re: Selective Harvest in the Columbia River

I have lived all of my life (48 years) in Oregon and consider myself as a life long sport fisherman. I am now able to make the majority of my living as a Fishing Guide on the Lower Deschutes River. I have been a licensed guide there since 1983.

My partner and I fish about 750 people per year on the lower section of the river, 12 miles east of The Dalles. We take people on day trips as well as over night camp outs. We shop for food, buy fuel for our boats and trucks, have people stay at hotels and eat at restaurants in The Dalles.

They come from all over Oregon and the rest of the country. Tourism is a VERY big business in Oregon. So much of it depends on the Salmon and Steelhead that are in the Columbia River and its tributary’s. Fishing is a fun activity that people enjoy and even then the topic of (fish politics come up for discussion). Some people are aware of what is going on with the Columbia River from what they get from the media. We need to have clean, cool and good water flow to support our fisheries that we depend on.
The commercial Gill Net Fleet that is in the Columbia River does not even come close to contributing the amount of money spent in the states of Oregon and Washington that sports fishing does. There have been many studies done that support this. We should not have non selective harvest on listed and endangered fish. It seems that with a limited resource that stinging nets across the river not what we should be doing in 2008 and beyond!

If you were to drive up the Columbia River from Astoria to the John Day Dam you would see people fishing just about every day of the year. Sport Fishing is an activity that all types of people are able to enjoy. It is a big activity world wide and here in Oregon. We have the potential to have some of the best fishing in the world right here.

Please support common sense Salmon Recovery, that there should not be ANY non selective commercial harvest of our Salmon, Steelhead and Sturgeon in the Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Brad Staples
January 8, 2008

Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my concern over the current allocation process and the manner in which it seems to be proceeding in a way that has very little enforces on conservation of wild stocks or the maximum harvest of hatchery strains through the use of selective harvest.

While the use of tangle nets, which on the Columbia are merely small mesh gill nets, have shown some reduction in Native Spring Chinook mortality their use results in unacceptable by-catch of Steelhead which I would remind you are by law a game fish in the state of Oregon and are not available for commercial harvest.

It is my contention that while the commercial fleet has zealously clung to a method of harvest that is non-selective by any practical definition of the word and given that predictions for the Willamette runs are dismal at best, the only viable option available is to confine the commercial fleet to the “safe” terminal areas which have been set up exactly for that purpose at great expense to the general public.

I would urge you to encourage the commercial fleet to seek out and embrace a more selective way to access their fair share of harvestable fish as their opportunity is currently restricted by the non-selective way which they choose to conduct their fishery. If they were to move toward a more selective method they could harvest more hatchery fish and still allow for full recreational seasons which would be a win for both groups as well as the economy of the state.

It should not be about sport vs commercial but rather about what is better for the fish and how better to maximize the investment that society has made in wild fish recovery and hatchery harvest. After all if we deplete our fish runs to unrecoverable levels everyone including the fish will loose.

Sincerely
Jack Smith
Hello Commisioners,

Salmon allocation on the Columbia river is important to me. I want my voice to be heard that sportsmen should come first in the debate on Columbia river salmon. My opinion is that gill nets are out dated and should be illegal. There is sufficient harvest in the ocean for commercial use. Sportfishing brings a lot of dollars into our economy and millions of tourism dollars are not realized because of improper use of our resources.

I feed my family with revenue earned in the sportfishing business. I work for a company that produces a magazine about northwest fishing. I sell ads to manufactures who sell products to fisherman. When fish runs are down and license sales are down so are my paychecks. Don't think for a minute that its just sportsmen who want to catch fish who write these letters. Thousands of families rely on revenue from fishing; compare that to your 200 licensed gill netters. Your job in public office should reflect the greater good not benefit a select few.

Please support common sense Salmon Recovery for the Columbia river. This includes the safe passage of our wild spring returning Steelhead a precious resource that is impacted with the blindness of gillnet harvest. With so many problems with our fish runs please consider sportsmen first, eliminating gillnet harvest and preserving endangered fish for future generations.

Thank you,

Rob Crandall
Salmon Trout Steelheader
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 10:47 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Commercial Allocations

For the record.

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From: mike [mailto:mjharris@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 8:37 AM
Posted To: ODFW Commission
Conversation: Commercial Allocations
Subject: Commercial Allocations

Consider this letter. My request that in any decisions made on the commercial fishing in Oregon that it will be assured that no further impact on the ESA listed Salmon & steelhead will occur. Oregon is losing an alarming # of sport fisherman & there $ as a result of commercial allocations. I'm not against a non selective commercial fishery but Gillnets kill to many native fish in the process. Some of these fish can not sustain any more damage if they are to continue to exist.

Thanks
Mike Harris
1655 s. Elm #334
Canby, Or 97013

1/8/2008
December 27, 2007

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, Or. 97303

Dear Commissioners,

We are aware that allocation agreements between sport and commercial fishermen will be discussed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission early in 2008. We would recommend that the current spring Chinook allocation be changed closer to a 50%/50% split between sport and commercial. We support both commercial and sport fishermen who are our customers and hope that a better way of resolving differences can be developed through your Consensus project. We have worked hard to develop local and regional markets and the public has responded most favorably. The public has a vested interest in this resource through their taxes and fees. The majority of the public’s access is through commercial fishing and the ability to purchase fish at local markets.

Sincerely,

Cowlitz River Smelt Company
18542 Elderberry St SW
Rochester, Wa 98579

Kay and Bruce Crookshanks, Owners
To Washington and Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commissioners:

My name is Frank Amato and I have published Salmon Trout Steelheader magazine for over 40 years as well as nearly 300 books on fishing.

From what I hear there is consideration being given to have NO SPORT OR COMMERCIAL spring Chinook fishery below the I 5 bridge because of possible low return numbers of Willamette River spring Chinook salmon.

Obviously there should NOT be a gill net fishery in this area except for the Select sites. However there SHOULD be a sport fishery in the lower Columbia from the I 5 bridge to near the mouth.

This can be done safely to protect wild Chinook by instituting a fishing regulation for that 50 mile stretch requiring NO BAIT and a SINGLE BARBLESS HOOK.

I have much experience using artificial lures and plugs with single barbless hooks and no bait when fishing for fall Chinook. Establishing this no-bait, single barbless hook emergency regulation would allow thousands more citizen anglers to enjoy the beautiful lower Columbia while doing virtually NO harm to wild Willamette River spring Chinook. Accidental mortality would be somewhere between 2 and 5% with single barbless hooks and NO BAIT! I would suggest a hook size no larger then 3/0.

Also, in my opinion the citizen advisory committee put together by the governors to suggest salmon allocations in the Columbia River is entirely suspect. It is strongly over-weighted in favor of commercial interests. About 8 members (including Butch Smith) lean strongly toward commercial interests (maybe 150 or fewer active gillnetters) leaving only 5 to support the over 100,000 sport anglers who use the river. I can’t believe how horrible the lack of balance and prejudice is favoring commercial interests. Their decision will be highly suspect in my opinion and I am sure the public will have its say through legislators and possibly an initiative petition to ban ALL gill netting in the Columbia River.

Respectfully,

Frank W. Amato, Publisher
December 31, 2007

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Frank Amato and I publish Salmon Trout Steelheader magazine which has an approximate per issue readership of 100,000 anglers per issue, mainly in the Northwest. It is published 10 times per year.

A: SHORT TERM PLAN

I urge you to give special consideration to the tens of thousands of Columbia River sport anglers in the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho in deciding the division of mainstream Columbia River spring (and fall) Chinook salmon. As you are aware ocean commercial fisheries stretching from California to Alaska take a huge percentage of both Chinook and coho salmon in a mixed stock fishery that harvests endangered species.

In my opinion it is very unfair to snub river-fishing sport fishing citizens while allowing commercial ocean trollers and river gillnetters combined to take much the lion’s share of the Chinook while killing very large numbers of rare and endangered wild salmon, some runs facing extinction.

I know that you do not control ocean harvest. But you DO determine what happens in the Columbia.

AS A PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THIS IS HOW I THINK YOU SHOULD MANAGE THE SALMON RESOURCE:

B: LONG TERM PLAN

1. Columbia River Chinook should be caught by sport anglers. Gill nets should be restricted to select fisheries for hatchery fish only. (You can do this!)

2. The commissions of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, should demand of the federal government a new salmon treaty and regulations substantially reducing the commercial harvest of wild ocean Chinook and coho salmon. All Chinook should be marked with adipose clip to insure that ocean harvest on wild fish is greatly reduced.

3. More wild and hatchery Chinook (and coho) should be allowed to return to the Northwest rivers of their origin, with the surplus to be caught by sport fishing means and with a greater escapement of wild spawners to fertilize and enrich the stream and surrounding ecosystem as is done in Alaska.

Frank W. Amato
Publisher

PS: SUBSTANTIAL changes in salmon management and HARVEST is way past due. We need to see some leadership from you our representatives now!!!
Warrreton Auto & Marine Repair Inc.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303-4924

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I, Pat O’Grady, am representing various concerned citizens, workers and business owners in Oregon Counties from the mouth of the Columbia River to it’s confluence with the Willamette River. I would like to take this opportunity to express the concern of these people regarding the potential manner in which the 2008 Columbia River Spring Chinook recreational fisheries may occur.

Although no official forecast is currently available for either component of the Columbia River Spring Chinook run in 2008, jack counts of the two major stocks in 2007 indicate the possibility that the Willamette River Spring Chinook stock will most likely be the weakest stock that drives and limits recreational fishing access to both stock components. Based on these jack counts we assume that relative to recent years very few total Willamette Spring Chinook may be available for harvest. This leads us to the concern that all Willamette Spring Chinook available for harvest may be reserved exclusively for use in the Willamette River proper.

It is extremely important to the citizens and businesses on both sides of the Columbia River, from it’s mouth with the Pacific to it’s confluence with the Willamette River, that some measure of the total allowable Willamette Spring Chinook harvest be reserved and allocated to this area of the Columbia River. With no Willamette Spring Chinook allocation reserved for areas along the Columbia River below the mouth of the Willamette River we can only assume our citizens and businesses will be excluded from enjoying the recreational and economic benefits that would otherwise be produced from a recreational fishery occurring near and around our communities.

Based on 2007 jack counts, the Columbia River Spring Chinook stock that is destined for areas above Bonneville Dam will produce a sizeable return during the spring of 2008. The peoples of our area believe that it would be unfair to force anglers from our communities into traveling four hours or more in order to access Spring Chinook that migrated through their home water along the Columbia River just days before.

Even if less than half the available Willamette Spring Chinook allocation is reserved for the area from the Columbia River mouth to the Willamette River confluence, this will facilitate some amount of time with which our anglers can pursue and our businesses can benefit from migrating Spring Chinook. This type of allocation would simply mirror the current manner in which both Columbia River upriver and lower river communities divide and share the total harvest of Columbia River White Sturgeon.

Respectfully,

Pat O'Grady President
Warrenton Auto & Marine Repair Inc.
PO Box 471
Warrenton, Or 97146
503-861-2791
503-325-4513
E-Mail pat@warrauto.com
1) Although no official forecast is currently available for either component of the CR Spring Chinook run in 2008, the jack counts of the two major stocks in 2007 indicate/hint to the possibility that the Willamette stock will most likely be the primary stock that harvest fisheries are limited be and managed for.

2) Relative to recent years few total Willamette Spring Chinook may be available for harvest.

3) It is very important to the citizens and business on both sides of the CR from the CR mouth to the mouth of the Willamette that same amount of the total Willamette allowable harvest is reserved for use in mainstream CR recreational fisheries downstream from the mouth of the Willamette.

4) Even if 50% of the total Willamette harvest is allocated to the LCR below the Willamette I/we feel that 1 or 2 weeks of fishing is better than a completely closed season.

5) Based on 2007 jack counts for the upriver Spring Chinook component there will most likely be sizeable harvest available for this stock.

6) I/we do not want to see this huge run pass the LCR below the Willamette and see our communities blocked from any measurable access in the areas we live and work

7) I/we feel the communities and citizens below the Willamette deserve a measure of allocation relative to the fishery resource and that this would be the most equitable distribution of Spring Chinook fishery resources.

8) Denial of the resource distribution will result in many LCR citizens being required to travel hours to have an opportunity to catch Spring Chinook that migrated through their home CR stretch just days before.
December 21, 2007

Dear Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission:

The Association Northwest Steelheaders appreciates the opportunity to be a representative of sport fishing interests in the Allocation Stakeholder Group Mediation process. We share a concern of other sport fishing interest both represented in the stakeholder group and those not represented. Large segments of salmon conservation and sport fishing interest are missing from the process, potentially adversely affecting the results.

Conservation groups should be represented because of the implications of selective fisheries and release mortality. The sport fishing guides provide a much greater economic impact for local communities than any other user group but are not represented.

An even and equitable and broadly accepted solution can only be achieved if we have broad representation from the invested stakeholders affected by the allocations.

The Northwest Steelheaders has experienced great success in other mediations over the years, resulting in fair and equitable agreements. We know that with the appropriate set of stakeholders who are given the right amount of time, information, and discussion the process can lead to a quality product.

The Northwest Steelheaders asks the ODFW commission to give this serious consideration in the final decision process of the allocation effort and in the establishment of any future stakeholder mediation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Norman E. Ritchie, PE

Mission: Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.
For the record.

c

-----Original Message-----
From: eageorges@verizon.net [mailto:eageorges@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 11:19 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Salmon Allotment

I just want to make it clear that I am opposed to the practice of Gillnetting in the Columbia River. It is an indiscriminate method of harvesting fish, is obsolete and should be done away with. Neccessity is the mother of invention. Commercial fishermen will find another means of harvesting fish if they were forced to. There is too much impact and contribution made to the economy of Oregon and Washington by the sportsmen to cut back their allotment of Salmon just to enable an antiquated commercial fishery that has done nothing but dessimate the Salmon in the Northwest. If I ran a business like the commercial fishermen have been doing business for the past 125 years, taking but not putting anything in, I would have gone broke a long time ago. Stop the insanity.

Thank you
Emil Georges
18854 SE Carmel Dr.
Damascus, OR 97089
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2008 8:06 AM
To: Sandra Fixsen
Subject: FW: Willamette River Salmon

I believe this goes with the record.

c

From: Steve Leitha [mailto:87cad@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2008 4:11 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Willamette River Salmon

Honorable Commissioners,
I have been fishing in Oregon for 68 years since I was 10 yrs old. Now being a member of the N. W. Steelheaders I have done and am still doing volunteer work on ODFW projects and respect what you are doing. I mostly fish tributaries of and the Willamette river and am very concerned with the future of sports fishing. Due to the low runs of spring Chinook the Willamette run should be managed carefully. As sport fishing entails a tremendous number of sportsmen and has a great impact on Oregon's economy I feel careful consideration must be observed to protect this run. I personally think the commercial taking of salmon is not the highest and best use of this industry, however I realize that we are for ever waiting to long before making some critical decisions and commercial taking is another one of those circumstances and I therefore beseech you to at least move the commercial fishing above the confluence of the Willamette river with the Columbia. Thank you for considering my request. Steven M. Christensen 1910 S. 9th. St. Lebanon OR.
October 5, 2007

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
3406 Cherry Ave.
Salem, OR 97303

Honorable Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

It is our understanding that on February 8, 2008 the Commission will make a long-term sharing decision regarding the in-river commercial fishery and the sport fishing community for Spring Chinook in the Columbia River. We respectfully request two things: We seek to learn the criteria by which you will be making your allocation decisions. Additionally, we are writing to request a Commission meeting date that can be attended by the Industry.

Brief Background

Decisions made by the Commission and department staff to reduce sport fishing opportunity in the Columbia are creating undue harm on the industry that has been a constructive partner for decades. The sport fishing industry is collecting licenses, generating excitement, training anglers to fish--generally doing everything possible to attract and maintain the anglers who are department customers, and advocates for the fishery resources of the Pacific Northwest. Additionally, the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association is an active and effective participant in nearly all aspects of protection and recovery of salmon and steelhead.

From 2001 to 2007 fishing opportunity and participation in Columbia River Spring salmon have significantly declined.

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Trips</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>CPUE*</th>
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<tr>
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<td>25,711</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>175,052</td>
<td>20,464</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>160,765</td>
<td>16,892</td>
<td>0.11</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>156,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>86,835</td>
<td>6,985</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>83,010</td>
<td>6,476</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The average CPUE per fish is .11, about 9 trips per fish!

While you can debate the actual value of each of these trips, what is beyond question is the significance of the loss of more than 50% of the angler trips. We can assure you this is translating into pink slips in boating and sport fishing industry employment. It would not be surprising to see agency revenues shrinking as well.

In February of 2006 the Oregon Commission made a decision to reduce the amount of ESA impacts available to the sport fishing fleet, and transfer impacts into the gillnet fleet. One week later the Washington Commission made a decision to hold the impacts at status quo, (60% sport, 40% commercial) citing

Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent upon them. Call toll free: 1-866-315-NSIA
that many of the Commission members were new, and needed more time to understand the issues in depth prior to making amendments to the plan.

At the first joint state meeting to set the 2006 Spring Chinook seasons it was announced that the Directors had further reduced the sport share from what the Washington Commission had decided. In addition, the sport fleet took another hit from the way that the impacts reserved for the Wanapum tribal fishery were calculated. Originally, the impacts for Wanapum tribal fishery were taken off of the 2% non treaty share before gillnet/sport sharing was calculated. Now the Wanapum tribal fishery (.3%) is taken entirely from the sport fishery share.

The net result is a sport fishery that has been dealt three reductions based on management decisions—two by commission decisions for 2003 and 2006 (OR) and one decision made in a closed door director-to-director meeting. The sport fleet has been reduced from 65% impacts in 2002, after the Wanapum fishery was deducted, to 57% which is then further reduced by the Wanapum and other up river fisheries.

**The Meeting Times**

In previous years, we have made requests for Commission meeting dates that allowed participation by the Industry. We unsuccessfully made this request again for 2008. It is our sincere hope that the meeting date will be changed this year with consideration of the NW regional shows where we interact with tens of thousands of license buying retail customers. The largest sportsman’s show in the region will have the industry in booths, and tens of thousands of sportsmen and women at the Portland Expo during the dates of February 6-10. We very much appreciate further consideration of this request.

**Allocation Criteria**

In order to provide the most focused information needed by the commission to make their decision, we are interested in the set of criteria by which you will be making your determination. We have heard the Commission and DFW staff state many times that it is the legislature and the “equity statutes” that drive these decisions. There are several examples of where the allocation decisions look nothing like the nearly 50/50 sharing that the Departments say is the Commission’s definition of equitable for the Columbia.

In the five years between 1998 and 2002, sixty percent of all landings of salmonids in Oregon were for commercial sale.

In the Ocean, ocean coho are largely allocated to sport and Chinook to commercial trollers. When the department led the way for the reallocation in the ocean, it was driven by economics. In the Columbia River the majority of coho are caught by gillnetters.

In Columbia River Sturgeon, 80% are allocated to sport and 20% to gill-netters.

In Willapa, the sharing is (averaged between 2000-06) Coho: Sport/Commercial is 12/88 and Chinook: Sport/Commercial is 31/69

Clearly, we can acknowledge that the policy of "equitable sharing" is not uniformly applied. "Equitable" has very different approaches and outcomes and is not necessarily the best way to manage individual fisheries. In other words, one size does not fit all. Our understanding of the
history of these decisions is that economic impact, ease of management and biological factors were priorities driving the allocation decisions.

Given the vital nature of the decision before us, we would very much like to focus our efforts on supplying the most helpful information to the Commission. We have spent a considerable amount of time contemplating what sort of criteria will best insure the future of the resource, the role of harvest in recovery (above receiving no jeopardy), the highest and best economics, maintaining and growing a solid customer base to fund the agency’s mission and stem the loss of jobs in the sport fishing sector. If requested, we would be pleased to share some of our best thinking on criteria, and what sort of information you might need from your staff(s) and the stakeholders in the region.

We trust that you wish to be informed by a transparent process that articulates clear biological, social and economic criteria from the staff and Commissions of both states. We are interested in hearing from the Commission and the Department what sorts of information will be valuable to you as you make allocation decisions which very much determine our industry’s future.

We appreciate your efforts, and look forward to providing testimony that best informs the criteria by which you will make the upcoming spring Chinook gillnet/sport sharing decision. Please do not hesitate to contact our office for any questions or assistance.

Yours in Service,

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Dan Parnel,  Trey Carskadon,  Liz Hamilton
President  Government Affairs Director  Executive Director
Sandra Fixsen

From: Casaria Tuttle  
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 8:01 AM  
To: Sandra Fixsen  
Cc: Curt Melcher  
Subject: FW: Further Communication of Decision Criteria  
Attachments: CommissionCriteriaRequest.doc; CommissionCriteriaRequest-2.doc; ODFW Ltr Pernel Williams.pdf

Sandra for the record. Curt, F.Y.I.

c

From: NSIALIZ@aol.com [mailto:NSIALIZ@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2008 7:00 PM  
To: ODFW Commission  
Cc: roy.ellicker@state.or.us; CARRIER Michael  
Subject: Further Communication of Decision Criteria

Please distribute the attached letter: Commission Criteria Request-2. Please also note we have included the original letter to Commission, Steve Williams' response, and latest federal census economic figures. Thank you.

Yours in Service,

Liz Hamilton, Executive Director  
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
PO Box 4  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503 631 8859  
866 315 NSIA  
nsializ@aol.com  
www.nsiafishing.org

"Dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of sport fisheries and the businesses dependent upon them."

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.
Proposal to Consider a Ten Year Allocation

The idea of a ten year allocation for Sport/Commercial is not consistent with WDFW’s stated commitment to adaptive management principles. In order to be able to respond to changing ocean conditions, changing harvest numbers, inland conditions, etc., it is imperative that flexibility be maintained. We simply do not have the scientific or the profound knowledge necessary to decide on long term allocations.