



State of Washington  
**Fish & Wildlife Commission**

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March 15, 2017

Mr. Michael V. Finley, Chairman  
Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Chairman Finley:

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC) appreciated receiving your letter of March 7, 2017, regarding fishery and hatchery management in the Columbia River by the states of Oregon and Washington. Given the importance of the issues discussed in your letter, and the urgency necessitated by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) upcoming meeting on March 17, 2017, I am providing a response reflecting my sense of the issues at stake.

We are mindful of the points made in Governor Brown's letter of February 9, 2017, emphasizing the importance of concurrent rules and expressing support for maintaining the commitments that our commissions worked so hard to collaboratively develop in 2012-2013. Washington also appreciates that the letter recognized that both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff recommendation and the policy adopted by the WFWC successfully balance multiple objectives and provide a clear and enforceable path forward.

We have summarized below our understanding of the key features of each of those options with respect to the topics raised in your letter:

<b>Element</b>	<b>Current Concurrence</b>	<b>ODFW Staff Proposal</b>	<b>WFWC Updated Policy</b>
Spring Chinook Tangle Net Fishery	No	Priority for use of the commercial allocation is to support full fishing in off-channel fisheries. Commercial mainstem openers with selective gear (tangle net) may occur only after the run update if impacts are available.	No mainstem tangle net commercial fishery.
Summer Chinook Gillnet Fishery	Yes	Any commercial allocation not used in off-channel fisheries is available for mainstem harvest using non-gill net selective gears and fishing techniques (currently undetermined) that minimize bycatch impacts on sturgeon, steelhead and sockeye.	
Fall Chinook Commercial Share	No	≥ 30%	≥ 25%

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