Outline for Today

• Harvest Reform Background
• The Oregon Reform Policy
• Washington Actions and Concurrence
• Policy Review Committee (PRC) highlights
• Current and Future Status
Background

- 2012 – Measure 81

- Governor Kitzhaber asked the OFWC to address “perennial and divisive conflicts” on the Columbia River, including gear conflicts, allocation of harvest and available wild fish impacts, and conservation needs

- Columbia River Reform Workgroup formed
Background

- Both states adopted similar policies – Oregon by rule
  - OFWC – originally in December of 2012 and again (after a legal challenge) in June of 2013 after reconsideration
  - Oregon Senate Bill 830 is passed in 2013 codifying in statute elements of Columbia River River Reform
  - WFWC – Adopts CR Policy C-3620 in January 2013
Oregon Policy Key Elements

• Shifting allocations to provide a stronger recreational priority in the mainstem Columbia River
• Enhancing off-channel hatchery releases to increase commercial harvest in those areas
• Phasing gillnets out of mainstem commercial fisheries and limiting their use to off-channel areas
• Developing alternative gears and techniques for commercial mainstem fisheries
• Strengthening conservation of native fish
• Adaptive Management
Map of CR Commercial Fishing Zones

Commercial Fishing Zones on the Columbia River Below McNary Dam
Map of Current CR SAFE Areas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013-2016 Transition</th>
<th>2017+ Long-term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Chinook</td>
<td>• 2013 allocation shift impacted by legal stay; 70 sport/30 commercial from 2014-2016</td>
<td>• 80/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Barbless hooks required</td>
<td>• Barbless hooks required</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Commercial mainstem with tangle nets and gill nets</td>
<td>• Gillnets not allowed in mainstem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• SAFE Commercial Impacts locked at 0.15% impact</td>
<td>• Pre-update buffer not applied to commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Chinook</td>
<td>• 60/40 of harvestable surplus of fish downstream of PRD in 2013; 70/30 thereafter</td>
<td>• 80/20 of harvestable surplus of fish downstream of PRD</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Barbless hooks required</td>
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<td>• Commercial mainstem with gillnets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Chinook</td>
<td>• ≤70/≥30 of most constraining Chinook stock</td>
<td>• ≤80/≥20 of most constraining stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Barbless hooks required</td>
<td>• Barbless hooks required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Gillnets allowed</td>
<td>• Gillnets not allowed in mainstem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Alternative gear development - Pilot seine fisheries occurred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coho</td>
<td>• First priority incidental Coho in Chinook target commercial</td>
<td>• First priority incidental Coho in Chinook target commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• B10 next priority</td>
<td>• B10 next priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Remainder available for commercial with small mesh gillnets or alternative gear, zones 1-3</td>
<td>• Remainder available for commercial with alternative gears, zones 1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFE Production Goals</td>
<td>Spring Chinook: 1.95 M</td>
<td>Spring Chinook: 2.2 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coho: 5.09 M</td>
<td>Coho: 5.97 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAB Fall Chinook: 1.95 M</td>
<td>SAB Fall Chinook: 2.2 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Post Transition Comprehensive Review

• General take homes:
  • Allocation shifts implemented as scheduled
  • Hatchery enhancements in off-channel areas were generally met except where reductions were required due to changes in federal Mitchell Act programs
  • Time expansions for off-channel commercial fisheries have been implemented, though no ‘new’ sites have been established in either state
  • Non-gillnet alternative mainstem gears (primarily seine gears in the fall) constrained by higher than expected catch and/or total handle mortality of non-targeted fish - particularly steelhead (including ESA-listed wild steelhead)
  • Gains in angler trips, while tangible, were less than expected
  • Robust fish runs helped ensure that commercial economics during the transition period generally exceeded expectations and the pre-reform baseline, although commercial economics could have been even higher under prior policies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2017+ Original Long-term</th>
<th>2017 Oregon Adaptive Mgmt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Spring Chinook** | • 80/20  
  • Barbless hooks required  
  • Gillnets not allowed in mainstem  
  • Pre-update buffer not applied to commercial | • 80/20  
  • Barbless hooks required  
  • Mainstem commercial allowed post-update with tangle net (if remaining impacts available)  
  • Pre-update buffer not applied to commercial |
| **Summer Chinook** | • 80/20 of harvestable surplus of fish downstream of PRD  
  • Barbless hooks required  
  • Gillnets not allowed in mainstem | • 80/20 of harvestable surplus of fish downstream of PRD  
  • Barbless hooks required  
  • Gillnets not allowed in mainstem |
| **Fall Chinook** | • ≤80/≥20 of most constraining stock  
  • Barbless hooks required  
  • Gillnets not allowed in mainstem | • ≤70/≥30 of most constraining Chinook stock  
  • Barbless hooks required  
  • Gillnets allowed in **Zones 4-5**  
  • Alternative gear set aside allowance |
| **Coho** | • First priority incidental Coho in Chinook target commercial  
  • B10 next priority  
  • Remainder available for commercial with alternative gears, Zones 1-3 | • First priority incidental Coho in Chinook target commercial  
  • B10 next priority  
  • Remainder available for commercial with alternative gears, Zones 1-3 |

**SAFE Production Goals**
- **Spring Chinook**: 2.2 M  
  **Coho**: 5.97 M  
  **SAB Fall Chinook**: 2.2 M
- **Spring Chinook**: 3.7 M  
  **Coho**: 5.25 M*  
  **SAB Fall Chinook**: 1 M*
WFWC Post-Transition Action

• Allocations same as OFWC in spring and summer, but WFWC did not allow for any spring mainstem commercial (regardless of gear type)
• Specified ≤75/≥25 fall allocation and allowed use of gillnets in Zones 4-5 for 2017 and 2018 only
• Required WDFW conduct another policy review in 2018
• Absent any change, WFWC policy would go to original long-term plan for fall fisheries in 2019 (≤80/≥20, no gillnets in mainstem)
Concurrent Management

• Long history of substantively concurrent fisheries in joint state waters of OR and WA
• Important part of CR Fisheries Reform statutes and rules, and CR Compact statutes
• Necessary for orderly and enforceable fisheries
• Facilitates reciprocity in joint state waters
• Minor differences through 2018 manageable (e.g., <5% allocation difference)
Risks of Non-Concurrence

• Orderly fisheries, enforcement, economics

• Gear non-concurrence
  • Split allocation w/ WA and fish only on your side of river

• Allocation non-concurrence
  • In past minor differences (<5%) either left on table or split w/ WA
  • Large current spring and summer differences (10%) more difficult to deal with
  • The two-states in combination cannot exceed ESA and US v OR constraints
  • Larger the non-concurrent difference, larger the economic impact if not resolved
As of January 2019, fishery policies in the two states were not concurrent – non-concurrent gears in fall most significant difference

- WFWC – no gillnets, ≤80/≥20
- OFWC – gillnets allowed Zones 4-5, ≤70/≥30
- Spring and Summer largely concurrent

Joint OR/WA commission meeting Nov 2018
- Agreement to form “Policy Review Committee” to seek concurrent policies
- PRC is three commissioner’s from each FWC
- PRC to review and discuss reform and other CR fisheries policies, seek to reach a recommendation(s) to achieve concurrency
- Not decision making – full Commission’s need to act on any changes
Policy Review Committee (aka PRC)

- Seven meetings have occurred: Jan 17, Feb 6, Feb 26, Mar 14, Aug 1, 29, and Oct 1
- Feb 26 meeting resulted in majority recommendation for near-term
  - Put allocations and gear policies back to 2016 levels (last year of transition period), and include increased off-channel production specified in Oregon 2017 adaptive management; allow barbed hooks
- WFWC adopted PRC recommendation in March
  - Compared to current Oregon policy: no change for 2019 spring and moot for 2019 summer – no summer non-treaty seasons due to poor run size
  - Matches current Oregon allocation and gear for fall Chinook
Where are we now?

- November PRC meeting postponed given recent turnover in OFWC
- Date selection for PRC meetings is in progress
- Several non-concurrent issues exist, e.g., allocations, commercial gears, barbless hooks
- WFWC to be briefed on current status of PRC next week
Conclusions

- Columbia River fishery management is complex and ongoing,
- Oregon and Washington have been working on the current management regime since 2013 and have been striving to reach concurrency since 2017
- Some of the original ideas, e.g., enhanced off-channel area fisheries, are working and will continue to get better as additional production comes on-line
- Some of the original ideas, e.g., alternative gears, have not worked out as expected, necessitating changes
- Adaptive management was taken by OFWC in 2017 and will continue to be an important component moving forward
QUESTIONS?