

Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries-- 2013 and Beyond

*Oregon and Washington Staff Analysis and
Recommendations for Workgroup*



October 18, 2012

Background

- **Premise: Recreational and commercial fisheries economically vital to OR and WA**
- **Objective: Optimize economic value within conservation framework**
- **Key elements:**
 - **Prioritize recreational fisheries in mainstem; commercial in off-channel**
 - **Develop selective commercial gear and techniques; phase out non-selective gill nets in the mainstem**
 - **Enhance off-channel commercial fisheries**
 - **Secure conservation benefits (e.g., reducing hatchery fish on spawning grounds)**
 - **Provide a transition period for full implementation**
 - **Avoid significant economic loss during transition; ensure overall economic gains long-term**

Additional Clarification/Guidance

- **Complete policy development in 2012**
- **Revisit issue in future and adjust course if key assumptions prove wrong**
- **Key elements are a package and should be considered as a whole**
- **Flexibility to extend transition slightly if necessary**
- **Flexibility to moderate 70:30 shift (summer and fall) if necessary to lessen commercial economic loss and reasonable recreational objectives can be met**
- **Provide conservation benefits by selective mainstem commercial harvest of lower river hatchery coho and Chinook**

Additional Materials/Actions

- **Modified joint-agency staff report w/appendices**
- **Off-channel tour and demonstration of alternative gear**
- **Mainstem fishery maps and statistics**
- **Select Area fisheries maps, statistics and enhancements**
- **ESA impact rates and fishery handle mortality**
- **Alternative gear evaluation details**
- **Fall fishery strategies/objectives**

Joint-agency staff report/appendices

Transition (2013-2016+)

- Allocations:

- 70:30 sport:commercial for spring and summer Chinook, tule fall chinook and sockeye
- 55:45 for upriver bright fall Chinook.
- No substantive change for coho

- Off-Channel Enhancements: 2013+

- 1 M spring Chinook (750k OR, 250k WA): 83% increase
- 920k coho (720k OR, 200k WA): 24% increase
- 500k (?) select area bright fall Chinook (OR): 33% increase

Joint-agency staff report/appendices

Transition (2013-2016+)

- **“Reasonable” fall Chinook sport fishery objectives:**
 - Buoy 10 through Labor Day
 - Tongue Pt to Warrior Rock through mid September (MSF?)
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville full fishery
- **Commercial characteristics:**
 - Mainstem opportunity
 - Tangle and gill nets allowed in mainstem; plus alt gear if approved
 - 25% more adult Chs in off-channel immediately; ~25% more adult coho mid way through transition
 - Substantive upriver bright Chf opportunity in mainstem
 - New opportunity for hatchery tule and coho if alt gear approved

Joint-agency staff report/appendices

Transition (2013-2016+)

- **Recreational Fishery Impacts:**
 - 51k-61k angler trip (16-17%) increase
- **Commercial Fishery Impacts:**
 - \$143k-\$331k (5-11%) decline
 - Does not include alt gear harvest of hatchery tules and coho
- **Additional option to reduce commercial impacts:**
 - Additional gill net opportunity above Lewis/Sandy rivers for upriver bright fall Chinook
 - Potential to reduce impact to \$0-\$138k (0-5%) decline

Joint-agency staff report/appendices

Long Term (2017+)

- **Allocations:**

- 80:20 sport:commercial for spr and sum Chinook and sockeye
- < 80:20 for tule fall Chinook (com. access to hatchery tules)
- ~65:35 for upriver bright fall Chinook
- No substantive change for coho

- **Off-Channel Enhancements:**

- Up to 1.25 M spring Chinook (1M OR, 250k WA): ~100% increase
- Up to 4.7 M coho (4.5M OR, 200k WA): ~100% increase
- 750k select area bright fall Chinook (OR): ~50% increase

Joint-agency staff report/appendices

Long Term (2017+)

- **“Reasonable” fall Chinook sport fishery objectives:**
 - Buoy 10 through Labor Day
 - Tongue Pt to Warrior Rock through mid September (MSF?)
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville full fishery
- **Commercial characteristics:**
 - Tangle nets and other selective gear in mainstem
 - Infrequent opportunity for Chs in mainstem
 - Off-channel: ~100% more adult Chs and coho; 50% more SAB
 - Substantive upriver bright Chf opportunity in mainstem
 - New substantive opportunity for hatchery tule, coho and upriver bright fall Chinook in mainstem

Joint-agency staff report/appendices

Long Term (2017+)

- **Recreational Fishery Impacts:**

- 87k-92k angler trip (~27%) increase

- **Commercial Fishery Impacts:**

- 2017-20: -\$21k to +\$195k (-1% to +7%)
- 2020+: +\$215k to +\$431k (7% to 17%) increase
- Does not include alt gear harvest of hatchery tules, coho and upriver bright fall Chinook

Conservation Impacts

- **Some escapement increase for spring and summer Chinook**
- **Reduction of hatchery fish on spawning grounds, particularly hatchery tules and coho**
- **Increased protection to white sturgeon**

Questions?



Adaptive Management

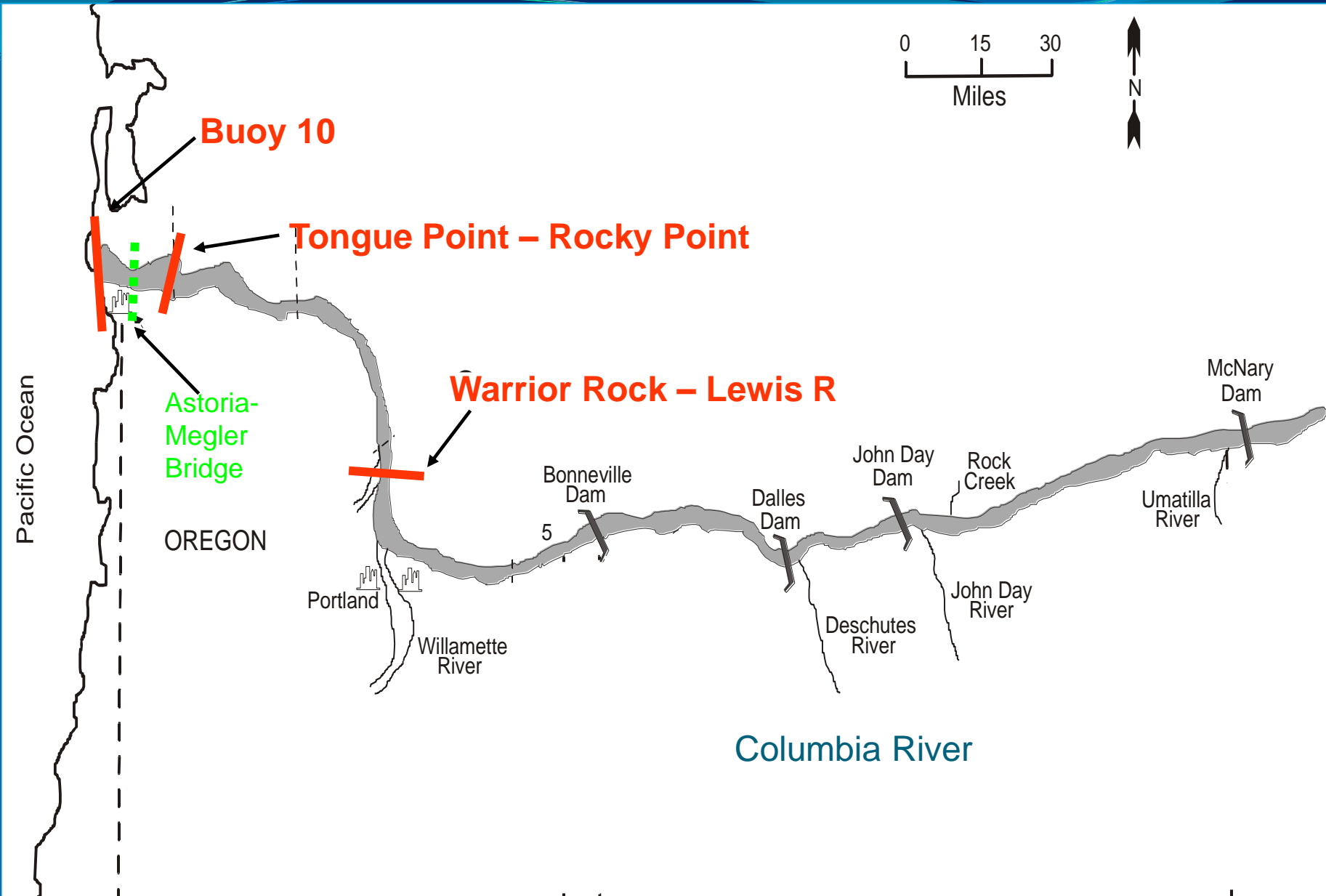
Adjustments could be made to the long-term management framework if one or more of the following triggers occur:

- Significantly lower than expected returns to off-channel sites
- Insufficient space in off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet
- Significantly lower than expected mainstem commercial harvest using selective gears
- Circumstances that delay or preclude use of selective techniques or enhancement of off-channel fish production

Adaptive Management

(cont'd):

- Significantly lower than expected economic return to commercial fishers
- Conflicts with terms of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement
- Failure to meet conservation needs



Select Area Sites



Deep River

Washington

Cowlitz River

Youngs Bay

Tongue Point / South Channel

Blind Slough / Knappa Slough

Oregon

Multnomah Channel

10 km