

Narrative Description of Options
for PRC consideration for
2019 Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policies

Option 1: Transition Period Policies

The intent of this option is to freeze the fishery management policies in effect in 2016, which was the last year of a 2013 – 2016 period in which the mainstem Columbia River commercial fishery would transition from a gillnet gear or alternative gear fishery to an alternative gear-only fishery. The fishery management policies for sport/commercial allocations, allowable commercial fishing gear in the mainstem Columbia River by season, and other fishery management measures for this option are as follows:

- **Spring Chinook Seasons:** 70%/30% sharing of allowable non-Treaty Upriver Run ESA impacts; both fisheries to be constrained by the pre-run size update buffer mechanism; tangle nets allowed pre-update and post-update, with gillnet gear allowable in the post updateⁱ period; of the 70% of Upriver Run ESA impacts allocated to the sport fishery, 25% (17.5% of the total allocation) is allocated to sport fisheries above Bonneville Dam. Within that 25% upriver allocation, 40% is allocated to OR/WA fisheries from Bonneville Dam up to the state line and 60% is allocated to the WA fishery in the Snake River and Upper Columbia River areasⁱⁱ. The remaining amount of the 70% (52.5% of the total allocation) is allocated to sport fisheries below Bonneville Dam.
- **Summer Chinook Seasons:** The amount of the non-Treaty harvestable surplus above a spawning escapement goal of 20,000 at Priest Rapids Dam shall be allocated between fisheries above and below Priest Rapids Dam based on a sliding scaleⁱⁱⁱ; the harvestable amount for the areas below Priest Rapids Dam are to be shared 70% /30% between sport and commercial fisheries; 5% of the commercial share (1.5% of the total allocation below Priest Rapids Dam) is to be set aside for incidental take in SAFE area fisheries; allowable commercial fishing gear includes gillnets and alternative gear.
- **Sockeye Seasons:** 70%/30% sharing of allowable non-Treaty Snake River ESA impacts; the 30% commercial share is to be used for incidental impacts in commercial fisheries directed at summer Chinook salmon.
- **Fall Chinook Seasons:** $\leq 70\% / \geq 30\%$ sharing of allowable LRH ESA impacts and allowable non-Treaty Snake River ESA impacts (whichever is more constraining in a given year); the commercial share of such ESA impacts is to cover mainstem Columbia River and SAFE area fisheries; allowable commercial fishing gear in the mainstem Columbia River includes gillnet, tangle net, and seine gear.

Coho Seasons: While there is no explicit numerical sharing of Lower Columbia River Natural ESA impacts, the allocation was prioritized as follows: commercial fisheries are to be assigned sufficient impacts to implement SAFE coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook fisheries; and the balance to in-river mainstem recreational fisheries. If these fisheries are expected to be unable to use all of the impacts, the remainder will be assigned to mainstem commercial coho fisheries. Allowable commercial fishing gear is to include gill net, tangle net, beach seine, and purse seine fishing gear.

This option also calls for specific hatchery releases in SAFE areas as follows, which represent a net increase from the 2016 actual program, to the level specified in current Oregon policy.

Spring Chinook: 3.7 M smolts (1.5 M greater than the 2018 actual release; increased to enhance commercial economics and offset Mitchell Act-related coho reductions since 2016).

Fall Chinook: 1.0 M smolts (decreased from 2.2 M smolt due to Mitchell Act related reductions and brood limitations).

Coho: 5.255 M smolts (somewhat reduced due to Mitchell Act related reductions).

Option 2: 2018 Washington Policy

The intent of this option is to replicate the fishery management policies described in Washington Policy C-3620, *Columbia River Basin Salmon Management* for the year 2018. Because of differences in policy between Washington and Oregon for 2018, the negotiated seasons in effect in 2018 were different than described in this option and thus this option does not reflect an actual regulatory “2018 Status Quo” option. The fishery management policies for sport/commercial allocations, allowable commercial fishing gear in the mainstem Columbia River by season, and other fishery management measures for this option are as follows:

- Spring Chinook Seasons: 80%/20% sharing of allowable non-Treaty Upriver Run ESA impacts; the sport fishery is to be constrained by the pre-run size update buffer mechanism, but not the commercial fishery; no mainstem commercial fishing is allowed, regardless of gear; gillnets and alternative gears would be allowed in SAFE area; 75%/25% sharing of the sport fishery allocation between lower river and upriver sport fisheries as follows: of the 80% of Upriver Run ESA impacts allocated to the sport fishery, 75% (60% of the total allocation) is allocated to sport fisheries below Bonneville Dam, and 25% (20% of the total allocation) is allocated to sport fisheries above Bonneville Dam.
- Summer Chinook Seasons: The amount of the non-Treaty harvestable surplus above a spawning escapement goal of 20,000 at Priest Rapids Dam shall be allocated between fisheries above and below Priest Rapids Dam based on the sliding scale in place in 2016; 80%/20% sharing of the harvestable surplus below Priest Rapids Dam, with up to 75% of the 20% commercial share made possible for take in mainstem areas and the balance in SAFE areas; allowable commercial gear is non-gillnet selective alternative gear; any unused commercial share is to be made available to upriver sport fisheries or passed through to the spawning escapement.
- Sockeye Seasons: 80%/20% sharing of allowable non-Treaty Snake River ESA impacts; the 20% commercial share is to be used for incidental impacts in commercial fisheries directed at summer Chinook salmon.
- Fall Chinook Seasons: $\leq 75\%$ / $\geq 25\%$ sharing of allowable LRH ESA impacts and allowable non-Treaty Snake River ESA impacts (whichever is most constraining in a given year); the commercial share of such ESA impacts is to cover mainstem Columbia River and SAFE area fisheries; allowable commercial fishing gear in the mainstem Columbia River includes gillnet (limited to the area above the mouth of the Lewis River) and other mark-selective alternative gear in all areas.

- Coho Seasons: While there is no explicit numerical sharing of Lower Columbia River Natural ESA impacts, the allocation was prioritized as follows: commercial fisheries are to be assigned sufficient impacts to implement SAFE coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook fisheries; and the balance to Buoy 10 and mainstem recreational fisheries. If these fisheries are expected to be unable to use all of the impacts, the remainder are to be assigned to mainstem commercial coho fisheries. Allowable commercial fishing gear does not include gill net, but does include tangle net and other alternative gear fished in a mark-selective manner.

Option 3: No Loss of Economic Potential-

The intent of this option is to describe fishery management policies for sport and commercial fishery allocations and gear types that provide for no economic loss to the commercial fishery across a full season, compared to the baseline policies that were in place prior to the significant policy changes that took place in 2013. Two sub-options were prepared by staff that both resulted in no modelled economic loss for recreational fisheries, and for commercial fisheries when Select Area production enhancements are fully realized (2024). The fishery management policies for sport/commercial allocations, allowable commercial fishing gear in the mainstem Columbia River by season, and other fishery management measures for this option are as follows:

- Spring Chinook Seasons: 75%/25% (sub-option 1) or 80%/20% (sub-option 2) sharing of allowable non-Treaty Upriver Run ESA impacts; the sport fishery is to be constrained by the pre-run size update buffer mechanism, but not the commercial fishery; sub-option 2 allows for commercial fishing in SAFE areas only, while sub-option 1 allows for post-update tangle net fishing in mainstem areas if not all commercial impacts are expected to be used in SAFE fishing areas. Sub-option 1 does not move any unused recreational impacts to the commercial fishery.
- Summer Chinook Seasons: 80%/5% (sub-option 1) or 80%/20% (sub-option 2) sharing of the harvestable surplus determined in the same manner as Option 1 above; allowable commercial gear is non-gillnet selective alternative gear for sub-option 1, with gillnet gear added in sub-option 2; the remaining 15% commercial harvest in sub-option 1 is allocated to additional spawning escapement if not utilized.
- Sockeye Seasons: No policy position was specified for Option 3.
- Fall Chinook Seasons: $\leq 65\%$ / $\geq 35\%$ sharing of allowable LRH ESA impacts and allowable non-Treaty Snake River ESA impacts (whichever is most constraining in a given year); allowable commercial fishing gear in the mainstem Columbia River includes gillnet, limited to Zones 4 and 5 only, with alternative gear used under sub-option 2 but not sub-option 1.
- Coho Seasons: While there is no explicit numerical sharing of Lower Columbia River Natural ESA impacts, the allocation was prioritized as follows: commercial fisheries are to be assigned sufficient impacts to implement SAFE coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem hatchery coho fisheries (Oregon rule); and the balance to in-river mainstem recreational fisheries. If these fisheries are

expected to be unable to use all of the impacts, the remainder will be assigned to mainstem commercial coho fisheries. Allowable commercial fishing gear includes 6" gillnet and tangle net gear in Option 3.

This option also calls for specific hatchery releases in SAFE areas as follows, which represent a net increase from the 2016 actual program, to the level specified in current Oregon policy.

Spring Chinook: 3.7 M smolts (1.5 M greater than the 2018 actual release; increased to enhance commercial economics and offset Mitchell Act-related coho reductions since 2016).

Fall Chinook: 1.0 M smolts (decreased from 2.2 M smolts due to Mitchell Act related reductions and brood limitations).

Coho: 5.255 M smolts (somewhat reduced due to Mitchell Act related reductions).

ⁱ Policy provisions in Oregon (allowing gillnets) and Washington (adaptive management) allowed for the gillnet fishery in 2016 that occurred after the run update.

ⁱⁱ This described sharing of the allocation to sport fisheries above Bonneville Dam was not itemized as policy in the Washington Policy Document C-3620.

ⁱⁱⁱ See page 7 in the Washington Policy Document C-3620 *Columbia River Basin Salmon Management*.