

# Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

February 6, 2019

9am to 5pm

Location: WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield WA

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

## ATTENDANCE:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner

Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner

Bob Webber – ODFW Commissioner

Curt Melcher – ODFW Director

Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff

Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff

Chris Kern – ODFW Staff

April Mack – ODFW Staff

John North – ODFW Staff

Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff

Anika Marriot – OR AG office

David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner

Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner

Don McIsaac – WDFW Commissioner

Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff

Cindy Lefleur – WDFW Staff

Tami Lininger – WDFW Staff

Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff

Ron Warren – WDFW Staff

## Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

The over-arching goal of the PRC as shown in the meeting summary notes of the January 17 meeting, was reiterated:

- The overarching goal is to achieve concurrent policies and regulations for 2019 and beyond:
  - First step: Focus on the 2019 season, to have concurrency prior to the start of the North of Falcon process in mid-March
  - Secondary priority: continue the dialogue on the long term beyond 2019 and make this the primary focus after mid-March

The draft agenda was adopted as the working agenda of the meeting without change (attached).

## 2019 Policies and Regulations

### Analysis of Options

Analysis of three new policy options were to be discussed in terms of the evaluation criteria agreed to at the January 17, 2019 PRC meeting in Salem, in comparison to the base period of 2010-2012 prior to the major change in policy approach that occurred in 2013 (the “pre-policy” base period). The evaluation criteria for the Policy Review Committee were the purpose/goals stated in the Washington policy document: 1) the ability to meet or advance conservation goals; 2) the ability to conduct orderly fisheries; and 3) the ability to advance the economic well-being of both the sport and commercial fishing industries.

Additionally, Oregon has a statutory requirement to optimize fishery benefits for the State of Oregon. The fishery metrics within the economic criteria for sport fisheries was angler trips and for commercial fisheries was ex-vessel value. The model outputs also show Local Personal

Income Impact, a metric that describes the broader economic impact of the fisheries to the region.

#### Option 1: Transition Period Policies

- In a discussion of refining the written description of this option, it was determined that the intent of this option is to freeze the policies in place during transition year of 2016, together with the suite of enhanced Oregon SAFE area hatchery production releases that were added to the March 2017 rules adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- Initial modeling results of the sport and commercial fishery metrics of Option 1 were reviewed for 2019, as well as out years to 2024, and adjusted during the course of the meeting. Modeling results will be reviewed and verified for presentation at the next meeting.

Evaluation of Option 1 under the three criteria showed the following:

- Conservation
  - The ability to achieve conservation goals under Option 1 would be essentially the same as without changes brought forth by the new policy approach in 2013, and the same as Option 2 and Option 3.
- Orderly Fisheries
  - Staff indicated that evaluation of a particular policy approach in terms of the ability to conduct orderly fisheries was dependent upon the concurrency of the policies in the two states, not the details of individual model runs or policy options. Thus, in a manner similar to the conservation criteria, there would be no difference between Options 1 and the pre-policy base period, or Options 2 and 3 with regard to the ability to conduct orderly fisheries—so long as there is concurrency in policy between the States.
- Economics
  - As modelled for the meeting sport fishery angler trips under Option 1 for 2019-2024 would be collectively slightly better ~3% in comparison to the pre-policy base period, with slight increases for spring chinook and fall chinook seasons, and no change for summer chinook seasons.
  - Commercial fishery ex-vessel values would be ~15% worse in 2019 than the pre-policy base period allocations; modeling detail showed substantially reduced values in mainstem areas (~67% of base), but improved values in SAFE areas. However, with increased releases in SAFE areas, total commercial fishery economic benefits could show a slight increase of ~2% by 2024.

#### Option 2: 2018 Status Quo

- In a discussion of refining the written description of this option, it was determined that the intent of this option is to replicate the 2018 Washington policy, not the concurrent actual regulations negotiated to be in effect in 2018. The key difference is the sharing of

the most limiting fall chinook impacts (a commercial allocation of  $\geq 25\%$  is the 2018 Washington policy;  $\geq 30\%$  is how fisheries were managed in 2018). This option should be retitled “2018 Washington Policies” for future analytical work, to reduce any confusion with actual 2018 status quo seasons.

- Impromptu modeling of this clarified option was done during the meeting and will need to be confirmed for review at the next meeting.

Evaluation of Option 2 in comparison to the 2010-2012 base period under the three criteria showed the following:

- Policy performance under the conservation and orderly fisheries criteria showed no difference with the base period or Options 1 and 3, as noted above.
- Economics
  - As modelled for the meeting, sport fishery angler trips under Option 2 for 2019-2024 would be collectively slightly better (~4%) in comparison to the base period allocations and production, with most of the difference with Option 1 due to increased angler trips in the summer chinook season.
  - Commercial fishery ex-vessel values would be more than 30% less in 2019 than base period policies; modeling detail showed substantially worse values in mainstem areas (~-40% of base), but 15% better values in SAFE areas. Modeling of out years to 2024 still showed negative comparative ex-vessel values in excess of ~20%, even with increased releases in SAFE areas.

Option 3: No Loss of Economic Benefit Potential

- The January 17 PRC meeting notes describe this option as “...allocations and gear types that provide for no economic loss to the commercial fishery across a full season...” (compared to base period policy allocations and SAFE production). Noting there could be many ways to refine a written description of this option, the PRC had asked the staff to attempt a description.
- Staff modeled two sub-options for review to illustrate that different approaches could be taken to achieve this outcome. Modeling assumptions for commercial fisheries ranged from 20%-25% for spring chinook, 0%-20% for summer chinook,  $\geq 35\%$  for the most limiting fall chinook stock, and various other gear and area restriction assumptions.

Evaluation of Option 3 in comparison to the 2010-2012 base period under the three criteria showed the following:

- Policy performance under the conservation and orderly fisheries criteria showed no difference with the base period or Options 1 and 2, as noted above.

- Economics
  - As currently modelled, sport fishery angler trips under both Option 3 sub-options would be collectively slightly better (~3%) in comparison to base period policy allocations from 2019-2024.
  - Commercial fishery ex-vessel values under both Option 3 sub-options would be collectively less in 2019 than they would be without the 2013 harvest reform policy (~16%); modeling detail showed significant negative impacts in mainstem areas(~65% of base), but 15% better in SAFE areas for 2019. Modeling of out years to 2024 could achieve economic parity with pre-policy allocations and SAFE production with increased releases in SAFE areas.

#### Voluntary Barbless Hooks and the Youngs Bay Sanctuary

There was no discussion of proposals for these two topics, but rather assignments to staff for information to be discussed at the next PRC meeting (see conclusion, below).

#### Developing a Consolidated Recommendation

No proposals for a consolidated recommendation for 2019 policies and regulations were discussed, pending the confirmation of modeling results and additional comparative analysis to be shown at the February 26 PRC meeting.

#### **Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

Committee members reiterated a strong interest to not neglect the need for a comprehensive policy approach for the long term, while still focusing on 2019. The committee did not modify the List of Ideas Matrix, but prioritized several items:

- Low Priorities: a search for new WA SAFE areas; Joint State commercial license buyback program
- High Priorities: all of the items on pages 1 and 2 of the matrix; the inclusion of a section on hatchery production goals with special attention to mitigation hatchery programs, and including SAFE target production goals
- Medium Priorities: all remaining items in the matrix.

#### **Future Process and Schedule Document**

The draft process and schedule document was reviewed, with most of the discussion about the timing needed for each full Commission to decide on a single set of policies for 2019 in time for the onset of the North of Falcon process in mid-March. There was agreement to strive for a recommendation from the PRC at its next meeting on February 26 in Salem, Oregon and to organize staff assignments with that priority in mind. Another review of the Future Process and Schedule document will occur at that meeting with any adjustments as necessary to achieve the primary (2019) and secondary (2020 and beyond) goals of the Committee.

## Conclusion

The Committee asked the Chair to work with the staff to prioritize the listing of assignments below so as to optimize the chances of reaching a recommendation for policies in 2019 at the next PRC meeting.

- Develop stand-alone narrative descriptions of each Option, as opposed to the model run assumptions, scalars, coefficients, etc.
- Review, confirm, and validate model output results.
- Review models to verify the difference in angler trips when allocation changes.
- Show economic returns for high and low run sizes within the 2013-2018 grouping, for display with the average results.
- Prepare easily viewed comparison of option results for 2019.
- Provide detail on Select Area assumptions (OR and WA)
  - Pre-policy level of releases, and releases for returns in 2019
  - Where the funding comes from
  - Where the broodstock comes from
  - Risk of not meeting broodstock/egg goals
- Where does the Columbia River endorsement money go (OR and WA)? What programs are supported by the endorsement funds?
- Identify which fisheries (commercial/sport/species) have unused allocation but were provided the opportunity to use their share
- Look at angler trips relative to different allocation levels
  - If it does not negatively affect sport and improves commercial that might show areas where we might want to make changes.
    - Keep the sport fishery in the positive with regards to angler trips (economically enhanced)
    - Need to truth economic response model with 2019 pre-season fisheries model.
- What is the marked/unmarked ratio in Spring/Summer/Fall MSF fishery and/or what are the mark rates?
  - Specifically, how many fish are caught and how many fish are released in each fishery
- Youngs Bay Control Zone - does the sanctuary increase the number of fish caught in the Youngs Bay commercial fishery?
- Obtain information of barbed hooks vs. barbless hook perspective within sport sector fishery participants, if available.
- Provide a Pound Net update to the group

- Develop an initial straw range of options for upriver/downriver sharing of spring Chinook (WA commissioner subgroup assignment- 2020 and beyond), for analysis for the 2020 and beyond period
- Briefing from OR and WA on hatchery productions goals (SAFE areas?)
  - Where is production occurring?
  - What species are being produced?
  - How many are produced?
  - What is the funding source?
  - How secure is the funding?
- Look at specific areas or runs that could benefit from additional sport or commercial fisheries to remove hatchery fish and improve PHOS
- Share the NOAA 5-year status review and Columbia River Partnership Taskforce goals with group
- Share WA white paper on Orcas (Chair McIsaac to provide)