Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee  
March 14, 2019  
10am to 4pm  
Location: WDFW Region 5 Office, Ridgefield WA  
Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions  
Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions  

Attendance:  
Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner  
Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner  
Bob Webber – ODFW Commissioner  
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director  
Anika Marriot – OR AG Office  
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff  
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff  
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff  
April Mack – ODFW Staff  
John North – ODFW Staff  
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff  
David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner  
Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner  
Don McIsaac – WDFW Commissioner  
Kessina Lee – WDFW Staff  
Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff  
Cindy LeFleur – WDFW Staff  
Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff  
Ron Warren – WDFW Staff  
Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff  
Dan Rawding – WDFW Staff  
Tami Lininger – WDFW Staff  

Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda  
Kessina Lee, WDFW Region 5 Director, and Oregon Director Curt Melcher provided opening remarks.  

There was a proposal to adjust times to come to conclusion at 3pm, it was agreed to set that as the new goal.  

There was a proposal to discuss allowing public testimony at future meetings under the Future Process and Schedule portion of the meeting. While time did not allow for discussion under the agenda item, there was discussion when the topic was proposed. PRC members did not object to this idea, and were in favor of allowing public testimony at the onset of the next meeting, so long as public input doesn’t impair the ability of the PRC to complete scheduled work in a reasonable time frame. Written public input between meetings will also be allowed.  

2019 Policies and Regulations  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting March 2, 2019 Report of WA Commissioners and Commissioner Discussion  
The Committee expressed their thanks to staff for their work in developing and relaying the February 26 PRC recommendation to the Commissions.  

The Washington Commission accepted the recommendation. Five Washington Commissioners voted to approve the recommendation: Commissioners Kim Thorburn, Barbara Baker, Robert Kehoe, Donald McIsaac and Jay Holzmiller voted yes. Commissioner David Graybill voted no, and Commissioners Bradley Smith and Larry Carpenter abstained. Abstentions were based on concern for lack of public testimony opportunity on the west side of the State.
Washington Commissioners relayed some of the comments provided from the March 1-2 Commission meeting. The materials and audio from the Washington Commission meeting are available online (https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings/2019)

**OFWC Meeting March 15**

Director Melcher provided a review of the Oregon process. While the Oregon Commission is to receive an update on the PRC progress and the Washington Commission vote at their meeting on March 15, the earliest they could vote on permanent rules is May 17th.

*Post Meeting Note:*

At their March 15 meeting, the OFWC decided to consider permanent rules at the June 7 meeting. However, the OFWC tasked Director Melcher with adopting a temporary rule to make barbless hooks voluntary if necessary to achieve concurrency with any rules adopted by Washington prior to June 7.

**Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond**

*Prioritizing and Developing a Range of Alternatives for Analysis*

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the development of a range of alternatives for staff analysis on policy issues put forward at the first two PRC meetings (see Attachment 1). While 15 policy issues were discussed, the majority of the time was spent on the range of alternatives for changes in the sharing between geographic sections of the spring Chinook sport fishery, including 10 policy “sub-options” that were received in public testimony from east-side interests during the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policy review process.

In the discussion of refining, eliminating, adding, and prioritizing the various policy issue possibilities the PRC provided the following guidance:

- Spring Chinook sport fishery allocation sub-option items 1 (allocation based on license information), 2 (allocation based on stock of origin), and 5 (eliminate upriver catch balancing) were placed in a category of likely to be removed from the list.

- A new spring Chinook sport allocation alternative was added, consisting of status quo 75%/25% sharing but with an add-on to the 25% upriver share of 500 ESA-listed fish impacts.

- The option of 65%/35% was added to the fall Chinook sport/commercial allocation alternatives.

- An alternative of an abundance-based approach to the summer Chinook sport/commercial allocation for areas downstream of Priest Rapids Dam was added.

- The alternative for an abundance-based allocation matrix for sport/commercial sharing of coho was tentatively removed from the range of alternatives.

- The policy alternative of a limitation on sport fishing guide licenses or effort was de-prioritized, pending public input including with the guide community, and further discussion about the license authority recommendation pathways and other legal review issues.
• There was no committee support to include the topic of a commercial license buy-back program in the range of alternatives for analysis as a policy measure for 2020 and beyond, for several reasons, and thus this alternative is to be de-prioritized from further consideration at this time.

Discussion of issues, next steps and staff analysis tasking
The PRC tasked the staff with providing a detailed description of each topic, a range of policy alternatives, options and sub-options, for ease in moving the issue forward. For items removed or de-prioritized by the PRC, staff will prepare summary information describing the discussion and reasoning by PRC. The staff was also tasked with providing a draft rationale narrative of why a policy element was either eliminated or de-prioritized, something that will be useful for discussions with the public as well as a matter of record and reference for PRC purposes.

Future Process and Schedule
The PRC decided to cancel the webinar meeting that was on the schedule for March 27 and plan the next meeting to be in person. The final recommendation was to reconvene May 20th.

Post Meeting Note:
After the meeting concluded the PRC agreed that the next meeting would be June 5 in Salem and not May 20.

Conclusionary Matters
Staff Assignments
• Provide short narrative descriptions of each policy issue alternative, option or sub-option in Attachment 1.
• Provide short narrative description of the rationale for policy items designated by the PRC for elimination or de-prioritization from active analysis at this time.
• Utilize existing allocation modeling to examine initial comparisons of alternatives to status quo.
• Prepare ‘scorecard’ or other method to summarize spring Chinook sport fisheries, allocations, impact usage, etc. to inform PRC discussion.
• Assess with a qualitative discussion when there are difficulties with a quantitative analysis.
• Prepare a draft summer Chinook abundance-based allocation matrix for below Bonneville sport/commercial catch sharing.
• Distribute meeting materials approximately a week in advance of the next meeting.
## Possible Policy Changes for 2020 and Beyond: Range of Alternatives for Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Issue or sub-option</th>
<th>Status Quo</th>
<th>Alternative 1</th>
<th>Alternative 2</th>
<th>Alternative 3</th>
<th>Alternative 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Chinook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within-sport sharing between lower river and upriver fisheries (and Bonville - St. Line/above St. Line)</td>
<td>75%/25% (10%/15%)</td>
<td>65%/35% (15%/20%)</td>
<td>85%/15% (5%/10%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide greater security for upriver fishing seasons</td>
<td>Allocate by area of license purchase</td>
<td>Allocate by area of license residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1: License alloc basis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Alloc by stock origin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: LR only buffer</td>
<td>LR only buffer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: UR set season</td>
<td>UR set season</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: No UR catch bal</td>
<td>No UR catch bal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6: LR @ 5 days/wk</td>
<td>LR @ 5 days/wk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7: Diff benefit msrmt</td>
<td>Diff benefit msrmt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8: No LR extensions</td>
<td>No LR extensions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9: UR payback</td>
<td>UR payback</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10: LR payback</td>
<td>LR payback</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring Chinook sub-options

1. Allocate on the basis of license sale location or point of origin
2. Allocate on the basis of origin of stocks caught
3. Apply buffer only to fisheries below Bonneville
4. Establish a set season above Bonneville
5. Remove the catch balance requirement for fisheries above Bonneville
6. Limit LR seasons to 5 days per week
7. Measure benefit based on harvest instead of economic value
8. No LR extension beyond pre-season plan
9. Annual payback to UR fisheries for LR fishery overages the year before
10. Annual payback to LR fisheries for foregone opportunity to safeguard UR fisheries

### Sport/Commercial Allocation of Allowable Harvest below PR Dam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear</th>
<th>?</th>
<th>Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear</th>
<th>Tangle Nets Only</th>
<th>Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of Unused Impacts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundance Based Matrix</td>
<td>70/30</td>
<td>80/20</td>
<td>50/50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summer Chinook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear</th>
<th>?</th>
<th>Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear</th>
<th>Tangle Nets Only</th>
<th>Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of Unused Impacts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundance Based Matrix</td>
<td>70/30</td>
<td>80/20</td>
<td>50/50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definition of Harvestable Surplus below PR Dam

| Only if forecast > 50 K over PR Dam | Any? | Abundance Based Matrix | 70/30 | 80/20 | 50/50 |

### Possible Policy Changes for 2020 and Beyond: Range of Alternatives for Analysis

- **Summer Chinook**
  - Sport/Commercial Allocation of Allowable Harvest below PR Dam
  - Allocation of Unused Impacts
  - Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear
  - Definition of Harvestable Surplus below PR Dam

- **Spring Chinook**
  - Within-sport sharing between lower river and upriver fisheries (and Bonville - St. Line/above St. Line)
  - Spring Chinook sub-options
    - Allocate on the basis of license sale location or point of origin
    - Allocate on the basis of origin of stocks caught
    - Apply buffer only to fisheries below Bonneville
    - Establish a set season above Bonneville
    - Remove the catch balance requirement for fisheries above Bonneville
    - Limit LR seasons to 5 days per week
    - Measure benefit based on harvest instead of economic value
    - No LR extension beyond pre-season plan
    - Annual payback to UR fisheries for LR fishery overages the year before
    - Annual payback to LR fisheries for foregone opportunity to safeguard UR fisheries

### Columbia River Policy Review

- **Attachment 1**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Issue or sub-option</th>
<th>Status Quo</th>
<th>Alternative 1</th>
<th>Alternative 2</th>
<th>Alternative 3</th>
<th>Alternative 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Chinook</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport/Commercial Allocation of Most Contraining Fall Chinook Impacts</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>70/30</td>
<td>80/20</td>
<td>Other?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Gill Nets; Alternative Gear</td>
<td>Alternative Gear Only</td>
<td>Other?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cohio</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport/Commercial Allocation</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Abundance Based Matrix</td>
<td>70/30</td>
<td>80/20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowable Mainstem Commercial Gear</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Tangle Nets, Gill Nets, Alternative Gear</td>
<td>Tangle Nets Only</td>
<td>Non-Tangle Net Alternative Gear Only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Measures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitation on Sport Fishing Guide/Charter Licenses</td>
<td>No Limitations</td>
<td>Capped at 2019 Level, in both States</td>
<td>Capped at 125% of 2019 level, in both States</td>
<td>Capped at 2016 level, in both States</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial License Buyback Program</td>
<td>Pursued in WA only</td>
<td>B-State Pursuit with Goal of Reducing Licenses by 25%</td>
<td>B-State Pursuit with Goal of Reducing Licenses by 50%</td>
<td>B-State Pursuit with Goal of Eliminating Licenses Latent in 2010-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>