

**May 27, 2020 Columbia River Fishery Policy Workgroup Meeting**  
*Meeting Summary*

The Columbia River Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW) met May 27, 2020 by webinar. Workgroup Members McIsaac, Kehoe and Graybill were in attendance, along with Commissioner Anderson, legal counsel Joe Panesko, and staff members Ron Warren, Ryan Lothrop and Nikki Kloepfer. Approximately 45 members of the public also attended.

**Administrative Matters**

The agenda that had been noticed and posted on the Department website May 19 was adopted unchanged. Public testimony was urged to occur consistent with the news release sent May 15, and based on the number of attendees at the onset of the meeting, the Chair announced a 5-minute testimony period.

**Review of Remaining Analyses, Draft Policy Language, and Other Considerations**

The seven technical analyses assigned at the March 11, 2020 CRW meeting were discussed in accordance with the agenda. The economic modeling provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, originally scheduled for discussion at the November 18, 2019 Joint State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee meeting, was also reviewed and discussed. The draft policy language document reflecting the March 11, 2020 CRW decisions and additional edits was also reviewed. Regarding the agenda item calling for discussion of other policy considerations, Commissioner Graybill brought forward the topic of the National Marine Fisheries statement of the status of upper Columbia River summer steelhead and spring chinook.

**Public Testimony**

Testimony was received from organizations and individuals representing east-side and west-side and upriver and lower river interests, speaking to recreational and commercial fishery and conservation group perspectives. Testimony included representatives of two Salmon Recovery Boards, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and the Lower Columbia River Recovery Board. Several individuals indicated they would supplement their verbal testimony with written submissions. The Chair encouraged additional testimony from those not testifying verbally be submitted in writing.

**Recommendations**

The CRW engaged in a discussion of CRW recommendations to the full Commission for a public review draft of a revised Policy C-3620 at the upcoming June Commission meeting. The CRW agreed on the following for incorporation into a draft for further review at their June 10, 2020 meeting.

Fishery Specific Alternatives

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The following decisions were made within the remaining range of alternatives for allocations, allowable commercial fishing gear or other management measures, so as to establish a single alternative for each fishery specific issue for inclusion in the next version of a revised Policy C-3620 document. Each decision was made via motion and included a discussion of the issue and a rationale for the successful motion.

Spring Chinook

1. Issue 1: sport and commercial allocation.

- Alternative Description: An abundance-based approach as described in staff assignment #2 below, with the proviso that this alternative specifically be considered for refinement at the June 10 CRW meeting; the 500 fish transfer alternative moved to inactive status at the August 29, 2019 PRC meeting is to be part of that discussion. This effectively moved alternatives 1 (60/40 sharing) and 3 (65/35 sharing), and issue 3 alternatives 4a and 4b (changes to the within-sport fishery share) to the inactive category.
- Rationale Summary: Providing a higher allocation to the recreational fishery at lower abundances and a higher allocation to the commercial fishery at high abundance optimizes social and economic considerations within an overall sharing of approximately 70/30 in favor of the recreational fishery.
- CRW vote: unanimous in favor.

2. Issue 2: Allowable mainstem commercial fishing gear.

- Alternative Description: Gill net and alternative commercial gear including tangle nets are allowable fishing gear prior to and after the run-size update.
- Rationale Summary: The Columbia River Compact has shown a history of successful use of gill net and tangle net commercial fishing gear prior to run-size updates and there is not a sufficient reason not to allow such flexibility for a fishery management decision.
- CRW vote: Kehoe and McIsaac in favor; Graybill opposed.

3. Issue 5: Use of unused commercial fishery impacts

- Alternative Description: Unused commercial fishery impact allocation may be applied to additional spawning escapement or upriver or lower river recreational fisheries, with upriver fisheries having the highest priority if all other considerations are equal.
- Rationale Summary: Fishery impacts on ESA listed stocks allowed subsequent to a 'No Jeopardy' Biological Opinion are of great value in prosecuting fisheries targeting healthy stocks and unused impacts should be used across recreational and commercial sectors; however, there may be situations where target stocks

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are not in harvestable quantities and the allowable impacts should be passed to spawning areas.

- CRW vote: Kehoe and Mclsaac in favor; Graybill opposed.

4. Issue 6: Use of unused recreational fishery impacts

- Alternative Description: The recreational allocation, including areas upstream of Bonneville Dam and in the Snake River, is unlikely to be fully used, the unused portion of that allocation may be transferred to the commercial fishery or applied to additional spawning escapement.
- Rationale Summary: Fishery impacts on ESA listed stocks allowed subsequent to a No Jeopardy Biological Opinion are of great value in prosecuting fisheries targeting healthy stocks and unused impacts should be used across recreational and commercial sectors; however, there may be situations where target stocks are not in harvestable quantities and the allowable impacts should be passed to spawning areas.
- CRW vote: Kehoe and Mclsaac in favor; Graybill opposed.

Summer Chinook

1. Issue 1: sport and commercial allocation.

- Alternative Description: The amount of the non-Treaty harvestable surplus under the US v Oregon Management Agreement shall be allocated between fisheries above and below Priest Rapids Dam based on a sliding scale<sup>1</sup>. The harvestable amount for the areas below Priest Rapids Dam is to be shared 70% /30% between recreational and commercial fisheries, with 5% of the commercial share (1.5% of the total allocation below Priest Rapids Dam) allocated for incidental take in Select Area fisheries.

<sup>1</sup> See the allocations in the current Washington Policy Document C-3620 "Columbia River Basin Salmon Management": <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-03/c3620.pdf>

- Rationale Summary: This is the status quo adopted by the Commission in 2019, and that rationale applies. However, this alternative is to be reconsidered in comparison to the abundance-based matrix approach at the June 10 CRW meeting subsequent to staff assignment #5 below.
- CRW vote: unanimous in favor.

2. Issue 2: Use of unused commercial fishery impacts

- Alternative Description: Unused impacts allocated to the commercial fishery are to be applied to recreational fisheries downstream or upstream of Bonneville Dam if they can be used, or to aid in additional spawning escapement.
- Rationale Summary: Fishery impacts on ESA listed stocks allowed subsequent to a No Jeopardy Biological Opinion are of great value in prosecuting fisheries targeting healthy stocks and unused impacts should be used across recreational and commercial sectors; however, there may be situations where target stocks

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are not in harvestable quantities and the allowable impacts should be passed to spawning areas.

- CRW vote: unanimous in favor.

3. Issue 3: Allowable mainstem commercial fishing gear.

- (Process Note: A motion was made by Commissioner Graybill under this section of the recommendations for no mainstem gill net fishery and an 80/20 allocation. The motion failed for lack of a second.)
- Alternative Description: Allowable commercial gear includes gill net and any alternative commercial gear.
- Rationale Summary: This is the status quo adopted by the Commission in 2019, and that rationale applies.
- CRW vote: Mclsaac and Kehoe in favor; Graybill opposed.

Fall Chinook

1. Issue 1: sport and commercial allocation.

- Alternative Description: The annual recreational and commercial allocation is  $\leq 70\%$ / $\geq 30\%$  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 Select Area fisheries.
- Rationale Summary: This is the status quo adopted by the Commission in 2019, and that rationale applies.
- CRW vote: unanimous in favor.

2. Issue 2: Allowable mainstem commercial fishing gear.

- Alternative Description: Allowable commercial gear includes gill net and any alternative commercial gear (any zone).
- Rationale Summary: This is the status quo adopted by the Commission in 2019, and that rationale applies.
- CRW vote: unanimous in favor.

Coho

1. Issue 1: Allowable mainstem commercial fishing gear.

- Alternative Description: Allowable commercial gear includes gill net and any alternative commercial gear.
- Rationale Summary: This is the status quo adopted by the Commission in 2019, and that rationale applies.
- CRW vote: unanimous in favor.

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Policy Language other than Fishery Specific Provisions

The CRW acted on the items in the working draft document identified by highlighting or font color; decided to specifically consider adding phrasing relative to salmon population recovery where such wording is helpful to clarify the intent to support recovery of depressed abundance to higher levels; and decided to consider the specific written and verbal public comments about policy language changes; in the production of a revised draft for consideration at the June 10 CRW meeting.

**Future Process and Schedule**

The CRW will meeting via webinar on June 10, 2020 with the primary purpose of striving to reach a recommendation on a public review draft of a revised Policy C-3620 for consideration by the full Commission on June 12, 2020.

**Staff Assignments**

1. Update the Range of Alternatives document.
2. Evaluate the spring chinook abundance-based allocation according to the following specifics:
  - Allocation. The annual pre-season allocation to recreational and commercial fisheries is in accordance with the abundance-based provisions in the table below, with both fisheries constrained by the pre-run size update buffer requirement that is described in the current US v Oregon Management Agreement. Within the proportion of Upriver Run ESA impacts allocated pre-season to the recreational fishery, 75% are allocated to lower river recreational fisheries and 25% are allocated to recreational fisheries above Bonneville Dam. Within the 25% upriver pre-season allocation, 10% points are allocated to OR/WA fisheries from Bonneville Dam up to the state line and 15% points are allocated to the WA fishery in the Snake River and Upper Columbia River areas. After the run size has been updated with actual Bonneville Dam counts, any projected unused Upriver Run ESA impacts in maybe be transferred to other fisheries or remain uncaught. After a run-size has been verified to be in the highest tier of abundance, an additional 2.5% points are allocated to Snake River recreational fisheries beyond the normal pre-season allocation, as shown in the table below.

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Upriver Spring Chinook Adult Run	Allocation of Allowable Upriver Run ESA Impacts	
	Recreational Fisheries	Commercial Fisheries
< 82,000	80%	20%
82,001 – 217,000	70%	30%
> 217,000	65%	32.5%
	2.5% allocation to Snake River recreational fisheries after run size update verifies highest tier of abundance	

3. Provide the August 29, 2019 analysis of the “500 Fish Transfer” alternative for consideration at the June 10 CRW meeting and be prepared to have a discussion of this alternative in comparison to the above abundance-based approach.
4. Provide answers to the following questions regarding the economic modeling results reviewed at the May 27 CRW meeting.
  - Have there been any significant changes in the model assumptions or estimation protocols since or in comparisons to the modeling used for the Joint State Columbia River Fishery Policy Committee deliberations in the first half of 2019?
  - Are there any other interpretative or clarification considerations that staff feels should be brought forward to the CRW at the next meeting?
5. Be prepared to discuss how in-season management might proceed under the summer chinook abundance-based matrix approach.
6. Work with the Chair and CRW Members to provide a draft of revised policy language for Policy C-3620 that incorporates the decisions made at the May 27 CRW meeting.
7. Provide a short written document describing the connection between the adaptive management provisions of the 2013 Policy C-3620 document and the consideration of corrective provisions for the commercial fishery. (Commissioner Kehoe task.)
8. Distribute written public comments to CRW Members by June 1.
9. Post materials for the June 10 CRW meeting in advance of the webinar date.