



## ***Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW)***

### **Public Comments received from Legislative Parties**

This is a compilation of comments received at through our online public comment portal after the Joint-State PRC was put on hold.

**From:** [Commission \(DFW\)](#)  
**To:** [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#); [Barbara Baker](#); [Bob Kehoe](#); [Brad Smith](#); [Dave Graybill](#); [Donald McIsaac](#); [Anderson, James R \(DFW\)](#); [Larry Carpenter](#); [McBride, Tom A \(DFW\)](#); [Linville, Molly F \(DFW\)](#); [Thorburn, Kim M \(DFW\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Columbia River Policy  
**Date:** Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:33:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [Columbia River Policy.pdf](#)

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**From:** Steelquist, Peter <Peter.Steelquist@leg.wa.gov> **On Behalf Of** Van De Wege, Sen. Kevin  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:27 AM  
**To:** Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>; Susewind, Kelly (DFW) <Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov>  
**Cc:** McBride, Tom A (DFW) <Tom.McBride@dfw.wa.gov>; Keiser, Karen <karen.keiser@leg.wa.gov>; Stanford, Derek <Derek.stanford@leg.wa.gov>; Cleveland, Annette <annette.cleveland@leg.wa.gov>; Wilson, Claire <claire.wilson@leg.wa.gov>; Salomon, Jesse <Jesse.salomon@leg.wa.gov>; Pedersen, Jamie <jamie.pedersen@leg.wa.gov>; Robinson, June <june.robinson@leg.wa.gov>; Liias, Marko <marko.liias@leg.wa.gov>; Braun, John <john.braun@leg.wa.gov>; Becker, Randi <randi.becker@leg.wa.gov>; King, Curtis <curtis.king@leg.wa.gov>; O'Ban, Steve <steve.oban@leg.wa.gov>; Rivers, Ann <Ann.Rivers@leg.wa.gov>; Wilson, Lynda <lynda.wilson@leg.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Columbia River Policy

Director Susewind and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please see the attached bipartisan letter regarding Columbia River Fishing Policy.

Sincerely,

Kevin Van De Wege  
State Senator 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
[Kevin.Vandewege@Leg.Wa.Gov](mailto:Kevin.Vandewege@Leg.Wa.Gov)  
212 John A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Office: 360 786 7646



Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

## Washington State Senate

Phone: (360) 786-7550  
FAX: (360) 786-1999

Larry Carpenter, Chairman  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501

Kelly Susewind, Director  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

RE: Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620)

Chairman Carpenter and Director Susewind:

We have serious concerns with proposed changes to the Commission's Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620) that would undo efforts to enhance the conservation and selectivity of Columbia River salmon fisheries under the Oregon-Washington Columbia River reforms. The Commission's recent actions to undermine the bi-state reforms by returning non-tribal gillnets to the mainstem lower Columbia River have been immensely unpopular with our constituents and comes as several salmon and steelhead populations are in steep decline. The actions have also cost the Department critical support from recreational anglers – a stakeholder group that is key to the long-term financial solvency of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Columbia River basin fisheries require careful, proactive management with 13 species of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) along with federal requirements dictating the harvest or removal of excess hatchery fish as a condition of continued hatchery operations. These challenges have driven the transition to fishing methods more capable of selectively harvesting hatchery-reared salmon while also providing increased escapement of ESA-listed and weak wild stocks. By design, gillnets are ill-suited for meeting these challenges in the mainstem lower Columbia River's mixed-stock fisheries where wild and ESA-listed salmon and steelhead are intermingled with fin-clipped hatchery-reared salmon.

The Oregon-Washington reforms were designed with this in mind and to resolve decades of conflict and controversy by shifting gillnets out of the mainstem, increasing gillnet harvests in off-channel fishing areas through enhanced hatchery production, and prioritizing mark-selective fishing methods in the mainstem – including recreational fisheries across the Columbia River basin. The plan represents a durable solution that maintains a commercial fishery, focuses on the recovery needs of wild and ESA-listed salmon and steelhead, and provides more predictability

and certainty for recreational fisheries across the Columbia River basin – an important objective given the need for selective fisheries and WDFW’s reliance on license fees to help relieve budget shortfalls . While the fundamental components of the reforms remain sound, WDFW has not implemented key aspects of the reforms, including pursuing a gillnet license buyback and correcting agency errors toward implementing alternative, selective commercial fishing gears.

Instead of committing to addressing these failures, the draft policy being considered by the Commission abandons the reforms and opens the door to year-round gillnetting in the mainstem Columbia River. The draft policy is also inconsistent with the legal requirements in place in the State of Oregon, setting the stage for a possible break in concurrent management for the first time since the Columbia River Compact was adopted in 1915.

There are few Northwest fisheries issues more controversial with the public than the use of non-tribal gillnets in the lower Columbia River. The controversial actions taken by the Commission last year resulted in the loss of the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement, which provided WDFW much needed revenue for the management of Columbia River fisheries. The controversy has also been one of the primary reasons that agency requested legislation to increase recreational fishing license fees has failed to gain support in recent years. Adopting a policy that formally abandons the bi-state Columbia River reforms will elicit strong opposition to any fee increase legislation, which could have serious implications for WDFW’s 2021-2023 operating budget as the state grapples with reduced revenues due to COVID-19.

We urge you not to abandon the guiding principles of the Oregon-Washington Columbia River fishery reforms. Instead, the Commission should maintain restrictions on mainstem gillnetting and outline a plan that includes clear expectations and benchmarks for the full transition away from gillnets in mainstem fisheries.

Sincerely,



Senator Kevin Van De Wege  
24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Karen Keiser  
33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Senator Derrick Stanford  
1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Senator Annette Cleveland  
49<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Claire Wilson  
30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Jesse Salomon  
32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative district



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## Washington State Senate

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Senator Jamie Pedersen  
43<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

Senator June Robinson  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator John Braunn  
20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Randi Becker  
2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

Senator Curtis King  
14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Steve O'Ban  
28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Ann Rivers  
18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Lynda Wilson  
17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Marko Lias  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District

**From:** [Commission \(DFW\)](#)  
**To:** [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy  
**Date:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:18:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [WDFW letter 8.24.pdf](#)

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**From:** Lininger, Tami L (DFW) <Tami.Lininger@dfw.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:13 AM  
**To:** Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>; Warren, Ron R (DFW) <Ron.Warren@dfw.wa.gov>; Lothrop, Ryan L (DFW) <Ryan.Lothrop@dfw.wa.gov>; Tweit, William M (DFW) <William.Tweit@dfw.wa.gov>; Cunningham, Kelly J (DFW) <Kelly.Cunningham@dfw.wa.gov>  
**Cc:** Davidson, Cathy A (DFW) <Cathy.Davidson@dfw.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy

FYI

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**From:** Apata, Joshua <[Joshua.Apata@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Apata@leg.wa.gov)> **On Behalf Of** Stonier, Rep. Monica Jurado  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:02 AM  
**To:** Susewind, Kelly (DFW) <[Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov)>; Carpenter, Larry M (DFW) <[Larry.Carpenter@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Larry.Carpenter@dfw.wa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hall, Virginia <[Virginia.Hall@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Virginia.Hall@leg.wa.gov)>; Hoff, Larry <[Larry.Hoff@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Larry.Hoff@leg.wa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy

Good morning Chairman Carpenter and Director Susewind,

Please see the attached letter concerning non-tribal gillnets in the Columbia River.

Thank you for your time,

*Monica Jurado Stonier*

State Representative, LD 49

Vancouver, Clark County

House Majority Floor Leader

House Education Committee

House Health Care and Wellness Committee

House Capital Budget Committee

House Rules Committee

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



August 24, 2020

Larry Carpenter, Chairman  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Larry.Carpenter@dfw.wa.gov

Kelly Susewind, Director  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov

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Sincerely,



Monica Jurado Stonier  
State Representative-49<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Andrew Barkis  
State Representative-2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



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State Representative-13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Mary Dye  
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