
Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting

March 7, 2024

2:00p-3:00p

Virtual (Teams meeting)

Prepared by: Columbia River Joint Staff

Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting

2:00p – 3:00p March 7, 2024

Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ground rules○ Introduction○ Agenda review	(5 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• North of Falcon Planning<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Consideration for 2024 Fisheries○ 2023 Fishery Review	(50 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future Meetings<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pacific Fishery Management Council, March 5-11, Fresno, CA○ North of Falcon, March 21, Ridgefield/virtual, 10am○ WA Ocean hearing, March 25, Westport, 7pm○ OR Ocean hearing, March 26, virtual, 7pm○ Pacific Fishery Management Council, April 6-11, Seattle, WA	(5 minutes)

Ground rules

- For virtual meetings
 - *6 to mute/unmute
 - Chat will not be monitored or used except for technical assistance
- Focus on the task at hand – *stick to the agenda*
- One person at a time to speak – *speak your name to be added to the speaking list*
 - Non-advisers will observe meeting and stay on mute – *comments may be permitted at the end of the meeting if time permits*
- Be respectful of others
 - Mute phone or line
 - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations
 - No personal attacks, insults or threats
 - Listen
 - Speak and act professional – *no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity*
 - Allow for a balance of speaking time – *limit length and number of times to speak on each topic*
- Be a conduit – *share information*

Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group (2024–2026)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
Les Clark	Chinook	WA
Jim Coleman	St. Helens	OR
Darren Crookshanks	Longview	WA
Bryce Devine	Longview	WA
Steve Fick	Astoria	OR
Tim Heuker	Cascade Locks	OR
Bill Hunsinger	Astoria	OR
Otis Hunsinger	Astoria	OR
Greg Johnson	Vancouver	WA
Brian Love	Brush Prairie	WA
Kent Martin	Skamokawa	WA
Greg Matthews	Astoria	OR
Aaron Miller	Naselle	WA
Nathan Rogol	Astoria	OR
Robert Sudar	Longview	WA
Derek Wall	Astoria	OR
Jim Wells	Astoria	OR
Ken Wirkkala	Ilwaco	WA

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted

		2023	2023	2024
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total *	198,600	141,179	121,000
	Upper Columbia	41,400	24,917	19,400
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>2,836</i>	<i>2,700</i>
	Snake River Spring/Summer **	85,900	82,433	63,500
	<i>Snake River natural-origin **</i>	<i>13,200</i>	<i>10,826</i>	<i>9,200</i>
	Lower River Total	117,000	75,407	84,600
	Total Spring Chinook	315,600	216,586	205,600
	<u>Area-specific detail</u>			
	Willamette River	71,000	38,373	48,800
	<i>Willamette River hatchery-origin</i>	<i>53,100</i>	<i>26,094</i>	<i>39,300</i>
	Sandy River	7,800	6,312	7,700
	Select Areas***	22,100	18,789	18,100
	Cowlitz River	9,000	6,217	4,700
	Kalama River	2,400	2,525	1,900
	Lewis River	4,700	3,191	3,400
	Wind River***	4,400	5,068	4,200
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River***	8,000	7,550	5,300
	Hood River***	n/a	2,038	n/a
	Klickitat River***	1,400	651	1,300
	Deschutes River***	n/a	2,387	n/a
	John Day River***	n/a	2,686	n/a
	Umatilla River***	2,500	2,502	n/a
	Yakima River***	5,500	2,670	2,400
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	85,400	54,722	53,000
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	234,500	329,040	401,700
	Wenatchee	44,300	146,875	97,000
	Okanogan	187,400	179,655	288,700
	Yakima	100	443	12,100
	Deschutes	100	68	100
	Snake River	2,600	1,999	3,800
Winter Steelhead	Wild	15,700	14,699	14,400
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	67,800	113,891	126,200
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	4,400	3,204	4,000
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>1,391</i>	<i>1,800</i>
	A-Index (total)	55,400	90,900	89,900
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>17,300</i>	<i>30,593</i>	<i>32,400</i>
	B-Index (total)	8,000	19,787	32,200
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>1,616</i>	<i>4,000</i>

* Upriver totals are developed by TAC for use in management of U.S. v. OR fisheries. Wild components are included in the stock total. Area-specific estimates for upriver tributaries detailed here are provided by other agencies/entities and may not sum to TAC's upriver abundance estimates.

** 2023 return is based on current TAC run reconstruction methodology.

*** Return to tributary mouth.

2/14/2024

North of Falcon Planning

Preliminary fall Chinook forecasts

Stock Group	2023		2024
	February Forecasts	Actual Returns	February Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery - LRH	77,100	87,127	85,500
Lower River Wild - LRW	8,600	11,415	10,500
Lower River Bright - LRB	4,300	3,160	2,400
Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	136,100	198,864	129,800
Upriver Bright - URB	272,400	338,991	258,300
<i>Snake River Wild (SRW)</i>	<i>13,300</i>	<i>12,420</i>	<i>9,300</i>
Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	48,300	78,938	61,000
Select Area Bright - SAB	600	1,742	300
Columbia River Total	547,400	720,237	547,800

Coho forecast – pre-harvest ocean abundance

- 2023 forecast and post-season estimate and 2024 forecast of ocean abundance of OPI-H and OCN coho prior to harvest (thousands of fish). The 2024 forecast was derived from the newly Council-approved ARIMA MAPE-weighted ensemble forecast methodology.

	2023			2024
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	481.8	365.3	132%	227.5
Columbia River Late	404.3	143.6	282%	173.6
<i>Columbia River Subtotal</i>	886.1	508.9	174%	401.1
<i>Coast Subtotal</i>	10.8	5.3	202%	2.0
Total (OPI-H)	896.9	514.2	174%	403.1
<i>OCN Rivers</i>	226.3	171	132%	217.7
<i>OCN Lakes</i>	12.5	14.7	85%	15.5
OCN Total	238.8	185.7	129%	233.2
Grand Total	1135.7	699.9	162%	636.3

Considerations for 2024 fisheries

- Upper Columbia Summer Chinook
 - In-river allocations of upper Columbia River summer Chinook for 2024 will not be available until after the March and April PFMC meetings as ocean non-treaty fisheries are counted as part of the non-treaty allocation.
 - Non-concurrent Commission allocations <PRD: 70% recreational; 20% commercial; 10% unallocated.
 - Oregon rule does not allow for the use of gillnets in mainstem summer Chinook commercial fisheries.
- Sockeye
 - 1.0% Snake River allowable ESA-impact rate for non-treaty fisheries.
 - Non-concurrent Commission allocations: 70% recreational; 20% commercial; 10% unallocated.
 - Commercial fisheries targeting sockeye are not allowed in rule/policy. The commercial allocation of sockeye is available for use in Chinook-directed fisheries.
- Upriver Summer Steelhead
 - Preseason forecasts indicate the 2024 return could be low again this year.
 - Continued use of minimum mesh size restrictions in Zone 4/5 fisheries to minimize handle of steelhead.
- Fall Chinook
 - 2024 constraints are expected to be similar to what occurred in 2023 given allowable ESA-impact rates due to similar abundances and associated commission guidance are very similar if not identical.
 - Fall Chinook allocation is concurrent: no less than 30% of the most constraining stock to the commercial fishery.
 - URB/SRW
 - Preseason URB and SRW forecasts are over the thresholds to allow for a 15.0% URB/SRW harvest rate (HR; thresholds: 200,000 URB, 8,000 SRW).
 - LRH
 - NMFS recently revised the abundance tier values in the harvest rate matrix to account for anticipated lower tule Chinook salmon abundance beginning in 2024 as a result of reductions in Mitchell Act production of tule Chinook. The reductions were realized with the juveniles released in 2022 (i.e., brood year 2021 for tule fall Chinook). See Agenda Item C.1.a Supplemental NMFS Report 1 March 2024 for more information.
 - The preseason LRH forecast abundance allows for a total exploitation rate (ER) of 41% which is shared between in-river and ocean fisheries.
- Columbia River Coho
 - Lower River Natural Coho ESA impacts will be limited to 23.0% ER which is shared between in-river and ocean fisheries.
- Chum
 - Commercial harvest is not allowed. The ESA-impact limit is 5.0% HR for combined Columbia River non-treaty fisheries.
- Alternative Gear Fisheries
 - The states expect that limited alternative gear fisheries (up to 3 pound nets and 3 seines) will occur in 2024 as part of a multi-year evaluation conducted through WDFW's Emerging

Commercial Fishery process. OR/WA will set aside 2% ESA impacts of the non-treaty share for the most constraining stock for use in these fisheries.

2023 Fisheries Review

Fall Chinook

- 2023 Pre-Season Fishing Plan
 - The August (Early Fall) Chinook-target fishery was modeled to begin the week of August 6 and was expected to continue into the week of August 27, with fishing periods occurring one to three nights per week. Fishery structure was expected to include eight 9-hour (9pm – 6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The landings expectation included 30,220 adult Chinook.
 - The Late Fall (mid/late September through October) Chinook-target fishery would begin the week of September 17, dependent on the remaining commercial share, updated URB run size, and ESA-impact limits. Fishery structure was expected to include about three 10-hour (8pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 5,310 adult Chinook and 6,500 Coho were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
 - Commercial pound net and seine fisheries were not planned for use in 2023.
- 2023 Preliminary results
 - 2023 fall-season in-river post-season fishery analysis is not yet finalized. Final post-season results will be available at the March 21 NOF public meeting.

Preliminary 2023 Zone 4/5 Results					
Week #	First Date	Landed Chinook	Deliveries	#Periods	LRH ER*
32	9-Aug	407	15	1	0.00%
33	1-Aug	1,353	56	2	0.33%
34	21-Aug	4,962	102	2	0.23%
35	27-Aug	20,681	173	3	1.13%
<i>August subtotal</i>		<i>27,403</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1.69%</i>
38	17-Sep	2,163	37	2**	0.00%
39	24-Sep	1,289	27	3	0.00%
40	1-Oct	471	11	2	0.00%
41	8-Oct	459	10	2	0.00%
42	15-Oct	560	8	2	0.00%
<i>Late-Fall subtotal</i>		<i>4,942</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
Total		32,345	439	19	1.69%
*Preliminary until after March PFMC					
** Second period was open in Oregon waters only					

Coho

- 2023 Pre-Season Fishing Plan
 - Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch multifilament tangle nets were expected to begin as early as the week of September 17 and continue through October 31 with five fishing periods per week (Mon–Fri) from 4am–10pm in Zones 1-3, except closing at 6pm on Fridays per industry request. Up to 44,300 hatchery Coho and 1,920 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
 - Commercial pound net and seine fisheries were not planned for use in 2023.
- 2023 Preliminary results
 - 2023 fall-season in-river post-season fishery analysis is not yet finalized. Final post-season results will be available at the March 21 NOF public meeting.

Preliminary 2023 Zone 1-3 Tangle Net Results				
Week #	First Date	Landed Coho	Deliveries	#Periods
38	18-Sep	2,527	71	3
39	25-Sep	2,607	63	5
40	2-Oct	566	36	5
41	9-Oct	69	10	5
42	16-Oct	10	2	5
43	23-Oct	0	0	5
Total		5,779	182	28

- Additionally, 1,587 Chinook were landed in the Zone 1-3 Tangle Net fishery with an estimated 2,573 unmarked adult coho and 64 steelhead released. Approximately two-thirds of the Chinook were landed in the initial week of the fishery.
- WDFW and ODFW conducted an additional year of the monofilament coho tangle net release mortality rate research project in 2023, however staff have not completed analysis of the data.
 - The 2024 commercial tangle net fishery gear regulations will be the same as what occurred in 2023.