

2019 GRAYS HARBOR ADVISORY MEETING
April 8, 2019
REGION 6 OFFICE, MONTESANO 6-8 pm

WDFW Staff: Chad Herring, Larry Phillips, Mike Scharpf, Kim Figlar-Barnes
Advisors: Matt Nixon, Norman Reinhardt, Bob Lake, Dave Hamilton, Cary Hofmann, Mara Zimmerman, Francis Estalilla (Not present: Allan and Jack Hollingsworth & Andy Mitby)

Public: 11 Individuals

Chad – Opening comments

Humptulips River: Selective gear rule removal during rule simplification process; Hwy 101 upstream to confluence EF & WF Humptulips and WF up to confluence of Donkey Crk. Public Meeting 4-23-19 from 6-8pm Monte City Hall; to gather public comments regarding selective gear rule removal.

Commission Meeting: Wynoochee mitigation discussion

Technical staff from WDFW and QIN been meeting to develop plan to utilize remaining funds
Plan is going through co-manager governments and hope to collect eggs for 2019 season

NOF #2 Lynwood meeting overview:

Challenging process due to south sound Chum management

Little work done on Chinook & Coho

Plan to work with QIN at PFMC to review and negotiate fishery package

Commercial WAC Review:

State WAC 220-350-060 Definition – Drift gillnet – drift net. “Drift gillnet” or “drift net” gear shall be defined as a gillnet of single web construction, not anchored, tied, staked, placed, or weighted in such a manner that it cannot drift.

Grays Harbor (GH) WAC 220-354-290 Line added to section (iv) “The lead line must not rest on the bottom in such a manner as to prevent the net from drifting”. This definition is different and outside the state WAC.

Concern during slack tide net sits on bottom, set becomes illegal according to language in GH WAC.

Advisor Comments regarding GH WAC Review:

GH WAC should coincide with state WAC (3 advisors agree)

Line in GH WAC should remain (2 advisors agree)

Enforcement standpoint difficult to enforce. GH WAC makes it illegal to fish during slack tide as some part of net will rest on bottom. (region director comment)

Discussion with enforcement is vital to determine whether to remove line in GH WAC. (1 advisor comment)

Fishery Schedule Proposal review in Model D:

Review of recreational and commercial fishing proposals

QIN Commercial Schedule - schedule based on aggregate (combines Humptulips & Chehalis)
WDFW schedules based on GH Management Policy: Humptulips and Chehalis managed separately

QIN Proposed Schedule

Chehalis 2A/D	17 days (24 hour openers usually noon Sunday thru noon Wednesday for 3-day fishery)
Humptulips	32 days

How does QIN schedule affect WDFW managed fisheries?

- 500 Chinook under escapement for Grays Harbor
- Sharing of Bolt to date: treaty out fishing non-treaty by 285 Chinook
- Humptulips under by about 690 Chinook
- If close all WDFW fisheries will not make Chinook escapement in Humptulips

Advisory Comments/Recommendations Model D

Chehalis

Chehalis side should not have to give up 5% even if fish into escapement
Do not drop below 5% impact (221 fish)

Humptulips Recreational Fishery 2C (North Bay)

1 fish bag MSF (saves about 50 wild Chinook in model MS)
Do not want marine area shut down
Commercial need to share conservation burden
Commercial schedule issues: 4-3 conflicts in overlapping weeks

Humptulips River

Structure river fishery for savings and 1 fish bag, release all Chinook
1 fish bag MSF (saves 46 wild Chinook in model MS)

Marine Area 2-2 East Harbor

Bonus hatchery Coho Option – bonus fish causes increase in GH Chinook impact to 5.09 %
Also enforcement issue with high grading to get 3 fish bag MS
Commercial schedule issues: 4-3 rule issue needs to be worked out
2B Commercial Option: Modeled this fishery too expensive for Chinook CH & MS

Wishkah River

Open Sept. 1st

Satsop River

Increase season to Jan. 15th for MSF Coho

PFMC Communication with Advisors (April 10th thru April 16th)

Conference call with advisors is an option (could be over the weekend)

Notice will be last minute by email notification and follow-up phone call

Public Comments

JD Gillnet WAC state length of net allowed?
Open all fisheries same time with hatchery rivers
WDFW has credibility problem

JW Wishkah Sept 1st opening
Sea lion issue affecting hatchery escapement
Hatchery production up to capacity? Increase production for more opportunity
Recreation vs Gillnetters– not a good situation

JC GH WAC strike out sentence issue
Sentence added to GH WAC due to enforcement not dealing with nets not moving
Since language added to GH WAC compliance been 100%

BO Retain hatchery Chinook Van Winkle, why not?
CH problem with orderly fishery in small area
Skookumchuck – increase season to Jan 31st
MS hatchery having problem obtaining late timed brood stock last 2 years
Wynoochee 2 fish limit may be a problem with wild Coho

JS Late Coho Satsop increase season to Jan 15th
Wynoochee 1 Coho bag limit to protect Chinook
Wishkah move start date to Sept. 1st
Humptulips 1 fish bag in Sept. should include 1 wild Chinook

RR Wishkah open earlier than Sept. 15th
Bonus hatchery fish concept increases Chinook impacts

MR Tired of giving up fish
Less and less fish to give, can't give what don't have
Need to stand up to QIN enough is enough

