
“GREEN SHEET”

(Form Rev. 11/03)

Meeting/workshop: February 1-2, 2008
Agenda item: Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation
Staff Contact: Cindy LeFleur
Cindy LeFleur, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, Intergovernmental Resource Management Program
Presenter/s: Bill Tweit, Policy Leader - Columbia River, Intergovernmental Resource Management Program

Background:

Upriver Columbia River spring Chinook are destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and include hatchery and wild fish. Two components of the wild upriver run are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Snake River spring/summer Chinook and Upper Columbia spring Chinook. These ESA-listed stocks are protected by the *U.S. v Oregon* management agreement and the ESA limits. The Parties to *U.S. v Oregon* developed a conservation-based fish management plan beginning in 1978 to protect, rebuild, and enhance upper Columbia River fish runs, and since then have developed multi-year management plans incorporating the same principles. The management agreement includes a sliding scale harvest schedule that provides additional protection when the runs are at low levels. The ESA impact limit restricts non-Indian fisheries to an incidental impact rate of 2% on the wild fish that are released. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has concluded that the sliding scale harvest schedule is consistent with recovery of the stocks and should be in place for the long term.

After decades of fishery restrictions on upriver spring Chinook and with the advent of mass-marked hatchery fish, mark-selective fishing techniques, and agreements with the *U.S. v Oregon* Parties, additional selective fishing opportunities became available beginning in 2001. The states were able to implement mark-selective sport and commercial fisheries that allowed for very small catch and release incidental mortality (i.e. the level of unintended fisheries-related mortality) on the ESA-listed stocks while providing opportunity to harvest abundant hatchery fish. Both sport and commercial fisheries use mark-selective fishing techniques that require the release of all spring Chinook with an adipose fin intact, and have a low level of release mortality.

Fisheries

Current spring Chinook fisheries in the Columbia River are a success story. The states of Washington and Oregon are able to provide opportunity to harvest hatchery fish while minimizing the incidental mortality associated with catch and release fisheries. During 2002-2007, the total non-Indian incidental mortality rate has averaged 1.6% compared to the 2% ESA limit.

Spring Chinook fisheries have been re-initiated in the Columbia River in times and areas that were previously not available, providing increased opportunities for both fisheries. Both fisheries have increased in time and fishing areas. Angler trips have increased from an average of 50,000 during 1977-1994 to an average of 131,000 during 2002-2007 (Attachment 1). Angler trips peaked at 175,100 in 2002 and have generally followed the trend in run size. Sport harvest in the mainstem below Bonneville Dam has increased from an average of 4,500 fish during 1977-1994 to an average of 15,000 during 2002-2007 (Attachment 2). Commercial harvest has decreased somewhat from an average of 8,200 fish during 1977-1994 to an

average of 7,200 during 2002-2007 (Attachment 2). Commercial fisheries averaged about \$5.00/pound for spring Chinook during 2002-2007. Within the past six years, spring Chinook returns have averaged over 300,000 fish. Although the allowable impact rate does not satisfy the needs of all of the user groups, the sport fishery has harvested an average of 15,000 hatchery spring Chinook during this time frame and the commercial fishery has harvested an average of 7,200 hatchery spring Chinook in mainstem Columbia River fisheries (Attachment 1). This average harvest of 22,000 hatchery spring Chinook in sport and commercial fisheries was accomplished with incidental impacts to the ESA-listed upriver components of less than 2% or an average of 600 fish. The ESA-listed run size has averaged 36,100 fish during this time frame.

Columbia River spring Chinook are a high value fish to both sport and commercial fisheries. Interest in the sport fishery is tremendous as reflected in the large number of angler trips generated (Attachment 1). The spring Chinook fishery is the first to occur in the river and begins the annual salmon fishing season. Columbia River spring Chinook are considered by some to be the best tasting salmon in the world. The commercial fishery can provide this quality product for high-end national markets as well as access to local consumers. The opportunity to sport fish for spring Chinook and the ability to provide commercial sales supports the local economies of both Washington and Oregon. In addition, most sport and commercial fishers in the Columbia River are advocates for the salmon resources of the state.

Fishery Management

Fishery management decisions must be conservative to ensure the ESA limits are not exceeded. Decisions regarding season length and catch expectations are built upon preseason forecasts of abundance and recent year catch rates. In-season management decisions are based on actual fishery catches and by monitoring dam counts to update the run sizes. Modifications to the preseason fishing schedules must often be made because of differences from the preseason expectations in catch rates, dam counts or environmental factors. These modifications are necessary to ensure that 1) combined non-Indian fisheries do not exceed the ESA limit, 2) fisheries below Bonneville Dam do not preclude other non-Indian fisheries to occur, and 3) non-Indian fisheries do not constrain treaty Indian fisheries above Bonneville Dam. These variations from preseason fishing plans can be very frustrating to the sport and commercial fishers, who make plans based on the preseason expectations. Moreover, management is complicated by the inability to accurately update the in-season run size until late April, after much of the prime fishing season has passed.

Despite these challenges, diverse opportunities exist for upriver spring Chinook fisheries. The sport fishery allocation includes mainstem Columbia River, mainstem Snake River, Ringold area and the Wanapum tribal fishery. The commercial fishery allocation includes mainstem Columbia River, Select Areas and other miscellaneous fisheries (shad fishery). All of these fisheries are conducted under the total non-Indian impact rate of 2% and provide opportunities throughout the Columbia River basin to harvest hatchery spring Chinook.

Select Area fisheries are conducted in terminal areas of the mainstem Columbia River targeting lower river hatchery spring Chinook released from net pens. Commercial and sport harvest occurs in Select Area fisheries in Oregon and Washington and commercial harvest has averaged 7,900 spring Chinook from 2000-2006 (Attachment 3).

The focus of this discussion is on mainstem fisheries that harvest upriver spring Chinook and the associated catch and release mortalities of the ESA-listed fish that go along with that harvest. There are additional opportunities in the basin to harvest Columbia River spring

Chinook by sport fisheries. Lower River spring Chinook, destined for tributaries below Bonneville Dam are harvested in several areas. Sport fisheries harvest spring Chinook in the Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis rivers in Washington and in the Willamette, Clackamas and Sandy rivers in Oregon, and averaged 27,300 during 2000-2006 (Attachment 3). Sport fisheries above Bonneville Dam harvest upriver spring Chinook in the Wind, White Salmon, Little White Salmon, Klickitat, Yakima, Icicle, Deschutes, Umatilla, and Hood rivers, averaging 14,700 fish during 2000-2006 (Attachment 4). Sport fisheries occur in Idaho throughout the Snake River basin.

Previous Allocation Decisions

Until 2002, non-Indian sport and commercial catch of upriver spring Chinook had never been formally allocated, although *U.S. v Oregon* agreements limited seasons for sport and commercial fisheries which resulted in relatively balanced impacts to upriver spring Chinook. Because both fisheries are limited by the incidental mortality rate on ESA-listed spring Chinook, the Departments of Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife asked the respective Commissions for a policy to share the conservation burden and allocate the impact rate to provide both fisheries with access to the harvestable hatchery spring Chinook. Three two-year policies guiding allocation of the ESA-limits to sport and commercial fisheries have been in place since 2002. The current policy (C-3615, attached), which expired December 31, 2007, includes Guiding Principles and Fisheries Management Objectives, which have changed very little over the past six years. The first allocation policy included a matrix where the allocation changed based on the abundance of spring Chinook. Within the matrix, the allocations ranged from 90% sport/10% commercial to 50% sport/50% commercial. The actual allocation of impacts to sport and commercial fisheries has changed very little ranging from 57% sport/43% commercial to 65% sport/35% commercial. The most recent allocation was 57% sport and 43% commercial.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

With the advent of the first policy regarding spring Chinook allocation, the Washington and Oregon Commissions have adopted guiding principles and management objectives, which include conservation goals and objectives for fishery management. Also included in the policy is an allocation of the incidental non-Indian ESA impacts between sport and commercial fisheries. All mainstem fisheries need some level of ESA impacts. There is no biological basis to determine the "best" allocation proportions between various sectors. Based on the ESA limit of 2%, the same number of ESA-listed fish will be lost due to catch and release mortality, regardless of the allocation share. The allocation of incidental ESA impacts will allow sport and commercial fisheries to harvest hatchery spring Chinook while sharing the conservation burden on the wild fish.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Staff met with the Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisor Groups on these issues in December. The Recreational group was interested in an allocation that would provide a season encompassing the month of April and the majority of the impacts to the sport fishery. They were not interested in a 10-year policy. The Commercial group preferred a 50/50 allocation of impacts and was supportive of a 10-year policy if the allocation was 50/50 +/- 5%. The Commercial group was interested in discussions between the two sectors on an annual basis to negotiate changes and find common ground, if applicable. A separate Stakeholder Group has been established by WDFW and ODFW with the goal of a collaborative process to discuss the future of sport and commercial fisheries and in particular, allocation of limited resources. The group supported the idea on continuing the discussion during 2008. The Commission received public comments at the January meeting.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

Adopt a policy regarding Columbia River spring Chinook management for 2008 (Attached Draft Policy C-xxxx). Delegate the authority to the Director to work with the appropriate Oregon Fish and Wildlife representative to implement the provisions of the policy. Provide guidance to the Director, as needed, relative to resolving any outstanding differences between the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions policy guidance relative to the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors in spring Chinook fisheries. Direct staff to continue the Stakeholder process through 2008 in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Draft motion language:

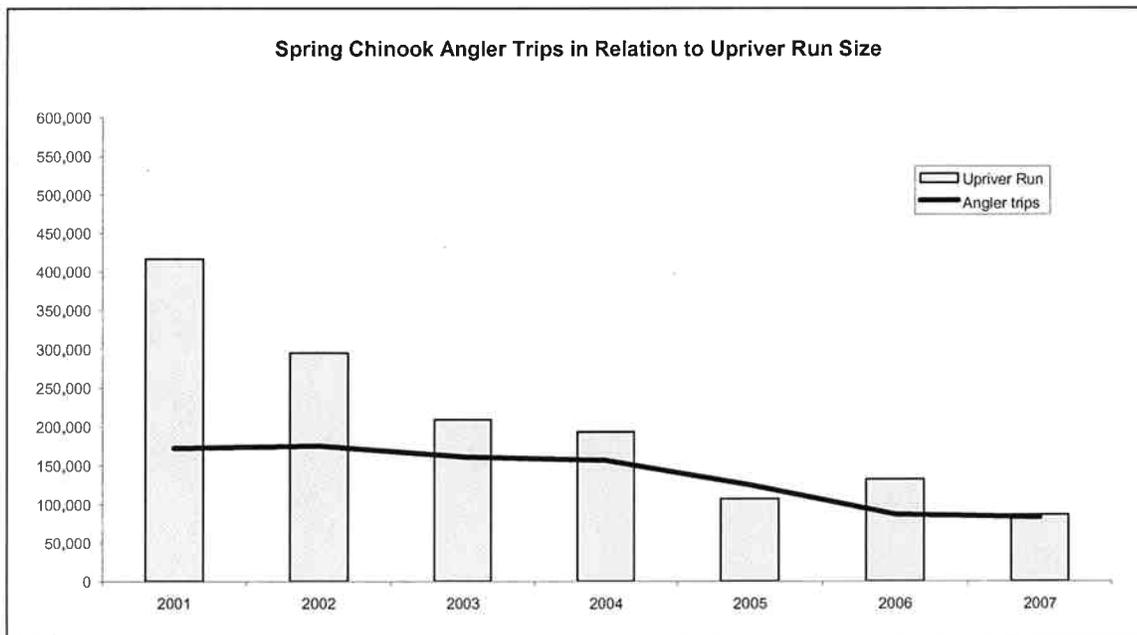
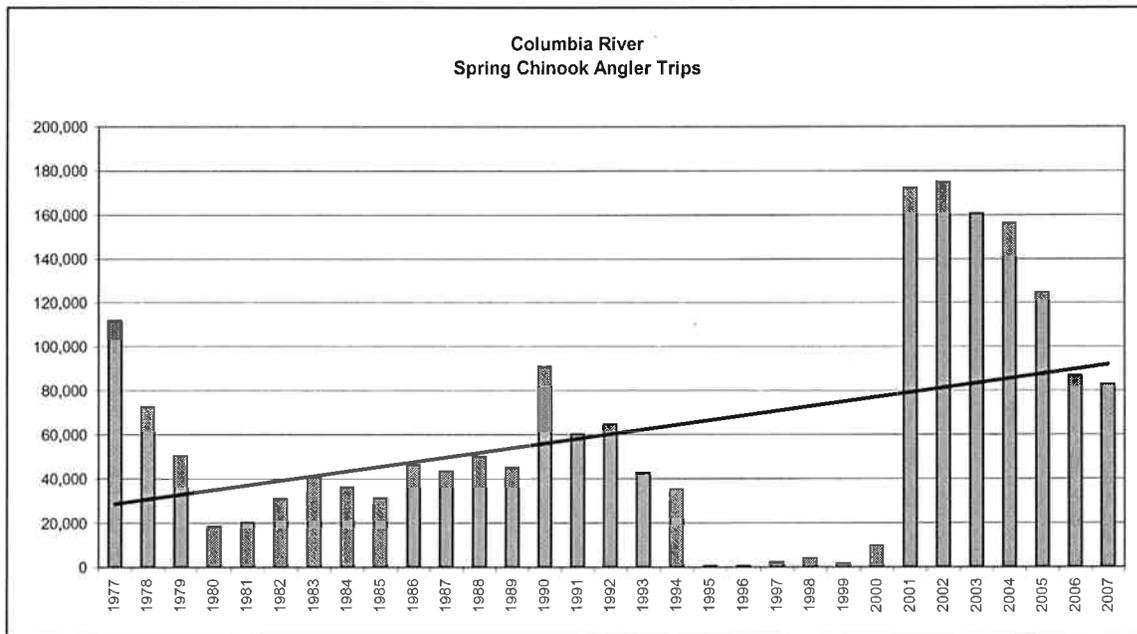
I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the following policy guidance relative to the mainstem Columbia River spring Chinook fishery:

- 1) The Policy C-XXX titled "Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation for Non-treaty Fisheries" effective February 2, 2008 through December 31, 2008 as presented by staff.
 - 2) The recreational fishery allocation should be xx% (57% in 2007) of the allowable impact rate with the remainder to the commercial fishery.
 - 3) The Director shall work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.
 - 4) The Director shall continue work with the Stakeholder process through 2008 in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with a final report to the Commission in December.
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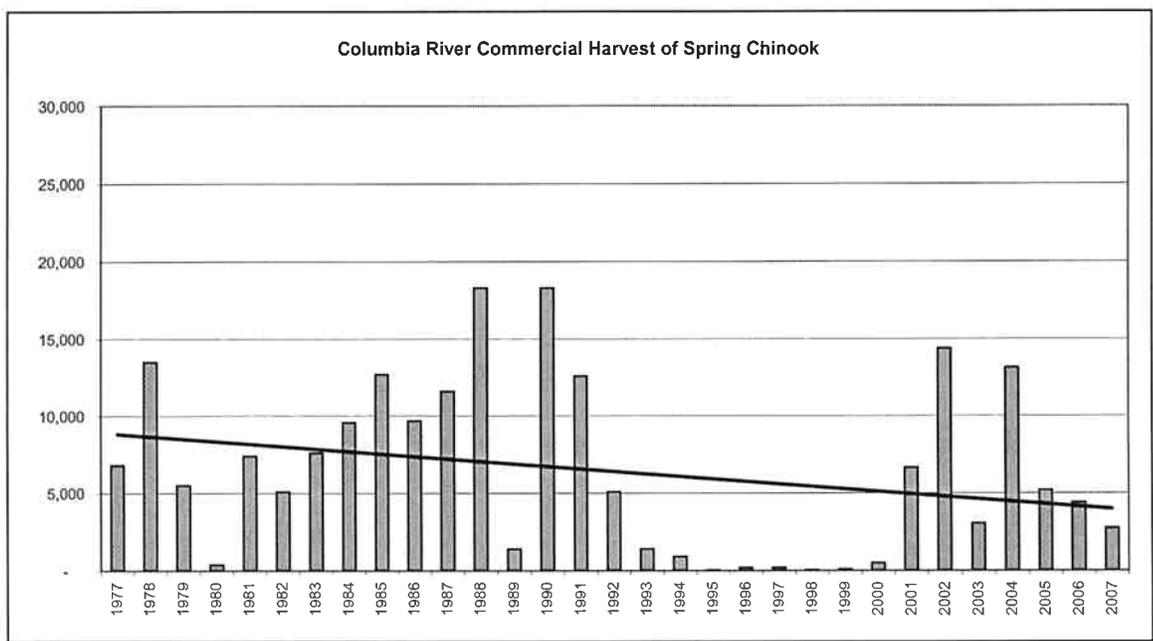
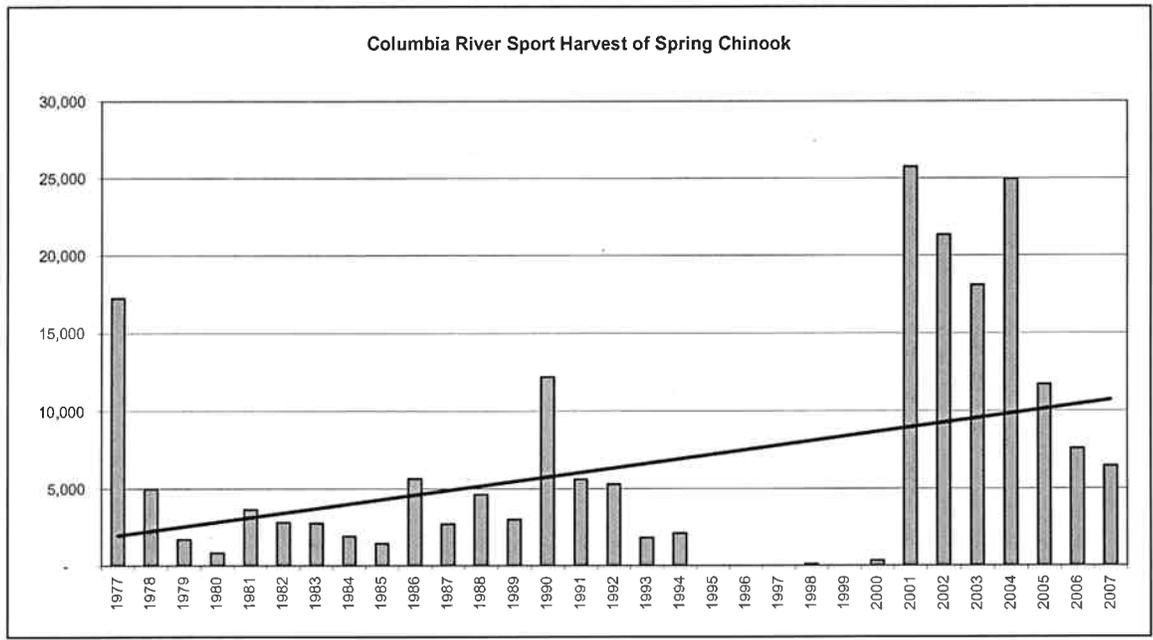
Justification for Commission action:

Provides direction to the Director for upriver spring Chinook allocation of incidental impacts in order for the Columbia River Compact to make decisions regarding recreational, commercial and non-treaty Indian fisheries.

Attachment 1.



Attachment 2.



Attachment 3.

Commercial and Sport Harvest of Spring Chinook in Select Area Fisheries		
Year	Commercial	Sport
2000	6,500	260
2001	9,300	500
2002	11,700	550
2003	7,800	990
2004	10,500	1,080
2005	2,500	160
2006	7,200	340
<i>Average</i>	<i>7,900</i>	<i>550</i>

Sport Harvest of Spring Chinook in Washington Tributaries below Bonneville Dam				
Year	Cowlitz	Kalama	Lewis	Total
2000	500	400	1,300	2,200
2001	100	500	2,000	2,600
2002	1,500	500	1,300	3,300
2003	2,900	800	1,900	5,600
2004	2,100	1,200	6,500	9,800
2005	1,200	1,000	1,500	3,700
2006	900	1,500	3,000	5,400
<i>Average</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>4,700</i>

Sport Harvest of Spring Chinook in Oregon Tributaries below Bonneville Dam				
Year	Willamette	Clackamas	Sandy	Total
2000	14,100	1,800	1,400	17,300
2001	14,800	800	2,000	17,600
2002	26,900	2,600	2,100	31,600
2003	27,300	1,300	1,800	30,400
2004	27,400	1,300	4,000	32,700
2005	9,900	1,200	3,800	14,900
2006	11,300	500	2,300	14,100
<i>Average</i>	<i>18,800</i>	<i>1,400</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>22,700</i>

Attachment 4.

Sport Harvest of Spring Chinook in Washington Tributaries above Bonneville Dam							
Year	Wind	Drano Lake	White Salmon	Klickitat	Yakima	Icicle	Total
2000	9,600	2,800	0	400	100	1,600	14,500
2001	11,800	3,000	400	100	2,000	4,500	21,800
2002	11,000	6,500	300	200	500	1,200	19,700
2003	11,400	2,500	200	700	0	1,900	16,700
2004	3,000	2,000	200	1,100	700	700	7,700
2005	1,500	500	200	200	0	1,000	3,400
2006	2,300	1,800	100	300	0	1,200	5,700
<i>Average</i>	<i>7,200</i>	<i>2,700</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>12,800</i>

Sport Harvest of Spring Chinook in Oregon Tributaries above Bonneville Dam				
Year	Deschutes	Umatilla	Hood	Total
2000	2,500	500	20	3,020
2001	1,600	400	50	2,050
2002	2,100	700	290	3,090
2003	1,300	600	10	1,910
2004	1,000	300	0	1,300
2005	400	200	50	650
2006	0	500	0	500
<i>Average</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1,800</i>

Attachment 5.

POLICY TITLE: Mainstem
Columbia River
Spring Chinook
Management and
Allocation for Non-
Indian Fisheries,
2008

POLICY NUMBER: C-XXX

Supersedes: C-3613 and C-3614 Effective Date: Feb. 2, 2008
Termination Date: Dec. 31, 2008

See Also: Approved by:

Guiding Principles

- Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook and wild winter steelhead, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook.
- Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals.
- Focus sport and commercial fisheries' allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook.

Fisheries Management Objectives

- Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available.
- Manage the mainstem Columbia River spring chinook fisheries with the intent to limit the wild winter steelhead impact to less than 2%.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e., upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.
- Adjustments to the sport fishery may occur in-season if it is estimated the fishery will not continue through April. In-season adjustments may include such options as days/week and area closures.
- Recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.
- Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam, sport/tribal fisheries in the Snake River and upper Columbia River, and commercial and sport fisheries in select areas.

Allocation of Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts

The Director shall manage Columbia River non-Indian spring chinook fisheries that are covered by the allowable ESA upriver impact rate (currently 2%) based on the following allocation guidelines. The recreational fishery allocation should be xx% of the allowable impact rate with the remainder to the commercial fishery.

Delegation of Authority

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact process, to set seasons for sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries.

“GREEN SHEET”

(Form Rev. 11/03)

Meeting/workshop: February 1-2, 2008
Agenda item: Columbia River Summer Chinook Allocation
Staff Contact: Cindy LeFleur
Cindy LeFleur, Columbia River Policy Coordinator, Intergovernmental
Resource Management Program
Presenter/s: Heather Bartlett, Fish Management Division Manager Anadromous,
Fish Program

Background: Summer Chinook enter the Columbia River in June and July on their migration to the upper Columbia River basin, above Priest Rapids Dam. Since completion of the Columbia River hydropower system, summer Chinook redds are found in the Columbia, Wenatchee, Okanogan, Methow, Similkameen, Chelan and Entiat rivers. Upper Columbia summer Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are currently healthy. Population abundance has rebounded in recent years to levels that provide fish for harvest. Guidelines for managing fisheries and allocating harvest have not existed until very recently, since there has been virtually no harvest on summer chinook from the 1960's until numbers rebounded in 2000.

An escapement goal and treaty/non-treaty harvest sharing were negotiated in the *U.S. v. Oregon* process, and were adopted for 2005-2007. These provisions are expected to continue into the future under the new *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement. The escapement goal of 29,000 fish provides for sufficient escapement to meet natural and hatchery goals above Priest Rapids Dam.

Management Plans/Guidelines

Conservation guidelines are included under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, which provides for a biologically-based spawning escapement goal for natural and hatchery stocks combined, and a sharing plan for the available harvest between treaty Indian and non-treaty fishers. The management intent is to treat the hatchery and natural fish as one composite group because the fish are genetically similar, and the escapement goal is a combined goal for both. The management period was established as June 16 through July 31 at Bonneville Dam.

The “Agreement between the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on Jointly managed salmon and steelhead populations” was signed in 2007. WDFW has also finalized the “Harvest Framework for Non-treaty Fisheries directed at Salmonids originating above Priest Rapids Dam” – a management plan that details management goals and harvest sharing for salmonids. The harvest measures for summer Chinook are compatible with the measures in the Colville Agreement. These agreements/plans provide guidelines for harvest sharing of salmon and steelhead stocks originating in areas above Wells Dam, and provides for harvest opportunities above Priest Rapids Dam as the highest priority, especially when the abundance is at low levels (near 50,000). This ensures that sport fisheries in the upper Columbia have a chance to harvest salmon in an area where very few opportunities exist. It also ensures that Colville tribal needs will be met.

Previous Allocation Decisions

The previous policy (C-3616), which expired December 31, 2007, includes Guiding Principles, Fisheries Management Objectives, and an allocation of 50% sport/50% commercial for fisheries downstream from Priest Rapids Dam. Recreational harvest above Priest Rapids Dam was

excluded from the allocation policy. The Commission had not provided guidance on allocation of the non-treaty share until 2006, for several reasons:

- Harvest opportunities were non-existent until 2000.
- Prior to 2004, the only harvest opportunity was recreational fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam.
- The non-treaty share below Priest Rapids Dam was not defined until late spring in 2005.

Fisheries

Fisheries for summer Chinook have been re-initiated after several decades of closures, providing additional opportunity for sport and commercial fisheries. Fisheries in the upper Columbia (above Priest Rapids Dam) have occurred since 2000, but significant harvest did not begin until 2001 (Attachment 1). Below Priest Rapids Dam, sport fisheries reopened in 2002 with the majority of the catch and effort occurring below Bonneville Dam. Commercial fisheries did not begin in earnest until 2005. Sport harvest above Priest Rapids Dam has averaged 3,300 from 2001-2006. Below Bonneville Dam sport harvest has averaged 3,000 from 2005-2007 and commercial harvest has averaged 2,900 during the same time frame (Attachment 1).

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration: Allocation of the non-treaty harvest of summer Chinook to sport fisheries from the mouth upstream to Priest Rapids Dam and the commercial fishery from the mouth upstream to Bonneville Dam. The Washington and Oregon Commissions have adopted guiding principles and management objectives, which include conservation goals and objectives for fishery management for summer Chinook. Also included in the policy is an allocation of the harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam between sport and commercial fisheries. There is no biological basis to determine the "best" allocation proportions between various sectors. The allocation of summer Chinook will allow sport and commercial fisheries an opportunity for harvest that has been absent for decades.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Staff met with the Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisor Groups on these issues in December and January, but the focus of the discussions was regarding spring Chinook. A separate Stakeholder Group has been established by WDFW and ODFW with the goal of a collaborative process to discuss the future of sport and commercial fisheries and in particular, allocation of limited resources. The group supported the idea on continuing the discussion during 2008. The Commission received public comments at the January meeting.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

Adopt a policy regarding Columbia River summer Chinook management for 2008 (Attached Draft Policy C-xxxx). Delegate the authority to the Director to work with the appropriate Oregon Fish and Wildlife representative to implement the provisions of the policy. Provide guidance to the Director, as needed, relative to resolving any outstanding differences between the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions policy guidance relative to the harvest allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors.

Draft motion language:

I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the following policy guidance relative to the mainstem Columbia River summer Chinook fishery:

- 1) The Policy C-XXX titled "Mainstem Columbia River Summer Chinook Allocation for Non-Indian Fisheries Below Priest Rapids Dam" effective February 2, 2008 through December 31, 2008 as presented by staff.
 - 2) The recreational fishery allocation should be xx% (50% in 2007) of the allowable impact
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rate with the remainder to the commercial fishery.

- 3) The Director shall work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.

Justification for Commission action:

Provides direction to the Director for summer Chinook allocation in order for the Columbia River Compact to make decisions regarding recreational and commercial fisheries.

Attachment 1.

Summer Chinook Sport Harvest Above Priest Rapids Dam	
Year	Harvest
2001	800
2002	3,700
2003	3,200
2004	5,800
2005	2,300
2006	4,200

Summer Chinook Sport Harvest Below Priest Rapids Dam					
Year	Commercial	Below Bonneville Sport	Bonneville to Priest Rapids	Total Sport	Below Bonneville Angler Trips
2002	No season	1,503	111	1,614	54,839
2003	No season	2,007	328	2,335	46,943
2004	233	1,240	157	1,397	41,850
2005	2,574	1,622	136	1,758	38,505
2006	5,008	4,924	166	5,090	43,802
2007	1,100	2,500	82	2,582	23,732

Summer Chinook Commercial Harvest			
Year	Summer Chinook	Pounds	Price per pound ¹
2004	193 ²	2,948	\$1.69
2005	2,574 ²	46,537	\$2.15
2006	5,008 ²	97,929	\$2.53
2007	1,122	21,906	\$2.89

¹. Oregon only.

². Preliminary landings.

Attachment 2.

**POLICY TITLE: Mainstem
Columbia River
Summer Chinook
Allocation for Non-
Indian Fisheries
Below Priest
Rapids Dam, 2008**

POLICY NUMBER: C-XXX

Supersedes: Effective Date: Feb. 2, 2008
Termination Date: December 31, 2008

See Also: Approved by: /

Guiding Principles

- Meet the conservation requirements for summer chinook , expressed as the escapement goal of 20,000 natural and hatchery spawners.
- Meet treaty/non-treaty sharing objectives in the 2005-2007 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement.
- Address Colville and Wanapum tribal subsistence and ceremonial harvest needs.
- Provide recreational fishing opportunity above Priest Rapids Dam as the highest recreational fishery priority.

Fisheries Management Objectives

- Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact following stakeholder consultation in the North of Falcon process on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after run size forecasts are available.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-treaty summer chinook harvest to meet the objectives of both fisheries.
- In shaping fisheries, consult with stakeholders to recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.
- Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of Priest Rapids Dam and commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam.

Recreational and Commercial Allocation of Upriver Summer Chinook Impacts

- The allocation of available harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam shall be xx% (50% in 2007) for the recreational fishery and xx% (50% in 2007) for the commercial fishery. The Commission recognizes that when allowable harvest is either very large or very small, adjustments may need to be made to the allocation based on the capabilities of each fleet.

Delegation of Authority

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact and North of Falcon stakeholder consultation processes, to set seasons for sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.