

Meeting/workshop: March 7, 8 Commission Meeting
Agenda item: PUGET SOUND PURSE SEINE/GILLNET AREAS 10&11 CHUM SALMON HARVEST ALLOCATION – Update on Process
Staff Contact: Patrick Pattillo, IRM
Presenter/s: Patrick Pattillo, IRM
 John Long, Fish Program

Background:

Department staff provided a briefing to the Commission on December 8, 2007, describing the process used by the Department for setting seasons and allocating harvest or fishing opportunity between Purse Seine and Gillnet gears in Puget Sound non-Indian commercial fisheries for chum salmon in Areas 10 and 11. The Department proposed to convene meetings with industry representatives, in conjunction with the 2008 North of Falcon process, for the purpose of seeking agreement on seasons and allocation of opportunity.

The Commission endorsed the Department’s proposed 2008 process and requested to be kept informed. One meeting with Purse Seine and Gillnet industry representatives, facilitated by the Department, has been conducted (February 6) and another is scheduled for March 4.

This Commission briefing is to provide an update on progress to date, expectations for continued discussions and prospects for success.

Public comment on this topic is not planned at this time for this agenda item.

The commission is not expected to make a decision on this agenda item at this meeting.

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

The Commission provides Harvest Management guidance to the Department for defining annual salmon fishing seasons (2007-2008 North of Falcon Policy Number C-3608) with respect to conservation and allocation of non-treaty commercial and recreational fishing opportunity. The process for seeking agreement between industry representatives is an important component of success with implementing this policy.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Discussions on this issue have occurred between Department Staff and gillnet and purse seine industry representatives. Department staff is providing a summary of those meetings to the Commission.

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

None

Draft motion language:

None

Justification for Commission action:

NA