

North of Falcon Policy

January 9, 2009

Staff Presentation

- Overview of 2007-2008 Policy
 - expired December 31, 2008
 - multi-year policy
- Public Comments Received
- Staff Recommendations for Modification

North of Falcon Policy

January 9, 2009

This Policy will guide Department staff in considering conservation, allocation, in-season management, and monitoring issues associated with the co-management process known as the North of Falcon.

North of Falcon Policy

Department will insure management decisions are consistent with:

- Department's statutory authority
- U.S. v. Washington
- U.S. v. Oregon
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Pacific Fishery Management Council's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- Pertinent State/Tribal agreements
- Applicable Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

Harvest Management

General & Statewide

- *fishing opportunities will be provided when they can be directed at*

healthy wild and hatchery stocks

...while

minimizing impacts on depressed stocks

Harvest Management

General & Statewide

fishing directed at salmon will not be ...

*exclusively reserved for either sport or
commercial users*

Harvest Management

General & Statewide

- *... meaningful recreational fishing opportunities*

will be

distributed equitably across fishing areas

and

*reflect the diverse interests of fishers,
including retention and catch-and-release
fisheries*

Recreational / Commercial priorities

Sockeye, Chum, and Pink Salmon

Marine area harvest

(except for Puget Sound origin sockeye...)

...in priority order,

- (1) provide the majority of harvest to the commercial fisheries*
- (2) provide meaningful recreational opportunities*

Recreational / Commercial priorities

Lake Washington Sockeye

- *... first 200,000 non-treaty harvest will be provided to recreational fishers*

If greater levels,

- *...commercial harvest directed at this stock may be considered*

Recreational / Commercial Chinook and Coho Salmon Puget Sound

...in priority order,

- *(1) provide meaningful recreational opportunities ... distributed equitably across fishing areas ...*
- *(2) provide opportunities for commercial harvest*

Recreational / Commercial

Chinook and Coho Salmon

Grays Harbor:

... include opportunities for both the recreational and commercial fisheries

Willapa Bay:

... consistent with Willapa Bay Framework

... meaningful opportunities for both recreational and commercial fisheries

Pacific Ocean:

... consistent with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Framework Salmon Management Plan...

Recreational / Commercial

Chinook and Coho Salmon

Columbia River:

... developed in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife representatives...

... optimize the non-treaty harvest of Chinook and coho ...

... provide a balanced opportunity to each fleet...

... consider fair and reasonable catch opportunity, stability and duration of fisheries...

... sharing of the conservation responsibility.

Recreational / Commercial Chinook and Coho Salmon

Columbia River

**Columbia River Spring Chinook
not part of North of Falcon process**

In-season Management

... consistent with pre-season conservation and harvest management objectives and fishery intent developed through the North of Falcon process

Monitoring

... account for species and population impacts

... participants required to comply...

Gear and Fishery Conflicts

... minimize gear and other fishery conflicts

... resolved by involving the appropriate sport and commercial representatives in a dispute resolution process managed by Department staff

Incidental Mortalities

... Limits on the incidental mortalities of non-targeted species will be defined ...

... include strategies to limit seabird mortalities consistent with the federal Migratory Bird Act

Communications

... make improvements for effective public involvement during the North of Falcon planning process

... include representatives of recreational and commercial participants at North of Falcon as observers during appropriate state/tribal discussions of fishery issues

Delegation of Authority

...the Fish and Wildlife Commission permanently delegated the authority to the Director to :

- *... make harvest agreements with Northwest treaty tribes and other governmental agencies*
- *...adopt permanent and emergency regulations*