

North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – January 10, 2014



Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2014

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Purpose

- Brief FWC on North of Falcon Policy
- Identify Key Issues
- Update on Co-Management Workshop
- 2014 Schedule
- Communication Enhancements

North of Falcon Policy

Guidance to the Department for annual salmon fisheries:

- Conservation Principles
- Harvest Opportunity
- In-season Management
- Monitoring, Sampling and Enforcement
- Gear Conflicts
- Incidental Mortalities
- Communications

North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will insure that management decisions are consistent with:

- Statutory Authority
- U.S. v. Washington
- U.S. v. Oregon
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- PFMIC's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- State/Tribal agreements
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

North of Falcon Policy

Implement consistent with the 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

- Science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable
- Meet or exceed ESA recovery and conservation goals

Harvest Management

General & Statewide Fishing Opportunities ...

... will be provided when they can be directed at
healthy wild and hatchery stocks

... will utilize selective fishing methods and gears to the fullest extent possible
to

maximize fishing opportunity

and to

minimizing impacts on depressed stocks

... 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

Harvest Management

General & Statewide

... non-treaty fishing access to unutilized portions of treaty harvest allocation through the implementation of ...

pre-season and in-season agreements

Harvest Management

Sockeye, Chum, and Pink Salmon
(except for Puget Sound origin sockeye...)

...in priority order,

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

Harvest Management

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

Harvest Management

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...

Harvest Management

Columbia River:

Harvest management regimes shall be developed with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Commercial and recreational fishing:

...will be scheduled to optimize the non-treaty harvest of chinook and coho and to provide a balanced opportunity to each fleet.

...shall consider fair and reasonable catch opportunity, stability and duration of fisheries, as well as sharing of the conservation responsibility.

In-season Management

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

Monitoring, Sampling & Enforcement

... will be provided to account for species and population impacts of all fisheries

... Fishery participants will be 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

- ... minimize mortalities on non-target species (e.g., rockfish, sea birds, etc)
- ... include strategies to limit seabird mortalities consistent with the federal Migratory Bird Act

Communications

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

Include North of Falcon participants as observers during appropriate state/tribal discussions of fishery issues

Maintain timely records of discussions and decisions

Use a variety of communication tools

Delegation of Authority

- ... the Fish and Wildlife Commission delegated the authority to the Director to
- ... make harvest agreements with Northwest treaty tribes and other governmental agencies
- ... adopt permanent and emergency regulations resulting from North of Falcon

2013 Issues

- Puyallup River
 - Significant fishing opportunity
 - Safety and prevention of conflict
 - Consistency of message

- Skokomish River
 - Authority of in-river fishing
 - Communications
 - Protection of constituents

Co-management

Working Group Issues

- Habitat
- Cooperation in Co-management
- North of Falcon Process
- Annual Co-managers' meeting
- Enforcement
- Update Court Ordered Management Plans
- Catch Accounting
- Shellfish Management
- Budget Limitations
- Hatcheries

Co-management

- Cooperation in Co-management
 - Identify and commit to policy level representation

- North of Falcon Process
 - Within scheduled annual decision making process

- Annual Co-managers' meeting
 - No later than May 15th

- Catch Accounting
 - Improving processes that ensure accurate accounting of all harvest

2014 NOF Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 3	2014 Salmon Forecasts & Initial Fishery Discussions Public Meeting	Olympia, Natural Resources Building
March 8-13	Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting #1	Sacramento, CA
March 17-18	North of Falcon #1 WDFW & Tribes	Lacey Community Center
March 19	North of Falcon #1 Public Meeting	Olympia, Natural Resources Building
March 31-April 2	North of Falcon #2	Lynnwood Embassy Suites
March 31	WDFW & Tribes	Lynnwood Embassy Suites
April 1	Puget Sound Fisheries Public Meeting	Lynnwood Embassy Suites
April 3	Ocean and Columbia River Fisheries Public Meeting	Olympia, Natural Resources Building
April 4	Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay Fisheries Public Meeting	Olympia, Natural Resources Building
April 5-10	Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting #2 (Final decisions for all fisheries)	Vancouver WA, Hilton

2014 Enhancements

- Improve effectiveness
 - Web development for public comment
- Improve Transparency
 - Posting of fishery performance information
- Improve participation
 - Follow up with outcomes
- Tribal policy representatives
- Final Record
 - Public Record Requests and Records Retention

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Questions ?