FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Mainstem Columbia River Summer Chinook Allocation for Non-Indian Fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam, 2009

POLICY NUMBER: C-3618

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Supersedes: C-3618, 2008

Termination Date: December 31, 2009

See Also: C-3617, 2009

Approved by: _____
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Discussion: *This policy is the same as the previous two policies on summer Chinook. The recommendation of the Columbia River Fish Working Group (CRFWG) was to maintain this policy through 2013. The CRFWG will likely discuss summer Chinook in Phase 2.*

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 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 50 percent for the recreational fishery and 50 percent for the commercial fishery. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (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 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 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.