

Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy Concepts

Draft November 15, 2013

Purpose

{Draft concepts drawn from initial discussions with advisors and public.} The objectives of this policy are to advance the conservation and restoration of wild salmon, maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state, provide the public with a fair distribution of recreational fishing opportunities throughout the Grays Harbor Basin, and improve the technical rigor of fishery management. Enhanced and transparency and information sharing are needed to increase public trust and support for-of-the management of Grays Harbor salmon fisheries.

Definition and Intent

{Draft scope for policy.} This policy is applicable to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) management of all Pacific salmon returning to the Grays Harbor Basin. The Grays Harbor Basin is defined as Grays Harbor and its freshwater tributaries.

General Policy Statement

{Clarifies role of Policy and recognizes importance of adaptive management.} This policy provides a cohesive set of principles to improve the Department's management of salmon in the Grays Harbor Basin. The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) recognizes that management decisions must be informed by fishery monitoring (biological and economic), and that innovation and adaptive management will be necessary to achieve the stated purpose of this policy.

{Section from existing Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy.} State commercial and recreational fisheries will need to increasingly focus on the harvest of abundant hatchery fish. As a general policy, the Department shall implement mark-selective salmon fisheries, unless the wild populations substantially affected by the fishery are meeting spawner and broodstock management objectives.

In addition, the Department may consider other management approaches provided they are as or more effective than a mark-selective fishery in achieving spawner and broodstock management objectives.

Fishery and hatchery management measures should be implemented as part of an "all-H" strategy that integrates hatchery, harvest, and habitat systems. Although it focuses on hatchery and harvest reform, this policy in no way diminishes the significance of habitat protection and restoration.

In implementing the policy guidelines, the Department will work with the tribes in a manner that is consistent with *U.S. v. Washington* and other applicable state and federal laws and agreements.

Guiding Principles

The Department will apply the following principles in the management of salmon in the Grays Harbor Basin:

- 1) {Reflects advisor discussion of the importance of conservation and existing FWC Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy; modified to reflect public comment.} Promote the conservation and restoration of salmon and steelhead by working with our partners to protect and restore habitat productivity, implementing hatchery reform, and managing fisheries consistent with conservation objectives.
- 2) {Recognizes existing court decisions.} Meet the terms of *U.S. v. Washington* and other federal court orders and promote a strong relationship with the Quinault Indian Nation. Spawning escapement goals, fisheries, and artificial production objectives will be developed and jointly agreed with the Quinault Indian Nation.
- 3) {Reflects advisor discussion of importance of ensuring that Grays Harbor stocks are considered in international and federal processes.} The Department will work through the Pacific Salmon Commission to promote the conservation of Grays Harbor salmon and, if appropriate, seek the implementation of additional management actions necessary to achieve agreed biologically-based escapement goals.
- 4) {Reflects advisor discussion of importance of ensuring that Grays Harbor stocks are considered in international and federal processes.} The Department will ensure that consideration is provided to Grays Harbor coho and Chinook salmon during the Pacific Fishery Management Council process.
- 5) {Recognizes economic value of fisheries; modification reflects public comments.} In a manner consistent with conservation objectives, seek to enhance the overall economic well-being and stability of Grays Harbor Basin fisheries.
- 6) {Section from existing NOF policy regarding opportunities for recreational and commercial fisheries; replace with species specific sharing sections later in draft policy.}
- 7) {Section from existing NOF policy and reflects advisor discussion of providing fishing opportunities throughout the basin.} In a manner consistent with conservation objectives, ~~recreational~~ fishing opportunities will be fairly distributed across fishing areas and reflect the diverse interests of fishers.
- 8) {Section from NOF policy and reflects advisor discussion of interaction between recreational and commercial fisheries.} Recreational and commercial fisheries shall be structured to minimize gear and other fishery conflicts.

- 9) {Section from NOF policy incorporating importance of monitoring and enforcement programs; modified to reflect public comment.} Monitoring, sampling, and enforcement programs will adequately account for species and population impacts (landed catch and incidental fishing mortality) of all recreational and commercial fisheries and ensure compliance with state regulations.
- 10) {Concept from NOF policy reflecting inseason management; modified to reflect advisor input.} The Department shall implement inseason management actions if it is apparent that a fishery will place at risk the achievement of conservation objectives. The Department shall seek to ensure that inseason management actions affect fisheries in a fair and transparent manner.
- 11) {Section from NOF policy incorporating advisor discussions of importance of communication and transparency}. Salmon management will be well documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable. The Department shall strive to make ongoing improvements for effective public involvement. These shall include: a) enhanced opportunities for public comment during the preseason fishery planning processes; b) communication of inseason information and management actions to advisors and the public; c) seeking Quinault Indian Nation support for the inclusion of observers in co-management meetings; and d) improved communication with stakeholders regarding co-management issues that are under discussion.
- 12) {Draft concept regarding improved management tools drawn from discussion with advisors.} The Department shall seek to improve fishery management and technical tools through improved fishery monitoring, the development of new tools, and rigorous assessment of fishery models and parameters.
- 13) {Draft concept drawn from advisor discussion of Wynoochee mitigation.} The Department shall work with the affected parties to finalize the Wynoochee Dam mitigation plan and initiate spending of the mitigation funds.
- 14) {Draft concept drawn from advisor discussion.} Mark-selective fishers shall be implemented, monitored, and enforced in a manner designed to achieve the anticipated conservation benefits.

Spring Chinook Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage spring Chinook salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild spring Chinook. In no case, shall the impact of state-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.

- 2) Prioritize freshwater recreational fisheries, with an objective of opening freshwater areas no later than May 1.

Fall Chinook Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage fall Chinook salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild and hatchery Chinook. In no case, shall the impact of state-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.

- 2) The following guidelines describe the anticipated sharing of fishery impacts in the Grays Harbor Basin between state-managed commercial, marine recreational, and freshwater recreational fisheries. Variation from these guidelines may occur if it will result in fisheries that more closely achieve the stated purpose of this policy.

Chehalis Fall Chinook Proposed Sharing Sideboards
Average % Recreational (2009-2012): 22%

Option A. Recreational Input

QIN	CTCR	Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
		Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	8.25%	40%	30%	1.75%	11.75%

Option B. Commercial Input

QIN	CTCR	Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
		Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	8.25%	25%	19%	16.75%	22.75%

QIN (Quinault Indian Nation) – US v Washington
CTCR (Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation) – WDFW management computation
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Humptulips Fall Chinook Proposed Sharing Sideboards
Average % Recreational (2009-2012): 36%

Option A. Recreational Input

QIN	Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
	Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	48%	38%	2%	12%

Option B. Commercial Input

QIN	Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
	Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	31%	23%	19%	27%

QIN (Quinault Indian Nation) – US v Washington
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**Recreational Fishery
Freshwater and Marine Sharing Input**

	% to Freshwater	
	Small Run	Large Run
Fall Chinook		
Chehalis	73%	52%
Humptulips	78%	63%
Coho		
Chehalis	73%	55%
Humptulips	82%	66%
Chum	87%	67%

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Coho Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage coho salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild and hatchery coho salmon. In no case, shall the impact of state-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.
- 2) The following guidelines describe the anticipated sharing of fishery impacts in the Grays Harbor Basin between state-managed commercial, marine recreational, and freshwater recreational fisheries. Variation from these guidelines may occur if it will result in fisheries that more closely achieve the stated purpose of this policy.

Chehalis Coho Proposed Sharing Sideboards

Average % Recreational (2009-2012): 34%

Option A. Recreational Input		Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
QIN	CTCR	Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	4.32%	42%	35%	3.68%	10.68%

Option B. Commercial Input		Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
QIN	CTCR	Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	4.32%	28%	21%	17.68%	24.68%

QIN (Quinault Indian Nation) – US v Washington
 CTCR (Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation) – WDFW management computation

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Humptulips Coho Proposed Sharing Sideboards

Average % Recreational (2009-2012): 42%

Option A. Recreational Input		Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
QIN	CTCR	Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%		46%	39%	4%	11%

Option B. Commercial Input		Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
QIN	CTCR	Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%		31%	23%	19%	27%

QIN (Quinault Indian Nation) – US v Washington

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, information subject to changes and amendments over time Commission Presentation November 7, 2013 23

Chum Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage chum salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

- 1) Fisheries will be managed with the intent of achieving escapement goals for wild and hatchery chum salmon. In no case, shall the impact of state-managed fisheries result in an impact of more than 5% of the return when the adult return exceeds the spawner objective by less than 10%.
- 2) No fisheries directed at chum salmon shall occur unless the adult coho salmon return exceeds spawner objectives, or if coho salmon impacts remain after coho and Chinook salmon fisheries.
- 3) The following guidelines describe the anticipated sharing of fishery impacts between state-managed commercial, marine recreational, and freshwater recreational fisheries. Variation from these guidelines may occur if it will result in fisheries that more closely achieve the stated purpose of this policy.

Grays Harbor Chum Proposed Sharing Sideboards					
Average % Recreational (2009-2012): <u>4%</u>					
Option A. Recreational Input					
QIN	CTCR	Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
		Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	0%	43%	35%	7%	15%
Option B. Commercial Input					
QIN	CTCR	Recreational Share		Commercial Share	
		Small Run	Large Run	Small Run	Large Run
50%	0%	14%	6%	36%	44%

QIN (Quinault Indian Nation) – US v Washington
 CTCR (Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation) – WDFW management computation

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife - Information subject to change and amendments over time
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Adaptive Management

The Commission recognizes that adaptive management will be essential to achieve the purpose of this policy. Components of the adaptive management will include the following:

- 1) Annual Fishery Management Review. The Department shall annually evaluate fishery management tools and parameters, identify improvements as necessary to accurately predict fishery performance and escapement, and distribute the results of the evaluation.
- 2) Inseason Management. The Department shall develop, evaluate, and implement fishery management models and management measures that are projected to enhance the effectiveness of fishery management relative to management based on preseason predictions.
- 3) Spawner Goals. The Department shall review spawner goals to ensure that they reflect the current productivity of salmon. The review shall be initiated with Chinook salmon in 2014 and chum salmon in 2015.