

Jan. 17, 2015 – Willapa Bay Policy Development Public Meeting

WDFW – Steve Thiesfeld, Mike Scharpf, Chad Herring, Barb McClellan, Rob Allan, Randy Aho, Dan Chadwick.

Public ~ 30 attending

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Introduction

Where have we been and where are we going:

- Update on the progress of the WB Policy,
 - Between now and the next commission, we will take and review public comments and adjust the draft policy as needed.
- Comments, through the WDFW web site, comments are summarized than presented to Commission. Comments direct to Commission should be addressed directly to Commission.
- Presentation of aspirations.
- Commission provided direction to WDFW as guidelines for policy development.
- Provide public with the Commission guidelines (side boards).
- Can the draft policy be posted on the State Register? Steve, probably not going this direction.

Review AHA Analysis:

- Short review of what the AHA model is and does.
- PowerPoint presentation of the AHA model results. (hard copy provided)
- Reiterate the definition of Chinook priority to Recreational sector, as providing the Rec sector first opportunity to Chinook.
- Any fishery before Aug 15 was historically fully out-of-basin Chinook impacts (no WB bound fish). What is it now, why no commercial days before Aug 15?
 - We will check the history, origin of Chinook during that time frame.
 - We would need genetic analysis to proof where those catches originate.
- Discussion about impact rates on NOR Chinook, commercial rate directs all fisheries. WDFW priority is to provide Rec sector first opportunity.
- No commercial fisheries before Sept 2nd, so where are the NOR impacts? Chinook peak run-timing is Aug 28th.
- What have other policies, recovery plans used for time-lines to meet objectives? Why 10 years for this policy?
 - We will research other time-lines.

- 10 years is two Chinook cycles.
- Some believe that we've tricked the AHA model to give the results that meet harvest aspirations by calling hatchery productions as "segregated" or "integrated".
- How are these options going to be accomplished with resources (\$)?? Will more be needed?
 - Yes, if production is increased.
- Tangle net gear was not used in any options.
- Why no commercial fisheries before Sept. in 2N?
 - Impact to Willapa River stock.
 - Data that shows Willapa River impacts in 2N were requested.
 - Tag data skewed because catch isn't supported in fish houses.
- Why does this model work, when all others fail?
 - Previous plans have not worked.

Review Draft Policy:

- Reviewed the draft Policy line by line.
- The weak stocks are what will be driving fisheries, which was not the case in the past. If Coho run returns is larger than expected and catch is larger, will the fishery be ended because catch is larger than the pre-season prediction?
 - Weak stock impacts will drive these decisions.
- Is there a habitat restoration plan in place? Know if the habitat can achieve the goals.
- Transition period - use Harvest Rates (HR).
 - During the transitional period, business-as-usual should occur. Rec sector needs access.
- What happens if HRs used do not prove to provide escapement goal, long- or short-term, what is the priority?
 - That is when adaptive management kicks in.
- Remove tangle net if not in the models.
- What are the net mortality rates? What about rates for alternative gears?
 - IFSP rates for gill nets.
 - We don't have any mortality rates for alt gears specific to WB, there are other data that can be used.
 - If the gill net rate from Col R needed to be reevaluated, why wouldn't reevaluation be needed for alt gear? Using mort rate for alt gear from Col R studies.
- How will we deal with per-terminal impacts when trying to increase WB NOR Chinook?
- Marlisa provided a Coho release recommendation for Nemah. I did not hear what it was.
- There is a break in the Audio file, the devise memory filled up. Check time stamps.

Public Input:

- Public comment time. Recorded.