

Columbia River Fisheries

Management Framework and Review of 2001-2006 Seasons and Allocations

WDFW/ODFW
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Management Principles

- ★ Conservation
 - State and Federal ESA
 - Natural and hatchery escapement objectives
- ★ Columbia River Treaty Tribes
 - United States versus Oregon (US v OR)
 - Management Plans/Agreements
- ★ Columbia River Compact
 - Ratified by Congress in 1918
- ★ Sport and Commercial Fisheries
 - Statutory requirements
 - Commission Policies



Food Fish Management Policy

Oregon Revised Statute 506.109

Manage for optimum economic, commercial, recreational, aesthetic benefits ...

- ★ To permit an optimum and equitable utilization of available food fish
- ★ To provide optimum commercial and public recreational benefits
- ★ To preserve the economic contribution of the sport and commercial fishing industries



Mandate of department and commission – Washington RCW 77.04.012

- Preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters
- ★ Seek to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state
 - ★ Promote orderly fisheries and shall enhance and improve recreational and commercial fishing in this state



Who Manages Columbia Basin Fisheries?

- States, Feds and Tribes in mainstem Columbia River
- States and individual treaty tribes share co-management in the tributaries
- Authorities
 - Tribal treaties reserved rights to fish in perpetuity
 - State laws require conservation of the public's fish
 - *United States v Oregon* clarifies treaty and non-treaty sharing of harvestable fish
 - ESA provides for federal oversight



U.S. v. Oregon

- ★ 1968 Federal court ruled equitable harvest for Columbia River treaty tribes
- ★ Columbia River Fish Management Plan (CRFMP) adopted as court order in 1988
- ★ Plan aimed at rebuilding weak salmon and steelhead runs and guide production and harvest
- ★ New 10-year plan near completion



Columbia River Compact

Compact and agreement between Oregon and Washington ratified by Congress 1918.

- Fishery decision-making authority
- Provides concurrent jurisdiction of Columbia fisheries
- Compact comprised of Directors or designees of WDFW and ODFW
- Public hearings held to adopt or modify seasons and regulations
- Number of Compact hearings 50 – 60 per year



Salmon Fishery Management

- ★ Three management time frames
 - Spring (January 1 – June 15)
 - ★ Sharing of allowable upriver ESA impacts
 - Summer (June 16 – July 31)
 - ★ Sharing of allowable harvest below PR Dam
 - Fall (August 1 – December 31)
 - ★ Sharing of allowable URB and LRH ESA impacts
- ★ Fishery-specific guidelines



Salmon Fishery Management (continued)

- ★ Endangered Species Act
 - Spring Chinook, Fall Chinook, Sockeye, Coho, Steelhead, Chum
- ★ Allocation
 - Indian/Non-Indian
 - Sport/Commercial



Management Approaches

- * Escapement Goal Management:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Run Size} - \text{Spawning Need} &= \text{Harvestable} \\ 100,000 - 40,000 &= 60,000 \end{aligned}$$

- * Harvest Rate Based Management:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Run Size} \times \% \text{ Allowable} &= \text{Harvestable} \\ 100,000 \times 12\% &= 12,000 \end{aligned}$$

ESA constraints limit access to harvestable fish. (It is not possible to catch all the harvestable fish given the ESA limits.)



Spring Chinook Policy Guiding Principles

- ★ Meet ESA requirements
- ★ Manage within *U.S. v Oregon* agreement
- ★ Meet hatchery escapement goals
- ★ Conduct mark-selective fisheries



Spring Chinook Policy Fishery Management Objectives

- ★ Seasons set by Compact
- ★ Limit wild winter steelhead impacts to 2% (mainstem Columbia)
- ★ In-season flexibility to meet non-treaty impacts
- ★ Adjust sport season if needed
- ★ Provide for sport fisheries throughout the basin



Sport/Commercial Allocations Upriver Spring Chinook

From 2001 – 2006: 2% of Upriver Run Size

- * Sport Fishery

- Mouth to McNary, Snake River, SAFE, Ringold, Wanapum
- Has used 50% - 119% of sport allocation
- Average – 91%

- * Commercial Fishery

- Mouth to Bonneville and SAFE
- Has used 55% - 118% of commercial allocation
- Average – 97%



Table 4. Recent Lower Columbia River Mainstem Spring Chinook Catches ¹

Year	Sport		Commercial	
	Pre-season Expectation	Actual	Pre-season Expectation	Actual
2000	200-400	300	300-600	500
2001	13-15,000	25,800	6,000	5,400
2002	21,000	20,700	19,500	14,200
2003	10-15,000	17,400	10-15,000	3,200
2004	33,600	23,900	17,700	13,200
2005	24,000	11,400	14,000	5,400
2006		7,000		4,400
2007		6,800		2,900

1. Kept catches only (adults and jacks). Since 2001 (except for the 2001 commercial fishery) only adipose fin-clipped hatchery spring Chinook could be retained.

Summer Chinook Policy Guiding Principles

- ★ Meet escapement requirements
- ★ Manage within *U.S. v Oregon* agreement
- ★ Address Colville and Wanapum tribal needs
- ★ Sport fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam highest sport priority



Summer Chinook Policy Fishery Management Objectives

- ★ Seasons set by Compact
- ★ Meet with stakeholders (North of Falcon)
- ★ In-season flexibility to meet non-treaty harvest objectives
- ★ Provide for sport fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam and commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam



Table 2. Recent Harvest of Summer Chinook

<u>Year</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Below Bonneville Sport</u>	<u>Bonneville to Priest Rapids</u>	<u>Total Sport</u>	<u>Below Bonneville Angler Trips</u>
2002	No season	1,503	111	1,614	54,839
2003	No season	2,007	328	2,335	46,943
2004	233	1,240	157	1,397	41,850
2005	2,574	1,622	136	1,758	38,505
2006	5,008	4,924	166	5,090	43,802
2007	1,100	2,500	82	2,582	23,732

Note: Allocation in place for 2006-2007 for 50/50 sharing.



Fall Chinook Policy (North of Falcon Policy)

- ★ Decisions consistent with:
 - Agency statutory authority
 - *U.S. v Oregon* agreement
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Commission policies



Sport/Commercial Allocations URB Fall Chinook

From 2002 – 2006 – 8.25% of URB Run Size

- * Sport Fishery
 - Has used 84% - 133% of allocation
 - Average – 104%
- * Commercial Fishery
 - Has used 64% - 136% of allocation
 - Average – 94%



Table 8. Recent Fall Chinook URB Harvest Sharing – Mainstem Columbia River

Year	URB Harvest		Total Harvest		Total Run
	Sport	Commercial	Sport	Commercial	
2000	6,500	4,600	16,700	10,800	255,000
2001	5,600	7,300	25,800	21,500	548,900
2002	13,400	6,100	43,500	35,600	733,300
2003	16,400	15,900	46,800	58,400	893,100
2004	13,200	18,800	36,700	41,100	799,000
2005	14,800	7,800	30,300	27,500	561,400
2006	9,200	8,700	17,600	26,000	422,400
2007	4,900	4,400	13,400	12,000	224,300

