

2014 WB Advisory Group Meeting
March 27, 2013 4:30 pm – 7 pm
Montesano City Hall

WDFW Staff: Steve Theisfeld, Ron Warren, Kirt Hughes, Mike Scharpf, Barbara McClellan, Chad Herring

Advisors: Steve Thiesfeld, Kirt Hughes, Mike Scharpf, Barbara McClellan

Handout: Options

1. 2013 season in 2014 Model
2. Alt. A Proportionate reduction (32.8%) for commercial and sport
3. Alt. B – shift in commercial days
 - a. No 2R or 2M through Sept. 15
4. Alt. C
 - a. Commercial same as Alt B
 - b. Close Naselle River thru Sept. 15
5. Alt. D – different sharing of chinook burden
 - a. Commercial same as Alt B
 - b. Naselle R open Sept. 1
 - c. MA Closed through Sept. 15 for lower bay sport fishery
 - d. North Bay Closed
 - e. North River/Smith Creek open Oct. 1
6. Alt. E
 - a. No reduction in Sport same as 2013 season
 - b. No 2T/2R/2M prior to 6 pm Sept. 15

Commercials want the line of demarcation back that used to exit in Area 2G

Commercial Suggestions:

- Start with Alt. C
- Alt. F schedule

○ Jul 22 – Aug 15	3.5 days – 12 hrs	T, U, N
○ Aug. 16 – 20	2 12 hrs	U, N, half 2R
○ Aug 21 -25	3 12 hrs	U, N
○ Aug. 26 – Sept. 1	2 12 hrs	U, N
○ Sept. 2 – 8	4 12 hrs	U, N
○ Sept. 9 – 15	4 12 hrs	U, N
○ Sept 16 – 22	7 24 hrs	T, U (1 day off), N, M, R
○ Sept. 23 – 30	8 24 hrs	T, U (1 day off), N, M, R
○ Oct. 1 – 7	7 24 hrs	T, U (1 day off), N, M, R
○ Oct. 8 – 14	2 24 hrs	T, U, N, M, R
○ Nov. 1 – 10	5 24 hrs	T, U, N, M, R
○ Nov. 11 – 19	9 24 hrs	T, U, N, M, R
- Start with Alt. F but reduce the early 3.5 days to 3 days = 0.2 savings

Could reduce bag limit for the bay fishery to make savings for the Naselle River?

- 3% of anglers that turned in a CRC limited their bag limit in Aug and Sept.
- Using Alt F to start, reduce bag limit in MA from 3 to 2 = transfers impacts, doesn't save much to get Lower Naselle River open earlier
- If **commercial fishery drops a day in Aug. 21 – 25 from 3 to 2 days in Alt. F**, there is enough savings to keep Naselle River freshwater sport fishery open
 - **Alt G (modification of Alt. F)**
 - Naselle River no additional closure from 2013 - keeps 3 fish bag
 - MA Closed in lower bay for sport thru Sept. 15 (3 fish bag in the bay)
 - North Bay Closed
 - North River / Smith Creek Open Oct. 1

Alt. G is the commercial side of the advisor's option to recommend. The commercial fishery reduced schedule to provide Naselle River opportunity and gave up a day in Area 2T to allow no commercial fishing through Sept. 15.

FE: Recommends Alt. E

MD: Recommends Alt. G

SGray: Keep 2T. Most of those are dip-in fish not WB local.

North River – 3 fish bag for coho

Public Testimony:

Bob Lake

- Requests fish trap permit for Nemah River
- Close Nemah River if fish trap permit isn't allow. Produce Chum

Steve Gacke

- Need to look at bag limit in Nemah, should increase
- Naselle reduction above weir to 500 fish – willing to go down path but would like to see 4-5 year evaluation while keeping brood as it is until evaluation is complete

Marlisa Dugan

- Increase bag limit on Nemah River

Norm Reinhardt

- If the Commission is going to change the policy for WB, it is just the start of the challenges we are look at for WB

Art Holman

- Need to let more fish upriver

Tim Hamilton

- Model proposals – escapement impacts are missing
- Manage to conservation

John Campbell

- You are inviting problems in weak chinook runs

Jack Hollingsworth

- Support that left 2T open and kept Naselle open
- No wild fish
- If we raise hatchery fish, we need to harvest them

Ross Barkhurst

- This is not a discussion of conservation
- Threw out escapement goals
- Lack of public involvement

Dave Hamilton

- North River closure proposed is inadequate. Only stream where the native run is for Chinook. regard a closure for recreational and commercial at least until Oct. 15
- 2T be denied because the proportion of North River is high
- Reductions need to be proportionate between commercial, marine area and freshwater based on catch

Gary Johnson

- Tired of manipulation with the advisory group
- Conservation is not there
- Agendas and meetings not well advertised
- Lied to about all kinds of things
- Asking the dept to take the steps necessary to keep fish returning
- 2N not to exceed 4 days
- Closures in 2R...

