



# FACT SHEET

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

## Columbia River Salmon and Sturgeon Allocation Public Comments October 24, 2005

Public Meeting – October 12, 2005 – Vancouver, Washington

1. Economics are important and need to be considered in the decision making process.
2. Conservation of spring Chinook and wild winter steelhead – concern for March tangle net fishery – too many spring Chinook and wild winter steelhead in the water. Limit commercial fishery to early part of the run.
3. Concern regarding the need to sustain runs. Question the small number of commercial fishers harvesting large numbers of fish.
4. Against increase in 2% for wild winter steelhead impact.
5. Economics is part of the equation – can't justify gillnet fishery.
6. Columbia River can't support gillnet fisheries.
7. Concern regarding spending a lot of money for limited fishing.
8. Economics is important. The sport fishery deserves the majority of the fish.
9. Don't support the decision to harvest the numbers of coho in the 2004 gillnet fishery. Concern regarding closing sport in 2005 and commercial open now.
10. Concern about front-loading commercial fisheries early in the spring Chinook season. If can't use selective tools then stop fishing.
11. Sharing not equitable between sport and commercial. Need sport season to last entire season. Mad about commercial allocation.
12. Need this turnout at the commission meetings. Need to write letters to the legislators.
13. Like to see economics for both sectors – can we buy out commercial fleet? Need to have minimum set-times. Concern about sturgeon mortality. How many sturgeon recruit above size limit?
14. How do we get final copy of commission package? Against wild winter steelhead impact increase. Don't front-load fisheries. Count terminal commercial fisheries. Question the numbers in sport fishery.
15. Think commission meetings are rubberstamped. What is equitable? Need better commercial gear.
16. Need majority of harvest to sport fishery – 100%.
17. Need to address sea lion predation.
18. Concern for poor prediction and over harvest by commercial fishery. Need better management.
19. Concern for reduced seasons. Commercial fleet fishing with closed sport. Why no economic data presented to commission?
20. Economics is important. Majority should get most of harvest quota.
21. What about coho salmon? Why still gillnetting? Can gill-netters keep un-clipped coho? Concern for green sturgeon – should be protected. No retention of green sturgeon.
22. Concern for how commercial gillnetting occurs. End gillnetting. Questions gill-netters catch numbers.
23. Want sturgeon fishing on Sunday.
24. Format of fishing out-of-date. Question market fishing.

25. Need to care about economics. Question request for 6% impacts on wild winter steelhead. Given the 2005 steelhead returns – what are the department's plans? Would like to see notes typed and given to commission.
26. What about the supply side of economics?
27. Smelt run a disaster. Question run methods. Problem with sport closed and commercial open. Concern for late coho return and commercial fishing on them. Need to be honest (duration of agreements). Need information on website. Question sport mortality study – 10% too high. Test fisheries – why allowed? Sport fishers need better allotment.
28. Stop commercial fishery to recover fish stocks. Buy out commercial fishers and sell hatchery fish from hatchery.
29. Should be asking what is needed to recover steelhead – not asking for a biological opinion.
30. Is there a study on fish dropout in gill net fishery?
31. Need to care about economics.

#### Public Meeting – October 20, 2005 – Cathlamet, Washington

1. Allocate more fish to the tributaries for nutrient enhancement.
2. Denying commercial fisheries is denying public access to the fish. All need to work together to address the real problems. There should be enough fish for everyone.
3. Transparency of commercial fishery would help.
4. Sport fishery provides more dollars to state than commercial. Commercial fishery should be in Select Areas. Sport fishery won't support a new increase without return for the dollar.
5. Support commercial fishery. 2-4 million dollars in sport fishery not spent in local community.
6. Concern for 80/20 sturgeon allocation. Could stay with it. Support fork length change. Fall sport fishery has expanded and impacts have been to the commercial fishery. Summer Chinook should be 50/50. Historically this was the backbone of the commercial fishery. Commercial fishery supports local economy. Spring Chinook should be 50/50. Concern about water temperatures, marine mammals, dams etc.
7. Need to address spring Chinook forecast. Two industries – one has been going up the other has gone down. Commercial industry needs to share better – needs public relations to show what they are doing to conserve fish. Quit pointing the finger at each other.
8. Don't like new industry trying to take over. See big money interests in sport industry to make big profits.
9. Need to find common ground. 1st priority is to make sure there are fish left. Look to see how to get full allotments for commercial fishery without impacting sport fishery.
10. Concern for commercial fishery on coho with tributaries closed to fishing. Gillnetting not only gear that can be used.
11. Social snapshot of Columbia River gill net fisheries. Concern for continual reduction of Columbia River commercial fishery. No further reduction in commercial fishery allocation. Increase commercial allocation.
12. Support the commercial fishery and high quality local caught fish.
13. Restore sensitive stocks. Commercial fishery having too much impacts on these stocks. Need new tools for fisheries. Question Department's numbers.
14. Use the word sustainable. Sport fishery getting short of deal.
15. Commercial fishery providing fish to public. Get involved in PFMC to address ocean allocation.
16. Many impacts to fish populations. Much dollars being spent to recover them. Temporary gillnet fishery closure with compensation. With year-round sport seasons.
17. Commercial fishery wants fair share. Spring Chinook 50/50. If you include Select Areas and tributary sport for spring Chinook the sharing is currently 80/20 sport. Summer Chinook 50/50 on catch after tribal catch. Fall Chinook 50/50.

18. Keep the infrastructure of the fisheries in place. Work on common goal. Sport and commercial fisheries increase hatchery funding.
19. Sport fishery should change gears to reduce mortality. Go after dams and sea lions.
20. Oppose 5-year plan. Split up timing on plans. Against winter steelhead impact increase. Don't front-load commercial fishery.
21. Lower Columbia River communities are impacted by reduced commercial fishing.
22. Need 50/50 sharing and focus on needs of conservation. Frustrated with large runs and small fishing times. Need workable, flexible situation.
23. Commercial fleet has been reduced from 750 to 175. Why should we have 50/50 sharing? Use punch cards for commercial fishery.
24. Why egg boxes for coho when commercial fishery can keep unclipped fish. Need tangle net fishing for coho. 50/50 not ok based on economics. Sport dollars are spent in local communities. 20-30% for commercial fishery. No commercial harvest on the Columbia River.
25. Mother Nature needs some fish (harvest less fish). Need to work on recovering fish. Department has over-regulated resource. Sees more economic benefit from commercial industry than sport guides. Haven't seen live boxes on charter boats. Question leaving fish in water. Control terns in the lower river.
26. Fisheries are important to the community. Large increase in sport fishers. Change in how sport fishery is operated. Allocation should stay where it is now. Increase the total harvest on sturgeon.
27. Support 50/50 split on all allocations. Mitchell Act funding supports fisheries. All people should have access to the fish. Commercial fishery is allocation to the public. Need better accountability for sport fishery.
28. Don't support 5-year agreement. Spring Chinook sport fishery through April. Fall Chinook through October 15. Buoy 10 through Labor Day.
29. Money is important in lower River as well as the I-5 area.
30. Sit down and work together. Commercial fishery maybe should ask for 80%. Print numbers of surplus fish wasted. Why not work of getting hatcheries to 100%. Get together and address sea lions.

#### Additional Comments from Public (written responses)

1. North of Falcon process seems to work well. Favor a 10-year agreement for allocations and keep allocations as they are now.
2. Support 60/40 sport/commercial split for spring Chinook
3. Angler Group – Support current allocation for spring Chinook, but also strong support for the matrix. In low return years, some priority needs to be given to the sports fishers. Keep everything the same for sturgeon. Keep wild winter steelhead impacts at 2%. Support a 5-year agreement with on and off ramps when needed.
4. Support status quo for all fisheries allocations that are being considered. Still a big fan of the matrix for spring Chinook. Do not support implementing the fork length regulation for sturgeon at this time, but put this issue on the table for future discussions. The first step would be public education, followed by public awareness and public input.
5. Charter Association – Supports 80/20 sport/commercial split for sturgeon and the 60/40 geographic fishing structures for sport fisheries that are currently used. Strongly oppose the fork length measurement regulation for sturgeon. Support a 5-year plan for sturgeon if it includes flexibility to increase the quota. Support the North of Falcon process for fall Chinook.
6. Support a 10-year sport/commercial agreement of status quo for Columbia River salmon and sturgeon allocation. Support the North of Falcon process.

Comments from Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisor Groups

September 29, 2005

## Recreational

1. Do not support fork length regulation for sturgeon. Ask Commission to delay and not act during this regulation cycle.
2. Concern that the 5-year agreement for sturgeon was too long, but would be ok with off ramps. Keep at 40,000 harvestable for 2006.
3. Keep the impact rate on wild winter steelhead at 2%.
4. If there is an increase in impact rates to wild winter steelhead it should go to the sport fishery.
5. Like the matrix because it provides more allocation to sport fishery in low return years.
6. Need to provide information on economics to Commissions.

## Commercial

1. Summer Chinook should be split 50/50 sport/commercial after tribal fisheries.
  2. Would like to see a separate policy for Columbia River fall Chinook outside of the North of Falcon Policy.
  3. Fork length measurement was the best way to go for sturgeon.
  4. Need equitable allocation of harvest for spring Chinook.
  5. Need to provide information on economics to Commissions.
  6. Agencies need to let the Commissions know that fish are needed for the public.
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