

**8. Columbia River Summer Chinook Fishery Policy C-3618**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Decision Page/"Green sheet" .....	<i>i-ii</i>
Current Summer Chinook Commission Policy C-3618.....	1-2
Proposed Summer Chinook Commission Policy C-3618 .....	3-5

## **“GREEN SHEET”**

---

**Meeting dates:** December 2-4, 2010, Commission Meeting

**Agenda item #8:** Columbia River Summer Chinook Policy Briefing

**Staff Contact:** Cindy LeFleur, Director’s Office Region 5  
Columbia River Policy Coordinator

**Presenter(s):** Cindy LeFleur, Director’s Office Region 5  
Columbia River Policy Coordinator  
Bill Tweit, Director’s Office  
Columbia River/Distant Waters Policy Lead

---

### **Background:**

Summer Chinook enter the Columbia River in June and July on their migration to the upper Columbia River basin, above Priest Rapids Dam. Upper Columbia summer Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are currently healthy. Population abundance has rebounded in the most recent decade to levels that provide fish for harvest. The Columbia River harvest is carefully managed to allow directed summer Chinook fisheries only when returns exceed natural and hatchery escapement goals. An escapement goal and treaty Indian/non-treaty harvest sharing were adopted in the new *United States v Oregon Management Agreement*.

### Management Plans/Guidelines

Conservation guidelines are included under the “2008-2017 *United States v Oregon Management Agreement for upriver Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, coho, and white sturgeon*” (MA), which provides for a biologically-based spawning escapement goal for natural and hatchery stocks combined, and a sharing plan for the available harvest between treaty Indian and non-treaty fishers.

The *Agreement between the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on jointly managed salmon and steelhead populations* (Colville Agreement) was signed in 2007. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has also developed the *Harvest Framework for Non-treaty Fisheries directed at Salmonids originating above Priest Rapids Dam*—a management plan that details management goals and harvest sharing for salmonids.

The harvest measures for summer Chinook are compatible with the measures in the Colville Agreement. These agreements/plans provide guidelines for harvest sharing of salmon and steelhead stocks originating in areas above Wells Dam, and provides for harvest opportunities above Priest Rapids Dam as the highest priority, especially when the harvestable abundance is at low levels (runs less than 50,000). This ensures that sport fisheries in the upper Columbia have a chance to harvest salmon in an area where very few opportunities exist. It also ensures that Colville tribal needs will be met.

The Department participated in *Summer Chinook Summits* (Summits) in 2009. As a result of those meetings the Department has developed specific population designations that were mutually agreed to by the other participants and additionally have developed refined natural escapement goals that reflect an aggregate goal for each watershed, with specific natural fish performance measures within the aggregate. The proposed natural escapement goals are being reviewed by the co-managers.

---

Considerations for new policy

A new escapement goal will be adopted by the *United States v Oregon* parties (Parties) in 2011 to incorporate the needs of the Chief Joseph Hatchery. The Department will initiate discussions with the Parties on their proposed new goals for natural production in the tributaries. The harvest sharing matrix is expected to be adjusted to incorporate changes to the escapement goal. The initial analysis of the ocean harvest accounting of summer Chinook suggests that the harvest in ocean fisheries may be considerably greater than originally thought, and will require additional discussions with the Colville Tribe and the Parties on harvest sharing. The non-treaty harvest allocation within the Columbia River will likely be reduced somewhat to account for the ocean harvest.

Current Policy C-3618

The previous policy, C-3618, (attachment 1), was extended through December 31, 2010, and included Guiding Principles, Fisheries Management Objectives, and an allocation of 50 percent sport / 50 percent commercial for fisheries downstream from Priest Rapids Dam. Recreational harvest above Priest Rapids Dam was excluded from the allocation policy because the agreements with the Colville Tribe provide the majority of the harvest to areas above Priest Rapids Dam.

---

**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

Department staff members have provided a draft policy (attachment 2) for consideration by the Commission, which incorporates the principles derived from the Summits and changes to the management framework, including extension of mark-selective fisheries. The policy includes 1) conservation principles, 2) fishery management principles, 3) fishery management objectives, 4) harvest allocation, and 5) delegation of authority. The policy establishes a conservation framework based on watershed specific goals and staff members have provided three options for harvest allocation of state managed fisheries. An option that changes the allocation from the status quo (Policy C-3618) will need agreement from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to have concurrent regulations. Department staff members recommend a three-year policy (2011-2013).

Next steps:

- Feedback from Commission on draft policy.
- Draft policy is shared with ODFW and advisory groups.
- Public comment on policy at January 2011 Commission meeting.
- Adoption of new policy at February 2011 Commission meeting.

---

**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

There have not been any public meetings regarding the proposed policy. Staff members will meet with the advisory groups and copies of the greensheet and associated briefing materials will be provided.

---

**Action requested:**

Briefing only.

---

**Draft motion language:**

N/A

---

**Justification for Commission action:**

N/A

---

**Communications Plan:**

Results of commission decision will be shared with co-managers and appropriate constituents.

# FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

## POLICY DECISION

---

**POLICY TITLE: Mainstem Columbia River  
Summer Chinook Allocation  
for Non-Indian Fisheries below  
Priest Rapids Dam, 2009-10**

**POLICY NUMBER: C-3618**

Supersedes: C-3618, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Termination Date: December 31, 2010\*

See Also: C-3617

\*Extension approved, March 13, 2010,



Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

---

**\*Discussion:** On March 13, 2010, the Fish and Wildlife Commission extended this policy through Dec. 31, 2010. This policy is the same as the previous two policies on summer Chinook. The recommendation of the Columbia River Fish Working Group (CRFWG) was to maintain this policy through 2013.

### Guiding Principles

- Meet the conservation requirements for summer Chinook, expressed as the escapement goal of 20,000 natural and hatchery spawners.
- Meet treaty/non-treaty sharing objectives in the U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement.
- Address Colville and Wanapum tribal subsistence and ceremonial harvest needs.
- Provide recreational fishing opportunity above Priest Rapids Dam as the highest recreational fishery priority.

### Fisheries Management Objectives

- Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact following stakeholder consultation in the North of Falcon process on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after run size forecasts are available.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-treaty summer Chinook harvest to meet the objectives of both fisheries.

- In shaping fisheries, consult with stakeholders to recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.
- Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of Priest Rapids Dam and commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam.

#### Recreational and Commercial Allocation of Upriver Summer Chinook Impacts

The allocation of available harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam shall be 50 percent for the recreational fishery and 50 percent for the commercial fishery. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) recognizes that when allowable harvest is either very large or very small, adjustments may need to be made to the allocation based on the capabilities of each fleet.

#### Delegation of Authority

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact and North of Falcon stakeholder consultation processes, to set seasons for sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries. The Director shall work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.

## Draft Summer Chinook Policy

POLICY TITLE: **Mainstem Columbia River  
Summer Chinook Allocation  
for Non-Indian Fisheries  
Below Priest Rapids Dam,  
2011-2013**

POLICY NUMBER: **C-3618**

Supersedes: POL – C-3618, 2010  
See Also: N/A

Effective Date: **February 1, 2011**  
Termination Date: December 31, 2013  
Approved by:  
Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for management of upper Columbia River summer Chinook.

### Definition and Intent

Upper Columbia River summer Chinook migrate through the lower Columbia River during June and July and are destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. The intent of the policy is to manage upper Columbia summer Chinook in a way that promotes a healthy population and is consistent with management agreements developed under *U.S. v Oregon* or with other co-managers.

### General Policy Statement

Manage the Upper Columbia summer Chinook population with conservation and fishery management objectives that are consistent with a healthy population.

### Policy Guidelines

#### Conservation Principles

- Manage the upper Columbia summer Chinook populations for sustainable natural production as well as the artificial production programs which are necessary to meet mitigation requirements and to provide conservation safeguards; consistent with the provisions of Commission Policy C3619 (Hatchery and Fishery Reform).
- Manage for population specific performance goals for Wenatchee, Methow and Okanogan natural populations, and for Eastbank, Turtle Rock, Wells, and Chief Joseph hatchery programs.
- Manage for the natural and hatchery aggregate escapement goal as required by *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement.

#### Fishery Management Principles

- Meet treaty Indian/non-treaty harvest sharing objectives described in *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement.
- Meet Colville tribal subsistence and ceremonial harvest needs, consistent with the 2007 “Agreement between the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on jointly managed salmon and steelhead populations.”
- Provide Wanapum Band fishing opportunity consistent with RCW 77.12.453 “Salmon fishing by Wanapum (Sokulk) Indians.”

- Impacts in the Washington ocean fishery will be managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) based on the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan.
- The highest priority for state managed fisheries is recreational fishing opportunity above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Consistent with conservation objectives, provide recreational fishing opportunity throughout the Columbia River and commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam.

### **Fishery Management Objectives**

- Season objectives for recreational fisheries:
  - Fishery above Priest Rapids Dam. The full season is July 1 through October 15, and the base season objective is July through the Labor Day weekend.
  - Fishery below Priest Rapids Dam. The full season is from June 16 through July 31, and base season objective is late June through July 4. If July 4 is on Friday or Saturday, the fishery would continue through Sunday.
- Season objectives for commercial fisheries:
  - Objectives are to maximize ex-vessel value and harvest opportunity.
    - Option 1: First opening as soon after June 16 as abundance and allocation allow, with subsequent openings weekly until the allocation is harvested.
    - Option 2: First opening does not occur until after June 23 as abundance and allocation allow, with subsequent openings weekly until the allocation is harvested.

### **Harvest Allocation – Recreational and Commercial**

- No directed fisheries and no allocation when abundance is below *U.S. v Oregon* escapement goal.
- Limited or base level recreational fisheries when 90% of non-treaty harvest is allocated to fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Allocate harvest between commercial and recreational sectors, when 10%-50% of harvest is allocated below Priest Rapids Dam, as necessary to provide:
  - Option A: Balanced opportunity to both sectors; measured using all recreational and commercial catches, including recreational catches above Priest Rapids Dam.
  - Option B: Implement fisheries in the following priority order:
    - Base level recreational fisheries at lower run sizes (when harvest allocation below Priest Rapids Dam is nearer to 10%).
    - Full season mark-selective recreational fisheries with remainder to commercial fisheries (when harvest allocation below Priest Rapids Dam is nearer to 25%-30%).
    - When allocation below Priest Rapids Dam is greater than 35% and catches below Priest Rapids Dam are approximately equal (50/50), allocate fish greater than the 50/50 sharing:
      - Sub-option 1: Allocate 100% to commercial fishery – provides full recreational fishery with remainder to commercial
      - Sub-option 2: Allocate 50% to commercial fishery and 50% to escapement – provides greater abundance of fish for recreational fishery to fish on.

- Option C: Balanced opportunity to both sectors; measured using amount of non-treaty harvest available below Priest Rapids Dam.
    - Status quo. Defined as 50/50 sharing below Priest Rapids Dam.
- When developing recreational and commercial options for fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam, the Department shall consider catch opportunity, stability and duration of fisheries.
- Implement mark-selective fisheries as necessary to:
  - Contribute to natural conservation objectives.
  - Fishery season objectives.
- Specific structure of recreational and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact following stakeholder consultation in the North of Falcon process on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after run size forecasts are available.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-treaty summer Chinook harvest to meet the objectives of both fisheries. When allowable harvest is either very large or very small, adjustments may need to be made to the allocation based on the capabilities of each fleet.
- In shaping fisheries, consult with stakeholders to recognize economic benefits of recreational and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.

### **Delegation of Authority**

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact and North of Falcon stakeholder consultation processes, to set seasons for recreational and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries. The Director shall work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.