

Summary Sheet

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| Meeting dates: | October 15, 2018 |
| Agenda item: | Five-year review of Columbia River Policy C3620 –(Briefing, Public Comment and Next Steps) |
| Presenter(s): | Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, Fish Program and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fisheries Manager |

Background summary:

In September 2012, the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions agreed to work together, with agency staff, and key stakeholders in an effort to develop alternative approaches to management of the sport and commercial fisheries on the Columbia River. A Workgroup was formed consisting of three commissioners from each state. Advisors to the Workgroup included two sport and two commercial fishing stakeholders from each state and a Clatsop County Commissioner representing the four coastal counties of Pacific, Wahkiakum, Clatsop, and Columbia. The Workgroup met three times during September-November, 2012 to discuss and analyze proposed fishery strategies. A final workgroup document, *'Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries: 2013 and Beyond'*, was completed on November 21, 2012.

In January 2013, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC) utilized the November 21 Workgroup recommendations as guidance to develop and adopt Policy C-3620. The policy was amended in 2017 and expires in 2023.

The objectives of the policy “are to promote orderly fisheries (particularly in waters in which the states of Washington and Oregon have concurrent jurisdiction), advance the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead, and maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state.” The policy recognizes uncertainty in implementation, so depends on continued economic and biological analysis, and relies on an adaptive management approach.

The commission requested a comprehensive and thorough review of the five years that the policy has been in place, including stakeholder participation, and provided the staff with a list of 40 questions relevant to the review. This review was formulated into a report and sorted the responses into seven major themes: management, recreational, commercial, tribal, allocation, alternative gear and economics.

Staff recommendation:

Review only, no staff recommendation.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

The Commission will need to review the results and determine what if any steps are next.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Not applicable.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The results of the five-year policy review were shared with stakeholders during meetings that took place between March and September of 2018: four meetings with each of the Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisory groups, one public meeting in eastern Washington and five Fish Committee meetings that were open to the public. Comments were documented within the report, reviewed by staff and comments as applicable, were incorporated to improve the five-year policy review report. Throughout this process, report updates were shared during the Fish Committee meetings and materials were posted on the Commission and advisory group websites.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

To be determined.

Draft motion language:

Not applicable.

Post decision communications plan:

If the Commission requests additional analysis or development of potential adaptive management steps, those requests should be communicated to stakeholders via the Advisors Groups.