

Motion on C3620

I move to amend certain provisions of Policy C3620 for the 2020 fishery season only with the intent of providing staff the policy guidance necessary to develop 2020 fishery plans that mirror, as closely as possible the actual 2019 fisheries. The temporary amendments are as follows:

Spring Chinook:

(a) Assign 80% of the ESA-impact to mainstem recreational fisheries. Any unused recreational allocation from below Bonneville should be transferred to recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam and in the Snake River.

(b) Assign 20% to commercial fisheries.

Summer Chinook:

(a) Assign 80% of the harvestable surplus available for use downstream from Priest Rapids Dam to mainstem recreational fisheries.

(b) Assign 20% of the harvestable surplus available for use downstream from Priest Rapids Dam to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries using gears other than gill nets.

(c) Unused recreational and commercial harvest in below Priest Rapids fisheries will be transferred to recreational fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam.

Sockeye:

No retention expected in recreational fisheries downstream of the Wenatchee River, unless forecasts indicate a harvestable return to the Wenatchee.

Tule Fall Chinook:

a) Assign no more than 70% of the remaining ESA-impact for lower Columbia River Tule Fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries.

(b) Assign not less than 30% of the remaining ESA-impact for lower Columbia River Tule Fall Chinook to off-channel commercial fisheries and mainstem alternative gear commercial fisheries that target Lower River Hatchery Fall Chinook and hatchery coho. Use up to 2% of commercial ESA impacts of the most constraining stock for use in lower river commercial fisheries using alternative gears. The Department shall approve alternative gears for use.

Upriver Bright Fall Chinook:

a) Assign no more than 70% of the remaining ESA-impact for Snake River wild Fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries.

(b) Assign not less than 30% of the remaining ESA-impact for Snake River wild Fall Chinook to off-channel commercial fisheries and mainstem commercial fisheries that target Upriver Brights. Provide additional mainstem commercial harvest of upriver bright fall Chinook when recreational fishery objectives are expected to be met. Gillnet use in the mainstem is restricted to upriver bright fall chinook directed fisheries in commercial zones 4 and 5, using large mesh gear only. Use up to 2% of commercial ESA impacts of the most constraining stock for use in lower river commercial fisheries using alternative gears. The Department shall approve alternative gears for use.

Coho:

Assign commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA impact for lower Columbia natural coho to implement off-channel coho and fall chinook fisheries, and mainstem fall chinook and hatchery coho fisheries. Assign the balance to inriver mainstem recreational fisheries. If these fisheries are unable to use all of the ESA impacts of lower Columbia natural coho, assign the remainder to mainstem commercial coho fisheries.

General:

Require the use of barbless hooks in all mainstem Columbia River and tributary recreational fisheries for salmon and steelhead

Limit the use of gill nets in non-tribal commercial fisheries, other than shad and smelt, in the mainstem Columbia River to fall fisheries in Commercial Zones 4 and 5. Limit other non-tribal gill net use to off-channel areas only.

Delegation of Authority:

The Director is delegated to work with the ODFW Director to resolve any discrepancies between Oregon and Washington policy guidance for the 2020 fishing season and is directed to report on his efforts to the Commission.