

Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review

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Overview

Background

- i. Harvest Reform
- ii. Policy C-3620
- iii. Comprehensive Policy Review
- iv. Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC)
- v. 2020 ODFW-WDFW Director Delegation

Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW)

- i. Process
- ii. Meetings



Background – Harvest Reform

OR Governor Kitzhaber requested OR Commission to work with WA (2012)

- i. Further prioritize recreational fisheries in the mainstem
- ii. Enhance Select Areas (off-channel) for commercial
- iii. Transition from gill nets to alternative gears in the mainstem

2012 joint-state workgroup process

- i. Commissioners, staff, and key stakeholders
- ii. Final workgroup document was developed: “Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries: 2013 and beyond”



Background – Policy C-3620

WA Commission adopted Policy C-3620 (2013)

- i. Based upon the 2012 joint-state workgroup recommendations
- ii. Modified in 2017 and 2019, and expires in 2023
 - a. Director Delegation for 2020 only
- iii. Three primary objectives: orderly fisheries, conservation and recovery, and economic well-being and stability of sport and commercial fisheries
- iv. In recognizing uncertainty, the policy was to depend on continued economic and biological monitoring, and rely on adaptive management
- v. Designed to further establish recreational priority for salmon in the mainstem Columbia River



Background – Comprehensive Policy Review

Policy review request in January 2018 (published November 2018)

- i. “Comprehensive Evaluation of the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620, 2013-2017”
- ii. Summarize activities and evaluate results compared to pre-policy years (2010-12)
 - a. Incorporated Commission review and public input
 - b. Expectations of the original long-term policy were not fully realized:
 1. Alternative commercial fishing gear development and performance has fallen short of expectations; development efforts continue
 2. Select Area production increased, but with no expansion on the Washington side due to geography and survival limitations
 3. Recreational fisheries benefits (angler trips) were less than expected with increased allocations



PRC – Process

The Washington and Oregon Commissions met to review performance of the respective policies (November 2018)

- i. The Commissions created the PRC consisting of 3 Washington and 3 Oregon Commissioners
- ii. The PRC was tasked with developing recommendations to each state's Commission to achieve concurrent policy/regulations
 - a. Primary focus on reaching concurrency for 2019 prior to North of Falcon/PFMC
 - b. Progress towards a long-term concurrent policy (2020 and beyond)



PRC – Process

Key Goals

- i. Meet conservation goals for salmon and steelhead
- ii. Promote orderly fisheries (concurrent rules)
- iii. Maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of both the sport and commercial fishing industries
 - a. Recreational angler trips and commercial ex-vessel value compared base period (2010-12)

Tasks

- i. PRC Commissioners identify range of alternatives for analysis for both short and long-term potential modifications
 - a. i.e., recreational/commercial allocation, commercial gear, upriver spring Chinook recreational allocation, unused impacts



PRC – Meetings

January-October, 2019

- i. Develop PRC framework
- ii. 2019 options for analysis (primary consideration)
 - a. Developed a single recommendation for each state's Commission to consider:
 1. Options considered included: (1) Transition Period – 2016, (2) 2018 WA Policy, (3) two options of no economic loss
- iii. 2020 and beyond (secondary consideration)
 - a. Possible policy language alternatives
- iv. Public participation
 - a. Public comment occurred during August-October meetings
- v. November 18, 2019 PRC meeting was canceled, and subsequently the PRC was suspended in January, 2020 due to OR Commission turnover
- vi. Materials: wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/columbia-river-policy-review



PRC – Meetings – February 26 recommendation

WA Commission approved the PRC recommendation on March 2, 2019, and is as follows:

- i. Option 1 – Transition Period with amendment for spring Chinook
- ii. Transition Period refers to all the allocations and gear types allowed in 2016.
 - a. Last year moving from gillnets to alternative gear.
- iii. Change from mandatory barbless hooks to voluntary barbless hooks effective as soon as practical but by June 1, 2019 at the latest.
- iv. Good faith progress towards recommending a comprehensive Columbia River salmon fishery policy for 2020 and beyond, to be completed as soon as possible. The policies embodied in this motion are intended to be in place until such comprehensive policy is adopted.
- v. To be used only in 2019, the motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used unless the Upriver run size update is more than 129% of the Upriver spring Chinook pre-season forecast of 99,300.



2020 ODFW-WDFW Director Delegation

WA/OR non-concurrent on gears/allocation for 2020 and beyond as PRC was suspended

- i. WA Commission approved Director Delegation to negotiate with ODFW Director
 - a. Achieve concurrency for 2020 only

Directors reached agreement in February

- i. Does not set precedence for future years
- ii. Agreed to adopt OR rule on all allocation/gears and hook regulation with one exception
 - a. 75%/25% sport/commercial spring allocation sharing
 - 1. Current OR rule (80%/20%) and WA Policy (70%/30%)



CRW – Process

The Washington Commission created the CRW to continue making progress while the PRC is suspended (February 2020)

- i. CRW members are Commissioners Graybill, Kehoe, and McIsaac
- ii. CRW tasked with developing recommendations to the WA Commission for consideration
 - a. Key goals - align with PRC (conservation, orderly fisheries, maintain/enhance economic well-being)
 - b. Task – develop long-term policy recommendation based on what has been learned since implementation of the policy



CRW – Meetings

March 20, May 27 & June 10, 2020

- i. Develop CRW framework
- ii. Range of alternative options
 - a. Refine alternatives and corresponding analysis
 - b. Possible policy language
- iii. Public participation
 - a. Public comment occurred during May and June meetings
 - b. wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/columbia-river-policy-review



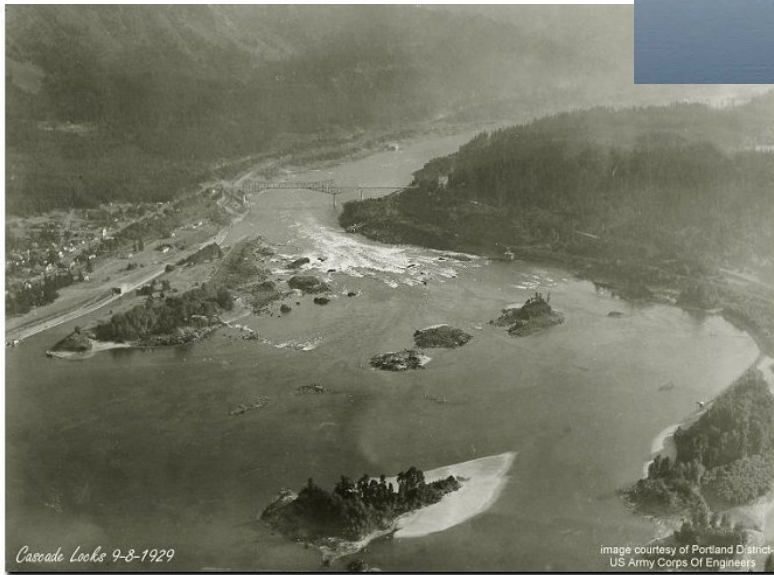
CRW – Meetings

Future meetings

- i. July 29 or 30, 2020
 - a. Workgroup meeting to discuss recommendations on final Policy C-3620 changes
- ii. July 31 or August 1, 2020
 - a. Commission agenda item on a final decision on any changes to Policy C-3620



Questions?



Cascade Locks 9-8-1929

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