

**Committee Meeting Report**  
**July 21, 2020 Columbia River Fishery Policy Workgroup Meeting**  
**Report to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission**  
July 31, 2020

The Columbia River Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW) met July 21, 2020 by webinar. All Workgroup members were present, along with Department staff members Ron Warren, Bill Tweit and Ryan Lothrop and legal counsel Joe Panesko from the Attorney General's Office. Commissioners Carpenter, Anderson, and Linville were present in the audience along with approximately 30 members of the public and other Department staff.

The agenda and reference documents can be found on the Commission website.

The bulk of the meeting dealt with a discussion of public comments on the draft revised language for Policy C-3620 that has been out for review over the summer. Written comment was reviewed and comment from those on the webinar was also taken and discussed.

Ryan Lothrop answered questions about the status and patterns of salmon and steelhead returns to the mouth of the Columbia River and the performance of fishery management in not exceeding catch limitations. Joe Panesko answer questions about the wording in the Purpose section of the public review draft and consistency with RCW 77.42.012 detailing the mandate of the Commission.

There was discussion about engaging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission towards the common goal of policy and regulatory concurrency, and also discussion of the content of the analytical "Decision Support Document" presented to the Washington Commission prior to adopting Policy C-3620 in January 2013.

The Committee reached a unanimous consensus on one recommendation to the Commission for this meeting. **The CRW recommends that the Commission schedule consideration of final action on revised policy language for Policy C-3620 at the September 10-12 meeting, with a CRW meeting held on September 10 to consider language changes to the current public review draft.** The CRW did not assign any further analysis tasks to staff, and in noting the excellent and voluminous staff work currently available on the Commission webpages dealing with the Columbia River fishery policy review process, expressed an expectation of low staff workload at the September Commission meeting.