

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Program
Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group
July 18th, 2018 1:00-3:45
Benton PUD 2721 W. 10th Avenue
Kennewick, WA

Attendance:

CRRAG Members:

WDFW Staff: Jim Brown, Chris Donley, Paul Hoffarth, Chad Jackson, Mike Livingston, Ryan Lothrop, Steve Pozzanghera, Tim Sippel, Jeremy Trump, Bill Tweit

Public: Rich Coleman, Doug Baldwin, Dave Graybill (WFW Commissioner), Lance Hebdon (IDFG)

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Topic
1:00-1:15	Introductions/Agenda/Review update and timeline
1:15-2:00	Recreational
2:00-2:15	Commercial
2:15-2:30	Tribal
2:30-2:45	Management
2:45-3:00	Alternative Gear
3:00-3:15	Allocation
3:15-3:30	Economics
3:30-3:45	Wrap-up/What's next

Meeting Notes:

1) Introductions/agenda/review update and timeline

- a) Upper Columbia Review also taking place and may not be moving at the same timeframe (Commissioner Graybill)
 - i) Region 2 and 3 will be meeting in Aug. on the Upper Columbia Review.
- b) Does this include the Snake River?
 - i) Commissioner Graybill would like to see a complete review of the entire Columbia River system including upper Columbia and Snake.
- c) Open question/comments
 - i) One of the main thing in 2012 meeting was minimizing commercial fishing. Average weight of fish harvested in fall commercial fishing had declined. We should remove commercial gillnetting.
 - ii) Guide licenses and ocean charter fisheries should be recognized as recreational fishing dollars.
 - iii) Ocean fishery structure are they taking 80%.
 - iv) Review commercial OR and WA gillnet fleet size.

2) Recreation

- a) Has the recreational fishery been prioritized in the mainstem and has the commercial fishery been priorities in off-channel areas? – no discussion/comments
- b) What science was used by the Department for the barbless hook regulation? – no discussion/comments
- c) What tributaries in Washington are exempt from the barbless hook regulations? – no discussion/comments
- d) Has the Department made any progress on the use of logbooks in the recreational fisheries? – no discussion/comments

3) Commercial

- a) Has the Department made progress in implementing the Marine Stewardship council certification program?
 - i) Discussion at last fish committee meeting was that it was not cost effective.
- b) Has the Department Made progress in implementing a buyback program?
 - i) There was a comment here about economics of Columbia River commercial fishing.
- c) Has the Department made progress on developing new off-channel sites in Washington?
 - i) New approach being discussed on Deep River for SAFE (subyearling w/ multi timing release approach)
- d) What were the results from monitoring the 2017 commercial fishery and how do they compare with expectations? – no discussion/comments

4) Tribal

- a) Has the Department met the needs of the Colville Tribe and terms of the agreements? – no discussion/comments
- b) Has the Department met the needs of the Wanapum Tribe? – no discussion/comments

5) Management

- a) What conservation benefits have occurred as a result of the Policy?
 - i) May be easier to answer the question “Were there conservation benefits as a result of the Policy?”
 - ii) The document will be consolidated between the #1 latest response and supplemental #1 response.
- b) Have fisheries focused on abundant wild stocks as well as hatchery stocks? – no discussion/comments
- c) What mark-selective fisheries have occurred? – no discussion/comments
- d) What has the Department done to reduce salmon predation?
 - i) Is avian predation management for cormorants?
 - (1) Avian predation-has created some displacement of birds and may have moved the problem to other areas.
- e) Are Washington and Oregon policies and regulations the same? – no discussion/comments

- f) Has the Department made any progress on implementing outreach programs for recreational fisheries compliance, increased effectiveness of enforcement programs and enhanced monitoring of fisheries? – no discussion/comments
- g) Did the Department seek funding to estimate release mortalities in recreational fisheries? – no discussion/comments
- h) What has the Department done to improve fishery management tools? – no discussion/comments
- i) What regulations or policies are not concurrent with Oregon? – no discussion/comments

6) Alternative Gear

- a) Have gill nets been phased out of the mainstem? Did a thorough evaluation occur? – no discussion/comments
- b) What is the definition of non-selective gill nets? Definition of ‘selectivity’ is contained within the supplemental document located on the advisory group website – no discussion/comments
- c) What alternative gears have been developed and what were the performance characteristics?
 - i) Was NOAA doing test netting/test fisheries below Bonneville or were they working with WDFW and ODFW?
- d) What alternative gears have been implemented into permanent rules?
 - i) Using pocket seines as Colville tribe used near the mouth of the Okanogan? (Commissioner Graybill) Bill discussed that this was a similar method to the seines used in lower Columbia for steelhead, but may be a problem with mortality estimates/method to assess mortality.
- e) What has occurred regarding alternative gear funding, development, testing and implementation? – no discussion/comments

7) Allocation

- a) What was the actual allocation sharing of spring Chinook between sport and commercial fisheries and how did it compare to Policy? – no discussion/comments
- b) Did the spring Chinook management buffer keep the non-treaty fisheries from exceeding the ESA guidelines? – no discussion/comments
- c) What was the actual allocation sharing of spring Chinook within the sport fishery and how did it compare to the Policy? – no discussion/comments
- d) What was the actual allocation sharing of spring Chinook between sport and commercial fisheries and how did it compare to the Policy? What were the results of testing alternative gears? – no discussion/comments
- e) What was the actual allocation sharing of summer Chinook above and below Priest Rapids Dam and how did it compare to the Policy? – no discussion/comments
- f) What was the actual allocation sharing below Priest Rapids Dam and how did it compare to the Policy? – no discussion/comments

- g) What was the actual allocation sharing of sockeye, fall Chinook and coho between sport and commercial fisheries and how did it compare to the Policy? – no discussion/comments

8) Economics

- a) What economic enhancements were expected to occur for the recreational and commercial fisheries and did they occur?
 - i) With moving commercial to off channel areas, the expectation was blossoming recreation. We need to recognize that the Policy was developed during times of abundant returns and that the runs have been declining. (commissioner Graybill)
- b) What progress has been made on achieving overall economic well-being and stability of both commercial and recreational fisheries? – no discussion/comments
- c) Have the off-channel areas been economically enhanced compared to before the Policy was implemented? – no discussion/comments
- d) Were additional opportunities for the commercial fishery provided during the transition phase? – no discussion/comments
- e) Were additional opportunities for the commercial fishery provided during the long term? – no discussion/comments
- f) What were the catches and economic expectations of the sport and commercial fisheries and were they achieved when compared to different run sizes? – no discussion/comments
- g) If the catches and economic expectations were not achieved what was done to determine why and were corrections made? – no discussion/comments
- h) Did any of the expectations regarding catch, economics, off-channel limitations, legal/financial issue, conservation objectives or other circumstances occur that would require the Department to reconsider the fishery management strategy of the Policy and if so what changes occurred?
 - i) Should include fleet size of Oregon and Washington total number of licenses, number actively fishing, and income of commercial vessels. (commissioner Graybill)

Next Meeting:

Date: August 9	Time: ~4 p.m. start	Location: Olympia, Double Tree Hilton
Staff presents latest update to Columbia River Policy Review report to the Washington Fish and Wildlife’s Fish Committee		
Time	Topic	
15 minutes	Timeline update	
1 hour 45 minutes	Report update	