

2018 GRAYS HARBOR ADVISORY MEETING
MARCH 19, 2018
REGION 6 OFFICE, MONTESANO 6-8 pm

WDFW Staff: Larry Phillips, Annette Hoffman, Mike Scharpf, Chad Herring, Kim Figlar-Barnes

Advisors: Norman Reinhardt, Allan Hollingsworth, Jack Hollingsworth, Dave Hamilton, Andy Mitby, Francis Estalilla, Bob Meyer, Joe Durham

Public: 14

General Discussion:

States 2017 Coho prediction was 90,000 ocean age three.

PFMC needs to recognize the different stocks of fish along the coast. Need clarification on limiting stocks and how those stocks are effected. CWT data is used to determine stock timing and locations. FRAM model uses CWT stocks from last 10 to 20 years.

Why is the Humptulips Coho Escapement Goal not being met?

- Coho escapement goal needs re-evaluation, not been evaluated since it was first established.

Model Review & Proposed Fisheries- Model Set with 2017 Fishery Season Schedule:

Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) imposing 20% exploitation rate impact for Grays Harbor Coho.

- Results in about 13% impact across the bar, which equates to about 10.65% for Coho in the Chehalis. Less than 2,200 available Coho.

Harvestable Chum available will not be impacted.

- What about fishing in 2B for Chum with incidental Coho take?

Commercial Fisheries Issue:

- Unmarked Chinook jacks counted as an encounter by on-board observers against commercial fisheries, but recreational get to keep Chinook jacks.

Spring Chinook Fishery Recommendations:

- Harvestable Spring Chinook is 90. Small-localized fishery, low impact.
- If restraints are necessary place restraints from south Elma downstream.
 - Fishery above Wynoochee River mouth, use South Elma as a break.
- Anyway to monitor Chehalis Tribal fishery? Working with the tribe for better communication.
 - In-season updates difficult to make if there is no tribal cooperation.

- Tribal fishery, are the numbers sold numbers to buyer and are ceremonial included? WDFW has access to fish ticket numbers, not ceremonial or subsistence numbers.
- How many springers caught per day based on CRC data? Possibly one a day. WDFW opinion - could have a May thru June fishery. Could try to monitor fishery if possible.

What was the Quinault take on sturgeon last year in the Chehalis? Need to look up the numbers.

PFMC Ocean Option 1 numbers not placed into the current model.

Ideas from Advisors:

Chehalis River Jack Fishery:

- Fishery Aug. 1st to Sept. 16th. Not many Spring Chinook in location of jack fishery.

Marine Area 2-2:

- Hooking mortalities need to be updated in the 2-2 and south channel recreational fishery. WDFW uses FRAM standard of 14% mortality and 5% drop off mortality. Encounter rates based on higher effort when there was Chinook retention.
- 2-2 fishery could lose half of the wild Coho encountered in transition fishery. Keep everything except wild Chinook - One and done. Extremely difficult to enforce one and done option.
 - Problem with one and done if structure of the fishery is based on location. Bay fishery different from 101 bridge upriver and Chehalis River Monte Bridge downstream.
 - 101 Bridge upstream to South Elma Bridge have a different management strategy. One and done applies to this area. One and done does not work if there is there is catch and release for hatchery Chinook retention. Keep first fish caught.
 - How to control catch and release of wild Coho, use one and done? Must keep first fish caught.
 - South Elma bridge upstream would be a good break point to remove the one and done option.
 - 2D fishery may need to be curtailed to Oct. 1st.
 - 2017 Season was Sept. 16th to Nov. 30th for mouth Johns River and eastward.

Commercial Gillnet Fishery:

- Gillnet fishery uses the ISIP for GH & WB mortality rates. There is no standardized statewide mortality rate for gillnet fishery.
- 2B Fishery, when modeled usually told catch too many Humptulips Coho.
 - Willing to sacrifice impacts in 2C or other areas to fish 2B. Need to model 2B to see what the results would be. Time delays between openings.
 - Willing to give up 2A?
 - Need to keep 2D & 2A open at same time if 2B weather gets too treacherous.
 - No net restriction on the depth for 2B.

Humptulips Recreational Fishery:

- 2C Humptulips Chinook fishery would like to continue.
 - Add additional days to make up for a later 2D start in October.
- No tribal push back, would like to have one wild Chinook retention in Humptulips River, with backend emphasis kept in mind.

3 Minute Public Comments:

Joe: Catch and kill fishery, need to get rid of barbless hook rule. Reduces encounter times, reduces mortality of fish and allows more opportunity to land fish. No bait rule in place should use lures only for all fish, such as Wynoochee STHD fishery.

Tim: Three PFMC Ocean proposals no buffer for fish coming over bar. Selective fishing mortality rates do not apply to commercial fishery for Coho. When will the WDFW have a Chinook retention fishery in Chehalis River? No data available to effectively monitor the Spring Chinook fishery of the Chehalis Tribe.

Art: Commercial fisheries open, very few fish make it up Satsop. If commercial fisherman can take home 3 fish apiece, recreation can only take home one.

John: Three groups in room concerned about maximizing fishery. Seal or Sea Lion issues, model does not include pinniped encounters and predation of fish in nets. Sea Lion population increasing every year. Pinniped harvest is huge wherever fishery occurs. Need to be able to track the loss due to pinnipeds.

Bill: One and done, do not understand it. Wind River had a one and done, once caught fish you were done. Is it the same? Yes. Barbless hooks need to go. Springers, old days, April 1st opener. Ron Craig has information on historic fishery of springers. Would like to begin fishing April 1st. Has not witnessed many people fishing below Fuller Bridge during this season.

Al: Fish for springers around the pump houses. Would like the opportunity to have a fishery. If there are fish, would like to fish on them near the pump house area.

Norm: 5-8% cap for Coho. During NOF process NOAA stated need to address Orca issue. Will 2% of Chinook be set aside for Orcas? Orcas could impact all salmon fisheries in WA state. Please keep public informed of NOAA recommendations in the ocean via e-mail.

Joe (second comment): Do seasons have to be executed so tight? There are many more wild Coho in Humptulips than are being counted. Seasons are dictated by wild Coho numbers. No consistency, need to be able to fish longer, have better seasons or kill a wild one. Comparing 80 fish in the Chehalis to the amount of wilds on the Humptulips not even in the same ballpark.