

2018 GRAYS HARBOR ADVISORY MEETING
April 4, 2018
REGION 6 OFFICE, MONTESANO 6-8 pm

WDFW Staff: Chad Herring, Barbara McClellan, Kim Figlar-Barnes
Advisors: Norm Reinhardt, Dave Hamilton, Joe Koski, Joe Durham
Public: 7 Individuals

Chad – Opening comments

- NOF #2 meeting overview
- Plenary session
- NOAA attendance – Orca conversation

- 20% PST obligation for GH aggregate coho. This is all impacts from AK to CA.
- The current range is between 21.5 and 22.2% = 600 – 800 natural-origin coho over.

Model Run:

- Same recreational fishery as discussed before except for the commercial schedule removes any fishing in the 2B area. No specific proposal for days/wk.
- Staff added a schedule that targeted chum.

QIN proposed schedule:

Chehalis River:

Wk 39 2 days	Wk 45 3
Wk 40 2	Wk 47 3
Wk 44 2	Wk 48 – 53 5 days/wk

Humptulips River:

Wk 41 2 days	Wk 44 3
Wk 42 3	Wk 47 3
Wk 43 3	Wk 48 – 53 5 days/wk

Chad:

- Where are your priorities for fisheries? We need suggestions where we shape fisheries.
- We did hear from QIN that there are some issues with sharing. Boldt starts with the border with Canada not at the GH bar.

Public Comments:

- Sharing principle is with catch not with impacts? Assume its catch.
- Need to make a push for 50/50 with the Ocean.

Chad: Commission Budget Policy 2015-17

- We will consider the economic benefit to the state to where we will make changes.
- Some coastal communities rely solely on these fishery packages.
- We will not get much help from the Ocean.

- Never seen or heard of this document before. What fishery benefits the agency's budget more than the other fisheries? The pain of conservation should be spread equally. The Ocean has as much responsibility to meet the PST obligation as the immediate inside fisheries.

Chad: See Wegge 2009 report = Economic analysis for the state

- We will evaluate economic benefit to the state
- Ocean fisheries are also NT Troll as well as recreational

Chad:

- Most impacts are in the freshwater
- 2 fish bag in Hump and Chehalis in this model run
- Going down to 1 fish bag doesn't shave enough

Public Comment:

- Are people willing to go to a 1-fish bag?
- This should also be in the Ocean
- Ocean fishery: Start with marked Chinook retention early (July, Aug) (no coho) and later 2 fish bag then 1 coho
- Start with the GH Policy and their sharing principles then equally share the burden.
- Trim some to give some coho back to the marine area because it doesn't meet its sharing principle right now (see the Humptulips summary 16.27%)
- If you need to make cuts then need to cut proportionally across users within the sharing principles
- Humptulips Bay Fishery – would be nice if it would go to Sept. 30 but doesn't appear to change much in the overall 20%
- The savings need to be in the Chehalis freshwater. Where you have big hatchery coho production, need to preserve those fisheries with a 2-fish bag for maximum hatchery retention and try a 1-fish bag for non-hatchery systems.
 - Did it before in one system and it brought an effort shift, which harmed more natural fish in release.
 - Chad: Do not manage coho for just one system
- The marine area won't be able to catch the coho if you try to balance to the sharing principle
- Some may say to take all of those fish needed for the 20% from the commercial sector. So maybe instead of closing them altogether, cut their last two weeks in Chehalis fishery, which would be their share of the burden. Maintains their main weeks for Chum retention.
- Cut proportional to their impacts already for each fishery: FW, Marine and Commercial
- Look at moving date back to Dec. 15, this is as far back as you should go. Then start looking at the bag limit instead of moving the date back any further.
- Need recreational creel at every boat launch within the basin because of the effort shift that may/will happen
- Instead of cutting off whole timeframes, cut days of the week and still leave some time each week and spread it across all systems/sectors across the season they already have

scheduled in this model. ie. Remove 2 days/wk from each system. Staff needs to figure out which days need to be removed though.

- Nature already causes us to lose days of fishing and sometimes for weeks at a time.
- Don't feel like we should exclude anyone if they can't make it on the weekend or weekdays.

Chad: Funding is an issue here. Will be looking into asking the legislature for funding for GH.
Chad: We may get there if we shave off some time rather than cutting the bag limit. We are not talking about closing any fishery completely.

Chad: the Humptulips bay fishery and the freshwater really isn't where you would get the most bang for your buck. Need to look at the Chehalis marine and freshwater where there is a bigger discrepancy.

- Have committed to re-do this planning model with QIN this summer and before next NOF

Chad: Spring chinook fishery: No real problem with what was proposed and probably will just move forward.

Public Testimony:

- Some fishers refuse to fish when the nets are in the water. They fish in November or later and these cuts would hurt them

Art Holman

- Can't see why we can't have a 2 fish bag and cut it off at Dec. 31

Melanie Ragalia

- Transparency – would like us all to share the burden of this conservation issue equally

Bob Rao

- Concern is with the Commission Budget Policy. Seems as though this policy is discretionary

John Campbell

- Each wild coho is precious and need to maximize those. However, it conflicts with the other sharing issues.
- Need to emphasize harvest on hatchery systems
- Think the tribe will blow through the coho to get to the chum. Hope the agency will hold them back.

Jim Babcock

- Commission Budget Policy Analysis – Would like to make sure the Dept is aware that all of GH probably has over 100 sportfishing guides. Would like the Dept to recognize the guides and increase opportunity.

