

2018 Willapa Bay North of Falcon Advisory Group Meeting

March 22, 2018

Region 6 Office, Montesano 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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WDFW Staff: Annette Hoffmann, Chad Herring, Barbara McClellan, Lyle Jennings

Advisors: Greg McMillan, Andy Mitby, Lance Gray, Marlisa Dugan, Norm Reinhardt, Tim Hamilton, Francis Estalilla

Public: 5 individuals

Annette and Chad: Opening comments and introductions

Chad:

- Forecasts
- Policy Guidance for 2018
- Management objectives
  - Suggestion:
    - Nemah River – Senior 70+ fishery - Don't want to see the senior fishery disappear but could fix the problem of unruly fishers with minor tweaks to regs.
      - Retain male fish only
      - More enforcement presence
      - Open only a few days a week instead of 7 days a week.
      - In-season if broodstock is not being met, maybe we should close fishery or reduce it
      - Fishery was set up poorly
      - Use a barbless circle hook
      - Chinook egg take – Not made in 2017 – why have a fishery that allows retention until we make egg take?
- PFMC Ocean Options
- Fishery Planning
  - Comments/Suggestions:
    - Should include a comparison for both Willapa River and Naselle River according to the language of the Policy Guidance for 2018.
    - In-season management is necessary if fish are not showing up before the first freshet shows up. Need a real evaluation.
    - Need to make hatchery escapement.
    - Prior to August 1, recreational MSF Chinook.
    - MSF Chinook in entire gillnet fishery (including Nov)
    - Buffer on front end – remove 20% - 30% off from the runsize before setting fisheries
      - Why does the agency struggle with the concept of a buffer?
      - Split the north bay 55% & 45%
    - Until the 2017 CRC data, the sport fishery should follow Ocean 2 rules until August 15 then switch to MA 2.1 rules, 1 chinook
    - Commercial - Tangle nets used prior to Sept 15 but after use small mesh gear (not in 2U)
    - MSF Chinook in MA 2.1 starting July 1
    - Re-evaluate Chum 9 streams method

- Model 4 bag limit with 2 or 3 hatchery chinook
- Chum retention in the commercial fishery but only males

#### Barbara – Salmon Rule Simplification

- Comments:
  - Provide the public with the changes and let them comment on those

#### **Public Testimony:**

##### Brett Barker

- Need geo-syncing regs with GPS using phones

##### Ross Barkhurst

- 20% everywhere
- Columbia has buffer
- In-season manage with a buffer
- In Nemah River, the fish ladder was closed and didn't pass up wild fish.
- The agency are responsible for all of this
- Need fish to come over the bar (PFMC ocean discussions)
- Seniors fishery – include senior individuals in conversation, circle hooks could work
- We are eliminating the early run
- Need in-season management if using another alternative gear such as a trap.

##### Art Holman

- Hatchery retention starting in July
- Gillnets are not going to work. Need to come up with another way to fish to reduce mortalities.