

Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries – 2013 and Beyond

Recommendations of the Columbia River Fish Management Workgroup



December 15, 2012

BACKGROUND

- Columbia Workgroup Developed
 - September 5- Commission agreed to coordinate with Oregon to develop fishery management strategies- established Workgroup members
- Columbia Workgroup Meetings
 - September 21- Olympia, WA
 - October 18- Portland, OR
 - November 15- Seaside, OR
- Oregon Commission briefing/decision
 - December 7, 2012

Final Workgroup Recommendations

- Guiding Principles:
 - Promote the recovery of ESA-listed species and the conservation of wild stocks
 - Continue leadership on fish recovery actions (All-H)
 - Continue to meet terms of the U.S. v. Oregon Agreement
 - Seek to enhance the economic well-being and stability of Columbia River fisheries
 - Prioritize recreational fisheries in the mainstem and commercial fisheries in off-channel areas of the lower Columbia River
 - Phase out non-selective gillnets in the mainstem and transition gillnet use to the off-channel areas

Final Workgroup Recommendations

- Guiding Principles *(Continued)*
 - Enhance economic benefits of off-channel commercial fisheries
 - Develop and implement selective fishing gear and techniques for mainstem commercial fisheries-provide incentives
 - Maintain consistent and concurrent fishery management policies between Oregon and Washington
 - Develop a program that seeks certification of Columbia River salmon and sturgeon commercial fisheries as sustainable managed fisheries

Transition Period (2013-16)

- Progressive shift of mainstem salmon allocation to the sport fishery
- Further development of selective gear for the mainstem commercial fishery
- Increase salmon production in the off-channel areas
- Investigate expansion of off-channel fishing area for the commercial fishery
- Begin development of a commercial buyback program
- Consider non-retention rules for sturgeon if 2012 abundance declines from 2011 level
- Consider additional measures to enhance fishery management effectiveness.

Spring Chinook

- Near term (2013-2016)
 - Progressive allocation shift to sport fisheries
 - 2013 commercial mainstem – tangle net gear only
 - Increased production in off-channel areas
- Long term – (2017 and beyond)
 - Commercial fisheries transition to off-channel only
 - Gill Net and tangle-net gear in off-channel areas
 - Continue increased production in off-channel areas

Spring Chinook Matrix

Spring Chinook Fishery					
Fishing Year	Sport ESA Share	Sport Fishery Area	Comm. ESA Share	Comm. Fishery Area	Comm. Gear
Current	60-65%	Col. R and Snake	35-40%	Col. R. and Off-Channel	Tangle Net and Gillnet
2013-16	70%	Col. R. and Snake	30%	Col. R.	Tangle Net
2013-16				Off-Channel	Tangle Net and Gillnet
2017+	80%	Col. R and Snake	20%	Off-Channel	Tangle Net and Gillnet

Summer Chinook

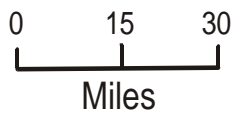
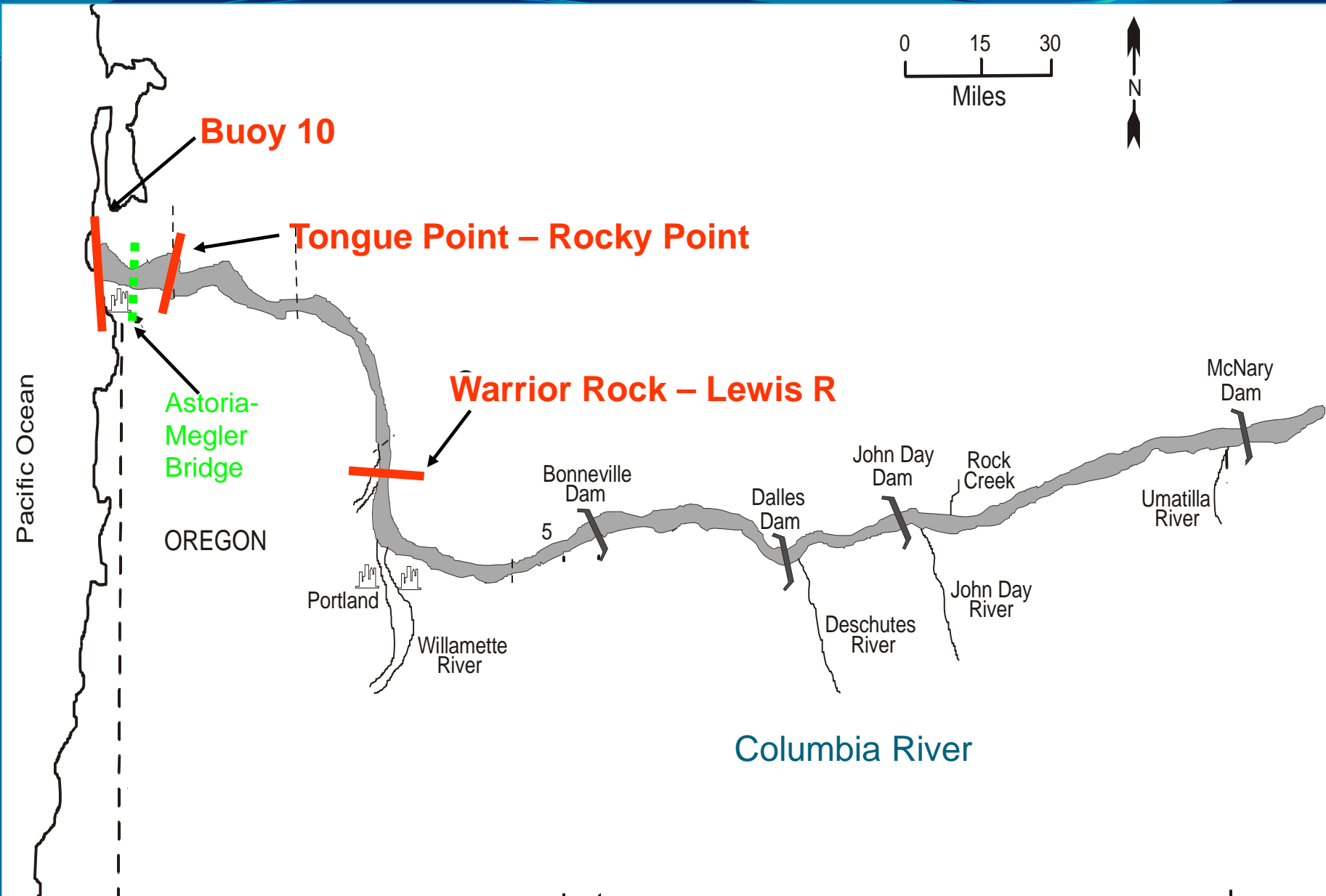
- Near term(2013-2016)
 - Progressive allocation shift to sport fisheries
 - Increase bright fall Chinook to Youngs Bay, OR
- Long - term (2017 and beyond)
 - No direct commercial harvest
 - Increase early fall Chinook to Youngs Bay, OR

Summer Chinook Matrix

Summer Chinook Fishery					
Year	Sport Share	Sport Fishery Area	Comm. Share	Comm. Fishery Area	Comm. Gear
Current	50%	Below Priest Rapids	50%	Col. R.	Gill Net
2013-14	60%	Below Priest Rapids	40%	Col. R.	Gill Net
2015-16	70%	Below Priest Rapids	30%	Col. R.	Gill Net
2017+	98-100%	Below Priest Rapids	0-2%	NA	NA

Fall Chinook Fishery Objectives

- Reasonable sport fishing objectives
 - Buoy 10 Chinook open through labor day
 - Below Lewis Chinook open to mid-Sept (selective as needed)
 - Above Lewis full Chinook season through October 31
- Commercial fishery target of hatchery tules
 - Remove hatchery tules for HSRG conservation objectives
 - Focus hatchery removal below the Lewis River
- Commercial target of upriver bright fall Chinook
 - Provide for commercial harvest of surplus URB
 - Focus area is above the Lewis River



Buoy 10

Tongue Point – Rocky Point

Warrior Rock – Lewis R

Astoria-Megler Bridge

Pacific Ocean

OREGON

Portland

Willamette River

Bonneville Dam

Dalles Dam

John Day Dam

John Day River

Deschutes River

Rock Creek

McNary Dam

Umatilla River

Columbia River

Tule Matrix

Lower River Tule Fall Chinook

Year	Sport Share	Sport Fishery Area	Comm. Share	Comm. Fishery Area	Comm. Gear
Current	~50%	Below Bonn.	~50%	Col. R and Off-Channel	Gill Net
2013-15	< 70%	Below Bonn.	> 30%	Col. R and Off-Channel	Gill Net and Pilot Seine
2016	< 70%	Below Bonn	> 30%	Col. R and off-channel	Gill Net and Seine
2017 +	< 80%	Below Bonn.	> 20%	Col. R and Off-Channel	Seine/ Alt. Gear

URB Matrix

Upriver Bright Fall Chinook

Year	Sport Share	Sport Fishery Area	Comm. Share	Comm. Fishery Area	Comm. Gear
Current	~50%	Col. R. Below Snake	~50%	Col. R Below Bonn.	Gill Net
2013-16	sport season obj. <70%	Col. R. Below Snake	Sport season obj. >30%	Col. R Below Bonn.	Gill Net Seine
2017+	Sport season obj. <80%	Col. R. Below Snake	Sport season obj. >20%	Col. R. Below Bonn.	Seine/ Alt. Gear

Coho

- Near term – (2013-2016)
 - Maintain current sport/commercial sharing except provide impacts to the commercial fishery to implement pilot alternative gear fisheries in August/September
 - Develop a late coho hatchery selective commercial fishery in October
- Long term (2017+)
 - Commercial fisheries share of in-river ESA impacts for off-Channel, fall Chinook directed, and alternative gear fisheries

Coho matrix

Columbia River Coho					
Year	Sport Share	Sport Fishery Area	Comm. Share	Comm. Fishery Area	Comm. Gear
Current	Sport objective	Col. R. Below Bonn.	Direct and indirect	Col. R. and Off-Channel	Gill Net
2013-16	Sport objective	Col. R. Below Bonn.	Early fall Chin target, alt. gear pilot, off - channel	Col. R and Off-Channel	Gill Net, Tangle net, Seine
2017+	Sport objective	Col. R. Below Bonn.	Early fall alt. gear, late fall selective	Col. R.	Tangle net, seine
2017+				Off-Channel	Gill Net

Select Area/Off Channel

- Secure funding for additional production
- Seek funding to evaluate feasibility of expansion of existing sites- Oregon
- Seek funding to investigate the feasibility of developing additional sites- Oregon/Washington

Select Area Sites



Washington

Cowlitz River

Deep River

Youngs Bay

Tongue Point / South Channel

Blind Slough / Knappa Slough

Oregon

Multnomah Channel

10 km

Select Area Production

Species- State	Current	Transition	Long-term
		2013-2016	2017 +
Sp. Chin. OR	1.2 million	1.7 million	1.95 million
Sp. Chin. WA	350,000	250,000	250,000
Coho OR	3.27 million	3.87 million	4.87 million
Coho WA	800,000	1.0 million	1.0 million
SAB Chin OR	1.45 million	1.95 million	2.2 million

Chum

- Continue practice of no target sport or commercial fisheries
- ESA impacts for incidental handle in commercial and sport fisheries

Sockeye

- ESA impact for Non-Indian lower river fisheries is 1% of the Columbia River sockeye run
- 2013-16: allocation of 70% sport and 30% commercial
- 2017+: allocation of 80% sport and 20% commercial
- If NOAA increases ESA limit in the future, provide for increased commercial harvest using alternative gear if developed and practical

Sturgeon

- Hold 10% of Oregon conservation plan harvest level in reserve as an additional conservation buffer
- Continue 80/20 allocation (Sport/commercial)
- 2013 - consider non-retention regulations if 2012 legal-size population estimate is reduced from 2011 level.

Sturgeon Matrix

Columbia River Sturgeon					
Year	Sport Share	Sport Fishery Area	Comm. Share	Comm. Fishery Area	Comm. Gear
Current	80%	Col. R. Below Bonn.	20%	Col. R. and Off-Channel	Large mesh Net
2013-16	80%	Col. R. Below Bonn.	20%	Col. R and Off-Channel	Large mesh Net
2017+	80%	Col. R. Below Bonn.	20%	Col. R. and Off-Channel	Large mesh Net in Off-Channel. Alternative gear in mainstem

Long-Term Management Considerations

- Harvest of upriver bright fall Chinook is key to future commercial economic viability- Adaptive management would be used to assess ability of alternative gear to maintain profitable access to these fish, in particular upstream of the Lewis River
- Additional mainstem commercial harvest may be provided if the sport fishery is unable to use their ESA impacts or harvestable surplus, reasonable goals for the sport fishery have been met, or as needed to remove hatchery fish for conservation purposes

Long-Term Management Considerations

- Planned enhancements of salmon and steelhead production upstream of Bonneville Dam may have implications to harvest management contemplated in this plan after 2017.
- Staff will evaluate implication of increased mainstem production on these harvest strategies and make recommendations to the Commissions as needed.

Columbia River Fishery Management Enhancements for consideration

- Implement barbless hooks in 2013 for salmon and steelhead
- Consider requiring the use of rubber landing nets
- Consider making it unlawful for anglers to remove from the water salmon and steelhead required to be released unless a recovery box is in use on the vessel.
- Consider a 5 fish limit for spring Chinook caught in the mainstem Columbia River

Measures Requiring Additional Analysis

- Oregon review of recreational surcharge-revenue to support management strategies such as purchase of commercial alternative gear
- Feasibility of limited entry guide system in Oregon
- Log book program for guides and charters beginning in 2014

Enhanced Fishery Management

- Increase Management Certainty and Improve Tools
 - Outreach programs to increase understanding of rules
 - Improved enforcement and enhanced fishery monitoring
 - Improved pre-season forecasts
 - Improved in-season updates of run-size
 - Improved in-season updates of harvest impacts by fishery

Adaptive Management

- Commissions track implementation and results of actions and production programs
 - initial review at the end of 2014
 - comprehensive review at end of transition (2016)
- If expectations not achieved:
 - determine causes & identify action to correct course
 - make adjustments needed to stay on track
- Cohesive package - the key elements and principles of the plan would remain intact

Adaptive Management *(continued)*

- Reconsideration of sharing agreements/mainstem fisheries may occur if:
 - Failure to meet conservation needs
 - Conflicts with US v Oregon Management Agreement
 - Significantly lower than expected returns to off-channel sites
 - Insufficient space in off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet
 - Significantly lower than expected mainstem commercial harvest using selective gears
 - Circumstances that delay or preclude implementation
 - Significantly lower than expected economic return to commercial fishers

Keys outcomes for success

- Off-channel enhancements result in increased commercial harvest for Washington and Oregon fishers
- Alternative gear is successfully used to harvesting additional lower river hatchery Chinook and Coho
- Commercial fishery maintains access to surplus upriver bright fall Chinook
- Commercial fishery restores access to late stock hatchery coho with selective gear
- Sport fishery increases angler trips
- Sport fishing opportunity is maintained throughout the basin
- Sport/commercial conflicts on the river are minimal

Questions?





Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Transition (2013-2016+)

- **“Reasonable” fall Chinook sport fishery objectives:**
 - Buoy 10 through Labor Day
 - Tongue Pt to Warrior Rock through mid September (MSF?)
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville full fishery
- **Commercial characteristics:**
 - Mainstem opportunity spring, summer and fall
 - Tangle and gill nets allowed in mainstem; plus alt gear if approved
 - 25% more adult Chs in off-channel immediately; ~25% more adult coho and 33% more SABs mid way through transition
 - Substantive upriver bright Chf opportunity in mainstem
 - New opportunity for hatchery tule and coho if alt gear approved

Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Transition (2013-2016+)

- **Recreational Fishery Impacts:**
 - 45k angler trip (15%) increase
- **Commercial Fishery Impacts:**
 - \$200k to \$1.1M (5-30%) increase
 - Includes alt gear harvest of hatchery tules and coho
 - Includes full harvest of available Upriver Bright fall Chinook

Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Long Term (2017+)

- **Allocations:**

- 80:20 sport:commercial for spring Chinook and sockeye
- 80:20 for summer Chinook; if <90k run no commercial
- < 80:20 for tule fall Chinook (com. access to hatchery tules)
- Upriver Bright- depends on run-size and meeting sport obj.
- No substantive change for coho

- **Off-Channel Enhancements:**

- Up to 1.25 M spring Chinook (1M OR, 250k WA): ~100% increase
- Up to 4.7 M coho (4.5M OR, 200k WA): ~100% increase
- 750k select area bright fall Chinook (OR): ~50% increase

Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Long Term (2017+)

- **“Reasonable” fall Chinook sport fishery objectives:**
 - Buoy 10 through Labor Day
 - Tongue Pt to Warrior Rock through mid September (MSF?)
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville full fishery
- **Commercial characteristics:**
 - Tangle nets and other selective gear in mainstem
 - Infrequent opportunity for Chs in mainstem
 - Off-channel: ~100% more adult Chs; 50% more SAB and coho
 - Substantive upriver bright Chf opportunity in mainstem
 - New substantive opportunity for hatchery tule, coho and upriver bright fall Chinook in mainstem

Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Long Term (2017+)

- **Recreational Fishery Impacts:**

- 67k angler trip (23%) increase

- **Commercial Fishery Impacts:**

- 2017-20: \$550k (15%) increase

- 2021+: \$840k (23%) increase

- Includes alt gear harvest of hatchery tules, coho and upriver bright fall Chinook in mainstem

- Includes full harvest of available Upriver Bright fall Chinook

- Includes increased harvest of off-channel salmon

Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Sturgeon (2013+)

- **10% additional conservation buffer set aside from harvestable surplus**
- **Remaining harvestable surplus allocated 80:20 sport: commercial**
- **If abundance does not increase, allow only non-retention fisheries until decline is reversed**

Joint-Agency Report/Appendices (11/9/12)

Additional Measures for Recreational Fishery (Based on Commercial Advisor input)

- **Barbless hooks**
- **Rubber landing nets**
- **Recovery boxes in guide boats (≥ 20 ft length)**
- **Restricted sport fishing w/in and adjacent to off-channel areas until economic benefits verified**
- **5-fish seasonal limit for CR spring Chinook**
- **CR Endorsement for OR to help fund plan**
- **Create limited-entry guide program for CR**
- **Require guide logbooks**

Conservation Impacts

- **Continues conservation progression**
- **Small escapement increase for some wild runs (e.g., spring Chinook)**
- **Increased harvest rate on hatchery salmon**
- **Reduced hatchery fish on spawning grounds, particularly tules, coho and spring Chinook (Sandy/Willamette)**
- **Increased protection of white sturgeon**
- **Monitoring and adaptive management important**