

Emerging Purse Seine & Beach Seine Fishery

Columbia River Policy C-3620



Background

- September 2012 – Workgroup formed to develop alternative approaches to Columbia River fisheries.
 - Document Produced: *‘Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries: 2013 and Beyond’*
 - Included recommendations for future fisheries
- January 2013 – policy C-3620 adopted
 - Workgroup recommendations used as guidelines to develop policy
 - Includes transitional (2013-16) and long term timeframes

Background *continued*

- Transitional time frame allows for alternative commercial gear types to be developed and implemented
- The new gear types will initially be considered experimental, and would be part of an emerging fishery, with permits issued by the director
- Washington legislation requires an “Emerging Fishery Advisory Board’ to be appointed

Emerging Fishery Permits

RCW 77.70.160

- The director may issue experimental fishery permits for commercial harvest in and emerging commercial fishery if it is determined there is a need to limit the number of participants.
- In developing rules for limiting participation in an emerging commercial fishery, the director shall appoint a five-person advisory board representative of the affected industry.

Emerging Fishery Advisory Panel

- Five-Person panel developed to address 2014
 - Panel's role was to guide fishery managers in making recommendations for the criteria used to qualify as a participant in an emerging fishery
 - Meetings in a public setting with Oregon staff in attendance
 - Numerous concerns and questions identified
- Comprehensive effort
 - Solicit input and discuss options with industry as a whole
 - Commercial Advisory Group, fish buyers, active gillnetters and seiners, suppliers, interested public

Public Process

- September: Emerging Fishery Advisory Board selected.
- October: Emerging Fishery Advisory Board (EFAB) first meeting in Vancouver.
- October: Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group (CRAAG) meeting in Cathlamet.
- November: Second meeting of the EFAB in Rainer.
- December: CRAAG meeting in Rainer
- December: Meeting with Salmon For All in Astoria
- December: Oregon public meeting in Astoria
- January: CRAAG meeting in Rainer

Questions and Concerns

- Who gets to participate?
- How will participants be selected?
- How to share harvest between pilot seine and traditional gillnet fisheries?
- When and where will pilot fisheries occur?
- What are the gear and vessels regulations?
- How will the recommendations made today effect future seasons?

Questions and Concerns

- What number of permits will be issued?
- How many fish are available for seines?
- Can a seine fisher still gillnet in 2014?
- What beaches can be fished?
- Will zone catch limits be imposed?
- Will beach and purse seines be permitted?

Permit Options Discussed

- Lots of options; Ideas included:
 - Open to all fishers with a Columbia River permit
 - Open with Qualifications: minimum landing requirement
 - Open with cap: Individual Fish Quotas (IFQs)
 - Open by Lottery: determine # of harvestable fish and \$ value, draw for # permits based on \$ value
 - Competitive bid: harvestable fish made to available to highest bidder
- Most support for ‘active’ fishers to participate if they so desire

Options to consider for participation in 2014

- Limit entry by those who:
 1. Have a Col. R. license and have had landings in recent years.
 - Fair opportunity for active Col R fishers
 - Enables active fishers with interest to begin using the new gear (promotes participation)
 - Seine allocation (# fish/%impacts) developed during North of Falcon process
 - IFQs considered, if necessary, through Columbia River Compact along with all other regulations

Options to consider for participation in 2014

2. Lottery process for all Col R gillnet license holders
 - Number of participants/permits allowed to participate based on the value of the harvestable fish available to seine gear in 2014
 - If more qualified permits (those proving to have gear, etc. ready to go) than needed, then Director randomly selects through lottery process
 - Helps ensure fishery is not over capitalized, and fishers can anticipate a set amount of fish (lowers economic risk)

2014 Implementation Process

- Director adopts qualifications as part of the emerging fishery experimental permit process
- Seine permit applications received by the Director in the spring and issued in the summer
- Columbia River Compact sets fall seasons, including specific rules and regulations
- 2015 process adjusted based on what was learned in 2014

2014 Calendar

- Columbia River staff will continue to work with Oregon, stakeholders and the Commercial Advisory Group to develop the 2014 pilot seine fall season
- Through the North of Falcon process, with guidance from Policy C-3620, harvestable fish and associated ESA impacts will be allocated to seine, gillnet and sport fisheries
- In season adjustments will be made as needed through the Columbia River Compact

Questions?

