

List of Ideas for Columbia River Policy
Received from the Public and Washington Commission
October 26, 2018

General Ideas

1. Ability for constituents to participate in next steps
2. Status quo – more time is needed for review of the Policy
3. Adjustments to the Policy need to be made – the plan has failed on all levels
4. Drastic course correction is needed
5. Need to develop an different strategy – need fish on the market
6. Need to make sure we continue to produce sufficient hatchery fish for all fisheries
7. Both states (WA and OR) should lobby NW Power and Conservation Council for continued funding through BPA for SAFE areas
8. WA commission should coordinate with NOAA on any hatchery production changes to continue to comply with all ESA requirements
9. Include hatchery production goals in the Policy to raise more fish
10. Hatchery surplus needs to be considered or risk reduced hatchery production
11. Need the Policy to be better interfaced with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan and the Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan
 - a. The Policy needs to include acknowledgment of an all H approach
 - b. Include provisions and goals for all H's
 - c. Improve communication with all H's especially recovery boards

General Management

12. Work with Oregon commission to improve all sectors
13. Negotiate for concurrent regulations with Oregon
14. Leave non-concurrency issues alone for 2019
15. Fish to preseason schedule before extending fisheries until there is a run update (primarily spring Chinook)
16. Increase monitoring and observation of fisheries
17. Resolve the liability issue with the commercial industry for the observer program
18. Mandate more fishery monitors/observers in sport and commercial fisheries
19. Conservation has to be over-riding principle
20. Manage escapement for the natural production needs
21. Enhance commercial fishing – stop trying to remove the gillnets– legislative mandate
22. Mandate more selective fisheries
23. Consider the role the sport fishery can have as a mop-up fishery on tule Chinook
24. Education for the public to identify tule Chinook to assist with release
25. Live release fishing methods only
26. Focus attention on improving run forecasts

Recreational Fisheries

27. Consider logbooks for all sport anglers
 - a. Continue to work on implementing log books for sport sector
 - b. Require logbooks for sport fishery guides/guide boats
28. Change barbless hook requirement to voluntary
29. Alter or eliminate the Youngs Bay sport fishery closure

Commercial Fisheries

30. Prioritize a commercial license buyback program, including funding
 - c. Buyback – start planning and budgeting
31. Provide an amount of fish/opportunity to allow for a profit to commercial fishers based on the social contract between WDFW and the commercial license holder; a contract that commercial license holders believe is renewed annually
32. Need to develop a gear for summer Chinook
33. Provide for a gillnet fishery in the summer with appropriate time and area restrictions

Allocation

34. Change current sport/commercial allocations
35. 50/50 sport/commercial allocation
36. Consider the matrix concept that was used in the past for spring Chinook and coho
37. Use an abundance-based matrix for spring Chinook allocation
38. Provide separate allocation of limiting impacts for annual tangle net coho fisheries
39. Redistribute the catch to more tributary-based fisheries

Allocation – Upriver/lower river

40. Change allocation of sport fishery between upriver and lower river
41. Use harvest as the metric for upriver/downriver allocation for spring Chinook
42. Use the Columbia River endorsement sales as the allocation sharing for upriver/downriver allocation for spring Chinook
43. Consider value-added to the angler trips in the smaller communities (Brewster) versus the greater Portland area and their impact on the economy
44. Spring Chinook allocation – if lower river (below Bonneville) exceeds allocation in one year, the second year should be “payback”
 - a. Payback for overages by the below Bonneville fisheries to above Bonneville fisheries the following year if the lower river fisheries fish into the upriver share
45. Upriver/downriver sharing based on origin of stock – primarily spring Chinook
46. Increase the above Bonneville allocation to a level that allows for equitable recreational fishing opportunities for spring Chinook in the areas above Bonneville Dam, and in the Snake River
47. Apply the spring Chinook management buffer only to fisheries below Bonneville Dam
48. Establish a defined season length objective for fisheries above Bonneville
49. Remove the catch balancing requirements from the above Bonneville recreational fisheries

50. Implement days per week recreational fisheries below Bonneville when upriver stocks are first present in the run
51. Implement measurement of economic value based upon fishing opportunity rather than harvest
52. Strictly fish to the preseason plan with no below Bonneville fishery extensions until the run update occurs
53. Suggest using real-time dam passage to allocate spring Chinook between upriver and lower river fisheries
54. Consider a bi-state group to discuss upriver/downriver spring Chinook allocation
55. Allocation should consider salmon recovery efforts by upriver entities.

Alternative Gear

56. Alternative gear – hire a conservation expert to assist WDFW in designing a program.
 - b. Regroup and convene discussions with commercial fishers
 - c. Need to make progress on alternative gear and buyback
57. Provide real incentives and planning for alternative gear
 - a. Hire an alternative gear expert
 - b. Return the commercial fishery flexibility to pre-Policy until alternative gear is successful for implementation
58. Consider alternative gear locations in tributary mouths
59. Commission should complete an effective program, including funding for alternative gear (seines)
60. Allow use of spring Chinook tangle net gear
61. Allow tangle net commercial fisheries in the spring or throughout the year as dictated by run size and other species of concern
62. End the gillnet ban for mainstem fisheries
63. Keep the gillnet ban for mainstem fisheries

Economics

64. Consider the values from commercial fishing to the smaller communities and their impact on the economy
65. Engage the commercial fishing industry on further SAFE development
66. Better SAFE areas in Washington