



Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW)

Public Comments received between June 25, 2020 through July 1, 2020

This is a compilation of comments received at through our online public comment portal after the Joint-State PRC was put on hold.

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Gillnetting
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:51:09 AM

From: DOT BLISS <GO4ABLISS@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Gillnetting

NO MORE GILLNETTING.. ON THE COLUMBIA

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Barbara Baker](#); [Bob Kehoe](#); [Brad Smith](#); [Dave Graybill](#); [Donald McIsaac](#); [Anderson, James R \(DFW\)](#); [Larry Carpenter](#); [McBride, Tom A \(DFW\)](#); [Linville, Molly F \(DFW\)](#); [Thorburn, Kim M \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Gill Net Reform
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:50:26 AM

From: lk2thlite@aol.com <lk2thlite@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:35 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Gill Net Reform

Dear Commissioner's,

With all of the Columbia Tributaries that are not meeting Escapement and rivers in Idaho with runs going extinct. I am asking that you please do what is right and stand for the future of these watersheds and their fisheries. Management and Models are not working!
Both Oregon and Washington admitted this in 2013 and agreed to pull gill nets out of the Main Stem of the Columbia.
I'm asking you to go back to this agreement and reinstate it before it's too late. In some cases it's already too late.

The future of these watersheds and their fish are in your hands. Please manage for fish not people until there is stability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gary L Johnson
P.O. Box 816 Raymond, WA 98577 (360) 942-2141 home

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Gillnetting
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:51:01 AM

From: Phil Johnson <philjohnson52@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Gillnetting

GET THE GILLNETS OFF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Gill Nets are Not the Answer
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 1:18:51 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Ronald Easley <reeasley1000@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Gill Nets are Not the Answer

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

Public participation is important to the future of our fisheries. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Columbia River policy.

Increased gillnetting in the mainstem of the Columbia River is not the answer to saving our imperiled salmon and steelhead. Gill nets are significantly less capable of harvesting hatchery fish while releasing wild fish than other more selective methods. Perhaps more importantly, gill nets also encounter, snare and kill a wide variety of non-target species including steelhead, sockeye, birds and other wildlife.

Gill nets are not the answer. Please adhere to the initial key tenets of the policy and mandate the removal of gill nets from the lower mainstem Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Ronald Easley
10705 SE Evergreen Hwy
Vancouver, WA 98664
reeasley1000@comcast.net

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Prioritize Selective Fisheries on the Columbia River
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:16:39 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: David Finney <findog1@frontier.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:02 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Selective Fisheries on the Columbia River

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

Data shows that catch and release of native fish has a very low mortality rate. Gill nets however have a higher mortality rate and kill fish that aren't targeted. WDFW, NOAA and the Tribal Biologists all use data. It's time to use this data and end gill nets in the mainstem of the Columbia.

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on this important issue.

A key guiding principle of the original Oregon-Washington Columbia River reforms was to prioritize selective recreational fisheries. After 8 years of failed implementation, one thing we have learned is that hook and line remains the best and most efficient form of selective fishing. It makes sense to prioritize recreational fishing in the Columbia River given the need for selective fisheries and WDFW's reliance on recreational license fees to help relieve budget shortfalls.

Please reject any changes to the policy that would allow mainstem gill net fisheries and instead adhere to the original objectives, which called for a prioritization of selective recreational fishing and no mainstem gillnetting.

Sincerely,

David Finney
504 93rd Dr SE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
findog1@frontier.com

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Don't go backwards on Columbia River fisheries
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:16:34 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernesto Fontana <user@votervoices.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:09 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Don't go backwards on Columbia River fisheries

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

Ban the use of gill nets now.

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on the draft Columbia River policy recently released by the Commission. I strongly oppose the proposed draft policy.

Nearly eight years ago, a bi-state compromise plan was developed to improve the selectivity of Columbia River fisheries, including transitioning gill net fisheries out of the mainstem lower Columbia River. An extensive review of this policy, conducted by WDFW staff, concluded that the basic architecture of the plan was solid but there were flaws with the agency's implementation.

Instead of going backward on the intent of the plan as proposed by this draft policy, I strongly urge you to use this opportunity to get the plan back on track and fulfill the intended promise - to mandate the adoption of selective fishing practices and remove gill nets from the lower mainstem Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Fontana
452 Adair Dr
Richland, WA 99352
ejfontana@aol.com

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Don't go backwards on Columbia River fisheries
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:07:33 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Marosi <marosistephen107@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Don't go backwards on Columbia River fisheries

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on the draft Columbia River policy recently released by the Commission. I strongly oppose the proposed draft policy.

Nearly eight years ago, a bi-state compromise plan was developed to improve the selectivity of Columbia River fisheries, including transitioning gill net fisheries out of the mainstem lower Columbia River. An extensive review of this policy, conducted by WDFW staff, concluded that the basic architecture of the plan was solid but there were flaws with the agency's implementation.

Instead of going backward on the intent of the plan as proposed by this draft policy, I strongly urge you to use this opportunity to get the plan back on track and fulfill the intended promise - to mandate the adoption of selective fishing practices and remove gill nets from the lower mainstem Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Stephen Marosi
7824 NE Loowit Loop Apt 64
Vancouver, WA 98662
marosistephen107@gmail.com

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Gillnetting
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:50:54 AM

From: Terry Seim <tlseim@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Gillnetting

why would we allow gillnetting in the columbia river as it was outlawed and now we are going to allow. Fishing is poor enough without making it worse.

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Barbara Baker](#); [Bob Kehoe](#); [Brad Smith](#); [Dave Graybill](#); [Donald McIsaac](#); [Anderson, James R \(DFW\)](#); [Larry Carpenter](#); [McBride, Tom A \(DFW\)](#); [Linville, Molly F \(DFW\)](#); [Thorburn, Kim M \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: ARCHAIC AND INDECRIMINATE SLAUGHTER BY KILL NETS MUST BE ABOLISHED
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:30:56 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis Harman <drharman5@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: ARCHAIC AND INDECRIMINATE SLAUGHTER BY KILL NETS MUST BE ABOLISHED

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

YOU CANNOT CONTINUE TO IGNORE, AND ALLOW, THE PLIGHT OF OUR GREAT RESOURCES TO BE DECIMATED BY COMMERCIAL AND TRIBAL NETS..WE ALL KNOW HOW DESTRUCTIVE THEY ARE.. WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE PUBLIC WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS FORM OF HARVEST TACTICS... WE ALL VOTE, AND ANY ACCEPTANCE OF THESE TACTIC BY OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL BE REMEMBERED ON ELECTION DAY...MAJORITY MUST RULE. NOT THE MINORITY..

Public participation is important to the future of our fisheries. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Columbia River policy.

Increased gillnetting in the mainstem of the Columbia River is not the answer to saving our imperiled salmon and steelhead. Gill nets are significantly less capable of harvesting hatchery fish while releasing wild fish than other more selective methods. Perhaps more importantly, gill nets also encounter, snare and kill a wide variety of non-target species including steelhead, sockeye, birds and other wildlife.

Gill nets are not the answer. Please adhere to the initial key tenets of the policy and mandate the removal of gill nets from the lower mainstem Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Dennis Harman
5217 151st Avenue Ct E
Sumner, WA 98390
drharman5@gmail.com

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Barbara Baker](#); [Bob Kehoe](#); [Brad Smith](#); [Dave Graybill](#); [Donald McIsaac](#); [Anderson, James R \(DFW\)](#); [Larry Carpenter](#); [McBride, Tom A \(DFW\)](#); [Linville, Molly F \(DFW\)](#); [Thorburn, Kim M \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Contact the Commission: Commission Meetings
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:02:09 AM
Attachments: [WDFW_PRC_letter.doc](#)

From: Kirk Harrison <kharrison@rsgfp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:27 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Contact the Commission: Commission Meetings

Name	Kirk Harrison
Email	kharrison@rsgfp.com
Address	2395 Green Mt.Rd. Kalama Wa. 98625
Subject	Commission Meetings
Message	Please read this concerning any upcoming commission votes.
Attachment	https://www.123formbuilder.com/upload_dld.php?fileid=3cc2ce97541d985c8e6e41949af035aa

The message has been sent from 216.128.99.42 (United States) at 2020-07-01 12:26:57 on Internet Explorer 11.0
Entry ID: 2245

I want to comment about the PRC and any recommendations that come out of it. In the commission rules it states that sub-committees must have four members. There is a reason for that. Its to provide for a range of thoughts and ideas to come up with recommendations to the commission as a whole. The PRC is being referred to as a "Working group" with only 3 members as a way of circumventing this requirement. In reality the PRC is acting as if it were a subcommittee. The PRC is made up of 2 pro-commercial commissioners who can out-vote and dominate the discussion at every turn no matter what the other member says or does. They have virtually no consideration for the conservation or the recreational fishing communities. All you need to see is their voting records and recommendations they have put forth. Their purpose is to return gillnetting when-ever and where-ever they can to the Columbia river.

These are the same commissioners that advocated for the impromptu vote in Spokane to make changes in the Columbia River policy under the guise of needing it for the North of Falcon process. These changes were portrayed as being temporary which was a necessary tactic in order to secure enough votes to pass. Now they are referred to in the PRC recommendations as the "Status Quo". At one of the PRC meetings afterwards even WDFW staff lead Bill Tweit commented that it was his understanding the changes were temporary and the status quo was the policy as of 2018. The 2018 policy should be the status quo. Not what the PRC is pushing as the status quo.

One of the main reasons for forming the PRC was to iron out the few differences with the Oregon version of the Columbia river policy. The Washington 2018 policy was very close to Oregon's policy. What the PRC is now recommending is in conflict with nearly all of Oregon's policy. Governor Brown of Oregon has made it clear she has no interest in any more changes to the policy. So much so they pulled out of the PRC, clearly seeing where it was heading.

Adapting the recommendations of the commercial interest dominated PRC will put Washington headlong into major conflict with Oregon and the vast majority of the recreational fishing community. (continued)

This, along without fair representation of the conservation and recreational communities on the PRC is reason enough to vote against adopting these recommendations.

It would be much more desirable to revert back to the Columbia river policy prior to the changes made in Spokane. This is what WDFW should adopt with an expiration in 2023, allowing for additional time to transition gillnets off of the mainstem Columbia River.

I ask that the commission vote NO on adopting any PRC recommendations at this time.

Thank you

Kirk Harrison

Kalama, Wa.

From: [123ContactForm](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Contact the Policy Review Workgroup
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:58:14 AM

Name	Brian Love
Email	drbrianlove@gmail.com
Address	15200 N.E. 193rd ct Washington
Comments	<p>Dear Commission</p> <p>The people that don't have a boat, a fishing pole and that don't have the financial resources to go on a charter boat, The tax paying public . We need to be able to purchase local salmon from grocery stores and fish markets.</p> <p>People who are a member of a fishing club that emails them a letter to copy and paste and send to the states complaining that they don't have enough fish to catch should have no say in salmon policy's.</p> <p>There Are consumers Of Columbia river salmon that do not sport Fish or commercial fish. They purchase salmon from grocery stores, fish markets, and restaurants. The availability of these salmon for the consumer has been hit very hard.</p> <p>Commissioners, Please make more salmon available for the public To purchase from stores and restaurants. Give some allocation back to the commercial fishery and let tax payers buy what they are paying for.</p> <p>Thanks, Brian Love</p>
Attachment	

The message has been sent from 174.204.192.222 (United States) at 2020-07-01 12:58:09 on iPhone 13.1.1
Entry ID: 150

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Prioritize Selective Fisheries on the Columbia River
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:56:32 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Darren Terry <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Prioritize Selective Fisheries on the Columbia River

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on this important issue.

A key guiding principle of the original Oregon-Washington Columbia River reforms was to prioritize selective recreational fisheries. After 8 years of failed implementation, one thing we have learned is that hook and line remains the best and most efficient form of selective fishing. It makes sense to prioritize recreational fishing in the Columbia River given the need for selective fisheries and WDFW's reliance on recreational license fees to help relieve budget shortfalls.

Please reject any changes to the policy that would allow mainstem gill net fisheries and instead adhere to the original objectives, which called for a prioritization of selective recreational fishing and no mainstem gillnetting.

Sincerely,

Darren Terry
15 87th Ave NE Apt B
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
terryld6016@yahoo.com

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Barbara Baker](#); [Bob Kohse](#); [Brad Smith](#); [Dave Graybill](#); [Donald McIsaac](#); [Anderson, James R \(DFW\)](#); [Larry Carpenter](#); [McBride, Tom A \(DFW\)](#); [Linville, Molly F \(DFW\)](#); [Thorburn, Kim M \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Gillnetting
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:30:47 AM

From: John Westerfield <yeagers.westy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:12 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Gillnetting

Dear Commissioners,

I continue to be shocked and amazed that there is continuing dialogue about, and efforts to, restore gillnetting on the Columbia River. The number of people supporting this idea is miniscule compared to the number of people opposing it, and given all the reasons to do a better job of protecting our migrating salmon and steelhead, it just makes no sense at all to even consider taking a giant step backwards. Gillnets kill everything. Please bury this idea forever.

John D Westerfield
Bellingham WA

[]

225
(360) 733-1080
FX (360) 733-5434

From: [Commission \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Don't go backwards on Columbia River fisheries
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:43:58 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin Frenndt <frendtship@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Commission (DFW) <COMMISSION@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Don't go backwards on Columbia River fisheries

Dear WDFW Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on the draft Columbia River policy recently released by the Commission. I strongly oppose the proposed draft policy.

Nearly eight years ago, a bi-state compromise plan was developed to improve the selectivity of Columbia River fisheries, including transitioning gill net fisheries out of the mainstem lower Columbia River. An extensive review of this policy, conducted by WDFW staff, concluded that the basic architecture of the plan was solid but there were flaws with the agency's implementation.

Instead of going backward on the intent of the plan as proposed by this draft policy, I strongly urge you to use this opportunity to get the plan back on track and fulfill the intended promise - to mandate the adoption of selective fishing practices and remove gill nets from the lower mainstem Columbia River.

Sincerely,

Martin Frenndt
316 Arizona Ct
Vancouver, WA 98661
frendtship@comcast.net

From: [Lothrop, Ryan L \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: FW: Columbia River Harvest Policy C-3620 reforms
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:21:56 PM
Attachments: [Brian Blake letter June 2020.docx](#)

Ryan Lothrop
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

From: Kloepfer, Nichole D (DFW) <Nichole.Kloepfer@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Barbara Baker <bbakerwdfw@gmail.com>; Bob Kehoe <rfk@psvoa.org>; Brad Smith <bradley.smith@wwu.edu>; Dave Graybill <fishboy@nwi.net>; Donald McIsaac <donald.mcisaac@dma-consulting.net>; Anderson, James R (DFW) <James.Anderson@dfw.wa.gov>; Larry Carpenter <lc3896@gmail.com>; McBride, Tom A (DFW) <Tom.McBride@dfw.wa.gov>; Linville, Molly F (DFW) <Molly.Linville@dfw.wa.gov>; Thorburn, Kim M (DFW) <Kim.Thorburn@dfw.wa.gov>
Cc: Lothrop, Ryan L (DFW) <Ryan.Lothrop@dfw.wa.gov>; Tweit, William M (DFW) <William.Tweit@dfw.wa.gov>; Dobler, Myrtice C (DFW) <Myrtice.Dobler@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: Columbia River Harvest Policy C-3620 reforms

From: Irene Martin <i7846martin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Blake, Brian <brian.blake@leg.wa.gov>; Takko, Dean <dean.takko@leg.wa.gov>
Cc: Susewind, Kelly (DFW) <Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov>; Kloepfer, Nichole D (DFW) <Nichole.Kloepfer@dfw.wa.gov>; Lee, Kessina (DFW) <Kessina.Lee@dfw.wa.gov>; Austin, JT (GOV) <jt.austin@gov.wa.gov>
Subject: Columbia River Harvest Policy C-3620 reforms

Dear Brian,

I have attached a letter from Kent and myself regarding the most recent delay in the Columbia River Harvest Reforms. We are getting a lot of fishermen comments regarding this latest Commission move, and it is not reflecting well on the Commission as a whole, nor on the Department. Obviously, it's not a letter we wanted to write, but we felt it best to let you know what the view is from here. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much, and hope you are staying safe,
Best,
Irene and Kent

P.S. Nichole, could you please forward to the F&W Commission? Thanks!

P.O. Box 83,
Skamokawa, WA 98647.

July 1, 2020.

Rep. Brian Blake,
P.O. Box 40600,
Olympia, WA 98504-0600.

Dear Brian,

We are writing to provide our perspective on the current situation regarding the WDFW Commission and reforms of Harvest Policy C-3620, especially the Commission's June 26, 2020 phone meeting. More than one commissioner expressed the need for more commercial fishing gear information, more public testimony, more meetings, on an issue that has been going on for well over 8 years. We point out the obvious: They have access to very good staff biologists, documents and a testimony record from nearly 8 years of hearings. They could discuss their issues directly with commercial fishermen. The commercial fishing fleet's perception of the June 26 meeting is that the Commission has grown increasingly partisan and out-of-touch with its commercial fishing constituents. If the Commission needs more gear information, why doesn't it just ask fishermen? Fishermen have testified many times about their gear; the staff has provided information the staff review of Nov. 20, 2018 presented an excellent analysis of fisheries issues with this policy. Frankly, we're all mystified about what other information they need.

A Commission goal in its draft Strategic Plan (p. 18) is that WDFW will be a "science-based agency; unbiased, trusted and actionable science is critical to our decision-making processes...We recognize that many people and organizations depend on DFWs science...good science grows public trust." Page 19 states that "aligning science to policy and management needs will improve the credibility of decision-making." How can the Commission reconcile its lengthy, expensive, time-consuming approach with Policy C-3620 reforms with its desire to "improve the credibility of decision-making" and "effectively use state resources as we develop timely and effective fish and wildlife management solutions?" How can the public trust their science if the Commission won't use it in its own decision-making?

There is a big gap between what the Commission says it wants in the Strategic Plan and what it is actually doing with Policy C-3620. Over a year ago the Commission set up the Columbia River Work Group with a schedule of meetings to determine how to reform Policy C-3620. The Work Group deserves great credit for the thorough and careful work it has done to develop the draft Harvest Reform document now out for public review. However, the schedule keeps changing, most recently at the June 26 meeting. The Chair pushed back the schedule for public testimony and did not set a date for a vote on reform, despite the Commission's prior decision, which it voted on, to continue to working on reforms when Oregon recused itself from the process. The reason given for the change is that Oregon is planning to hold its own meeting with its commissioners on Aug. 11 regarding the Policy and reforms.

The Washington Commission's discussion on this issue was disturbing. Oregon input with Washington was composed of side phone calls from the Oregon Commission chair to various commissioners. The Washington Chair had apparently been told by Oregon Chair Mary Wahl that an anonymous Oregon Commissioner said that the Washington reform document "was a non-starter." No letter, public

document, public comment or minutes of any recent Oregon Commission meeting states such. No information was provided as to commissioner's identity, whether other Oregon commissioners agreed or not or were consulted, or whether this had been part of a public meeting. Such hearsay and anonymous commentary from a side-conversation with Oregon utilized in a Washington Commission meeting to influence a decision is hardly in keeping with the intent of Washington's Open Public Meetings law, or the values of openness and transparency that the Commission has expressed in the past. Bluntly, Oregon backed out of the bi-state work group, when much of this situation could have been resolved. At the end of this letter is pasted in the draft schedule for Oregon Commission meetings through 2020. The supposed Aug. 11 harvest policy educational meeting is not on the schedule. The harvest policy is not on the agenda for the rest of the year. The Washington Commission said it would get the reforms done by the end of the year. The Oregon schedule does not support that statement.

The draft Strategic Plan's Near-term Actions section states (p. 24) that the number 1 priority is to "Commit to adaptive management through the use of performance measures and sharing results with the public for major projects." The Commission's current actions call into question its commitment to this priority. Every fisherman who has contacted us on this latest delay believes this is another stalling tactic to push the decision off yet again. The fishermen have waited 8 years for some relief, and in their view, the continued stalling and refusal to work with the Department's own science, devalues them, devalues the science and devalues the Department. It also indicates the Commission's unwillingness to fix its own policy via adaptive management, although that was a cornerstone in the Policy. Adaptive management was included in the Policy in case there were problems that needed to be dealt with. It was mentioned by every commissioner as an important part of the Policy before their vote in January 2013. The Policy's problems have been enumerated and evaluated, but have, as yet, not been fixed. Even the timetable for that is in flux. Is adaptive management a Commission priority? The Draft Strategic Plan states as one of its outcomes that "Staff and the public see the Department is living its values."

That is the crux of the issue presented here: Is the Commission going to live out its values?

The Policy Reform document represents the science. Oregon has provided very little science of late, and withdrew from this scientific process. That should not stop Washington from continuing with its pursuit of reforms, nor deflect its legitimate obligations to its commercial fishing constituents, who are by far the ones most affected by this recent delaying decision. We recognize the need to work with Oregon. But Oregon also has a need to work with Washington, and, very frankly, has not done so. Washington needs to pass its own reforms for the policy in order to set the stage for inter-state negotiations. There is no reason why Washington's commercial fishers should be made to wait even longer for redress that should have occurred years ago, due to manipulation by Oregon. The Washington Commission has an obligation to its own state's commercial fleet to ensure that it is treated fairly and that the best possible outcome is attained for a viable fishery. RCW 77.04.013, states that one of the intentions behind formation of the Commission is that it would "increase public confidence in department decision-making." Right now that confidence is at a low ebb in the C.R. commercial fishing fleet and processors.

This is not a letter we wanted to write, but after last Friday's meeting and the ensuing comments from commercial fishermen, we felt compelled to do so. This crisis has profound consequences for salmon and the communities that depend upon them and support them. We have been patient. We have spent untold hours attending meetings and providing testimony. What we heard on Friday was a blatant attempt to get around the Commission's own votes, process, science and even its own Policy's adaptive management clause. The commercial fleet took the all the risk in Policy C-3620, as even the then-

governor of Oregon admitted. In fairness, the Commission has an obligation to its fishermen to expedite its decision-making so they can assess their risk in maintaining a fishing operation in this state.

We would appreciate your assistance in getting this process finalized as soon as possible. In this time of coronavirus, we already have plenty of uncertainties in our lives regarding our businesses. The Commission needs to accept its responsibility and expedite this decision. Thanks so much,

Sincerely, Kent and Irene Martin

Cc: Sen. Dean Takko; Kelly Susewind, Director, WDFW; WDFW Commissioners; J.T. Austin, Office of the Governor

August 7, 2020 – Salem

**Written public comment period will open June 15, 2020*

- 2021 Sport Fish Regulations – Rulemaking
- Pride Award Recognition
- Game Bird Regulations; Sage-Grouse population update and tag approval – Rulemaking
- Monitoring Schedule for Myxobolus Cerebralis at Fish Rearing Facilities in Oregon – Rulemaking
- Springhill Pumping Plant Fish Screening Exemption -- Approval
- Dungeness Crab / Whale Entanglement – Director’s Report

September 11, 2020 – Salem

**Written public comment period will open July 15, 2020*

- A&H Project Funding – Approval
- Big Game Regulations; 2021 Tags and Season Dates – Rulemaking
- Bowman Dam Hydroelectric Project Fish Passage Waiver – Approval
- Dungeness Crab/ Whale Entanglement - Rulemaking

October 9, 2020 – Salem

**Written public comment period will open August 15, 2020*

November 13, 2020 – Salem

**Written public comment period will open September 15, 2020*

- Marbled Murrelet Consideration to Up-list – Rulemaking

December 11, 2020 – Salem

**Written public comment period will open October 15, 2020*

- A&H Project Funding – Approval
- Ground fisheries and Nearshore Logbook Report – Rulemaking
- R&E Project Approval – Approval