

Columbia River Commercial Logbook Rule Making (Washington)

Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group
December 2023



Intent for Rule Making

- WDFW intends to initiate rule making to require all Columbia River fishers with a Washington commercial fishery license to complete and submit a logbook for every trip in the Columbia River.



Logbooks background

General background

- Logbooks are used across many state and federal fisheries to collect effort, catch, and release data that is essential to fishery management.

WA State

- WDFW currently requires WA-licensed guides to submit a logbook for every guided trip in Washington (including the Columbia River).
- Goal of these logbooks is to collect biological data for fishery management and industry trend data.



Current Columbia River Commercial Fishery Monitoring

Observation

- Fall Zone 4-5 gillnet: last observed in 2017 (Aug – Sept fishery) and 2012 (Oct fishery).
- Fall Zone 1-3 tangle net: observed by both states at a goal of 2-4 days per week.
- Fall Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF): 100% required observer coverage.
- Spring tangle net (2022): condition of fishing required cooperation with observers that resulted in 80% coverage
- There have been occasional Zone 4-5 voluntary observation efforts.

Voluntary logbooks

- Voluntary logbooks have been distributed to a core group of fishers since at least 2020 for all active fisheries (spring tangle net, fall gillnet, fall tangle net).
- Low participation rate but valuable information, particularly for the fall tangle net as data represents a substantial proportion of the fishery



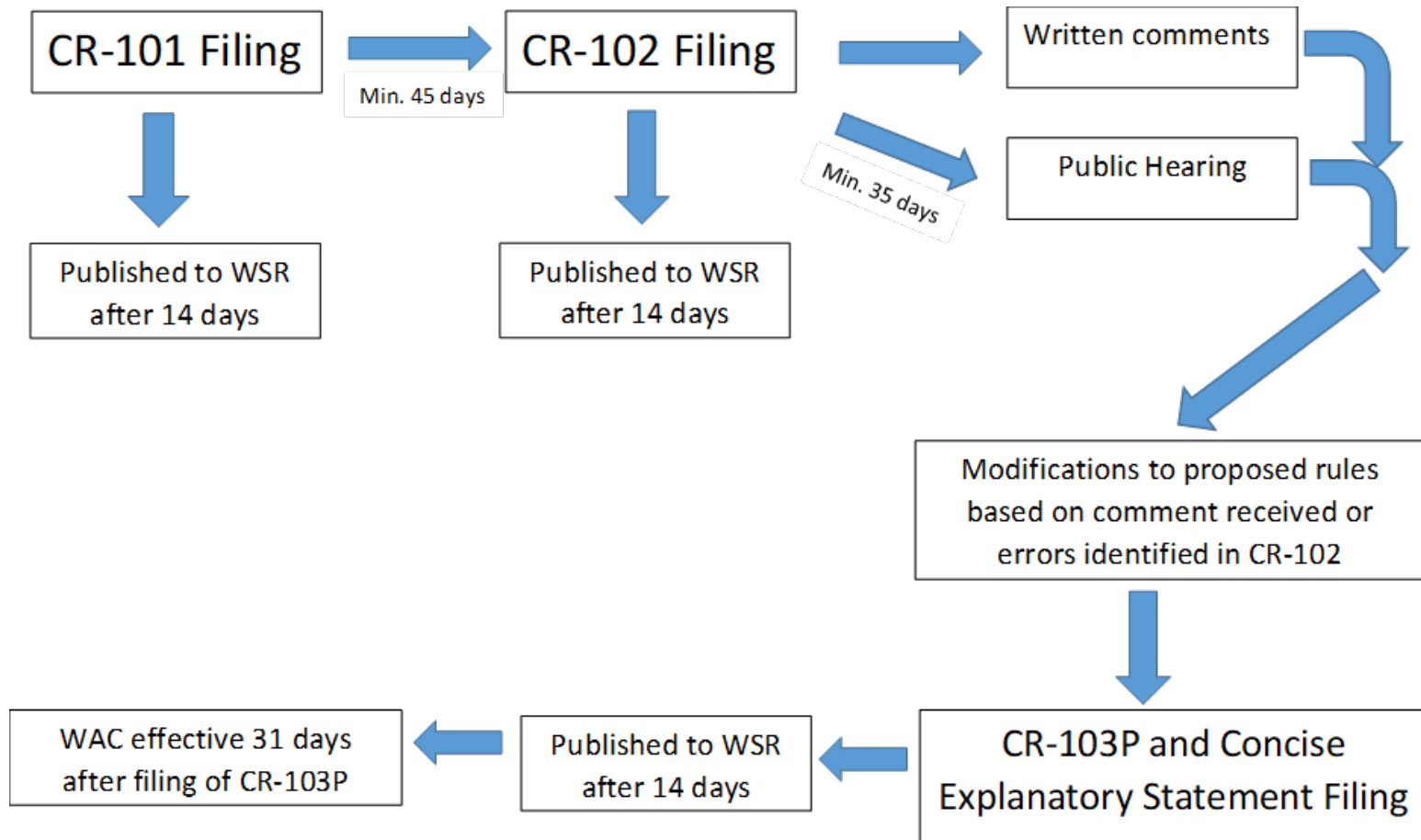
Goals for Columbia River logbooks

- 1) Maintain and improves data set from past observation and logbook efforts.
- 2) Allows for an updated understanding (and/or confirmation) of handle rates regarding non-target handle (e.g., steelhead, chum, over-sized sturgeon).
 - Recent reports such as PRC Selectivity presentation and WDFW C-3620 five-year review
 - Potentially inform models used to estimate steelhead mortalities



Rule making steps

Administrative Procedure Act Process



Timeline (2024)

- Submit CR 101: File by January 3
- Submit CR 102: File by March 6
- Public Hearing (Commission briefing if applicable): mid-April (April 18-20)
- Briefing and proposed for approval (Commission if applicable): mid/late-June (June 20-22)
- Rule in effect by August 1 (start of fall fisheries)



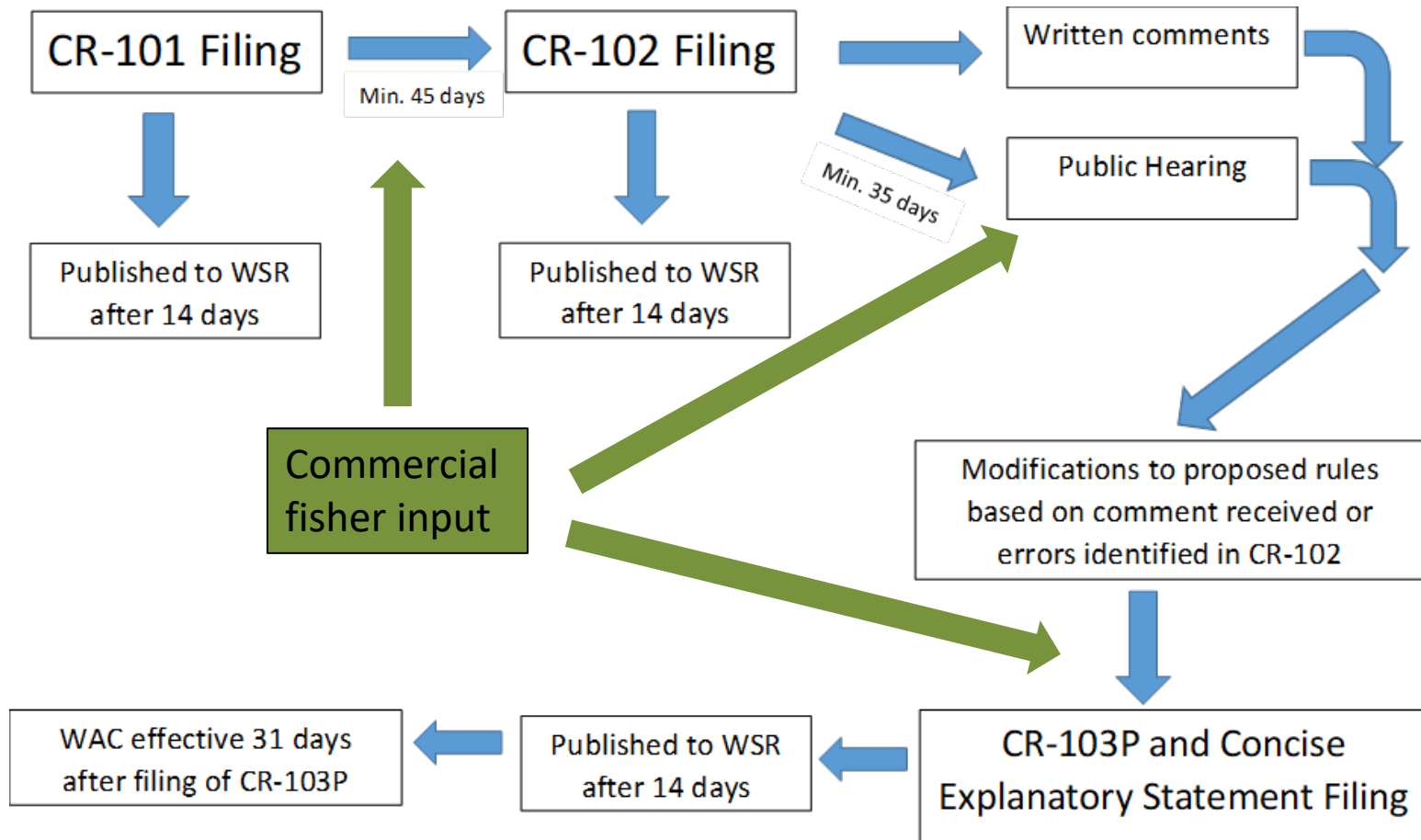
Commercial fisher input

- Input is encouraged to work out details of rule submitted for CR-102.
 - Staff will distribute draft rule for review.
 - Could provide a meeting to review proposed rule prior to March 6.
- State law requires a public hearing for comment.
 - Pending pathway, may include Commission briefings.



Rule making steps – fisher input

Administrative Procedure Act Process



Draft CR 101



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

Agency: WDFW

Subject of possible rule making: Establish logbook requirements for Columbia River commercial fishing downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: To collect fishing effort, catch and release information from Columbia River commercial fisheries to assist in management purposes. The information collected would provide additional updates to established observation and voluntary logbook datasets to inform modeling and management of fisheries.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: These rules would expand on the data available for planning and assessing commercial fishery catch statistics in the Columbia River. The parties to the US v Oregon Management Agreement jointly manage harvest of salmon and steelhead throughout most of the Columbia River and its tributaries. Washington also coordinates Columbia River fisheries with the state of Oregon under the Columbia River Compact. RCW 77.75.010.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe)

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

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Additional comments:

Date:

Name:

Title:

Signature:

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Questions?

