
Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting

March 1, 2023

10:00a-12:00p

Hybrid (Ridgefield WDFW,
virtual)

Prepared by: Columbia River Joint Staff

Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting

Ridgefield WDFW office: 5525 S. 11th St., Ridgefield, WA

Join online: [Click here to join the meeting](#) ID: 260 807 520 699 Passcode: N2UD3D

Or call in (audio only): +1 564-999-2000 Phone ID: 279 939 294#

10:00a – 12:00p March 1, 2023

Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ground rules○ Introduction○ Agenda review	(15 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fishery planning<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Spring-season overview○ Fall season<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2023 fisheries○ Coho tangle net research	(75 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional Topics<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2024 alternative commercial gear fishery○ Legislative updates○ Other/General discussion?	(15 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future Meetings<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pacific Fishery Management Council, March 5-10, Seattle, WA○ North of Falcon, March 14, Ridgefield/virtual, 10am○ Pacific Fishery Management Council, April 2-7, Foster City, CA	(15 minutes)

Ground rules

- For virtual meetings
 - *6 to mute/unmute
 - Chat will not be monitored or used except for technical assistance
- Focus on the task at hand – *stick to the agenda*
- One person at a time to speak – *speak your name to be added to the speaking list*
 - Non-advisers will observe meeting and stay on mute – *comments may be permitted at the end of the meeting if time permits*
- Be respectful of others
 - Mute phone or line
 - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations
 - No personal attacks, insults or threats
 - Listen
 - Speak and act professional – *no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity*
 - Allow for a balance of speaking time – *limit length and number of times to speak on each topic*
- Be a conduit – *share information*

Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group (2021–2023)

First	Last	City	State
Les	Clark	Chinook	WA
Jim	Coleman	St. Helens	OR
Darren	Crookshanks	Longview	WA
Bryce	Devine	Longview	WA
Steve	Fick	Astoria	OR
Tim	Heuker	Cascade Locks	OR
Bill	Hunsinger	Astoria	OR
Otis	Hunsinger	Astoria	OR
Greg	Johnson	Vancouver	WA
Brian	Love	Brush Prairie	WA
Kent	Martin	Skamokawa	WA
Aaron	Miller	Naselle	WA
Robert	Sudar	Longview	WA
Brian	Tarabochia	Astoria	OR
Derek	Wall	Astoria	OR
Jim	Wells	Astoria	OR
Ken	Wirkkala	Ilwaco	WA

Spring-Season Overview

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon & Steelhead Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i>				
		2022	2022	2023
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total *	122,900	185,209	198,600
	Upper Columbia	21,700	29,605	41,400
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>	2,800	5,264	5,800
	Snake River Spring/Summer **	73,400	103,025	85,900
	<i>Snake River natural-origin**</i>	13,200	23,331	13,200
	Lower River Total	74,100	101,745	117,000
	Total Spring Chinook	197,000	286,954	315,600
	<u>Area-specific detail</u>			
	Willamette River	51,200	55,391	71,000
	Sandy River	5,600	10,289	7,800
	Select Areas ***	8,800	18,896	22,100
	Cowlitz River	4,100	7,146	9,000
	Kalama River	2,000	3,148	2,400
	Lewis River	2,400	6,875	4,700
	Wind River***	4,200	6,530	4,400
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River***	3,800	11,491	8,000
	Hood River***	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Klickitat River***	1,800	2,088	1,400
	Deschutes River***	n/a	2,472	n/a
	John Day River***	n/a	1,529	n/a
	Umatilla River***	3,000	3,332	2,500
	Yakima River***	4,700	5,430	5,500
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	56,300	78,494	84,800
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	198,700	664,935	234,500
	Wenatchee	19,200	147,473	44,300
	Okanogan	175,700	513,317	187,400
	Yakima	3,500	157	100
	Deschutes	100	35	100
	Snake River	200	2,329	2,600
Winter Steelhead	Wild	13,400	15,111	15,700
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	99,700	123,871	67,800
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	3,100	6,902	4,400
	<i>(wild)</i>	1,600	2,979	2,100
	A-Index (total)	81,000	76,691	55,400
	<i>(wild)</i>	28,100	23,189	17,300
	B-Index (total)	15,600	40,278	8,000
	<i>(wild)</i>	1,900	6,737	1,300

* Upriver totals are developed by TAC for use in management of *U.S. v. OR* fisheries. Wild components are included in the stock total. Area-specific estimates for upriver tributaries detailed here are provided by other agencies/entities and may not sum to TAC's upriver abundance estimates.

** 2022 return is based on current TAC run reconstruction methodology.

*** Return to tributary mouth. The 2023 Deschutes forecast is for a range of 3,365-5,102 adult spring Chinook. 2/8/2023

Fishery guidelines

- Based on the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA), the preseason forecast of 198,600 upriver spring Chinook, and the preseason forecast for 13,200 Snake River natural-origin spring Chinook, ESA impacts for 2023 fisheries are limited to 10.0%, with 1.7% for non-treaty fisheries and 8.3% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- To allow for uncertainty in preseason forecasting, the MA requires a 30% reduction from the forecasts (i.e., a run-size buffer) to start the season, which equates to 139,020 upriver spring Chinook and 9,240 Snake River wild spring Chinook. At these run sizes, the MA allows for a non-treaty ESA limit of 1.6% and an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 10,287 fish prior to a run size update.
- The allocation policies for 2023 specific to commercial-recreational ESA-impact sharing and within-recreational sub-allocations are not concurrent. All information in the table below assumes the following: no more than 70% to recreational fisheries (WA Policy) and no more than 20% to commercial fisheries (OR Policy); within the recreational sub-allocation no more than 70% to the Lower Columbia River fishery (WA Policy) and no more than 25% for fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam (OR Policy; Bonneville Dam to OR/WA state line, Snake River). If additional guidance is provided, staff will modify the results described below and adjust future staff recommendations at upcoming Compact/Joint State Hearings.

2023 Spring Chinook Preseason Management Guidelines			
	2022 postseason	2023 preseason	Difference
Upriver CHS abundance (adults)	122,900	198,600	+75,700
ESA impact rate (Non-treaty)	1.60%	1.70%	+0.1%
Willamette CHS abundance (adults)	51,200	71,000	+19,800

Commission Guidance (ESA impact allocation)	2022	2023	Difference
Sport allocation	70%	70%	0%
Commercial allocation	20%	20%	0%
<i>U.S. v OR</i> Catch Balance	preseason	preseason	
30% Buffered Run	86,030	139,020	+52,990
ESA Impact rate	1.60%	1.60%	0.0%
Unallocated Impact Rate	0.16%	0.16%	
Catch Balance Pre-update	6,366	9,259	+2,893
Unallocated Non-treaty	637	1,028	
Commercial Mainstem	TBD	TBD	
Commercial Select Area	≤418	≤675	+257
Sport Fisheries (LCR, Z6, Snake)	5,293	8,546	+3,253
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	3,913	6,487	+2,574
Bonneville to OR/WA border	559	927	+368
Snake River (WA waters)	542	669	+127
Sport unallocated	279	463	

- Guidance from both Commissions prioritizes the commercial allocation of upriver spring Chinook ESA-impacts for use in Select Area fisheries. Winter, spring, and summer seasons for the Select Areas were adopted at the hearing on February 14th. More information can be found in the Fact Sheet and Action Notice for that hearing.

- Weekly mainstem test fishing is expected to occur on Mondays beginning March 13 through May.
 - Provides stock composition, catch rate, and bycatch information and continues the long-term data set; test fishing is helpful in setting potential future commercial fisheries.
 - Hatchery fish are sold at fair market value to off-set test fishing operational costs.
 - All information can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/columbia-river-test>.

North of Falcon Planning

Preliminary fall Chinook forecasts

Stock Group	2022		2023
	February Forecasts	Actual Returns	February Forecasts
Lower River Hatchery - LRH	73,000	87,542	77,100
Lower River Wild - LRW	10,800	9,375	8,600
Lower River Bright - LRB	8,700	3,039	4,300
Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	91,200	258,271	136,100
Upriver Bright - URB	230,400	254,880	272,400
<i>Snake River Wild (SRW)¹</i>	<i>11,000</i>	<i>18,945</i>	<i>13,300</i>
Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	70,200	64,622	48,300
Select Area Bright - SAB	600	1,331	600
Columbia River Total	484,900	679,060	547,400

Coho forecast – pre-harvest ocean abundance

2022 abundance and 2023 forecast of ocean coho run components prior to harvest (thousands of fish)				
	2022			2023
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	592.5	434.3	136%	481.8
Columbia River Late	404.7	250.9	161%	404.3
<i>Columbia River Subtotal</i>	997.2	685.2	146%	886.1
<i>Coast Subtotal</i>	6.3	10.8	59%	10.8
Total (OPI-H)	1003.5	696.0	144%	896.9
<i>OCN Rivers</i>	209.0	182.0	115%	226.3
<i>OCN Lakes</i>	13.4	9.6	140%	12.5
OCN Total	222.4	191.5	116%	238.8
Grand Total	1,225.9	887.5	138%	1,135.7

Considerations for 2023 fisheries

- Upper Columbia Summer Chinook
 - In-river allocations of upper Columbia River summer Chinook for 2023 will not be available until after the March and April PFMC meetings as ocean non-treaty fisheries are counted as part of the non-treaty allocation.
 - Oregon rule does not allow for the use of gillnets in mainstem summer Chinook commercial fisheries.
- Sockeye
 - Commercial fisheries targeting sockeye are not allowed in rule/policy. The commercial allocation of sockeye is available for use in Chinook-directed fisheries.
- Upriver Summer Steelhead
 - Preseason forecasts indicate the 2023 return could be very low again this year.
 - Continued use of minimum mesh size restrictions in Zone 4/5 fisheries to minimize handle of steelhead.
- 2023 constraints are expected to be similar to what occurred in 2022 given allowable ESA-impact rates due to similar abundances and associated commission guidance are very similar if not the identical.
- Staff will not be able to begin modeling 2023 fisheries until the March PFMC meeting.
- URB/SRW
 - Preseason URB and SRW forecast is over the threshold to provide a 15.0% URB/SRW harvest rate (200,000 URB; 8,000 SRW).
- LRH
 - The preseason LRH forecast abundance is expected to allow for a total exploitation rate (ER) of 38.0% and is shared between in-river and ocean fisheries.
- Columbia River Coho
 - Lower River Natural Coho ESA impacts are expected to be limited to 23.0% ER and is shared between the in-river and ocean fisheries.
- Chum
 - Commercial harvest is not allowed. The ESA-impact limit is 5.0% HR for Columbia River fisheries.

Fall Chinook

- **2022 Pre-Season Fishing Plan**

- The August (Early Fall) Chinook-target fishery was modeled to begin the week of August 8 and was expected to continue into the week of August 29, with fishing periods occurring one to three nights per week. Fishery structure was expected to include eight, 9-hour (9pm – 6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The landings expectation included 26,540 adult Chinook and 3,150 Coho.
- The Late Fall (mid/late September through October) Chinook-target fishery would begin the week of September 19, dependent on the remaining commercial share, updated URB run size, and impact limits. Fishery structure was expected to include up to three, 10-hour (8pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 6,290 adult Chinook and 3,800 Coho were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Commercial pound net and seine fisheries were not expected to occur this fall.

- **2022 Preliminary results**

- 2022 fall-season in-river post-season fishery analysis is not complete yet. Final post-season results will be available at the March 14 NOF public meeting.

Preliminary 2022 Zone 4/5 Results					
Week #	First Date	Landed Chinook	Deliveries	#Periods	LRH ER*
33	10-Aug	161	13	1	0.00%
34	15-Aug	1,328	66	2	0.12%
35	22-Aug	6,666	108	2	0.50%
36	28-Aug	16,064	174	3	0.51%
<i>August subtotal</i>		<i>24,219</i>	<i>361</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1.13%</i>
39	18-Sep	4,818	106	3	1.12%
40	25-Sep	1,112	24	2	0.55%
41	2-Oct	578	10	2	0.00%
42	9-Oct	n/a	n/a	2 (rescinded)	n/a
<i>Late-Fall subtotal</i>		<i>6,508</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1.67%</i>
Total		30,727	501	15	2.81%
*Preliminary until after March PFMC					

Coho

- **2022 Pre-Season Fishing Plan**

- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch multifilament tangle nets were expected to occur September 26 through October 28 with five fishing periods per week (Mon-Fri) from 4am–10pm in Zones 1-3, with a consideration of closing at 6pm on Fridays. A total of 19,830 hatchery Coho and 2,040 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Commercial pound net and seine fisheries were not expected to occur this fall.

- **2022 Preliminary results**

- 2022 fall-season in-river post-season fishery analysis is not complete yet. Final post-season results will be available at the March 14 NOF public meeting.

Preliminary 2022 Zone 1-3 Tangle Net Results				
Week #	First Date	Landed Coho	Deliveries	#Days
40	26-Sep	782	44	5
41	3-Oct	1,542	50	5
42	10-Oct	689	14	5
43	17-Oct	258	11	5
44	24-Oct	526	13	5
Total		3,797	132	25

- Additionally, 221 Chinook were landed in the Zone 1-3 Tangle Net fishery with an estimated 855 unmarked adult coho and 107 steelhead released.
- WDFW and ODFW conducted a coho tangle net release mortality rate research project in 2022.
 - Intent of the study was to evaluate a gear modification (monofilament) and fishing earlier in the fall management period in order to determine if there was a difference in the release mortality rate applied to multifilament mesh.
 - Gear utilized 3.75” monofilament mesh and other restrictions consistent with fall tangle net commercial fisheries beginning ~mid-September.
 - Fishing occurred in the mainstem Columbia near Tongue Point Select Area with two contracted fishers.
 - Coho were transported to the net pens located near Tongue Point and held in the net pens for 6 days.
 - Preliminary results suggest that a release mortality rate for monofilament gear would be higher than the rate established for multifilament gear.