

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Program
Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group
May 15th, 2018
WDFW Ridgefield Office- 5525 S 11th St, Ridgefield WA 98642

Attendance:

CRRAG Members:

Pete Boone, Lance Beckman, Nathan Grimm, Harry Barber, Mark Heirigs, Chris Winn, Bob Rees, Randy Woolsey, Jim Bridwell

WDFW Staff:

Cindy LeFleur, Tim Sippel, Ryan Lothrop, Myrtice Dobler (note taker)

Public:

Liz Hamilton, Allen Thomas, Robert Krueger, Gregg Robinson, Kirk Harrison, Marv Chesley, Don Kinsey, Rob Bignall, Bill Chapman

Purpose of meeting:

Advisory Group/Public Comprehensive Review of Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620 (2013-17)

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Topic
4:00- 4:20	Introductions/ Agenda/ Review update and timeline
4:20- 5:45	Review Category A responses
5:45- 6:45	Review Category B responses
6:45-7:00	Wrap- up/ What's next

Meeting Notes:

Ryan Lothrop opened meeting

Introductions

Agenda

- What we want/need
 - Clarification on points we're missing
 - Are we answering accurately?
 - Strengthen an argument
- 2 categories
 - A- completed
 - B- what's remaining

Timeline

- Review began late winter- Mid March
- Presentation in Wenatchee to FC and FWC

- Policy review hard to read/follow
- Draft Policy Review posted Mar 26
- Mid-April presentation to Fish Committee
 - Fish Committee is: Carpenter, Thorburn, Graybill, Kehoe
- 2 set of advisory meetings
 - Today
 - Next one July 12th
- Goal to have completed Policy Analysis by Sept 1
 - To present to Commission mid-September
- Hope to have joint commission with ODFW- not scheduled

Went over where information is on the website

Category A

When completed everything will be in category A. Things will be broken into sections/themes
Some sections will have supplemental staff comments.

Question 25

- Seems to imply sampling program isn't good enough. Sampling program is good, large. Include creel sampling program
- Don't see purpose
- Concerns that it singles out fishing guide community. If you're only gathering guide data and not other sport, how will the data be used?

Question 17

- Cost of certification will not be covered in small fishery. Section done well. Captured important points

Question 18

- Run literature search: Look at other buyback programs to see what has worked and not
- Feels like it's being stonewalled and no progress is being made – this needs to be in the record
- If they don't want to use the alt gear we should pursue the buybacks
- Goal was based on lack of SAFE areas in WA or thought it was so that commercials could sell their gill nets and go purchase their seines or traps

Question 22

- No we haven't found areas, but that we have increased production in SAFE areas
- Progress can be defined in different ways. More fish are being caught in SAFE areas than there have ever been.
- WA in no way pays share of fish produced in SAFE areas

Question 27

- Expand released fish for whole fishery and include oversized sturgeon % of bycatch
- Higher ratio Steelhead: Chinook
- Disappointment from CRRAG that there will not be a mandatory observer program this year. CRRAG feels that commercials should have an observer and that the policy requires it

Question 7

- Show Sport and Wanapum fisheries using impacts up there – when there is a Ringold sport fishery the impacts are shared between the two fisheries
 - Concern of small sport spring Chinook they are allowed to use. Restarting spring hatchery at Ringold

Question 5

- CRRAG Comments: predation is river wide and we don't have a good handle on what it is. Predation is not just at Bonneville Dam. Lower river predation is huge. No good estimate on how predation is downstream. They are finding new pullouts – Coffin Rock by Trojan – docks at Rainier covered with them. Sea lions in the tributaries now too – Washougal, Kalama and Lewis
- Want information on Puget Sound study of effect of seals on smolts
- Share information of Bill that was being introduced on lethal take of sea lions
- Both Stellar and California sea lions are in river
- Staff is doing an amazing job on Marine Mammals. Hope commission knows that

Question 16

- Clarify – only alternative gear can be used in main stem (WA Policy)
- WA & OR commissions need to come to agreement. Issues on both following agreement. Hope WA sticks to agreement from years ago. Seems like whenever commission gets together there's backpedaling.
- Lot of history commission needs to understand
- Sport fishermen have done what was asked
- Go for messy rather than to go back further

Category B

Question 9

- Reword first paragraph on allowing allocation of SAFE fisheries
- Want table of mainstem and SAFE catch for sport and commercial
- Definition of prioritized? Take into account what happens in season versus what was planned
 - “Establishes exclusive access to recreational” language makes it sound like commercial are getting screwed

Question 23

- Study on the Yakima hooking mortality – check to see if this included barbed versus barbless hooks
- Include discussion of anglers who lose more hatchery fish because of the barbless requirement as it relates to pHOS
- Oregon commission handled it differently. OR staff recommended removal of barbless
 - Mortality affected by where the hook was in the fish. Not barbed, treble, etc.
 - Include discussion of anglers who lose more hatchery fish

Question 1

- Well run hatcheries help keep fisheries. Cutting hatcheries wouldn't help bring back wild fish
- Include number of NORs in the fall Chinook table. Helps explain why the pHOS is so high – there are not very many NORs
- Are fisheries contributing to solving problem? Not much.
- Consider role that sport fleet can play in 'mopping' up hatchery fish
 - Talking lower river fall Chinook tules
 - Sport fisheries are contributing
- Pursue joint-state grant for outreach/identification
 - To train sport and commercial fleet on learning to release Tules
 - Partnering with OR and going back to NOAA with a grant
- Look into ability to sterilize smolts – ask scientists/literature review. Change genetic programming

Question 3

Look up SASSI rating on Summer Chinook

Notify commission that URBs are not 100% naturally produced stock

- There is a gradation of healthy stocks. Currently if stock is not listed it's healthy. Should be if low and close to ESA it should be listed
- Summer Chinook – look up the SASSI rating for this population. Thinks maybe getting to danger zone
- Why wasn't escapement changed to reflect need of spawning ground?
 - Not sure. US V OR chose not to change goal
 - What escapement goal are we managing to? Escapement to Priest Rapids. We should be managing for what spawning grounds need
- Notify commission that URBs are not 100% naturally produced stock. Talk about where produced

Wrap-up/ what's next:

Meatiest categories for CRRAG are Allocation, Alt Gear and Economics

- Lots of preliminary analysis

- Place to look for first
- That's where to look for meeting on July 12th

List of questions by category

- Those that are strictly management, alt gear etc.
- Send cheat sheet of categories

Updated document?

- Continuous process
 - Cleaner to have final iterations
 - Challenge on how to share
- For June Fish committee meeting
 - Plan to have
 - Commercial, tribal, management, recreational
 - Will present
 - We've gone through what we will give in June
- If you have additional comments- please send to us
- Economics – will that be presented in June?
 - No that will be later on
 - Hopefully touch on it in July
 - Concern of commercial baselines and values with nothing on Recreational Angler trips
 - We will try to do what we can
 - South WIC study – from 2006
 - Good resource
 - But old data
 - Funding to get to do another look

Meeting notes

- Plan to turn around notes quickly
- Share with CRRAG make sure accurate
- Will be on public website once approved
- Goal of 1 week turnaround

Action Items:

WDFW staff:

- Set item on agenda for Mitchell Act Biop
 - Would be interested to know where we stand in Hatcheries
- Send cheat sheet of categories
- Update Policy Review document with input from CRRAG

CRRAG:

- Review of meeting notes

- If you have additional comments- please send to us

Next Meeting:

Date: July 31, 2018	Time: 4pm-7pm	Location: WDFW Region 5 Office
Time	Topic	
4:00- 4:20	Introductions/ Agenda/ Review update and timeline	
4:20- 6:00	Review Category A responses	
6:00- 6:45	Review remaining Category B responses	
6:45- 7:00	Wrap- up/ What's next	

**Comprehensive Review of the Columbia River Basin Salmon
Management Policy C-3620
Policy Review Themes**

Recreational

Question 9 Recreational priority
Question 23 Barbless hooks
Question 24 Barbless hook exemptions
Question 25 Logbooks

Commercial

Question 17 MSC Certification
Question 18 Buyback
Question 22 New SAFE areas
Question 27 2017 monitoring results
Question 28 Funding for release mortality rate

Tribal

Question 6 Colville allocation
Question 7 Wanapum subsistence

Allocation

Question 30 Spring Chinook allocation
Question 31 Spring Chinook buffer
Question 32 Spring Chinook allocation sport
Question 33 Summer Chinook allocation
Question 34 Summer Chinook allocation- above PRD
Question 35 Summer Chinook allocation- below PRD
Question 36 Allocation sockeye, fall Chin, coho

Alt Gear

Question 10 Gill nets phased out
Question 11 Definition of non-selective gill nets
Question 12 Alternative gear development
Question 13 Alternative gear implementation
Question 14 Alternative gear incentives
Question 19 Alternative gear progress
Question 33 Alternative gear results

Management

Question 1 Conservation
Question 3 Target stocks
Question 4 Mark-selective fisheries
Question 5 Predation
Question 16 Concurrency
Question 26 Outreach and monitoring
Question 29 Management tools
Question 40 Concurrent regulation

Economics

Question 2 Economic enhancements
Question 8 Well-being and stability
Question 15 SAFE economically enhanced
Question 20 Opportunities- transition phase
Question 21 Opportunities- long term
Question 37 Economic expectations
Question 38 Correct course- economics
Question 39 Reconsideration of policy- expectations