

# Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620

*Review of 2013 Implementation  
January 11, 2014*



# Process Background

- Measure on Oregon ballot to ban gillnet gear use by non-Indian commercial fishers
- Oregon F&W Commission works with Washington F&W Commission to develop a new Columbia River Management Strategy.
- Washington F&W Commission adopts Columbia Basin Salmon Management Policy in January, 2013
- Policy calls for annual review beginning after 2013 and comprehensive review after 2016

# Key Guiding Principles of Policy

- Promote the recovery of ESA-listed species and the conservation of wild stocks
- Continue to meet terms of the U.S. v. Oregon Agreement
- Seek to enhance the economic well-being and stability of Columbia River fisheries
- Subject to adaptive management provisions, prioritize recreational fisheries in the mainstem and commercial fisheries in off-channel areas of the lower Columbia River

# Key Guiding Principles of Policy

- Subject to adaptive management provisions, phase out gillnets in the mainstem and transition gillnet use to the off-channel areas
- Enhance economic benefits of off-channel commercial fisheries
- Develop and implement selective fishing gear and techniques for mainstem commercial
- Maintain consistent and concurrent fishery management policies between Oregon and Washington

# Transition Period (2013-16)

- Progressive shift of mainstem salmon allocation to the sport fishery
- Further development of selective gear for the mainstem commercial fishery
- Increase salmon production in the off-channel areas
- Investigate expansion of off-channel fishing area for the commercial fishery
- Begin development of a commercial buyback program
- Consider additional measures to enhance fishery management effectiveness.

# 2013 Policy implementation

- Processes and events affecting implementation
- Public processes
- Implementing provisions of the policy
- Fishery policy guidelines, planning and performance
- Adaptive management
- 2014 Fishery planning and policy implementation

# Washington Litigation

- March- Case filed in Wahkiakum County
- April- Case re-filed in Thurston County
- April- Thurston County Judge dismisses the case
- December- Litigants file an appeal

# Oregon Litigation

- January- Oregon rules appealed
- February- Court ordered stay of rules
- June-Oregon re-considers and adopts rules
- July- Litigators asked for stay of rules adopted in June
- October- Court denies stay
- December- Court denies appeal
- Case now focused on judicial review of rules



# Washington Legislation

- Emerging commercial fishery designation RCW
- Experimental fishery and limited entry designation
- Director appoints five member board to make recommendations regarding rules for participation
- Director issues permits for participation
- Staff currently working through process to issue permits for pilot seine fishing in fall 2014
- Staff report to Commission in February

# Oregon Legislation (SB 830)

- Repeals rules which made it unlawful to take salmon and steelhead with fixed gear or seines.
- Established an enhancement fund to enhance fisheries, optimize economic benefits, and advance conservation
- Established a transition fund to provide assistance to individual commercial fishermen

# Public Process in 2013

- The Columbia River Compact held 39 public hearings to set fisheries in joint state waters
- WDFW and ODFW convened seven Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisory Group meetings.
- Two meetings were held with a Spring Chinook recreational sub-allocation workgroup to review fisheries with respect to policy objectives
- The North of Falcon Process convened in March and April to develop management plans for the summer and fall fisheries
- Two meetings were held with the Emerging Fishery Advisory Board

# Gill Net License Buyback

- Coordinating with ODFW and the industry to evaluate interest in a gill net license buyback program
- Developing baseline data concerning historic effort, participation and ex-vessel values
- Researching past buyback programs
- Investigate potential funding sources

# Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Data from a three year seine gear release mortality study are being analyzed with results expected prior to NOF process
- Test fishing indicates purse and beach seines are effective in harvesting Chinook and Coho in the lower Columbia River.
- Handle of ESA listed summer steelhead occurred in the fall and handle of ESA listed sockeye occurred in the summer test fisheries.
- Release mortality results will be key to management
- Pilot October coho tangle-net fishery occurred

# Washington Off-Channel Enhancement

- Testing the feasibility of a new Select Area in the Cathlamet Channel
- Department worked closely with city of Cathlamet to secure city site for net pens
- SEPA process was conducted and permits acquired
- 250,000 Spring Chinook will be moved to pens this month and released this spring
- First adult returns will occur in 2016
- Test fishing conducted in 2013 and planned for 2014

# Oregon Select Areas

- Investigating opportunities to expand seasons and boundaries in current Select Areas
- Additional hatchery releases planned in 2013:
  - 500,000 juvenile spring Chinook (actual 389,000)
  - 600,000 juvenile coho (actual 586,000)
  - 500,000 SAB fall Chinook (actual 482,000)
- Expectations for 2014 are:
  - 681,000 juvenile spring Chinook
  - 630,900 juvenile coho
  - 820,000 SAB fall Chinook



# Select Area Sites



Deep River

Washington

Cowlitz River

Youngs Bay

Tongue Point / South Channel

Blind Slough / Knappa Slough

Oregon

Multnomah Channel

10 km



# Select Area Production

Species- State	Current	Transition	Long-term
		2013-2016	2017 +
Sp. Chin. OR	1.2 million	1.7 million	1.95 million
Sp. Chin. WA	350,000	250,000	250,000
Coho OR	3.27 million	3.87 million	4.87 million
Coho WA	800,000	1.0 million	1.0 million
SAB Chin OR	1.45 million	1.95 million	2.2 million

# Additional Plan Provisions

- Beginning in 2013, anglers were required to use barbless hooks to aid in the safe release of wild fish
- To increase management certainty, the department is working to insure funding to support monitoring of fisheries, collection of return data, and analysis
- Working with co-managers to improve accuracy of preseason forecasts and in-season run size updates
- Ensuring fishery data is summarized and coordinated in real time to inform in-season management decisions

# Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Policy ESA allocation: 65% sport/35%commercial
- Adjusted allocation: 60% sport/35% commercial
- Recreational upriver Spring Chinook
  - Harvest guideline- 7,593
  - Actual harvest- 6,300 (123,900 trips)
- Commercial upriver Spring Chinook
  - Harvest guideline- 2,624
  - Actual harvest- 2,160

# Summer Chinook Fisheries

- Policy ESA allocation- 60% sport/40% commercial
- Adjusted allocation- 55% sport/35% commercial
- Recreational summer chinook harvest
  - Below PR Dam guideline- 2,621
  - Below PR Dam actual - 2,094 (26,500 trips)
  - Above PR Dam actual- 2,400
- Commercial summer Chinook harvest
  - Guideline-2,145
  - Actual- 1,900

# Fall Chinook Fisheries

- Sport fishery: up to 70% of Fall Chinook ESA impacts if needed to meet sport season objectives
- Commercial fishery: sufficient ESA impacts to target upriver bright fall Chinook
- Chinook harvest
  - Sport harvest below Pasco- 79,400 (>200,000 trips)
  - Hanford Reach sport harvest- 19,300 (33,100 trips)
  - Commercial mainstem- 86,400
  - Commercial Select Area- 23,700

# Coho Fisheries

- Commercial fishery focus on off-channel and development of selective techniques for October
- Recreational focus on primarily on Buoy 10 and tributary fisheries
- Sport mainstem harvest- 11,078 (mostly Buoy 10)
- Commercial mainstem- 9,600
- Select Area Commercial- 42,500

# Sockeye Harvest

- ESA allowance is 1% of Snake River wild (70% allocated to sport)
- Sport harvest below Priest Rapids- 500
- Sport harvest above Priest Rapids- 5,700
- Commercial harvest- 100

# 2013 Columbia R. Recreational Fisheries

## Downstream of Bonneville Dam

2013 Columbia River LCR Sport - Angler Trips and Harvest					
Fishery	Trips	Chinook	Coho	Sockeye	Steelhead
Winter/Spring	109,700	6,900			1,900
Summer	52,100	1,800		500	5,100
Buoy 10	64,500	22,800	8,000		
Fall LCR	134,300	30,500	1,000		6,100
<b>LCR Total</b>	<b>360,600</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>13,100</b>

## Upstream of Bonneville Dam

2013 Columbia River Above BON Sport - Angler Trips and Harvest					
Fishery	Trips	Chinook	Coho	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring Z6/Snake R	4,200	950			1,500
Summer Z6/>PRD		2,440		5,700	700
Fall Z6		13,900	1,000		6,200
Hanford Reach	33,100	19,300	100		300
<b>Above BON total</b>	<b>37,300</b>	<b>36,590</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>8,700</b>



# 2013 Commercial Ex-Vessel Value

## Mainstem Columbia River

2013 Columbia River Mainstem Commercial Ex-vessel Value				
	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	Total
Winter/Spring	\$190,530		\$30,382	\$220,912
Summer	\$141,208		\$39,190	\$180,399
Early Fall	\$1,808,323	\$5,260	\$77,846	\$1,891,428
Late Fall	\$945,615	\$116,715	\$33,382	\$1,095,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,085,676</b>	<b>\$121,975</b>	<b>\$180,801</b>	<b>\$3,388,452</b>
All data preliminary				

## Select Area Sites

2013 Columbia River Select Area Commercial Ex-vessel Value				
	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	Total
Winter/Spring	\$603,957		\$22,220	\$626,177
Summer	\$137,638		\$2,931	\$140,570
Early Fall	\$925,011	\$578,996	\$10,820	\$1,514,828
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,666,606</b>	<b>\$578,996</b>	<b>\$35,972</b>	<b>\$2,281,575</b>
All data preliminary				

# Adaptive Management

- Commissions tracks implementation
  - initial review at the end of 2013
  - comprehensive review at end of transition (2016)
- If expectations not achieved:
  - determine causes & identify action to correct course
  - make adjustments needed to stay on track
  - Specific circumstances that trigger adjustments

# Adaptive Management *(continued)*

- The Compact exercised adaptive management in the late spring commercial season, setting a large-mesh gillnet fishery to avoid excessive handle of shad.
- No other adaptive management actions were necessary in 2013 and there are none recommended for the Commission to consider at this time

# 2014 Implementation

- Emerging fishery rules developed and adopted
- Seine gear release mortality completed
- North of Falcon planning process considers policy objectives, allocation, season structures- includes pilot seine fishery and coho tangle-net fishery
- Spring Chinook- 70% sport ESA allocation
- Summer Chinook- 60% sport ESA allocation
- Fall Chinook- up to 70% ESA allocation to meet objectives
- Continued off-channel enhancement research
- Develop monitoring plan for pilot seine fishery
- Another extremely large upriver bright return expected

# Questions?

