

# North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – December 12, 2014



## Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2014

Ron Warren– Fish Program

# Purpose

- Brief FWC on North of Falcon Policy
- Identify Key Issues
- Policy Consideration Process
- Seek Commission Guidance

# North of Falcon Policy

Guidance to the Department for annual salmon fisheries:

- Conservation Principles
- Harvest Opportunity
- In-season Management
- Monitoring, Sampling and Enforcement
- Gear Conflicts
- Incidental Mortalities
- Communications

# North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will insure that management decisions are consistent with:

- Statutory Authority
- U.S. v. Washington
- U.S. v. Oregon
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- PFMC's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- State/Tribal agreements
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

# North of Falcon Policy

Implement consistent with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

- Science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable
- Meet or exceed ESA recovery and conservation goals

# Harvest Management

## General & Statewide Fishing Opportunities ...

... will be provided when they can be directed at  
healthy wild and hatchery stocks

... will utilize selective fishing methods and gears to the fullest extent possible  
to

maximize fishing opportunity

and to

minimizing impacts on depressed stocks

... will not be

exclusively reserved for either sport or  
commercial users

# Harvest Management

## General & Statewide

Meaningful recreational fishing opportunities

will be ...

distributed equitably across fishing areas

and

reflect the diverse interests of fishers, including retention and catch-and-release fisheries

# Harvest Management

## General & Statewide

... non-treaty fishing access to unutilized portions of treaty harvest allocation through the implementation of ...

pre-season and in-season agreements



# Harvest Management

Sockeye, Chum, and Pink Salmon  
(except for Puget Sound origin sockeye...)

...in priority order,

- (1) provide the majority of harvest to the commercial fisheries
- (2) provide meaningful recreational opportunities

# Harvest Management

## Chinook and Coho Salmon – Puget Sound

...in priority order,

- (1) provide meaningful recreational opportunities distributed equitably across fishing areas ...
- (2) provide opportunities for commercial harvest

# Harvest Management

## Grays Harbor:

*... include opportunities for both the recreational and commercial fisheries*

## Willapa Bay:

*... consistent with Willapa Bay Framework*

*... meaningful opportunities for both recreational and commercial fisheries*

## Pacific Ocean:

**... consistent with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Framework Salmon Management Plan...**

# Harvest Management

## Columbia River:

Harvest management regimes shall be developed with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Consistent with the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy

# In-season Management

... consistent with pre-season conservation and harvest management objectives and fishery intent developed through the North of Falcon process

# Monitoring, Sampling & Enforcement

... will be provided to account for species and population impacts of all fisheries

... Fishery participants will be required to comply...

# Gear and Fishery Conflicts

- ... minimize gear and other fishery conflicts
- ... resolved by involving the appropriate sport and commercial representatives in a dispute resolution process managed by Department staff

# Incidental Mortalities

... minimize mortalities on non-target species (e.g., rockfish, sea birds, etc)

... include strategies to limit seabird mortalities consistent with the federal Migratory Bird Act



# Communications

... make ongoing improvements for effective public involvement during the North of Falcon planning process

Include North of Falcon participants as observers during appropriate state/tribal discussions of fishery issues

Maintain timely records of discussions and decisions

Use a variety of communication tools

# Delegation of Authority

... the Fish and Wildlife Commission delegated the authority to the Director to

... make harvest agreements with Northwest treaty tribes and other governmental agencies

... adopt permanent and emergency regulations resulting from North of Falcon

# Key Issues

Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy

Willapa Bay Salmon Management

On-going effort to enhance communications

# Policy Process

December 12, 2014 FWC briefing  
seek guidance on modifications

January 2015, FWC briefing on revised draft  
public comment period  
public hearing  
seek additional guidance

February 2015, FWC briefing on final draft  
additional public comments  
FWC considers adopting new North of Falcon  
Policy

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Questions ?