

Annual Review of Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620

(Briefing and Public Hearing)

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Summary

Meeting dates:	January 22-23, 2016 Commission Meeting
Agenda item:	Annual Review of Columbia River Basin Salmon Management, Policy C-3620
Presenter(s):	Guy Norman, Region 5 Director Ron Roler, Columbia River Policy Coordinator Robin Ehlke, Assistant Columbia River Policy Coordinator

Background summary:

Columbia River recreational and commercial fisheries are a vital part of the social and economic fabric of Oregon and Washington, providing valuable jobs and economic vitality to rural and urban communities. Optimizing the economic value of both of these fisheries within a conservation-based framework that assists recovery of Columbia and Snake River fish species currently listed under the Endangered Species Act is a management priority.

In September, 2012 the Washington Fish and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions agreed to work together, with agency staff, and key stakeholders in an effort to develop alternative approaches to management of the sport and commercial fisheries on the Columbia River. A Workgroup was formed consisting of three commissioners from each state. Advisors to the Workgroup included two sport and two commercial fishing stakeholders from each state and a Clatsop County Commissioner representing the four coastal counties of Pacific, Wahkiakum, Clatsop, and Columbia. The Workgroup met three times during September-November, 2012 to discuss and analyze proposed fishery strategies. A final document, *Management Strategies for Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries: 2013 and Beyond*, was completed on November 21 to reflect the agreed recommendations made by consensus of the Washington and Oregon Commission Workgroup members.

In January, 2013, The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (WFWC) utilized the November 21 Workgroup recommendations as guidance to adopt Policy C-3620. The policy is applicable to management by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) of Pacific salmon (spring Chinook, summer Chinook, fall Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho) fisheries in the mainstem of the Columbia River and the lower Snake River. The policy term is January, 2013 through December, 2023.

The policy provides the Department a set of guiding principles and a progressive series of actions to improve the management of salmon in the Columbia River basin. The actions will be evaluated and, as appropriate, progressively implemented in a transitional period occurring from 2013-16. There is uncertainty in the presumptive path forward, including the development and implementation of alternative selective fishing gear, securing funding for enhanced hatchery production, and the expansion or development of off-channel fishing areas. Consequently, the Commission recognizes that management decisions in the transitional period, and subsequent years, must be modified as necessary to meet the stated purpose of the policy.

To address the uncertainties in some aspects of the presumptive path forward, the Commission included adaptive management procedures as an essential tool to achieve the purpose of the policy. The policy's adaptive management plan calls for the Commission to track implementation and results of fishery management actions and artificial production programs in the lower Columbia River during the transition period, with annual reviews beginning at the end

of 2013 and a comprehensive review at the end of the transition period (e.g. 2016).

The policy also calls for the Department to provide the Commission a briefing on the effectiveness of fishery management actions in meeting spring Chinook recreational fishery allocation objectives throughout the Columbia River basin. including recreation fisheries below Bonneville Dam, above Bonneville Dam, and in the Snake River

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

This agenda item will include a report from the Department regarding implementation of the first three years of Policy C-3620. The report will include actions to implement the general provisions of the policy; including allocation shifts, development of alternative gear, off-channel enhancements, and detailed performance of recreational and commercial fisheries in 2015. The report will also provide information concerning related activities that occurred in 2015 including; pilot seine fishery implementation, off-channel research, litigation update, federal funding, fishery planning and public advisory group processes.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Columbia River Compact held 49 public hearings in 2015 to implement commercial, tribal, and recreational fishing seasons. The Compact is charged with regulating fisheries in Washington/Oregon boundary waters of the Columbia River in accordance with Washington and Oregon Commission Policies, *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreements, North of Falcon guidance, and provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

The Department and ODFW convened regular meetings with the Columbia River commercial and recreation advisor groups to discuss pre-season forecast and 2015 fisheries planning.

Action requested:

No action, information only

Draft motion language:

NA

Justification for Commission action:

NA

Communications Plan:

The Department and ODFW held Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisory meetings on January 12 & 13, 2016 to:

- Discuss 2016 spring Chinook season strategies
- Continue the discussion concerning pilot seine fishery implementation
- The recreational spring Chinook allocation and management strategies above and below Bonneville Dam and in the Snake River.

The Department will engage with stakeholders, Columbia River tribes, Oregon, Idaho and National Marine Fisheries in the North of Falcon process to develop fishery management plans for summer and fall of 2016.

Form revised 12/5/12

COMMISSION REPORT

Annual Review Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy Implementation 2015

Summary Prepared by

Columbia River Management Staff
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

January 15, 2016

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Annual Review: Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy

Background:

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2015 Review: Implementation of Policy C-3620

The following review summarizes Columbia River fishery management events and outcomes related to implementation of the Columbia River basin Salmon management policy in 2015. The summary includes status of litigation, legislation, public processes, *U.S. v. Oregon*, C-3620 policy provisions, and fishery outcomes.

Review of 2015 Events

Litigation

Legal challenges of the revised fishery management direction adopted by the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions were filed in both Washington and Oregon in 2014.

Washington Litigation – Columbia River commercial fishing interests filed a case in Wahkiakum County on March 13 asking the court to declare the Commission action invalid. The case was re-filed in Thurston County on April 8. The Thurston County Judge dismissed the case on April 23. The plaintiffs filed an appeal on December 16. Briefing and oral argument concluded on September 11, 2014. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's dismissal of the lawsuit challenging agency policy rather than a specific implementing rule.

Oregon Litigation – Columbia River commercial fishing interests filed with the Oregon Court of Appeals on January 4, 2013 asking for a determination declaring the Oregon Administrative Rules invalid. On February 11, the Court granted the Petitioners a motion to stay enforcement of the rules. On June 6, 2013, the Oregon Commission held a rulemaking hearing to reconsider rules it adopted in December 2012 governing commercial and recreational fisheries in the Columbia River. On July 1, 2013, the petitioners asked the Court to stay certain rules the Commission adopted in June, 2013. The petition was denied on October 22, 2013 and upheld on appeal on December 2, 2013. The rules were challenged directly in the Oregon Court of Appeals, which upheld the Oregon Commission's rules in March of 2015. The Court found that the state had correctly complied with administrative procedural law in the adoption of the rules, had the legal authority necessary to adopt the rules, and agreed with the state on all points raised by the appellants, including that the state had correctly analyzed the rules' effects on small businesses. In June 2015, an Appellate Court Order concluded the case.

Legislative Actions

Washington Legislation – Policy C-3620 calls for the use of commercial fishing gear other than gillnets. Since a commercial fishery that uses a new gear type (seine nets) would be considered experimental, Washington law (RCW 77.70.160) requires a process to be followed under the 'Emerging Fishery' rule. Under this 'Emerging Fishery' rule, a five-member board representative of the affected commercial fishery industry was appointed to review and make recommendations to the Director on rules relating to the number and qualifications of the participants for such experimental fishery permits. The five-member board and the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group worked with Columbia River staff to develop recommendations for the pilot seine fishery in the fall of 2014.

Oregon Legislation – In addition to the rules adopted by the Oregon Commission in June 2013, implementation of the entire new framework also required new legislation, which was passed and signed into Oregon law as Senate Bill 830 in 2013. The legislation: 1) repeals Oregon rules

which made it unlawful to take salmon and steelhead “by means of fixed fishing gear or seines in any waters of the state, 2) establishes an Enhancement Fund to enhance fisheries, optimize economic benefits, and advance native fish conservation, and 3) establishes a Transition Fund to provide financial assistance to individual commercial fishermen affected by the new Columbia River fish management and reform rules.

Public Processes

Throughout 2015, a series of public meetings and hearings occurred including;

1. WDFW and ODFW held 49 hearings in 2015 to consider and implement commercial, recreational, and treaty tribal fisheries in joint state managed waters of the Columbia River.
2. WDFW and ODFW convened two Columbia River Recreational and three Commercial Advisor Group meetings to review run forecasts, receive input for fishery management strategies, as well as receive input regarding management strategies for alternative gear development.
3. A Spring Chinook recreational sub-allocation advisory group was established in 2013 by WDFW to review the effectiveness of fishery management actions in meeting allocation and recreational opportunity objectives below Bonneville Dam, above Bonneville Dam, and in the lower Snake River. WDFW and ODFW staff convened the sub-allocation advisor group three times between September 2013 and January 2014. WDFW staff provided a report to the Commission in February 2014. The Commission has not considered changes to the spring Chinook recreational provisions of policy C-3620 and WDFW has continued to manage within the current policy direction in 2014 and 2015.
4. The annual North of Falcon (NOF) process occurred during March and April, 2015 where Washington and Oregon agency staff worked with constituents, tribes, and National Marine Fisheries Service to develop management plans for Columbia River summer and fall fisheries. The staff advanced policy C-3620 transition period actions to the extent possible.
5. WDFW and ODFW met with Salmon for All (commercial) and Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (recreational) in December, 2015 to review 2015 fisheries and provide an outlook for the upcoming 2016 season.

Gill Net License Buyback Program

The Department is coordinating with ODFW to develop baseline data concerning historic effort, participation, and ex-vessel values associated with Columbia River gillnet licenses. The agencies are also researching information regarding the process and implementation of past buyback programs. The Department will continue to coordinate with ODFW and work with the industry to survey and evaluate the industry’s interest level in such a program, as well as research potential funding sources.

Development and Implementation of Alternative Gear

One of the guiding principles of the Commission policy reads, “In a manner consistent with the Department’s licensing authority, develop and implement alternative selective-fishing gear and techniques for commercial mainstem fisheries to optimize conservation and economic benefits”.

Since 2009, Oregon and Washington fisheries managers have been evaluating different gear for use in Columbia River commercial fisheries. The gears tested to date are beach seines, purse seines, tangle nets, trolling gear, fish traps, and arrow nets. Evaluations for some of the gears are still ongoing. Of the gears tested, purse and beach seines during the fall season (August through October) have moved toward the implementation stage (pilot fishery). Some results to note are:

- a. Evaluations of purse and beach seines fished in test fisheries during the fall season handled a large number of Chinook and Coho and appear to be a viable gear for the selective harvest of these stocks. Release mortality rates, handle of non-target species, suitability of specific sites for gear operation, and fishermen operation costs will be key factors in future management of this gear.
- b. Evaluations of purse and beach seines fished during the fall season also handled a significant amount of summer steelhead. Wild steelhead are ESA-listed and allowable impacts are limited. A low release mortality rate will be one of the a key factors in directing seine fisheries at hatchery Chinook and Coho while minimizing impacts to released steelhead.
- c. Evaluations of purse and beach seines fished during the 2011-14 summer seasons handled both summer Chinook and sockeye. Snake River sockeye are listed ESA-listed and allowable impacts are limited. Sockeye impacts may be the constraining factor for any summer season seine fisheries.
- d. Data from a long-term post-release mortality study conducted by the Department during 2011-2013 were reviewed and analyzed by the *US v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), including revised methodologies and mortality rates proposed in an analysis and report by the Department’s Science Section. Based on all available information, the TAC updated the interim mortality rates developed for the 2014 seine fisheries and these rates were adopted by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as appropriate mortality rates to measure ESA impacts for salmon and steelhead in the 2015 seine fisheries. These mortality rates were required by NMFS as part of the ESA Incidental take permit to conduct these fisheries for Chinook and Coho. The 2015 mortality rates are considerably higher than the 5% rate assumed for both seine types in the development of the 2012 Workgroup recommendations. However, for steelhead, results of the study produced release mortality rates that were the same as (beach), or less than (purse) of the 5% assumed in 2012. The current TAC recommended rates for fall seine fisheries include

TAC mortality rates for Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead for 2015 and beyond.			
Gear	Chinook	Coho	Steelhead
Beach Seine	33.0%	38.0%	5.0%
Purse Seine	21.0%	29.0%	2.0%

The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that genetic stock identification (GSI) techniques be utilized as an additional tool to determine the stock origin of fall Chinook in the study area and provide additional data in which to evaluate the fall Chinook mortality rates that were adopted for 2015 fisheries. In the fall of 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife funded and executed a research project to examine the stock composition of seine-caught fall Chinook in Zone 5 using

both GSI and CWT data. The objectives of this evaluation are to 1) determine the stock composition of fall Chinook salmon captured in purse and beach seines, and 2) determine if the stock composition of seine-caught fish in this area differs from the stock composition of fish caught in gillnets. The GSI data has not been processed at this time, so the results of this research are limited to the coded wire tag recoveries from the project. There were 88 coded wire tag recoveries in the beach seine research fishery and only three of the recoveries were from Chinook stocks from below Bonneville Dam. From the purse seine fishery, there were 89 coded wire tags recovered and only one tag was from a Chinook below Bonneville Dam. Based on very preliminary tag rates, about 5% of the beach seine catch was from below Bonneville Dam and about 0.5% of the purse seine catch was from below Bonneville Dam. Actual results from this research will be available after the GSI data has been analyzed.

- e. A limited entry pilot commercial seine fishery was implemented in the fall 2014 and 2015 seasons. The fisheries were mark selective for Chinook and Coho; allowing retention of only hatchery fish identified by a clipped adipose fin. The significant mortality rates of released Chinook and Coho that were required for 2015 management further restricted the seine harvest because of limited ESA impacts for tule fall Chinook available to the commercial fleet.
- f. Coho tangle-net gear was covered under current NOAA ESA permits and was legal gear in both states at the time of the 2013 NOF planning process. A pilot Coho tangle-net season was included in the commercial fall season plan and allocated a portion of the Columbia River Coho ESA impacts. The pilot Coho tangle-net fishery was implemented in October 2013 and full-fleet fisheries continued in 2014 and 2015. The fisheries are mark-selective for Coho (hatchery fish only) and require the use live-capture techniques. A long-term survival evaluation initiated in 2013 and replicated in 2014 indicated that the immediate salmonid mortality for this gear type may be higher than anticipated. Methods for this study were similar to those used for seine gears and for past evaluations of spring Chinook captured in large mesh gillnets and tangle nets. Evaluation of post-release mortality is ongoing. A conservative 30 percent release mortality rate was adopted as an interim rate for 2015 fishery management.
- g. A fixed pound net trap was evaluated by the Department during fall 2013 with disappointing results possibly due to trap set-up and operation being delayed until late in the season. The Department plans on testing pound nets again during the fall of 2016.

Off-Channel Development and Enhancement

Washington- Currently, the only Select Area site in Washington is Deep River. This site has limited space and although it has produced fair returns of Coho, the spring Chinook smolt survival to adults, and harvest, has been minimal. Releases of spring Chinook from Deep River have been discontinued; 2014 was the last release year. In 2013 through 2015, the Department conducted spring test fishing in Cathlamet Channel to evaluate its potential as a new off-channel fishing site. Test fishing in Cathlamet Channel was conducted twice a week from late February through late May. Data collected at this site was similar to mainstem test fishing, which collects biological data on Chinook to determine stock and origin, and also collects data measuring catch and release condition on all salmonids. The Department has worked closely with the city of Cathlamet to secure a city owned site for net pen rearing and release, as well as NOAA,

Wahkiakum County, Department of Ecology (DOE), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to secure permits. The Department has also completed a SEPA process concerning the release of fish production from the Cathlamet site with a determination of non-significant impacts. There were 200,000 spring Chinook smolts released at this site in 2014, 142,000 smolts released in 2015, and a 114,000 smolt release is planned for 2016.

The expectation is that these released smolts will survive to return in abundance to the Cathlamet Channel as harvestable adult fish. The inclusion of the Cathlamet Channel as a Select Area site in the spring will provide an additional area for Washington fishermen to harvest hatchery spring Chinook consistent with the Policy objective to replace mainstem spring Chinook commercial fishing with enhanced select area fishing opportunity. The success of this program will depend on these locally produced fish providing strong enough returns to the Cathlamet Channel to support a fishery, and for the handling of non-local, ESA-listed stocks to be at level low enough to be managed within commercial ESA allocations. Adequate ESA-impacts, in-season test fishing and fishery management response will be a key part of the approach. The first return of adult spring Chinook (Age-4) from the Cathlamet Channel releases will be in 2016. The programs in Deep River will continue, including the rearing and release of 800,000 Coho and 1.0 million tule fall Chinook. The fall Chinook released in Deep River is also connected to the hatchery reform and sustainable fisheries program.

Oregon- Opportunities to expand current seasons in existing Oregon Select Area sites primarily exist during the winter season in Tongue Point/South Channel and in Knappa Slough. In 2013 through 2015, fisheries were opened in these two sites during the winter season. Effort and catch was minimal.

Since the fall of 2011, test fishing in areas adjacent to existing Oregon Select Area sites has been conducted. To determine if these sites are viable for expanded commercial fisheries, the stock composition of the catch must be evaluated. Test fishing concluded in the fall of 2015. Test fishing results will be evaluated for stock composition and encounters of ESA-listed non-target stocks to determine which sites hold potential for area expansion. Catches of ESA-listed stocks are to be expected in these areas and have occurred during testing. Evaluation of the potential effects of full implementation of fisheries on available ESA impacts is ongoing.

Efforts by ODFW to identify new Select Area (off-channel) sites were initiated in 2014 and included initial reconnaissance to identify candidate sites for further evaluation. This effort utilized past assessments of potential off-channel sites conducted in the 1990s along with site visits, discussions with commercial fishers, and consultation with Select Area Fisheries Project staff to narrow down the list to three top candidates. As a result of this process, Clifton Channel (OR), Westport Slough (OR), and Coal Creek Slough (WA) were selected for further evaluation. In an attempt to evaluate an additional large site, test fishing in Bradbury Slough was initiated in the spring of 2015.

Barbless Hooks

Part of the management strategy adopted in policy C-3620, is to make fisheries more selective by deploying gear that minimizes harm or allows for the safe release of imperiled wild fish. In light of this concept, effective January 2013, recreational anglers were required to use barbless hooks in the mainstem and Columbia River tributary fisheries for salmon and steelhead. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission rejected a proposal to rescind the barbless hook requirement for

the Willamette River and portions of the Select Area fisheries. The Department has rescinded the barbless hook rule in areas and time when large numbers of hatchery fish are available for harvest and wild stocks are not present or are not likely to be impacted. These areas include Deep River (year round, salmon net pens), Elochoman, South Fork Toutle, and parts of the Green and Cowlitz rivers (June and July, hatchery summer steelhead), parts of the Wind River (March – June, hatchery spring Chinook), Drano Lake (March – June, hatchery spring Chinook, October – December, hatchery fall Chinook and Coho, and the lower Klickitat River (September – December, hatchery fall Chinook and Coho).

Increase Management Certainty

The Department is working to ensure that federal funding through NOAA and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) continues to support monitoring of fisheries and collection of return data and analysis. These programs provide the information that is critical for developing run forecasts, fishery planning, and in-season fishery management. Additionally, the Department continues to engage with state, tribe, and federal biologists in the *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to coordinate technical data that is relied upon for developing stock status data bases and in-season stock specific fishery impact analysis. These data are critical for the decision-making process of the Columbia River Compact in adopting fisheries that meet the *U.S. v. Oregon* mandated treaty Indian and non-Indian harvest sharing requirement, NOAA requirements regarding non-Indian and treaty Indian ESA limits, Commission policy regarding commercial and recreational fishery allocation of ESA impacts, commercial sharing of ESA impacts between mainstem, Select Areas and different gear types, recreational sub-allocations of impacts by area, and recreational season objectives. There are typically 40-50 Columbia River Compact hearings per year to manage these fisheries in-season.

Improve Management Tools

Ocean model recalibration - The data used in the ocean Chinook model is being updated. The effect of using the new data on model results will be reviewed soon by the co-managers. The co-managers will make a recommendation or not that the new dataset should be considered for implementation in 2016 PFMC (and NOF process). The status of implementation prospects for 2016 will be taken up at the March PFMC meeting.

One of the tools identified in policy C-3620 was to improve the accuracy of preseason forecasts and in-season run size updates, and the in-season tracking of ESA impacts accrued from harvest by individual fishery. The table below includes the 2015 preseason forecast compared to actual returns and the 2016 forecasts for spring Chinook and sockeye. The 2015 fall Chinook and Coho returns are not finalized until mid-February.

<i>Columbia River Mouth Fish Returns Actual and Forecasts**</i>					
			2015 Forecast	2015 Return	2016 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook		312,600	415,100	299,200
	Willamette		55,400	87,100	70,100
	Sandy		5,500	NA	NA
	Cowlitz*		11,200	23,800	25,100
	Kalama*		1,900	3,100	4,900
	Lewis*		1,100	1,000	1,100
	Select Areas		5,000	11,100	9,200
	Lower River total		80,100	126,100	110,400
	Upper Columbia	Total	27,500	37,500	27,600
	<i>Upper Columbia</i>	<i>Wild</i>	<i>4,500</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>5,000</i>
	Snake River Spring/Summer	Total	140,800	162,700	124,800
	<i>Snake River</i>	<i>Wild</i>	<i>45,300</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>23,700</i>
	Upriver Total		232,500	289,000	188,800
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	Total	73,000	126,900	93,300
Sockeye	Wenatchee		106,700	139,900	57,800
	Okanogan		285,500	370,900	41,700
	Snake River	<i>Wild</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>2,100</i>
	Total Sockeye		394,000	512,500	101,600
Steelhead	Wild Winter	<i>Wild</i>	16,100	20,100	16,900
	Summer Upriver	Total	312,200	261,400	

*Return to tributary mouth **Totals may not sum due to rounding

As each season progresses, runsize updates are provided by TAC. TAC is a comprised of multiple entities designed to equally represent all parties to *U.S. v Oregon*. During the course of 2015, TAC met almost every week from late April until mid-October to provide Columbia River fishery management staff run size updates. These run size updates allowed fishery managers to track ESA impacts and harvest shares, and allowed the Compact to make informed decisions in structuring fisheries in the Columbia River and the lower Snake River.

2015 TAC runsize updates for upriver salmon and steelhead stocks (in thousands of fish)													
2015	Spring/Summer Chinook & Sockeye			Fall Chinook				Upriver Summer Steelhead				Coho @ BON	
	Upriver CHS	UC Summer	Sockeye	BPH	URB	BUB	PUB	GroupB	(WB)	GroupA	(WA)	Ea.Coho	L.Coho
<i>Preseason</i>	232.5	73.0	394.0	163.9	518.3	25.2	88.1	41.1	11.7	257.7	95.4	146.2	44.3
20-Apr	Too Early												
28-Apr	No update												
29-Apr	220.0												
4-May	241.0												
11-May	250.0												
18-May	250.0												
26-May	260.0												
1-Jun	271.0												
8-Jun	282.0												
29-Jun		85.0	450.0										
6-Jul		100.0	480.0										
13-Jul		108.0	500.0										
20-Jul		120.0	507.0										
27-Jul		127.0	511.0										
31-Aug								41.1	11.7	206.1	76.3		
14-Sep								Total return ~ 250K				way behind	
21-Sep				152.7	734.9	26.2	122.0	20.0	5.2	230.0	85.0	27.0	
28-Sep				164.0	736.8	27.4	123.1	20.0	5.2	227.0	83.8	27.0	
30-Sep								18.0	5.4	229.0	84.7	27.0	
5-Oct				161.5	749.5	27.5	124.4	18.0	5.4	229.0	84.7	27.0	
12-Oct				164.1	772.0	30.5	127.9	18.0	5.4	233.0	86.2	27.0	10.0
19-Oct				164.8	776.4	32.0	128.0	18.0	5.4	235.2	85.0	27.0	8.0

Adaptive Management Provision

The Adaptive Management provision of Policy C-3620 states that “State-managed fisheries pursuant to this policy will be adaptive and adjustments may be made to mainstem fisheries if policy objectives, including catch or economic expectations for commercial or recreational fisheries, are not achieved consistent with the principles of this plan. If these expectations are not achieved, efforts will be made to correct the course. Department staff may implement actions necessary to manage adaptively to achieve the objectives of this policy and will coordinate with the Commission, as needed, in order to implement corrective actions. Reconsideration of state-managed mainstem fisheries may take place under the following circumstances:”

1. Lower than anticipated catch and economic expectations to the commercial salmon fishing industry.
2. Insufficient space within off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet.
3. Biological, fiscal and/or legal circumstances that delay or preclude implementation of alternative selective gear, buyback of commercial fishing permits, and/or additional off-channel hatchery investments.

4. Management objectives are not achieved for commercial or recreational fisheries.
5. Conflict with terms of *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.
6. Failure to meet conservation objectives.

The Columbia River Compact did exercise an in-season adaptive management action in late May of 2014 and 2015 when large-mesh gillnet gear was approved for the commercial mainstem spring Chinook fishery to reduce handle time of ESA-listed salmonids. Because the interception of shad with tangle-net gear was so significant during this time-frame, it compromised the time it took to retrieve wild spring Chinook from the net. The mark-selective gear regulations require a limited net ‘soak time’ of 45 minutes to improve survival of released wild fish. The large-mesh gear enabled shad to pass through the net, allowing fishers to focus on salmonid handle time.

Although it is too soon to assess performance relative to the above adaptive management provisions, the Department will continue to coordinate with the Commission as more information is collected during the 2014-16 transition period. Current information includes:

- Research to determine the feasibility of additional off-channel sites is on-going.
- The first commercial seine fishery in the mainstem Columbia River occurred in 2014 and continued in 2015.
- The study to determine release mortality rates for salmonids in fall seine fisheries is complete and results continue to be being analyzed.
- The Department continues to coordinate with the Columbia River treaty tribes and NOAA through *U.S. v. Oregon* technical and policy committees.
- Success in meeting conservation objectives will be assessed as more information is collected during this final year of the transition period.

Spring Chinook Allocation

The *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides a harvest rate schedule for upriver spring Chinook. Based on this harvest rate schedule and the upriver spring Chinook return, ESA impacts are allocated to both treaty and non-Indian fisheries. Beginning in 2010, modifications to the agreement were implemented, which required non-Indian fisheries to meet the catch balance provisions in the MA for upriver spring Chinook. Under these provisions, non-Indian fisheries are managed to remain within the ESA limit *and* to not exceed the total allowable catch of upriver Spring Chinook available to treaty Indian fisheries.

The Commission Policy calls for the Columbia River spring Chinook recreational fishery allocation to be shared 75% below Bonneville Dam and 25% above Bonneville Dam. The above Bonneville Dam portion split is 40% Zone 6 and 60% in the lower Snake River. The sharing formula is based on percent of ESA impacts to wild Snake River and upper Columbia Spring Chinook as a result of catch and release mortality in selective fisheries, not on percent of harvested chinook. Total harvest includes hatchery stocks from lower Columbia, upper Columbia, and Snake River facilities. The total harvest is also limited by a *U.S. v. Oregon* catch balance agreement where total harvest in non-Indian mainstem Columbia and lower Snake River fisheries cannot exceed the treaty Indian harvest limit.

The table below shows the allowed and actual impacts for the last six years.

POST Season ALLOWED Catch Balance for Adult Upriver Spring Chinook in Non-Indian Fisheries^{1,2,3}						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	12,057	6,494	4,454	2,439	4,547	5,942
SAF Commercial Winter/Spring	473	333	305	185	364	433
Commercial Total	12,530	6,827	4,759	2,624	4,911	6,376
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	16,996	12,649	11,260	6,168	15,682	19,316
Bonneville to McNary Rec	2,266	1,686	1,340	822	2,091	2,615
Snake River Spt/Wanapum Tribal	2,228	1,012	1,120	603	1,574	2,904
Recreational Total	21,490	15,347	13,720	7,593	19,347	24,836
Total allowed	34,020	22,174	18,479	10,217	24,258	31,212
POST Season ACTUAL Catch Balance for Adult Upriver Spring Chinook in Non-Indian Fisheries^{1,2}						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	7,458	304	4,276	1,498	3,364	5,724
SAF Commercial Winter/Spring	1,476	3,511	329	259	257	804
Commercial Total	8,934	3,815	4,605	1,757	3,621	6,528
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	23,535	9,505	10,427	5,343	13,572	15,689
Bonneville to McNary Rec	3,512	2,379	886	613	2,231	1,696
Snake River Spt/Wanapum Tribal	2,166	1,957	2,384	374	1,546	1,996
Recreational Total	29,213	13,841	13,697	6,330	17,349	19,381
Total take	38,147	17,656	18,302	8,087	20,970	25,909

1. Includes Release mortalities

2. All data subject to change, recent year data preliminary

3. In some years, towards the end of the season, allocated fish were transferred from one fishery to another once it was clear that an unused portion of the allocation would remain. This 'adaptive management' action allowed access to the non-Indian allocation without affecting other fisheries.

Review of 2015 Columbia River Fisheries

The following review includes pre-season allocations, actual catch by user, and ex-vessel value for commercial, angler trips and seasons for recreational fisheries. Performance or success of these fisheries can be measured when compared to fishery objectives, harvest and impact sharing guidelines and overall economic value. In addition, the implementation of adaptive management during the course of the 2015 season recognizes the flexibility needed in managing Columbia River fisheries which are inherently dynamic in nature. All data for 2015 should be considered preliminary and subject to change.

2015 Columbia River Spring Chinook Season

Spring season - Policy Guidelines

Commission policy (C-3620) allocates the allowable impacts of ESA-listed upriver spring Chinook between recreational and commercial fisheries. The policy includes the following language:

- a. Transition Period (2013-2016): During 2014-16, assign 70% of the ESA-impact for upriver spring Chinook stocks to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (30%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.
- b. Long Term (2017 and beyond): Assign 80% of the ESA-impact to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (20%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.
- c. To ensure broad geographic distribution of recreational opportunity, 75% of the impacts allocated to recreational fisheries will be assigned to the recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, and the balance (25%) assigned and reserved for recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam (including the Snake River).
- d. The Department will seek in the long term to extend recreational opportunity downstream of Bonneville Dam as long into April as possible, with a high probability of an uninterrupted 45-day season beginning March 1.

Spring season - Preseason Planning

The 2015 pre-season forecast for upriver spring Chinook was 232,500 adult fish to the Columbia River. Based on the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA), non-Indian fisheries were limited to an ESA impact of 2.0% and a catch balance limit of 23,250 upriver fish (kept plus release mortalities). A 30% buffer (also mandated by the MA) was applied to the preseason forecast and the allowable impacts were accordingly reduced. This buffer resulted in fisheries being managed for a run size of 162,750 fish and allowable impacts of 1.9% for non-Indian fisheries. Non-Indian fisheries were planned based on a total of 14,810 upriver spring Chinook harvest mortalities available prior to a run-size update. Commission sharing formulas and buffers were applied to produce the allowable take by each fishery prior to a run size update.

On January 28, 2015, the Columbia River Compact adopted management guidelines for the harvest of upriver spring Chinook consistent with the Commission policy. 2015 spring Chinook fisheries were managed based on an ESA-sharing formula that allocated 70% to recreational and 30% to commercial fisheries.

The final preseason catch guidelines for upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) used for managing fisheries prior to a run-size update were:

- a. Recreational Fisheries (Total = 12,806)
 - Downstream from Bonneville Dam: 10,318
 - Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border: 1,376
 - Snake River (Washington waters): 1,083
- b. Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries (Total = 2,004)
 - Mainstem: 1,760
 - Select Areas (Off-channel): 244

Spring Season - Actual Returns/Final Guidelines

The actual return of adult upriver spring Chinook was 289,000 fish, which was 124% of the pre-season forecast. Bonneville Dam passage through June 15 totaled 265,600 adults and 18,100 jacks. The actual return for lower river tributaries totaled 126,100 fish (157% of forecast) and included 87,100 Willamette spring Chinook.

Based on the actual return of 289,000 upriver fish, the allowable ESA impact was 2.2% for non-Indian fisheries and the catch balance limit was 31,200 upriver Chinook mortalities. The post-season management guidelines (buffers removed with final runsize) for the spring season were:

- a. Recreational Fisheries (Total = 24,836).
 - Downstream from Bonneville Dam: 19,316.
 - Between Bonneville Dam and Oregon/Washington border: 2,615.
 - Snake River: 2,834.
- b. Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries (Total = 6,376).
 - Mainstem: 5,942.
 - Select Areas (Off-channel): 433.

Spring Season - Fisheries

Spring Season – Recreational Fisheries

Downstream of Bonneville Dam

Seasons: The recreational fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam was open for Chinook retention January 1 through February 28 from Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge under permanent rules. Under temporary rules, the fishery remained open March 1 through April 11 from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam, although the area between Beacon Rock and Bonneville Dam was open only to bank fishing. During this period, the fishery was closed on three Tuesdays (March 24, March 31, and April 7) to allow for possible commercial fishery openers. One additional retention day (April 16) was added prior to a run size update. TAC provided run updates beginning April 29, and the area was open during May 2-3, 9, and May 16-June 15 from Tongue Point upstream to Bonneville Dam (except bank only from Rooster Rock upstream prior to May 30). The bag limit was one adipose fin-clipped Chinook per day through June 2, then two thereafter. In total, angling was open for 74 of a possible 107 days from March 1 through June 15, including 11 of 30 days in April.

Harvest/Angler Trips: An estimated 19,600 adult spring Chinook of all stocks were kept and 5,100 were released from 151,200 angler trips downstream of Bonneville Dam. In addition, 1,100 jack Chinook and 1,200 steelhead were also kept. The catch rate averaged one adult Chinook kept for every 7.7 angler trips.

The recreational fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam caught 15,700 adult upriver spring Chinook compared to 19,300 allowed (excludes 300 transferred to Snake River sport). This was 81% of the available catch balancing allocation for this fishery and was primarily due to the effect of declining catches following mid-May run updates. ESA impacts totaled 0.686% compared to the 1.155% allocated.

Upstream of Bonneville Dam

Bonneville Dam upstream to the Washington/Oregon border:

Seasons: Since 2011 the Zone 6 recreational fishery has also included the area from McNary Dam upstream to the Oregon Washington border, and the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island. Catch estimates are based on creel and updated with catch record card data once available. Release data is based on creel, and then updated based on actual kept data and adult Chinook mark rates at Bonneville Dam. In 2015, a total of 0.112% ESA impacts were set aside for this fishery for use prior to a run size update, which translated to nearly 1,400 Chinook (kept + release mortalities) allocated to the fishery. The fishery opened under mark-selective regulations on March 16 and was scheduled to continue through May 6. The daily bag limit for adult Chinook was one fish (was 2-fish in previous years).

Two additional regulations for this fishery were adopted in mid-April and continued through the remainder of the season (June 15). The Compact's intent for these additional regulations was that they would be made permanent and implemented annually. The first regulation addressed bank angling on the Washington shore in Bonneville reservoir. The Washington Shore had opened in 2008 based on the premise that the majority of the effort would be centralized near the tributary mouths and the vast majority of the fish encountered would be non-ESA-listed destined for hatcheries within the tributaries. The Washington shore, primarily near the mouth of Drano Lake, had become very popular and successful. Some anglers were using boats to set the lines several hundred feet out from the shore to improve their success. Coded-wire tag and genetic data indicated the majority of the catch was Chinook destined for areas other than the local tributaries. In an effort to moderate the harvest and spread the total catch more evenly throughout the entire open area, regulations were adopted to allow only hand-casted lines to be used on the Washington shore when the area is open for hatchery Spring Chinook. No floating devices would be allowed to set lines for salmon or steelhead. The second regulation addressed the daily salmon possession limit for Washington anglers in the area from The Dalles Dam to the fisheries upper boundary at the Oregon/Washington state line. When the daily bag limit was reduced from two to one Chinook a few years earlier it also affected the daily possession limits. Daily possession limits in Washington allow two daily limits in fresh form. The result of the decreased bag limit affected the possession limit so that anglers could now only possess two adult hatchery Chinook (two daily limits of one fish) instead of four fish (two daily limits of two fish). Because this fishery (Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border) is a destination fishery for many anglers, the possession limit was increased to allow for up to four adult Chinook in fresh form (only one daily limit while aboard a boat). The lower boundary for this regulation was The Dalles Dam for ease in enforcement.

The fishery progressed with minimal catch through late-April, but as dam counts increased so did the catch (and effort). By May 5, TAC had provided a run size update of 241,000 upriver spring Chinook. This upgrade increased the number of adult Chinook available to the fishery to nearly 2,100 mortalities. Catch projections for the season totaled 1,500 mortalities (72% of allocated). The fishery was extended through May 10, providing four additional days of angling opportunity.

On May 26 the in-season run size estimate was upgraded by TAC to 260,000 upriver spring Chinook. Given the upgrade, the fishery was able to re-open on May 28 and continue through

June 15. TAC continued to review and upgrade the upriver spring Chinook run as the season progressed. By June 1 the run was estimated to reach 271,000 fish. Given a run of this size, catch to date and the few weeks remaining in the season, the daily bag limit was increased to two hatchery adult Chinook per day starting June 3.

Harvest/Angler Trips: Season total catch estimates for adult Chinook include 1,600 kept and 500 released from nearly 10,000 angler trips. ESA impacts associated with this fishery totaled 0.074%, or 48% of the 0.154% post-season impact guideline for this fishery. Kept and release mortalities totaled 1,696 or 65% of allowed (2,615).

Snake River Recreational Fisheries

Since 2001, springtime recreational fisheries have occurred in various areas of the Snake River (Washington waters) for hatchery Chinook. As with all fisheries, seasons are dependent on the run size, allowable ESA limits, allocations and current policy. A robust creel program is used to track catch and effort.

In 2015, prior to a run size update, 0.168% ESA impacts were set aside for this fishery, which translated to nearly 1,100 Chinook allowed (kept plus release mortalities). The fishery was initially open in four sections of the Snake River in Washington waters. Each section was open three days per week with an adult daily limit of one hatchery Chinook. No closure dates were set, but the fishery is typically expected to remain for four to six weeks; with the closure date dependent on catch rates and associated impacts. On April 19 the area downstream of Ice Harbor Dam and the area downstream of Lower Granite Dam opened to hatchery Chinook retention followed by the April 23 opening of the area downstream of Little Goose Dam and the area near Clarkston, Washington. The adult daily limit was one hatchery Chinook, and the possession limit was increased to allow up to three daily limits in fresh form.

On May 4, TAC provided a run size update for upriver spring Chinook, estimating 241,000 fish (232,500 pre-season). The run size update resulted in an allocation increase of 1,627 mortalities which was about 500 more fish for this fishery. Around 1,000 mortalities had accrued to date, and catch was increasing with the building Chinook abundance especially in the lower two open areas. In an effort to provide equitable harvest opportunity throughout the entire geographic open areas, the two lower areas closed on May 9. Catch in the two upper areas increased rapidly and those areas closed on May 12, despite the TAC run size upgrade to 250,000 upriver spring Chinook and the corresponding allocation increase to 1,688 mortalities.

At the May 26 Compact hearing, the Compact directed staff to transfer the balance of any unused Chinook allocation from the overall recreational allocation to Snake River fisheries. By May 28, both the LCR sport fishery and the Zone 6 sport fishery had re-opened for the rest of the season and catch projections were less than allocated. Staff estimated 300-500 fish would be available for transfer, which would add to the 1,755 mortalities now available to the Snake River fishery (2,355 adjusted total). By June 7, the Snake River fishery managers had re-opened three of the possible four areas (Lower Granite area remained closed) on a days-per-week rotation (each area open three days per week). The fishery continued through June, although catch and effort was light (around 100 kept for 8,700 angler hours).

Season total catch estimates for adult Chinook include 1,900 kept and 400 released. ESA impacts associated with this fishery totaled 0.079%, or 34% of the 0.231% post season impact

guideline for this fishery. Kept and release mortalities totaled 1,938 (68% of allowed, 2,834 fish including the 300 allocation transfer).

Winter/Spring Season - Commercial Fisheries

Mainstem Columbia River

Seasons:

Eight commercial fishing periods (7-14 hours each) occurred from March 31 through June 11 in Zones 1-5. Standard live-capture regulations were in place, requiring the release of non-adipose fin clipped Chinook and all steelhead. The first five periods utilized tanglenet gear ($\leq 4\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh) to minimize post-release mortality for Chinook and steelhead. For the last three openers (May 27-June 11), large mesh (≥ 8 -inch) gear was used under the adaptive management provisions in order to reduce catch of shad and also to avoid handle of building numbers of steelhead.

Beginning in late April, TAC provided weekly inseason runsize updates for upriver spring Chinook. These updates combined with catch to date allowed for additional spring season fishing periods in June (June 2 and June 10). The Compact also recognized that landings from the second period may result in the commercial sector slightly exceeding the ESA impacts allocated to commercial fisheries. The Compact implemented an adaptive management action to allow for this overage knowing that the risk of exceeding overall non-Indian ESA impact allowance was minimal and recreational fisheries were open for the remainder of the season.

Harvest/ Number Deliveries:

Combined landings totaled 6,500 adult and 800 jack spring Chinook, 50 sockeye, and 500 shad. An additional 3,740 adult spring Chinook were released. Deliveries ranged from 42 to 111 per period. ESA impacts associated with this fishery totaled 0.745%, or 146% of the 0.510% post season impact guideline for this fishery. Kept and release mortalities totaled 5,724 (96% of allowed).

Select Area (Off-channel)

Seasons: Select Area winter and spring commercial fisheries were open in Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind/Knappa Sloughs, and Deep River. The planned season structure in 2015 was similar to recent years. However, due to relatively high interceptions of upriver spring Chinook, emergency closures were enacted during the peak of the spring season to ensure ESA limitations were not exceeded.

Harvest/ Number Deliveries: Harvest in Select Area winter and spring commercial fisheries of 11,888 Chinook was 119% of the recent 5-year average, and the best since 2010. The final post run-update allocation of adult upriver spring Chinook for Select Area commercial fisheries was 433 fish, but the fishery used 804, or 185% of its allocation, even with inseason modifications to the fishery.

Winter/Spring Season - Summary

2015 Summary of upriver spring Chinook catch balance and ESA-impact sharing							
		Catch Balance			ESA Impacts		
		Pre*	Post	Actual	Pre*	Post	Actual
Commercial	Mainstem	1,760	5,942	5,724	0.210%	0.510%	0.745%
	Select Area	244	433	804	0.150%	0.150%	0.278%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2,004</i>	<i>6,376</i>	<i>6,528</i>	<i>0.360%</i>	<i>0.660%</i>	<i>1.023%</i>
Recreational	Mainstem	10,318	19,316	15,689	0.840%	1.155%	0.686%
	BONN to McN	1,376	2,616	1,696	0.112%	0.154%	0.074%
	Snake River/Wanapum	1,112	2,889	1,996	0.168%	0.231%	0.096%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>12,806</i>	<i>24,836</i>	<i>19,381</i>	<i>1.120%</i>	<i>1.540%</i>	<i>0.856%</i>
Total Non-Indian		14,810	31,211	25,909	1.480%	2.20%	1.879%
<i>*Preseason data includes buffered runsize/ESA impacts used until an inseason runsize is available</i>							

2015 Columbia River Summer Chinook Season

Summer season - Policy Guidelines

Commission policy (C-3620) allocates the harvestable surplus of upper Columbia summer Chinook between fisheries above and below Priest Rapids Dam, and between commercial and recreational fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. For fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam, the policy includes the following language:

- a. Transition Period (2013-2016): Through 2014, assign 60%, of the harvestable surplus to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (40%) to mainstem commercial fisheries. During 2015-16, assign 70%, of the harvestable surplus to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (30%) to mainstem commercial fisheries
- b. Long Term (2017 and beyond): Determined following discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Commission policy (C-3620) also allocates the allowable ESA-impact for Snake River sockeye between recreational and non-Indian commercial fisheries. The policy includes the following language:

- a. Transition Period (2013-2016): Assign 70% of the ESA-impact for Snake River sockeye to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (30%) to mainstem commercial fisheries for incidental harvest of sockeye in Chinook-directed fisheries.
- b. Long Term (2017 and beyond): Assign ~80% of the ESA-impact for Snake River sockeye to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (~20%) to mainstem commercial fisheries for incidental harvest of sockeye in Chinook-directed fisheries.

Summer Season - Preseason Planning

The 2015 preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook was 73,000 adult fish to the Columbia River mouth. Based on the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA), non-Indian Columbia River fisheries were limited to a harvest of 16,000 upriver fish (kept plus release mortalities). Commission sharing formulas were then applied to produce the allowable harvest by each fishery. The allocation of harvestable upper Columbia summer Chinook assigned to each fishery preseason was:

- a. Fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam (Total = 10,512)
- b. Fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam (Total = 5,488)
 - Recreational Fisheries: 3,842 (3,227 below BON)
 - Commercial Fisheries: 1,646

The 2015 pre-season forecast for sockeye was 394,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth. Based on the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA), non-Indian lower Columbia River fisheries were limited to a 1% allowable ESA impact rate. The Columbia River fisheries were limited to a harvest of 3,940 sockeye (downstream of the Snake River).

Summer Season - Actual Returns/Final Guidelines

The actual return of upper Columbia summer Chinook was 126,900 adult fish (174% of forecast). Based on the actual return, the number of harvestable fish increased to 33,900. The following outlines the harvestable fish allocated to fisheries based on the actual return of adult upper Columbia summer Chinook:

- a. Fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam (Total = 20,339)
- b. Fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam (Total = 13,560)
 - Recreational Fisheries: 9,492 (7,973 below BON)
 - Commercial Fisheries: 4,068

The actual return of sockeye was 512,500 fish (130% of forecast). Non-Indian fisheries were well within the ESA limit of 1%, with actual impacts estimated at 0.56%.

Summer Season – Fisheries

Summer Season Recreational Fisheries

Downstream from Bonneville Dam

Seasons: The 2015 recreational fishery in this area was scheduled to be open for hatchery Chinook and sockeye retention from June 16 through July 7. In-season, with lower than expected catch and an increase in the harvest guideline, the Compact met on June 30 and extended Chinook and sockeye retention during July 7–31. In addition, the states modified the retention rules to allow anglers to keep clipped and unclipped summer Chinook and changed the daily bag limit to one adult Chinook effective July 3-31. Concerns over increased Chinook release mortality due to drought conditions, higher than average water temperatures and a low Chinook mark-rate prompted the Compact decision to allow the retention of unclipped Chinook. The decrease in bag limit was intended to continue the opportunity to harvest Chinook while potentially decreasing the number of unclipped fish harvested and ensure the fishery remained within the harvest guideline. The area was also open for hatchery steelhead under permanent

regulations. The recreational fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam was open for summer Chinook and sockeye retention the entire summer management period (June 16 – July 31; 46 days).

Harvest/Angler Trips: Catch estimates for adult Chinook include 5,928 kept (1,500 released) and 958 sockeye kept from 50,600 angler trips. Total Chinook mortalities (6,152) in this area represented 77% of the guideline.

Upstream of Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam

Seasons: The 2015 recreational fishery in this area was scheduled to be open for hatchery Chinook and sockeye retention from June 16 through July 31. During July 3-31 in the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border (concurrent Oregon/Washington waters) the fishery was modified to include non-mark selective regulations for Chinook. Water temperatures on the Columbia River were above average in late June and July, estimated around 70-72 °F, which is more consistent with water temperatures observed in August. This, combined with a low mark rate and therefore a high release rate, prompted the Compact to allow any Chinook to be kept (marked or unmarked) in this specific area. The Compact also reduced the daily bag limit from two adult Chinook to one adult Chinook. These two rules were designed to reduce the number of Chinook hooked and released during unusually warm water conditions, which can affect survival rates. With the record high return and relatively low harvest rate in this area, the additional harvest of unclipped salmon was not expected to greatly impact natural or hatchery escapement. The area was also open for hatchery steelhead under permanent regulations. The recreational fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam was open for summer Chinook and sockeye retention the entire summer management period (June 16 – July 31; 46 days).

Harvest: Anglers in this area were able to access about 51% of their preseason allocation of summer Chinook using 786 of the available 1,519 Chinook mortalities.

Summer Season Commercial Fisheries

Mainstem

Based on the preseason forecast, management agreements and commission guidelines, nearly 1,650 summer Chinook were available for commercial harvest. Season structures are discussed annually with constituents and during the North of Falcon public process. Regulations included an 8-inch minimum mesh size and tributary mouth sanctuaries to protect ESA-listed steelhead. Sockeye sales were allowed since ESA impacts were available to cover the minimal catch expected with this gear. Consistent with Commission policy for all fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam, sturgeon sales/possession were prohibited.

The 2015 summer season consisted of three fishing periods (32 hours total). The first summer Chinook fishing period was an eight-hour period conducted on the evening of June 17 in Zones 1-5. Staff anticipated catch at around 1,500 Chinook from 75 deliveries. Actual catch was higher, with roughly 2,000 Chinook and 300 sockeye from 67 deliveries. TAC provided weekly run-size updates, and by July 6 the in-season forecast for summer Chinook run was upgraded to 100,000 fish, which would be the largest on record since at least 1961. The run size upgrade increased the commercial allocation to nearly 3,000 adult Chinook. A 12-hour fishing period was conducted on July 8 in Zones 1-5; landings included 1,100 Chinook from 36 deliveries. The

third and final fishing period was conducted on July 21 with the same time, area and gear restrictions as the previous fishery. Landed Chinook totaled around 800 fish from 32 deliveries.

Harvest/ Number Deliveries: During the summer season, harvest included 3,938 Chinook and nearly 330 sockeye. Deliveries were 67 for the first period and 36 and 32 for the other two periods. Total Chinook harvest represented 97% of the (4,068) catch balance guideline for this fishery.

Select Area (Off-channel)

Season: Select Area summer commercial fisheries occur in Youngs Bay to harvest late spring hatchery Chinook and early-returning Select Area bright hatchery fall Chinook, as opposed to upriver summer Chinook targeted in mainstem fisheries. Seven periods occurred from June 16 through July 30.

Harvest/ Number Deliveries: Fishers landed 1,779 Chinook and 53 sockeye. Deliveries ranged from 17-78 per period. Chinook landings matched the recent 5-year average.

Summer Season Summary

2015 Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Fisheries Summary				
<i>(All data preliminary and includes kept + release mortalities)</i>				
	Pre	Post		
Runsize	73,000	126,882		
Harvest allocated Fishery	Allowed Pre	Actual Post	Actual/ Take	Actual/ Allowed
PFMC Ocean Fisheries	5,000	8,691	8,691	
Below Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)	34.3%	40.0%		
Commercial below BON	1,646	4,068	3,938	97%
Recreational Below Bonneville	3,227	7,973	6,152	77%
Recreational BON to PRD	615	1,519	786	52%
Below PRD Total	5,488	13,560	10,876	80%
Above Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)	65.7%	60.0%		
Wanapum Tribal	300	300	284	95%
Colville Tribal	5,256	11,187	10,410	93%
Recreational above PRD	4,956	8,853	4,823	54%
Above PRD Total	10,512	20,339	15,517	76%
Non-Treaty Total	21,000	42,590	35,084	82%

2015 Columbia River Fall Season

Fall Season - Policy Guidelines

Commission policy (C-3620) provides guidelines for allocation of salmon and fishery objectives that are categorized into four sections: 1) Lower Columbia River tule Chinook, 2) Upriver Bright Chinook, 3) Coho and 4) chum. Policy language is as follows:

Lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook:

- a. Transition Period (2013-2016): Assign no more than 70% of the ESA-impact for lower Columbia River (LCR) tule Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 30%) to off-channel commercial fisheries, mainstem commercial fisheries that target Upriver Brights, and (if using selective gear) Lower River Hatchery fall Chinook.
- b. Long Term (2017 and beyond): Assign no more than 80% of the ESA-impact for LCR tule Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 20%) to off-channel commercial fisheries and mainstem commercial fisheries that target Upriver Brights, and (if using selective gear) Lower River Hatchery fall Chinook.
- c. Management objectives for recreational fisheries by area include:
 - Buoy 10 – August 1 through Labor Day
 - Tongue Point to Warrior Rock – August 1 through September 7, then mark-selective for Chinook September 8-14
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam - August 1 – October 31

Upriver Bright fall Chinook:

- a. Transition Period (2013-2016): Assign no more than 70% of the ESA-impact for Snake River Wild fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 30%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.
- b. Long Term (2017 and beyond): Assign no more than 80% of the ESA-impact for Snake River Wild fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 20%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.
- c. The Department will focus mainstem commercial fisheries to target Upriver Bright fall Chinook in the area upstream of the Lewis River where the incidental take of LCR tule Chinook is reduced
- d. Harvest of Upriver Bright fall Chinook in the area downstream of the Lewis River will occur in selective fisheries that target Washington Lower River Hatchery Chinook and Coho.
- e. The presumptive path forward regarding targeted commercial harvest of Upriver Bright fall Chinook upstream of the Lewis River will be to access available Chinook with alternative selective gear and techniques. Because access to Upriver Bright Chinook will be important to ensuring the long-term economic viability of commercial fisheries, adaptive management will be used to ensure alternative selective gear and techniques

are effective and that commercial fishers continue to have profitable mainstem access to these economically important stocks.

Coho:

- a. Transition Period (2013-2016): Assign commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural Coho to implement off-channel Coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook fisheries and the balance to in-river mainstem recreational fisheries. If these in-river mainstem recreational fisheries are expected to be unable to use all of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural Coho, assign the remainder to mainstem commercial Coho fisheries. As selective techniques are developed – provide additional mainstem commercial fisheries in October to access hatchery Coho.
- b. Long Term (2017 and beyond): Assign commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural Coho to implement off-channel Coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook and hatchery Coho fisheries. Assign the balance to in-river mainstem recreational fisheries. If these fisheries are unable to use all of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural Coho, assign the remainder to mainstem commercial Coho fisheries. It is expected that substantial new opportunities for selective mainstem commercial fisheries will be available for hatchery Coho, particularly in October.

Chum: Maintain current practice of opening no fisheries that target Chum, and assign a sufficient share of ESA-impacts to cover incidental catch in commercial off-Channel and mainstem fisheries.

Fall Season - Preseason Planning

The Columbia River Compact adopted 2015 fall season fisheries based on management guidelines and fisheries objectives developed through the North of Falcon process. The annual “Non-Indian Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishery Allocation” agreement outlines the results of the North and Falcon process, and includes allocation guidelines for ESA-listed salmon between commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as probable season structures based on preseason forecasts and ESA impact sharing.

In 2015, preseason planning allocated 8.7% of the LCN tule impacts to in-river fisheries, to be shared 70% sport/ 30% commercial. Snake River wild (SRW) impacts allowed totaled 15%. To be shared 55% sport/ 45% commercial. Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) Coho impacts were limited to 23% for ocean and in-river fisheries; 9.4% (41% of allowed) were designated for in-river fisheries.

The catch expectations for the harvest of fall Chinook and Coho in recreational and non-tribal commercial fisheries were based on a strong forecasted return to the Columbia River mouth of 925,300 adult fall Chinook including 518,300 Upriver Brights, of which 21,000 were Snake River wild stock and a strong return of 539,600 adult Coho. Fisheries were modelled based on allocations of lower Columbia River natural (LCR) tule fall Chinook ESA-impacts and consideration of recreational fishery objectives.

Fall Season - Actual Returns/Final Guidelines

The actual return of adult fall Chinook is not yet final, but appears to be a record return of approximately 1.4 million or about 150% of the pre-season forecast. Around 75% of the return was mid-Columbia and Upriver Bright fall Chinook. Nearly one million (955K) adult fall Chinook passed Bonneville Dam in 2015. In season run size updates for the upriver stocks were provided weekly beginning in early September based on Bonneville Dam passage. Run size updates for the more constraining wild LCR tule Chinook stock generally cannot be updated in season due to their later migration timing into the tributaries and then to the hatcheries and spawning grounds.

The actual return of adult Coho is also not yet final, but appears to be much less than the 539,600 fish forecasted. Much of the shortage was from the upriver component, evident by decreased Coho passage over Bonneville Dam which totaled less than 40,000 fish and was in stark contrast to the record passage (280K) just one year prior. Lower River hatchery Coho returns are still being tallied, but also appear to be less than average in most facilities.

Upriver summer steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam (April-October) totaled 261,400 fish, compared to the expected passage of 312,200 steelhead (84%). Upriver summer steelhead passage consist of three major components (Skamania, Group A index and Group B index), all of which appear to be less than forecast. Similar to most years, the Group B wild component was the most constraining steelhead stock in 2015. Although the actual return is not yet final, it appears the Group B wild component was much less than forecast. Inseason updates from TAC downgrading the run made it especially challenging to conduct Chinook and Coho directed fisheries (sport and commercial) while remaining within the 2% ESA limit for Group B steelhead

A total of 15 Columbia River Compact (commercial and tribal fisheries) and three Joint State Hearing (recreational fisheries) meetings were held during the fall season. TAC met eight times during the three month fall season and provided run size updates on upriver salmon and steelhead, which were critical for fishery management.

Pending final run reconstructions for fall Chinook stocks, the most recent available assessment of fall Chinook impact by fishery was conducted in mid-October. In season, ocean fishery managers indicated that the ocean fisheries were expected to use all the LCR tule impacts allocated to the ocean, so no additional impacts for in-river fisheries were anticipated. Based on this last inseason assessment, sharing of ESA-listed salmon appear consistent with preseason planning. LCR tule fall Chinook are estimated to be 70% for recreational fisheries and 30% for commercial fisheries while impacts on SRW fall Chinook are estimated to be 59% for recreational fisheries and 41% for commercial fisheries. Updated estimates of these impacts will be completed over the winter. LCN wild Coho impacts are expected to be within 9.4% allocated to in-river fisheries. Recreational fisheries were not hindered by the reduced run; however, Coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries were less than expected given the reduced run size.

Fall Season - Fisheries

Fall Season Recreational Fisheries

Seasons:

Buoy 10 to Tongue Point: The fishery was open the entire fall season for Chinook and/or hatchery Coho. The area was open for Chinook retention August 1 through August 28 with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. During August 23-28, only fin-clipped Chinook could be retained. Chinook retention reopened October 1 when the bag limit was also increased to two Chinook. Retention of hatchery Coho and steelhead was allowed August 1-December 31. In total, the fishery was open to retention of Chinook for 28 days in August-September (61 days possible), but the season objective of Chinook retention through Labor Day was not reached which can be attributed to the later date (Sep 7) in 2015 and high Chinook catch rates. In season fishery modifications were necessary in order to remain within ESA constraints. Modifications included implementing mark-selective regulations for Chinook and a Chinook closure date of August 28 (Compared to the Labor Day (September 7) objective).

Tongue Point to Warrior Rock: The fishery opened for Chinook retention August 1 with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. Chinook retention continued through September 14 but retention was restricted to only adipose fin-clipped Chinook September 8-14. The fishery reopened to Chinook (fin clipped or not) retention October 1 with a two fish/two Chinook daily bag limit. This fishery was open for retention of Chinook for 45 days in August-September (61 days possible). The season objective of non-mark selective for Chinook through September 7 was reached, and no in-season action was necessary.

Warrior Rock to Steamboat Landing: The fishery was open to Chinook retention August 1-December 31 with a two fish/two Chinook daily bag limit.

Steamboat Landing to Highway 395 Bridge (near Pasco, Washington): This boundary definition was developed in 2014 to establish an area where anglers could keep an additional Chinook from the large upriver return, while avoiding catch of the constraining LCR tule stock. The fishery was open for Chinook retention August 1-December 31 with a daily bag limit of three fish/three Chinook.

Buoy 10 to Highway 395 Bridge: For the entire season, each legal angler aboard a vessel was allowed to deploy angling gear until the daily bag limit of salmon/steelhead for all anglers aboard the vessel was achieved (party rule). This rule has been in place in the Buoy 10 fishery for many years. It was applied for the second year in the upriver areas in order to increase angler access to the large 2015 upriver return.

Harvest/Angler Trips:

Buoy 10 to Tongue Point: An estimated 36,400 Chinook (hatchery and wild) and 36,900 hatchery Coho were kept from 108,200 angler trips. An additional 23,600 Chinook and 23,200 Coho were released. The numbers of Chinook kept and handled were the second highest and highest ever for this fishery. Chinook take totaled 40,900 fish.

Although the fishery caught less than preseason expectations for total Chinook take, impacts on LCR tule Chinook will likely exceed the preseason allocation due to a higher percentage of this stock in the catch than anticipated. At this time, the final run size for LCR tule Chinook has not been calculated, thus current estimates of impact are based on the preseason run expectation. The total take of adult hatchery Coho was about 37,300, or 71% of preseason expectations, reflecting the lower than expected abundance.

Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam: An estimated 41,500 adult Chinook and 1,000 adult hatchery Coho were kept from 131,400 angler trips. The number of Chinook kept was a record for this

fishery. An additional 6,000 Chinook and 600 Coho were released. The catch rate averaged one adult Chinook kept for every 3.2 angler trips.

The total take of adult Chinook (including release mortality) in the fishery was about 42,600 fish, which was 141% of the preseason expectation of 30,200. However, impacts on LCR tule Chinook will likely be close to the preseason allocation for this fishery due to a lower-than-expected frequency of this stock in the catch. The total take of adult hatchery Coho was about one-third of expectations, mimicking the run size downgrade.

Upstream from Bonneville Dam: Estimates of catch of adult Chinook in fisheries upstream from Bonneville Dam are based on average harvest rates from past seasons (pending availability of angler catch record cards for 2015) and are expected to be about 13,300.

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

Mainstem

Chinook Fisheries

Early fall mainstem commercial fisheries consisted of ten periods targeting Chinook from August 9-31 in Zones 4-5 with a 9-9¾-inch mesh restriction. Except for the final 4-hour fishery, all fishing periods were 9 hours in length. Fishers landed 33,421 Chinook and 155 Coho with deliveries ranging from 20 to 126 per period. The preseason expectation for this fishery was 47,500 Chinook.

Late fall commercial fisheries targeting Chinook were limited to five, 9-10 hour periods using large mesh (≥8-inch) gear from September 15 through October 9. The first four periods occurred in Zones 4-5 to minimize take of LCN Chinook but one all-zone period occurred October 8-9. Combined landings totaled 43,480 Chinook and 819 Coho. Deliveries ranged from 57 to 134 per period. The actual catch was more than twice the preseason expectation of 19,100 Chinook, and brought the total Chinook catch to a total of 76,901, or 113% of the preseason expectation (which was based on a much smaller run size).

Coho Fisheries

Three 12-hour commercial fishing periods targeting Coho with 3¾-inch tangle-nets occurred from October 1-7 in Zones 1-3. Due to the poor Coho return, fishers only landed 964 hatchery Coho along with 1,855 Chinook. Deliveries ranged from 27 to 39 per period.

Only two commercial fishing periods targeting Coho with 6-inch mesh occurred in October due to the poor late run Coho return. Both periods (October 12 and 20) occurred in Zones 1-3. Fishers landed 2,217 Coho and 2,255 Chinook. Deliveries ranged from 65-71 per period.

Total take in Coho-directed fisheries was about 3,345 Coho (including release mortality in the tangle-net fisheries), which was less than 10% of preseason expectations.

Select Area (Off-channel)

Select Area fall commercial fisheries were open in Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind/Knappa Sloughs, and Deep River (Washington). The general season was from August through October.

Landings in fall Select Area fisheries were below average. Coho landings were 41% of the recent 5-year average even though smolt releases contributing to the 2015 Select Area Coho return were 19% larger than base production levels. Chinook harvest was the lowest since 2009 and 78% of the recent 5-year average. The average price per pound for Select Area fall Chinook increased by 13% from 2014, possibly due to the lower total harvest in 2015 fall fisheries.

The return of Select Area bright fall Chinook was poor in 2015. Harvest of SAB fall Chinook in 2015 Select Area fisheries was the lowest since 2007. Inseason action was taken to rescind Youngs Bay fall fishing periods in an attempt to increase broodstock returns but egg collections will still only be about 1/3rd of target.

Pilot Mainstem Seine Fishery

A 23-day commercial seine fishery was implemented during August 24 - September 30 to address questions regarding implementation of this potential new commercial gear type. Unlike 2014, mortalities on ESA-listed stocks for this fishery were applied to the total allowed commercial fishing impacts. Because commercial impacts are limited, the fishery was restricted in scope in order to provide a reasonable economic return for participants while minimizing the effect on mainstem gillnet opportunity. Preseason modelling was based on a target of using 10% or less of commercial impacts for either LCR tule Chinook or Wild B steelhead impacts, which ever was most constraining. After two separate draw periods, a total of six fishers (three purse and three beach) were issued a total of seven permits from a pool of 11 applications. Four beach fishers were unable to participate in the fishery, and one purse seiner was issued a second permit. Fishing was restricted to commercial fishing Zone 2, Zone 3, and upper Zone in an attempt to collect data from Zones which had not been fished much in 2014.

The fishery was again operated under an Individual Fisher Quota (IFQ) system that limited allowable steelhead handle and the number of adult Chinook and Coho that could be kept and sold. Sales of jack Chinook and jack Coho were allowed but did not count toward quotas. IFQs by gear type are shown in the following table:

2015 Summary of quotas assigned to the lower Columbia River pilot seine fishery						
Gear	Chinook (kept)		Coho (kept)		Steelhead (handle)	
	Individual	Total	Individual	Total	Individual	Total
Beach	400	1,200	150	450	180	540
Purse	650	2,600	200	800	150	600
Sum		3,800		1,250		1,140

To limit mortalities of LCR tule Chinook and lower Columbia River natural Coho, allowable sales were limited to marked fish only. Regulations required unmarked salmon and all steelhead to be released. The fishery was observed by agency staff at a rate of 100%.

Combined landings for the fishery totaled 2,763 adult and 230 jack Chinook and 564 adult and 23 jack Coho. Landings varied widely among fishers. For the three beach seine permits, fishers landed 0-91% of their adult Chinook IFQs and 0-19% of adult Coho IFQs. Of the four purse seine permits, fishers landed 61-100% of their adult Chinook IFQs and 25-94% of adult Coho IFQs. Steelhead handle ranged from 39-84% of the allowed limits.

An additional 5,480 unmarked Chinook, unmarked Coho, and steelhead were released. Mark rates by species were low for Chinook (41%) and Coho (44%), and average for steelhead (68%), similar to 2014. Catch results by seine type are shown in the following table:

2015 Summary of kept and released catch in fall Columbia River pilot seine fishery										
	Kept				Unmarked Released					
	<u>Chinook</u>		<u>Coho</u>		<u>Chinook</u>		<u>Coho</u>			
	Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	Adult	Jack	Steelhead	
Beach	572	109	55	3	290	54	119	0	221	
Purse	2,191	121	509	20	3,602	315	603	20	256	
Total	2,763	230	564	23	3,922	339	722	20	477	
	3,580 kept (39.5% of salmonid handle)				5,480 released (60.5% of salmonid handle)					

In 2015, the average weight of Chinook landed with seine gear was 34% less than Chinook landed in the mainstem gillnet fishery. When compared with Coho landed in the late-fall Coho gillnet fishery, seine-caught Coho were 16% smaller. Lower average weights for seine-caught fish likely results from jacks comprising a higher percentage of the total catch (~8% for Chinook) and all sizes of adult fish are handled proportionate to their abundance.

Based on post-fishery interviews with participants in 2014-15 seine fisheries, low mark rates resulting in a high percentage of the catch being released (mainly the valuable bright fall Chinook), high start-up and operational costs (extra crew and boat), and conflict with recreational fishery during daylight hours were the most significant issues encountered in the fishery.

Summary of Recreational Catch and Effort; Summary of Commercial Ex-Vessel Value

One of the Guiding Principles in Washington Commission Policy C-3620 reads “in a manner that is consistent with conservation and does not impair the resource, seek to enhance the overall economic well-being and stability of Columbia River fisheries”. For recreational salmon fisheries, an economic measure considered during the Columbia River fisheries reform process was the number of angler trips. For commercial fisheries, ex-vessel value was the primary economic measure evaluated. Expansion factors, or “multipliers,” can be applied to both of these metrics in order to estimate total economic impacts, but the results of such estimates would be expected to still be proportional to the original metrics. No efforts have been made to apply multipliers to either angler trips or ex-vessel value in this document.

Both of these measures are strongly affected by factors beyond the control of managers, particularly overall fish returns which can be dynamic making it difficult to isolate effects due only to allocation shifts and management actions.

Recreational fishery objectives include season stability and duration. Combined angler trips for salmon and steelhead in the lower Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam during 2015 were the second highest observed since at least 1982. The total number of nearly 103,500 Chinook kept was the highest since at least 1982.

2015 Lower Columbia River Sport - Angler Trips and Kept Adult Fish

Fishery	Trips	Chinook	Coho	Sockeye	Steelhead
Winter/Spring	151,200	15,600			1,200
Summer	50,600	5,900		1,000	4,600
Buoy 10	108,200	36,400	39,900		
Fall LCR	131,400	41,500	800		4,200
LCR Total	441,300	103,500	37,800	1,000	10,000

2015 Columbia River Above BON Sport - Angler Trips and Harvest

Fishery	Trips	Chinook	Coho	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring Z6/Snake R	10,000	3,500			2,400
Summer Z6/<PRD	3,000	700		1,600	400
Summer >PRD	32,700	4,100		27,300	
Fall Z6/H395	25,000	13,300	50		4,500
Hanford Reach	48,500	33,900	30		100
Above BON total	119,200*	55,500	80	28,900	7,400

*Angler trips based on estimated catch per unit effort

An economic measure for commercial fisheries considered during the Columbia River fisheries reform process was ex-vessel value, i.e. the price per pound paid to fishers upon delivery of their catch. In general, the expectation was that during the transition period (2013 through 2016), the overall ex-vessel value of commercial landings was to be at least similar to recent years, with the potential for some increase associated with off-channel enhancements, although it was recognized that there may be significant variation due to annual variation in the number of each salmon stock returning to the Columbia River.

Total catch of Chinook in 2015 mainstem fisheries was the 2nd highest since 1989 due to a large spring run and record summer and fall Chinook returns. Mainstem landings of spring, summer, and fall Chinook were the highest since 2010, 2011, and 2014, respectively. Although the 2015 fall Chinook return was a record, the mainstem fall Chinook catch was the 3rd highest since 1989.

In 2015, mainstem fisheries accounted for 69% of the total commercial Chinook and Coho value in the lower Columbia River, with Select Area fisheries comprising 31%. Mainstem fall gillnet fisheries targeting Chinook comprised 51% of the total ex-vessel value for mainstem and Select Area fisheries combined. The increased Columbia River commercial value is associated with the large fall Chinook harvest, in particular the mainstem large-mesh gillnet fishery upstream of the Lewis River, where commercial fisheries focused on the record high bright Chinook return.

**2015 Columbia River Mainstem
Commercial Ex-vessel Value**

	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	Total
Winter/Spring	\$572,965		\$0	\$572,965
Summer	\$211,892		\$0	\$211,892
Early Fall	\$751,130	\$2,143	\$0	\$753,273
Late Fall	\$1,824,225	\$44,569	\$0	\$1,868,794
Fall Seine	\$51,413	\$5,215	\$0	\$56,628
Total	\$3,411,625	\$51,927	\$0	\$3,463,552

All data preliminary

**2015 Columbia River Select Area
Commercial Ex-vessel Value**

	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	Total
Winter/Spring	\$851,337		\$0	\$851,337
Summer	\$72,848		\$0	\$72,848
Fall	\$378,876	\$286,931	\$0	\$665,807
Total	\$1,303,061	\$286,931	\$0	\$1,589,992

All data preliminary

2016 Fishery Planning and Policy Implementation

Following is a general schedule that highlights the processes for managing 2016 Columbia River fisheries in the Washington/Oregon concurrent jurisdictional waters. These events capture main events, some scheduled, and some anticipated for 2016. There will undoubtedly be additional processes not listed here; including regular TAC meetings, special issue-specific *U.S. v. Oregon* meetings, Columbia River Advisor meetings, WDFW and ODFW coordination meetings, constituent meetings, ESA coordination with NOAA, and further dialogue between the Departments and the Washington and Oregon Commissions.

January 12- Columbia River Commercial Advisors: Staff and Advisors meet to discuss outlook and options for spring Chinook seasons and recommendations for rules to implement seine fisheries in 2016.

January 13- Columbia River Recreational Advisors: Staff and Advisors meet to discuss outlook and options for spring Chinook season and allocation of upriver spring Chinook recreational ESA impacts and harvest above and below Bonneville Dam, and in the lower Snake River.

January 27- Columbia River Compact: Meet to review stock status and set initial non-Indian spring Chinook recreational seasons, commercial Select Area seasons, and commercial spring season planning guidance.

February 04-05- U.S. v. Oregon Quarterly Policy Meeting: Parties meet to review several fishery and production related policy issues, including discussions concerning technical and policy aspects of management of 2016 fisheries. The Policy Committee will receive reports from the Technical Advisory Committee regarding technical issues concerning monitoring and

management of the fisheries. Status of the seine fishery mortality study will be discussed in this forum. Parties will continue negotiations for the new *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.

March- Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission: The Department will present the results of the 2015 seine fishery to the Fish Committee.

March/April- NOF process: develop plans for summer and fall fisheries in the ocean and Columbia River. This process will include planning for selective commercial and recreational fisheries, including fall seine fisheries.

March-June- Columbia River Compact: will conduct several in-season management hearings to regulate treaty Indian and non-Indian spring Chinook fisheries

May-U.S. v. Oregon Quarterly Policy meeting: Parties will work through on-going issues including conduct of 2016 fisheries. Parties will continue negotiations for the new *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.

June- Columbia River Compact: will meet to set initial recreational and commercial summer Chinook and sockeye seasons for treaty Indian and non-Indian fisheries.

June-July- Columbia River Compact: will conduct several in-season hearings to modify summer seasons as necessary.

July- Columbia River Compact: will meet to set initial early fall Chinook mainstem and Select Area commercial and treaty-Indian fisheries with guidance from North of Falcon planning process. Non-Indian commercial mainstem seine fisheries are expected to be implemented with Washington Experimental Fishery permits issued by the WDFW Director and ESA permit from NOAA.

August- Columbia River Compact: will conduct in-season hearings to adjust recreational, commercial, and treaty-Indian fisheries as necessary based on in-season data.

August- U.S. v. Oregon Quarterly Policy meeting: Parties will work through on-going issues including conduct of 2016 fisheries. Parties will continue negotiations for the new *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.

September- Columbia River Compact: will meet to review TAC update of run-sizes, set late fall commercial and treaty Indian seasons, and consider modification or extensions of the recreational seasons. Several additional Compacts will occur to review in-season information and adjust fisheries as necessary.

October- Columbia River Compact: will meet as necessary to adjust Coho directed commercial season and treaty Indian late fall seasons.

November- U.S. v. Oregon Quarterly Policy meeting: Parties will work through on-going issues including conduct of 2016 fisheries. Parties will continue negotiations for the new *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.

December- WDFW and ODFW staff will meet with Commercial and Recreational Advisors to review 2016 actual salmon and steelhead returns, fisheries performance, and pre-season spring and summer salmon forecasts for 2017. Staff will also attend the annual Northwest Sport Fishing Industry Association (NSIA) meeting and the annual Salmon for All (SFA) meeting.

Annual Commission Report - The Department's review of 2016 fisheries and policy C-3620 implementation will include the results of the commercial seine fishery.

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION


POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Columbia River Basin
Salmon Management

POLICY NUMBER: C-3620

Repeals or
Supersedes: C-3617, 2009
C-3618, 2011

Effective Date: January 12, 2013
Termination Date: December 31, 2023

Approved by: 
Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose

The objectives of this policy are to promote orderly fisheries (particularly in waters in which the states of Washington and Oregon have concurrent jurisdiction), advance the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead, and maintain or enhance the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state.

Definition and Intent

This policy is applicable to the management by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) of Pacific salmon (spring Chinook, summer Chinook, fall Chinook, sockeye, chum, and coho) fisheries in the mainstem of the Columbia River and the Snake River.

General Policy Statement

This policy provides the Department a cohesive set of guiding principles and a progressive series of actions to improve the management of salmon in the Columbia River basin. The actions will be evaluated and, as appropriate, progressively implemented in a transitional period occurring from 2013 through 2016. There is uncertainty in this presumptive path forward, including the development and implementation of alternative selective fishing gear, securing funding for enhanced hatchery production, and the expansion or development of off-channel fishing areas. Consequently, the Commission recognizes that management decisions in the transitional period, and subsequent years, must be informed by fishery monitoring (biological and economic) and may be modified as necessary to meet the stated purpose of this policy.

The Department will promote the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead and provide fishery-related benefits by maintaining orderly fisheries and by increasingly focusing on the harvest of abundant hatchery fish. The Department will seek to implement mark-selective salmon and steelhead fisheries, or other management approaches that are at least as effective, in achieving spawner and broodstock management objectives.

Fishery and hatchery management measures should be implemented as part of an “all-H” strategy that integrates hatchery, harvest, hydro-system and habitat actions. Although it focuses on hatchery and harvest reform, this policy in no way diminishes the significance of habitat and hydro-system protection and restoration.

In implementing the policy guidelines, the Department will work with the tribes in a manner that is consistent with *U.S. v. Washington* and *U.S. v. Oregon* and other applicable state and federal laws and agreements.

Guiding Principles

The Department will apply the following principles in the management of salmon fisheries in the Columbia River:

1. Promote the recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species and the conservation of wild stocks of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and ensure that fisheries and hatcheries are operated in a manner consistent with the provisions of the ESA.
2. Continue leadership on fish recovery actions, including improved fish survival through the Columbia River hydropower system, improved habitat conditions in the tributaries and estuary, hatchery reform, reduced predation by fish, birds, and marine mammals, and harvest management that meets conservation responsibilities.
3. Continue to meet the terms of *U.S. v. Oregon* management agreements with Columbia River Treaty Tribes.
4. Meet Colville tribal subsistence and ceremonial needs consistent with agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.
5. Provide Wanapum Band fishing opportunity consistent with RCW 77.12.453 (“Salmon fishing by Wanapum (Sokulk) Indians”).
6. In a manner that is consistent with conservation and does not impair the resource, seek to enhance the overall economic well-being and stability of Columbia River fisheries.
7. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this Policy, for steelhead and salmon, prioritize recreational fisheries in the mainstem and commercial fisheries in off-channel areas of the lower Columbia River.
8. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this Policy, and after thorough evaluation, seek to phase out the use of non-selective gill nets in non-tribal commercial fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River, and transition gill net use to off-channel areas.
9. In a manner consistent with the Department’s licensing authorities, develop and implement alternative selective-fishing gear and techniques for commercial mainstem

fisheries to optimize conservation and economic benefits. Provide incentives to commercial fishers to develop and implement these gear and techniques.

10. Enhance the economic benefits of off-channel commercial fisheries in a manner consistent with conservation and wild stock recovery objectives.
11. Seek to maintain consistent and concurrent policies between Oregon and Washington related to management of non-tribal Columbia River fisheries.
12. Develop a program that seeks to implement Marine Stewardship Council or other certification of salmon fisheries in the Columbia River as sustainably managed fisheries.

General Provisions

The Department will implement the following actions to promote the achievement of the purpose of this policy.

1. Gill Net License Buyback Program. Initiate in 2013 the development (with Oregon) of a program to buyback non-tribal gill net permits for the Columbia River and implement that program as soon as the appropriate authority and financing is secured. Efforts should be made to also develop, evaluate, and implement other tools (e.g., minimum landing requirements) to reduce the number of gillnet permits.
2. Development and Implementation of Alternative Selective Gear in Transition Period. The Department will investigate and promote the development and implementation of alternative selective gear during the transition period (2013-2016). If alternative selective gear is not available and practical, based on administrative, biological or economic factors, the use of gill nets in these fisheries will be allowed during the transition period. The development and implementation of alternative selective gear such as purse seines and beach seines should provide area-specific opportunity to target fishery harvests on abundant hatchery stocks, reduce the number of hatchery-origin fish in natural spawning areas, limit mortalities of non-target species and stocks, and provide commercial fishing opportunities. To facilitate the timely development of and transition to alternative selective gear and techniques, Washington should work with Oregon to develop incentives for those commercial fishers who agree to use these gear and techniques.
3. Development and Implementation of Alternative Selective Gear in Long Term. Subject to available legal authorities and the adaptive management provisions of this Policy, and after thorough evaluation, non-tribal mainstem commercial fisheries should be restricted to the use of alternative selective gear and fishing techniques beginning in 2017. With respect to Upriver Bright fall Chinook, the presumptive path forward regarding targeted commercial harvest upstream of the Lewis River is to access these Chinook with alternative selective gear and techniques. Because access to Upriver Bright fall Chinook is critically important

to ensuring the long-term economic health of commercial fishers, adaptive management will be used to ensure available gear types and techniques are effective and that commercial fishers continue to have profitable mainstem access to these important salmon stocks.

4. Additional Opportunities for Mainstem Commercial Fisheries in the Transition Period. During the transition period, opportunities for additional mainstem commercial fishing directed at Upriver Bright fall Chinook and hatchery coho salmon using alternative selective gear, or gill nets if alternative selective gear is not available and practical, may be provided under the following conditions:
 - a. If mainstem recreational fisheries are predicted to be unable to fully use their shares of ESA-impacts or harvestable surplus, or
 - b. If reasonable goals¹ for mainstem recreational fisheries are predicted to be met, or
 - c. If alternative selective gear programs, off channel fishing opportunities, or other commercial fishing program elements of this Policy are unable to provide the anticipated catch and economic expectations to the commercial salmon fishing industry.

5. Additional Opportunities for Mainstem Commercial Fisheries in the Long Term. After the transition period, opportunities for additional mainstem commercial fishing directed at Upriver Bright fall Chinook, lower river hatchery fall Chinook, and hatchery coho salmon may be provided under the following conditions:
 - a. If mainstem recreational fisheries are predicted to be unable to fully use their shares of ESA-impacts or harvestable surplus, or
 - b. If reasonable goals for mainstem recreational fisheries are predicted to be met, or
 - c. As needed to remove lower river hatchery tule Chinook and coho consistent with conservation objectives, or
 - d. If alternative selective gear programs, off channel fishing opportunities, or other commercial fishing program elements of this Policy are unable to provide the anticipated catch and economic expectations to the commercial salmon fishing industry.

6. Off-Channel Commercial Fishing Sites. Seek funding (with Oregon) to evaluate the feasibility of establishing new off-channel sites. Seek funding to invest in the

¹ See Appendix B of Mainstem Strategies for Columbia River recreational and Commercial Fisheries: 2013 and Beyond. Recommendation of the Columbia River Fishery Management Workgroup to the Fish and Wildlife Commissions of Oregon and Washington. November 21, 2012.

infra-structure and fish rearing and acclimation operations necessary to establish new off-channel sites in Washington, as identified by evaluations completed during the transition period.

7. Barbless Hooks. Implement in 2013 the use of barbless hooks in all mainstem Columbia River and tributary fisheries for salmon and steelhead.
8. Logbooks. Evaluate the benefits of requiring licensed recreational fishing guides and charters to maintain and use logbooks. Logbook reporting could provide fishery managers with additional catch and harvest data on guided salmon, steelhead, sturgeon fishing trips on the Columbia River. In addition, evaluate the use of volunteer trip reports in private boat fisheries.
9. Enhance Fishery Management. Because implementation of this policy will change the current management of fisheries and because run-size forecasts play a vital role in shaping fisheries, two enhancements will be put in place during the transition period.
 - a. Increase Management Certainty. Increase management certainty, and ensure conservation effectiveness by: implementing outreach programs to increase compliance with recreational fishing rules; seeking means to increase the effectiveness of enforcement programs; and conducting enhanced fishery monitoring that more accurately accounts for harvest and fishing-related mortality.
 - b. Improve Management Tools. Explore and develop alternative approaches to improve: pre-season forecasts of run size and timing; in-season updates of run-size estimates; and in-season estimates of the harvest impacts by fishery.

Spring Chinook Salmon

The presumptive path for the management of spring Chinook salmon fisheries is summarized in Appendix Table A. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage spring Chinook salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1. The Department will exercise in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring Chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e., upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.
2. Fishery Management Buffer. To account for uncertainties in the information used to plan and implement fisheries, a management buffer in fishery structure will be established and applied to fisheries occurring prior to the run size update (primarily in March and April). The buffer is intended to be sufficient to cover potential run-size forecasting error and ensure compliance with ESA requirements and *U.S. v. Oregon* allocation provisions. Prior to the run size update, the

Department will manage non-treaty fisheries for a run size that is 70% of the pre-season forecast (30% buffer) or other fishery management buffer as agreed through *U.S. v. Oregon*. During the transition period, the overall buffer will be achieved by applying: a fishery management buffer of 20% of the sport fishery impact to the sport fishery; and a fishery management buffer of 40% of the commercial fishery impact to the commercial fishery.

3. Recreational-Commercial Allocation During Transition Period (2013-2016). In 2013, the Department will assign 65% of the ESA-impact for upriver spring Chinook stocks to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (35%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.

During 2014-16, the Department will assign 70% of the ESA-impact for upriver spring Chinook stocks to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (30%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries

4. Recreational-Commercial Allocation in Long Term (2017 and Beyond). The Department will assign 80% of the ESA-impact to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (20%) to commercial fisheries for use in off-channel areas. The commercial fishery ESA-impact share will not be subject to the pre-run-size update buffer in the off-channel areas.
5. The Department will ensure broad geographic distribution of recreational fishing opportunity in the main-stem Columbia River including the Snake River. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the impacts allocated to the sport fisheries will be assigned to the sport fishery downstream from Bonneville Dam. Twenty-five percent (25%) will be assigned and reserved for the sport fishery upstream from Bonneville Dam. After the run-size update, the Department will place the highest sport fishery priority on providing for a sport fishery upstream from Bonneville Dam. .
6. The Department will provide to the Commission each year a briefing on the effectiveness of fishery management actions in meeting spring Chinook recreational fishery allocation objectives throughout the Columbia River basin. The Commission may consider changes to the recreational allocation in this policy in the future to balance recreational fishery objectives in the areas below Bonneville Dam, above Bonneville Dam, and in the Snake River.
7. Without compromising the objectives for recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam, the Department will seek in the long-term to extend recreational fishing opportunity downstream of Bonneville Dam as long into April as possible, with a high probability of an uninterrupted 45-season beginning March 1.

Summer Chinook Salmon

The presumptive path for the management of summer Chinook salmon fisheries is summarized in Appendix Table B. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage summer Chinook salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1. The Department will manage the upper Columbia summer Chinook populations for sustainable natural production and for the artificial production programs that are necessary to meet mitigation requirements and provide conservation safeguards.
2. The Department will manage for population specific performance goals for Wenatchee, Methow and Okanogan natural populations, and for hatchery escapement goals.
3. Non-treaty Sharing Above and Below Priest Rapids Dam. The highest priority for state managed summer Chinook fisheries is recreational fishing opportunity above Priest Rapids Dam. In light of the changing abundance of summer Chinook, the Department will adjust the allocation of the non-treaty (including the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) harvest assigned to fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam to be consistent with the following guidelines:

River-mouth run size	Percent of non-treaty allocation assigned to fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam
0 – 29,000	>90%
29,001 – 50,000	90%
50,001 – 60,000	70% - 90%
60,001 – 75,000	65% - 70%
75,001 – 100,000	60% - 65%
>100,000	60%

4. Nontreaty Sharing Below Priest Rapids Dam. The harvestable surplus available for nontreaty fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam will be allocated as follows:
 - a. Through 2014, assign 60% of the nontreaty harvestable surplus to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (40%) to mainstem commercial fisheries.
 - b. Beginning in 2015 and for the remainder of the transition period (through 2016), assign 70% of the harvestable surplus to the recreational fisheries and the balance (30%) to commercial fisheries.
 - c. The Recreational-Commercial allocation beginning in 2017 will be determined following additional discussions with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
5. Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-treaty summer Chinook harvest to meet the objectives of all fisheries.

Sockeye Salmon

Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage sockeye salmon fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1. During 2013-2016, assign 70% of the ESA-impact for Snake River sockeye to mainstem recreational fisheries and the balance (30%) to mainstem commercial fisheries for incidental harvest of sockeye in Chinook-directed fisheries.
2. Beginning in 2017, assign approximately 80% of the ESA-impact for Snake River sockeye to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (approximately 20%) to mainstem commercial fisheries for incidental harvest of sockeye in Chinook-directed fisheries.
3. If NOAA Fisheries increases the allowable ESA-impact for Snake River sockeye, the Department will provide opportunities for increased commercial harvest using alternative selective gear if developed and practical, within the constraints of achieving escapement objectives for other sockeye populations in the Columbia River Basin.

Tule Fall Chinook Salmon

The presumptive path for the management of tule fall Chinook salmon fisheries is summarized in Appendix Table C. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage tule fall Chinook fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1. During 2013-2016, the Department will assign no more than 70% of the ESA-impact for lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 30%) to: off-channel commercial fisheries; mainstem commercial fisheries that target Upriver Bright fall Chinook; and, if selective gear is developed during the transition period, mainstem commercial fisheries that harvest Washington Lower River Hatchery Chinook to help reduce strays.
2. Beginning in 2017, the Department will assign no more than 80% of the ESA-impact for lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 20%) to: off-channel commercial fisheries; mainstem commercial fisheries that target Upriver Bright fall Chinook; and mainstem commercial fisheries that harvest Washington Lower River Hatchery Chinook with selective gear to help reduce strays.
3. The Department will seek to achieve the following recreational fisheries objectives:
 - a. Buoy 10 season – August 1 to Labor Day
 - b. Tongue Point to Warrior Rock season – August 1 to September 7 as non-mark-selective and September 8-14 as mark-selective

- c. Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam season – August 1-October 31.

Upriver Bright Fall Chinook Salmon

The presumptive path for the management of Upriver Bright fall Chinook salmon fisheries is summarized in Appendix Table D. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage Upriver Bright fall Chinook fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1. During 2013-2016, the Department will assign no more than 70% of the ESA-impact for Snake River Wild fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 30%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.
2. Beginning in 2017, the Department will assign no more than 80% of the ESA-impact for Snake River Wild fall Chinook to mainstem recreational fisheries to meet management objectives and the balance (not less than 20%) to off-channel and mainstem commercial fisheries.
3.
 - a) The Department will focus mainstem commercial fisheries to target Upriver Bright fall Chinook in the area upstream of the Lewis River where the incidental take of lower river tule Chinook is reduced;
 - b) Harvest of Upriver Bright fall Chinook in the area downstream from the Lewis River will occur in selective fisheries that target Washington Lower River Hatchery Chinook and coho.
4. The presumptive path forward regarding targeted commercial harvest of Upriver Bright fall Chinook upstream of the Lewis River will be to access available Chinook with alternative selective gear and techniques. Because access to Upriver Bright fall Chinook will be important to ensuring the long-term economic viability of commercial fishers, adaptive management will be used to ensure alternative selective gear and techniques are effective and that commercial fishers continue to have profitable mainstem access to these economically important salmon stocks.

Coho Salmon

The presumptive path for the management of coho salmon fisheries is summarized in Appendix Table E. Subject to the adaptive management provisions of this policy, the Department will manage coho fisheries consistent with the Guiding Principles and the following objectives:

1. During 2013-2016, the Department will assign: commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural coho to implement off-channel coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook fisheries; and the balance to in-river mainstem recreational fisheries (currently in-river mainstem recreational fisheries are assigned a sufficient share of the allowable incidental-take of ESA-listed coho to meet fishery objectives). If these fisheries are

expected to be unable to use all of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural coho, the Department will assign the remainder to mainstem commercial coho fisheries. As selective techniques and alternative gear are developed, the Department will provide additional commercial mainstem coho fisheries with an emphasis on harvesting hatchery coho in October when wild coho are less abundant.

2. Beginning in 2017, the Department will assign: commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural coho to implement off-channel coho and fall Chinook fisheries and mainstem fall Chinook fisheries; and the balance to in-river mainstem recreational fisheries. If these fisheries are unable to use all of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural coho, the Department will assign the remainder to mainstem commercial coho fisheries. It is expected that substantial new opportunities for selective mainstem commercial fisheries will be available for hatchery coho, particularly in October.

Chum Salmon

The Department will maintain the current practice of opening no fisheries that target chum salmon and assign commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA-impact for chum to implement off-channel and mainstem fisheries targeting other salmon species (retention in recreational fisheries is currently prohibited).

Adaptive Management

The Commission recognizes that appendix tables A-E describe a presumptive path forward for salmon fishery management in the Columbia Basin. Uncertainty exists in some aspects of the presumptive path, including the development and implementation of alternative selective fishing gear, the securing of funding for enhanced hatchery production, and the expansion or development of off-channel fishing areas. Under these conditions, adaptive management procedures will be essential to achieve the purpose of this policy. As indicated in the General Policy statement, management actions will be evaluated and, as appropriate, implemented in a progressive manner.

The Commission will track implementation and results of the fishery management actions and artificial production programs in the lower Columbia River during the transition period, with annual reviews beginning at the end of 2013 and a comprehensive review at the end of the transition period (e.g., 2016). State-managed fisheries pursuant to this Policy will be adaptive and adjustments may be made to mainstem fisheries if policy objectives, including catch or economic expectations for commercial or recreational fisheries, are not achieved consistent with the principles of this plan. If these expectations are not achieved, efforts will be made to determine why and to identify actions necessary to correct course. Department staff may implement actions necessary to manage adaptively to achieve the objectives of this policy and will coordinate with the Commission, as needed, in order to implement corrective actions. Reconsideration of state-managed mainstem fisheries may take place under the following circumstances:

1. Lower than anticipated catch and economic expectations to the commercial salmon fishing industry, or

2. Insufficient space within off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet, or
3. Biological, fiscal and/or legal circumstances that delay or preclude implementation of alternative selective gear, buyback of commercial fishing permits, and/or additional off-channel hatchery investments, or
4. Management objectives are not achieved for commercial or recreational fisheries, or
5. Conflicts with terms of *U.S. v Oregon* management agreements with Columbia River Tribes, or
6. Failure to meet conservation objectives.

Planned enhancements of salmon and steelhead production upstream from Bonneville Dam may have implications to harvest management contemplated in this plan. For production enhancements that come on-line and produce adult salmon on or after 2017, Oregon and Washington staff should evaluate the implications of the increased mainstem production on these harvest strategies, including *U.S. v. Oregon* harvest agreements, and make additional recommendations to the Commission as needed, consistent with the guiding principles.

Delegation of Authority

The Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact and North of Falcon stakeholder consultation process, to set seasons for recreational and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries, and to make harvest agreements with treaty tribes and other government agencies. The Director will work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director will consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.

Appendix A. Tabular Summary of the Presumptive Management Framework for Non-Tribal Mainstem Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries - **Spring Chinook Salmon.**

Sharing Metric: Incidental-take of ESA-listed upriver spring Chinook

Fishing Year	Recreational Fishery		Commercial Fishery		
	Impact Share	Location	Share	Location	Gear
2013	65%	Mainstem Columbia River and Snake River	35%	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam Off-Channel Areas	Tangle Net Tangle-Net/ Gill Net
2014-2016	70%	Mainstem Columbia River and Snake River	30%	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	Tangle Net
				Off-Channel Areas	Tangle Net/ Gill Net
2017+	80%	Mainstem Columbia River and Snake River	20% ¹	Off-channel and mainstem areas of the Columbia River	Tangle Net/ Gill Net ² / Beach Seine/ Purse Seine/Other Alternative Selective Gear

¹ Not subject to pre-update buffer.

² Gill nets confined to off-channel areas

Appendix B. Tabular Summary of the Presumptive Management Framework for Non-Tribal Mainstem Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries – **Summer Chinook Salmon.**

Sharing Metric: Harvestable share of summer Chinook available downstream from Priest Rapids Dam

Fishery-Specific Objective: Meet terms of agreements with the United Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Fishing Year	Recreational Fishery		Commercial Fishery ¹		
	Share	Location	Share	Location	Gear
2013-2014	60%	Mainstem Columbia River below Priest Rapids Dam	40%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Gill Net
2015-2016	70%	Mainstem Columbia River below Priest Rapids Dam	30%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Gill Net
2017+	TBD ²	Mainstem Columbia River below Priest Rapids Dam	TBD	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Beach Seine/ Purse Seine/ Other Alternative Selective Gear

¹ To offset reductions in mainstem commercial harvest of summer Chinook, Oregon will enhance the fisheries for Select Area Bright Fall Chinook.

² Recreational- Commercial allocations will be determined following additional discussions with the Oregon department of Fish and Wildlife.

Appendix C. Tabular Summary of the Presumptive Management Framework for Non-Tribal Mainstem Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries – Tule Fall Chinook Salmon.

Sharing Metric: Incidental-take of ESA-listed Lower Columbia River natural (tule) fall Chinook

Fishing Year	Recreational Fishery		Commercial Fishery		
	Share	Location	Share	Location	Gear
2013-2015	≤70%	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	≥30%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam and off-channel areas	Gill Net/ Pilot Beach Seine/ Pilot Purse Seine
2016	≤70%	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	≥30%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Beach Seine/ Purse Seine
				Off-channel areas	Gill Net
2017+	≤80%	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	≥20%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Beach Seine/ Purse Seine/ Other Alternative Selective Gear
				Off-channel areas	Gill Net

Appendix D. Tabular Summary of the Presumptive Management Framework for Non-Tribal Mainstem Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries – Upriver Bright Chinook Salmon.

Sharing Metric: Incidental-take of ESA-listed Snake River wild fall Chinook

Fishery-Specific Objective: Implement mainstem commercial fisheries in Zones 4 and 5 upstream of the Lewis River to remove excess hatchery-origin bright Chinook and harvest surplus wild bright Chinook

Fishing Year	Recreational Fishery		Commercial Fishery		
	Share	Location	Share	Location	Gear
2013-2016	Necessary to meet recreational objectives, but not more than 70% ¹	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	Dependant on recreational fisheries need, but not less than 30%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Gill Net ² / Beach Seine ³ / Purse Seine ³
2017+	Necessary to meet recreational objectives, but not more than 80%	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	Dependant on recreational fisheries need, but not less than 20%	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam	Beach Seine/ Purse Seine/ Other Alternative Selective Gear
				Above Lewis River	Alternative Selective Gear ⁴

¹ It is expected that recreational fishery objectives (Buoy 10 season August 1-Labor Day; Tongue Point to Warrior Rock season August 1-September 7 as non-mark selective and September 8-14 as mark selective and Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam season August 1-October 31 when the season is assumed to be essentially complete) will be met in most years at less than a 50% share of Snake River Wild fall Chinook impacts (see Appendix B, Table B.3). However, the recreational fishery share will likely need to be increased to meet objectives in years when Upriver Bright fall Chinook returns are significantly less than recent years.

² The mainstem gill net fishery will be restricted to the area above the Lewis River in 2016.

³ Beach seine and purse seine fisheries will be pilots in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

⁴ The presumptive (expected) path forward regarding targeted commercial harvest of Upriver Bright fall Chinook upstream of the Lewis River will be to access available Chinook with alternative selective gear and techniques. Because access to Upriver Bright fall Chinook is critically important to ensuring the long-term economic viability of commercial fishers, adaptive management will be used to ensure alternative selective gear and techniques are effective and that commercial fishers continue to have profitable mainstem access to these economically important salmon stocks.

Appendix E. Tabular Summary of the Presumptive Management Framework for Non-Tribal Mainstem Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Fisheries – Coho Salmon.

Sharing Metric: Incidental-take of ESA-listed coho

Fishing Year	Recreational Fishery		Commercial Fishery		
	Share	Location	Share	Location	Gear
2013-2016	1	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	1	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam and off-channel areas	Gill Net/ Tangle Net ² / Beach Seine ² / Purse Seine ²
2017+	3	Mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam	3	Mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam and off-channel areas	Tangle Net/ Beach Seine/ Purse Seine/ Other Alternative Selective Gear

¹ Maintain current sharing except provide sufficient additional impacts to the commercial fishery to implement the pilot alternative selective gear fisheries.

² Tangle net, beach seine and purse seine fisheries will be pilots in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

³ Assign commercial fisheries a sufficient share of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural coho to implement off-channel coho fisheries, fall Chinook fisheries as described above, and alternative selective gear fisheries to reduce the number of hatchery-origin coho in natural spawning areas. Assign the balance to mainstem recreational fisheries. If these recreational fisheries are unable to use all of the ESA-impact for Lower Columbia Natural coho, assign the remainder to mainstem commercial coho fisheries.