

North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – December 9, 2016



Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2016

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Purpose

- Brief review of current North of Falcon Policy
- Potential modifications for new policy
- Policy Consideration Process/Schedule
- Seek Commission Guidance

North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will ensure that management decisions are consistent with:

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

North of Falcon Policy

Provides guidance to the Department for annual salmon fisheries on:

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

North of Falcon Policy

Department will implement consistent with the 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

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

Fishery Management

Current policy broken into three sections for Fishery Management

- General
 - Provides guidance on how to provide opportunity statewide
- Sockeye, pink and chum salmon
 - Gives specific guidance on Fraser and Puget Sound origin pink, chum and sockeye opportunities
- Chinook and coho salmon
 - Gives specific guidance on Puget Sound chinook and coho opportunities
 - References other region-specific Commission policies, and the Framework Salmon Management Plan for ocean fisheries

In-season Management

When in-season management actions are taken, they will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with pre-season conservation and harvest management objectives, and the fishery intent developed through the North of Falcon process.

Potential modifications to Policy

- Page 1 – editorial revision to be consistent with 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead purpose statement:
 - Salmon and steelhead will be managed to recovery and to assure sustainability in a way that is science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated, and accountable.

Potential modifications to Policy

- Page 2 – revise current bullet:
 - “Willapa Bay will be managed consistent with the Commission’s ~~direction and policies expected no sooner than April 2015~~ Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (POL-C3622).”

Potential modifications to Policy

- Page 2 – Reorganize species specific subsections under fishery management into regional subsections
 - Everything listed under current ‘Sockeye, Chum and Pink Salmon’ section is specific to Puget Sound/Fraser River stocks and fisheries
 - Regional policies listed under current ‘Chinook and Coho salmon section’ include other species

Potential modifications to Policy

- Page 2 – Reorganize species specific subsections under fishery management into regional subsections
 - Puget Sound
 - Grays Harbor
 - Willapa Bay
 - Columbia River
 - Pacific Ocean

Potential modifications to Policy

- Page 3 – In-season management, proposed bullet (with sub-bullets) reading:
 - Prior to use, in-season updates of stock abundance affecting Puget Sound fisheries will be evaluated for technical merit and potential to improve achievement of conservation and allocation objectives.
 - When possible, in-season updates should be documented within the co-manager's annual List of Agreed Fisheries or as part of regional co-manager MOUs.
 - Descriptions of potential modifications to fisheries that are contingent on in-season updates should be included in the List of Agreed Fisheries.
- This is a modification of public input received, to encourage agreement and documentation of in-season update models during the pre-season process when possible, without restricting use of additional update tools if appropriate in-season.

Policy Process

- November 4, 2016 FWC briefing
 - Initial briefing and public comment
- December 2016
 - Briefing on potential revisions to draft policy
 - Additional public comment
 - Additional Commission guidance for revised draft
 - Revised draft posted online for public comment
- January 2017 Commission meeting
 - Commission considers adoption of revised policy

North of Falcon Policy

- Policy C-3608
- Expires December 31, 2016

Questions/Guidance ?