

Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee

February 26, 2019

9am to 5pm

Location: ODFW Headquarters Office, Salem OR

Meeting Summary Notes and Decisions

ATTENDANCE:

Holly Akenson – ODFW Commissioner	David Graybill – WDFW Commissioner
Bruce Buckmaster – ODFW Commissioner	Bob Kehoe – WDFW Commissioner
Bob Webber (phone) – ODFW Commissioner	Don Mclsaac – WDFW Commissioner
Curt Melcher – ODFW Director	Myrtice Dobler – WDFW Staff
Ed Bowles – ODFW Staff	Cindy LeFleur – WDFW Staff
Tucker Jones – ODFW Staff	Ryan Lothrop – WDFW Staff
Chris Kern – ODFW Staff	Ron Warren – WDFW Staff
April Mack – ODFW Staff	Bill Tweit – WDFW Staff
John North – ODFW Staff	
Michelle Tate – ODFW Staff	

Opening Remarks and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting start was delayed due to technical difficulties securing Commissioner Weber's participation by phone.

The draft agenda was adopted as the working agenda for the meeting without change. Staff reviewed the list of materials. These items were requested at previous meetings.

2019 Policies and Regulations

Commissioners and staff reviewed Narrative Descriptions of each options, no changes were proposed.

Staff provided a briefing on modeling assumptions and results.

Staff reviewed how each of the options performed under three primary evaluation criteria for 2019. It was noted that there were no significant differences between conservation and orderly fishery criteria in any of the options. Regarding the economics evaluation, recreational angler trips in every option slightly exceed the base, but the commercial fishery ex-vessel economic value in every option did not achieve the level of the base, with Option 2 showing the lowest commercial economic value and Option 1 being the closest to the base.

Staff presented and reviewed documents provided on mark rates. Based on cursory information from Washington field staff, enforcement and customer service it seems most anglers primarily use barbless hooks to comply with the law and were overwhelmingly not in favor of it.

Staff presented information and answered questions on the effectiveness of the Youngs Bay Control Zone. A discussion on options to try to improve Select Area Bright Chinook salmon

(SAB) reaching Youngs Bay and other Select Areas followed, and additional information was requested.

Developing a Consolidated Recommendation

Prior to making any proposals or motions, Commissioners shared their perspectives, reactions, and leanings.

The following motion was made by Commissioner Kehoe and seconded by Commissioner Mclsaac.

Towards concurrent policies and regulations for 2019, I move to adopt Option 1, Transition Period, to also include a change in sports fisheries from mandatory barbless to voluntary barbless hooks effective as soon as practical but by June 1, 2019 at the latest.

The motion also calls for good faith progress towards recommending a comprehensive Columbia River salmon fishery policy for 2020 and beyond, to be completed as soon as possible. The policies embodied in this motion are intended to be in place until such comprehensive policy is adopted.

- The final vote on the motion, as successfully amended (see below) and clarified, passed
 - Aye- Commissioners Kehoe, Akenson, and Buckmaster
 - Nay- Commissioners Graybill, Weber
 - Commissioner Mclsaac announced the motion would pass without the Chair voting and did not vote

Staff Clarification on Summer Chinook seasons:

Replace “above a spawning escapement goal of 20,000 at Priest Rapids dam” with “under the US v OR Management Agreement,” and replace “See page 7 in the” to “based on current” in footnote iii.

Amendments:

The amendment is to change Fall Chinook sharing language from “ $\leq 70\%/\geq 30\%$ ” to “ $\leq 65\%/\geq 35\%$,” and to replace the word “freeze” with “modify” in the first sentence of the option 1 written description. Amendment moved by Commissioner Akenson

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment failed
 - Aye- Commissioners Buckmaster and Akenson
 - Nay- Commissioners Weber, Graybill and Kehoe
 - Commissioner Mclsaac announced motion will fail regardless of Chair’s vote and did not vote

The main motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used in

2019 unless the Upriver [spring Chinook] run size update is more than 129% of the preseason forecast. Amendment moved by Commissioner Mclsaac.

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment withdrawn

The main motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used in 2019 unless the Upriver run size update is more than 129% of the Upriver spring Chinook pre-season forecast of 99,300. Amendment moved by Commissioner Mclsaac.

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment failed
 - Aye – Commissioners Weber, Kehoe
 - Nay- Commissioners Graybill, Akenson, and Buckmaster
 - Commissioner Mclsaac announced motion will fail regardless of Chair’s vote and did not vote

To be used only in 2019, the main motion is amended such that the 80%/20% sport/commercial allocation, with no buffer applied to the commercial share and no mainstem commercial fishing, is to be used unless the Upriver run size update is more than 129% of the Upriver spring Chinook pre-season forecast of 99,300. Amendment moved by Commissioner Buckmaster.

- Seconded- Commissioner Kehoe
- Amendment passed
 - Aye- Commissioners Weber, Kehoe, Buckmaster
 - Nay- Commissioners Graybill and Akenson
 - Commissioner Mclsaac announced motion would pass without a Chair’s vote and did not vote

Transmission to Full Commissions

The committee discussed how to carry the motion to their respective full Commissions. The motion and amendment was provided to committee members in writing (see attached Transmission Document).

Final chinook salmon allocations, as moved and amended:

- Spring 80%/20% in 2019 (unless run update is >129% of preseason forecast) then 70%/30%
- Summer 70%/30%
- Fall $\leq 70\%$ / $\geq 30\%$ of the most constraining stock

Future Process and Schedule

Next meeting is March 14th and will be hosted by Washington at the Ridgefield office.

Additional meeting dates were discussed and identified:

- March 26th – webinar, IT host TBD
- April 17th – St. Helens Oregon

Policies and Regulations in 2020 and Beyond

Commissioners briefly walked through a draft document of range of alternatives for 2020 and beyond regarding the sharing of the sport fishery impacts between lower river and upper river sport fisheries. They plan to revisit this topic in April.

Conclusionary Matters

Staff Assignments:

- Provide more analysis on Youngs Bay- look at if there could be any further explanations for the trend line on the SAB harvest share, and identify what other options are there to increase escapement of SABs to Youngs Bay
- Review of the Range of Alternatives display and be prepared for further discussion at the next PRC meeting.