

Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review

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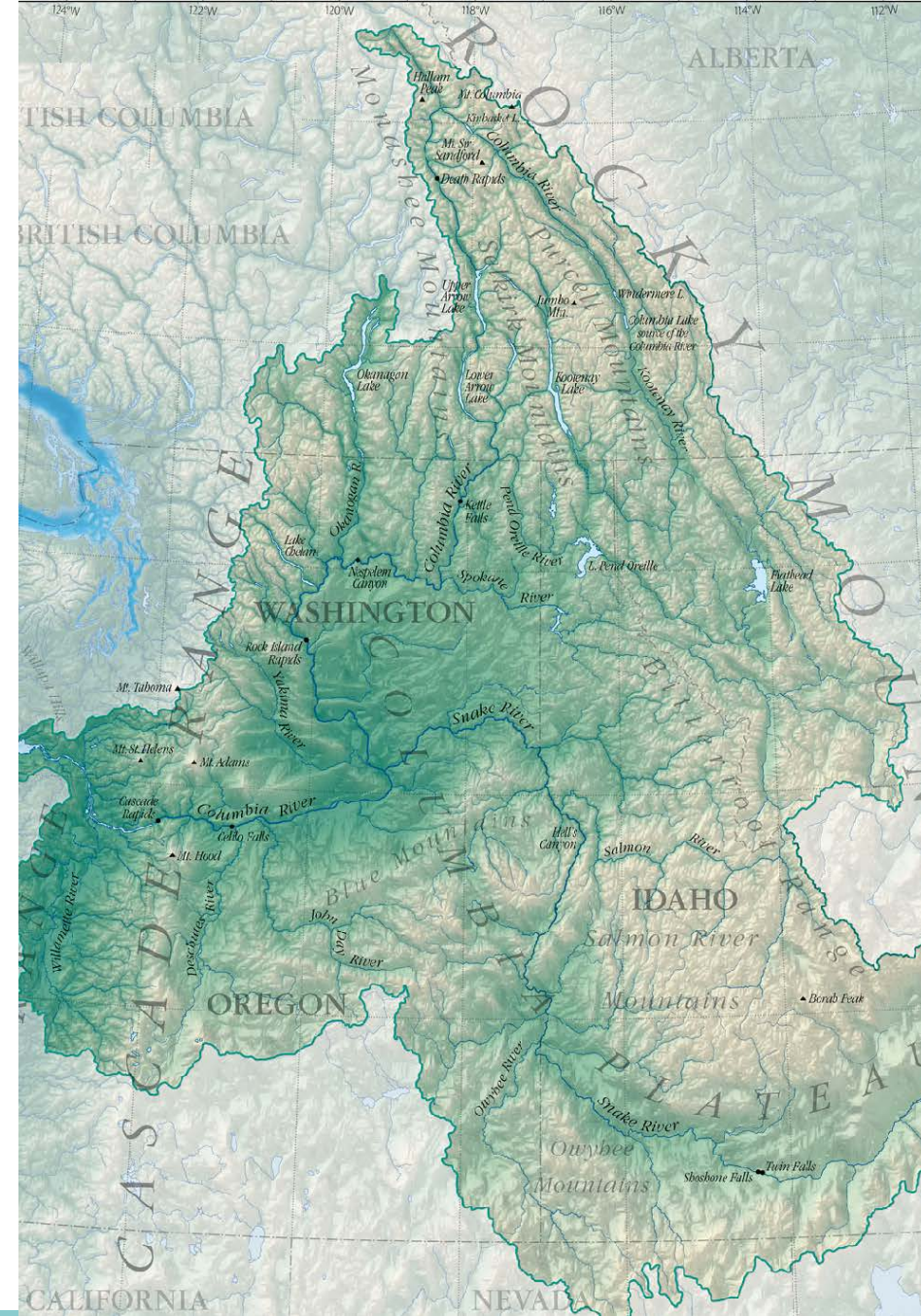
Overview

Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW) update

- I. Background
- II. CRW
 - a. Process
 - b. Recommendation
 - c. Public Comment Review
 - d. Next Steps

Columbia River Commercial Gillnet Fishery

- I. 2021-23 Biennium Budget Request: Phase 1 License Reduction Program



Background – Harvest Reform & Policy C-3620

OR Governor Kitzhaber Plan and Joint-State workgroup report (2012)

- I. Further prioritize recreational fisheries in the mainstem
- II. Enhance Select Areas (off-channel) for commercial
- III. Transition from gill nets to alternative gears in the mainstem

WA Commission adopted Policy C-3620 (2013)

- I. Based upon the 2012 joint-state workgroup recommendations
 - a. In recognizing uncertainty, the policy was to depend on continued economic and biological monitoring, and rely on adaptive management
- II. Modified in 2017 and 2019, and expires in 2023
 - a. Director Delegation for 2020 only



Background – Policy Review & PRC

Policy review (2018)

- I. Summarize activities and evaluate results (2013-2017) compared to pre-policy years (2010-12) and incorporated Commission and public input.
 - a. Large economic benefits expected for both commercial and recreational fisheries expected from the Policy were not observed during the implementation period.

Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC; 2018-2019)

- I. 3 Washington and 3 Oregon Commissioners
 - a. Achieve concurrent policy/regulations
 - b. Long-term policy (2020 and beyond)



Background – PRC and Director Delegation

PRC

- I. Develop framework and key goals (conservation, concurrency, economics)
- II. January-October 2019 meetings
 - a. PRC developed recommendation that was approved by WA Commission (2019)
 - b. Refined list of alternatives for consideration and possible language for long-term policy
- III. PRC was suspended due to OR Commission turnover (Jan 2020)

Director Delegation

- I. Achieve concurrency for 2020 only with ODFW
- II. Agreed to OR rule on all issues with one exception (sport/commercial spring allocation)



CRW – Process

CRW created to continue making progress while the PRC is suspended (February 2020)

- I. CRW members are Commissioners Graybill, Kehoe, and McIsaac
- II. Tasked with developing recommendations based on what has been learned since implementation to the WA Commission for consideration
 - a. Key goals - align with PRC (conservation, orderly fisheries, maintain/enhance economic well-being)

March 20, May 27, June 10 and July 21, 2020 meetings

- I. Framework development
- II. Refine range of alternatives for consideration
- III. Policy language
- IV. Develop single recommendation to WA Commission
- V. Public participation
 - a. Public comment occurred during May-July meetings
 - b. wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/columbia-river-policy-review



CRW – Recommendation

CRW recommendation of draft Policy language (June 10, 2020)

- I. Guiding principles
- II. General provisions
- III. Fishery specific provisions
- IV. Adaptive management provisions
- V. Delegation of authority

Additional resources for review

- I. Adaptive Management Intent of the 2013 Policy (June 10)
- II. Spring Chinook abundance-based matrix: Snake River recreational fishery (July 1)



CRW – Public Comment Review

Public Comment Review of CRW recommendation

- I. Comments received verbally and electronically
 - I. CRW and Commission meetings
 - II. Policy Review and WA Commission website commenting form and emails
- II. June 10 through noon July 21, 2020
- III. Policy C-3620 and/or CRW recommendation topics only
- IV. Categorized 'support' or 'concern' about revisions
 - I. Some comments may be contained in multiple categories



CRW – Public Comment Review

Topic/Category

- I. CRW recommendation – support: 25 (5%); concern: 494 (95%)
 - a. 465 of the concerns support 'original policy'
- II. Recreational priority – support: 165 (100%); concern: 0 (0%)
- III. Maintain/increase commercial allocation – support: 7 (88%); concern: 1 (13%)
- IV. Gill nets – Support 7 (1%), concern: 495 (99%)
- V. Alternative Gear – support: 8 (89%); concern: 1 (11%)
- VI. Scientific monitoring – support: 6 (75%); concern: 2 (25%)
- VII. Increase hatchery production – support: 6 (100%); concern: 0 (0%)
- VIII. Abundance-based management – support 3 (100%); concern 0 (0%)



CRW – Public Comment Review

List of suggestions

Revert to 'original policy'

Remove gill nets

Increase commercial allocation

Abundance-based management

On-board monitoring

Habitat restoration

Mark-selective fisheries (sport and commercial)

Third-party oversight (i.e., consultant)

Update baseline/economic metrics

Support CRW recommendation

Increase recreational priority

Increase hatchery production

Log books for guides

Mortality rate studies

Select Area enhancement

Apply adaptive management

Finish Policy update process



CRW – Next Steps

- I. No action expected today on the CRW recommendation
- II. CRW may consider an additional workgroup meeting prior to September 10-12 Commission meeting
- III. CRW recommends potential final decision on changes to Policy C-3620 during September Commission meeting
- IV. Public commenting remains open and will continue to be posted on the Policy Review website
 - a. wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/columbia-river-policy-review



Questions?



Cascade Locks 9-8-1929

image courtesy of Portland District
US Army Corps Of Engineers





Columbia River Commercial Gillnet Fishery

**2021-23 BN Budget Request: Phase 1 License
Reduction Program**

Three-pronged approach to restructure the CR commercial fishery

License Reduction

- Align capacity with harvest availability

Marketing Initiative

- Strengthen local markets

Alternative Gear

- Develop a toolbox of gears



Policy guidance on license reduction

- Current guidance
 - Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy C-3620
 - Guidance from Governor Inslee during 2020 budget negotiations
 - Authority for license reduction (RCW 77.80)
- Considerations for C-3620 policy review re: license reduction



Progress to Date (Sep 2019 – July 2020)

- Hired consultant (Resource Logic)
- Researched license reduction programs to:
 - assess design and funding options
 - identify lessons learned
- Analyzed fish ticket and licensing data to assess trends in run size, landings and ex-vessel value over time
- Discussed license reduction with the fleet (letter to license holders, virtual town hall)
- Consulted with a small group of industry members and advisors to consider program structures and scope a budget request for a Phase 1 program.
- Regular communication with ODFW



License reduction research

- Researched 7 license reduction programs
 - Oregon Columbia River gillnet buyback proposal, 2018
 - Washington coastal Dungeness crab, 2008
 - Washington sea urchin and sea cucumber, 2002-2013
 - Washington commercial salmon fisheries, 1995-1998
 - Pacific Groundfish limited entry trawl, 2003
 - Maryland and Virginia blue crab, 2009
 - Canada Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative, 2007-current

Draft summary available on WDFW website ([link](#))



License reduction research

- Researched legal frameworks and funding pathways
 - Federal disaster funding (MSA 312 (a) and IFA 308 (b and d))
 - Federal capacity reduction (MSA 312 (b))
 - Federal appropriation (not linked to MSA or IFA)
 - Federal grants (SK and NFWF grant programs)
 - State funding
 - Industry funding (fees and private financing)
 - Private funding (businesses, philanthropic organizations)



Decision points and design considerations

What are your goals?

What are you purchasing back?

How many should you purchase?

How much will the program cost?

Designing a program to meet your goals

What are the rules for participation?

How many iterations and how long should bidding remain open?

How should you structure the bid process?

What's the value of a license?

What restrictions should be placed on future fishery participation?

What are the funding options?

What external impacts should you consider?



Lessons Learned



It's critical to establish clear goals and objectives.



You have to secure funding for the program.



There is a close relationship between goals and funding.



Stakeholder engagement is key to success.



It's important to close loopholes.



Be aware of impacts you want to avoid.



Consider incentives and disincentives to participation.



Must consider Willapa and Grays Harbor due to license structure



Can make first steps without Oregon, must have partnership with them for final steps



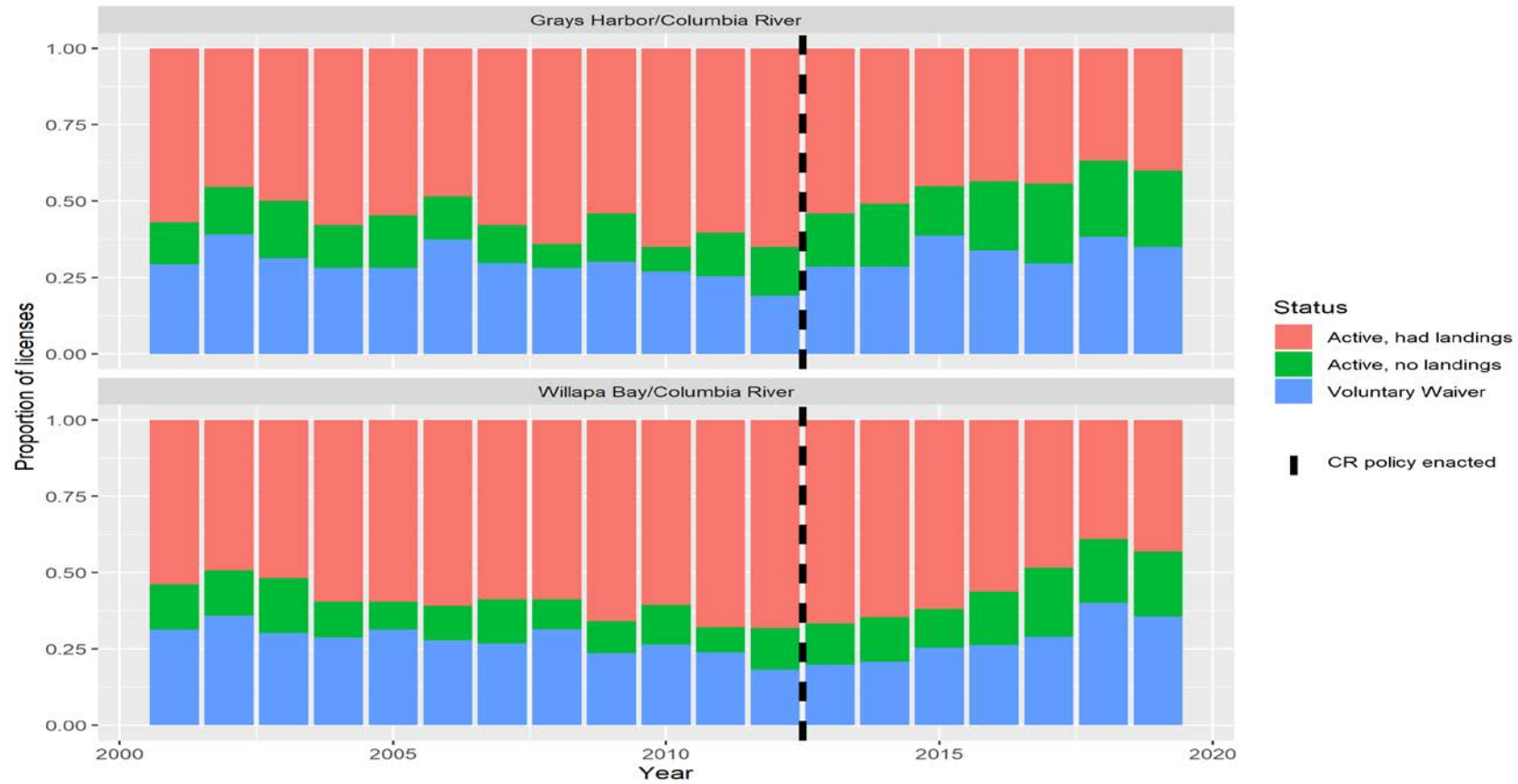
Phase 1 License Reduction Program

Goal: remove excess capacity in the fleet to allow for more targeted development of subsequent phases.

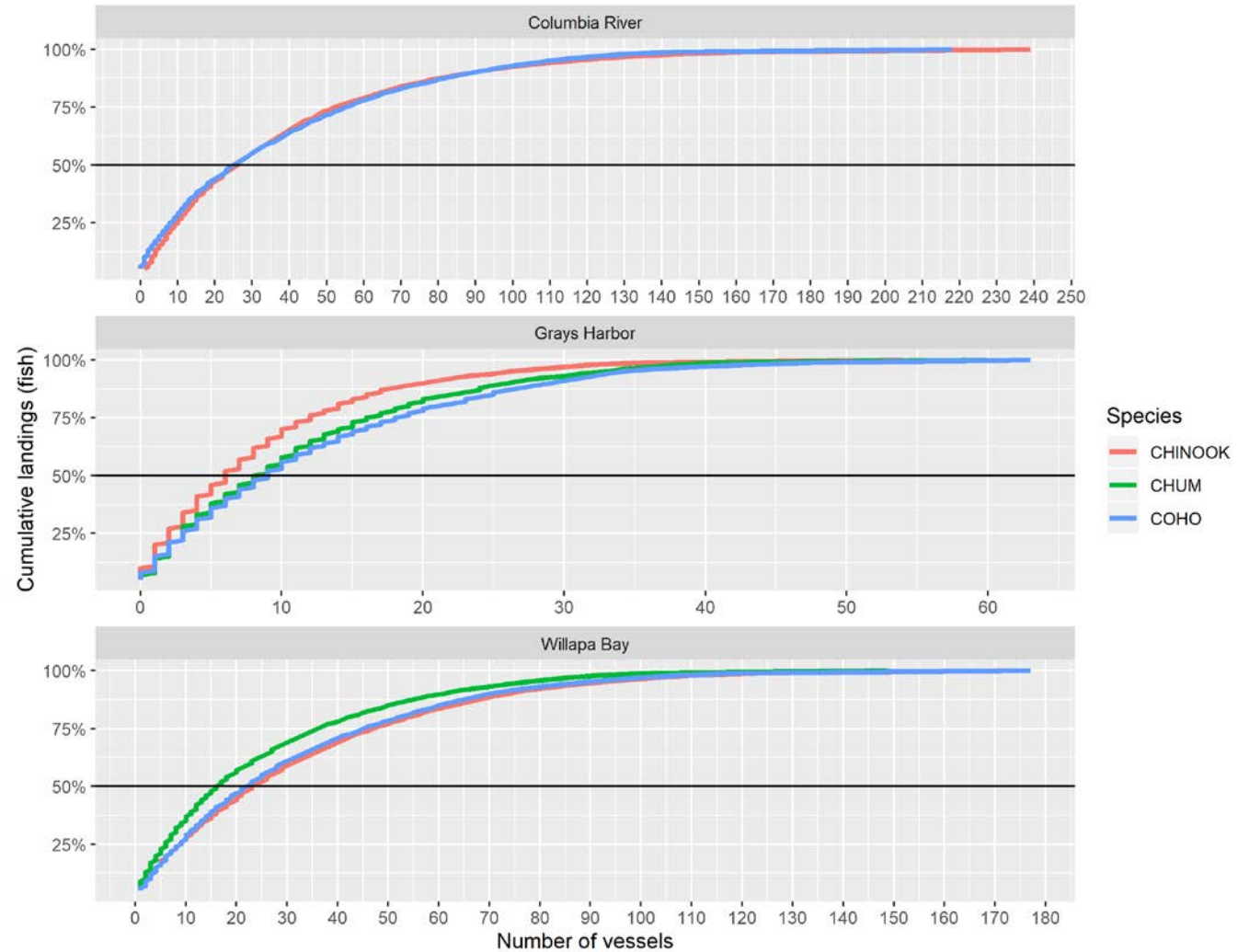
- Approach: voluntary purchase of CR/Willapa and CR/Grays gillnet licenses
- Eligibility: all CR/Willapa and CR/Grays license holders (regardless of geography, landings or license status)
- Target number of licenses to purchase: approx. 70 licenses
- Program structure: fixed bid (single price offered to all license holders)
- Purchase price: fixed, potentially \$10,000
- Bid acceptance criteria: bids are accepted on a “first come first served” basis
- Cost: \$1 million (\$680k for license purchase; \$320k administrative)



Proportional license status through time



Cumulative landings



Phase 1 License Reduction Program

Phase 1 implementation timeline

Summer - Fall 2020	Present to FWC; Submit budget proposal to OFM
Winter – Spring 2021	Receive funding
Spring – Summer 2021	Rulemaking and public comment
Summer – Fall 2021	Implement Round 1 of Phase 1
Summer – Fall 2022	Implement Round 2 of Phase 1
Winter 2022	Submit Phase 1 report to Commission, Governor’s office and Legislature



Developing Future Program Phases

Phase 1: "Trimmed fleet"

Goal: remove excess capacity in the fleet to allow for more targeted development of subsequent phases.

Outcomes: improved predictability of participation in the fishery; create momentum for engaging Oregon; demonstrate progress while aligning with Commission process.



Pre-Phase 2 Steps:

- Fish and Wildlife Commission policy reviews complete (Columbia River and Willapa Bay)
- Full engagement by Oregon in development of a joint-state program
- Develop options for restructuring licenses (Columbia River, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor)



Phase 2: "Streamlined fleet"



Phase 3: "Lean fleet"

Outcomes: improved pre-season and post season planning capabilities; economically viable and durable fleet.





Questions?