



Chairman Carpenter & Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Follow up preliminary comments on recent WFWC meeting in July/August

RE: salmon management

CCF/CRCFA president Dale Beasley listened in to the recent WFWC meeting for 3 days of salmon discussions but did not speak on the ZOOM opportunities for 2 minutes which is inadequate to do anything but list one or two substantive comments; please review our previous submitted written comments on WFWC salmon policy prior to the recent meeting. We will comment further once all salmon materials resulting from this Commission meeting are thoroughly reviewed.

Salmon policies under consideration **C – 3620, C – 3622, and C – 3619** all need to further evolve toward producing abundant Washington salmon for HARVEST with **NO fisherman or Orca left behind** as good public policy with **"Dinner Plate Results"** for **ALL** our state citizens that will dramatically increase JOBS in our coastal and rural demographically depressed communities that has resulted from lost historical ACCESS to salmon due to multiple adverse stressors. Please review the Legislative mandate (RCW 77.04.012) for salmon that goes well beyond the 1st priority of conservation of the resource.

- ✓ **Commission/Department Mandate of the Washington State Legislature – RCW 77.04.012 – "The department shall promote orderly fisheries and shall enhance and improve recreational and commercial fishing in this state. Further stating, the department shall seek to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state."**

Salmon management has two important aspects:

Prevent the DEPLETION of both fish and fishermen

HSRG along with other past deplorable salmon policies have been failures that has resulted in highly significant reduced salmon fishing opportunity and seriously depleted the **"economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry"** that the commission is now addressing for correction utilizing adaptive management that is now headed in a far better direction but may not be going far enough to put Washington salmon back on the Dinner Plates of ALL our citizens which MUST become the intended accountability OUTCOME. The Commission MUST also recognize that the 2012 heinous Kitzhaber plan for the Columbia River has FAILED to live up to any of the multiple promises to the fishing industry and has resulted in **"significant deterioration of the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry"**. The intended consequence of ALL Washington salmon policy MUST once again not only address conservation of ESA listed salmon but provide abundant ACCESS to harvestable salmon for all fishermen.

Historical Review of lost fishing opportunity

All too often in the past the fishing industry has been depleted due to undeserved fish policy changes that started way back in 1977 when WDFW began to manipulate salmon policy and fish stocks, "Washington fish for Washington Fishermen" which sounded great at the time to everyone that did not fully understand the **unintended consequences** leading to significantly reduced fishing opportunity which has distressed our coastal Fish Dependent Communities and still is a total FAILURE. This salmon policy eliminated all Toutle River Coho from lower Columbia River hatcheries and instituted the Cowlitz Coho that turned right leaving the Columbia River was intended to provide Coho for the Westport charter fleet that at the time numbered 240 vessels, today just 18 – economically devastating not just to the charterboat industry but also ALL Washington fishermen both recreational and commercial. Please note that the Cowlitz Coho were less than half the size of the Toutle River Coho that averaged over 12# at maturity. Salmon stock manipulation/elimination had a DRASTIC reduction in the size of the fish returning and began the downward spiral that led to serious 90+% depletion of fishing harvest opportunity that has ended in a crash landing for all Washington salmon fishermen.

Long term wellbeing and stability of the fishing industry of course takes more than simple hatchery production increases to replace the 160 million salmon smolt lost production that has been suspended over the last 2 decades that has been the **knee on the neck** of our **Fish Dependent Communities** across Washington and left our citizens' Dinner Plates Empty. Remediation ACTIONS much needed.

- ✓ **WDFW draft 25 year Strategic Plan appears to be total elimination of all Commercial Fishing in Washington State with NO mention of commercial fishing or any significant involvement of commercial fishing in the plan development – reprehensible! Needs a complete redraft** and must rejuvenate "**economic well-being and stability of the entire fishing industry**" including **both recreational and commercial fishing** as directed by the legislature.

Our Washington iconic salmon will continue to decline unless we address the full range of decimation, but without crucial hatchery production increases the rest will not be able to **put Washington salmon back on our dinner plates** for all our citizens to enjoy, nor will the STARVATION of the Orcas and Rural Fish Dependent Communities deteriorated DEMOGRAPHICS be abated. **ACCESS to salmon for HARVEST takes more than rhetoric and policy change; it takes aggressive ACTION** at multiple levels. There is NO substitute Action available that is better at addressing lost Access to salmon by our citizens than increased salmon hatchery production that approaches past results of full Dinner Plates. History has shown us that the ocean can handle significantly more salmon than it is being presented with today. If the salmon are not produced, they cannot rear to maturity and provide healthy food for our citizens that need more than a visual experience from our iconic salmon. ALL citizens deserve the healthy benefits of Washington salmon on their dinner plates; all of our citizens include the forgotten consumer.

WFWC/WDFW MUST realize that pristine salmon habitat in Washington is disappearing (much of it permanently behind 100's of dams) much faster than expensive habitat restoration efforts can replace even some of the historical habitat losses. Avian and pinniped **PREDATION** of salmon has significantly increased as hatchery salmon production has significantly plummeted, deleterious cumulative forces resulting in significant lost fishing opportunity – CUMULATIVE loss must be addressed at all levels but

without significant hatchery production increases, all citizens will continue to lose more access to fish for our dinner plate enjoyment.

Aggressive ACTIONS required

- ✓ **Manage Salmon for Abundant Harvest with NO Fisherman left behind as Good Public Policy**
- ✓ C – 3620, C – 3622, and C – 3619 are headed in the RIGHT direction – go further
- ✓ Anthropocene adverse salmon impacts must be remediated – **RAISE MORE SALMON**
- ✓ Public Interest is well served by increased salmon production
- ✓ Seriously reduce salmon **PREDATION** (become advocates for modernization of ESA & MMPA)
- ✓ Continue to save salmon habitat and prioritize replacement of lost habitat where most appropriate
- ✓ Continue to open blocked salmon habitat increasing spawning potential and rearing
- ✓ CCF/CRCFA fully supports salmon and dams coexisting – both BENEFIT society immensely
- ✓ Encourage the BPA to Raise More Salmon beyond ESA requirements, more West of Bonneville
 - One third of our BPA electrical rate is attributed to salmon, we need harvest accountability
 - Need a return to Salmon JOB mitigation hatcheries
- ✓ This list is representative and not all inclusive,

The most reasonable and prudent alternatives to our citizens lost access to salmon is to RAISE MORE SALMON, control predation, reduce pollution, protect salmon habitat, and rehabilitate the habitat where most appropriate, where accountability leads to positive OUTCOMES for abundant salmon harvest with NO fisherman left behind. Major AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS required.

Thank you for beginning to return salmon back to abundance,

Dale Beasley, president CCF/CRCFA