

To all,

Boy what a pickle CCA and NSIA have gotten themselves into and are looking for a scape goat. They endorsed these policies and budgets to get rid of the Columbia River Gill nets pushing for the Wild Fish Conservancy Pound Nets or fish traps to become the new tool to catch the excess hatchery fish. After much research I have done and talking with the region 5 WDFW managers (Columbia River) these are not ever going to be a replacement for commercial catch of excess hatchery fish. The permitting process alone is probably going to keep them from ever being able to be used. Also they cannot handle thousands of fish at a time. They have to deal with each fish one at a time, try to see it with an underwater camera to decide if its a releasable fish or not. It is not a stream lined process.

The governor has deemed that any impacts left over from the Fish traps would go to conservation. That just removed the Lower Columbia River (Tule) impacts for the river to use. So now where are they going to get impacts to fish? The ocean fisheries! NSIA Liz is saying that the ocean is strangling the river fishery. The predators are acting like victims!!!! This overfished fishery is bursting at the seams with so many fishers. They created this problem, they can live with it, as we are not going to give up our ocean impacts. The Buoy 10 fishery has been growing out of control for years due to Oregon not putting any restrictions on their guide licenses. They are open ended with no limits. So anyone can buy an Oregon guide license to fish in the Buoy 10 fishery. In Washington, you have to have a limited entry license to fish below Bonneville. This is the same charter license that is used to fish the ocean and Puget Sound. Washington state is in control. There are only 124 charter licenses. Since the Queets coho has been the restricting factor on the Ocean Fishery the last two years.

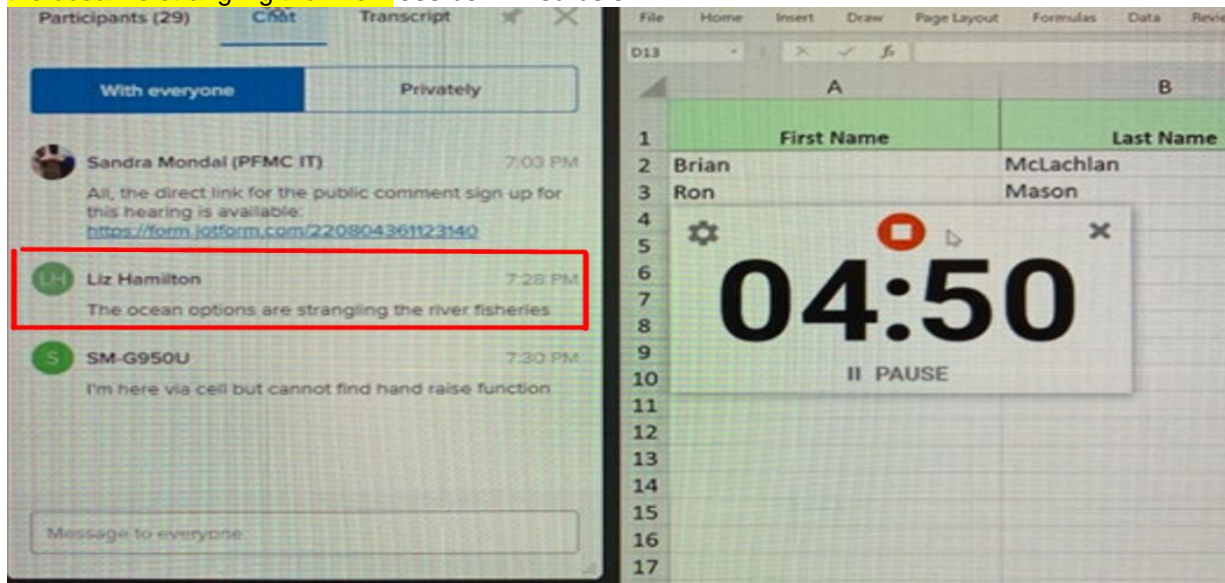
Oregon state has 1900 Guide licenses. Can you imagine if all showed up at the same time at Buoy 10 as it is the hottest fishery.

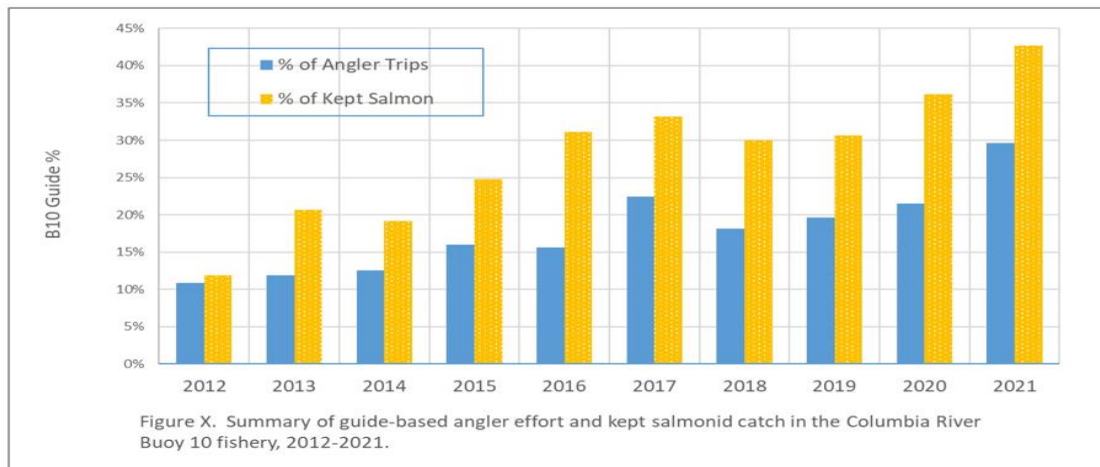
Facts: This chart is from Oregon state that shows that the Buoy 10 guides have gone from taking 12% of the fish in 2012 to taking 43% of the fish in 2021. See below.

Columbia River 2021 Sport numbers: 50,690 Fall Chinook

Washington Coast Chinook numbers 27,250

So the Columbia River is taking almost double what our ocean fisheries are taking and they are saying the ocean is strangling the river? See box in red below.





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Now take into account that this fishery has gone over its Tule impacts for the last two years and used them from the Westport fishery as we have had the Queets limitations keeping us from using our impacts. This year the restrictions of the Queets are gone and we should be able to start right out of the gate at 7 days a week. Our ocean fishery in Westport has used restriction to 5 days a week to be able to manage our season to play out till the end to not go over our impacts, then add 7 days a week or 2 fish limit as we can. Now we plan on using our impacts and fish like we have been waiting for. But they are asking for the ocean to give up impacts so they can use them. The ocean alternative one is set at 3.8% ocean tule impacts. This is for the entire ocean fishery, and its 10.1% in the river and they want more? The river gets the largest impacts and yet they want to take more from us.

Now getting back to this budget it reestablishes the Washington academy of sciences back in to make a new set of guide lines/oversite when all of that is already written into the Columbia River Compact and is breaking it. This is a well written letter below from friend that works on the Columbia River fisheries and is very intelligent.

**"We have been working on the buyback proviso and it's associated allocation language but not on the Academy of Science section. Besides the fact that it's basically just another way to attack the current fishery, *they are ignoring the fact that the mortality rates aren't WDFW rates, they are the rates approved by the Technical Advisory Committee of the CR Compact, which is made up of Federal, State and Tribal biologists. They are the ones that set those rates, not WDFW. To suggest that the legislature would determine the correct rates based on what the hacks at the WAS says would be breaking the Compact. It's one thing to set impact sharing, another to challenge the mortality rates. But it sounds like it's right out of the WFC playbook. Another misguided waste of money,* brought to you by our leadership in Olympia."**

This budget proviso if passed is going to set us back way further than HSRG did. These politicians they are working over are way over their heads and this is dangerous for us to keep fishing in the ocean. This is why we have to ask for the budget proviso to be

vetoed at least the fishery part. See the two attachments where CCA Nello and NSIA/NMTA Carl Burke testified to take away the public's access to the WDFW by making our commission advisory only and put the director under Commissioner of public lands. Out of 306 comments and testimonies there were only 4 in favor of this and 2 of the 4 were Carl and Nello.

Now they have been sending letters to our PSA Chapters to support this budget. Remember they fought us to not remove HSRG from WDFW Salmon Policy. We did it against them. We need to stay course and do everything in our power to keep those hatcheries putting out fish. There is a 70/30 or 80/20 split on the CR and the sports have the highest impacts due to the fact that we take the most fish. I can live with them leaving the fishery alone and keep producing fish and let the commercial catch the overages. This is the way we can increase hatchery production.

You don't get to sink the ship and then brag about the number of lifeboats you filled.

Please do not support this budget in anyway.

I am open to any questions.

Thanks

Ron