



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia WA

July 24, 2007

2007007031

Ms. Patty O'Toole
Program Implementation Manager
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Innovative Proposal 200755700-Evaluate Traditional Gears for Selective Harvest

Dear Ms. O'Toole:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitted this proposal to explore additional opportunities to use alternative gears to advance selective commercial fisheries in the lower Columbia River. Our interest in advancing selective fisheries methods is to provide stability for future fisheries while meeting conservation objectives. Tangle-net gear was evaluated for spring Chinook through a 2000 BPA project and has been successfully implemented as a key selective harvest and conservation tool. We see alternative gear testing as a critical step towards expanding options to access hatchery produced salmon while minimizing impacts to depressed wild stocks.

The WDFW proposal received a positive review from the ISRP and is supported by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group. However, we are aware of concerns expressed by Columbia River Commercial fishery representatives regarding specific details of the proposal, in particular a reference of endorsement by individuals and by the Columbia River Commercial Fishery Advisors.

We agree that coordination with the industry and endorsement by certain individuals, as expressed in the proposal, has not yet occurred. We regret that we were unable to fully communicate with the industry and recognize that the proposal would have been more credible had that occurred. We are aware that participation of the commercial fishing industry is a critical element to the success of this project.

We stand by the importance of advancing the selective fishing concept and remain interested in implementing this project through innovative project funding. However, we are convinced the project must be closely coordinated with the industry and include fishery manager participation from WDFW. We intend to solicit input from the Columbia Commercial Advisory Group through scheduled meetings with fishery managers beginning September 11. Those discussions would include: schedule for

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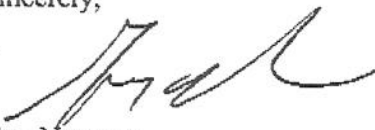
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testing particular gear types, species focus, test areas, social and economic considerations, hatchery production implications, future use of current gear, research results, use of historical information, connection to gear testing elsewhere, additional industry ideas, and future management intent.

For more information regarding this proposal and WDFW plans for coordination with the Commercial Industry, please contact Patrick Frazier (WDFW Regional Fishery Program Manager) at 360-906-6711.

Sincerely,



Guy Norman
Regional Director

Cc:

Jeff Koenings, WDFW
Phil Anderson, WDFW
Bill Tweit, WDFW
Roy Elicker, ODFW
Ed Bowles, ODFW

Tom Karic, NWPCC
Larry Cassidy, NWPCC
Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group