



# About Salmon For All

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Salmon for all is a nonprofit trade association of Columbia River commercial fishermen and processors, representing the Columbia River foodfish industry since 1958. Our organization was founded to provide the means to oppose misguided and ill-informed efforts to ban the Columbia River gillnet fishery. More than fifty years later, we are still fighting the good fight to preserve our way of life, as well as consumers' access to wholesome and nutritious Columbia River salmon and sturgeon.

Our industry has gone through many changes during the past half century. From a fishery in the 1950s dominated by large cannery operations with thousands of fishermen and large workforces of cannery workers, at the outset of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century we represent a handful of processors and a much smaller fishing fleet. This greatly reduced effort is in response to multiple listings of Columbia River salmonids under the Endangered Species Act. The states of Oregon and Washington co-manage the fisheries of the Columbia River under the Columbia River Compact, a bi-state agreement dating back to 1915, which was adopted under federal law in 1918. All Columbia River fisheries are managed with conservation as the first objective, which all user groups, despite our many differences, properly support.

All Columbia River fisheries are conducted under the *US v. Oregon* Fisheries Management Plan, which calls for catch-balancing between Treaty Tribal Fisheries and non-Indian recreational and commercial fisheries. Columbia River harvests are further guided by decisions of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, one of several regional management councils set up under the auspices of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as well as the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the United States and Canada. Columbia River fisheries are among the most complex and highly regulated fisheries in the world. It is in this context that our fishery has continued to adapt over the last several decades.

The Columbia River gillnet has evolved as a highly directed, selective harvest tool using the principles of time, area, and gear selection (TAG selectivity). During the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the fishery was further refined with the introduction and adaptation of the tangle net and live recovery box, both developed in British Columbia, Canada for mark-selective commercial fisheries. The tangle net with live box is the preferred gear for the mark-selective fishery for Columbia River spring Chinook, and is being studied for possible adaptation for the fishery for lower Columbia coho in October.

Other modes of fishing also are now being studied for potential introduction to early fall fisheries for fall Chinook and late fall fisheries for coho. The standard large-mesh gillnet already is the most selective gear form available both before and after the peak of the fall Chinook run, when target stocks are abundant and stock of concern are not. TAG selectivity has proven to an extremely effective management tool in this context. But, at present, there is no readily available mark-selective gear form with which to conduct a mark-selective commercial fishery during peak abundance of the fall Chinook run, when stocks of concern are highly abundant, and water temperatures of 65°-70° F alone imperil the survival of fish released from any gear form, including hook and line. No study of hooking mortality ever has been conducted on the Columbia River. Until such data is in hand, the true impacts of mark-selective sport fisheries on salmon recovery will be unknown.

NMFS has warned that unless excess hatchery tule fall Chinook and coho can be kept off the natural spawning grounds, hatchery production for these stocks will be defunded. Our fishery will continue to seek new ways to selectively harvest these stocks, which are the bread and butter of off-shore commercial and recreational fisheries upon which many of our coastal communities depend.