



Columbia River Fisheries Overview

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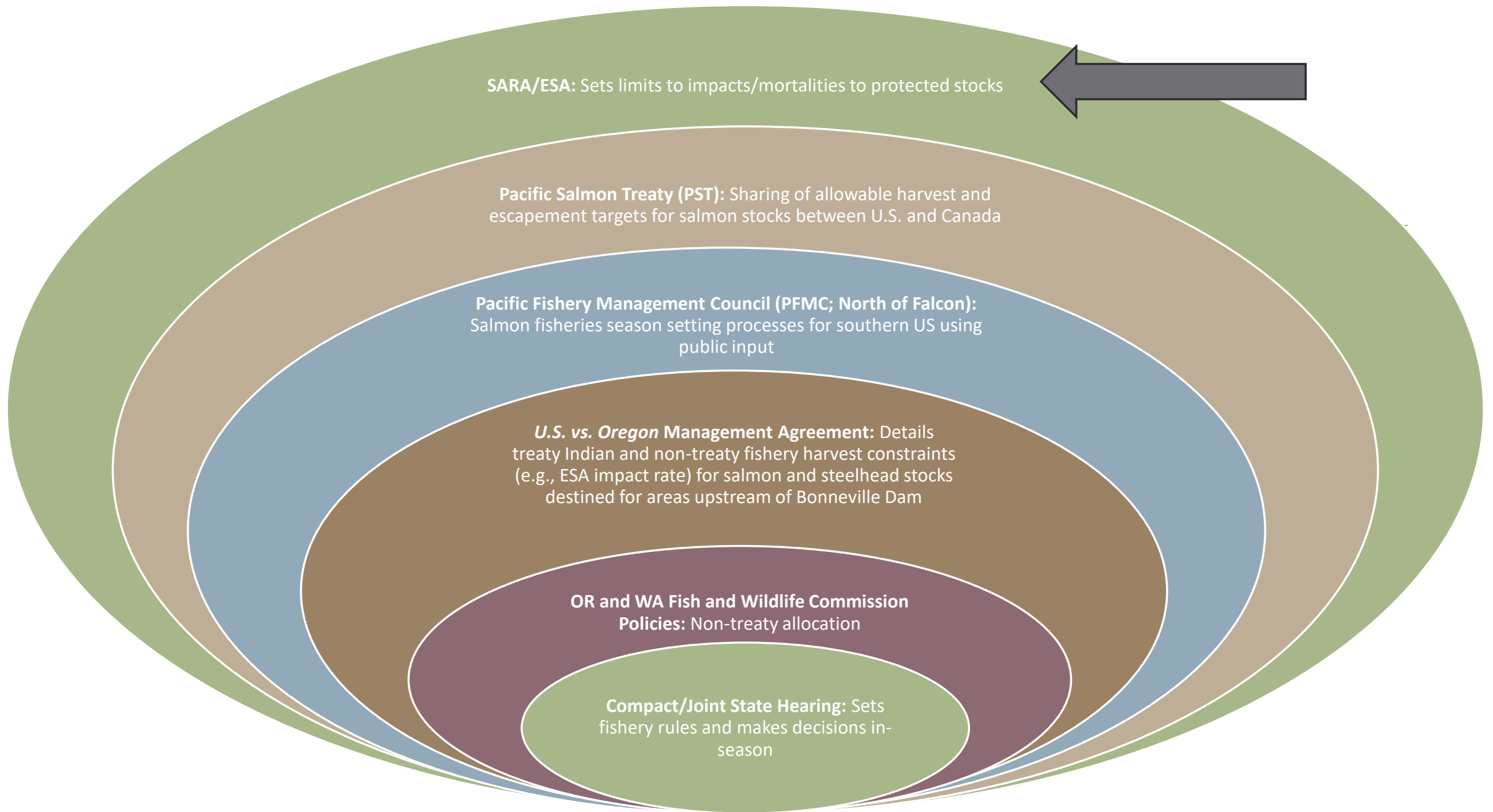
Forums, Law, and Policy



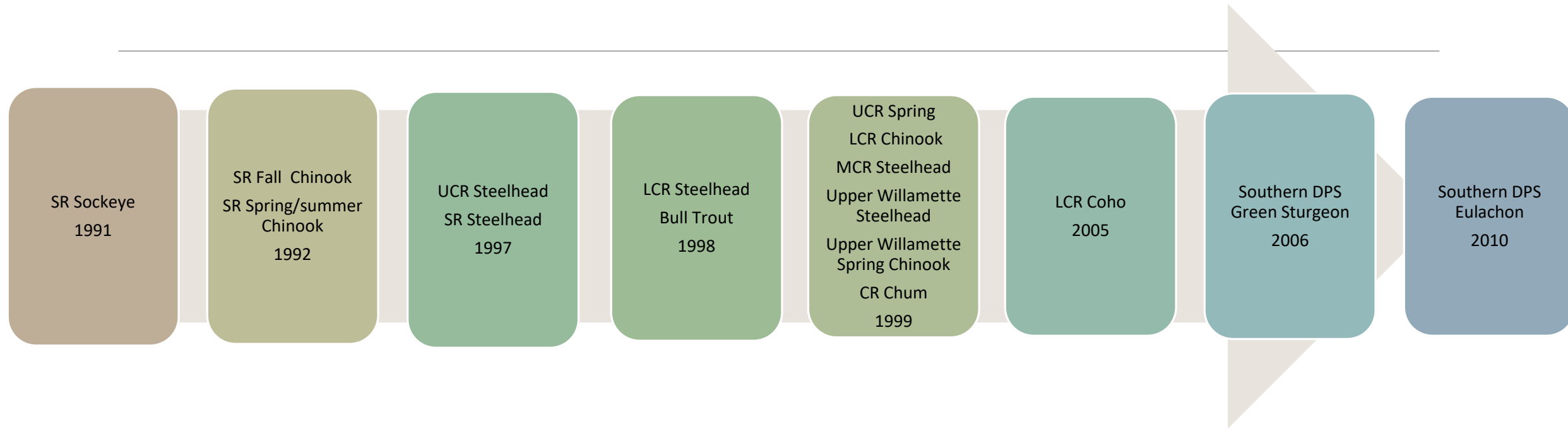
Pacific Northwest Has Unique Treaty Protected Fisheries

Combined ceded area

- 66,591 square miles
- More than 25% of the entire Columbia Basin
- 55% of rivers and streams that are still accessible to salmon
- Includes almost all salmon habitat above Bonneville Dam

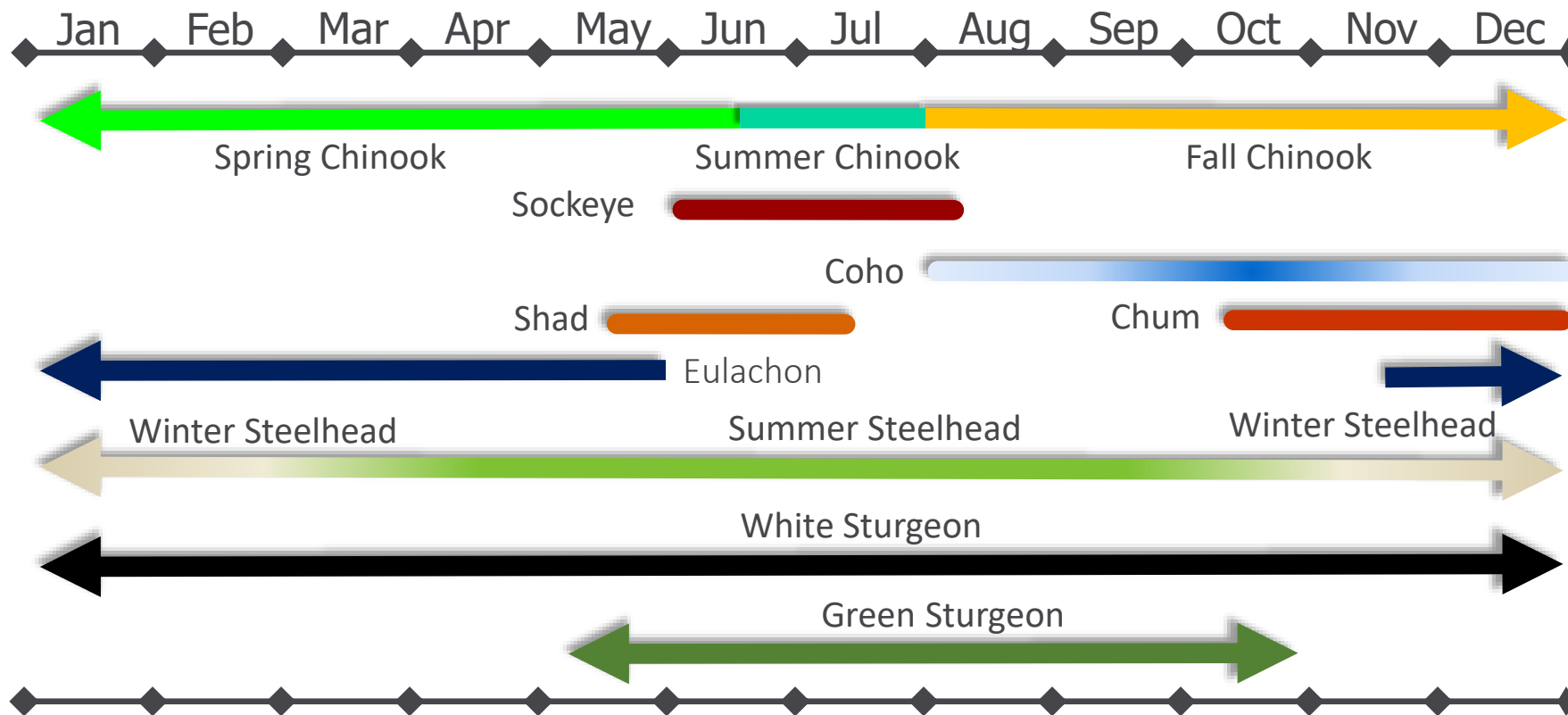


ESA-Listed Fish Species



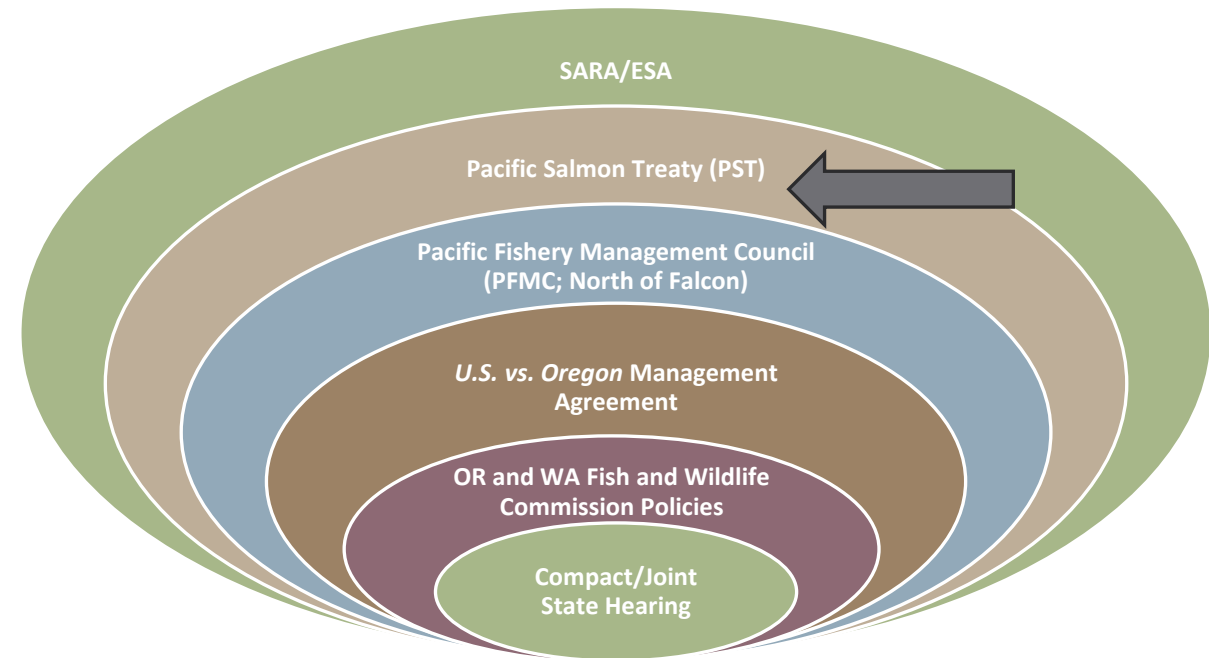
Managed Resources

Annual presence



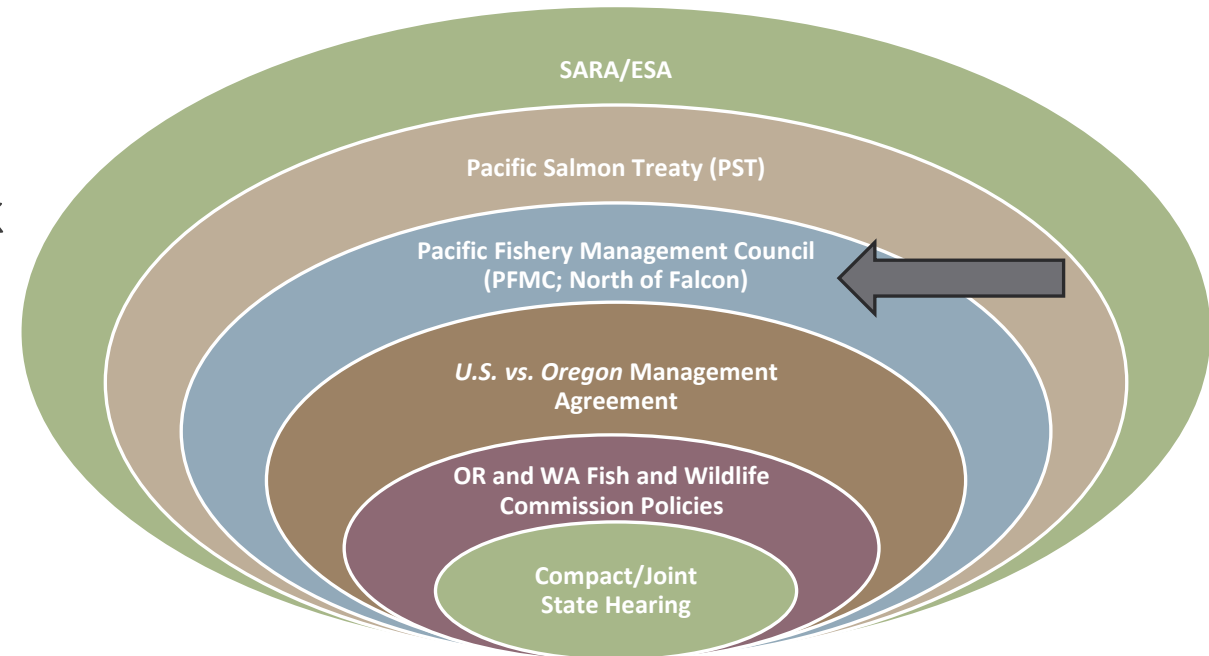
1985 Pacific Salmon Treaty

- Purpose: Framework for fairly sharing harvest and receiving production benefits between the US and Canada
- Established a Commission to implement the Treaty
 - Appropriates finances for Treaty implementation
 - Manages harvest to ensure escapement targets are met



North of Falcon/PFMC

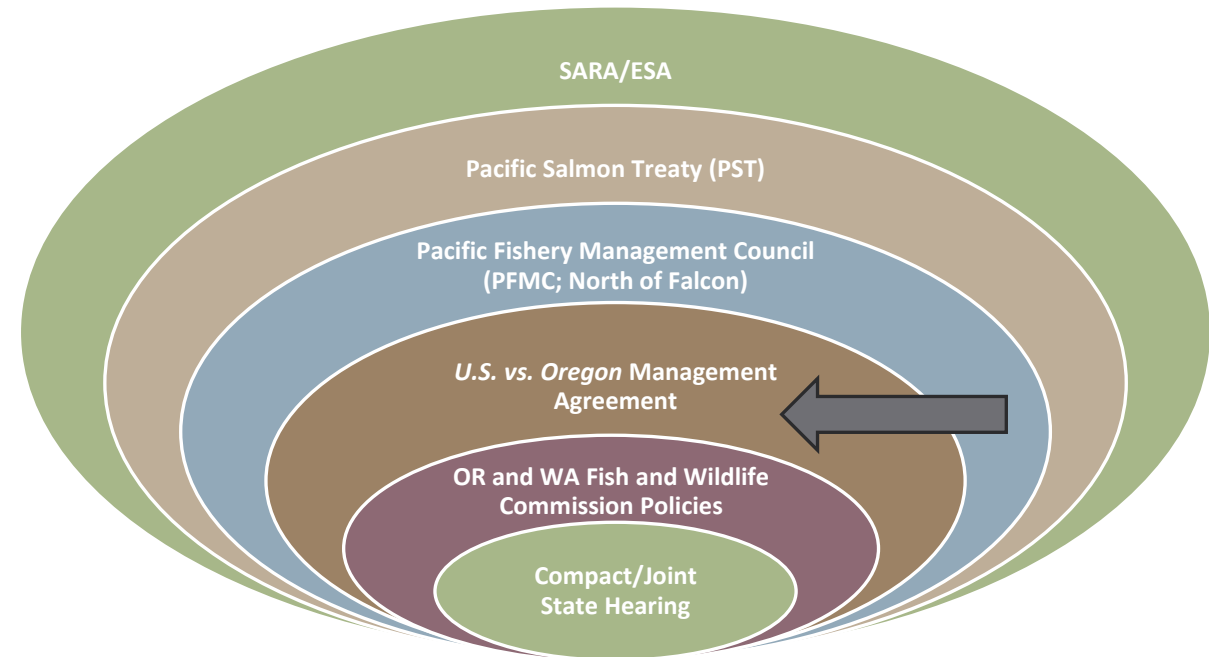
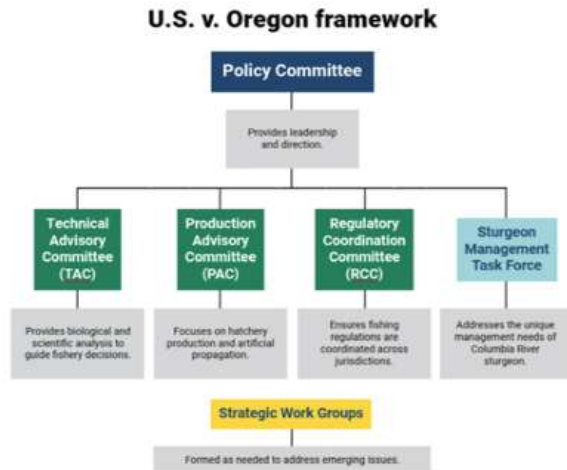
- Ocean management focused on Chinook and Coho
- PFMC opinions define tule fall Chinook and LCN coho Exploitation Rates (ER)
- Generate recreational rules
- Set commercial expectations



US vs OR

Purpose: Framework to fairly share harvest while protecting weak stocks between the Treaty Tribes and States

Parties include OR, WA, ID, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama, (Shoshone-Bannock), USFWS, NOAA and BIA



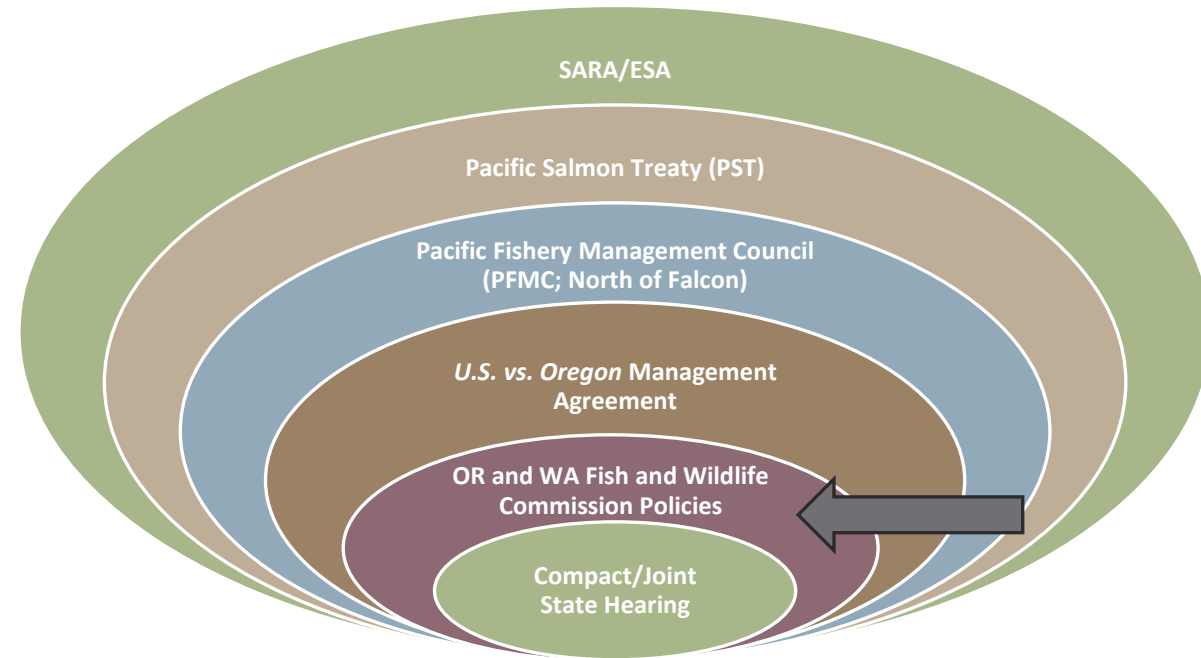
OR and WA Commission Rules/Policies

Joint State Harvest Reform Initiative in 2013

- Prioritized recreational fisheries within non-treaty fishery allocation
- Enhanced production for Select Area (SAFE) commercial fisheries
- Called for a transition away from gillnets to alternative commercial fishing gear

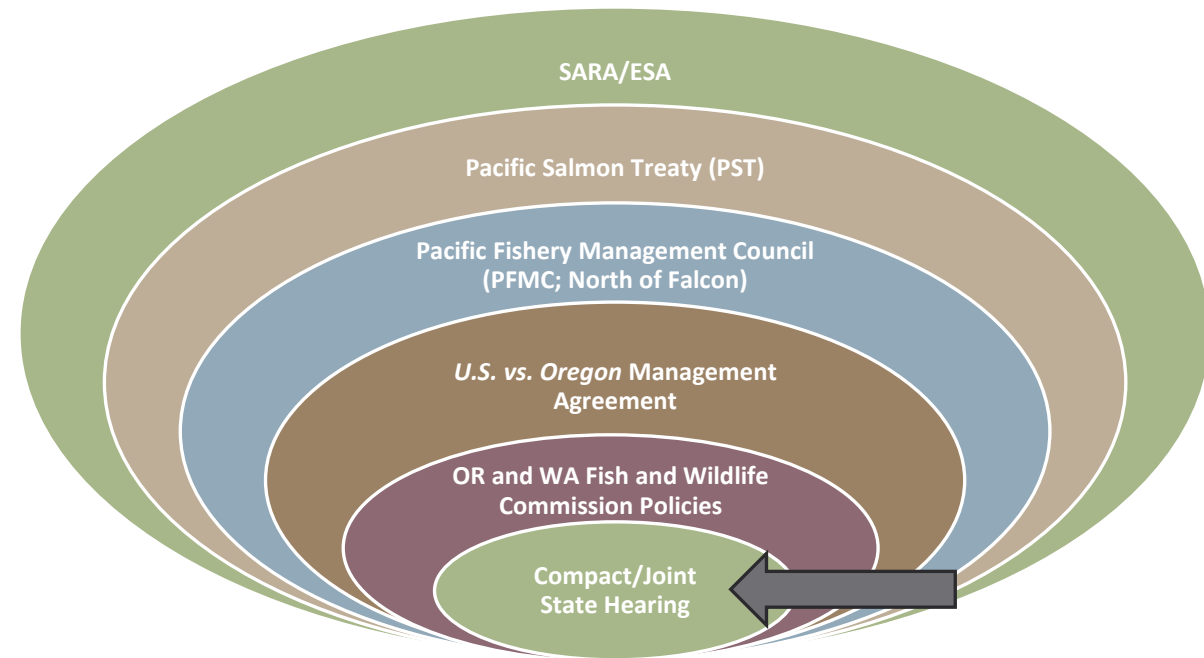
Oregon Commission developed rules that embraced some of the original Harvest Reform Initiative's goals

Washington Commission most recently adopted a policy in 2020 that moved further away from the Oregon rules



Columbia River Compact

- Ratified by Congress in 1918
- One representative each for WA and OR with fishery decision-making authority
- Purpose: Achieve concurrent fishing regulations between OR and WA
 - Establishes non-NOF seasons and all commercial fisheries
 - Includes tribal fisheries for regulations pertaining to non-treaty fish buyers
 - Salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, smelt, shad
 - Provides in-season management actions

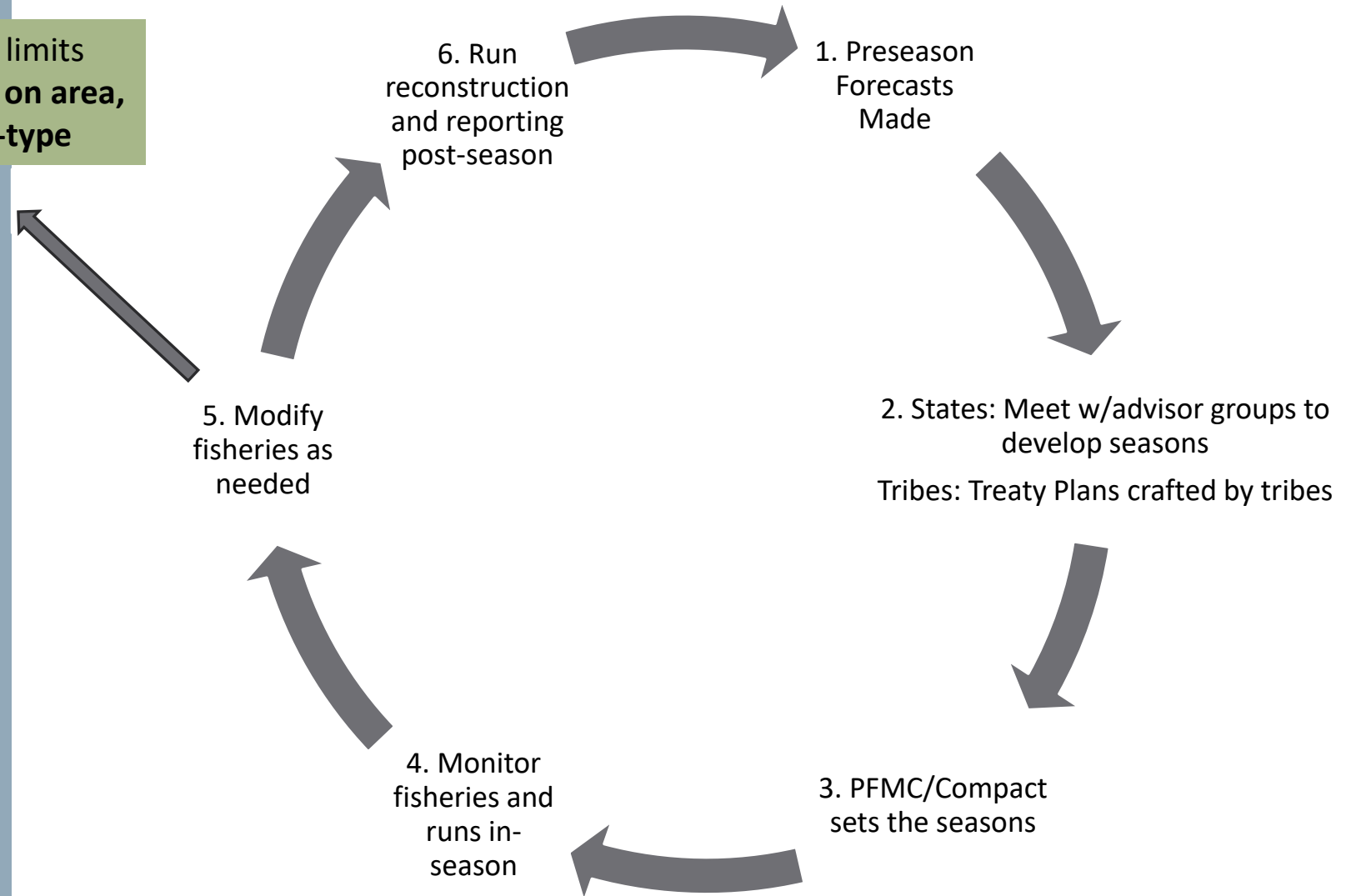




Fisheries and Processes

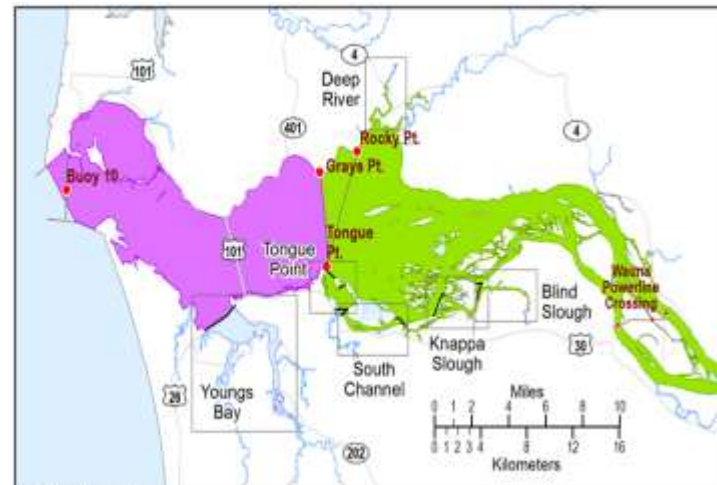
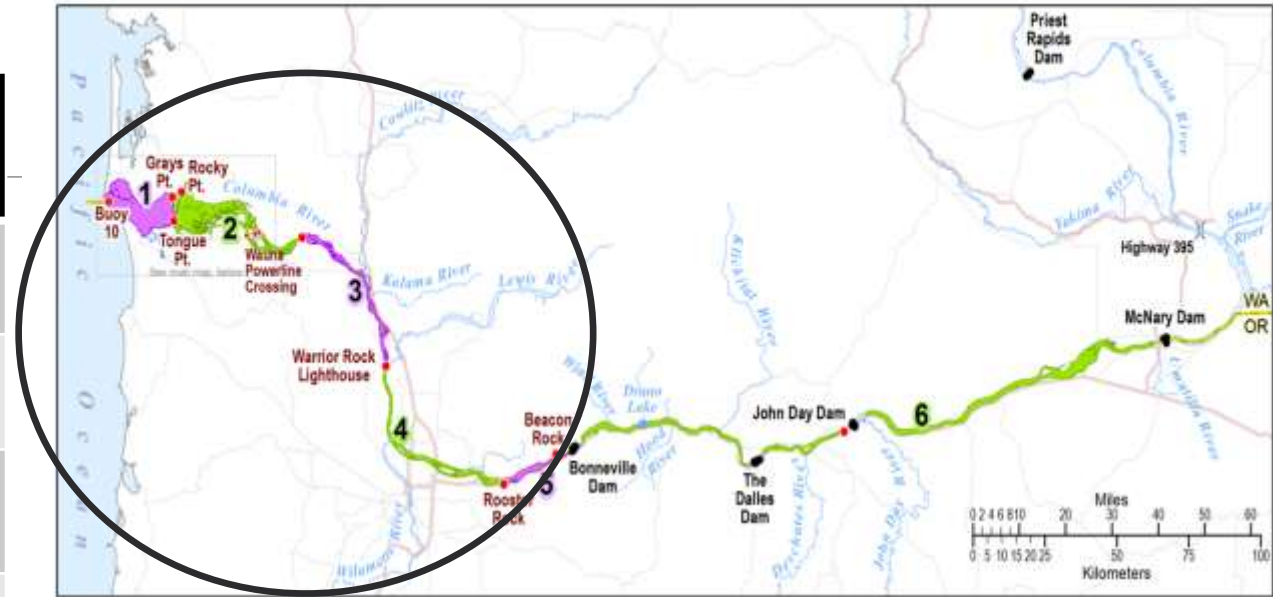
Fisheries Management Cycle

- Retention or size limits
- Selectivity based **on area, time, gear, mark-type**



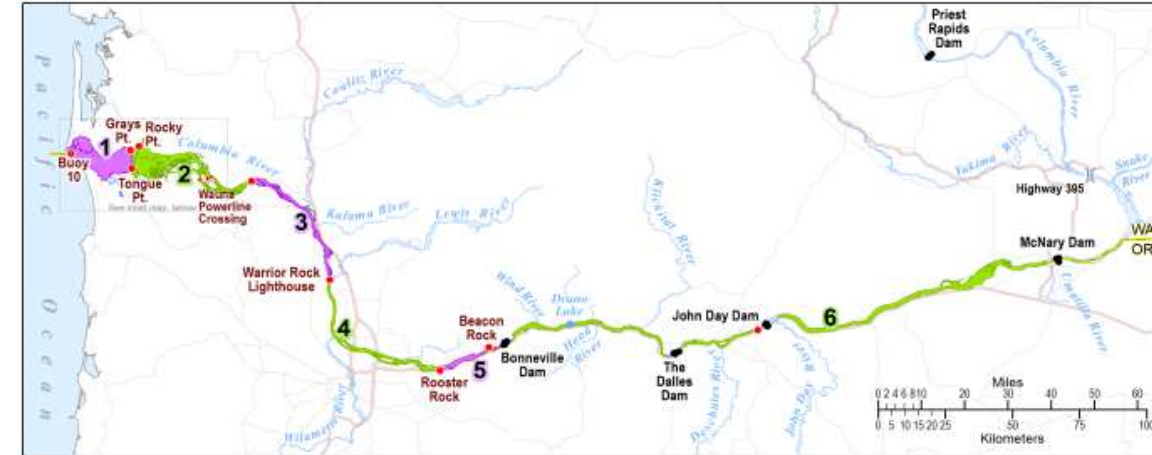
Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

Season	Location	Target Fish species
Winter/Spring	Mainstem	Hatchery spring Chinook
	Select Areas (off-channel areas)	Local hatchery spring Chinook
Summer	Mainstem	Closed
	Select Areas	Local hatchery spring Chinook
Fall	Zone 1-3 Mainstem	Hatchery coho salmon
	Zone 4-5 Mainstem	Chinook
	Select Areas	Local hatchery fall Chinook and coho
	Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery	Hatchery Chinook and coho



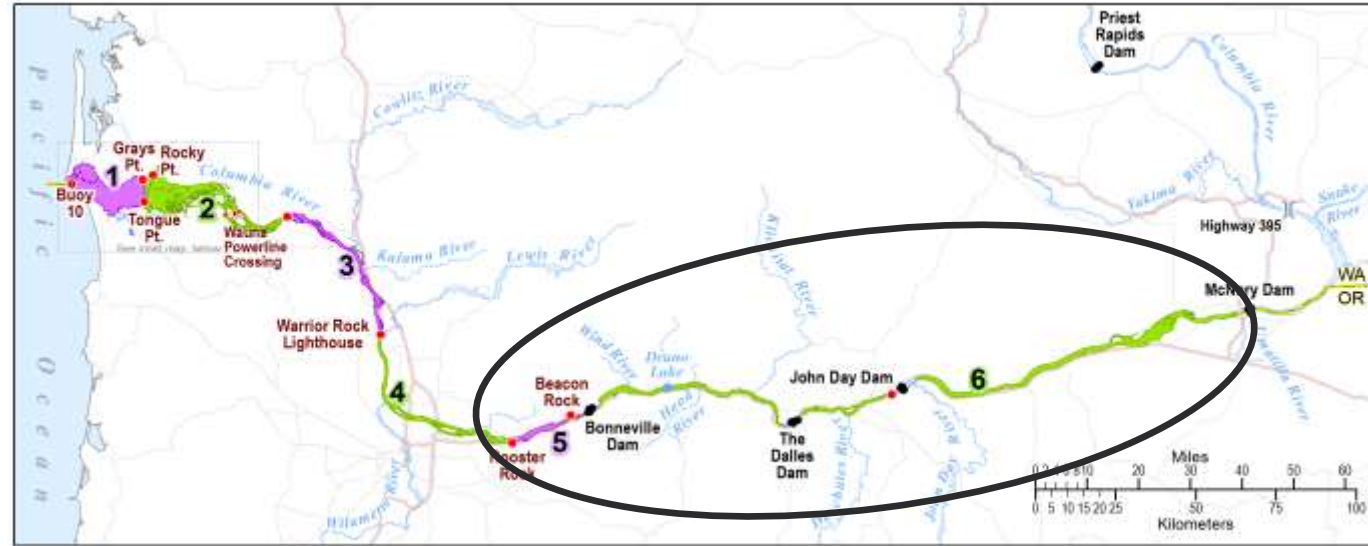
Non-Treaty Recreational Fisheries

Season	Location	Target Species
Spring	Buoy 10 to WA/OR Border	Hatchery spring Chinook, hatchery steelhead
	Snake River (WA)	Hatchery spring Chinook
Summer	Below Bonneville	Hatchery summer Chinook, hatchery steelhead
	Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam	Hatchery summer Chinook
	Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dam	Sockeye, hatchery summer Chinook
Fall	Buoy 10	Fall Chinook, hatchery coho
	Below Bonneville	Fall Chinook, hatchery coho
	Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam	Fall Chinook, coho (except hatchery coho downstream of Hood River Bridge)
	Snake River (WA)	Chinook, hatchery steelhead



Treaty Mainstem Fisheries

- Tribes currently fish in common from just below Bonneville upstream to McNary Dam
- Tribes set own regulations, but strive for unified mainstem fishing plans and regulations
- Fisheries are open access
- Location based system, and Fishers tend to use registered sites
 - Sites passed through families
 - Fishers can only use others' sites with permission
- Ceremonial, Subsistence and Commercial; generally full retention of fish caught



Treaty Mainstem Fisheries

Season	Type	Target Species
Winter	January Commercial Setline Fishery	Sturgeon
	February/March Commercial gillnet and setline fisheries	Sturgeon
Spring	Ceremonial Permit fisheries	Spring Chinook
	Subsistence Platform and Hook and Line	Spring Chinook, steelhead, shad late spring and Line
Summer	Commercial Gillnet	Summer Chinook, sockeye, steelhead
	Commercial and Subsistence Platform and Hook and Line	Summer Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, shad early summer
Fall	Commercial Gillnet	Fall Chinook, steelhead, coho
	Commercial and Subsistence Platform and Hook and Line	Fall Chinook, steelhead, coho
Below Bonneville	Very minor permit hook and line in spring, open access platform and hook and line in summer and fall	Chinook, with some sockeye and coho



Photo credit: CRITFC

Key Takeaways

- Forums outside of the Columbia River are incorporated into Columbia River Fisheries Management
- Harvest frameworks are designed to protect weak stocks
- To make this all work and meet annual demands requires extensive and frequent collaboration and coordination



Questions and Discussion