

Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy



Ron Warren - Fish Program
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
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Purpose

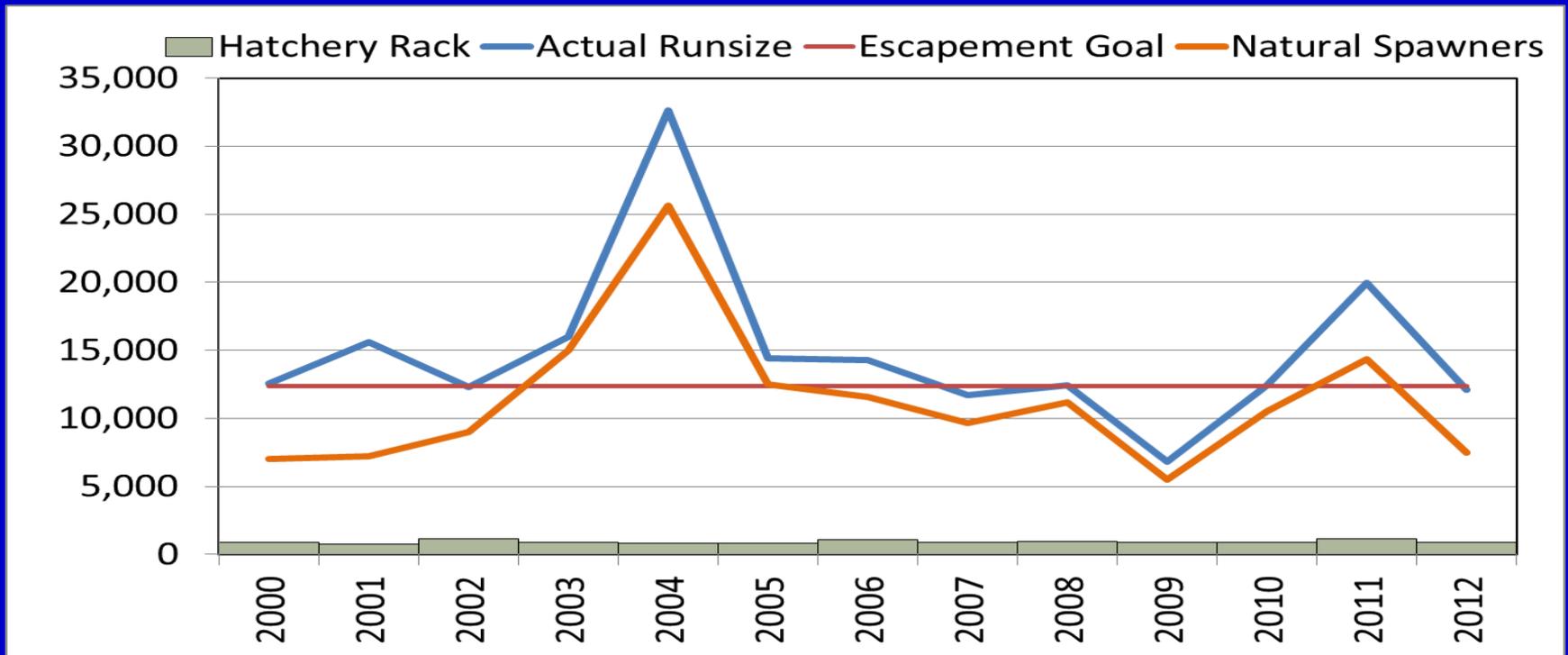
- **Brief Commission on Draft Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy Process**
- **Seek Commission Input on Policy Enhancements**

Presentation Outline

- **What are the challenges to improving Grays Harbor basin fisheries?**
- **What are the primary objectives of the draft policy?**
- **What were the major points of the public comments?**
- **How could the draft policy be improved?**

Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

Chehalis Fall Chinook



Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

Chehalis Fall Chinook

- **Primarily Wild Stock**
 - ~8% return of hatchery origin
- **Degraded Habitat**
 - ~68% reduction in production potential
- **Substantial Harvest in Alaska & Canada**
 - 48% harvest rate in northern fisheries
 - Limited harvest for Washington

Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

➤ Multiple Management Entities & Stakeholders

- Pacific Salmon Commission
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Chehalis Tribe
- WDFW
- Commercial
- Recreational
- Estuary, lower river, upper river



Challenges to Improving Chehalis Fisheries

➤ Multiple Management Entities & Stakeholders

	2013 Projected Distribution	%
Alaska & Canada*	13,968	48%
Quinault Indian Nation	1,384	5%
Chehalis Tribe	229	1%
WDFW-Managed Commercial	171	1%
Marine Recreational	530	2%
Freshwater Recreational	454	2%
Spawners	12,364	42%

*Projected from 2001-2005 brood years

Primary Objectives of Policy

- **Enhance Conservation Focus**
 - Technical Rigor
 - In-Season Management
 - Monitoring and Enforcement
- **Restore and Maintain Public Trust**
 - Communication, Transparency, Accountability
- **Clarify Sharing of Impacts**

What were the major points of public comment?

- **41 written comments**
- **18 public testimony (December meeting)**
- **Summarized into 10 categories**

Categories of Public Comment

- **28 – Allocation**
- **27 – Conservation**
- **15 – Communication/Transparency**
- **13 – Economic Value**
- **8 – Enforcement/Accountability**
- **6 – Data Rigor**
- **4 – Limit Effort**
- **4 - Hatcheries**
- **3 – Alternative Fishing Practices**
- **2 – Misc.**

Enhance Conservation Focus

- **Make Conservation #1 priority**
- **Don't allocate to last fish**
- **Require in-season management**
- **Close fisheries if needed to restore runs**
- **Address habitat needs**
- **Reduce pre-terminal interceptions**

Restore & Maintain Public Trust

- **Communication**

- Improve communications -public trust is lost
- Increase public involvement
- Improve co-management

- **Transparency**

- Clarify plan
- Explain Chehalis tribal harvest and share

- **Accountability**

- Include measurable metrics for performance
- Document catch sharing

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

- **Support science driven allocation – not public opinion**
- **Support Commercial Fishery Option**
 - Provide fish to all Washington residents
 - Increase harvest on abundant stocks
 - Recreational opportunities exist elsewhere
 - Initiate license buy-back to enhance economic viability

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

- **Support Recreational Fishery Option**
 - Significant economic value of sport fishery
 - Tribes provide fish for commercial market
 - Negative impacts of gillnets
 - Management costs of commercial fishery exceed economic value

- **Support Upper River Recreational Fisheries**

Clarify Sharing of Impacts

- **Support 4-3 Proposal**
 - Enhance recreational opportunity
 - **Protect run components – conservation tool**

How could the draft policy be improved?

- **Identify additional communication tools**
 - Grays Harbor web page
 - Collaborative workshops with stakeholders
- **Strengthen conservation guidance**
 - Include explicit precautionary management
- **Consider provisions to promote orderly fisheries and limit gear conflict**
- **Refine options for sharing**

Process and Next Steps

- **Dec - Commission reviewed draft Policy**
 - Initial public comment
 - Initiated 30-day public comment period
- **Jan - Commission reviews public comments**
 - Additional public comment
 - Commission provides additional direction on Policy
- **Feb - Commission considers adoption of Policy**
- **Questions?**

Grays Harbor Commercial Gillnet Area

