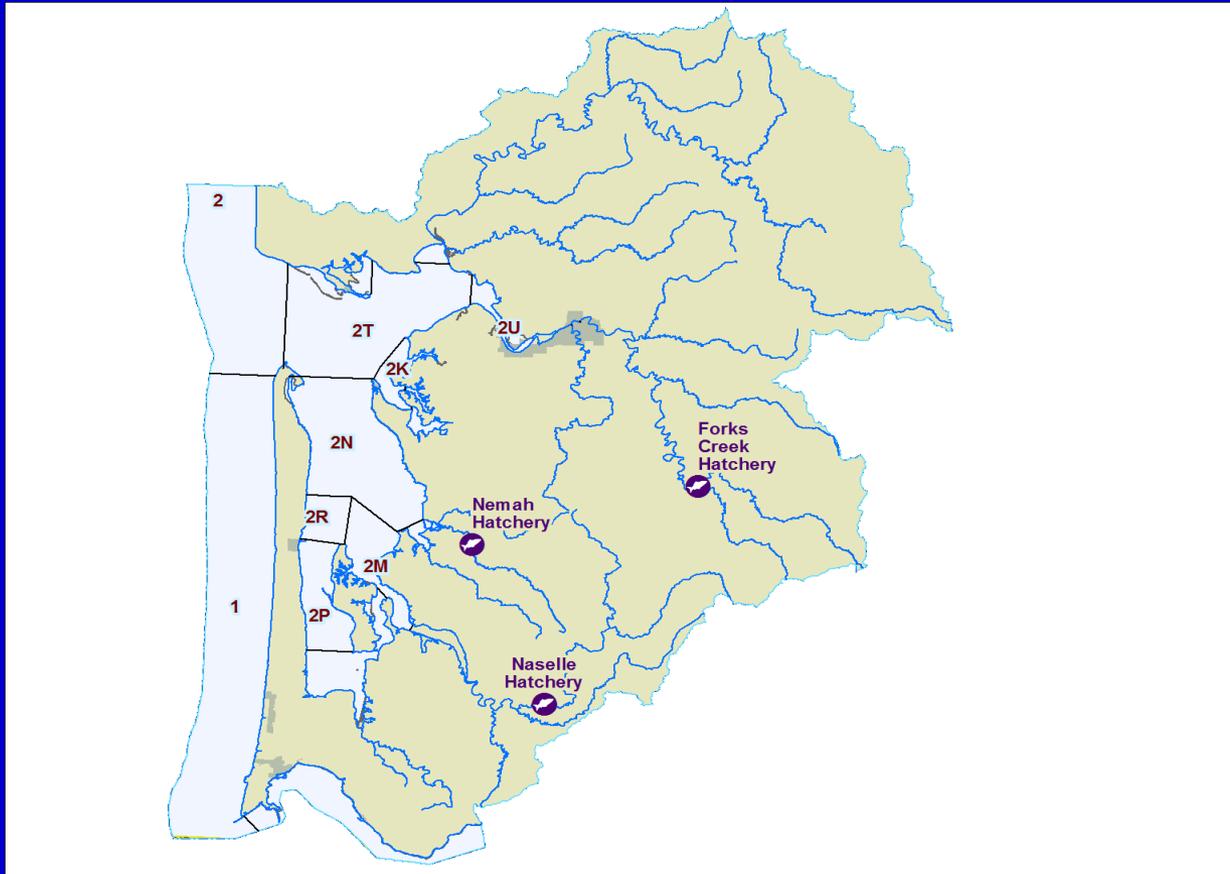


# Willapa Bay Salmon Management 2015 Season Guidance



**Steve Thiesfeld; Region 6 Fish Program Manager  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
April 9, 2015**

# Purpose

---

- **Brief Commission on draft 2015 Willapa Bay Salmon management interim guidance**
- **Report on feedback from public**
- **Seek Commission direction on 2015 salmon management for Willapa Bay**

# Presentation Outline

---

- **Need for interim Guidance**
- **Starting point for Guidance**
- **Key Concepts**
- **What were the major points of public comments?**
- **Proposed modifications**

# Need for Guidance

---

- **Clarify:**
  - **Conservation intent**
  - **Guidance to minimize gear conflict**
  - **In-season management framework**
  - **Sampling, monitoring, and enforcement**

# Need for Guidance

---

- **Nov – Initiated development of Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy**
- **Feb - FWC delayed decision on policy to June at earliest, suggested 2015 interim guidance development**
- **Mar – North of Falcon begins, Willapa meetings postponed**
- **Mar – Draft guidance released for public input**
- **Apr – Commission provides 2015 guidance**

# Key Concepts - Chinook Management

---

## Conservation – Promote Further Improvement

- **Active in-season management of commercial fisheries to ensure pre-season mortalities are not exceeded**
- **20% harvest rate limit on Willapa & Naselle**
- **Protect North River with river mouth closure**

# Key Concepts -Chinook Management

---

## Minimize Gear & Fishery Conflict

- **Allow 48 hour summer fishery from August 1-8**
  - Reduced from 84 hours in 2014
  - Earlier than in 2014 to further reduce interaction with recreational fishery
- **No commercial fisheries between summer fishery and Labor Day**

# Key Concepts - Chinook Management

---

## Enhance Recreational Fishery

- **Consider:**
  - **Increased daily limits**
  - **Earlier openings**
  - **Multiple rods**
  - **Other**

# Key Concepts - Coho Management

---

- **Manage to achieve the aggregate spawner goal**
- **Prioritizes commercial opportunity beginning Sept. 16 through Oct. 14, and after Oct. 31**

# Key Concepts - Chum Management

---

- **Manage to achieve the aggregate spawner goal**
- **No Chum directed fishing, Oct. 16 - 31**
- **10% impact limit**
- **Recreational retention if commercial retention**

# What were the major points of public comment?

---

- **8 written-email comments**
  - Some represented groups, e.g. 1 letter represented 19 constituents
- **0 on-line comments**
- **Summarized into 6 categories**

# Categories of Public Comment

---

- **Conservation Intent**
- **Hatchery Broodstock Objectives**
- **Commercial Chinook Management**
- **Recreational Chinook Management**
- **In-Season Management**
- **Other**

# Conservation Intent

---

- **Draft proposed 20% limit on Willapa and Naselle wild Chinook**
- **Comments**
  - **Manage to maximize harvest of hatchery Chinook**
  - **Use a 20% limit on only one system**
  - **Use a 14% limit on Willapa and Naselle wild Chinook**

# Conservation Intent

---

- **Draft proposed same North River closure used in 2014**
- **Comments**
  - **Support for proposal**
  - **Support for expanded closure**

# Hatchery Broodstock Objectives

---

- **Draft proposed 20% limit and allowance of mark-selective fisheries.**
- **Comments:**
  - **Must allow commercial fishing to prevent hatchery fish spawning with wild**
  - **Need to harvest Fork Creek hatchery Chinook during transition**
  - **Alternate gears may be used to harvest abundant hatchery fish**

# Commercial Chinook Management

---

- **Draft proposed:**
  - **48-hour, earlier, summer fishery**
  - **and then no commercial until after Labor Day**
- **Comments**
  - **Allow commercial fishing all areas and times based on harvestable numbers**
  - **Allow 84-hour early fishery between 8/10 and 8/15**
  - **Allow commercial opportunity before Labor Day**
  - **Use Alt. C language, no commercial fishery until after Labor Day, and no fishery in 2T and 2U until 9/16.**

# Recreational Chinook Management

---

- **Draft proposed an enhanced recreational opportunity**
- **Comments:**
  - **Daily limit at 3 until escapement reached**
  - **Daily limit of 6 in marine area**
  - **Define enhanced opportunity similar to draft policy**

# In-Season Management

---

- **Draft proposed active in-season management to ensure pre-season mortalities are not exceeded**
- **Comments**
  - **In-season management may occur**
  - **Support for proposal**
  - **Need monitoring, sampling and enforcement**

# Proposed Modifications

---

- **Address public comments**
- **Clarify policy intent**

# Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy



## Questions?

### Special Thanks:

**Jim Scott, Chad Herring, Ron Warren,  
Mike Scharpf, Barb McClellan, Curt Holt,  
Rob Allan, Randy Aho**

