



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy Review

Stakeholder Meeting

April 11, 2019

Lacey, Washington

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

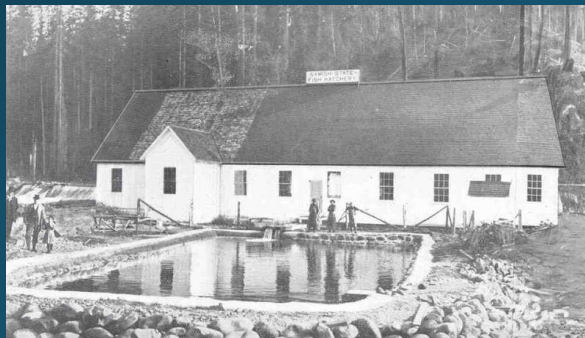
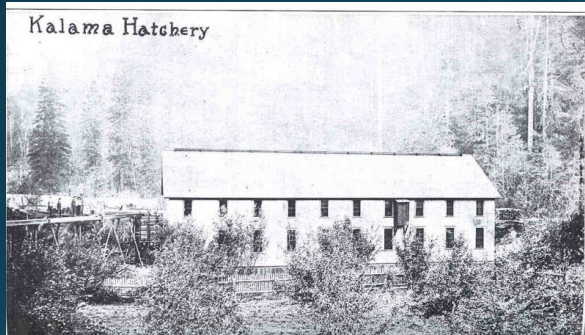
Today's Purpose

Overview and Status Update on the Hatchery
and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619) Review
Process

Outline

- Brief Background and Overview of Hatcheries
- History of Hatchery Reform
- WDFW Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy
- Commission Decision to Review Policy
- Project Overview and Timeline
- Questions

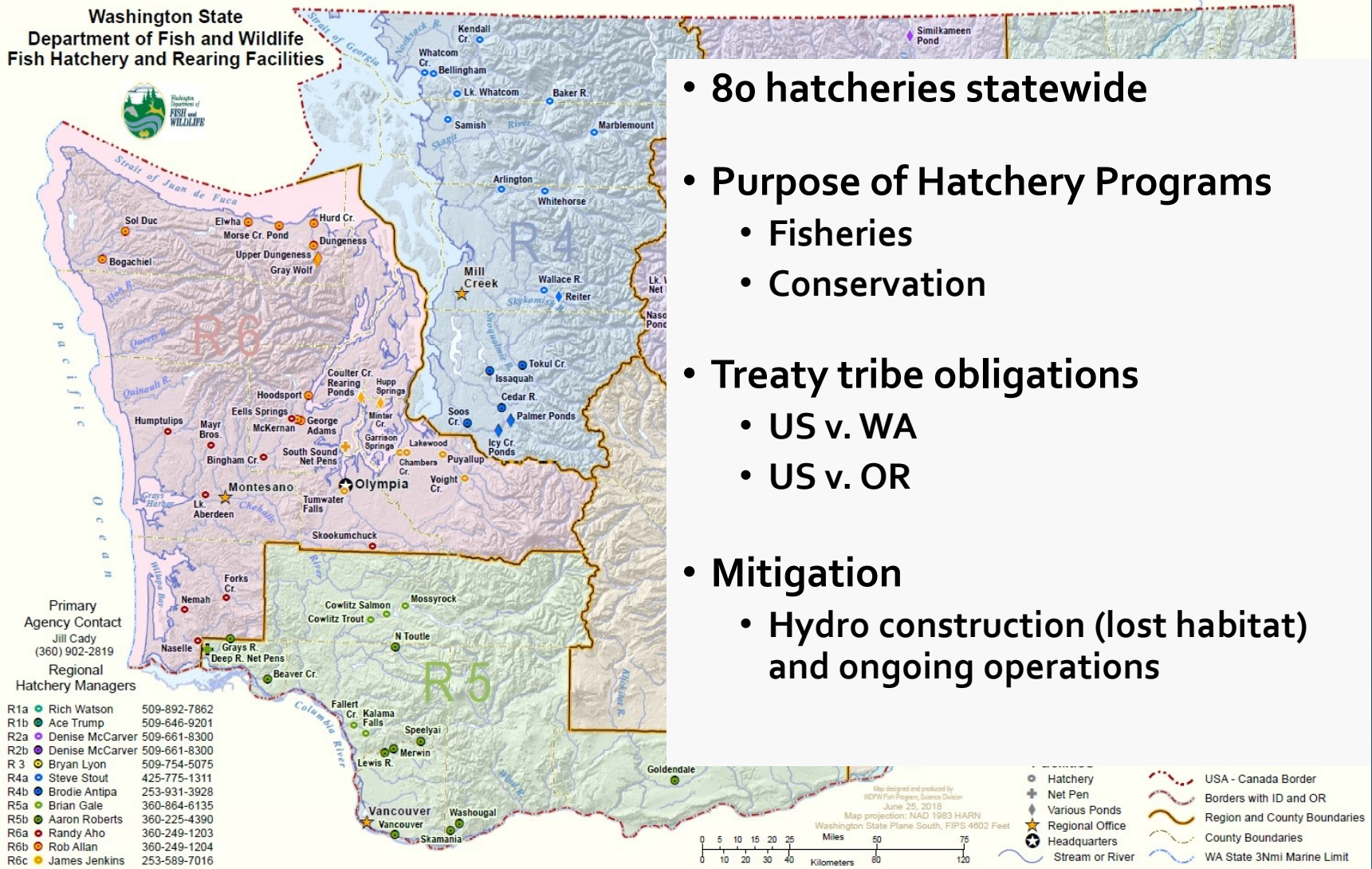
Brief History of Hatcheries



- 1871 Spencer Baird appointed as first USFWS Fish Commissioner
- In the 1880's fish runs continued to decline due to overfishing, habitat destruction, and unregulated fishing
- Commissioner Baird promoted hatcheries as means to "establish permanence of fisheries"
- First hatchery built in Washington in 1895 (Kalama Hatchery)

WDFW Hatcheries

Washington State
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Hatchery and Rearing Facilities



- 80 hatcheries statewide
- Purpose of Hatchery Programs
 - Fisheries
 - Conservation
- Treaty tribe obligations
 - US v. WA
 - US v. OR
- Mitigation
 - Hydro construction (lost habitat) and ongoing operations

Hatchery Benefits and Risks

- Benefits

- Economic
 - Hundreds of millions annually
- Fisheries
 - >75% hatchery fish
- Cultural and Legal
 - Treaty tribes
 - Local communities
 - Mitigation

- Risks

- Genetic
 - Fitness, diversity, domestication
- Ecological
 - Predation, competition, disease
- Environmental (facilities)
 - Water quality, fish passage, Intake screening

Hatchery Reform

- Salmon and steelhead declines and Federal ESA listings in the 1990's
- 1999 report Senator Slade Gorton (Gordon Report)
 - The Reform of Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries in Puget Sound and Coastal Washington to Recover Natural Stocks while Providing Fisheries
- In 2000 US Congress established the Hatchery Reform Project

Federally Funded Hatchery Reform Project (2000)

- In 2000 US Congress established the Hatchery Reform Project
 - Hatcheries pose risks
 - Hatcheries important for harvest and conservation
 - Hatchery reform funded evaluate hatcheries and to minimize the risks
- Established the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG)
 - [HSRG Recommendations for Hatchery Programs in Puget Sound/Coastal Washington \(2004\)](#)
 - [Report to Congress on Columbia Basin Hatchery Reform \(2009\)](#)

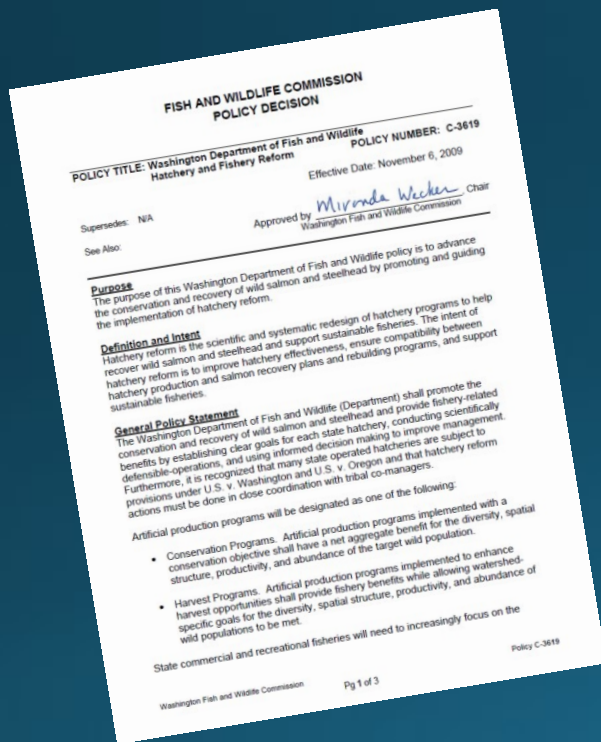
2009 WDFW Adopted its Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619)

Definition

- Hatchery reform is the scientific and systematic redesign of hatchery programs to help recover wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fisheries

Intent

- The intent of hatchery reform is to improve hatchery effectiveness, ensure compatibility between hatchery production and salmon recovery plans and rebuilding programs, and support sustainable fisheries



Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619)

11 Policy Guidelines

1. Use principles and standards of HSRG to guide operations, adaptively manage programs
2. Implement broodstock management standards to reduce genetic and ecological risks
3. Develop watershed scale plans to implement hatchery reform
4. Externally mark Chinook, coho, and steelhead
5. Secure sufficient funding for hatchery facilities

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619)

11 Policy Guidelines Continued...

6. Implement hatchery reform on a schedule consistent with 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead initiative
7. Provide annual progress report to FWC
8. Develop and implement alternative fishing gear
9. Seek funding to implement hatchery reform
10. Define “full implementation” and a schedule for mark-selective fisheries
11. Work with tribal co-managers to establish Wild Salmonid Management Zones

June 2018 Fish and Wildlife Commission Decision to Review the Policy

1. “...review of all sections and aspects of [Hatchery and Fishery Reform] Policy...
2. ...suspend policy guidelines 1, 2, and 3 for salmon species other than steelhead.”

Review to Include

- Policy Performance Evaluation
- Science Update
- Recommend Policy Language Changes

Considerations from the Commissioners

- Change the tone and language about the positive value of hatchery programs
- Consider inclusion of following elements in policy revisions:
 - Categorical designation for mitigating hatcheries
 - Accommodate for SRKW prey initiatives
 - Account for different levels of hatchery-wild interactions that take into account the evolving science on genetic risks

Project Elements

- Policy Review and Evaluation
 - Led by WDFW
- Science Review and Update
 - Led by WDFW, guided by Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS)
- Outreach and Public Engagement
 - Tribal co-manager (WDFW led)
 - Public and partners (Consultant led)
- Final report and recommendations
 - Policy revisions and language updates

Project Timeline

Jun '18

Sept '18

Feb '19

May '19

Nov '19

Jan '20

Mar '20

Early Response and
WDFW Coordination

Project Scoping

FWC
Meeting

FWC
Meeting

FWC
Meeting

FWC
Decision

Tribal Co-Manager Engagement
(WDFW/Tribes)

Public and Partner Involvement
(Consultant Led)

Policy Review & Evaluation
(WDFW Led)

Science Review & Update
(WDFW/Washington Academy of
Sciences)

Fish and Wildlife
Commission Briefing,
Presentation, & Decision

&

Public Comment Periods
between FWC meetings

F&W
Commission
Decision to
Review Policy
(C-3619)

Early Response and Coordination

Public Responses to Commission Decision

- Letters and correspondence
 - NWIFC & Tribes to Governor Inslee
 - NGOs to Governor Inslee and Congressional Members
 - Concerned individuals
- Informal feedback and requests for information to WDFW
 - Governor's Office
 - Congressional delegation
 - NOAA Regional Administrator (Barry Thom)
 - Salmon Recovery Organizations

Early Response and Coordination

Range of Opinions on FWC Decision

- Concern that the agency was abandoning All-H approach and hatchery reform
- Concern that the agency was abandoning science
- Agreement to review the policy but concern that the policy was suspended during the review period
- Some support for the decision from individual citizens, but concern about the public process
- Letters from NWIFC and some tribes critical of HSRG

Early Response and Coordination

WDFW Response to Partners

- Director Susewind letter to NOAA Regional Administrator Barry Thom
- Response and meetings with Governor's Office
- Regional meetings with salmon recovery boards, local elected officials, tribes, and partners
- Emails, letters, and phone call responses to concerned citizens, NGOs, professional organizations, and recovery partners

Co-Manager Engagement

Public & Partner Involvement (Consultant Led)

Two Separate Processes

- **Tribal Co-Managers**
 - WDFW will lead this with the Tribal Co-Managers
 - Some early engagement, more after North of Falcon season setting process is completed
- **Public & Partner Engagement**
 - Secured contract with Triangle and Associates
 - Stakeholder Interviews
 - Facilitated meetings
 - Summarize key messages

Public & Partner Involvement (Consultant Led)

- Stakeholder Interviews
- Facilitated Meetings
- Summarize Key Messages

Policy Review and Evaluation (WDFW Led)

- What
 - Review policy performance since adoption
 - Evaluate 11 policy guidelines
 - Final Report on policy performance
- Status
 - In process
 - Outline, scoping, and metrics
 - Data compilation and review
 - Planned
 - Policy review and evaluation

Science Review and Update

(WDFW/Washington Academy of Sciences)

- What
 - WDFW
 - Primary authors, working with the WSAS to produce the science review and update
 - Washington State Academy of Science (WSAS)
 - Review outline
 - Facilitate a Science Workshop (May 23)
 - Conduct final peer review
- Status
 - Science review outline has been drafted and reviewed by WSAS
 - WDFW science team is reviewing literature and writing paper
- May 23 Workshop
 - Review first draft of science document
 - WSAS panel members and supplemental advisors
 - Next steps

Next Steps and Important Dates

- May 23 Science Workshop
 - Facilitated by Washington State Academy of Sciences
- Future stakeholder meetings
 - June 2019
 - August/September 2019
 - Additional?
- Fish and Wildlife Commission presentations (dates reserved)
 - November 2019
 - January 2020
 - March 2020

Questions