

# Willapa Bay Policy C-3622 Revisions

Ron Warren & Marlene Wagner



# Overview: Items for Potential Policy (C-362) Revisions

1. Hatchery: Population Designations for Chinook
2. Hatchery: Production Levels
3. Rebuilding Timeframe
4. Species Harvest Prioritization



# Public Comments on Policy C-3622

- The policy has ruined current sport and commercial fisheries
- Eliminate commercial gillnets use in Willapa Bay
- Increase hatchery production to return to old fish numbers
- Percentage based harvesting by applying and removing limits
- Stop distinguishing between hatchery fish and wild fish. There is no differences in genetics based on WDFW study
- Lack of collaboration on the Willapa Policy with advisors outside WDFW
- Commercial opportunity is not economically feasible
- Policy was never fully implemented
- Payback was never implemented when harvest rate was exceeded
- Can the North River protection be made permanent
- Abandon current C-3622 policy
- Don't shift Forks Creek egg production to Nemah and Naselle
- No clear metrics for hatchery reform
- Pre-policy pHOS numbers were due to hatchery operations
- Differences in NOR:HOR ratios in fisheries vs spawning grounds
- More education with FWC regarding how habitat restoration works in WA. There is confusion on whose job duty it is.
- Maximize hatchery production at all facilities
- Eliminate harvest priorities for specific fishery sectors
- Survival of Chinook is poor in Naselle and Nemah rivers



# Chinook Population Designations

Defined by Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG)

- Measures biological significance to recovery of ESU
- Fall Chinook in Willapa comprise a portion of Coastal Fall Chinook ESU
- Willapa/North River = Primary  
Naselle = Contributing



# Hatchery Production Levels

Only policy in WA with hatchery production levels

- Manage broodstock in Willapa River consistent with a Primary Designation

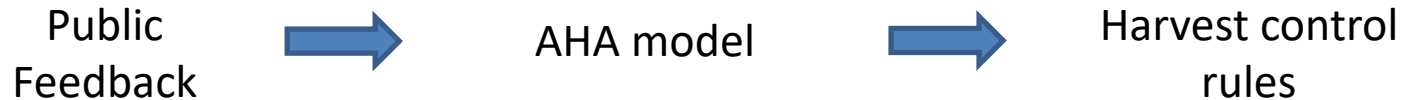
Willapa Bay hatchery production has changed from original policy language through the years:

- 2016: 2.5M (1.7M increase) Naselle by legislative proviso → ongoing
- 2019: 2.2M (1.85M increase) Forks Creek (Willapa) → preserve options
- 2020: 5M (2.5M increase) 3.9M Naselle → SRKW  
2020: 400K (200K increase) Forks Creek



# Rebuilding Timeframe

Management objectives developed from public feedback.



- Timeline developed on public feedback
- AHA model
- Uncertainty with environmental conditions
  - Climate change
- Data gaps



# Species Harvest Prioritization

Chinook prioritized for recreational fishery

Coho/Chum prioritized for commercial fishery

- Consider allocation proportions
- Harvest opportunity for each sector based on available remaining impacts
- Mixed stock fisheries
- Coho run sizes are extremely dynamic
- In-season update models



# Questions?

