

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Willapa Bay Salmon Management

POLICY NUMBER: C-XXXX-

Cancels or
Supersedes:

Effective Date:
Termination Date:

See Also: Policies C-3608, C-3619

Approved _____ [date]
by: _____ Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to guide management of wild and hatchery fall Chinook, coho, and chum salmon populations in Willapa Bay. This management will achieve (1) in a manner that achieves wild and hatchery spawning populations that are maintained at densities appropriate for and adapted to the ecological conditions within Willapa Bay tributaries; significantly enhances and improves sustainable fishing levels for both recreational and commercial fisheries in comparison to those that would have been provided for by predecessor Policy C-3622; promotes (2) orderly fisheries and optimized recreational and commercial harvest opportunities; and provides (3) hatchery production at levels (a) needed for optimized harvest, (b) and suitable for maintenance of wild populations, and (c) consistent with Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy (C-3624).

Staff Response:

1. We transferred Dr. McIsaac and Commissioner Anderson's edits into Word track changes format. We suggest that you check to make certain that we recorded all edits accurately and completely.
2. Section highlighted in yellow: We suggest that the section be reworded as "productive natural-spawning populations that are locally adaptive, diverse genetically to maintain adaptability, and occur in densities appropriate"
3. Section highlighted in green: We respectfully suggest that in the body of the policy we not reference a predecessor policy that would be rescinded by this policy. The rescinded policy would not be available through our public facing website, which may lead to confusion.
4. Concerning C-3622, it is our observation that the policy was never fully implemented due to legislative mandates and Commission guidance. It is therefore not possible to know how fishing would have proceeded under the current Policy as written or compare it to future fisheries.

Fish Committee's Rationale for Initial Edits:

- *This is a blend of the staff workgroup first draft of a revised purpose statement for Alternative 3 with the language in Alternative 2 to something that could possibly be used in an Alternative 4.*
- *In comparing the above draft language to the purpose statement in Alternative 2:*
 - *Adding salmon species in the first phrasing is consistent with the intent of Alternative 2.*
 - *Adding “and hatchery spawning” makes it clear it is intended to manage to achieve spawning level targets/guidelines for both wild and hatchery fish (the targets/goals that would show up later in an Alternative 4 document).*
 - *Expressing an intent to rely on local genetic resources that are presumed to be the most adaptable to ecological changes/conditions in Willapa Bay is consistent with both Alternatives 2 and 3 as originally written.*
 - *It also avoids an impression of an absolute prioritization of wild populations over a combination of wild and hatchery populations.*
 - *Adding the phrasing about the goal for a level of sustainable fishing significantly greater than the predecessor Policy is needed to set a floor expectation for fisheries that would take both hatchery and wild fish.*
 - *There are grammatical preferences for a single sentence directly tied to the word “purpose”, as opposed to two sentences. Other grammatical edits are to eliminate a number ordering inclusion {1, 2, 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c)} that is somewhat cumbersome and also avoids an impression of an implied implementation priority.*