

Coastal Steelhead 2022 Performance and 2023 Indicators

WDFW Commission

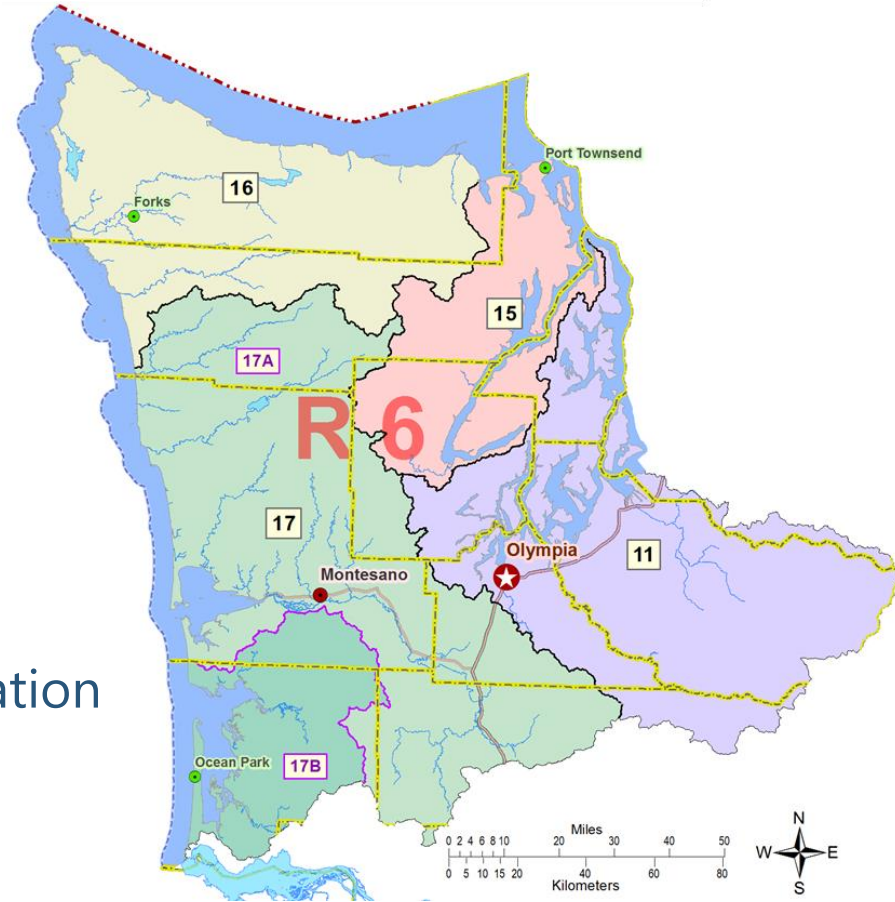
September 22-24, 2022

Kelly Cunningham, Fish Program Director
James Losee, Regional Program Manager



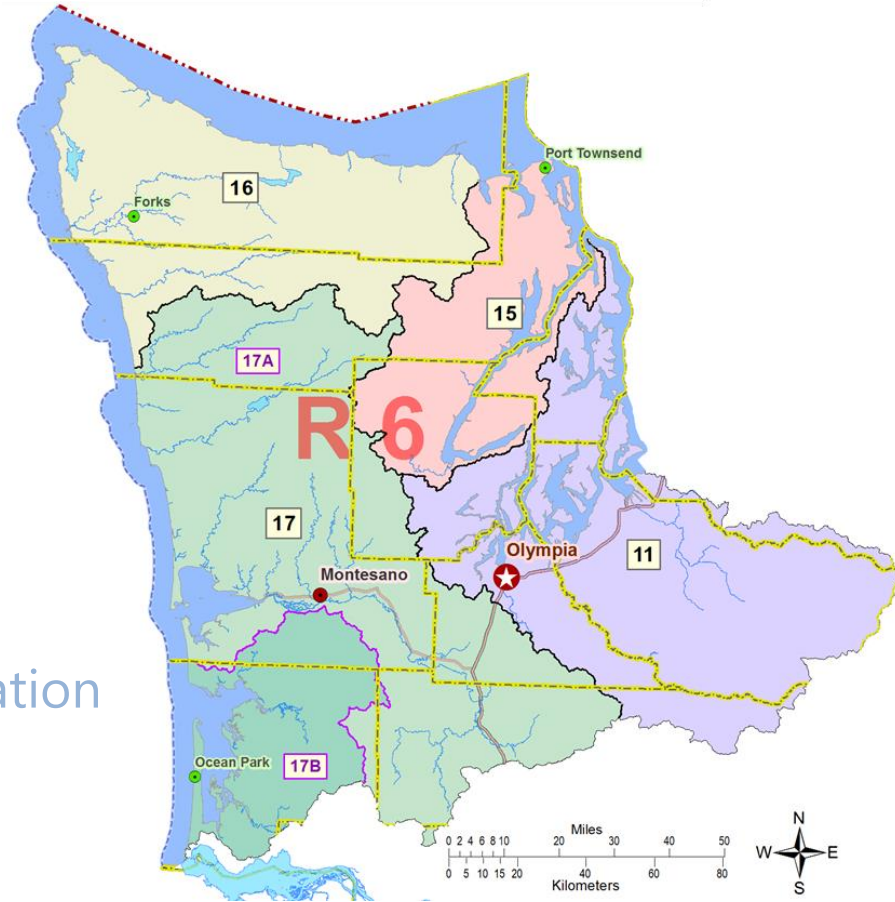
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- Correction/clarifications: August Fish Committee Meeting
- 2021/22 Monitoring and Performance
- 2022/23 Indicators
- Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan

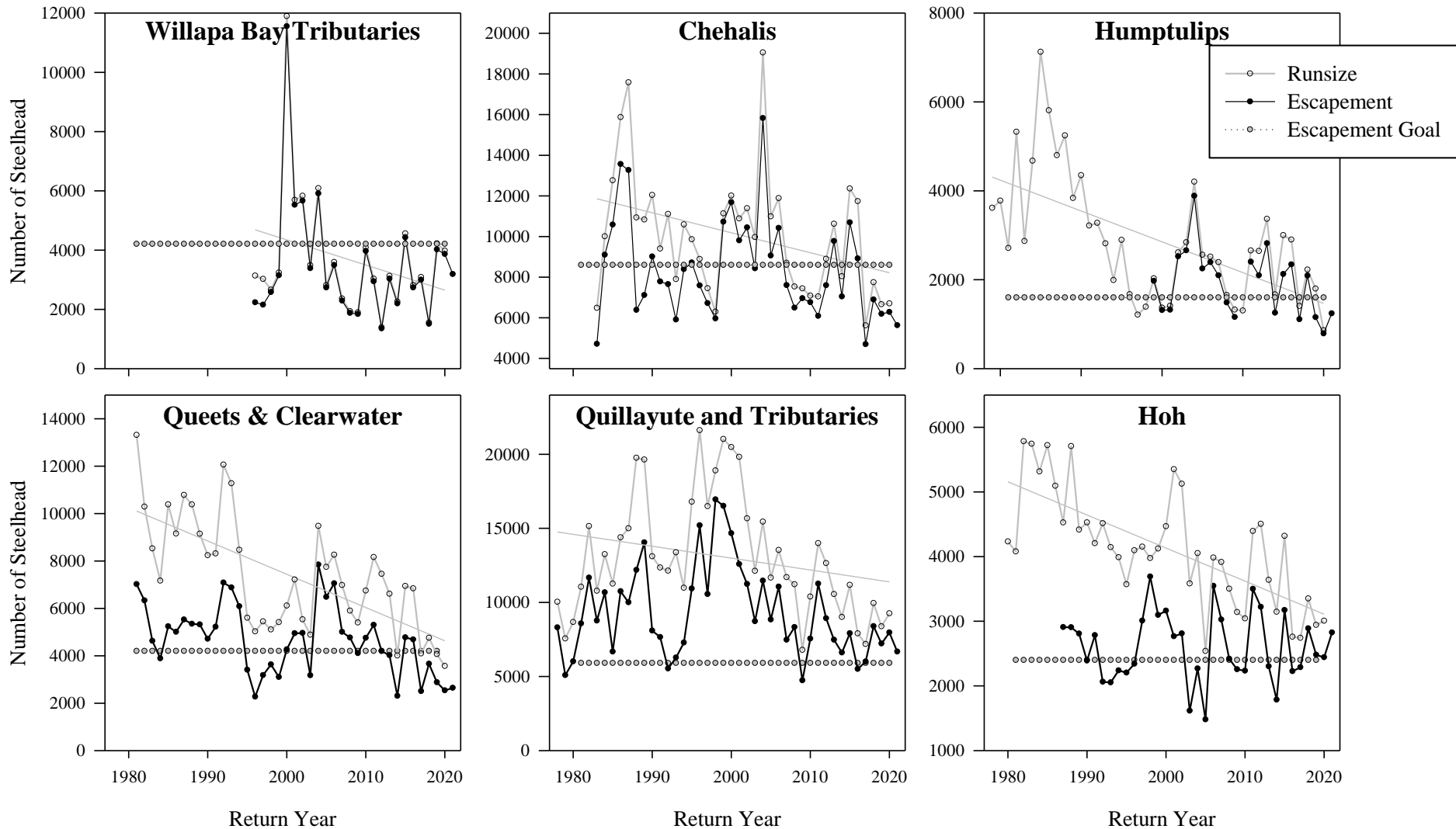


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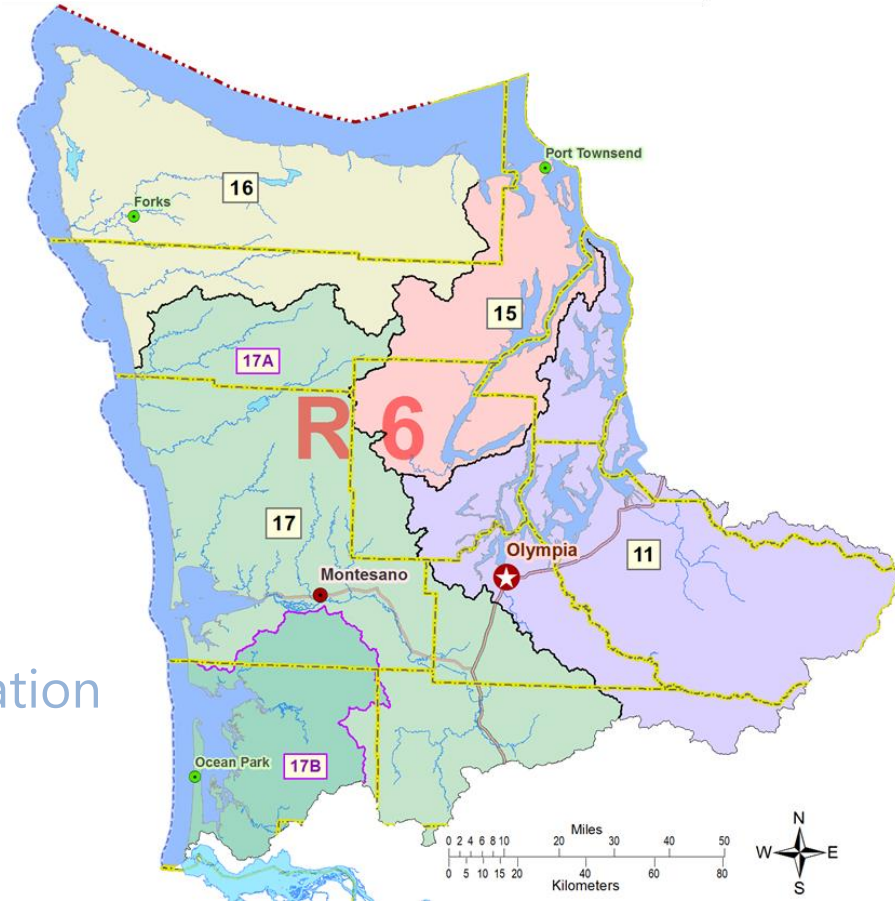


Runsize vs. Escapement



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2021/22 Monitoring and Performance

- Creel: Prioritized funding in 2021/22 to support increased monitoring of coastal steelhead fisheries. Resulted in estimates of CPUE in the Hoh, and pilot monitoring in the Quillayute and Willapa Bay.
- Spawning ground surveys
- Hatchery rack returns
- Tribal fisheries data

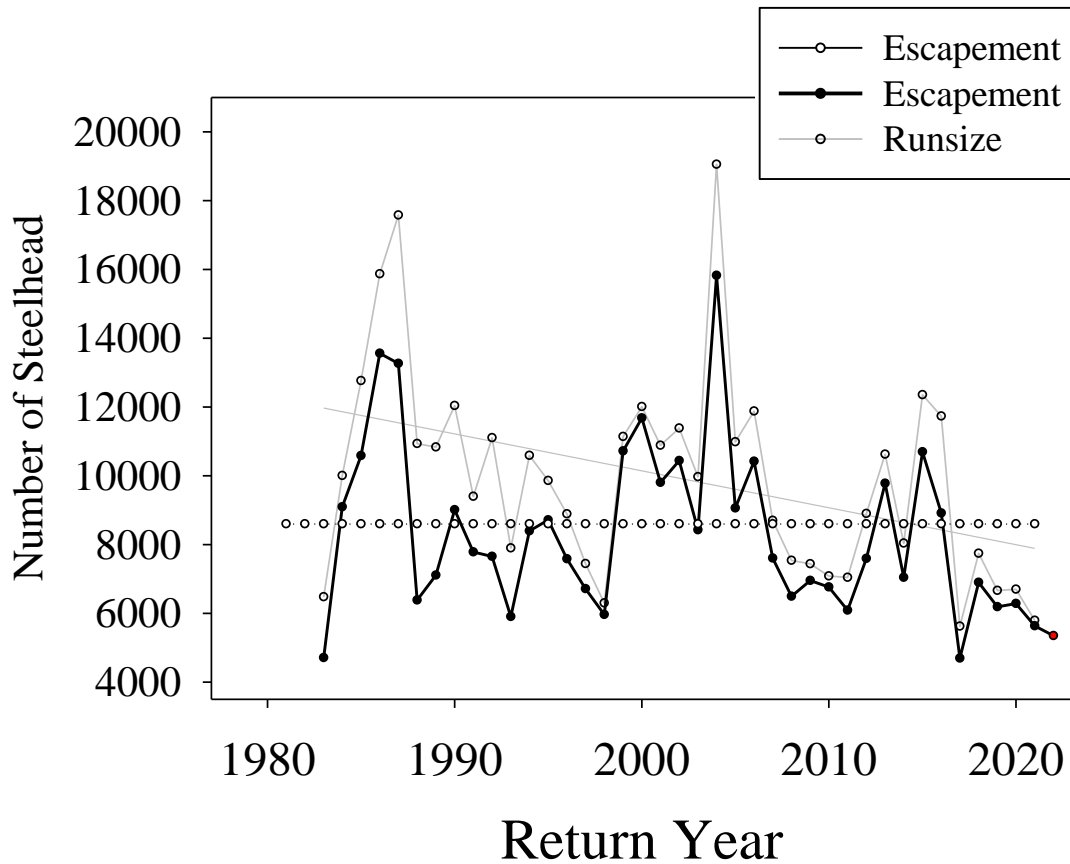


2021/22 Monitoring and Performance

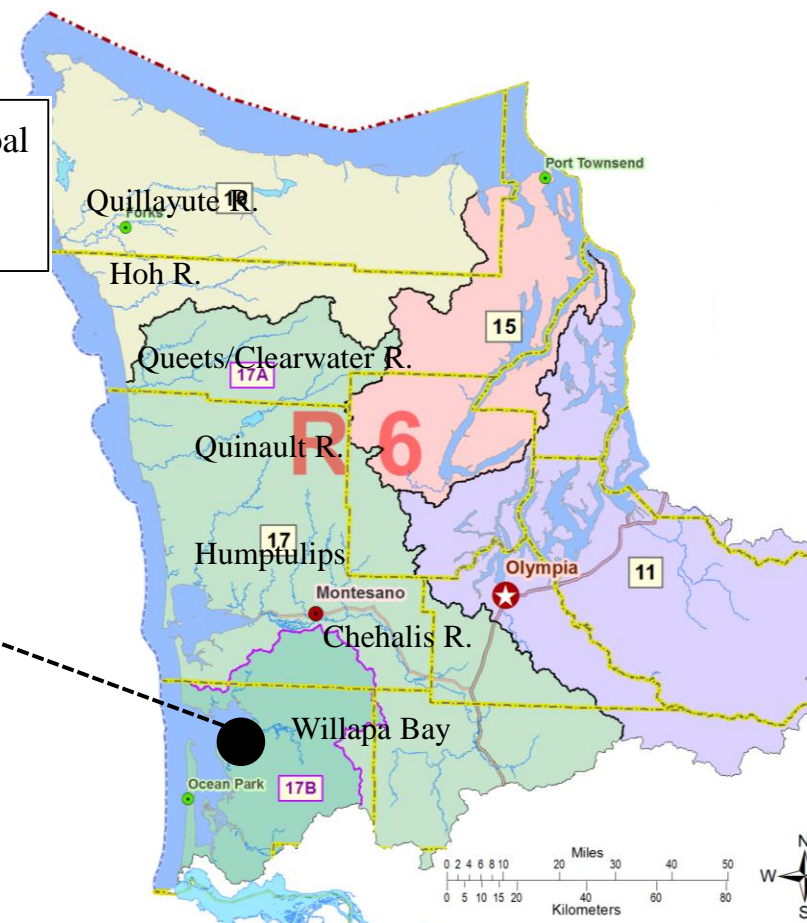
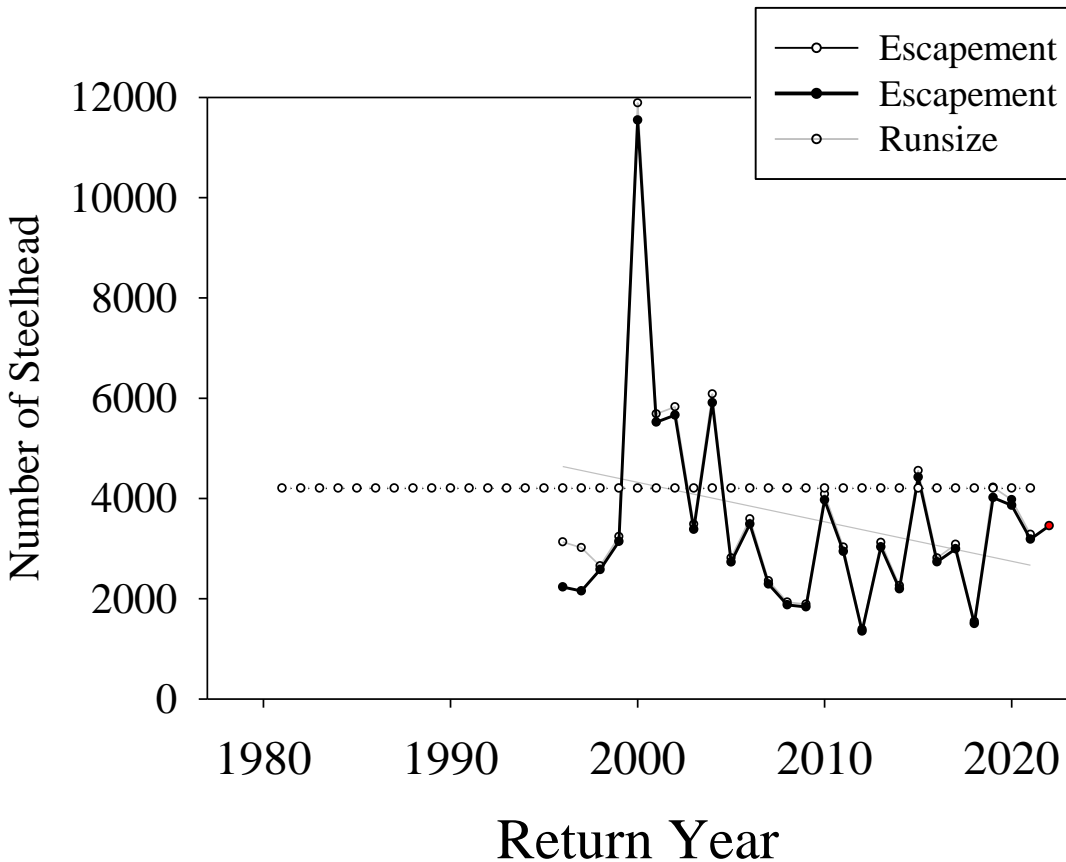
- Preseason: Low forecasts in all rivers and conservative season regulations with fishing opportunity in Willapa, Quillayute and Hoh rivers and boat fishing opportunity in the Quillayute.
- In-season: Sport and tribal catch suggested lower than expected runsize.
- Emergency Regulations: Closed state and tribal fisheries in-season.
- Post-season: Preliminary escapement estimates consistent with recent years.



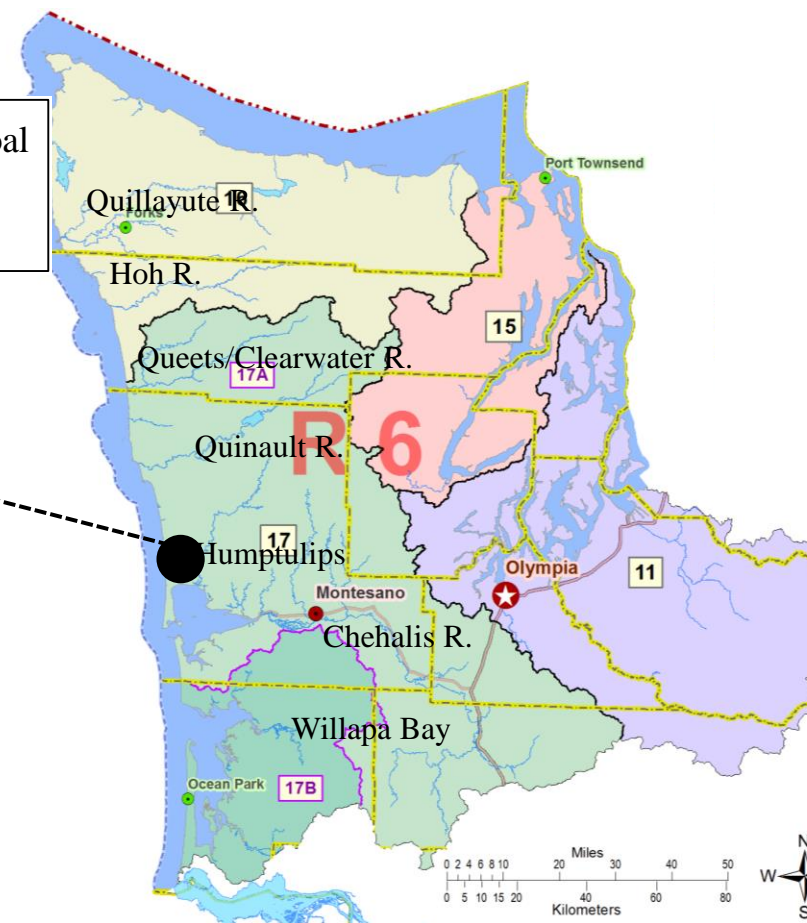
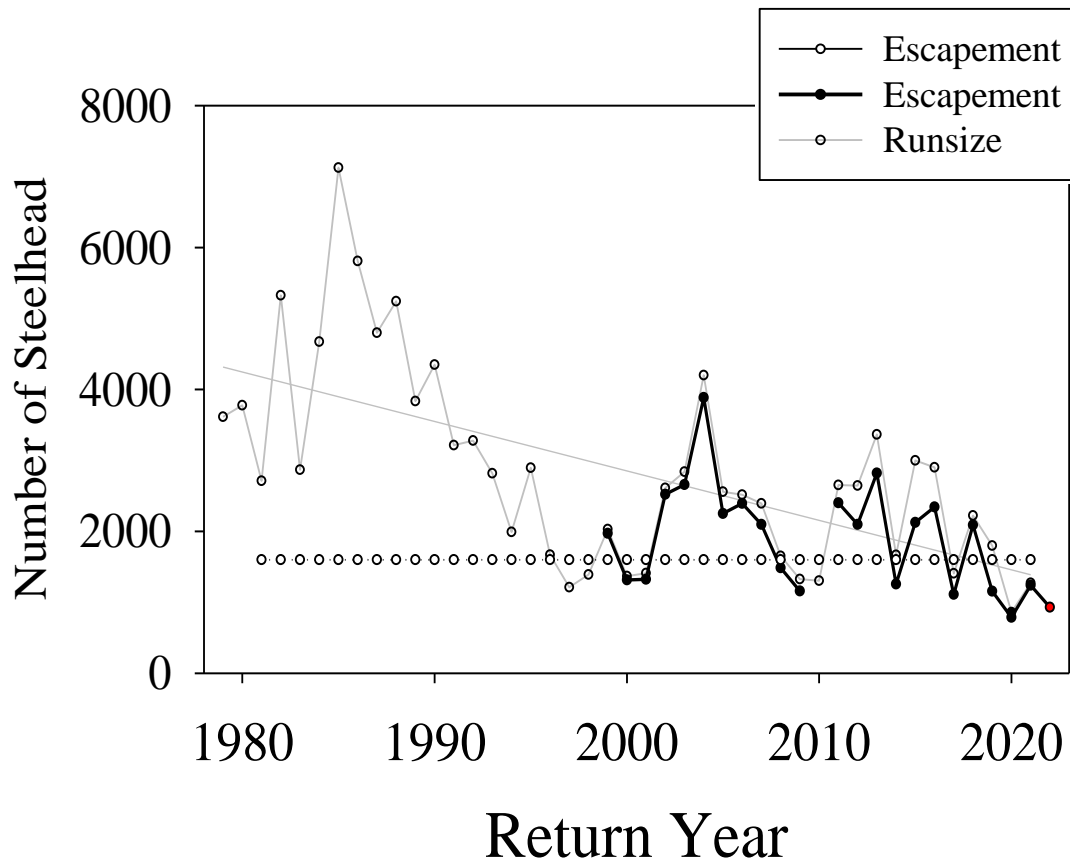
Steelhead Trends- Chehalis R.



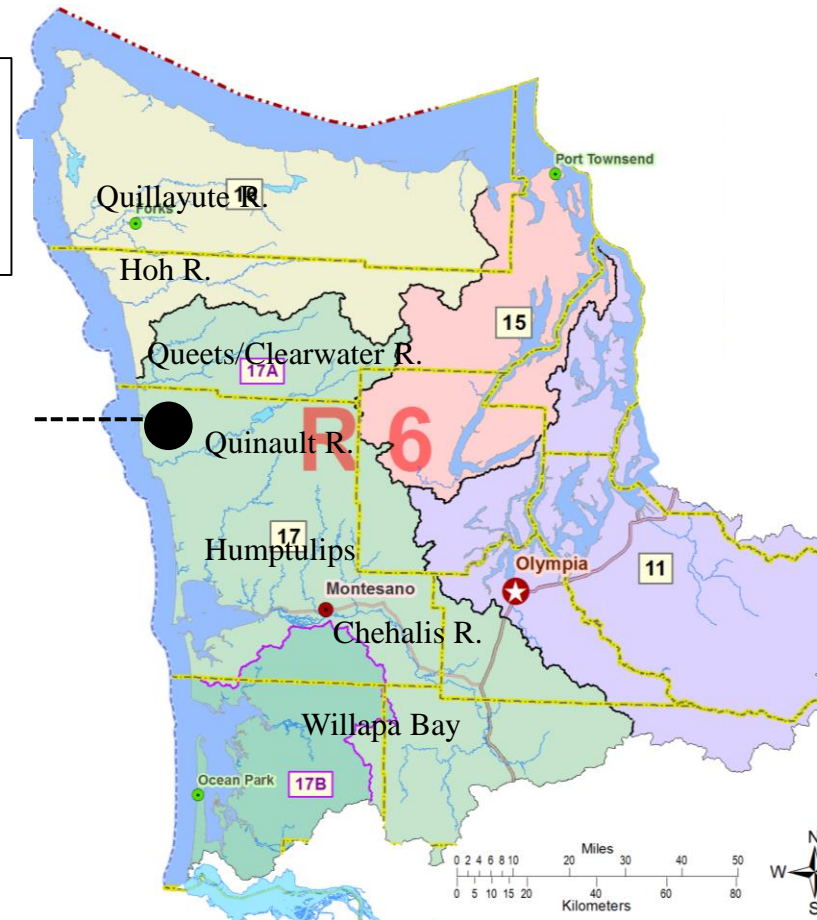
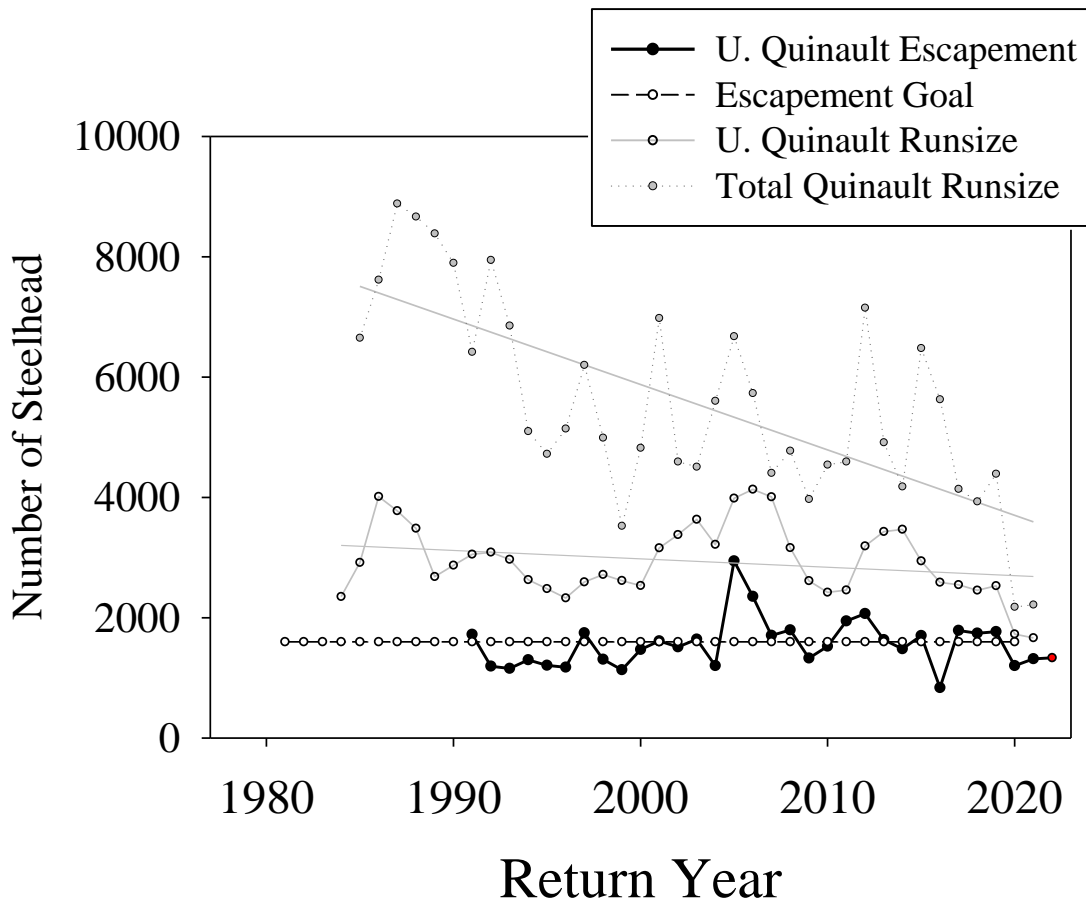
Steelhead Trends- Willapa Bay



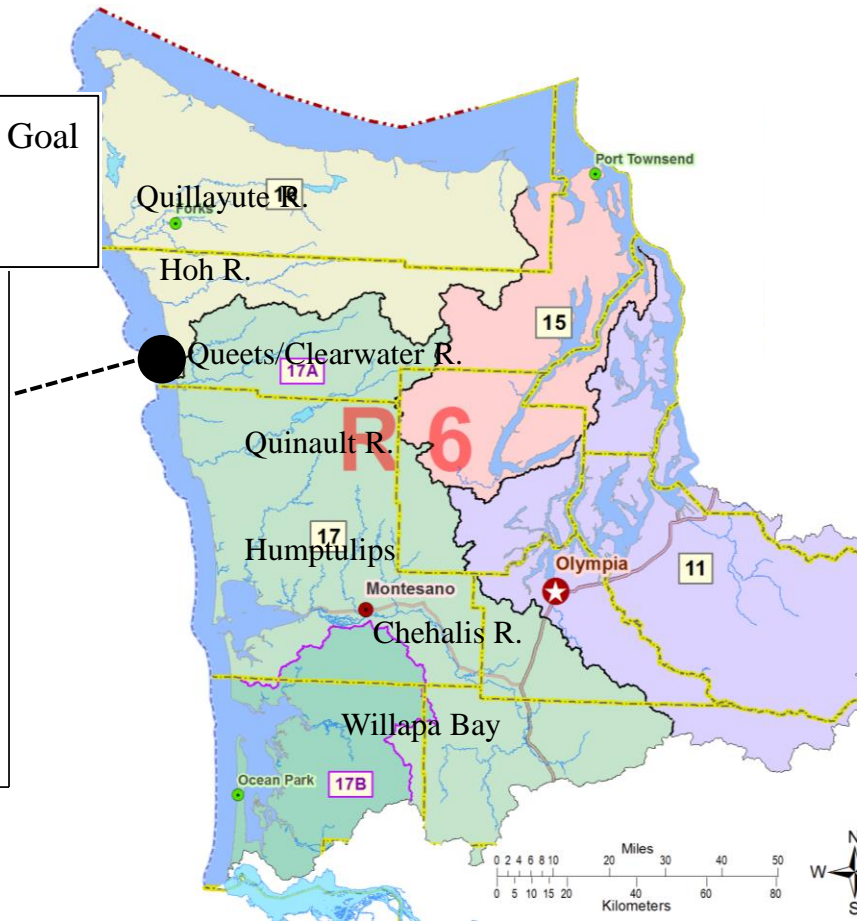
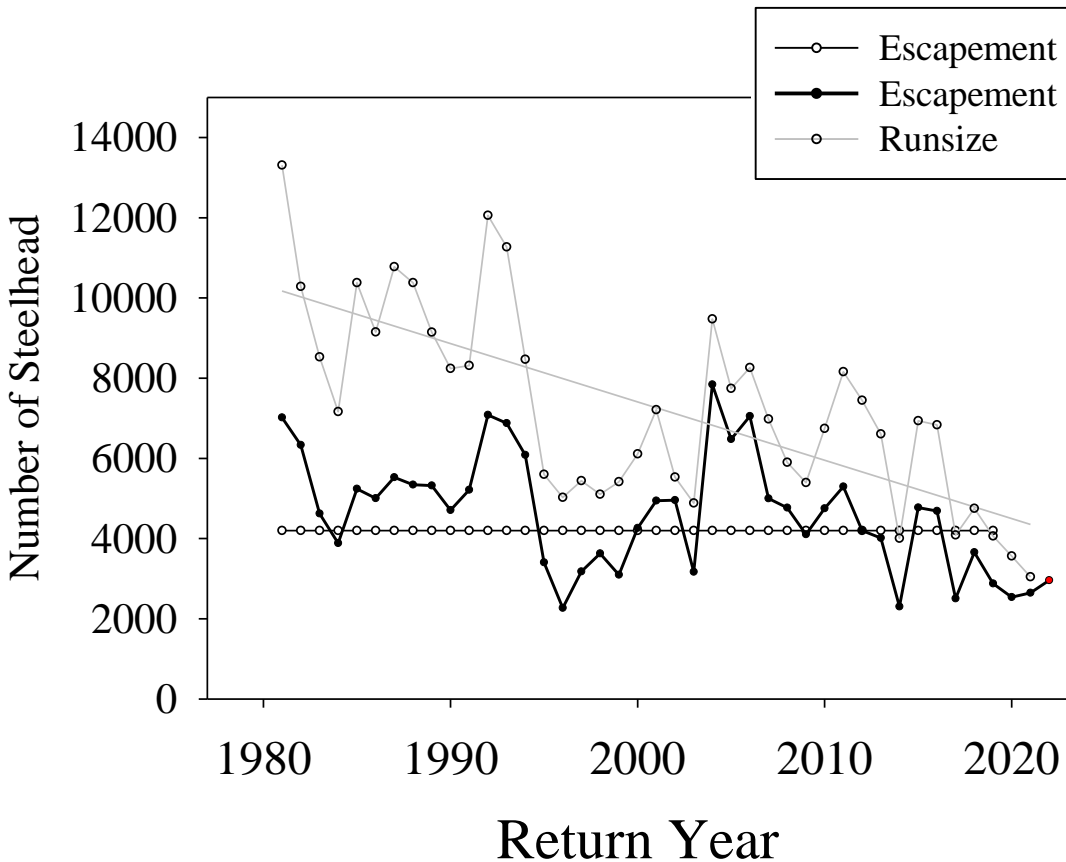
Steelhead Trends- Humptulips R.



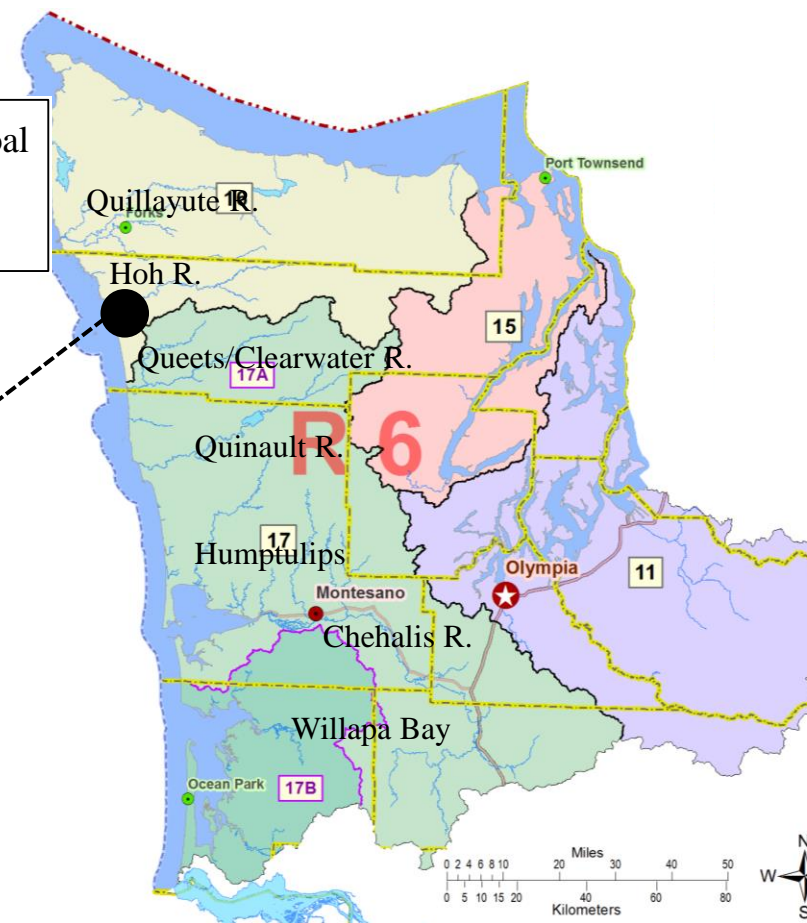
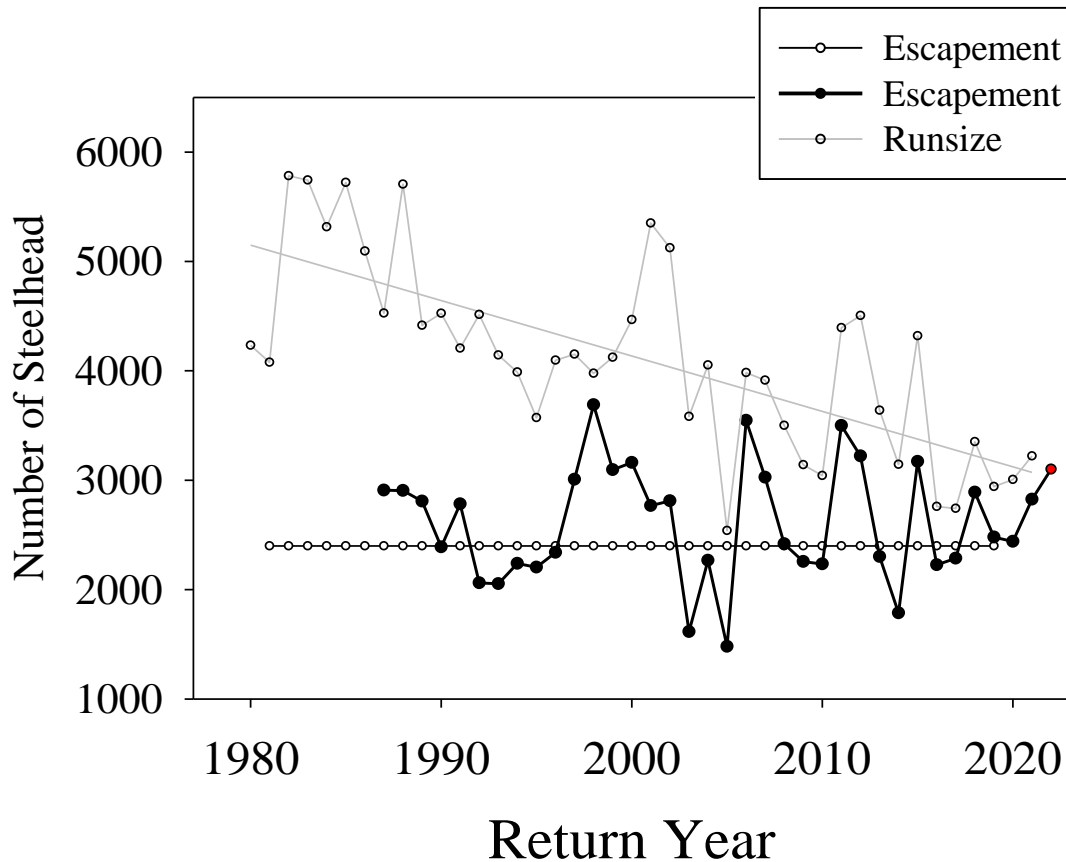
Steelhead Trends- Quinault R.



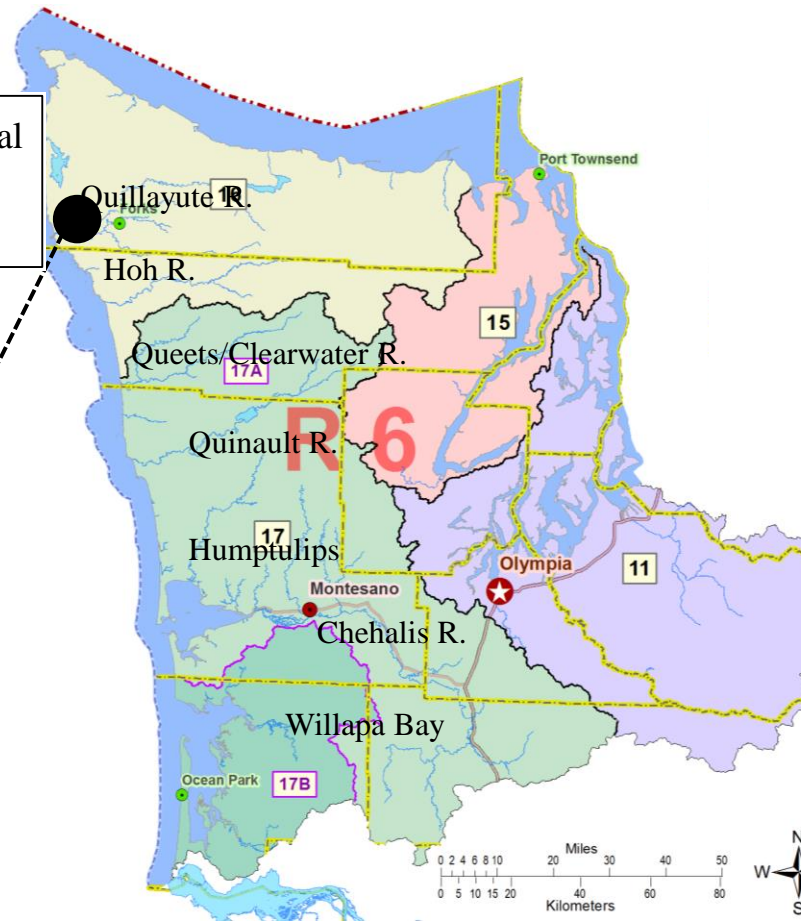
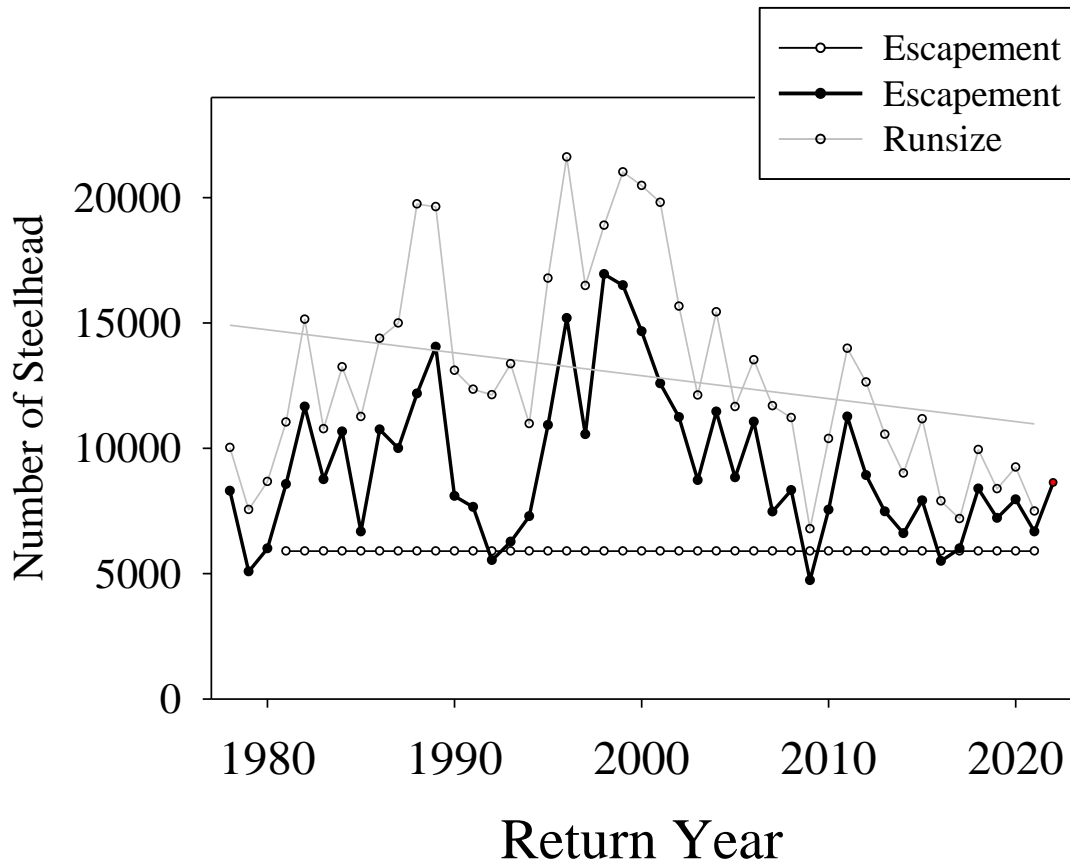
Steelhead Trends- Queets/Clearwater



Steelhead Trends- Hoh R.

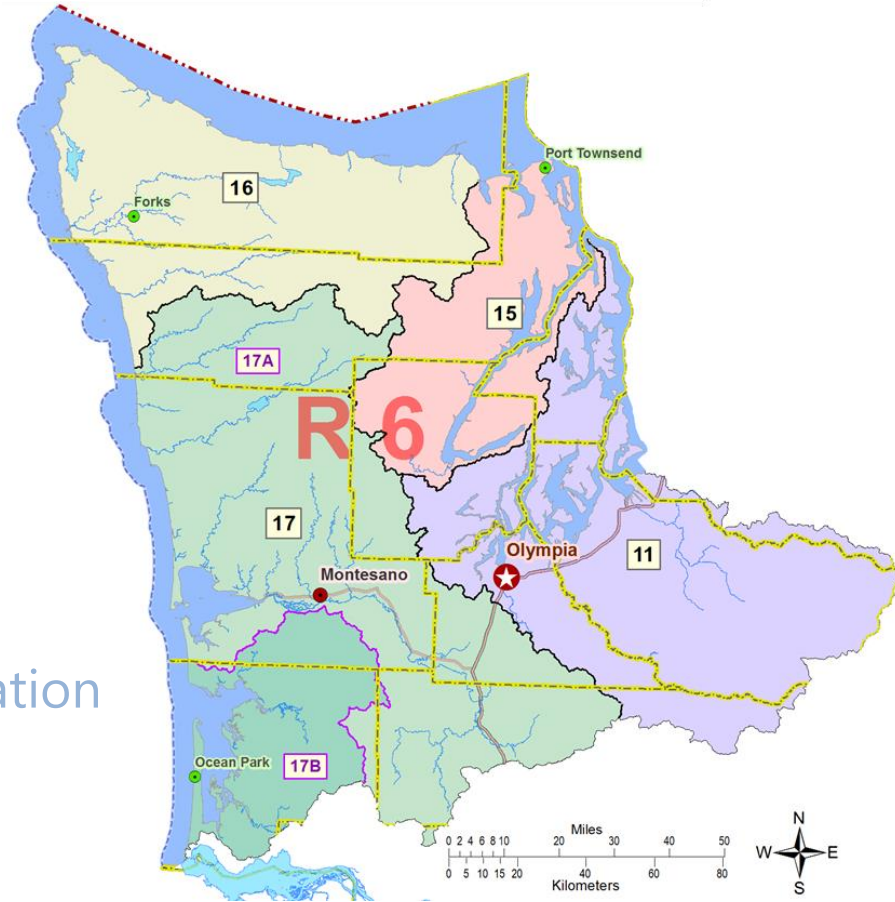


Steelhead Trends- Quillayute R.

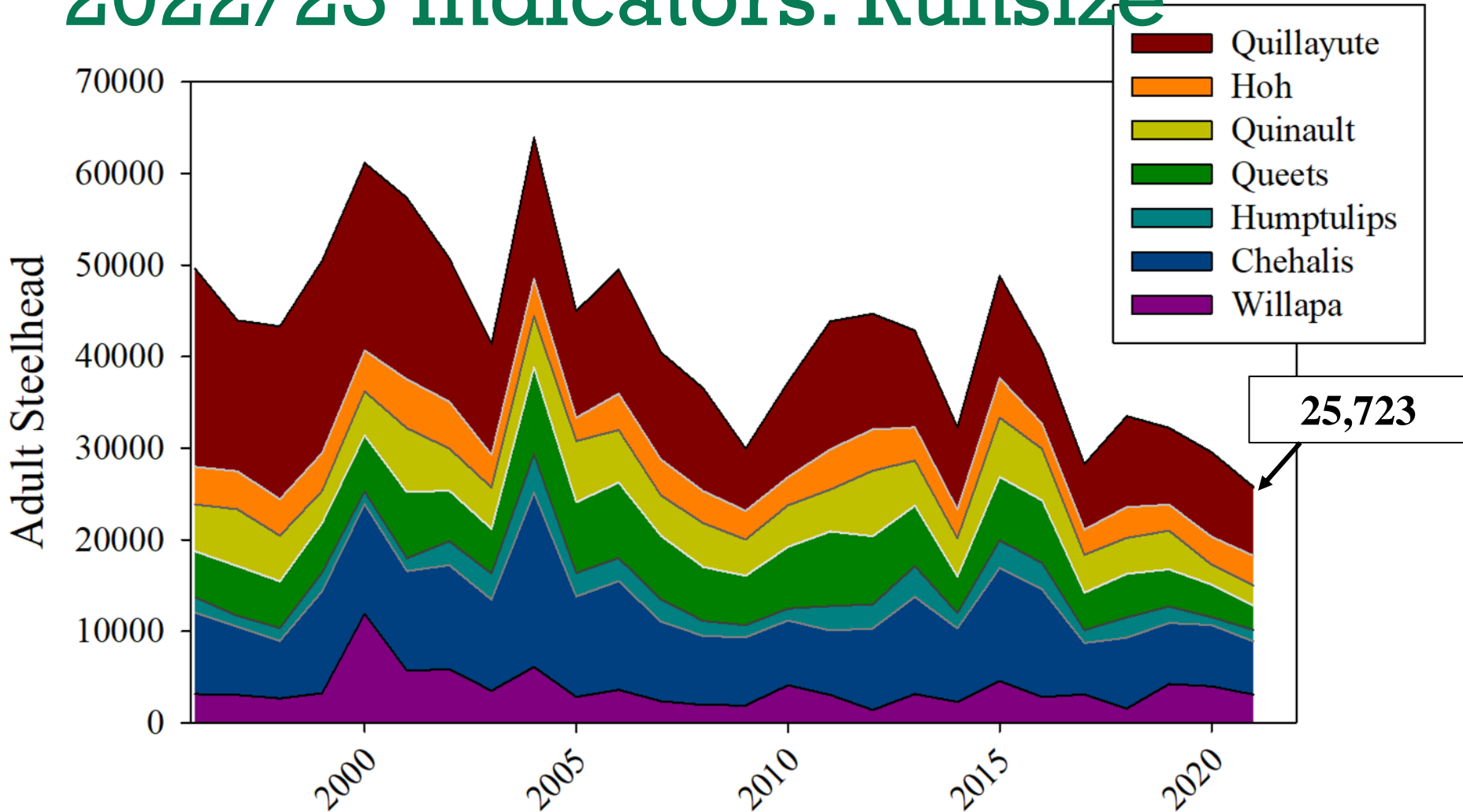


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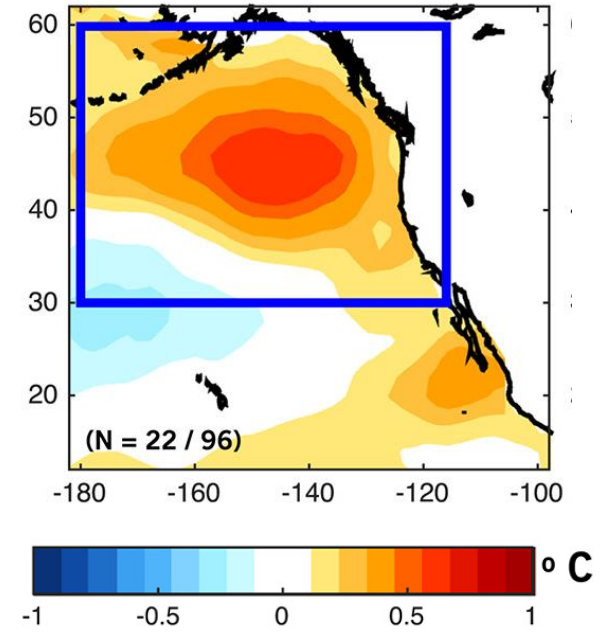
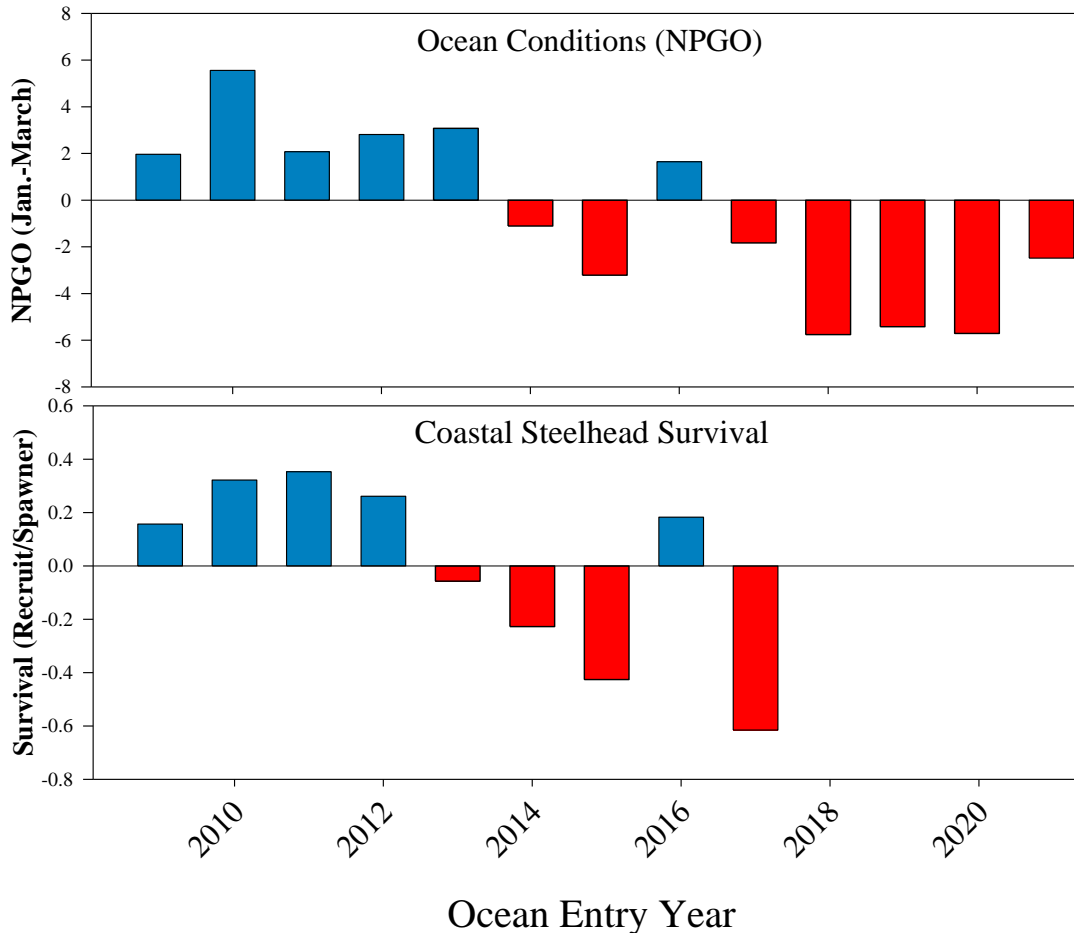
2022/23 Indicators: Runsize



2021 total returns to the Washington Coast were the lowest on record.



2022/23 Indicators-Ocean Conditions



Joh & Di Lorenzo 2017
Scheuerell et al. 2020

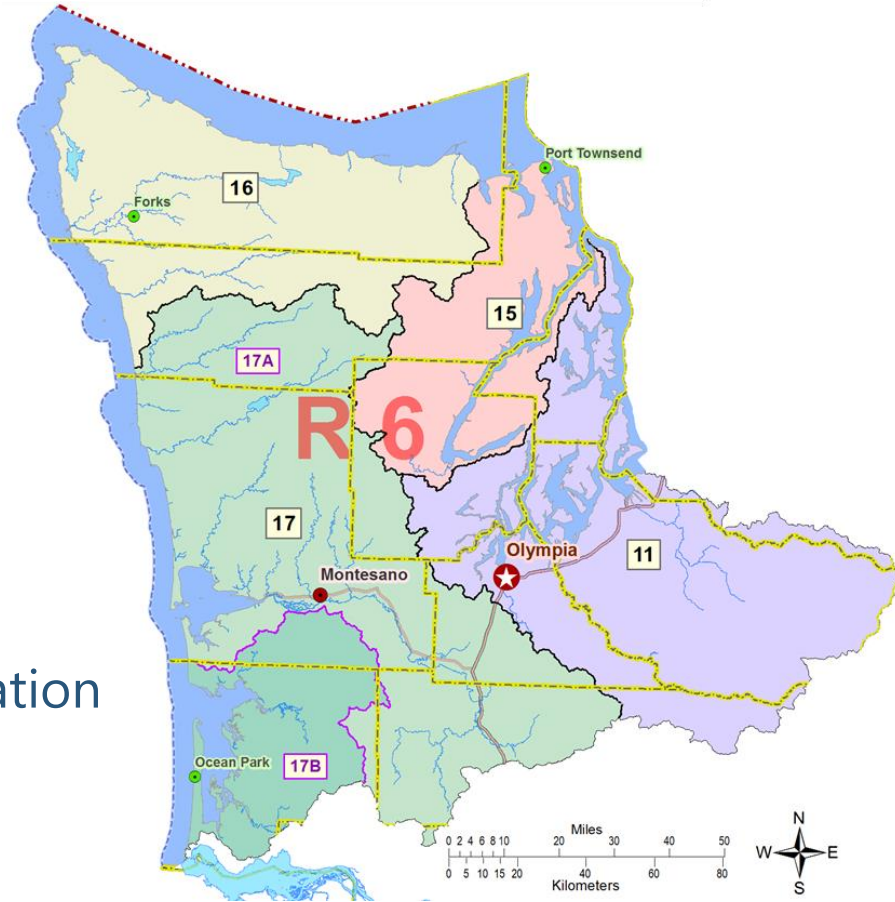


NPGO=North Pacific Gyre Oscillation-a climate pattern used as an index to explains key physical and biological changes in the ocean



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Coastal Steelhead Monitoring Proviso

\$300K for the Department to develop steelhead plans for Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and coastal Olympic Peninsula. The plans must protect fisheries, provide fishing opportunities, and include stakeholder input and outreach. The Department must submit the final plans to the legislature by December 2022.



Full Proviso Language

\$200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$100,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the department to develop a plan to protect native and hatchery produced steelhead for each river system of Grays harbor, Willapa bay, and coastal Olympic peninsula. The plan must adequately protect those fisheries for healthy runs year-after-year as well as provide reasonable fishing opportunities. The plan must include active stakeholder input and include an outreach strategy sufficient to keep conservation and angler interests well informed of proposed changes in advance of annual fishing seasons. The plan must be reported to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022.



Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan

Timeline:

- November 2021-Developed WDFW team to lead writing and implementation.
- February 2021-Initial meeting of Ad-hoc Coastal Steelhead Advisory Group.
- December 2022-Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan and funding request to implement plan submitted to legislature.



Questions

