

Coastal Steelhead 2022/23 Preseason Planning Update

WDFW Fish Committee

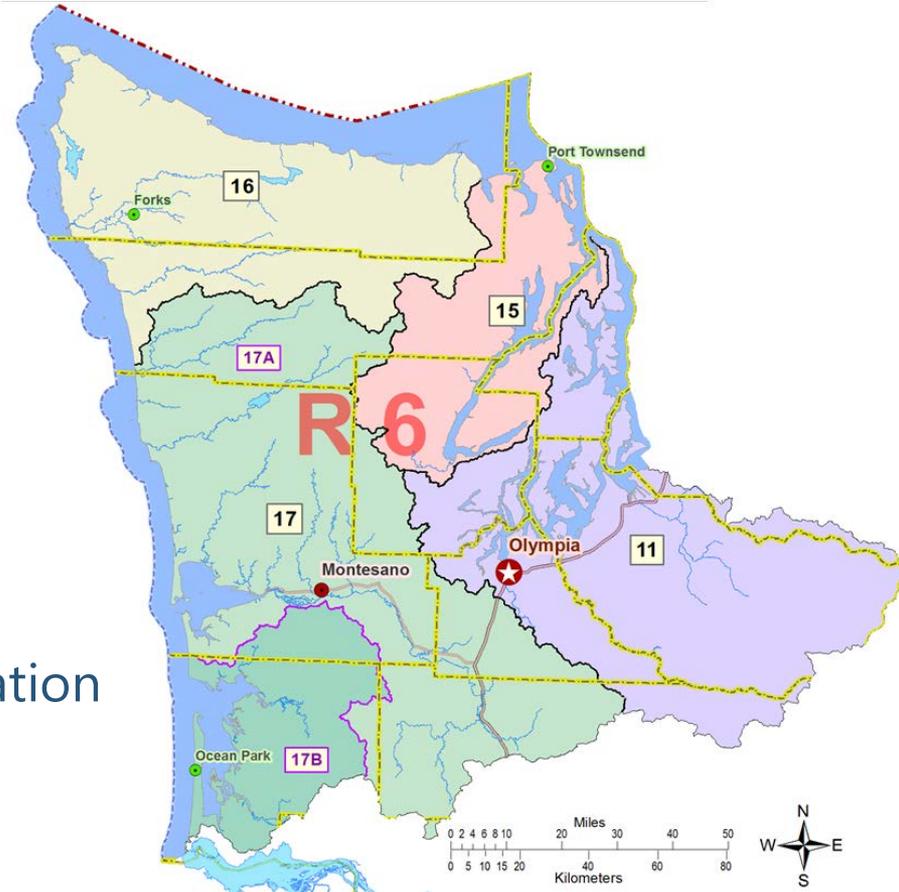
October 27, 2022

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



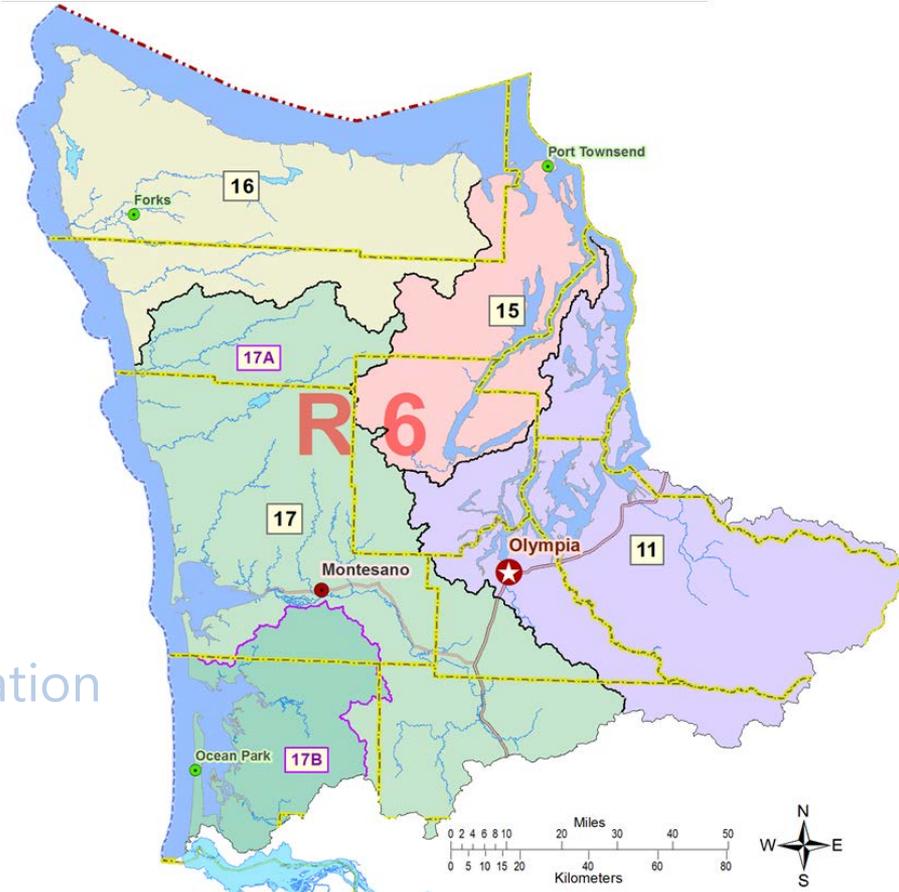
Agenda

- 2022 Review (cont'd from September meeting)
- 2023 Forecasts
- Town Hall #1 Review
- Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan Update

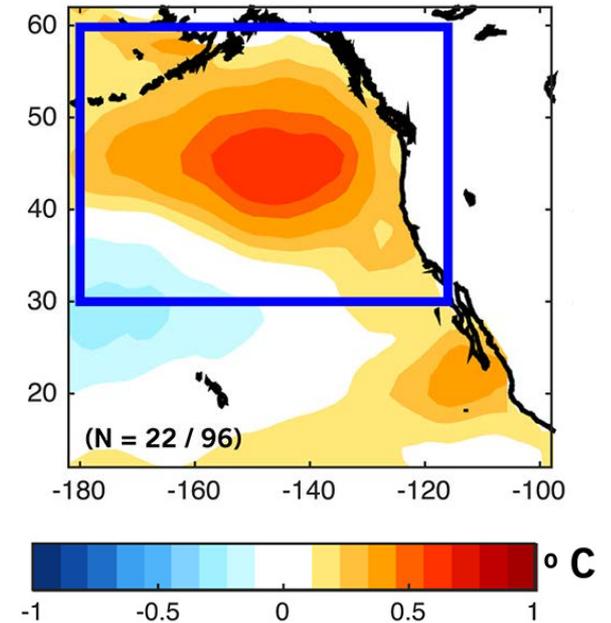
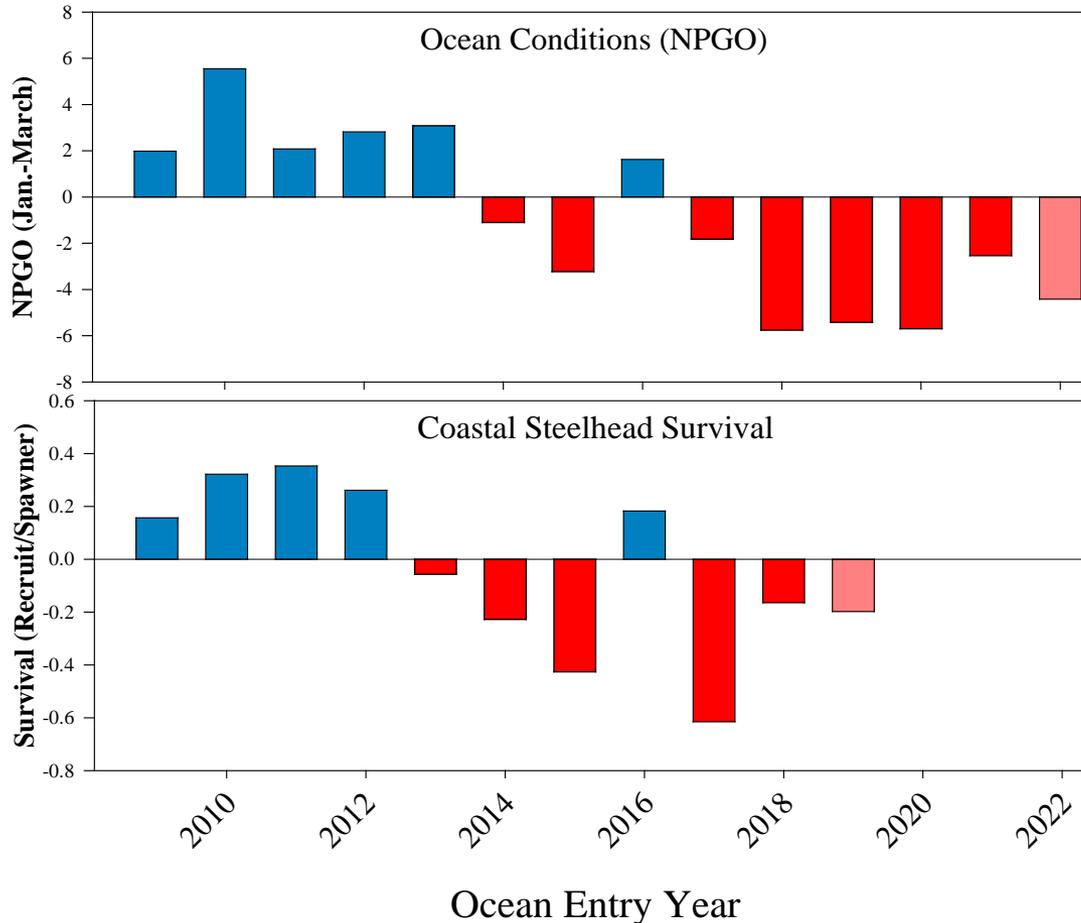


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2022 Reviews-Ocean Conditions



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



2022 Review : Preliminary Runsize

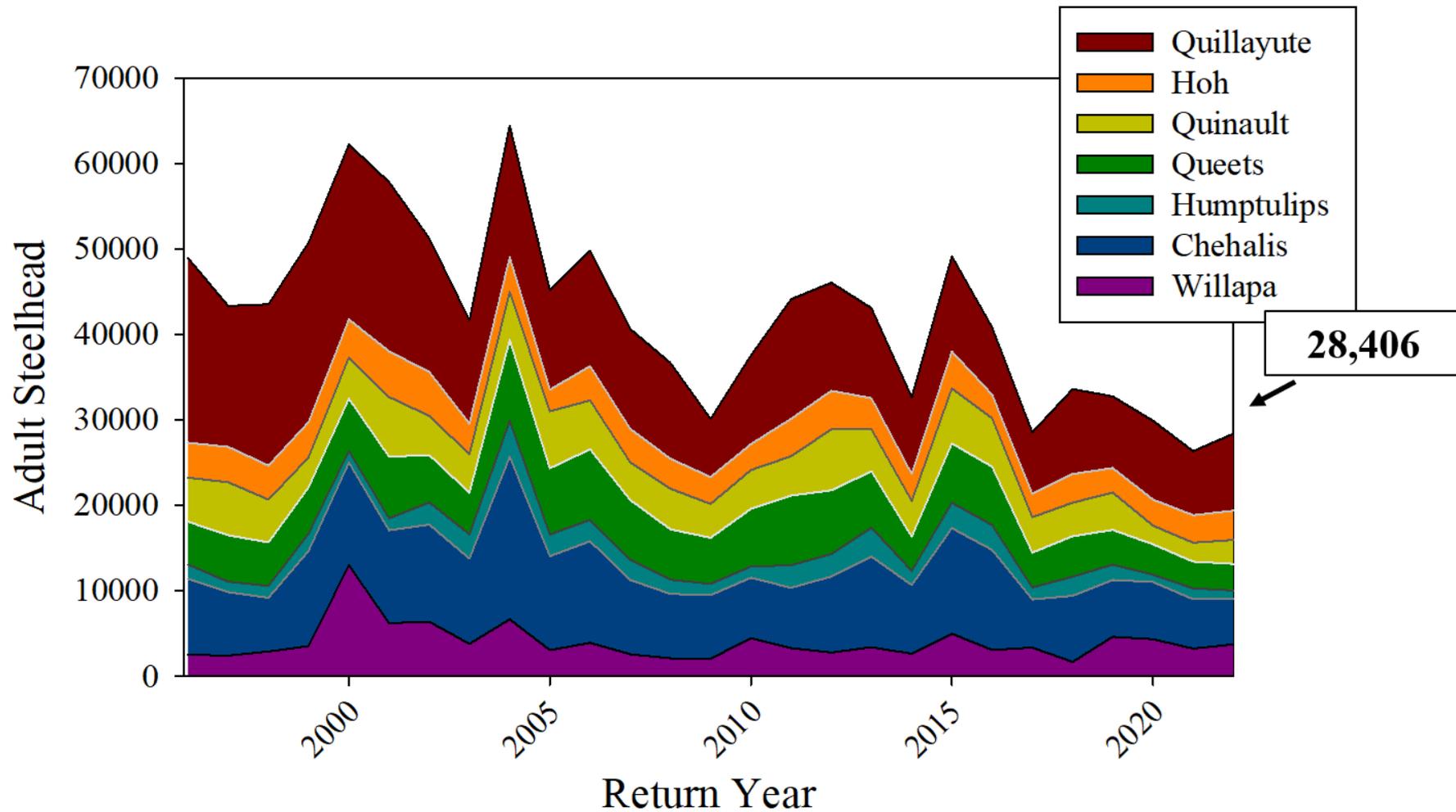
River/Area	Predicted Runsize	Actual Runsize	Escapement Goal	Escapement
Willapa	3,188	3,753	4,206	3,456
Chehalis	5,681	5,378	8,600	5,350
Humptulips	1,343	928	1,600	928
Upper Quinault	1,128	1,776	1,600	1,498
Queets/Clearwater	3,203	3,114	4,200	2,959
Hoh	3,141	3,443	2,400	3,100
Quillayute	8,516	8,996	5,900	8,186



Forecasted within 5% of actual runsize in 2021/22 and escapement goals not met in 5 of 7 rivers.



2022 Review: Runsize



2022 Review: Sport Monitoring

Effort counts and interviews conducted January 1-February 28th

- Willapa Bay
 - Willapa: 404 anglers interviewed; 38 wild & 21 hatchery steelhead caught.
 - Naselle: 282 anglers interviewed; 51 wild & 9 hatchery caught.
- Quillayute River
 - 546 anglers interviewed; 254 wild & 22 hatchery caught.
- Hoh River
 - 1135 anglers interviewed, 252 wild & 0 hatchery caught.



2022 Review: Preliminary Tribal Catch

	Wild Projected	Wild Harvested
Willapa	0	0
Chehalis	0	0
Humptulips	0	0
Quinault	216	38
Queets	199	155
Hoh	311	292
Quillayute	1230	430

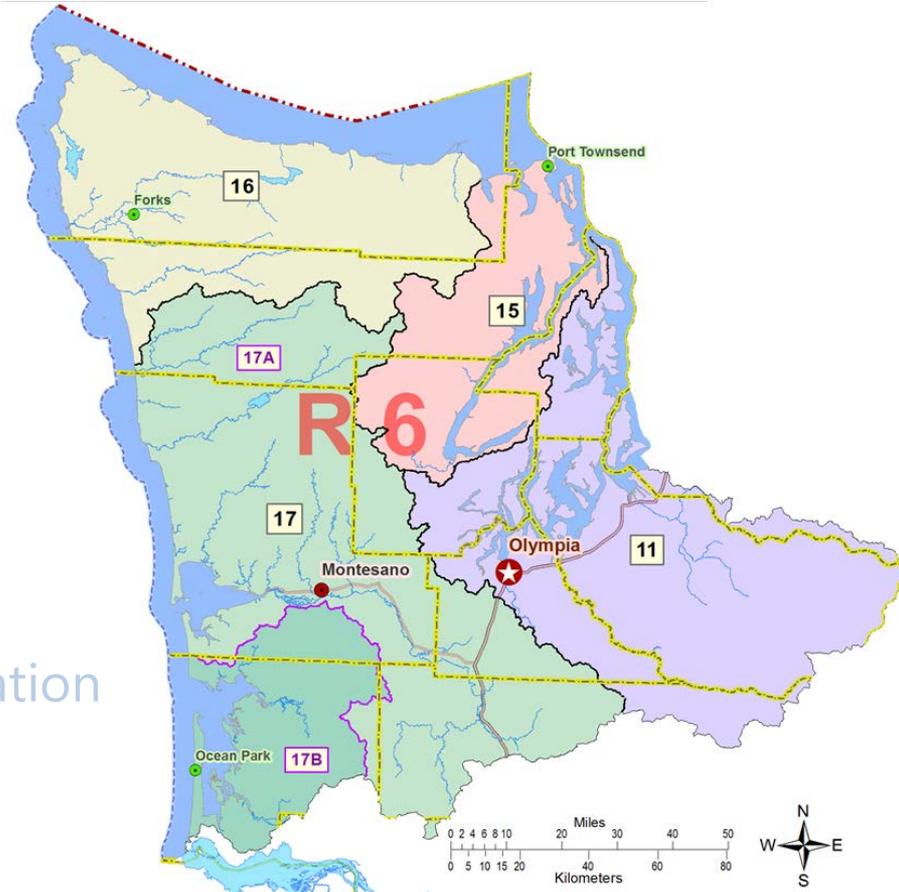


Tribal catch less than 50% of what was projected preseason as a result of management actions.



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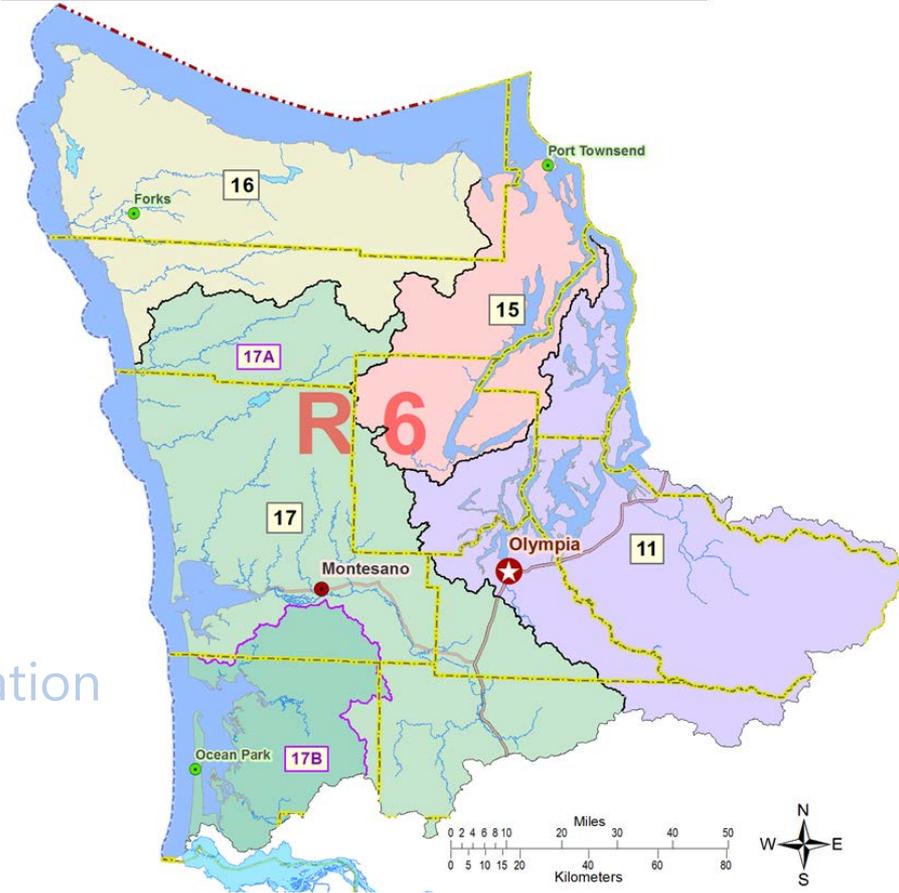
2023: Preliminary Forecasts

River/Area	Run-to-River	Escapement Goal	Wild Steelhead Relative % above/below	
			To Goal	Goal
Willapa	3,535	4,206	-671	-16%
Chehalis	7,114	8,600	-1,486	-17%
Humptulips	1,222	1,600	-378	-24%
Upper Quinault	2,376	1,600	776	49%
Queets/Clearwater	3,958	4,200	-242	-6%
Hoh	2,995	2,400	595	25%
Quillayute	9,344	5,900	3,444	58%



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Town Hall #1 Review

- ~200 people in attendance.
- Strong support for continued conservation efforts given low runsize.
- General frustration over restrictions to fisheries and lack of monitoring and research.
- Desire for increased opportunity on hatchery steelhead in specific systems.
- Received specific fishery proposals in the Town Hall and 19 comments in comment portal over the last month.



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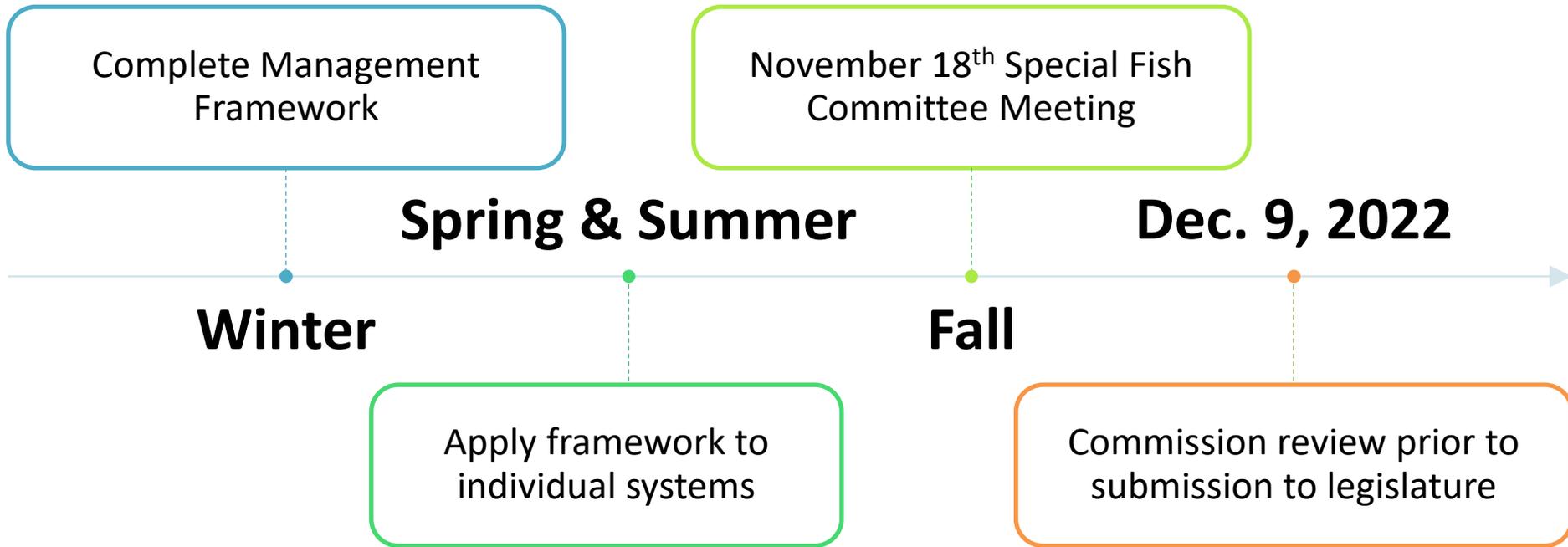


Full Proviso Language

\$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 Timeline



Questions

