

Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan

WDFW Fish and Wildlife Commission

December 8-9, 2022

Kelly Cunningham, Fish Program Director

James Losee, Regional Program Manager

Toby Harbison, Research Scientist

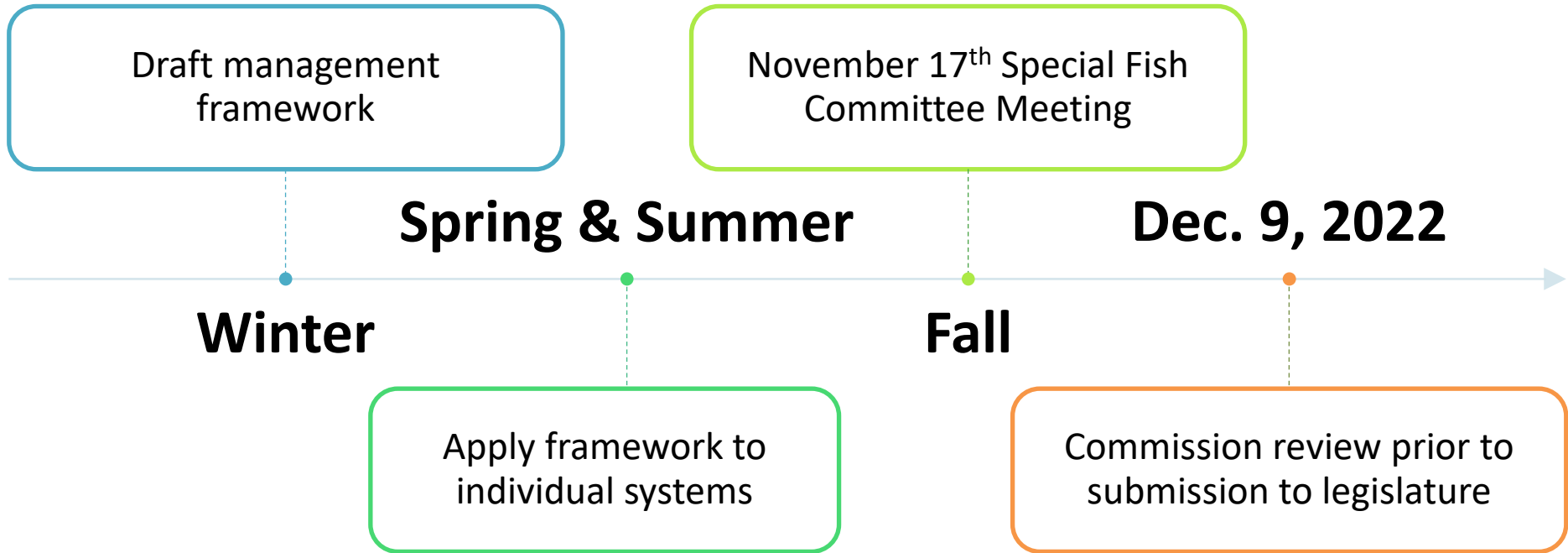


Proviso Language

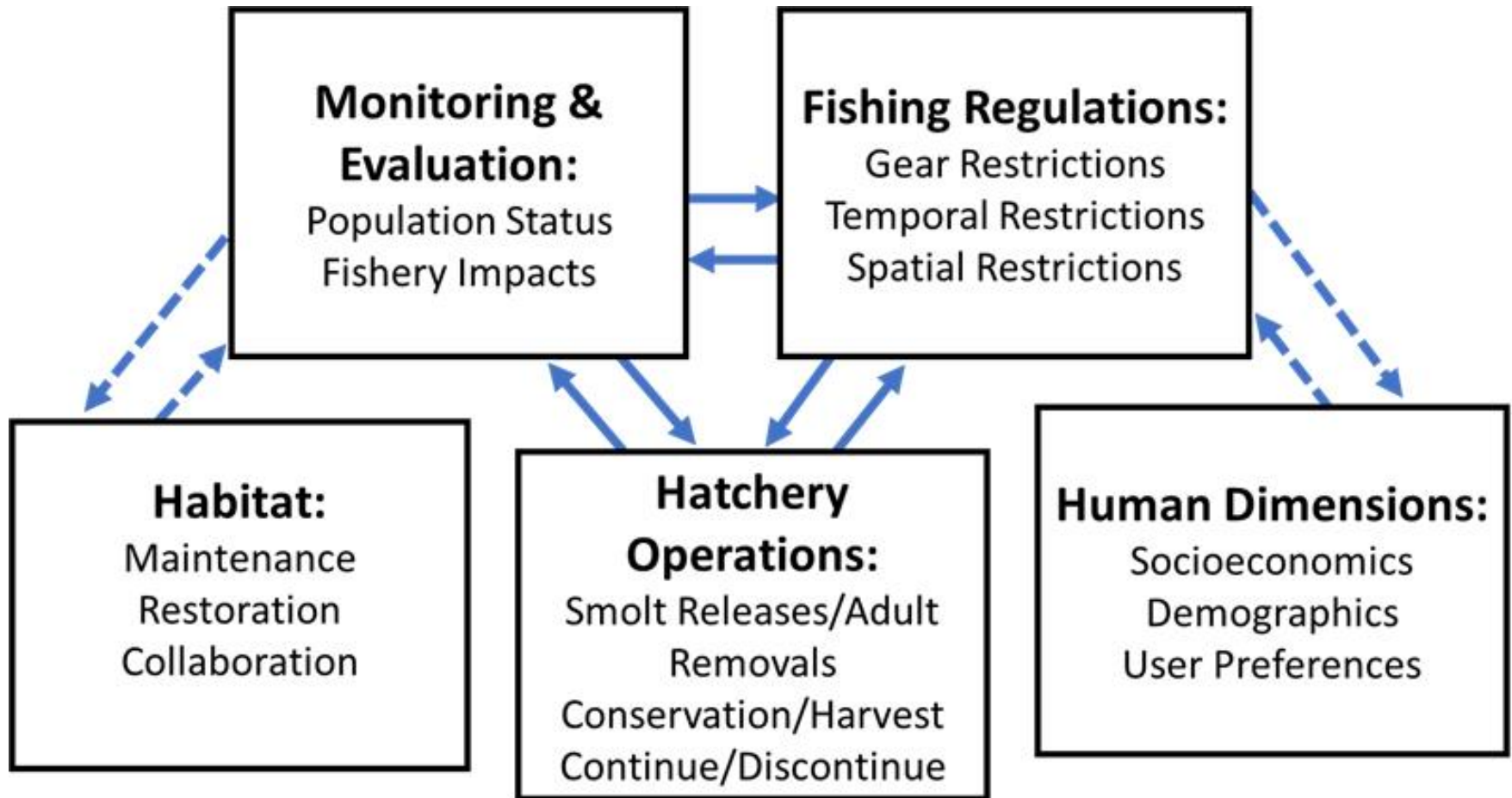
\$200,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$100,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the department to develop a plan to protect native and hatchery produced steelhead for each river system of Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, 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



Coastal Steelhead Proviso: Subject Areas



The CSPIP and Existing Policy

- Aligns with the SSMP, Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy C-3624 (2021), and Joint Comanager Hatchery Policy
- Innovative strategies and funding to meet pre-existing policies
- Lays the groundwork for Regional Management Plans (to be developed with comanagers)



Budget: \$5.9 million/biennium*

- **This budget supports:**
 - 21.3 FTEs
 - Spawner abundance estimates coastwide
 - Sport fishery monitoring coastwide
 - SONAR team
 - Coastwide research
 - Implementation and DPS-specific RMPs
 - Biological sampling
 - Equipment and maintenance

*budget detail included



Budget

- **Failure to fund CSPIP would:**
 - Lead to failure to implement the CSPIP
 - Continue or increase uncertainty regarding coastal steelhead fishery impacts, which could limit fishery sustainability and opportunity
 - Hinder the development of Regional Management Plans, including long-term coastal steelhead conservation objectives and Management Strategy Evaluations
 - Slow the pace of critical scientific research needed to inform steelhead fishery management



Coastal Steelhead Proviso: Stakeholder Input

Lee Geist

Jessica Helsley

Caleb Hitzfeld

Bob Kratzer

Geoff McMichael

Roy Morris

Luke Probasco

Chris Ringlee

Jason Rolfe

Rich Simms

Jonathan Stumpf

Mara Zimmerman



Public Feedback

- Plan provides optimism
- Appreciation for timeline and accountability measures
- Glad to see budget associated
- Communication and effort from staff
- Integrates the best available science
- Doesn't go far enough
- Lack of comanager involvement
- Concern for how the plan will affect hatchery operations
- There wasn't enough time to discuss everything that folks wanted to discuss
- Desire for continued feedback to public on progress of implementation



Questions

