

# Coastal Steelhead Fishing Regulations Briefing

WDFW Commission Meeting  
December 14th, 2023

James P. Losee, Region 6 Fish Program Manager

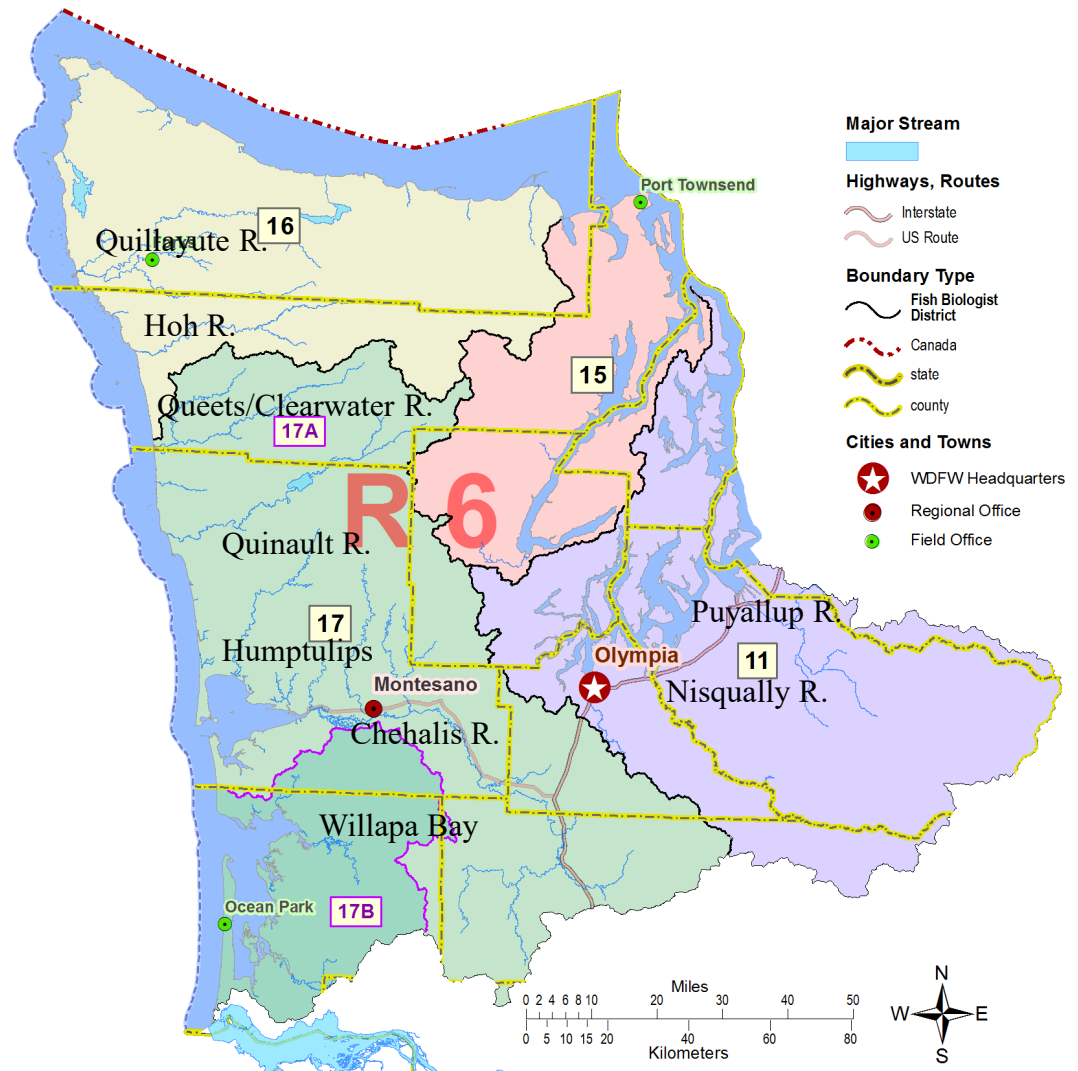


# Agenda

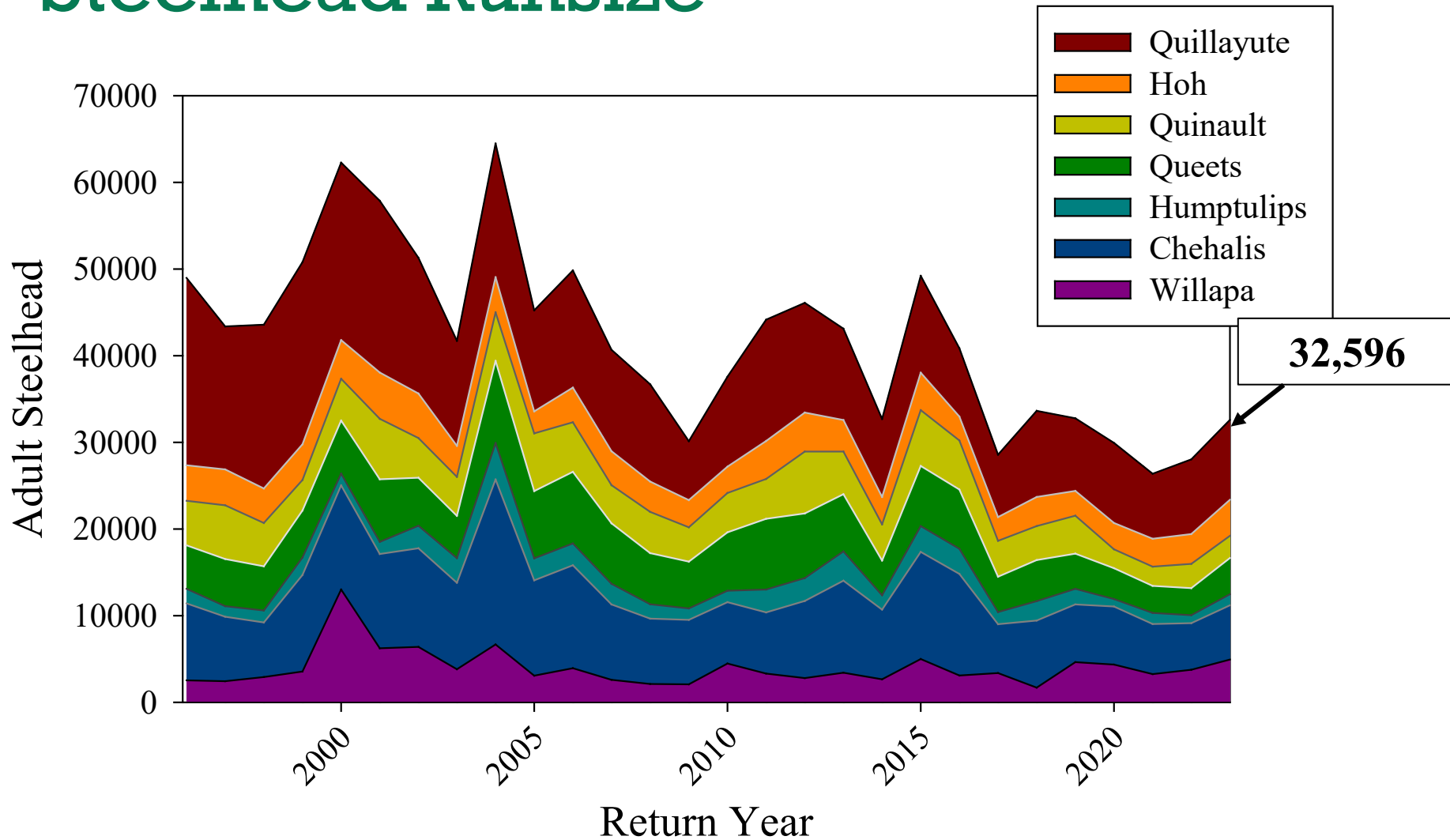
Runsize and forecasts summary

Results of the public process

Summary of 2023/24 Regulations



# 2022/23 Review: Wild Coastal Steelhead Runsize



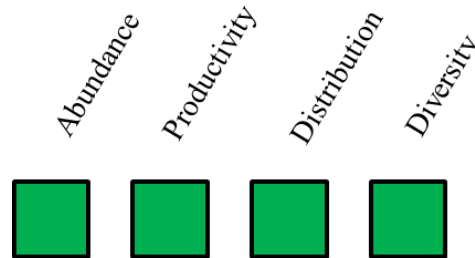
# 2023-24: Preliminary Forecasts

<b>System</b>	<b>Run-to-River Forecast</b>	<b>Escapement Goal</b>	<b>Sport Impact Limit</b>
Willapa	4,085	4,206	409
Chehalis	7,148	8,600	214
Humptulips	1,343	1,600	67
Upper Quinault	1,870	1,600	135
Queets/Clearwater	4,150	4,200	208
Hoh	3,389	2,400	495
Quillayute	9,096	5,900	1,598



# Results of Public Process

- ~150 people attended at both Town Hall #1 and Town Hall #2
- Hundreds of suggestions through online portal, phone, email, and letters.
- Key Concepts we've heard from the public:
  - Desire for a conservative approach
  - Support for last year's regulations
  - Close systems that are not meeting escapement
  - Increased hatchery targeted fisheries
  - Allow the use of bait
  - Allow steelhead fishing in April
  - Increase boat fishing opportunity
  - Increase restrictions on fishing out of a boat
  - Formal evaluation of boat fishing restrictions
- Region 6 Management team analyzed more than 20 specific proposals



# 2023/24 Coastal Steelhead Rules

- **Willapa System**-Open December 1-March 31 (select tributaries Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>), selective gear rules, one single point barbless hook, release wild rainbow trout, 2 hatchery steelhead bag limit. Fishing from a floating device allowed.
- **Chehalis River**-Closed November 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Humptulips River**-Closed November 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Quinault River**- Closed November 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Queets/Clearwater River**-Closed November 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Quillayute System**-Open December 1-March 31, selective gear rules, one single point barbless hook. Expanded boat fishing in Sol Duc River. Fishing from a floating device allowed in mainstem Quillayute, below hatchery on Sol Duc, below 101 bridge on Calawah and below mouth of Mill Creek (above hatchery) on Bogachiel. Release wild rainbow trout, 2 hatchery steelhead bag limit.
- **Hoh River**-Open December 1-March 31, selective gear rules, one single point barbless hook. Fishing from a floating device allowed; Wednesday through Saturday from Mouth to Oxbow boat ramp, and Sunday through Tuesday from Oxbow to Morgans Crossing. Release wild rainbow trout, 2 hatchery steelhead bag limit.



# Questions

