

Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy Review Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting August 9, 2024

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Overview of Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy

- Adopted in February 2014, expired December 30, 2023
- Fisheries are developed by working in concurrence with:
 - North of Falcon
 - Pacific Fisheries Management Council
 - Terms of *U.S. v. Washington*
 - Treaty co-managers: Quinault Indian Nation
 - State-share with Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation



Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy Performance

- Increased emphasis on conservation
- Increased transparency on the fishery planning process
- Provided framework for fisheries planning based on forecasts



Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy Performance

- Lacked co-manager input
- Guiding Principal (#8) restricts state commercial fishing by calendar week making it difficult to implement meaningful fisheries
- Prescriptive restrictions on commercial fishery impact rates
 - based on an analysis from 2008-2012, and
 - previous escapement goal (14,600) for Fall Chinook
- Policy allocation and impact rates between marine and FW recreational fisheries based on public input





Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy: Staff Recommended Language

Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy: Staff Recommendations for Policy Revision

- Define objectives and adaptive management that will be used to meet desired outcomes
 - Replicate Commission's approach from the Willapa Bay policy in a new Gray's Harbor policy with similar objectives
- Provide managers with the flexibility needed to achieve the objectives and outcomes based on defensible science and current data
 - Management Strategy Evaluations completed for stocks
 - Evaluate alternative harvest control rules to ensure we have the right escapement goals in place.
- Remove outdated and prescriptive language





Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy: Policy Development Timeline

Proposed Revision Timeline

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| June 14 | Special Fish Committee | Briefing | Provide an overview of sunset policy. Review policy performance. Staff recommendations for possible revisions. Outcome: Staff directed to develop mark-up strike-through reflecting staff recommendations. |
| July | | | Staff meetings with co-managers. Outcome: Letters sent to Tribes, working to schedule meetings. |
| August 8-10 | Fish Committee; Fish and Wildlife Commission | Briefing | Brief Commission on Draft Policy revisions. |
| August – September | Public Comment on WDFW website portal | Public comment period | Conduct public meeting to collect input on draft policy revisions and analyses. |
| September 26-28 | Fish Committee; Fish and Wildlife Commission | Briefing; Public input | Briefing on public comment |
| October 24-26 | Fish and Wildlife Commission | Decision | Commission final decision |



Questions & Discussion

