

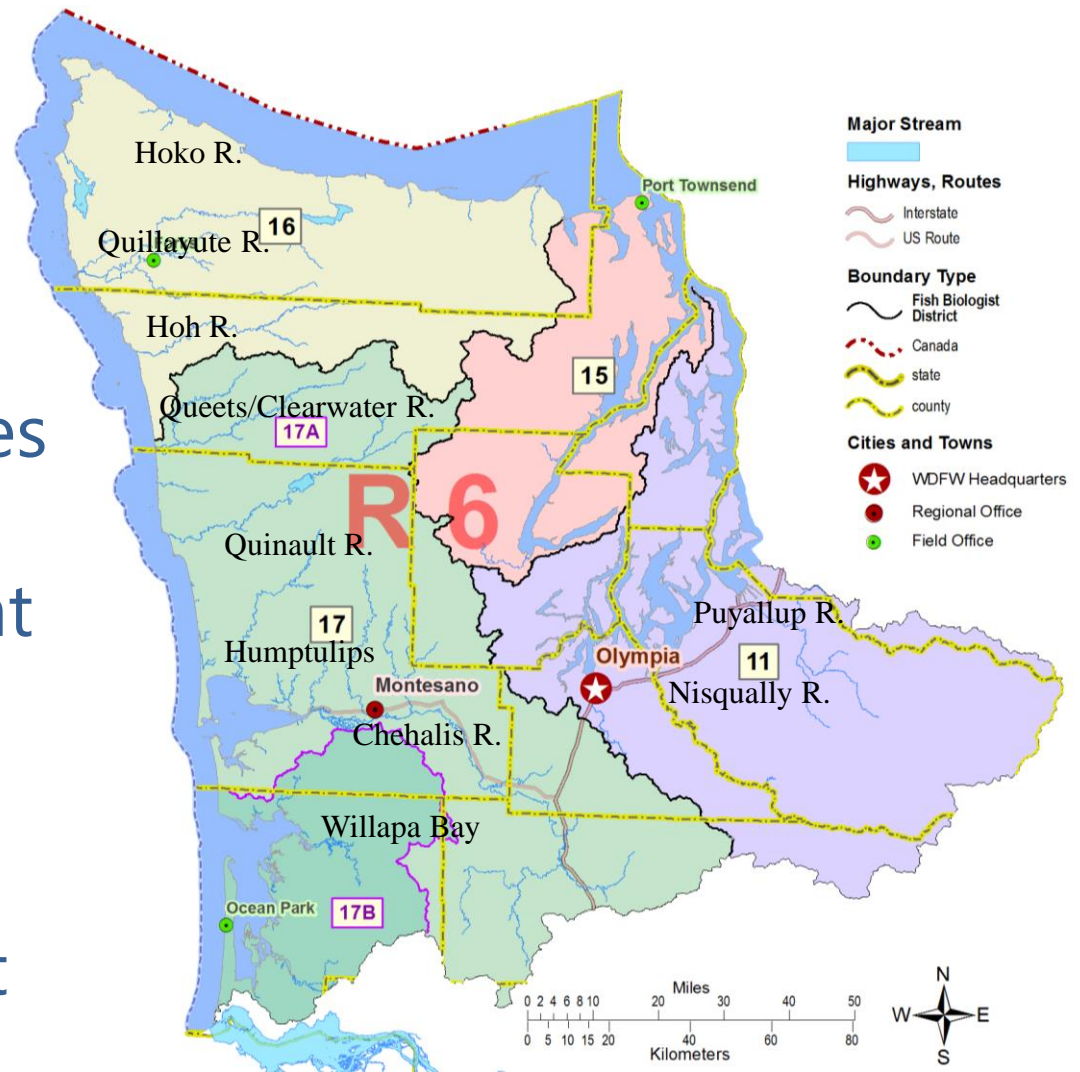
# Town Hall #1: Coastal Steelhead

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024



# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. 23/24 review, 24/25 forecasts, potential fisheries
3. Hoh River "No fishing from boat study" update
4. Coastwide Summary
5. Public Comment
6. Timeline



# 2024/25 Pre-season schedule

- Mid July: Survey data exchange with tribal comanagers
- Mid August: Spawning escapement estimates finalized
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# Zoom Directions and Etiquette

- All callers will be muted upon entry.
- Ask a question by “raising your hand”. If you’re calling in you can raise a hand by dialing \*9 on your phone, or if you're calling from a computer, you can find the hand icon at the bottom of your screen.
- When you are called on for a question or comment, we encourage you to speak up and provide comments live. To speak you will need to unmute yourself by using the mute button on your computer or mobile device or enter \*6 if you’re calling from a land line.
- You can type additional questions in the chat, however we may not be able to respond to all questions. A record of written questions will be made available to staff.
- Please limit questions to one at a time.
- If you have a technical issue during the webinar, please drop us a note in the chat and we will help you through it.
- Be respectful of others
  - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations
  - No personal attacks, insults or threats
  - Listen and assume positive intentions from those speaking.
  - Speak and act professionally – no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity
- Assume Positive Intentions
- Share questions or comments in written format online at [wdfw.wa.gov/coastal-steelhead](https://wdfw.wa.gov/coastal-steelhead)
- Please limit questions to one at a time.



# Factors Influencing Sport Fishery Development

Objective: design fisheries that meet management objectives and provide opportunity

- Evaluation of escapement goals and projected forecast
- Co-manager collaboration
- Environmental conditions
- Hatchery returns
- Available creel data
- Fishery impacts





# **23/24 review, 24/25 forecasts, potential fisheries**

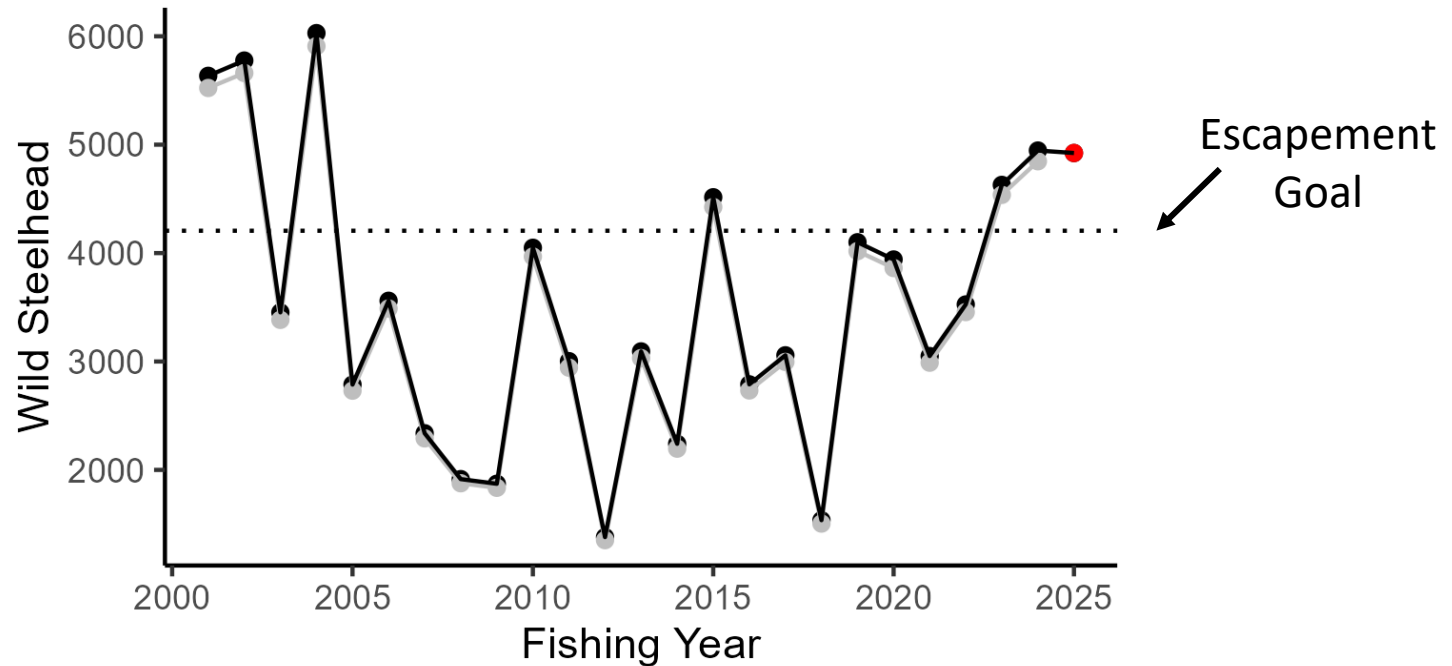


## **Willapa Bay**

*Dr. Erin Witkop, District Fish Biologist*

*Erin.Witkop@dfw.wa.gov*

# Recent increase in wild steelhead runsize in Willapa Bay



—○— Escapement    —●— Runsized    —●— Runsized Forecast

23/24 Wild Runsized Forecast	23/24 Wild Actual Runsized	23/24 Wild Escapement	24/25 Wild Runsized Forecast	23/24 Willapa Bay Hatchery Rack Returns	5 yr Avg. Hatchery Rack Returns	5 Yr. Avg. Hatchery Catch
4085	4945	4847	4923	1257	1545	271





# Willapa regulation review and proposals

2023/24:

- Selective gear rules, single point barbless hook, mainstem closures March 31

2024/25 Proposals:

- Single point barbless hook, March 31 closure
- Selective gear rules throughout – **EXCEPT Willapa and Naselle Rivers in Dec.**
- Increase hatchery harvest and combat high geneflow (> 2%, SSMP)



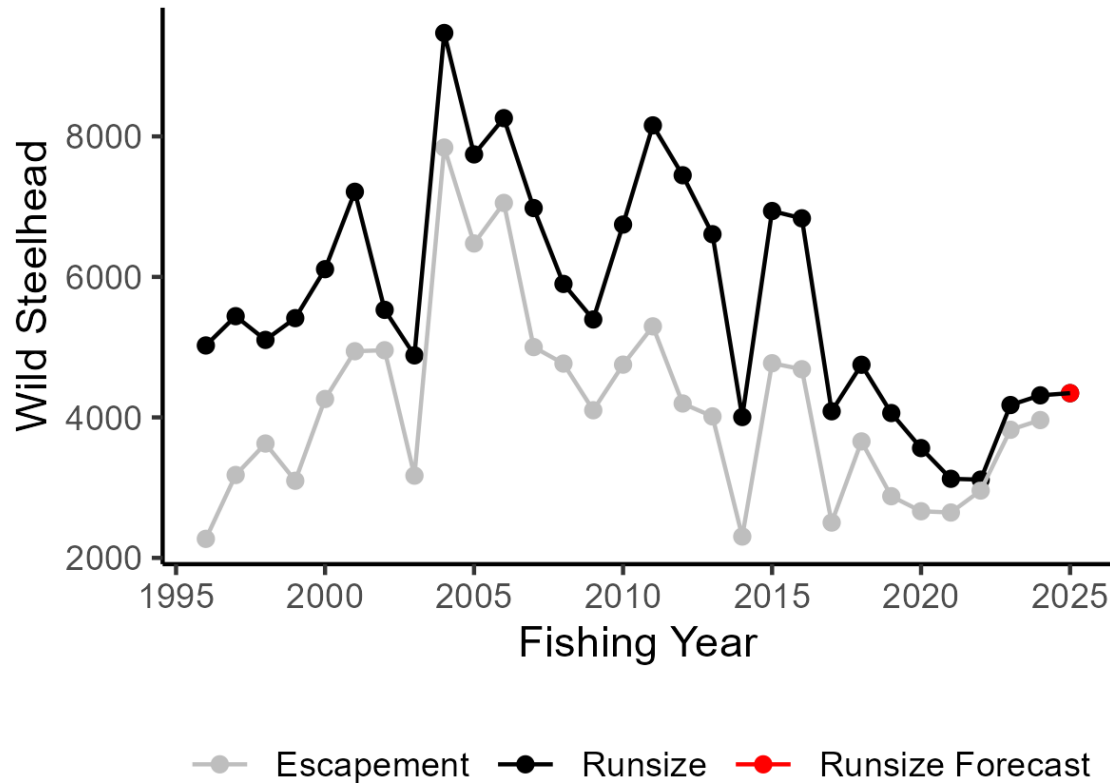


**Queets/Clearwater, Quinault,  
Grays Harbor**

*Mike Scharpf, District Fish Biologist*

*Mike.Scharpf@dfw.wa.gov*

# Queets/Clearwater runsize



23/24 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Wild Escapement	24/25 Wild Runsize Forecast	24/25 Hatchery Forecast
4150	3962	4345	1798



# Queets/Clearwater Fishery proposals

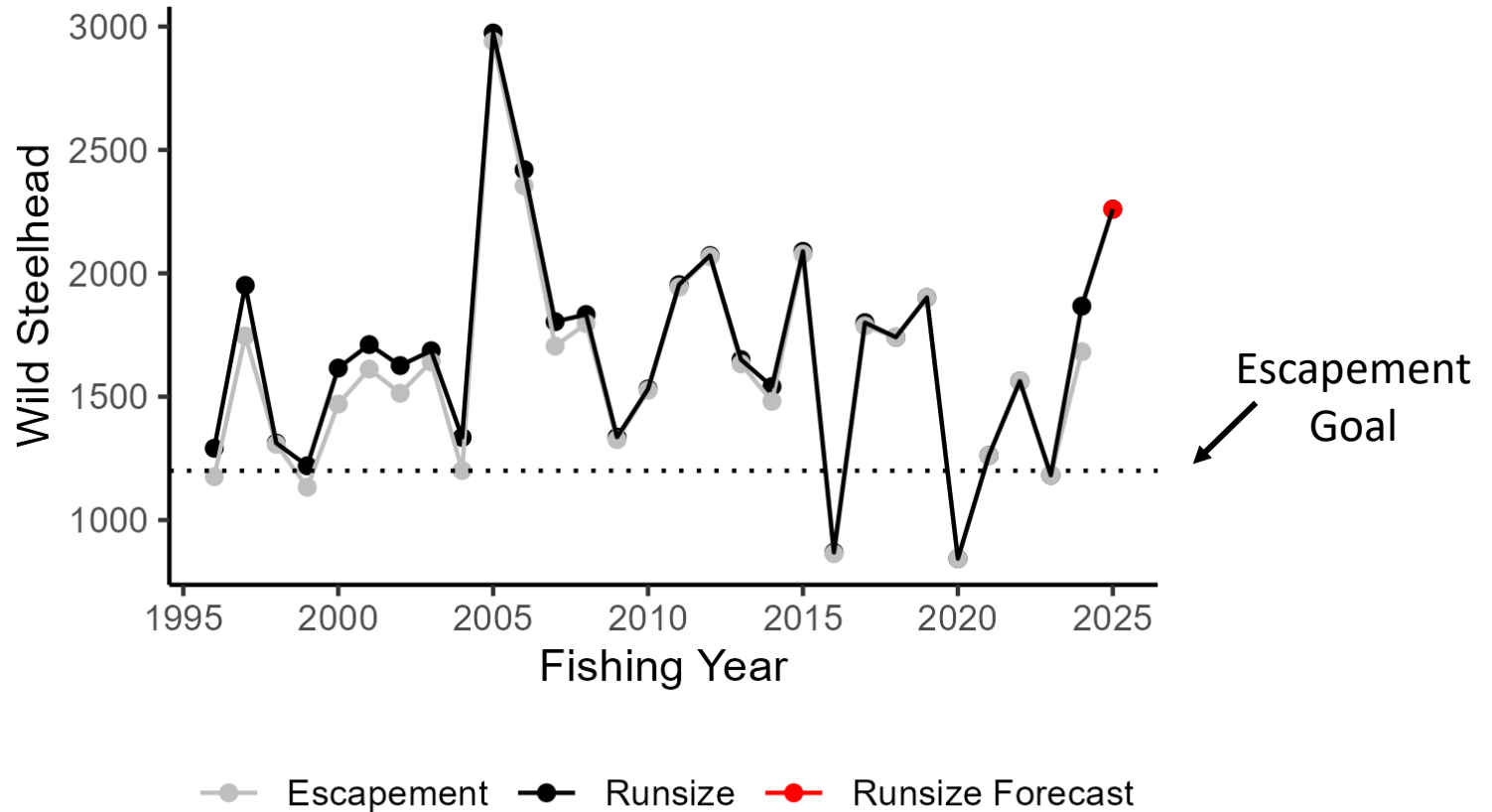
2023/24: CLOSED

2024/25:

- To be determined



# Upper Quinault



23/24 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Wild Escapement	24/25 Wild Runsize Forecast	24/25 Hatchery Forecast
1870	1682	2260	1944



# Upper Quinault fishery proposals

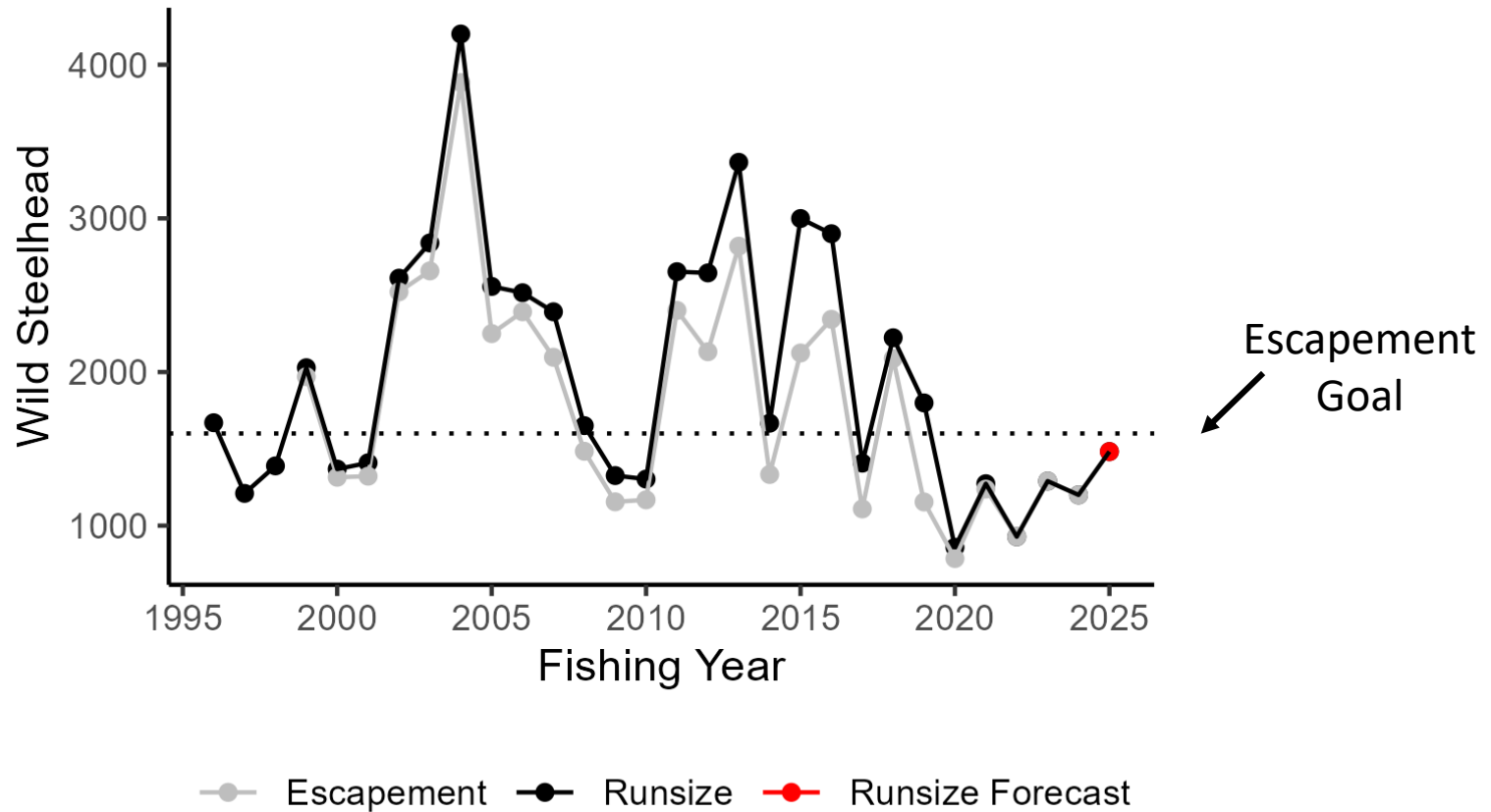
2023/24: CLOSED

2024/25:

- To be determined



# Humptulips runsize



23/24 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Wild Actual Runsize	24/25 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Hatchery Rack Returns	24/25 Hatchery Forecast	5 yr Avg. Hatchery Catch
1343	1200	1482	685	950	178



# Humptulips Fishery proposals

2023/24: CLOSED

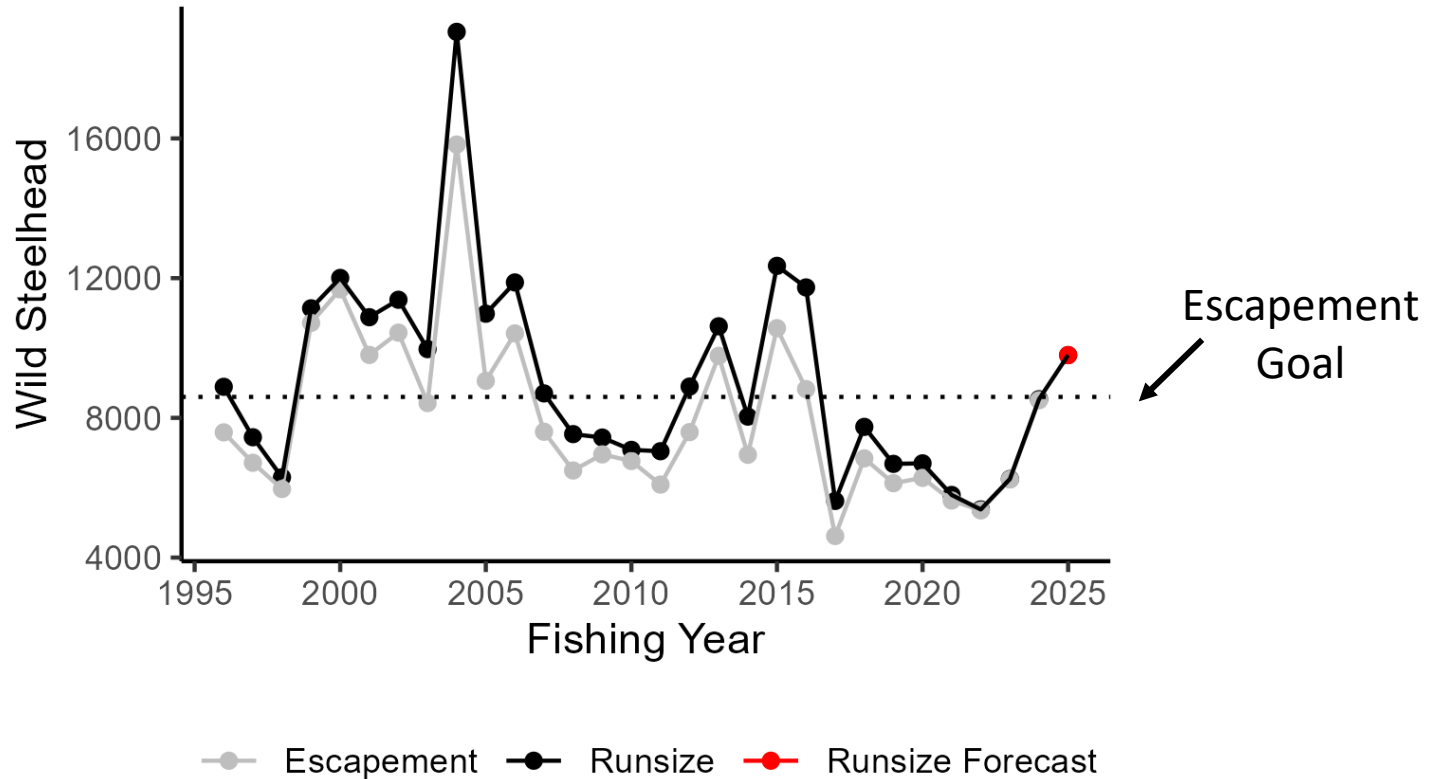
2024/25:

- Closed upstream of Hwy. 101
- Full closure Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>





# Chehalis runsize



23/24 Runsize Forecast	23/24 Actual Runsize	24/25 Runsize Forecast	23/24 Hatchery Rack Returns	24/25 Hatchery Forecast	5 yr. Avg. Hatchery Catch-pre closure
7148	8534	9797	5228	4424	4923



# Chehalis Fishery proposals

2023/24: CLOSED

2024/25:

- Open hatchery systems through Feb.
- Close tributaries Jan. 1
  - Creel program, monitor pHOS
  - December Coho fishery

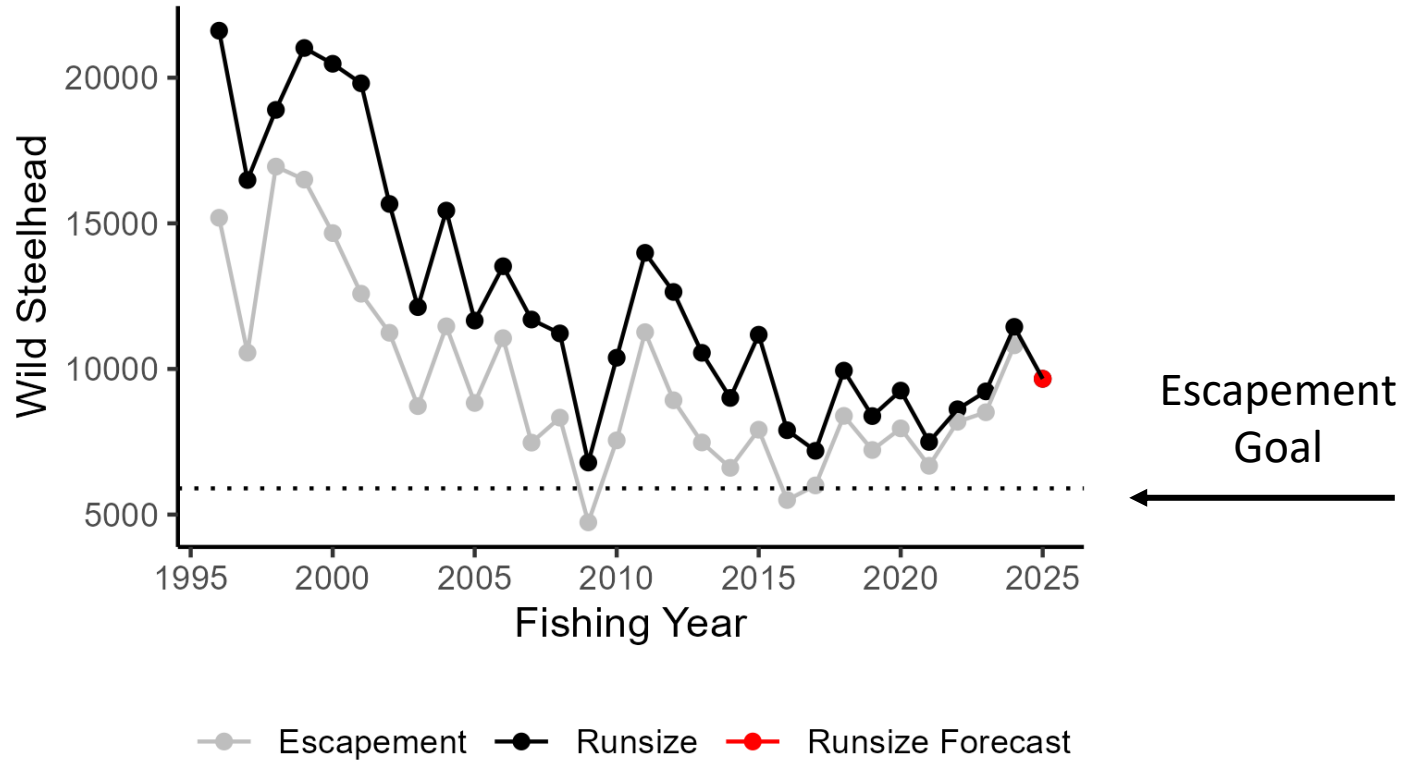




## **Hoh and Quillayute**

*Jennifer Whitney, District Fish Biologist*  
*Jennifer.Whitney@dfw.wa.gov*

# Quillayute system runsize recent year increases



23/24 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Wild Actual Runsize	24/25 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Hatchery Rack Returns*	24/25 Hatchery Forecast	5 yr Avg. Hatchery Catch
9,096	11,445	9,662	1,344	3,952	624

\*Return to Bogachiel/Calawah traps



# Quillayute regulations review and fishery proposals

2023/24:

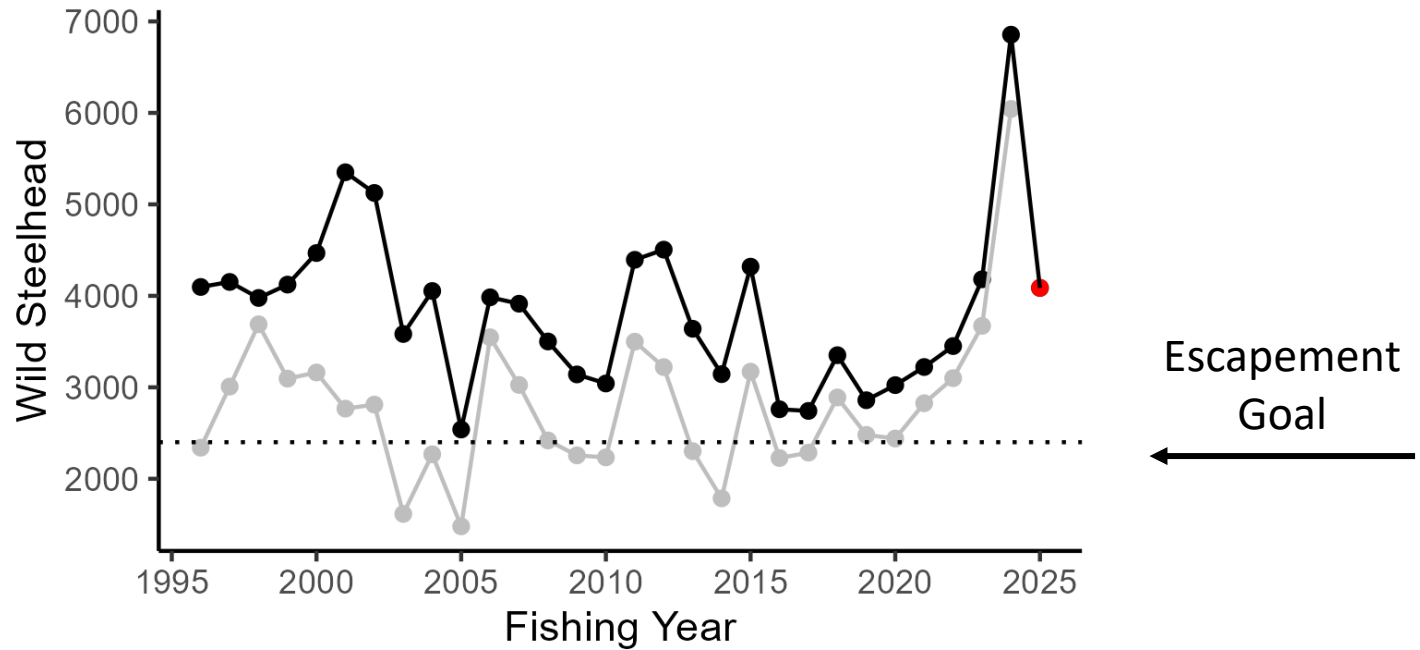
- Selective gear rules, one single point barbless hook, mainstem closures March 31
- Targeted areas with restricted fishing from a boat

2024/25 Proposals:

- Last year's emergency rules – **EXCEPT:**
  - Allow bait on lower Bogachiel and Calawah in Dec.
  - April fishery TBD



# Hoh system saw large increase in 2023/24



● Escapement ● Runsize ● Runsize Forecast

23/24 Wild Runsize Forecast	23/24 Wild Actual Runsize	24/25 Wild Runsize Forecast	24/25 Hatchery Forecast	5 yr Avg. Hatchery Catch
3,389	6,855	4,287	TBD	128



# Hoh regulations review and fishery proposals

2023/24:

- Selective gear rules, one single point barbless hook, no hatchery bonus limit, mainstem closures March 31
- Targeted areas with restricted fishing from a boat: “no fishing from a boat” study

2024/25 fishery proposals:

- Last year’s rules
- Repeat “no fishing from a boat” study?
- April fishery TBD





# **No fishing from boat study progress report**

**Evan Booher and Colt Holley**

**[evan.booher@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:evan.booher@dfw.wa.gov)**

**[colt.holley@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:colt.holley@dfw.wa.gov)**



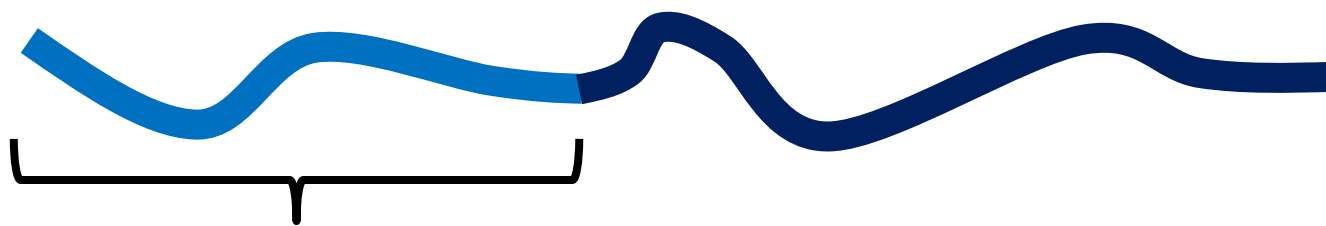
# Project update: no fishing from a boat study

*“Does prohibiting angling from boats reduce wild steelhead total catch and mortality in a catch and release fishery?”*

## Evaluation approach

- Alternate regulation by river section and days for control and treatment data
- Use creel to monitor fishery
- Compare catch rate, effort, and total wild steelhead catch between **control/treatment** days

Section Name	Section Number	Description	CRC	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Lower Hoh	1	Downstream of Oxbow	350	X	X	X
Middle Hoh	2	Oxbow to Morgan's Crossing	348	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed



River section



Section 1 – no fishing from boat (**treatment**)

Section 2 – fishing from boat allowed (**control**)



# Project update: no fishing from a boat study

## Catch rate analysis

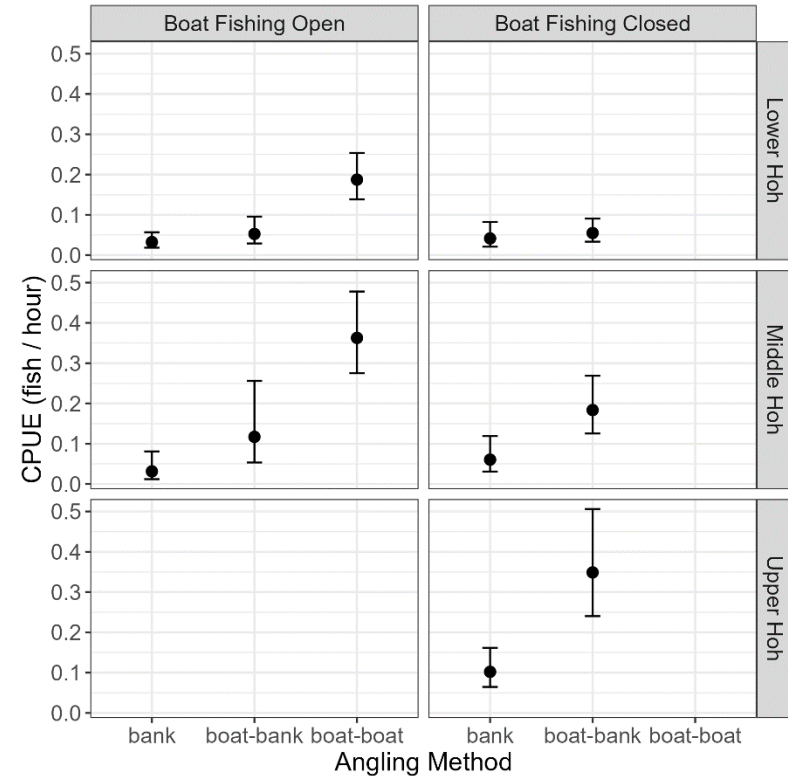
- Evaluate effect of alternating fishing from boat on average angler catch per hour

## Preliminary findings

- Methods matter:  
bank < boat for transport < fishing from a boat
- When fishing from a boat is prohibited, bank angling and using a boat for transportation are more effective
- Does not provide a final answer on the effect of the regulation on total steelhead catch

## Next steps

- Update existing modeling tools to compare steelhead catch between treatment/control to account for estimating **angler effort** and **catch**





# Coastwide Summary

# 2023/24 Review: Preliminary Runsize

<b>River/Area</b>	<b>Predicted Runsize</b>	<b>Actual Runsize</b>	<b>Escapement Goal</b>	<b>Actual Escapement</b>
Willapa	4,085	4,945	4,206	4,847
Chehalis	7,148	8,534	8,600	8,505
Humptulips	1,343	1,200	1,600	1,200
Upper Quinault	1,870	TBD	1,200	1,748
Queets/Clearwater	4,150	4,314	2500/4200	3,962
Hoh	3,389	6,855	2,400	6,043
Quillayute	9,096	11,445	5,900	10,812



# 2024/25 Forecast and Fishery Impact Limit

River/Area	Run-to-River	Escapement Goal	Wild Steelhead Relative To Goal	% Above/Below Goal	Sport Impact Limit
Willapa	4,923	4,206	717	17%	717
Chehalis	9,797	8,600	1,197	14%	484
Humptulips	1,482	1,600	-118	-7%	74
Upper Quinault	2,260	1,200	1,060	88%	530
Queets/Clearwater	4,345	2500/4200			
Hoh	4,287	2,400	1,887	79%	944
Quillayute	9,662	5,900	3,762	64%	1881



# Fisheries Considerations

- Targeting hatchery fish during their return timing
- Early closures for some systems
- Closures in some non-hatchery areas
- Expanding fishing from a boat opportunity
- Gear and/or bait restrictions
- Provide salmon opportunities (where steelhead abundances allow salmon opportunity)
- Fishery monitoring (creel)



# Potential fishery summary

River/Area	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Closure Date
Willapa R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single point BH			March 31st
Naselle R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH			March 31st
Willapa Bay Tribs.		SGR, Single Point BH			Feb. 28th or March 1st
Skookumchuck R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		Closed	March 1st
Satsop R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		Closed	March 1st
Wynoochee R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		Closed	March 1st
Wishkah R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		Closed	March 1st
Chehalis and other Tribs	Allow bait	Closed			January 1st
Humtulpis R.	Allow bait	Closed Hwy 101, SGS, Single Point BH		Closed	March 1st
Upper Quinault		SGR, Single Point BH		TBD	TBD
Queets/Clearwater	Allow bait	TBD			TBD
Queets/Salmon R	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		TBD	TBD
Hoh		SGR, no fishing from a boat study?			TBD
Quillayute		SGR, no fishing from a boat on Upper Bogachiel and Calawah			TBD
Lower Bogachiel and Calawah	Allow bait, 3 fish hatchery	SGR, no fishing from a boat on Upper Bogachiel and Calawah			TBD



# Questions? Public Comment?

## We're especially interested in

- Feedback on proposals presented
- New proposals for steelhead fisheries

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