

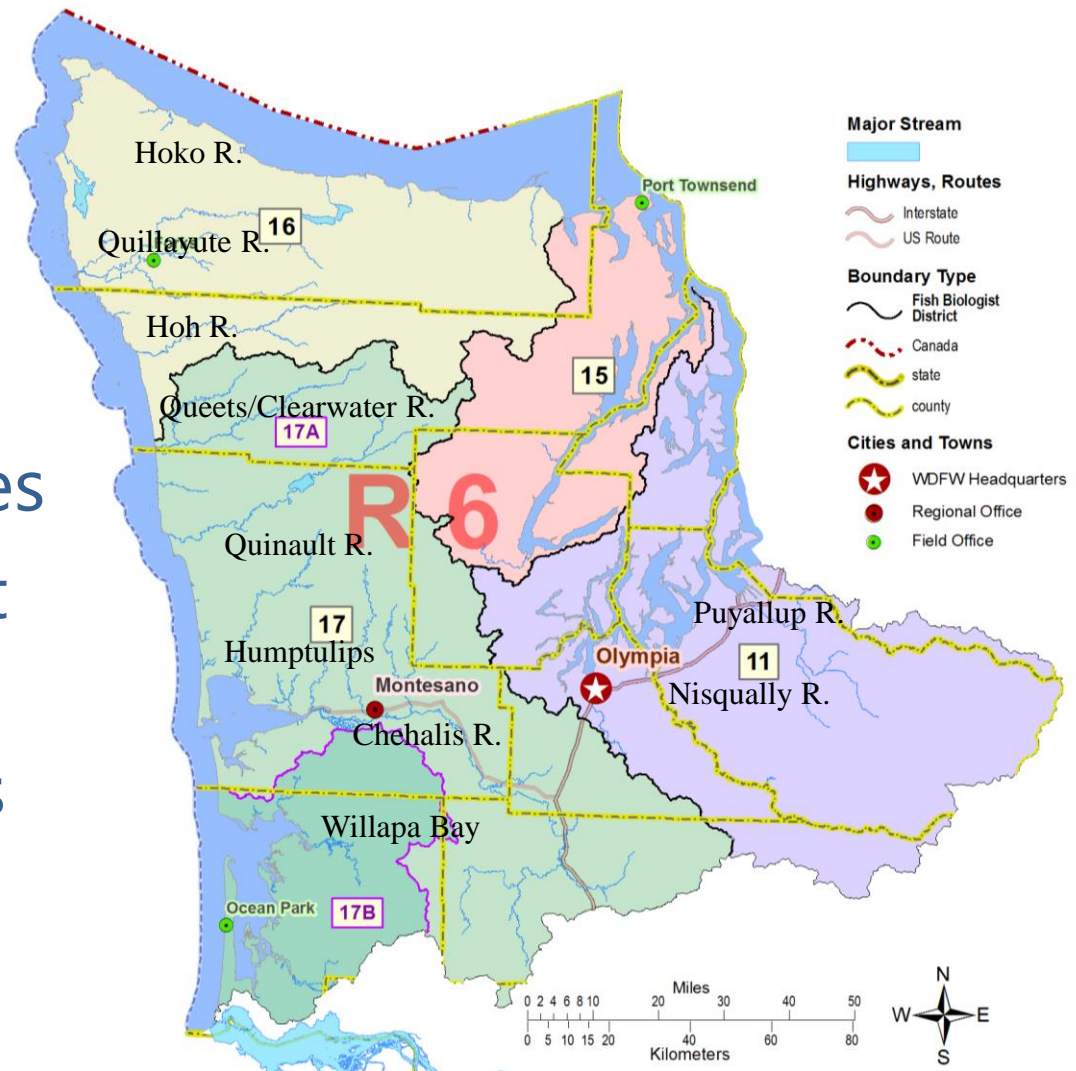
Townhall #2 Coastal Steelhead

November 13, 2024



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Coastwide Summary
3. Potential fisheries
4. Public Comment Summary
5. Revised fisheries
6. Timeline



2024/25 Pre-season schedule

- Mid July: Survey data exchange with tribal comanagers
- Mid August: Spawning escapement estimates finalized
- Early September: Exchange pre-season forecasts with Tribal Co-Managers
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- **October 21 Special Fish Committee Meeting:** WDFW will present preliminary forecasts
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- Last week of November: Announce winter fishing rules
- **December 12 Fish Committee Meeting:** Share final rules

wdfw.wa.gov/coastal-steelhead



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
- Please limit questions to one at a time.





Coastwide Summary

2023/24 Review: Wild Runsize

River/Area	Predicted Runsize	Actual Runsize	Escapement Goal	Actual Escapement
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	2,099	1,200	1,682
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 Wild 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





Potential fisheries

Potential fishery summary from Townhall #1

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
Humptulips 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 limit	SGR, no fishing from a boat on Upper Bogachiel and Calawah			TBD





Public Comment Summary

Public Comment Summary

Catch and Effort:

- Target hatchery fish in time and area
- Spread effort by opening more areas (compared to last season)

Boat Opportunity:

- Expand or restrict opportunities for fishing from a boat
- Continue to evaluate effects of “no fishing from boats”

Season Length:

- Mixed support for April closures or extended seasons

Gear restrictions:

- Support using bait in December to increase hatchery catch, concern for early wild returns

Methods and philosophy:

- Continue to manage using SSMP guidelines (All “H” approach, VSP parameters)
- Continue conservative approach and manage for long term trends
- Increase funding for monitoring and evaluation (harvest rate, encounter rate, mortality estimates, “No fishing from a boat” effects, VSP)

Total Attendees at
Townhall #1: 133

Total comments
during Townhall #1:
~25 (some were both
written and spoken)

Public Portal
Comments or Emails:
~30



Willapa Bay public comments

Boat Opportunity:

- Mixed response. Some support boat use, others suggest restrict fishing from a boat on the Naselle and Willapa rivers for conservation and limiting gear conflict

Season Length:

- Do not close tributaries early to spread angler opportunity

Gear restrictions:

- Mixed support for allowing bait in early December
 - Some favor allowing bait during overlap with late hatchery coho, some concern for increased impact on early component of wild steelhead run



Queets, Quinault, Grays Harbor public comments

- Queets Basin, allow fisheries targeting hatchery fish and open Clearwater if impacts allow after hatchery-targeted fisheries.
- Upper Quinault, allow fishing from a boat but implement SGR Dec 1-March 31st.
- Humptulips, provide hatchery-targeted fisheries through mid-January or mid-February.
- Chehalis Basin
 - Provide hatchery-targeted fisheries through February.
 - Allow fishing opportunity in the mainstem Chehalis River.
 - Allow fishing opportunity in March.
 - Allow fishing opportunity in March and use impact saving from “no fishing from a boat” to extend that season.



Hoh and Quillayute public comments

Boat Opportunity:

- Mixed responses including expanding boat opportunity where available or further restrictions
- “No fishing from a boat” study: Mixed response. Balance restricting opportunity with value of study, pair with low forecasted return year.

Season Length:

- Mixed response, ranging from open in April to remaining closed and cautious

Gear Restrictions:

- Mixed response to allowing bait in Dec. in hatchery areas and selective gear rules in non-hatchery locations



Revised fisheries

River/Area	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Closure Date
Willapa R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single point BH			April 1st
Naselle R.	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH			April 1st
Willapa Bay Tribs.	SGR, Single Point BH				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
Chehalis Mainstem	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		Closed	March 1st
Chehalis Tribs	Allow bait	Closed			January 1st
Humtulpis R.	Allow bait	Closed Hwy 101, SGS, SPBH	Closed		Feb 3rd
Upper Quinault	TBD - Closed	TBD - SGR, Single Point BH			TBD
Queets/Clearwater	Allow bait	TBD - SGR, Single Point BH			TBD
Queets/Salmon R	Allow bait	SGR, Single Point BH		TBD	TBD
Hoh	SGR, Fishing from a boat allowed below Morgans Crossing				TBD
Quillayute	SGR, Fishing from a boat allowed on lower Bogachiel, Calawah, and Sol Duc				TBD
Lower Bogachiel and Calawah	Allow bait, 3 fish hatchery limit	SGR, no fishing from a boat on Upper Bogachiel and Calawah			TBD



Questions? Public Comment?

We're especially interested in

- Feedback on revised fisheries presented

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