



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy Review

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
December 13, 2019

Project Status Update

- Laurie Peterson, Fish Science Division Manager
- Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy

FWC Decision in June 2018

“...review of all sections and aspects of [Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619)]...

...suspend policy guidelines 1, 2, and 3 for salmon species other than steelhead.”

Review to Include

- Examining performance results since the policy was adopted
- Conducting Science Review, Emerging Science focus
- Providing alternatives for possible policy changes

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
POLICY DECISION**

POLICY TITLE: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hatchery and Fishery Reform **POLICY NUMBER:** C-3619

Supersedes: N/A Effective Date: November 6, 2009

See Also: Approved by *Miranda Wecker* Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Purpose
The purpose of this Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife policy is to advance the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead by promoting and guiding the implementation of hatchery reform.

Definition and Intent
Hatchery reform is the scientific and systematic redesign of hatchery programs to help recover wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fisheries. The intent of hatchery reform is to improve hatchery effectiveness, ensure compatibility between hatchery production and salmon recovery plans and rebuilding programs, and support sustainable fisheries.

General Policy Statement
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) shall promote the conservation and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead and provide fishery-related benefits by establishing clear goals for each state hatchery, conducting scientifically defensible operations, and using informed decision making to improve management. Furthermore, it is recognized that many state operated hatcheries are subject to provisions under U.S. v. Washington and U.S. v. Oregon and that hatchery reform actions must be done in close coordination with tribal co-managers.

Artificial production programs will be designated as one of the following:

- Conservation Programs. Artificial production programs implemented with a conservation objective shall have a net aggregate benefit for the diversity, spatial structure, productivity, and abundance of the target wild population.
- Harvest Programs. Artificial production programs implemented to enhance harvest opportunities shall provide fishery benefits while allowing watershed-specific goals for the diversity, spatial structure, productivity, and abundance of wild populations to be met.

State commercial and recreational fisheries will need to increasingly focus on the

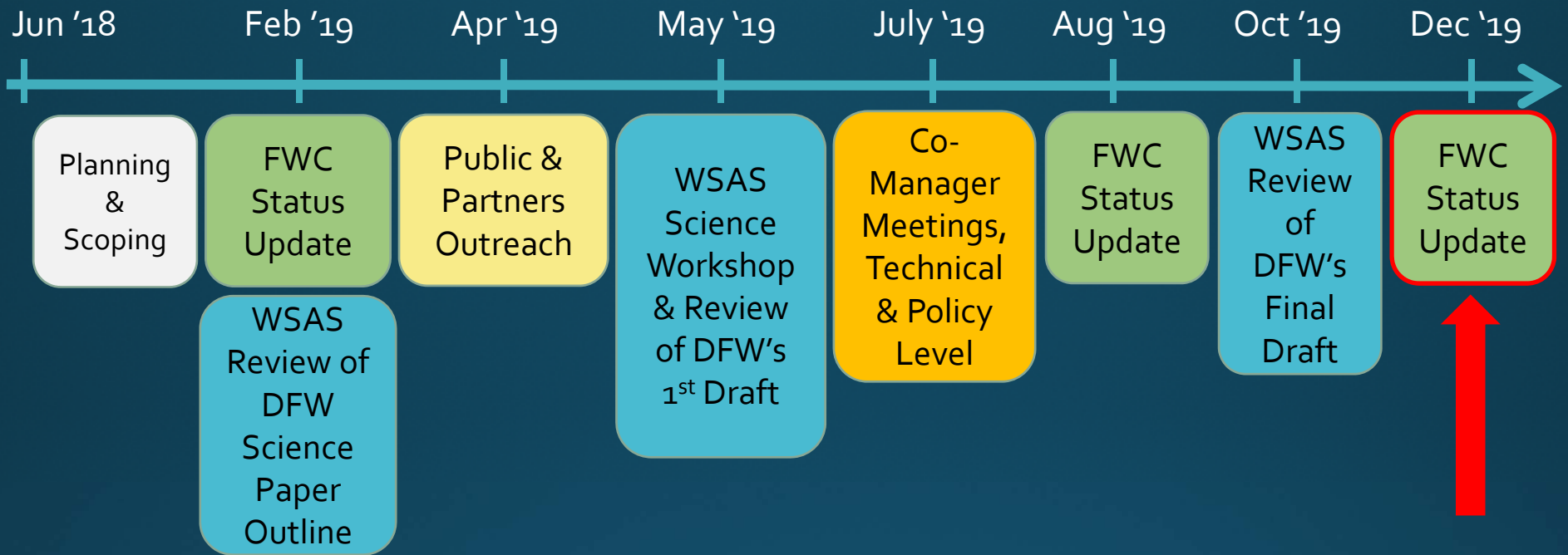
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Pg 1 of 3 Policy C-3619

Project Elements

- Policy Review based on:
 - Science Review, Emerging Science
 - Policy Performance Evaluation
 - Joint Co-manager Hatchery Benefits document
- Engage Tribal Co-managers and other partners in Policy development
- Public Outreach and Engagement
- Commission considers final reports, recommendations, and alternatives for possible policy changes.



Project Milestones & Timeline to Date



Science Review – Emerging Science

Status:

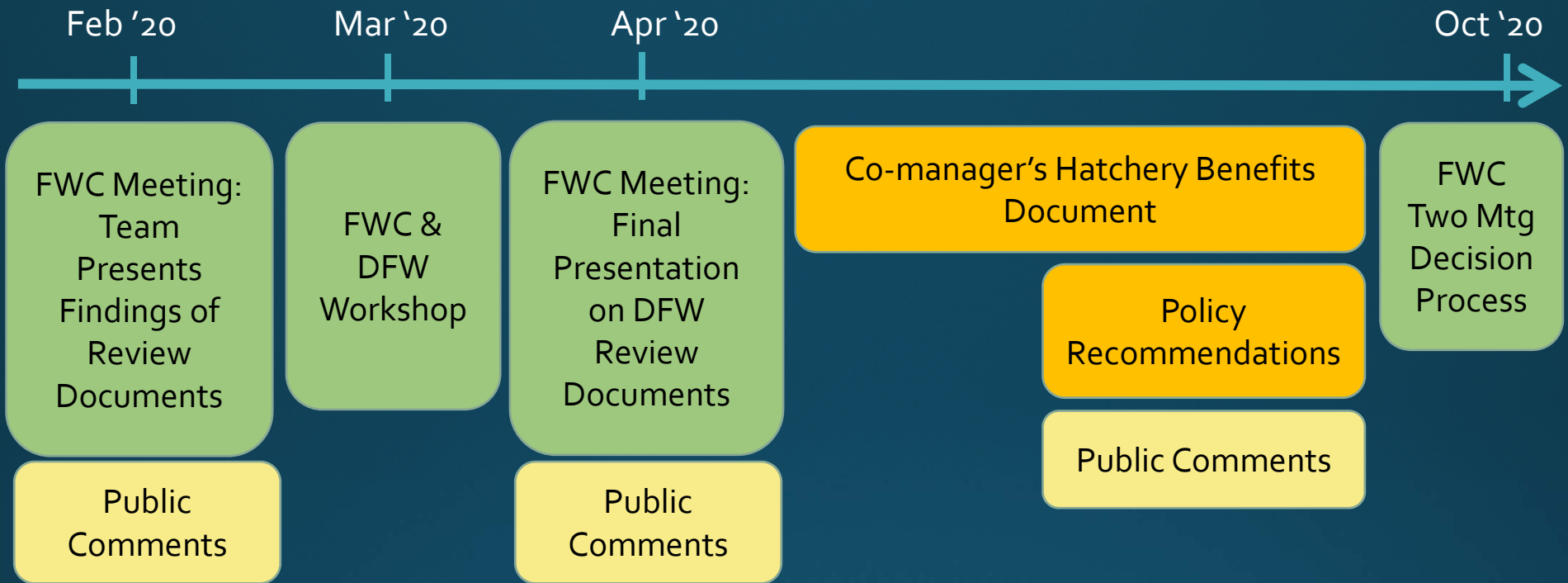
- Washington Academy of Sciences (WSAS) completed third (final) review – Oct. 31, 2019
- WDFW authors:
 - Incorporated reviewers' input to update & complete the document
 - Completed response to WSAS reviews
- Currently: WDFW leadership conducting internal reviews

Policy Review & Evaluation

Status:

- Reviewed policy performance since adoption
- Evaluated 11 policy guidelines
 - Green, Yellow, Red report card format, relative to defined performance metrics
- WDFW authors completed first draft document – Nov. 2019
- Currently: WDFW leadership conducting internal reviews of first draft

Next Steps – Timeline Moving Forward



Tribal Co-Manager Engagement

Public and Partner Involvement

FWC Fish Committee Monthly Updates

Questions?

