

Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622)

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Presentation Outline

- **Review Commission Briefings - Policy C-3622**
 - **Comprehensive review**
 - **December, January, February**
 - **March 12th**

- **FWC Interim Guidance**
 - **Review of previous interim guidance**
 - » **2018, 2019, and 2020**
 - **2021 Staff recommendation**





Willapa Bay Policy C-3622

Brief History of the Willapa Bay Policy

- **Current Policy initiated in 2015 – expires in 2023**
- **Provides guidance**
 - Hatchery operations
 - Fishery management
- **Hatchery operations based on guiding principles and standards from the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG)**
 - Use of the All “H” Analyzer (AHA) model



Commission Briefing December 3-5, 2020

- **Provided a briefing on the comprehensive review of the 2015 Policy provisions**
 - Comprehensive review was approved as final, with the exception of the fall Chinook escapement goal
- **Discussed next steps for modifications to the Policy**
 - Staff provide the Commission with a list of options on a variety of policy issues, alternative policy language, and staff recommendations
- **Commitment to develop a schedule on policy alternatives work**



Commission Briefing January 28-30, 2021

- **Provided background on the Commission Policy**
- **Offered a proposed timeline for the Commission to consider policy modifications**
 - June 2021 FWC meeting – provide an initial list of options and alternative language
 - Conclude any Policy revisions by fall of 2021
 - Commission accepted staff timeline
- **Review of previous interim guidance provided**
 - Noticed request for Commission guidance on 2021 at February FWC meeting



Commission Briefing February 25-27, 2021

- **Provided an annual review of Policy implementation**
- **Provided background on**
 - Hatchery operations
 - Fishery management
- **Provided recent alternatives of interim guidance**





Fish & Wildlife Commission Guidance

Interim Guidance

2018

- **Issues: Results of Policy Implementation**

- Large Increase in recreational harvest rate
- Limited remaining impacts for commercial fisheries

- **Guidance**

- Actively manage not to exceed 20% impact rate
- Commercial fishery allocation of 9%
- Active monitoring of bay fishery prior to Sept. 30
- Explore reductions to recreational bag limits and curtail high catch periods to meet objectives



Photo taken by Barbara McClellan in South Bend



Interim Guidance

2019

- **Issues: Results of Policy Implementation**
 - Increased recreational harvest rate
 - No remaining impacts for commercial fisheries
- **Guidance**
 - Actively manage for a 20% impact rate cap
 - Suspension of time and area restrictions for commercial fisheries
 - Flexibility for staff to determine bag limits for recreational fisheries

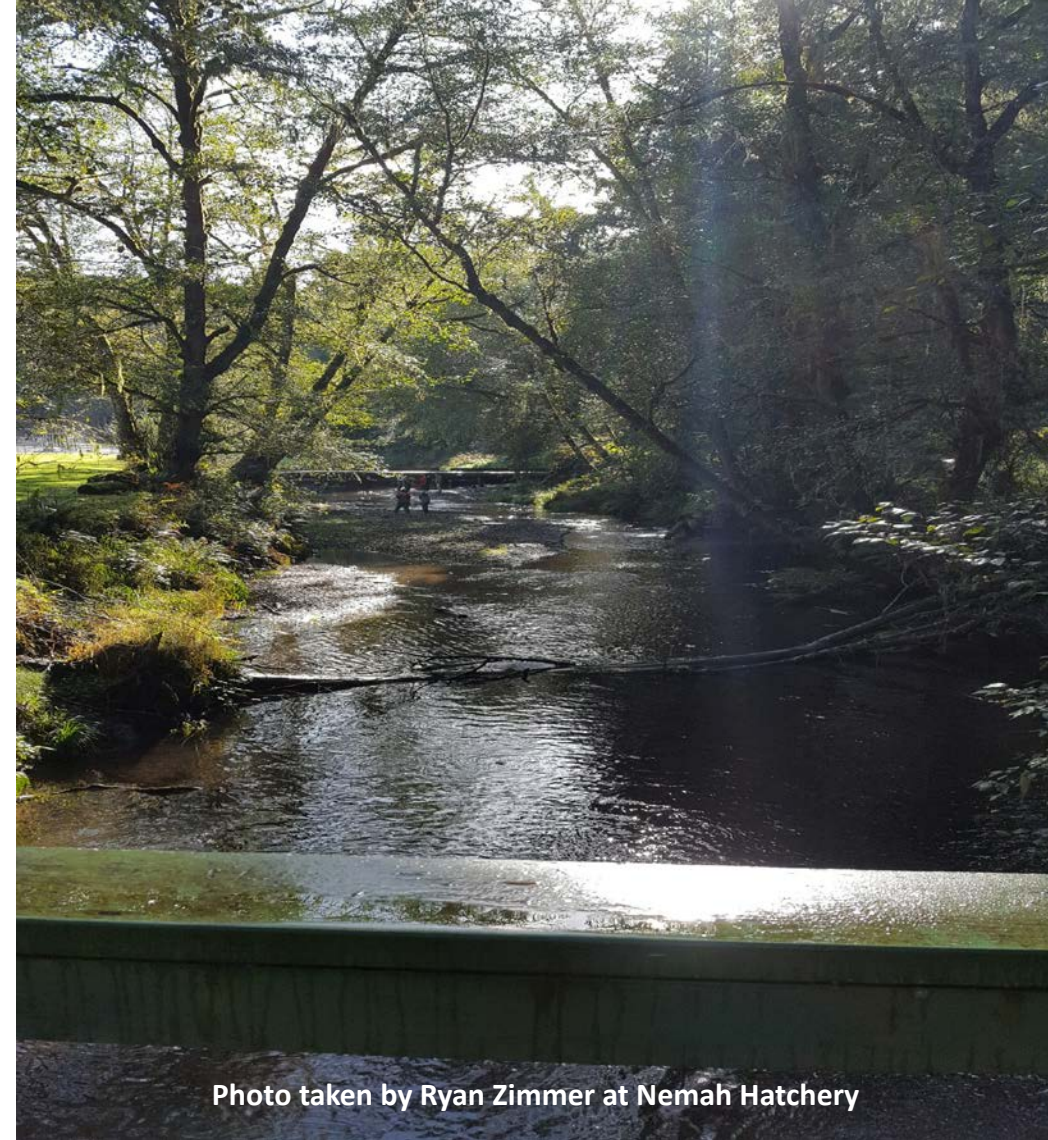


Photo taken by Ryan Zimmer at Nemah Hatchery



Interim Guidance

2020

- **Constraints**

- **Low forecasted abundance of natural Coho and natural origin fall Chinook**

- **Guidance**

- **Carry forward the 2019 interim guidance**
- **Except for reducing the 20% harvest rate cap to 14%**
- **Leave hatchery production releases at their current facility**



Photo taken by Barbara McClellan at Naselle Hatchery Attraction Channel



Staff Recommendation for 2021

- **Hatchery Program**
 - Release hatchery production at their facility of origin
 - Previous Commission Comments - Preserve future options for long term policy modification
- **Fisheries Management**
 - Actively manage not to exceed 20% impact rate (Naselle and Willapa Chinook)
 - Suspension of time and area restrictions for commercial fisheries
 - » south of marine area 2T
 - Determine bag limits for recreational fisheries
 - » bag limits for Chinook and Coho
 - » season length to achieve priority for Chinook
 - Continue the development and implementation of test fisheries and in-season update models





Questions