

2019 Willapa Bay Salmon Advisory Group Policy Review Meeting

January 9, 2019

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Region 6 office Montesano, WA

Staff: Chad Herring, Kirt Hughes, Barbara McClellan

Advisors: Bob Lake, Marlisa Dugan, Steve Boerner, Ross Barkhurst, Jack Hollingsworth, Greg McMillan, Lance Gray, Tim Hamilton, Francis Estalilla, Jess Helsley

Public: 5 Individuals

Chad: Opening statements

Implementation:

Report Card (Stop Light) Handout –

This is an indicator of implementation, not an indicator of success

- Red = Not implemented
- Yellow = Mixed, on-going
- Green = Implemented

Advisor Comments/Suggestions:

- Out-migrant smolt traps below hatcheries in Naselle and Willapa
- Major milestone for restoration in the Willapa River
- Habitat issues have not been met. No inventory on eelgrass
- Impacts to non-local stocks in or out of the control zone
- Be clear to the Commission that this is an indicator of implementation not of success or if it worked
- Alternative gear wouldn't be fair to say it as is given that tangle nets are the only thing tried and it was before the policy
- Chinook impact rate should be changed to red since we missed it 2015-17
- We are straying away from biological principles for Chum
- It's important to stress what actually happened with Chinook relative to the impact rate – Should be red
- Stress where we are for the spawner escapement goal reviews
- Need to bring up the topic of designating a primary system in the entire coastal areas not just inside Willapa Bay
- Aggregate spawner goals should be red if we didn't make the goal
- Provide two set of columns or rows with boxes/colors for pre vs post season results
- In-season management actions should be red not green
- Freshwater habitat productivity – Should be red – fish ladder was closed almost the entire year so there is no access to habitat for wild steelhead and cutthroat.
- Add a legend to this handout because what these colors represent isn't clear

Performance:

Slide Handouts –

Advisor Comments/Suggestions:

- Add runsize slides
- Add a total column to slide 4 table for Chinook and Coho harvest
- New AHA run with the current data included

- Show/provide model to show impacts would be
- Commercial fishery should be able to harvest hatchery Chinook early to get them from ending up at the hatchery or the spawning grounds
- What is the spawning capacity for the Willapa systems for natural spawners?
- Reallocate impacts from ocean fisheries back to inside Willapa Bay
- Highlight what we have gained and learned with the increase of data collection

Herring Spawning

- Forage fish team in Olympia reinitiated in 2018 the data surveys/review in Willapa Bay
- Report is every four years

2018 Data

- Still preliminary, will have something for the late February meeting

Public Testimony

Allan Hollingsworth

- Timber companies are spraying and killing all of the fish
- The way the policy is written is putting the commercial fishery out of business
- Gravel on the Willapa River is moving. This is washing out the eggs.
- Chum on North River in Hatchery Creek has over 200 fish trying to spawn. You are missing some of the survey areas.
- Have mass hatchery production