

# Agenda Item 7

## WAC 220-200-100 and 220-610-110

### Periodic Status Reviews: Fisher, Blue Whale, Fin Whale, Sei Whale, Northern Right Whale, and Sperm Whale



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

Hannah Anderson

Listing and Recovery Manager, Diversity Division  
Wildlife Program

# Periodic Status Review of Fisher in Washington



Jeff Lewis  
Biologist, Diversity Division  
Wildlife Program

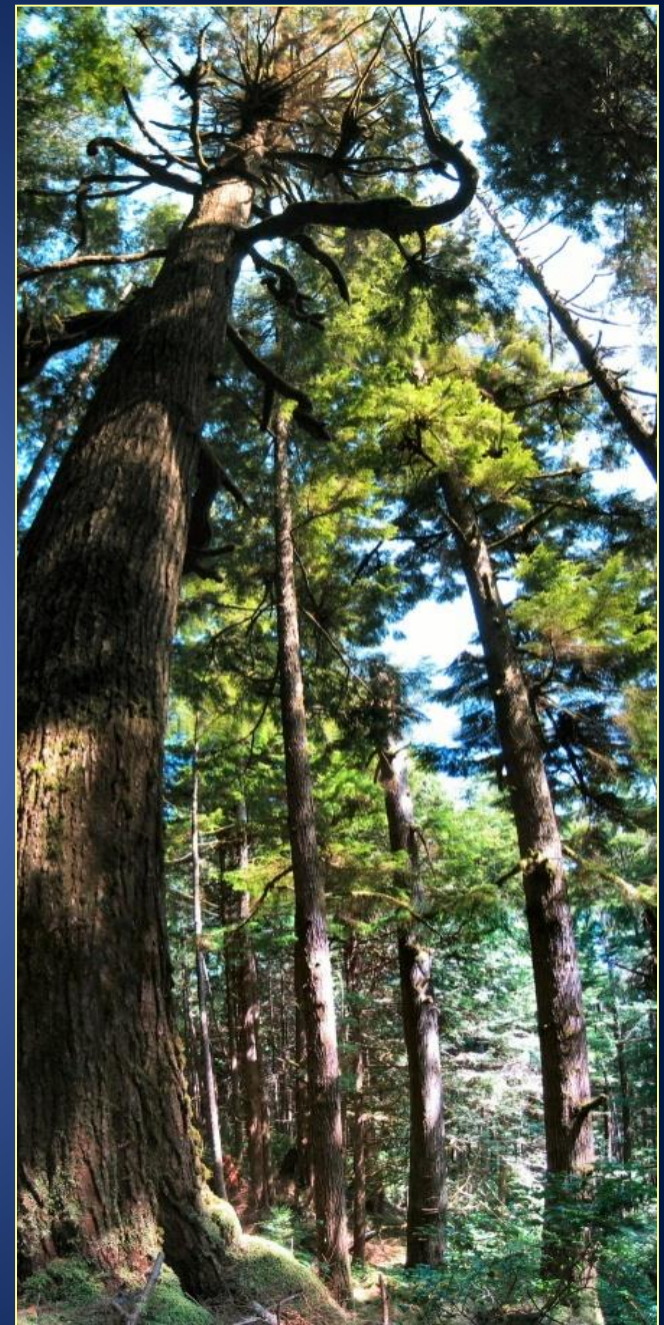
# Natural History

- Fishers use forests
  - Low to mid elevation
  - Closed canopy
  - Large woody structures
  - Avoids deep fluffy snow
- Generalist predator
  - Small mammals, birds, reptiles
  - Carrion
  - Fruit, seeds, fungi
- 5<sup>th</sup> largest weasel

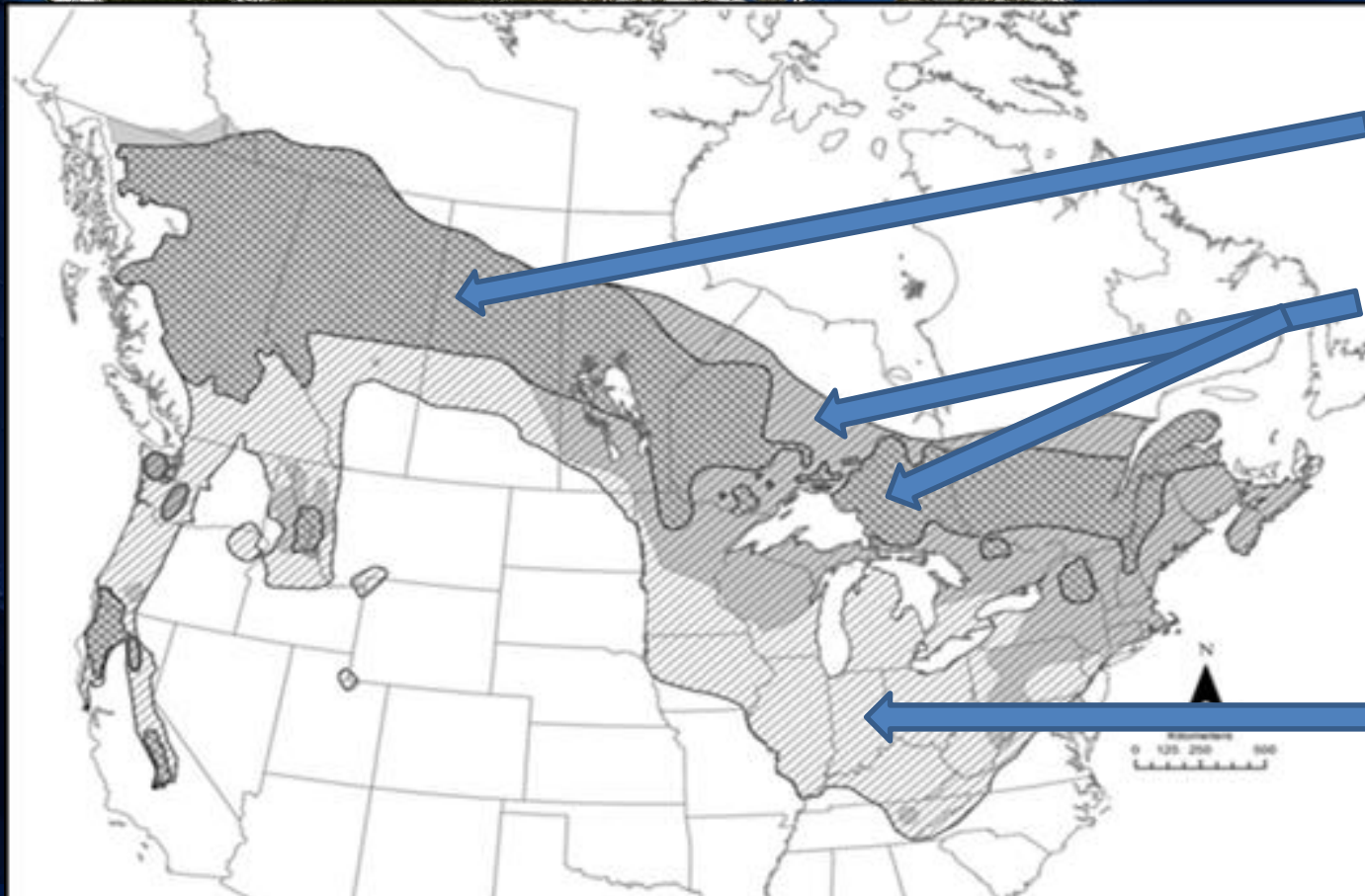


# Legal Status

- 1998: State-listed as endangered
- 2004: Western fishers considered “Warranted but precluded” under ESA
- 2014: USFWS proposes listing of western population
- 2016: USFWS withdraws proposal



# Global Distribution

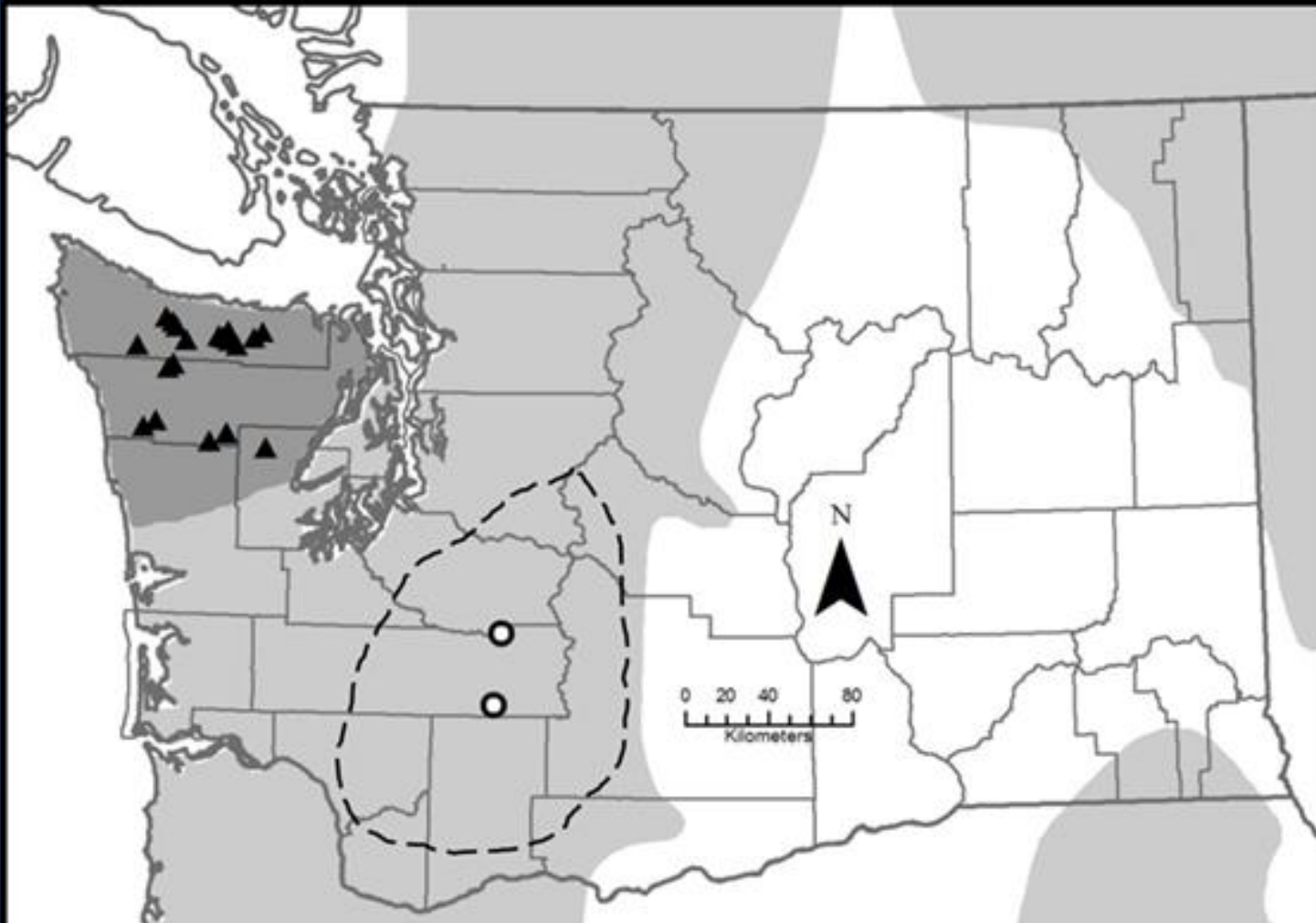


Contracted  
Range (1933,  
43% of  
historical)

Current  
Range (68% of  
historical)

Historical  
range

# Washington Distribution



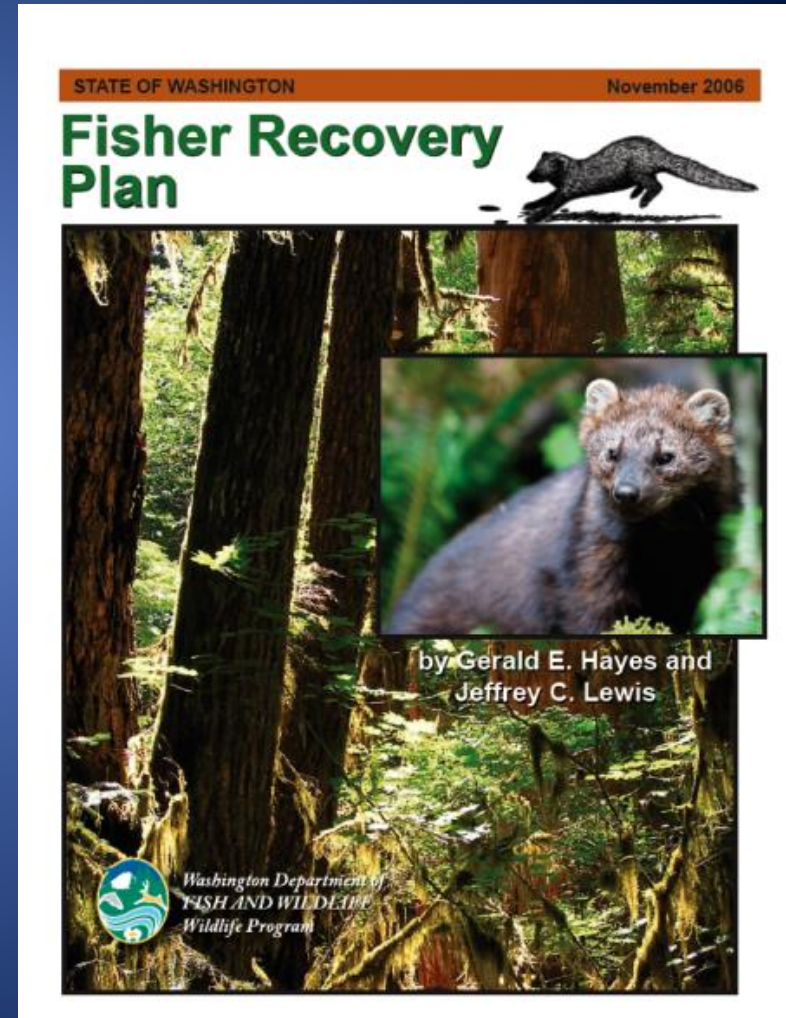
# Factors Affecting Fishers

- Over-trapping
  - Unregulated until 1933
  - Prohibited in 1934
  - Populations did not rebound
- Habitat Loss
  - Logging reduced and fragmented habitat
  - Conversion to agriculture, tree farms, development



# Management Actions

- Fisher Recovery Plan
- Reintroductions
  - Olympics complete
  - South Cascades in progress
  - North Cascades planned
- Habitat Management
  - NW Forest Plan
  - State Forest Practice Rules
  - Habitat Conservation Plans
  - Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances





# Management Actions Cont.

## Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

- Voluntary agreement with USFWS
- WDFW is permit holder
- Provides protection to private landowners
- Conservation benefit to fishers
- 2.9 million acres; 45 landowners

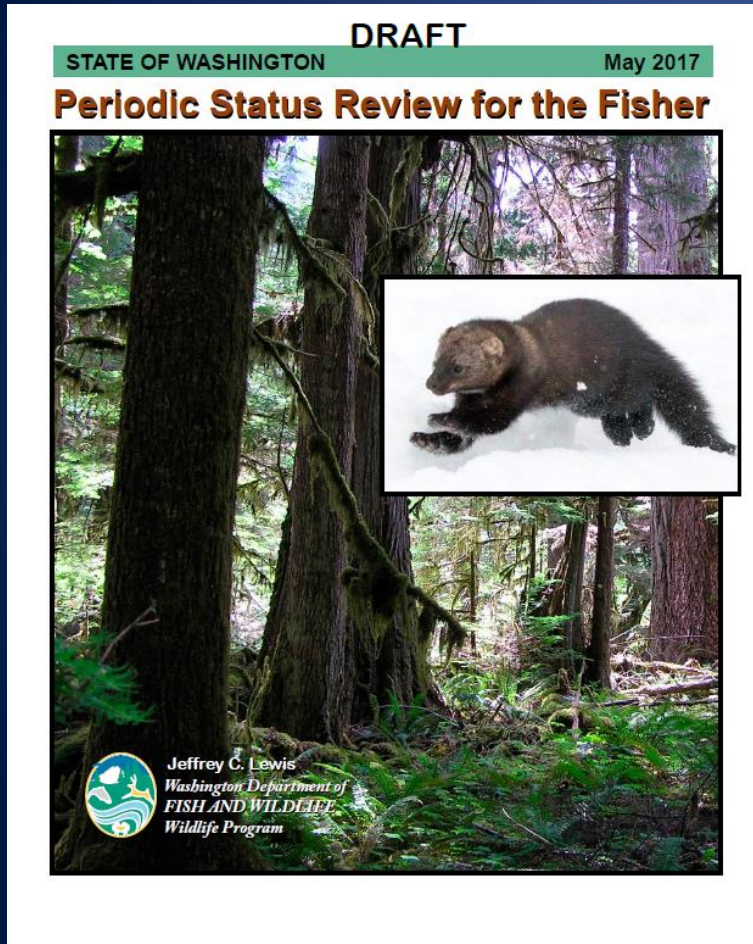


# Reintroduction Results

- Olympic Peninsula
  - Released 90 fishers from 2008-10
  - Now widely distributed, substantial reproduction
- Southern Cascades
  - Released 69 fishers from 2015-17
  - Reproduction confirmed
  - Monitoring ongoing



# Recommendation



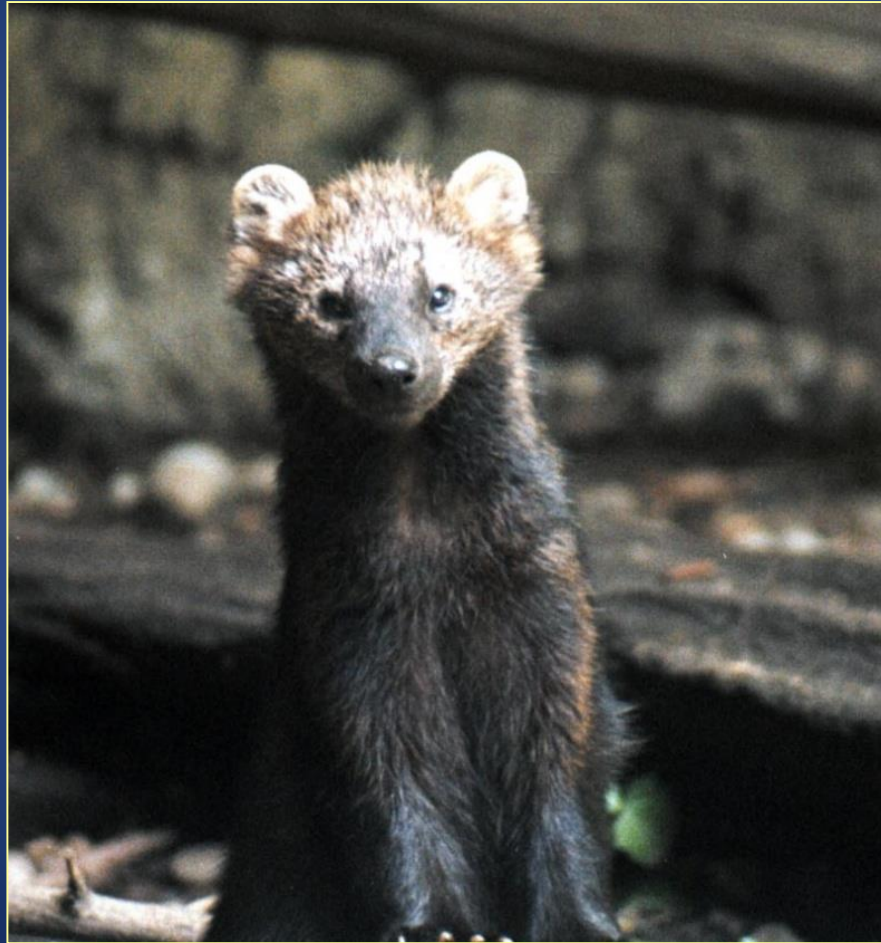
- Making progress, but we have not reached Recovery Objectives to down- or de-list.
- Maintain status as an Endangered Species in Washington.

# Public Comment

- 4 public comments
- All supportive of retaining endangered status



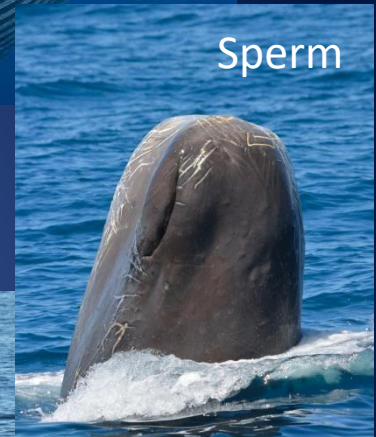
# Questions?



# Periodic Status Review of Blue, Fin, Sei, North Pacific Right, and Sperm Whales in Washington



Gary Wiles  
Biologist, Diversity Division  
Wildlife Program



# Blue Whale

- Feeds mainly on krill
- Prefers continental shelf edges, deeper waters
- California/Oregon/Washington stock
- Historical stock size ~ 2,200 whales
- Current stock size ~ 1,600 whales, trend may be stable
- Washington: regularly present off outer coast



Mike Johnson, earthwindow.com

# Fin Whale

- Feeds mainly on krill, forage fish
- Prefers continental shelf edges, deeper waters
- California/Oregon/Washington stock
- Historical stock size unknown
- Current stock size ~ 9,000 whales, strong growth
- Washington: regularly present off outer coast, very rare in Salish Sea



*Aqqa Rosing-Asvid, Flickr Creative Commons*



# Sei Whale

- Feeds mainly on zooplankton, other prey
- Prefers deep oceanic waters
- Eastern North Pacific stock
- Historical stock size unknown
- Current stock size ~ 500 whales, trend unknown
- Washington: probably rare visitor off outer coast



*Christin Khan, NOAA*

# North Pacific Right Whale

- Feeds mainly on zooplankton
- Prefers shelf, shelf edges, and deeper waters
- Occurs only in North Pacific
- Eastern North Pacific stock
- Historical stock size unknown, but abundant
- Current stock size ~ 30 whales, trend unknown
- Washington: very rare off outer coast



*Robert Pitman, NOAA*

# Sperm whale

- Feeds mainly on squid
- Prefers deep oceanic waters
- Highly social, females and young form groups
- California/Oregon/Washington stock
- Historical stock size unknown, probably larger than now
- Current stock size ~ 2,100 whales, trend may be stable
- Washington: regularly present off outer coast



Doug Perrine, NPL

# Listing Status



*J. Gilpatrick and M. Lynn, NOAA*

- WA: all endangered since 1981
- Federal: all endangered since 1970
- Federal: all protected under the MMPA
- No federal critical habitat in Washington waters

# Factors Affecting Large Whales

- Overharvest during the whaling era
  - Bay City whaling station
  
- Ship strikes
  - Fin whale hit in Salish Sea in 2017



Lagen Collection, Special Collections, U-W



LA Times

# Factors Affecting Large Whales

- Entanglement in fishing gear, marine debris
- Disturbance from sound and vessels
- Climate change
- Contaminants
- Oil spills



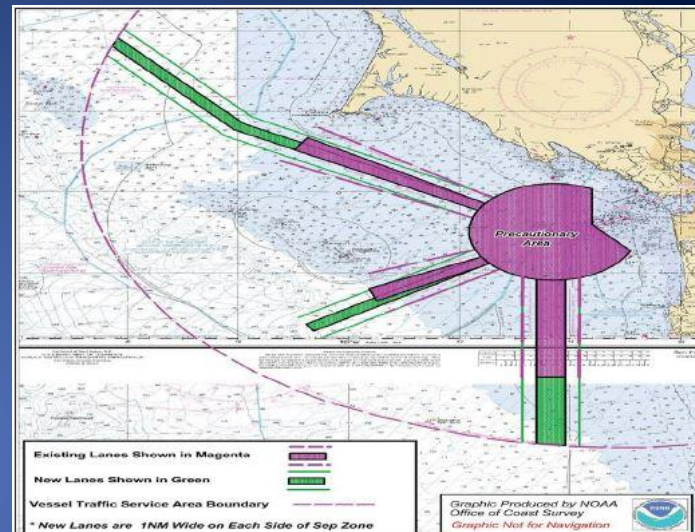
Jessie Abirached



John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research

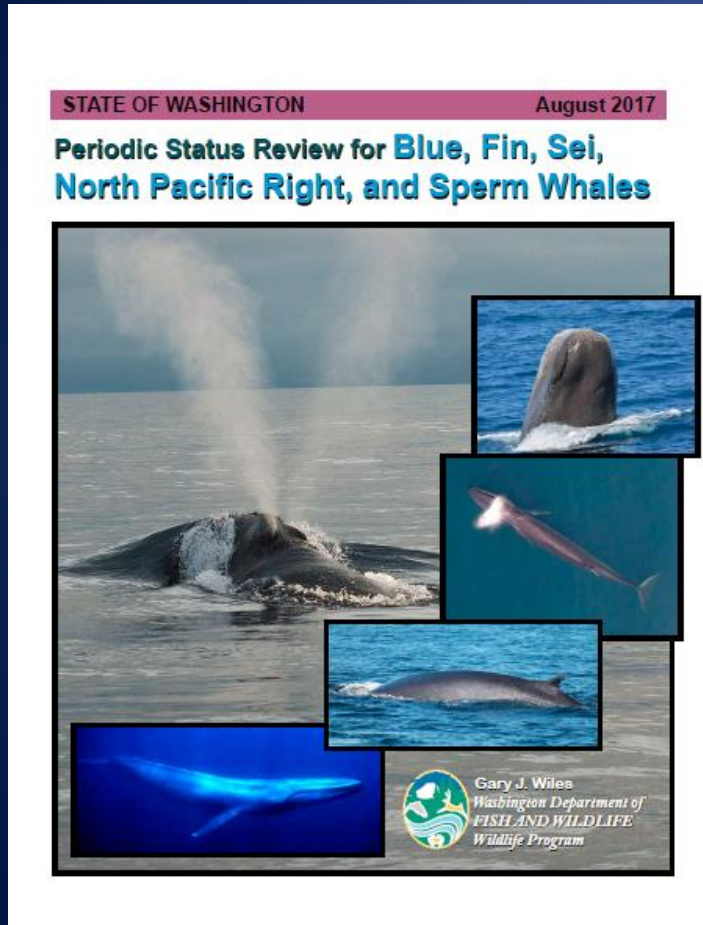
# Conservation Actions

- Prohibition on whaling
- Ship strikes
- Disentanglement
- Reduction of marine noise
- Monitoring, research
- Stranding responses
- Oil spill prevention, response



IWC

# Recommendation



Retain all five of these species as state endangered species.



# Public Comments/Concerns

- Support for listing as endangered (8)
- Opposed (1)
- End all commercial fisheries (2)



Loren Javier, Flickr Creative Commons

# Questions?



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