



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy and Science Review

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February 8, 2019

Project Status Update

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Today's Purpose

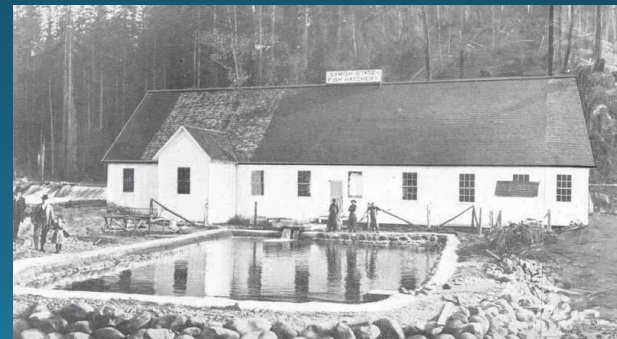
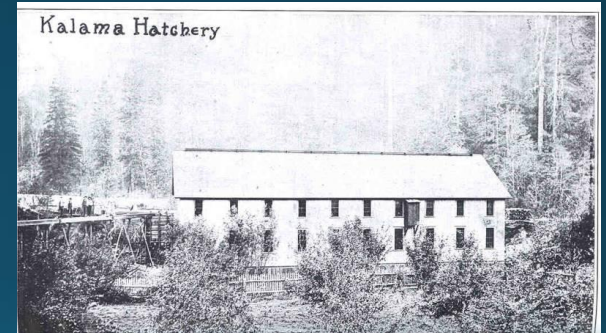
Status Update on the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619) Review Process

Outline

- Overview of Hatcheries
- Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy
- Commission Decision to Review Policy
- Project Overview and Timeline
- Questions

Overview of Hatcheries

- WDFW 80 hatcheries statewide
 - 1895 first hatchery (Kalama)
- Purpose of Hatchery Programs
 - Harvest & Fisheries
 - Conservation
 - Mitigation
- Treaty tribe obligations
 - US v. WA
 - US v. OR



Hatchery Benefits and Risks

• Benefits

- Economic
 - >\$228M statewide
- Fisheries
 - >75% hatchery fish
- Cultural
 - Treaty tribes
 - Local communities

• Risks

- Genetic
 - Diversity, domestication, inbreeding
- Ecological
 - Predation, competition, disease
- Facility
 - Water quality, fish passage, Intake screening

Hatchery Reform

Conserve naturally spawning populations & support sustainable fisheries

What it is

- Hatchery reform is the scientific and systematic redesign of hatchery programs to help recover wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fisheries

Why

- 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

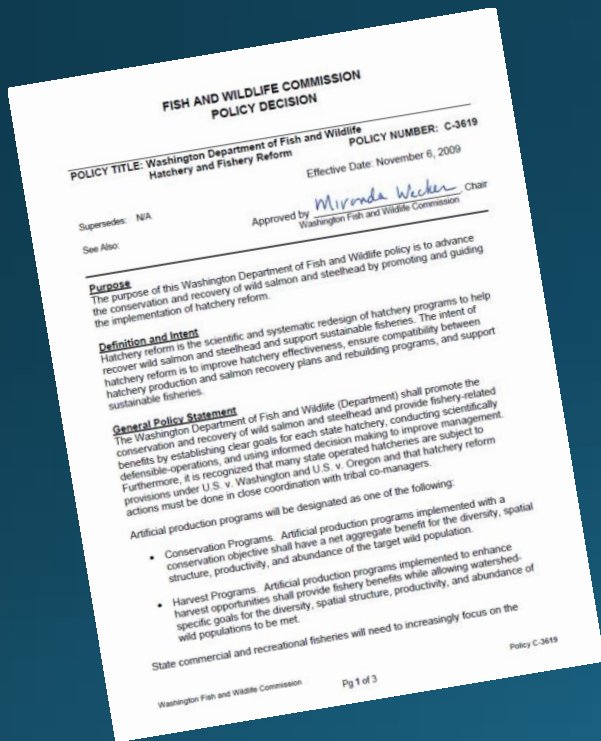
Brief History Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy

- **2006-2008** – Several agency initiatives and efforts were underway to develop and integrate all-H management strategies and update and modernize hatchery practices
- **July 2008** – Governor Gregoire letter to the FWC requesting update on progress on hatchery reform and mark-selective fisheries
- **January 2009** – FWC provided response to the Governor
- **March 2009 – October 2009** – FWC directed staff to develop Hatchery Reform policy
- **November 6, 2009** – FWC Adopted Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619)

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (3619)

Definition

- Hatchery reform is the scientific and systematic redesign of hatchery programs to help recover wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fisheries



Intent

- 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

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (3619)

11 Policy Guidelines

1. Use principles and standards of HSRG to guide operations, adaptively manage programs
2. Implement broodstock management standards to reduce genetic and ecological risks
3. Develop watershed scale plans to implement hatchery reform
4. Externally mark Chinook, coho, and steelhead
5. Secure sufficient funding for hatchery facilities

Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (3619) (cont'd)

11 Policy Guidelines

6. Implement hatchery reform on a schedule consistent with 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead initiative
7. Provide annual progress report to FWC
8. Develop and implement alternative fishing gear
9. Seek funding to implement hatchery reform
10. Define “full implementation” and a schedule for mark-selective fisheries
11. Work with tribal co-managers to establish Wild Salmonid Management Zones

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
- Update scientific elements
- Update policy language

Considerations from the Commissioners

- Change the tone and language about the positive value of hatchery programs
- Consider inclusion of following elements in policy revisions:
 - Categorical designation for mitigating hatcheries
 - Accommodate for SRKW prey initiatives
 - Account for different levels of hatchery-wild interactions that take into account the evolving (theoretical and empirical) science on genetic risks

Project Elements

- Policy Review and Evaluation
 - Led by WDFW
- Science Review and Update
 - Led by Washington State Academy of Sciences
- Tribal Engagement & Public Involvement
 - Tribal co-manager (WDFW)
 - Public and partners (Consultant)
- Final report and recommendations
 - Policy revisions and language updates

Project Timeline

Jun '18

Sept '18

Feb '19

May '19

Sept '19

Nov '19

Early Response and
WDFW Coordination

Scoping & Project
Development

FWC
Presentation
Update

Draft Report
&
FWC
Presentation

FWC
Presentation
Decision

Tribal Co-Manager Engagement
(WDFW/Tribes)

Public and Partner Involvement
(Consultant Led)

Policy Review & Evaluation
(WDFW Led)

Science Review & Update
(Washington Academy of Sciences)

FWC Presentation

Public Comments

FWC Decision

F&W
Commission
Decision to
Review Policy
(C-3619)

FWC Fish Committee Monthly Updates

Early Response and Coordination

Response to Commission Decision

- Letters and correspondence
 - NWIFC & Tribes to Governor Inslee
 - NGO's to Governor Inslee and Congressional Members
 - Concerned individuals
- Informal feedback and requests for information
 - Governor's Office
 - Congressional delegation
 - NOAA Regional Administrator (Barry Thom)
 - Salmon Recovery Organizations

Early Response and Coordination

Range of Opinions on FWC Decision

- Concern that the agency was abandoning All-H approach and hatchery reform
- Concern that the agency was abandoning science
- Agreement to review the policy but concern that the policy was suspended during the review period
- Some support for the decision from individual citizens, but concern about the public process
- Letters from NWIFC and some tribes critical of HSRG

Early Response and Coordination

WDFW Response to Partners

- Director Susewind letter to NOAA Regional Administrator Barry Thom
- Response and meetings with Governor's Office
- Regional meetings with salmon recovery boards, local elected officials, tribes, and partners
- Emails, letters, and phone call responses to concerned citizens, NGOs, professional organizations, and recovery partners

Co-Manager Engagement

Public & Partner Involvement (Consultant Led)

Two Separate Processes

- **Tribal Co-Managers**

- Meetings with NWIFC and CRITFC policy staff
- Planning regional meetings with individual tribes
- Planning presentation to NWIFC and CRITFC Commissions

- **Public & Partner Engagement**

- Securing contract to facilitate public engagement
 - Facilitated meetings
 - Solicit feedback
 - Summarize key messages

Policy Review and Evaluation (WDFW Led)

- What
 - Review policy performance since adoption
 - Evaluate 11 policy guidelines
 - Simple reporting structure
 - Report card role up format
- Status
 - In process
 - Outline, scoping, and report card metrics
 - Data compilation and review
 - Planned
 - Policy review and evaluation

Science Review and Update (Washington Academy of Sciences)

- What

- Washington State Academy of Science

- Review outline and early products
 - Facilitate a Science Workshop (May)
 - Conduct final peer review

- WDFW

- Primary authors, working with the Academy to produce the science review and update

- Status

- Outline complete, sent to Academy for review
 - First draft due Apr/May
 - Early planning for Science Workshop in May

Summary and Next Steps

- Ensure transparent and robust processes
- Project Elements
 - Co-Manager Engagement (WDFW/Tribes)
 - Public and Partner Involvement (Consultant Led)
 - Policy Review (WDFW)
 - Science Update (Academy of Sciences)
 - Report and Recommendations (WDFW)
- FWC & Director Engagement
 - Director briefings
 - FWC Fish Committee meetings
 - September 2019 – FWC Briefing
 - November 2019 – FWC Decision

Questions?

