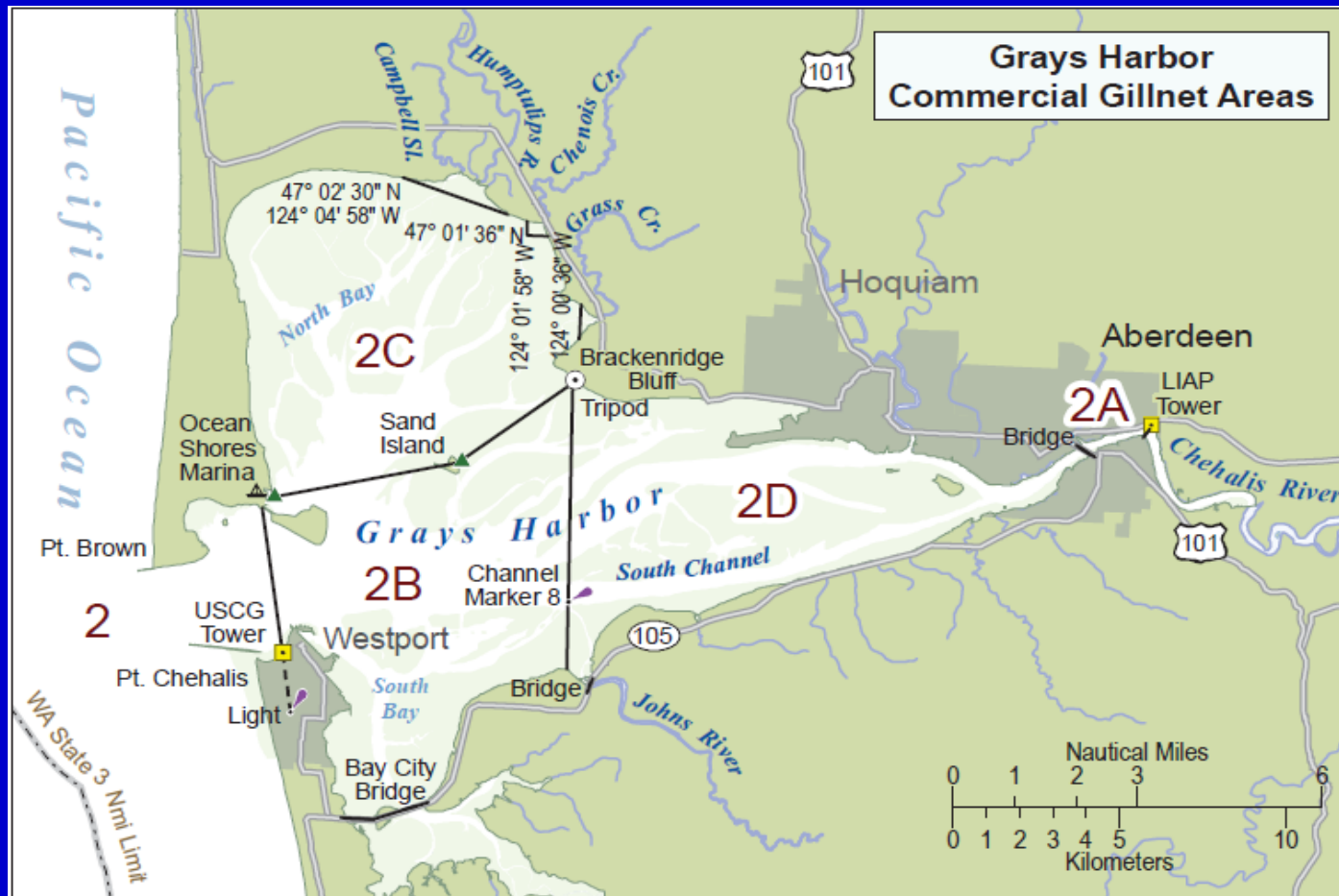


# Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy 2019 Season Review



**Chad Herring/Mike Scharpf - Fish Program  
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
February, 2020**

# Presentation Outline

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- **Review of key Policy elements**
- **Review 2019 planning**
- **Report on 2019 results**
  - **All 2019 data are preliminary**
- **2020 implementation**
- **Wynoochee Mitigation update**

# Key Policy Elements

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- **Enhance conservation focus**
- **Reduce gear conflict**
- **Sharing of impacts**

# Enhance Conservation Focus

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- **Advance conservation and restoration of wild salmon**
- **Limit the impacts of WDFW-managed fisheries to a maximum of 5% of the adult return if:**
  - **natural origin forecasts are less than 10% over goal.**
  - **spawning goals for natural spawning salmon are not met in three out of the previous five years.**

# Reduce Gear Conflict

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- *“... if possible, so that in any given calendar week there are a minimum of three consecutive days when no treaty or state-managed commercial fisheries occur. If the treaty fishery occurs 4 or more days in a calendar week, no WDFW-managed commercial fishery shall occur in the remaining days of the week.”*

# Sharing of Impacts

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**Fishery management objectives, in priority order, are:**

- 1) Achieve spawner goals**
- 2) Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities for Chinook**
- 3) Limit commercial fishery impacts to the incidental harvest of fall Chinook during fisheries directed at other species**

# Review of 2019 Planning

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- **Constraining stocks:**
  - **Humptulips River natural-origin coho below spawner goal – 5% impact limit**
  - **Chehalis River natural-origin Chinook below goal 3 of 5 years – 5% impact limit**
  - **Chehalis River spring Chinook forecast below the 1,400 escapement goal.**
- **Developed fisheries to comply with key policy elements**

# 2019 Preliminary Chinook Performance

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- **Pre-season forecast did not provide for fishing opportunity**
- **In-season fisheries closure in spring Chinook waters.**

## Spring Chinook

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size		581	
Naturally Spawning	1,400	580	1,185



# 2019 Preliminary Chinook Performance

- **Maximum WDFW impact 5%**
- **No directed fisheries on Chehalis fall Chinook**
- **WDFW-managed commercial fisheries in Areas 2A and 2D allowed up to 0.8% impact**

## Chehalis Natural Fall

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size Natural Origin		13,568	12,500
Naturally Spawning	9,753	9,924	11,000
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	4.5%	3.8%
NT Commercial HR	0.8%	0.65%	0.5%

# 2019 Preliminary Chinook Performance

- **Meet conservation objective**
- **WDFW-managed commercial fisheries in Areas 2C allowed up to 5.4% impact**
- **Co-manager collaboration for data collection used for escapement estimate**

## Humptulips Natural Fall

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size Natural Origin		5,592	2,014
Naturally Spawning	3,573	4,214	2,250
NT Commercial HR	5.4%	2.45%	4.5%

# 2019 Preliminary Coho Performance

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- **Achieved conservation objective 3 of the past 5 years and forecast abundance is above 110%**
- **Policy guidance, develop fisheries in conjunction with conservation objectives**

## Chehalis

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season
Run-Size Natural Origin		60,841
Naturally Spawning	28,506	38,189
		N/A

# 2019 Preliminary Coho Performance

- **Have not achieved conservation goal 3 of the past 5 years, forecasted abundance less than conservation goal.**
- **WDFW-managed fisheries limited to 5% impact under Policy guidance**

## Humptulips

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season
Run-Size Natural Origin		5,089
Naturally Spawning	6,894	3,669
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	4.4%

# 2019 Preliminary Chum Performance

- Achieved conservation objective 3 of the past 5 years and forecast abundance is above 110%
- Policy guidance, achieve conservation objective
- Conservation objective was achieved.

## Grays Harbor Chum

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size		71,959	38,304
Naturally Spawning	21,000	33,367	27,930
NT Commercial harvest		12,972	3,377

# 2019 Actual Performance

## WDFW-Managed Commercial Catch/Impacts

Species	Pre-season		Actual	
	NOR	HOR	NOR	HOR
Chinook	280	190	117	32
Coho	2,528	1,918	1,742	258
Chum	12,972		3,377	

# 2019 Actual Performance

## WDFW-Managed Commercial Ex-vessel Value Policy long term projection \$74,042

Year	Predicted	Actual
2015	\$121,386	\$43,210
2016	\$62,556	\$13,608
2017	\$66,190	\$66,347
2018	\$55,225	\$37,925
2019	\$139,700	\$61,777

# 2019 Summary

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- **Chehalis Fall Chinook**
  - **Preliminary 2019 escapement estimate is 11,000**
  - **Third year in the past five achieving the goal**
- **Commercial Fishery:**
  - **Provide more days on the water**
  - **Lower catch than predicted**
- **Recreational Fishery:**
  - **In-season regulation change**
  - **Recreational catch was a mixed message**



# 2020 Implementation

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- **Constraining Stocks:**
  - **Ocean conditions were not favorable for coho survival, low coho forecasts expected**
  - **Humptulips River natural-origin Coho**

# Wynoochee Mitigation Update

- **Worked with Quinault Tribe to develop a plan**
- **Public meeting on Sept. 24 to present the plan**

## **The Plan provides:**

- **100,000 unmarked coho release into the Wynoochee River**
- **400,000 adipose clipped coho released from Bingham Creek hatchery**
- **65,000 additional late winter steelhead release into the Wynoochee River**

